Get Involved with Dudley House!

Apply for one of the great leadership and professional development positions open to GSAS students and join a dynamic group of leaders! The Dudley Fellows form a very special community and create programming and opportunities for engagement, learning, and relaxation throughout the academic year, including sports, lectures, dinners, dances, and outings. Program areas range from athletics and public service to arts and intellectual events. Compensation includes a stipend, office space in Dudley House, and meals in the Dudley Café.

Applications are available online at dudley.harvard.edu. Deadline is February 3, 2017. Contact Susan Zawalich at zawalich@fas.harvard.edu for more information.

In Search of Beauty

How Funlayo Wood’s search for spiritual meaning sheds light on a religion long hidden By Fernanda Ferreira

Written above the door of Funlayo Wood’s office is the Yoruba proverb Jọwọ ìrọ̀wọ, “character is beauty.” For those in the Yoruba religion Jọwọ ìrọ̀wọ is more than just a proverb, it is their highest goal. Character, particularly gentle character (ọwọ pele) and good character (ọwọ rere), is what practitioners seek first.

For Wood, a doctoral candidate in African and African American Studies with an area of study in religion, the words Jọwọ ìrọ̀wọ are a constant reminder that character is what makes a person beautiful. “My beauty is in how I treat people, how I relate to people,” Wood explains.

Spiritual and Scholarly Journeys

Growing up in the Baptist church, Wood always felt that there was something missing. Like many teenagers, she and her friends discovered Wicca, runes, and tarot cards before moving on to explore other earth-based spiritualities that also focused on transformation, always looking for a form of worship that felt right.

During a summer study abroad trip to Ghana in 2005, Wood, then an undergraduate at the City University of New York, visited an Akan spiritual ritual at the Black and White Shrine in Kumasi. The chanting, the drumming, the dancing woke up something within her. “I began to sweat and cry. It was as if all the waters in my body reacted to the ritual,” Wood remembers.

Back in New York, Wood felt like everyone she continued on page 3
Announcing the 2017 Horizons Scholars

EIGHT STUDENTS NAMED AS 2017 HORIZONS SCHOLARS, SELECTED TO PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH AT THE FIFTH-ANNUAL HARVARD HORIZONS SYMPOSIUM IN APRIL

GSAS is pleased to announce the 2017 Horizons Scholars, eight PhD students whose ideas, innovations, and insights have the potential to reshape their disciplines. These students have been selected by the Harvard Horizons Faculty Fellows as representatives of the high aspirations and the extraordinary achievements of Harvard University’s PhD programs. They form the fifth class of the Society of Horizons Scholars, a fellowship cohort that offers opportunities for long-lasting community, mentorship, and professional and academic growth. The scholars will receive in-depth mentoring on the art of effective presentation, preparing them for a campus-wide symposium in April.

The 2017 Horizons Scholars and their project titles

Robin Gong, Statistics
Rethinking Low-Resolution Statistical Inference with Random Sets

John Harpham, Government
The Intellectual Origins of American Slavery

Nancy Khalil, Anthropology
Without a Profession: The Politics of Being and Becoming an Imam in the US

Shay Neufeld, Medical Sciences
To Explore or to Exploit? Investigating How the Brain Decides Whether to Try Something New, or Stick with What It Knows

Evander Price, American Studies
The Future Monument

Frederick Reece, Music
Ringing False: Music Analysis, Forgery, and the Technologies of Truth

Christalyn Rhodes, Biological Sciences in Public Health
Cold Migration: The Role of Viral-Induced Epithelial Cell Migration in Asthmatic Exacerbations

Xiawei Wang, Astronomy
Quasar Outflows: Unravelling the Mysteries of the High Energy Universe

Save the date for the HARBVARD HORIZONS Symposium on April 12, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. in Sanders Theatre.
met after her experience in Ghana was somehow connected to Òrísà, the indigenous religion of the Yoruba. “They say that when the student is ready, the teacher appears,” Wood laughs recollecting the unexpected coincidence. During the next years, Wood became more deeply involved with the Òrísà tradition and this culminated in 2008 when, a few days after her graduation, she traveled to Nigeria to become an Òrísà priestess, or alabára.

Students pursue PhDs for a variety of reasons and for Wood, the decision to come to Harvard was not simply because it benefits both her work as a scholar of Òrísà and as an Òrísà priestess, but because, once again, she felt that something was missing. “In my spiritual journeys, I noticed how little I had learned about African spirituality and also how little information was available at the time,” Wood explains.

Since Wood’s move to Harvard, she has seen an explosion in the amount of information available on African spirituality. And while she looks forward to contributing to the continuation of this explosion, she sees her real mission as demystifying these traditions, which often have negative connotations attached to them.

