Finding One’s Calling
Nine years ago while studying graphic design at Purdue University, Graham-Russell began feeling restless. “It was the summer before I graduated, and I felt that something was missing from my life,” she remembers. Graham-Russell had always been curious about faith and the ways in which people practice their faith, so she began researching different religions and eventually met a couple of Latter-day Saints missionaries. “What they said really spoke to me, spoke to my spirit, and I thought it was a really beautiful theology,” Graham-Russell says. After a few meetings with the missionaries, she was baptized into the Mormon faith.

The community aspect of Mormonism was another draw. “There are a lot of symbols in Mormonism and one of them is the beehive,” Graham-Russell explains. “The Mormon community resembles a beehive where everyone has their own role, their calling, the thing they contribute.” As Graham-Russell was taken into the fold of her congregation, she began to ask questions about her new faith. She was particularly curious about what led Brigham Young, the church’s former president, to establish the community of Salt Lake City.

In May 2018, a letter was published online and quickly circulated among the Mormon community. In the letter, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints apologized for the racial restrictions that denied black Mormons the priesthood as well as participation in certain temple ceremonies from the mid-1800s to 1978. “A lot of people were really excited and emotional,” remembers Janan Graham-Russell, a PhD candidate in the study of religion. “Of course, we then realized that the letter was a hoax.”

The letter writer, a former member of the church, claimed he had released it to foster much-needed discussion about Mormonism and racism. But according to Graham-Russell, the only thing the hoax achieved was a whiplash of emotions for black members who saw their excitement turn to heartbreak in a matter of hours. For Janan, the fake letter and the fallout that ensued are a reminder of the long and oftentimes fraught relationship that exists between Mormonism and racial identity, a relationship she is probing in her research.

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Notes from the Dudley Underground

Graduate Student Group Spotlight: The Graduate Student Council

By Jackie Yun, Room B-2 in Dudley House — Come Visit!

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) serves as the official representative body for GSAS students. Membership in the GSC is open to all registered GSAS students who have paid the annual GSC fee. Through elected representatives and committee members, the GSC:

- Supports student groups and individuals by funding events, student-led activities, conference travel, and summer research;
- Advocates for students with the GSAS deans and administration to work toward improving the experience of graduate students;
- Recognizes students and faculty for exceptional work through the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards, selection of Commencement marshals, and, starting this year, the Student Leadership Banquet.

Students can become active members by participating in the monthly GSC meetings or by running for elected positions, including:

President
The president serves as the chair of the GSC. The president runs meetings, sits on the Committee on Graduate Education, serves as the chair of the January@GSAS Mini-Course Selection Committee, and serves as the official representative of the Council.

Vice President
The vice president serves as acting chair in the absence of the president and chairs the committees for GSAS Commencement marshals and for the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards. Along with the secretary, the vice president also co-chairs the committees for conference and summer research grants.

Treasurer
The treasurer chairs the funding committee and keeps account of the GSC. The treasurer coordinates the funding committee and keeps account of the GSC finances. The treasurer coordinates with University offices about receipts, expenditures, and financial responsibilities of the Council.

Secretary
The secretary keeps records of all Council meeting proceedings, distributes copies to all representatives before the next meeting, and is responsible for all other Council correspondence. The secretary maintains the meeting minutes and other Council documentation, including a current list of the GSC membership and its representatives to all internal and external committees. The secretary also informs committee chairs of those individuals selected as representatives and, along with the vice president, co-chairs the committees for conference and summer research grants.

At-Large Representatives
At-large representatives sit on the executive committee, attend dean’s meetings, and represent the following constituencies: One representative from each of the three GSAS divisions (humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences); one from the Longwood Medical Area; one for interdisciplinary programs; one for the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS); one for master’s degree students; and one for international students.

Departmental Representatives
Departmental representatives are appointed or elected by their department, division, or program to serve as voting members of the GSC. They represent the concerns of their constituencies to the Council and communicate proceedings of the Council to their constituencies. Departmental representatives secure conference and research grant eligibility on behalf of their department or program by attending at least two open meetings per semester.

Upcoming Elections
The GSC meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the GSAS Student Center in the Graduate Student Lounge on the 2nd floor of Lehman Hall. The next open meeting is March 6, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. GSC elections will be held at the April 3, 2019, meeting.

