

The GSAS Bulletin

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
APRIL 2013 VOLUME XLII, No. 7

“I am amazed at this spring, this conflagration of green fires lit on the soil of the earth...” — D. H. Lawrence



Commencement

GRADUATING THIS MAY?
HERE'S YOUR CHECKLIST.
SEE THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
ON PAGE 4!

▶ Your destination for tickets and all the information you need: www.gsas.harvard.edu/commencement.

▶ Nominate a Commencement marshal by April 5. Marshals lead GSAS graduates into the Yard.

▶ Order your regalia by April 10 (for AM candidates) and April 26 (for PhD candidates).

▶ Order your Commencement tickets online by April 26. Note that tickets are required for all Commencement events. Degree candidates are allotted two guest tickets each for Morning Exercises and the Diploma Awarding Ceremony. Additional guests can watch a simulcast in the Science Center.

▶ Pick up your tickets on May 24 and May 28–29 at Holyoke Center and on May 30 at the GSAS Information Tent at Maxwell Dworkin on Oxford Street — where the Commencement procession begins.

▶ Get ready to celebrate on **May 30!** Soak up the pomp and circumstance of Harvard's 362nd Commencement.

Continued on page 4



Savvy Traveler

PREPARATION, GOOD SENSE, AND PRECAUTION WILL KEEP YOU SAFE DURING GLOBE-TROTTING RESEARCH JAUNTS **BY BARI WALSH**

LET'S SAY YOUR RESEARCH TAKES YOU TO SAUDI ARABIA, where you find yourself needing to travel from Jeddah to Riyadh. If you're smart, you've thought about potential dangers, which, in a country that Harvard places in an “elevated-risk” category, could be many and varied. But as you jump into a car to make the drive, did you consider that the biggest danger you face is also one of the most mundane? Road accidents. Saudi Arabia has a significant road-safety problem, and the danger is compounded by the fact that if you're a foreigner who doesn't easily blend, or a woman, chances are you'll be treated less quickly by emergency responders than male residents or those who pass as residents. Now that you know, you might plan differently, and begin to consider whether you should hire a driver, some security, or a second car to follow you on the road.

This is just one of the many scenarios that the new office of Global Support Services wants you to consider as you embark on your field work, which is an essential part of the research experience of so many Harvard graduate students. In recent years the University has significantly improved

its ability to help you plan for, manage, and respond to any number of dangers — mundane or extraordinary — that a trip overseas might pose. By entering your information in the Harvard Travel Registry and updating it during your trip, and by checking in with Harvard's resident international security guru in advance of particularly thorny trips, you can plan wisely, minimize your risk, and use your time in country to

Scholars Abroad: Tips and Tools to Prepare for Fieldwork

▶ **Date:** Thursday, April 11, 3-5 p.m.

▶ **Location:** Dudley House Common Room
Come and hear from experienced students who have already been in the field, as well as from Professor Mary Steedly of Anthropology and Steve Taylor of Harvard's Global Support Services Office.

Continued on page 7

SPOTLIGHT

Far Beyond the Lab



A PhD group brings science to the people. **p.2**

SCHOLARLY LIFE

Evolving Interests



A PhD student wants to help undergrads find their way to research. **p.3**

DON'T MISS

April at Dudley

It's baseball, mystery, and music this month! **p.5**



CAREERS

High-Tech Humanists



New scholarly practices open new worlds of possibility. **p.6**

Imbibing in Science

A STUDENT EFFORT BRINGS SCIENCE OUT OF THE LAB AND INTO YOUR LOCAL

Professor of Genetics **Gary Ruvkun, PhD '82**, was the featured speaker at the March rendition of Science by the Pint, a fantastic series of community gatherings hosted by the GSAS student organization Science in the News (SITN).

Held most months at **The Burren**, a warmly lit, convivial pub in Davis Square, Somerville, Science by the Pint offers a chance for non-scientists to connect to the research communities in Boston and Cambridge and to learn about new discoveries and promising areas of inquiry. These free events, which typically draw crowds of between 60 and 100 people, open with a short chat by a top-tier Harvard or MIT scientist. They allow plenty of time for audience members to talk one-on-one with the guest scientist and their lab members over dinner and a beer.

Science in the News is a group of PhD students who are interested in examining the science behind the headlines and the health claims we hear every day, hoping to separate fact from speculation. The group runs a popular lecture series each fall and spring, and it publishes accessible articles on an impressive array of topics, including climate change, low-glycemic-index diets, performing enhancing drugs, and cutting-edge advances in limb prosthetics. SITN also works to bring science into local elementary and secondary schools, offering an educator's guide and an outreach program to bring graduate students into local classrooms. Visit sitn.hms.harvard.edu.



From left, PhD students and organizers Nicole Espy, Amy Gilson, and Jean Anne Currivan.



The event in March drew a customarily large crowd to the Burren



Gary Ruvkun chats with audience members after his talk.



APRIL 18 *The Study of Fungi: Fungi brews the beer you drink*
Dr. Ann Pringle (Champions Sports Bar, Kendall Square)

MAY 13 *Developmental Genetics for Fun and Profit: Mechanisms for cranial evolutions in birds and other dinosaurs*
Dr. Arkhat Abzhanov

JUNE 10 *Of Mice and Genes: The genetics of behavior*
Dr. Hopi Hoekstra

JULY 8 *Life in the Deep Sea*
Dr. Peter Girguis

WANT TO LIVE IN A GSAS RESIDENCE HALL FOR THE 2013-2014 ACADEMIC YEAR?

Information about the 2013-2014 academic year housing in the GSAS Residence Halls is online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/housing_application.php

Online applications must be completed by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 24**, to be included in the priority housing lottery.

