Remembering his time as a Harvard undergraduate, Senan Ebrahim jokingly describes himself as an undifferentiated stem cell. “I was considering a number of different careers and academic fields,” the MD/PhD student in neuroscience explains. Then a resident of Quincy House, Ebrahim turned to the House’s tutors. “They had such a wide range of expertise and part of the way I decided what to do was through conversations with them and by shadowing them.”

One tutor, Nicolas Gonzalez Castro, now the chief neurology resident at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), played a particularly important role. “It was through meeting him and other physicians that I decided that the path of a physician-scientist is what I wanted to do.”

A Part of the Community
The mentorship Ebrahim received from the tutors at Quincy House was essential in helping him decide to pursue an MD/PhD. Now as a resident tutor himself, he’s paying it forward. “That’s the selfless aspect of why I wanted to be a tutor,” Ebrahim confesses. “The selfish aspect is that I really love being a part of this community, with its great cast of characters that I’ve known for a long time.”

As the Quincy House pre-med tutor, Ebrahim is part of a team of resident and non-resident tutors, a mix of physicians and current medical students, that provide mentorship and support to students applying to medical school. "The large team allows students to have their mentor’s full attention.”

continued on page 3
The Graduate Student Council: Representing Your Interests

The Graduate Student Council represents graduate students in academic, administrative, and residential matters for the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Through meetings and ongoing dialogue, the GSC works collaboratively with GSAS administration to evaluate and improve the graduate student experience. The GSC also funds graduate student groups and competitive conference travel grants, as well as January@GSAS mini-courses. Each department or program sends between one and three voting representatives to open meetings. Any student can attend open meetings, form student groups, initiate referenda, and join committees.

Add your voice in 2017–2018!

For more information, visit gsc.fas.harvard.edu.

GSC Open Meetings for the 2017–2018 Academic Year

Please join the Graduate Student Council for its monthly open meetings in the Dudley House Graduate Student Lounge. Meetings take place at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Pizza is provided.

Schedule for 2017–2018

November 1, 2017
December 6, 2017
February 7, 2018
March 7, 2018
April 4, 2018
May 2, 2018

January@GSAS GSC Mini-Courses: By You, For You

Each January, the GSAS Graduate Student Council sponsors a series of mini-courses on a broad variety of intriguing topics. These noncredit courses, taught by GSAS students for GSAS students, engage topics of discipline-spanning appeal; they're stimulating and smart, but they're designed for a diverse audience of non-specialists. January@GSAS takes place from January 8 through 19, 2018. Learn more at gsc.fas.harvard.edu/januarygsas

Take a mini-course—or propose and teach one of your own by submitting an application at gsc.fas.harvard.edu/apply-teach by November 17, 2017.

Humans of GSAS

The GSC announces its new initiative, the Humans of GSAS! This photo and video blog will spotlight the achievement of our colleagues and peers, as well as GSAS administrators. Want to participate? Lookout for our e-mails and follow our social media channels.

January@GSAS

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GSAS BULLETIN

NOTES FROM THE DUDLEY UNDERGROUND

Live, Learn, and Lead!

BY JACKIE YUN,

ROOM B-2 IN DUDLEY HOUSE — COME VISIT!

Harvard’s unique House system and graduate housing options provide a number of leadership opportunities for graduate students. Here are some ways to get involved, gain valuable experience, and make a difference.

Dudley Fellows

Dudley House employs a vibrant group of GSAS students as Dudley fellows, who develop programming for House members, leading program areas ranging from athletics and public service to arts and music. They plan events throughout the academic year, including sports activities, lectures, dinners, dances, and outings. Applications open in January for the following academic year.

More Information: dudley.harvard.edu
Contact: Susan Zawalich at zawalich@fas.harvard.edu

Freshman Proctors

Freshman proctors provide guidance for first-year undergraduates in all aspects of their Harvard experience. Working under the direction of a resident dean of freshmen, proctors reside in freshman dormitories and create an academic and social community for students. In addition, they provide academic counseling to College students.

More Information: fdo.fas.harvard.edu/pages/proctors
Contact: Torey Martin at toreymartin@fas.harvard.edu

Resident Tutors

Resident tutors play a vital role in the residential and educational life of undergraduates. Each College House forms a small academic and social community in which resident tutors and undergraduates live, eat, socialize, and study together. Resident tutors meet with students, provide academic advising, and participate in community events.