Speak at Morning Exercises
The Commencement Student Orations Competition gives students the chance to speak at Commencement. To be chosen as one of the three orators is considered to be among the highest honors a student can achieve. Winners also receive a $1,000 prize.

More information at:
commencement.harvard.edu/orations-competition
second president, to enact racial restrictions in 1852. The response she got was mixed.

“When I started talking more about race, people started to distance themselves from me, which is fine! I don’t know why you would want to be in my company,” Graham-Russell laughs ruefully. “But, while some people distanced themselves, there were others who stepped forward, who had similar questions.” When Graham-Russell’s questions were answered, it was in a dismissive “we don’t know” way, since no official church doctrine explained the restrictions. The lack of explanation did not sit right with her: “When it comes to something that is my identity, we don’t know, isn’t sufficient,” she says.

So, Graham-Russell kept digging, asking questions, writing essays, and fostering discussions about race and Mormonism. When asked if her work annoys church elders, she laughs. “Will I be excommunicated? It’s definitely in the back of my mind,” she confesses. “On the one hand, I do have respect for the history and the faith because it is important to me, but it’s also important to speak truth to power.” While she acknowledges that her outspokenness can make some people uncomfortable, she makes no apologies for it. “I guess that’s my calling in some ways,” she says.

Having Hard Conversations

As Graham-Russell spent more and more time at conferences and panels discussing race and Mormonism, the idea of graduate school formed in her mind. “To be able to engage Mormonism and race in the way that I wanted to, I think a master’s degree was necessary,” she explains. And, once she earned her master’s in religious studies from Howard University, she thought, “why not just keep going?”

Graham-Russell’s dissertation focuses on how race is established within Mormonism in past and modern-day congregations. “Within the United States, the way we think about racial formation is very straightforward, as if there’s only one way that race has developed over time,” Graham-Russell says. “So, it’s been surprising to see the different ways that people have conceptualized race within Mormonism.”

As part of her thesis, Graham-Russell investigates how different ethnic groups within the Latter-day Saints engage with Mormonism’s racial narrative, with particular attention paid to the racial restrictions. She explains that where one roots identity extends beyond Mormonism and can advance different ideas about identity,” she says.

“I do have respect for the history and the faith because it is important to me, but it’s also important to speak truth to power.”

“Those issues are impacting people now,” she emphasizes. Moments like the hoax letter are perfect examples that Mormonism’s long racial history still looms large in the minds of many of its members. “But we tend to shy away from these questions because it’s seen as ‘sowing doubt,’” she explains. With her work, Graham-Russell hopes that these hard conversations will happen within the church, at the same time, she hopes that what she learns in the course of her research will have an impact outside of Mormon circles. “I’m hoping that what I’m studying about race and racial identity extends beyond Mormonism and can advance different ideas about identity,” she says.

HONOR YOUR MENTOR

GSAS students, do you know a faculty member who deserves to be recognized for outstanding mentoring? The Graduate Student Council invites you to nominate them for an Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award at gsc.fas.harvard.edu/mentoring-award.

Nominations for 2018–2019 will be accepted through March 29, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. Winners will be announced in April 2019.
Events around campus

Lectures and Exhibits of Note

Blodgett Quartet in Residence: Parker Quartet
Sunday, March 31, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., John Knowles Paine Concert Hall, Cambridge
Mozart String Quartet in E-flat Major, K. 428; Zeynep Toraman Things Are Made to Fill Voids (Blodgett composition winner); Brahms String Sextet No. 2 in G Major, Op. 36, with Parker Quartet guest artist award winners.
Free but tickets required, available beginning March 17 at Harvard Box Office. Tickets may be picked up in person or obtained by phone or online at www.boxoffice.harvard.edu or by phone at 617-496-2222 (there is a small charge for phone or online orders).

Radcliffe Institute
Exhibition Opening: Beauties
March 27, 2019–June 29, 2019, noon–5 p.m., Monday–Saturday
Johnson-Kulukundis Family Gallery, Byerly Hall, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge
Willie Cole’s Beauties are haunting, full-scale prints made from crushed and hammered ironing boards, each named after a woman from the artist’s cultural and ancestral history. Cole has used irons and ironing as central motifs in his work for 30 years, evoking everything from African masks to slave ship diagrams to the routines of domestic servitude.