Scholar-Activist

During and immediately after the slave trade, African religious traditions went underground for a variety of reasons, such as political oppression and the very real fear of reprisal and death. Since then, a veil of secrecy has hung over them, adding to the sense of “otherness” that surrounds many of these traditions. “Part of what I do as a practitioner and a scholar is just be,” Wood says. By being visible and by encouraging other practitioners to do so, she hopes to normalize African spirituality and bring it into the open. One of the mediums that Wood has gravitated toward in this mission, are documentaries, which she describes as “a way to leave where you are and go to another place without actually having to go there.”

PBS’ Sacred Journeys, which follows Americans on six different religious pilgrimages, was Wood’s first foray into documentaries and the magic of television. “You film for three days and it gets whittled down to a 50-minute episode,” she jokes. Wood’s primary advisor, professor Jacob Olugbana, who is a professor of African Religious Traditions at Harvard Divinity School and of African and African American Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, put her in contact with the PBS producers. Soon after, Wood, two young interviewers, and the PBS crew traveled to Lagos, Nigeria, to attend the Osun-Oshogbo Festival, which celebrates the Òrísà Osun, a Yoruba goddess who embodies fertility, civilization, and feminine power. When the episode aired, Wood was pleasantly surprised with the result. “Even though it is PBS, you never know how producers will put things together, particularly because African spirituality is so often misunderstood and sensationalized,” she explains.

The feedback Wood received from other practitioners, thanking her for the positive depiction of their traditions, reinforced the power of documentaries and the importance of her mission to advocate for her community. “Doing a PhD is not just about producing a manuscript for the ivory tower; it is about affecting people’s lives.”

The Voice of God

There are moments in your life that can only be described as surreal. For Wood, the most recent may have been Morgan Freeman hugging her from her face. Wood and her mentor, Awo Chief Olawale Ifakuode, head of the Ife Omo Ope Shrine in New York, are highlighted in an episode of Freeman’s National Geographic show The Story of God, which is in its second season.

Different from Sacred Journeys, where each episode was dedicated to a single religion, in The Story of God, Freeman explores a single concept, such as “Creation” or “Why Does Evil Exist?” across a number of religions. Wood’s episode, which premiered January 30, 2017, is called “Proof of God” and in it, Freeman investigates how different religions feel God and what they see as proof of God’s existence. In the Òrísà tradition, Wood explains, Òrísà divination is a way practitioners communicate with God and the divine. “It allows us to align ourselves with where we are supposed to be in the universe.”

But, unfortunately, documentaries are not all-powerful. African spirituality is living a strange moment. Scholarship about it has flourished and it has been embraced by pop culture—picture Beyoncé dressed as the Òrísà Osun in “Hold Up.” Yet, at the same time, it is the subject of a growing number of hate crimes in many countries. “In order to be affected by anything, a documentary or a personal story, you have to be at least willing to hear it, which many, sadly, are not,” Wood laments.

Wood and other scholars of African religions are helping practitioners of African spirituality respond to these attacks, making sure the rest of society hears them. To Wood, this scholar-activist work is essential and brings her some of her deepest joy. “I believe that if you are a scholar who works with people and with communities and you are not willing to help those communities when they need you, then what are you doing a PhD for?” Wood asks. I say true, indeed.
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. Find out more at gsc.fas.harvard.edu.

**GSC Open Meetings for the 2016–2017 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: March 1, April 5, and May 3. Pizza is provided.

**Honor Your Mentor**

*Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards*

Good mentoring is key to happiness and success in graduate school. Let’s recognize and celebrate it when it happens!

Do you know a faculty member who deserves to be feted for their outstanding mentoring—for going above and beyond the call of duty in order to guide or advise you personally, professionally, or academically? Make your nomination for the Graduate Student Council’s Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards!

Nominate online: www.gsc.fas.harvard.edu/mentoring-award

Winners will be announced in April and honored at a cocktail reception at Dudley House on April 6, 2017, along with their student nominators and all of the nominated mentors. The reception is a great occasion for GSAS to celebrate the role of mentoring in our community, to promote its importance, and to hear—directly from graduate students—about the many large and small ways that a good mentor can make a difference to one’s academic career.

Nominations will be accepted through March 17, 2017.

**Identity, Privilege, and Implicit Bias**

*“Identity, Privilege, and Implicit Bias” introduces the key concepts and terminology which help us identify and name harmful dynamics within our social, professional, and academic environments. Awareness and understanding of identity, privilege, and implicit bias are precursors to asking and advocating for change in order to make our communities more empowering to everyone. This workshop treats cultural awareness and understanding as skills that can be fostered through discipline-specific conversations which contextualize the diverse aspects of our identities.*

If you would like to learn more about the workshop and/or make this workshop available to the community at your school/department, reach out to Maike Isaac at misaac@fas.harvard.edu.