More Information: osl.fas.harvard.edu/tutors-proctors
Contact: Harvard College Office of Student Life at 617-495-1942

Non-Resident Tutors

Applicants for non-resident tutor positions use the resident tutor application. Please note that the hiring process for non-resident tutors generally extends beyond the resident tutor process. Those interested in non-resident roles should contact the House offices individually.

More Information: osl.fas.harvard.edu/tutors-proctors
Contact: Harvard College Office of Student Life at 617-495-1942

Resident Advisors in the GSAS Residence Halls

Each year, 16 graduate students are chosen to serve as resident advisors (RAs) in the 4 GSAS residence halls, helping to improve residential life and acting as resources for residents. RAs help students adjust to residence hall living, aid in emergency situations, and act as liaisons with the GSAS administration. Applications for 2018–2019 RA positions will be available in early January.

More Information: gsc.fas.harvard.edu/housing
Contact: gscreslife@fas.harvard.edu

Graduate Dormitory Council

The Harvard University Graduate Dormitory Council (GDC) is a student organization in the GSAS residence halls committed to improving the quality of life for residents. The GDC organizes and sponsors social events in the residence halls and provides recreational equipment to residents. Elections for officer positions are held in the spring.

More Information: projects.iq.harvard.edu/gdc
Contact: ioanazelko@g.harvard.edu

Community Advisor for the Graduate Commons Program

Graduate Commons Program community advisors are Harvard University Housing (HUH) residents who want to make their community a vibrant and engaging place to live. Advisors plan a number of events throughout the academic year—from rock climbing to tea tasting to networking workshops, and more. Community advisors are selected after an application and interview process that starts in January. Applicants must be a current HUH resident in good standing with Harvard Housing to apply.

More Information: huuhousing.harvard.edu/residents/graduate-commons-program
Contact: graduatecommons@harvard.edu

An information session about resident advisor, Dudley fellow, resident tutor, and freshmen proctor positions will be held for GSAS students in December. Watch for details in the GSAS Bulletin and on GSAS social media!

February 2018

March 2018

April 2018

May 2018

Schedule for 2017–2018

January 2018

February 2018

March 2018

April 2018

May 2018

Graduate Commons Program

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Making the Unpredictable Predictable

Seizure prediction is one of the most common requests from patients with epilepsy and for Ebrahim, one case perfectly illustrates why. “This patient’s seizure was extremely severe, what we call a tonic-clonic seizure, which involves the entire brain,” he explains, describing the case he observed as a first year medical student while shadowing clinically in the neurology wards. First the patient’s speech became affected, followed by shaking on the right side of the body that progressed to a full body shake. That patient was in danger of progressing to what is called status epilepticus, a seizure that lasts more than five minutes and requires medical intervention to stabilize. “That’s the seizure I most remember,” Ebrahim says. “It was dramatic and also potentially the most harmful for the patient.”

Ebrahim’s advisor is Sydney Cash, an associate professor of neuroscience at Harvard Medical School, and his research in the Cash lab at MGH is focused on removing the unpredictability of seizures. To discover the telltale electrophysiological signs of an oncoming seizure, he has worked with rats to build up a databank of electroencephalograph and local field potential readings.

In movies, seizures are almost always depicted by shaking and jerking. In reality, they are a broad category that covers multiple forms of repetitive electrical activity in the brain affecting the body. “There are absence seizures, where the patient is sitting staring off into space, and there can be gelastic seizures, where it looks like they’re laughing or crying.” Ebrahim explains describing other types of seizures.

A successful seizure prediction system has to take into account these variabilities. “Generally, each type of seizure shows similarities in both electrophysiological activity and brain region involvement,” Ebrahim explains. “Physiologic traces will be more similar between random patients with the same type of epilepsy.” An added difficulty is that these traces don’t just vary between types of epilepsies, but also between epileptic events in the same patient. “That’s something we’re trying to model,” Ebrahim says. “It’s very important for us to take into account the variability between seizures within one subject as well as between various subjects.”