Harvard Art Museums

Art and Religious Devotion in Morocco: Notes on a Calligraphic Panel from the Harvard Art Museums
Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m.–7:15 p.m., Harvard Art Museums
32 Quincy Street, Cambridge
Mounia Chekhob Abudaya, curator at the Museum of Islamic Art in Qatar, will consider a 20th-century panel as a work of religious devotion.

Harvard Semitic Museum

Celebrate Nowruz
Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m., Harvard Semitic Museum
6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge
Celebrate the Persian New Year and the beginning of spring with poetry, live music, traditional sweets, and an introduction to the traditional haft seen table. More than 3,000 years old, Nowruz (“new day”) originated in ancient Persia and became a popular celebration in communities influenced by Persian culture, including Iran, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Western China. Drop in for a presentation of Nowruz customs and activities and help build community for 1398, the new year in the Persian calendar.
Free and open to the public, registration required by March 23 at semiticmuseum.fas.harvard.edu. Free event parking at the 52 Oxford Street garage.

Mahindra Humanities Center

Bad Romance: The Ethics of Love, Sex, and Desire
Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference
Friday, March 29, 2019, and Saturday, March 30, 2019, Thompson Room (Room 110)
Barker Center, Cambridge
The #MeToo movement has raised questions about the ethics of love, sex, and desire. Narrowly, it has raised questions about sexual consent and violation; broadly, it has raised questions about attraction, power, monogamy, adultery, sex work, and more. Thinkers and artists throughout history, from Plato and Sappho to Foucault and Martha Nussbaum, have addressed these topics. In light of the current crisis in sexual ethics, this graduate student conference reexamines how we should conduct ourselves in romantic and sexual relationships from an interdisciplinary perspective.
For full conference details, visit mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu/content/bad-romance-ethics-love-sex-and-desire.
Don’t Miss!

OUR DUDLEY HOUSE PICKS OF THE MONTH. FOR MORE EVENTS, OUTINGS, AND GATHERINGS, GO TO DUDLEY.HARVARD.EDU/CALENDAR.

Wellness Week Speed Friending
Friday, March 1, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Dudley House Common Room. Still up for making new friends mid-semester? Looking to unwind? Come grab a drink and get to know other GSAS students through unconventional questions and games! ◆ RSVP at tinyurl.com/speedfriending2019. Email dudley.social@gmail.com with questions.

Dudley House Talent Show!
Friday, March 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room, Dudley House. Have you ever found yourself absentmindedly belting out powerful and moving tunes in the shower? Can you not help but bob your head and tap your foot in an unexpectedly well-coordinated manner to a beat? Do you sometimes catch yourself performing magic tricks or comedy routines at random points in your day? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you should definitely sign up for the talent show. Prizes will be awarded to performers and snacks and beverages will be served. GSAS students and their guests welcome. ◆ RSVP at goo.gl/forms/FP2PgNosrVyWwkG42. Email dudley.social@gmail.com with questions.

The Veritas Festival
Saturday, March 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Askwith Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge. The Harvard Graduate Theatre Collective presents the first annual Veritas Festival, an HGSE Student Organization Event. The Veritas Festival invites students from all of Harvard’s graduate schools to come together for one day to engage in conversation and theatre-making. This one-day festival will feature staged readings of ten-minute plays exploring the interdisciplinary nature of our fields across graduate school programs. ◆ If you’re interested in being an actor (no theatre experience necessary), fill out this interest form to learn more: goo.gl/forms/3rJonv2rUbvdrZu82. To find out more about the festival, visit our Facebook event at www.facebook.com/events/237355433819579. Open to all Harvard students.

Pre-St. Patrick’s Day Pour
Friday, March 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room, Dudley House. Come join friends for an early celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, featuring excellent beer courtesy of Everett’s Bone Up Brewing Company as well as snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. GSAS students and their guests welcome. ◆ Email dudley.social@gmail.com with questions.

Boston Ballet: Coppelia
Sunday, March 31, 2019, 7:30 p.m., Boston Opera House. Join Dudley Outings for Boston Ballet’s performance of Coppelia. Ticket information to be announced. ◆ Contact outings@dudley.harvard.edu with questions.