**Lead the Way**

*Nominate a GSAS/SEAS Student to be a 2017 Commencement Marshal*

Eight outstanding graduate students from GSAS/SEAS will lead their class into Harvard Yard for Commencement. Do you know a student who deserves to be one of the eight?

Make a nomination at www.gsc.fas.harvard.edu/commencement-marshals!

Degree recipients from November, March, and May are all eligible for selection. Nominations may be submitted by faculty, department administrators, and students. You can even nominate yourself!

**Nomination deadline: March 17, 2017**

Marshals will be announced in mid-April.

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**Ambika Kanath**

Research: Empirical and theoretical research on primate mating systems. Experience: led workshops in the OEB department in GSAS on diversity in the sciences.

**Se-me Ham Noh**

Research: Social psychology, focus on social identities and power hierarchies. Experience: led workshops on diversity in the sciences.

**Maike Isaac**

Research: Sexual violence prevention, identity-based power dynamics. Experience: OSAPR’s Education Specialist for the Graduate and Professional Schools.

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**GSLP Graduate Student Liaison Program**

*LULU LIU TONY RINALDO*

**GSC GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**
Nominations will be accepted through March 17, 2017.

JONATHAN RUELL
LULU LIU

Don’t Miss!
OUR DUDLEY HOUSE PICKS OF THE MONTH. FOR MORE EVENTS, OUTINGS, AND GATHERINGS, GO TO DUDLEY.HARVARD.EDU/CALENDAR.

Super Bowl 51 Party
Sunday, February 5, 2017, 6:00 p.m., kickoff at 6:30 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge
Join us for the annual Dudley House Super Bowl Party! Root for your chosen team and enjoy hearty snacks and cold drinks. Even if you don’t enjoy football, come watch the silly commercials and see Lady Gaga “raise the roof” during the halftime show.

Dudley World Music Ensemble Concert
Saturday, February 11, 2017, time TBD, Dudley House Common Room
The Dudley World Music Ensemble is co-hosting a presentation and workshop on Taiwanese Aboriginal music given by Pangcah/’Amis songwriter, actor, and media personality Ado Kaliting Pacidal.
◆ The event is free and open to the public. Co-hosted with the Harvard Taiwanese Student Association, Berklee College of Music, and William James College.

Senior Common Room Dinner
Monday, February 13, 2017, 5:30 p.m. reception in the Graduate Student Lounge, 6:00 p.m. dinner and discussion in the Common Room
Join Professor Mari Ruti from the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality for the Senior Common Room Dinner. Professor Ruti will share excerpts from her forthcoming book “Penis Envy and Other Bad Feelings” and lead an open discussion about the material following our dinner.
◆ Tickets available for Dudley Members in the Dudley House Office (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday). Longwood students make arrangements by calling 617-495-2255.

Dudley Classic Films: Singin’ in the Rain
Friday, February 24, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dudley House Common Room
Dudley Classic Films presents Singin’ in the Rain (1952). This great MGM musical set in Los Angeles during the time when silent films became talkies stars Gene Kelly, Donald O’Connor, and Debbie Reynolds. Lots of fun, great dances and songs. A tribute in a way to both Debbie Reynolds who died in December and to La La Land, the movie that may indeed win several Oscars this year. Great fun for everyone!

Spring Swing
Saturday, March 4, 2017, 8:00 p.m. in Dudley House. Enjoy a classy evening of live jazz music, socializing, and dancing at Dudley House’s second formal of the year, the Spring Swing! Join us for the free swing lesson at 8:30 p.m., and then at 9:30 p.m., cut up the dance floor or simply mingle with friends to the backdrop of the sounds of the Dudley House Jazz Band. Tickets available at the Dudley House Office and include hors d’oeuvres, desserts, and drinks. $10 in advance, $15 at the door (if any remain). ◆ Open to Dudley House members and their guests. Proper ID required for alcohol. Students in the Longwood Medical Area may contact dudley.social@gmail.com to reserve tickets.

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
To demystify the title of this discussion, the dissertation is something that you will live with for quite a long time, both before and after completion. You are probably living through the “before” part already or soon will be, but there is quite an afterlife as you go on the job market, apply for postdoctoral fellowships, revise it for publication, or find yourself reaching a seminar on the topic. With a recognition of the before and after in mind, the Fellowships Office holds an annual panel discussion to discuss the various stages of the dissertation during graduate school, from choosing a topic to getting through to completion in a timely fashion.