Ebrahim theorizes that the best predictive systems will come from first creating a generalized prediction using pooled electrophysiologic readings from multiple subjects and then tweaking that prediction for individual patients as more patient-specific data is accumulated. “Ultimately, patients want a way to know that a seizure is coming. Even if you can’t prevent or preempt it, if you know it’s coming, you remove the unpredictability aspect and life can be much closer to normal.”

Regaining Perspective

During the summers, when he has fewer activities at Quincy House, Ebrahim spends most of his day working on seizure prediction. “Come the end of August, when the undergraduates return to campus, I’m drained,” he admits. “Graduate school can be pretty isolating when you’re in lab all day, so it’s nice to come home to a family-type community and this infusion of people.” When Ebrahim remembers his years as an undergraduate, he describes the high energy levels at Harvard College as overwhelming at times. Now as a tutor, however, they’re energizing. “It’s infectious, in a good way,” he chuckles. “The undergraduates are curious and they ask a million questions that you haven’t thought about in a long time. It helps me regain perspective and informs the direction of my work.”
Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology

Día de los Muertos: Day of the Dead Celebrations
Co-sponsored by the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, the Consulate General of Mexico in Boston and the Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Program at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University.

Museum Open House and Evening Celebration
Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology
Remember and celebrate your departed loved ones at this year’s Día de los Muertos altar, savor traditional Mexican hot chocolate and pan de muerto, and enjoy a presentation by Harvard Professor David Carrasco as part of this festive evening of music and community.

Celebración Familiar: Family Celebration
Saturday, November 4, 2017, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology
Live music, dancers, and beautiful decorations help to make this a joyful event designed to remember and welcome back the spirits of loved ones. Decorate a sugar skull (additional $6 fee), make papel picado (cut paper banners), cempasúchil flowers, and other artwork, and write a message in any language you choose to place upon the Día de los Muertos altar.
Family Event. No advance ticket required. Pan de muerto (sweet bun) and activities free with regular museum admission. Free event parking at 52 Oxford Street garage.

“Let the Indian Paint His Own Picture:”
Alice Fletcher and Cultural Representation Paradoxes
Thursday, November 30, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street
Robert Baron, Director, Folk Arts Program, New York State Council on the Arts
Pioneering Peabody anthropologist Alice Fletcher researched and advocated for Native Americans at a time of massive threats to their cultures. Her approaches to advocacy prefigured by a century the dialogic turn that brought about joint creation of cultural representations by anthropologists and the communities they study. She supported Native rights, but also promoted a now-discredited “civilization” agenda. Robert Baron will compare Fletcher’s approaches to those of contemporary public folklorists who equip communities to research and present their own traditions. His lecture will explore how scholars can best share authority with communities and facilitate cultural self-determination.
Free and open to the public with free event parking at 52 Oxford Street garage. Presented by the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology.
Don’t Miss!
OUR DUDLEY HOUSE PICKS OF THE MONTH. FOR MORE EVENTS, OUTINGS, AND GATHERINGS, GO TO DUDLEY.HARVARD.EDU/CALENDAR.

Writing and Study Boot Camp
Saturday, November 4, 2017, and Sunday, November 5, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Café Gato Rojo. The Writing and Study Boot Camp provides a weekend’s worth of breakfast, lunch, and coffee in a quiet setting where the combination of enforced seclusion and proximity to other graduate students somehow, magically, ensures lots of work gets done. Open to all Dudley House members. Students in the Longwood Medical Area may register by calling 617-495-2255. Sign up by Friday, November 3, cost is $25 (cash or check), due at the time of sign up.

Senior Common Room Dinner with Professor John Huth
Monday, November 6, 2017, 5:30 p.m., Dudley House. Centuries before the invention of the chronometer, Austronesian sailors navigated across the Pacific, without sextants, astrolabes, or modern maps. How is it that they made the open seas legible and each star a signpost? Donner Professor of Science John Huth approaches this macroscopic question through the gaze of an experimental particle physicist and through his experience as a kayaker. Free tickets available in main office on the third floor of Dudley House.

Faculty–Student Dinner
Monday, November 13, 2017, 5:30 p.m. reception in the Dudley House Graduate Student Lounge, 6:00 p.m. dinner in the Common Room. Have you always wanted to treat your advisor or favorite professor to dinner, but haven’t yet had the opportunity? Here is your chance! Up to two students may accompany one faculty member to this free, three-course, catered dinner at Dudley House. Please confirm attendance plans well in advance with your faculty member before securing your free tickets from the main office on the third floor of Dudley House.