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
Overcoming Hurdles

Report on the panel discussion held on November 29, 2018: “The Dissertation: Strategies for Getting from Beginning to End of the Process” By Cynthia Verba

In November 2018, the Fellowships Office sponsored a panel discussion with speakers who were advanced in the dissertation process, with one having completed the dissertation. As they described their experiences, they were candid enough to admit that they experienced some bleak moments of self-doubt, but all in all made it clear that they truly liked what they were doing, which helped them get through the rough spots.

A good deal of the discussion was devoted to helpful tips for getting over some of the hurdles, particularly the hurdle of finding a dissertation topic. In making the choice of topic, one speaker noted that preparing for generals was a way of exploring what was out there and what was of particular interest. Reading widely in the scholarly literature was noted as having the added benefit of stimulating and improving writing. The speaker also recommended preparing for generals in advance of the dissertation, but also generous in their suggestions for how to overcome these hurdles. They were also candid about what they wished they had done differently, with the remarkably similar regret of not having made more of an effort to work closely with faculty advisors.

Another speaker reinforced this view by saying she found her topic by looking at some ship competitions. Another hurdle that was identified was getting through general exams, which can lead to burnout and a loss of momentum. Several speakers emphasized that it is important to not be too hard on oneself during a stagnant period. They also urged students to avoid isolation at the writing stage by attending department events, forming a writing group, and maintaining an outside life.

In sum, the panelists were candid about the hurdles that they faced in the various stages of the dissertation, but also generous in their suggestions for how to overcome these hurdles. They were also candid about what they wished they had done differently, with the remarkably similar regret of not having made more of an effort to work closely with faculty advisors.

Staying the Course: Weekly Time, Company, and Accountability for Students Preparing for General Exams Weekly Monday meetings until Tuesday, May 7, 2019 (except Monday, February 18, 2019, and Monday, March 18, 2019), 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., BSC, 5 Linden Street

Join a BSC staff member and other students who are preparing for general exams. Work independently and purposefully on your own reading materials while in the company of others, with brief group and/or individual consultation. Attend regularly or occasionally. To register, email arielphillips@fas.harvard.edu.

Dissertation Writers’ Support Group Six weekly meetings starting mid-February 2019, 2:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m., BSC, 5 Linden Street

For doctoral students seeking support to make headway with dissertation tasks. Call 617-495-2581 to schedule a 30-minute pre-group consultation meeting.

Join the Bok Center Mailing List! The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning offers many exciting opportunities for graduate students. In addition to foundational programming for new teachers, we offer Bok Seminars, programs for International Teaching Fellows, Peer Consultations, and a variety of fellowship opportunities. Sign up for our newsletter to get monthly updates of all of our offerings and deadlines delivered right to your inbox. Visit bokcenter.harvard.edu and scroll to the bottom of our homepage to sign up.
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 résumé, 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.

All events are open to GSAS students and alumni.

Preparation for the Academic Job Market: CVs & Cover Letters (Webinar)  
Friday, March 1, 2019, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
If you’re planning to go on the academic job market this fall, begin preparing your documents now! Your CV and cover letter are the first documents that academic search committees see. Come to this workshop to learn how to create a dynamic, graphically pleasing CV and craft a compelling, tailored cover letter that will help propel you to the next step in this challenging market. Please register at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Science and National Defense Career Chat  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge  
Come hear Edlyn Levine, PhD ’16 in applied physics, talk about her work at the MITRE Corporation. Levine’s work focuses on tackling advanced technical challenges and expanding scientific frontiers in the interest of national defense. Learn more about what it is like to transition from academia to industry, working at MITRE, and career opportunities within the organization. Please register at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Repeat Preparations for the Academic Job Market: CVs & Cover Letters (Webinar)  
Friday, March 8, 2019, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Follow-up with the experts at OCS to continue preparing your CV and cover letter that will help you in your efforts to learn and grow and propel you toward an academic job. Please register at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Effective Academic Job Search Strategies  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge  
Learn how to build your professional network in order to have a successful academic job search. The workshop will demystify the process of informational interviewing, so you can actually get out there and network your way into a fabulous job! Please register at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Going on the Academic Market (Webinar)  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
For Harvard GSAS students only: If you’re going on the academic job market this fall, you know that there’s a lot more to it than writing a CV and cover letter. In this workshop, we will discuss the variety of documents you’ll need and discuss strategies for an effective academic job search. Please register at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Career Chat: Intellectually Engaging Careers outside Academia  
Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge  
Wondering about how to transition from the way you’ll discover new opportunities you hadn’t expected. Learn practical tips from OCS and hear from a PhD candidate who successfully used informational interviewing to build connections and find new opportunities. This workshop will demystify the process of informational interviewing, so you can actually get out there and network your way into a fabulous job! Please register at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Leveraging Your PhD: Why Employers Value Your Skills  
Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Dudley House Common Room, Lehman Hall  
Explore career options beyond academia and learn how to leverage your PhD. Please register at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