At our most recent panel, two recurring themes arose that go a long way in preparing students for what to expect and how to deal with the process effectively: one, the role of pure luck or chance in finding a good topic; the other, the importance of self-reflection throughout the whole dissertation process. This year’s panelists consisted of Sudhunmathi Revuluri, assistant dean for faculty affairs in Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences who earned a PhD in musicology from Princeton and previously served as a member of the faculty in Harvard’s Department of Music; GSAS alumnus, Christopher Brown, a recent PhD graduate in romance languages and literatures specializing in Italian, who is currently a tutor in the Center for Writing and Communicating Ideas and a visiting faculty member at the College of the Holy Cross; and Eliza Gettel, a doctoral candidate in the Classics and past recipient of a dissertation training grant from the Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC).

The notion of finding a good dissertation topic by pure chance or luck may seem surprising, but it has been reported with some consistency by many panelists over the years. One might think a good topic is the result of strenuous research and investigation. However, the notion of luck when combined with self-reflection starts to make perfect sense: Luck is only good luck if one takes advantage of it, and that comes about through self-reflection, it comes about by paying close attention to how you feel about a topic when writing a seminar paper, or reading a book or article that makes a deep impression. So yes, you may feel you are stumbling upon something you like but not fully covered by the specialties of the faculty in her department. She then engaged in outreach and networking, well beyond the confines of Harvard, with splendid results. Her first success was applying for and receiving a summer dissertation training fellowship from the SSRC. Through this opportunity, she not only formulated an interdisciplinary proposal, but met students and faculty in the relevant fields, who were of considerable help in her formulation and research agenda. This introduction to networking has continued, as she reaches out to scholars from other universities who are working on closely related issues. She notes that they are very receptive, but that it is important to prepare in advance and to have specific well-defined questions to discuss before reaching out to a particular scholar.

Brown relied less on chance in choosing a topic and more on his longstanding interest in time consciousness. In his case, the interest eventually coalesced into a dissertation topic. For this coalescing process he advised students to choose a topic that is doable, paying attention to boundaries and a timeframe. He also encouraged students at the writing stage to set up a schedule with the dissertation adviser(s), or at least to establish a general framework for the advising process. He emphasized the importance of being consistent and having a routine. If a writing block occurs, take a break, but don’t abandon the notion of routine.

Revuluri injected the important idea of self-reflection. She first suggested thinking of the dissertation as a practice run for everything that follows. For all endeavors, try to develop healthy habits, and one of the most important is to be reflective on what you are doing; your likes and dislikes, your use of time, gaining a sense of accountability, being honest on how it’s going. She also stressed being pro-active (by reaching out to people, making it easy for your adviser to respond, doing your homework, and asking precise directed questions); figuring out the best approach for each faculty member; and getting better at taking feedback in recognizing that good feedback is valuable throughout your life—to be sure to say thank you. For a more detailed discussion of the dissertation, see Scholarly Pursuits, Chapter IV.

The Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies, Spring 2017 Session
February 6 to 17, 2017, Monday through Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies helps students read more purposefully and selectively with greater speed and comprehension. Topics include:

• reading with your eyes and your mind
• reading with a question
• understanding the structure of text
• overviewing and subvocalizing
• summarizing
• anticipating and intuiting
• remembering what you read
• zooming out: navigating longer texts
• zooming in: close reading
• reading with authority

Cost to GSAS degree candidates: $25 ($150 general)
Advance registration is required. Visit bsc.harvard.edu for registration and more information.

CONTACT
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E-mail: cvverba@fas.harvard.edu
gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships

gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships
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.

How to Work a Career Fair
February 2, 2017, 4:00–5:00 p.m., OCS Reading Room, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
Are you attending the Startup Career Fair? Do you know how to make connections everywhere you go to improve your chances of getting a job? Find out how to stand out at career fairs and employer events! Please register through Crimson Careers to attend (click Events, then Programs & Workshops). This event is open to FAS students and alumni.

Harvard Start-up Career Fair
February 3, 2017, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Harvard Innovation Labs, Batten Hall, 125 Western Avenue, Allston
Join us for the Harvard OCS Startup Career Fair! This educational and career-focused event is an excellent way for you to meet representatives from entrepreneurial and startup organizations, learn about jobs and internships, and discover exciting opportunities available in the startup field. Harvard ID required. Bring copies of your resume! Learn more and check out the growing list of participating organizations at ocs.fas.harvard.edu/startupfair.