Dudley Choir: Endings & Beginnings
November 18, 2017, at 8:00 p.m., Dudley House Dining Hall. Come hear the Dudley Choir in its fall concert! Endings & Beginnings will span the history of English-language choral writing and include significant American works such as “Deep River” and “Circle of Life.” Refreshments will be served.

Save the Date! Dudley House Winter Formal
Saturday, December 2, 2017, 8:00 p.m. doors open, 8:30 p.m. waltz lessons, 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Dudley House. Celebrate the end of classes at the Dudley House Winter Formal and see the House transformed into a breathtaking winter wonderland! Take a waltz lesson so you can dance the night away to the sounds of the Dudley House Orchestra. Tickets will be sold during November, $15 in advance, $20 at the door (if any remain). Refreshments and drinks included. Students based in the Longwood Medical Area may reserve tickets by calling 617-495-2255. Open to Dudley House members and their guests. Questions? E-mail dudley.social@gmail.com.

Dudley House Your Graduate Student Center since 1991
Lehman Hall, Harvard Yard ☑ www.dudley.harvard.edu ☑ 617-495-2255
Faculty Deans James M. Hogle and Doreen M. Hogle ☑ House Administrator Susan Zawalich
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Develop the Skills to Succeed

Upcoming Events at the Office of Career Services

The Office of Career Services (OCS) provides a wide range of services and resources tailored specifically to the needs of master’s and PhD students. Advisors work confidentially with GSAS students on a wide range of career-related issues, from broad self-assessment and decision-making to specific advice on resume, CV, and cover letter preparation for academic and nonacademic job searches. OCS also offers monthly events designed to help graduate students with their professional development.

- Mindfulness-Based Approaches to Your Job Search
  Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
  From the cover of Time magazine to the blogosphere, everyone is talking about mindfulness. Studies show that mindfulness practices can be helpful in many ways, from better health and decreased stress to greater productivity and happiness. Join us for an interactive workshop where we’ll learn techniques and discuss how mindfulness can positively impact your job search. Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

- Preparing for Campus Visits
  Monday, November 6, 2017, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
  It’s not too early to begin preparing for potential campus visits! Find out what to expect and how to prepare for your job talk and teaching demo, conversations with faculty and deans, and social gatherings. Part of the Becoming Faculty series, cosponsored by GSAS. Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

- Higher Ed Meet-Up
  Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
  Are you interested in learning more about careers in higher education administration? Come hear from Harvard administrators who will discuss their career paths and current roles, focusing on the administration side of colleges and universities. An opportunity to network will follow the panel discussion. Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

- Humanists and Social Scientists: Take Control of Your Career
  Thursday, November 9, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
  What do you want to achieve? What are your career options? How can you even get started? Learn how to take on these big career questions in this workshop, where you will engage in interactive career self-assessment exercises to better understand your skills, interests, and values. Then, we will discuss a variety of careers of interest to PhDs in the humanities and social sciences, along with ways to explore them. You’ll leave with a tailored plan to discover, explore, and pursue career options. Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

- Performing for Success: Take Control of Your Career
  Monday, November 13, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
  Whether it’s presenting your research, delivering a speech, or simply speaking up during a meeting or networking event, finding your true and confident voice can be a challenge. Using a theater-derived approach and practical “on-your-feet” exercises, this workshop will give you the tools required to engage your audience with warmth, confidence, and clarity. Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

- Early Career Fair
  Thursday, November 16, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Gutman Conference Center, 6 Appian Way
  Meet with charter school organizations from around the US who are recruiting for teaching, school leadership, and network-level roles. Dress is business professional. No advance registration required but it is limited to Harvard students only. Bring copies of your resume! Visit ocs.fas.harvard.edu/charterfair for last year’s list of participating organizations and a link to this year’s Facebook event page.