PANELISTS INCLUDE:  
Anouska Bhattacharyya, PhD ’12, History of Science; Director for First-Year International Program, Harvard University  
Nikkolas Eroshenko, PhD ’16, Bioengineering; Co-founder and CSO, HelixNano  
Aael Lim, PhD ’16, Biological Sciences in Public Health; Scientific Editor, Cell Host & Microbe and Trends Reviews, Cell Press  
Scarlet Marquette, PhD ’13, Slavic Languages and Literatures; Director, Strategic Relations, Singularity University  
Stephen Pettigrew, PhD ’17, Political Science; Senior Analyst, NBC News; Deputy Executive Director, UPenn Leadership Program; Associate Director of Data Science, UPenn PORES  
Steven Pouyner, PhD ’18, Chemical Biology; Staff Scientist, Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP  
Anne Wang, PhD ’04, Social Psychology; Senior Research Associate, Education Development Center  
Micah Wittmer, PhD ’15, Musicology; Middle School Humanities Teacher, Carroll School

PANELIST EXPERTS:  
Silicon Valley think tank, Marquette builds and nurtures relationships with multinational corporations, startups, nonprofits, education, and government, helping them to prepare for an uncertain and abundant future of technological innovation. This conversation will be targeted to GSAS students in the humanities but is open to GSAS students in all fields. Please register at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students.

Contact  
Office of Career Services  
54 Dunster Street, Cambridge  
Phone: 617-495-2595  
oc.s.fas.harvard.edu/gsas-advising

Laura Stark, Director of Career Advising and Programming for Master’s and PhD Students  
lstark@fas.harvard.edu

Heather Law, Assistant Director, Graduate Student and PhD Advising  
hlaw@fas.harvard.edu

Discover Great Jobs through Informational Interviews  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge  
The best way to find the perfect job is to meet with and gather information from people already working in your field of interest. Along
Know Your Student Benefits

Learn more about the GSAS and Harvard benefits offered to students

₁ Reporting Hotline

Harvard University has established an anonymous reporting hotline and website that provides the opportunity to report a variety of ethical, integrity, safety, security, and compliance concerns. Run by an independent, third-party provider, the hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and may be used by anyone including, but not limited to, students, faculty, staff, patients, vendors, contractors, and visitors anywhere in the world. Visit reportinghotline.harvard.edu to submit an anonymous report online or call toll-free 877-694-2275.

Want to live in a GSAS residence hall for the 2019–2020 academic year?

Visit gsas.harvard.edu/student-life/housing/campus-housing for more information and to apply. Online applications must be completed by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, to be included in the priority housing lottery. Incoming G1 students in GSAS who submit complete applications by the deadline are guaranteed a room. Call or email with questions!

Summer Housing in Conant Hall

We are still accepting applications for summer 2019 housing in Conant Hall. Summer housing is first-come, first-served. To apply, visit gsas.harvard.edu/student-life/housing/campus-housing.

GSAS Office of Residential Life
Dudley House B2
Phone: 617-495-5060
gsasreslife@fas.harvard.edu

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 May 1 and 2, 2019, for Harvard PhD students and postdocs. The event teaches skills in recognizing and conveying the value of scientific and technological innovations to the world of industry, business, and entrepreneurship.

Register by April 1, 2019

Seats are limited: Visit otd.harvard.edu/events/deadline-to-apply-to-otds-bench-to-business-boot-camp1 for application instructions and more information.