Need a ride? In addition to the regularly scheduled Harvard Allston Campus Express, special shuttles will run between the corner of Mount Auburn/Holyoke Streets and the i-lab. The first shuttle will leave Mount Auburn/Holyoke at 12:30 p.m. and the last shuttle will leave the i-lab at 4:30 p.m.


Job Search for International Students
February 7, 2017, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m., OCS Conference Room, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
Have you been applying to jobs online, sending your resume everywhere, and getting no results or responses? Are you being told by recruiters that their company doesn’t sponsor H-1B visas? As a student, you have limited time for your job search. Learn how to invest your time and give yourself the best chance of finding a US job with visa sponsorship. Hear from Dan Beau- dry, author of Power Ties: The International Student’s Guide to Finding Jobs in the United States. Beaudry is the former head of campus recruiting at Monster.com and the former associate director of corporate recruiting at Boston University. Learn strategies for overcoming shyness, navigating the US job market, and maximizing your chances of landing a job in the US. Please register through Crimson Careers to attend (click Events, then Programs & Workshops). This event is open to FAS students and alumni.

The Scientist’s Conundrum: CV, Resume, or Something In-Between?
February 13, 2017, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Tosteson Medical Education Center 306, 260 Longwood Avenue, Boston
Every scientist needs a CV, whether you are planning to pursue a postdoctoral research position, a faculty position, or a position outside academia. Using sample documents that helped scientists land positions in academia and beyond, we will discuss how to optimize the presentation of your relevant skills and experience in an aesthetically pleasing style that is most appropriate for different types of PhD-level positions. This event is open to Harvard GSAS students and Harvard postdocs. GSAS students, please register through Crimson Careers.

How Harvard Can Help Land You a Job
February 15, 2017, 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
Are you a PhD student graduating in May? Do you need a job in a few months? Don’t panic! OCS is here to help you whip your nonacademic job search into shape. Check out this workshop to learn about valuable resources and strategies to begin an effective nonacademic job search. We will cover topics such as the importance of networking, how alumni can help in your search, skills you have that employers may be looking for, crafting an effective resume, and more! Please register through Crimson Careers to attend. Open to Harvard GSAS students and alumni.

Empowering Women on the Job Search
February 23, 2017, 3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m., Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge
Oftentimes women can make missteps when searching for jobs, interviewing, and networking that could ultimately cost them a job. Come hear about the importance of career self-esteem, impacts of non-verbal communication, and tips to help women excel in the job search process. This event is co-sponsored by the Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (HGWISE) and the Harvard FAS Office of Career Services and is open to GSAS students and alumni. Please register through Crimson Careers.

Harvard Life Sciences and Healthcare Career Expo
March 1, 2017, 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m., Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Kresge Café, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston
The 2017 Harvard Life Sciences and Healthcare Career Expo is a great opportunity to meet and network with organizations and companies with full-time and internship opportunities in life sciences, healthcare, and biotech fields. Learn more at ocs.fas.harvard.edu/LSHC-expo.

This career fair is open to all Harvard FAS students and alumni and to Harvard postdocs.

CONTACT
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Heather Law, Assistant Director, Graduate Student and PhD Advising
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EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

What’s up Doc?


Events in the Department of Music

BLACK LIVES MATTER: Music, Race, and Justice
Harvard Graduate Music Forum Conference
February 3 and 4, 2017, Music Building, Harvard University
With Matthew D. Morrison, keynote speaker, and Imani Uzuri, keynote speaker and performer
This interdisciplinary music conference seeks to interrogate the place of music, musicians, and sound in light of the Black Lives Matter movement and the crises to which it responds. In the midst of calls for an end to police brutality, the carceral state, and anti-Black discrimination, music studies must join the ongoing conversation interrogating understood relationships between protest, activism, and academic praxis. This conference is free and open to the public. This conference is made possible by the generous support of the Department of Music, the Department of African and African American Studies, and the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University.

Blodgett Chamber Music Series
Parker Quartet
February 26, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in John Knowles Paine Concert Hall
Mendelssohn Quartet No. 1, Op. 12; Sivan Cohen Elias Encrypt (Blodgett Composition winner), and Shostakovich Quartet No. 3.

Apply for ComSciCon’s 5th Annual Communicating Science Workshop!

ComSciCon is excited to announce its 5th annual national workshop, to be held in Cambridge June 8 through 10, 2017. At ComSciCon, graduate students from across the country will work together and with professional science communicators to learn and practice new techniques for the communication of complex and technical concepts to broad and diverse audiences. All Harvard graduate students in STEM or related disciplines are encouraged to apply by March 1, 2017, at comscicon.com.

For more information, contact comscicon17@comscicon.org.