- Cutting Edge Technology: Explore Careers in Robotics, Autonomous Transportation, AI, VR
  Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
  The robots are coming! Be a part of the action—attend this panel discussion to learn about these fields and job and internship opportunities at the cutting edge of technology. Any FAS student with an interest in robotics, autonomous transportation, deep learning, and similar technology is invited to attend. Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

- Powerful Presenting
  Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
  Whether it’s presenting your research, delivering a speech, or simply speaking up during a meeting or networking event, finding your true and confident voice can be a challenge. Using a theater-derived approach and practical “on-your-feet” exercises, this workshop will give you the tools required to engage your audience with warmth, confidence, and clarity. Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

- Engineering Career Fair Collaborative
  Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sheraton Commander Hotel, 6 Appian Way
  Meet representatives from engineering firms across the country seeking SEAS students for full-time and internship opportunities in innovative fields, including robotics, energy, medical devices, environmental services, transportation, and design. Please bring your Harvard ID. Visit ocs.fas.harvard.edu/engboutique for last year’s list of participating organizations and a link to this year’s Facebook event page.

- HGSE Charter School Fair
  Thursday, November 16, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Gutman Conference Center, 6 Appian Way
  Meet with charter school organizations from around the US who are recruiting for teaching, school leadership, and network-level roles. Dress is business professional. No advance registration required but it is limited to Harvard students only. Bring copies of your resume! Visit ocs.fas.harvard.edu/charterfair for last year’s list of participating organizations and a link to this year’s Facebook event page. All Harvard University students welcome.
Interested in Working at the United Nations?

OCS is hosting two events with Manuela Morelli, head of human resources planning and development at the UN’s International Telecommunication Union, designed for GSAS students interested in careers at the UN, including the WHO and other UN agencies. Morelli previously worked at UNICEF and other UN agencies in various human resources capacities.

Career Chat

Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge

The United Nations offers many opportunities for graduate students, including the Young Professionals Programme, consulting projects, and internships. Learn how you can leverage your language skills, analytical abilities, values, and competencies to solve global challenges with the UN, in the UN System, and at various UN agencies, including the WHO. Register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Professional-in-Residence Office Hours

Thursday, November 9, 2017, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge

Meet in small groups to learn about working at the UN, in the UN System, and at various UN agencies, including the WHO. Please sign up for a 15 minute time slot via Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Bok Center Winter Teaching Week

Save the date for Winter Teaching Week 2018, a series of stand-alone workshops taught by experts from the Bok Center and from across the University. Winter Teaching Week provides teaching fellows the opportunity to hone their skills as instructors, with offerings from public speaking to fundamentals to professional development and many things in between. Visit bokcenter.harvard.edu/winter-teaching-week for more information.

BSC Events and Reminders

Getting Started Writing Papers

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Find ways to get your papers started and done on time—from an idea to a final draft. To register, e-mail Aurora Sanfeliz at asanfeliz@bch.harvard.edu.

Learning in a Context of Loss

Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
For students who have experienced the death of someone who mattered to them. Explore how your learning is influenced by your experience of loss (and vice versa). Register online at bch.harvard.edu/event/learning-context-loss-1.

ESL Peer Consultation Program

The BSC offers an English as a Second Language Peer Consultation Program for international students interested in improving their English language oral skills. Learn more at bch.harvard.edu/pages/esl-peer-consulting

The Bureau of Study Counsel (BSC) offers a collection of services designed to support you in your efforts to learn and grow and engage in the educational opportunities available to you at Harvard. Visit the BSC at 5 Linden Street in Cambridge or online at bch.harvard.edu.
Get Out
EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Women of the World
Thursday, November 9, 2017, 8:00 p.m., Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston
Hear members of Women Musicians Network in concert at the Berklee Performance Center. This exciting and diverse show features folk, jazz, pop, world music, dance, and poetry performed by Berklee women students from all over the world. Tickets are $8 in advance and $12 on the day of show. Visit berklee.edu/events/women-musicians-network-2 for more information and to purchase tickets.

Register for the Bench-to-Business Boot Camp
The Bench-to-Business Boot Camp, hosted by Harvard’s Office of Technology Development (OTD), is a free, two-day workshop on February 1 and 2, 2018, for Harvard PhD students and postdocs. The event is designed to teach you the skills to recognize and convey the value of scientific and technological innovations to the world of industry, business, and entrepreneurship. Attending the Bench-to-Business Boot Camp will also make you eligible to apply for OTD’s highly competitive Business Development Fellowship in spring 2018.

Register by January 15, 2018
Seats are limited: Visit otd.harvard.edu/events/deadline-to-apply-to-otds-bench-to-business-boot-camp for application instructions and more information.