Call or email with questions!

SUMMER HOUSING in Conant Hall

We are still accepting applications for summer housing in Conant Hall. If you are interested in living in the GSAS Residence Halls this summer, please apply online at http://gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/summer_housing.php

GSAS Housing Services

Dudley House B2

PHONE: 617-495-5060 FAX: 617-496-5169 E-MAIL: gsashous@fas.harvard.edu

GSAS Series on Grantsmanship and Professional Development

SPRING CALENDAR 2013

Covering all the information you need to get down to work over the summer and prepare for important fellowship competitions this fall!

Fulbright Orientation

Getting Ready for the Fall

Wednesday, April 24, 4 p.m., Dudley House

Grantsmanship Seminar

Tips on Writing Fellowship Proposals

Thursday, April 25, at 4 p.m., Dudley House

Applying for Postdoctoral Fellowships

Advice for Professional Development

Wednesday, May 1, at 4 p.m., Dudley House

For further details, contact series organizer Cynthia Verba in the Fellowships Office, 617-495-1814.

The Evolution of a Biologist

ENCOURAGING UNDERGRADUATES TO EMBRACE THE POSSIBILITIES OF A LIFE IN RESEARCH — JUST AS SHE DID

BY NICHOLAS NARDINI

HOW DOES A CURIOUS UNDERGRADUATE BECOME A full-fledged biologist?

Ask Khanichi Charles, a PhD candidate in biological science and public health, and her response is: evolution, of course.

The answer may seem to evoke some ineluctable force of nature, an unstoppable drive toward further development. But as a specialist in genetics and complex diseases focusing on the biological basis of obesity and diabetes, Charles knows that evolution is a lot messier than that.

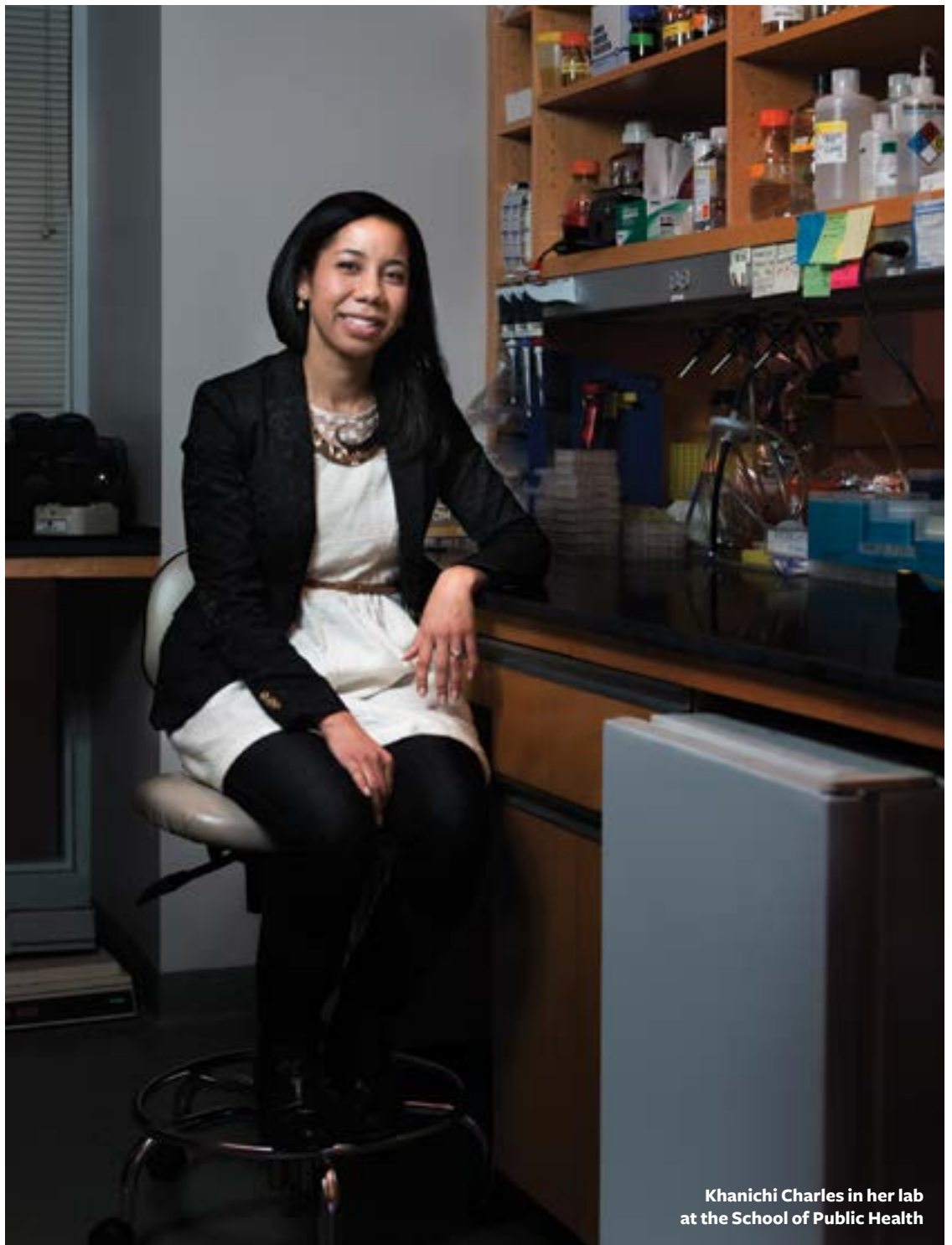
Take her own example. As a freshman at San Diego State University, “I was interested in biology, it was a subject I did well in in high school, but like most college freshmen, I assumed that my career goal was medicine.” Her mother was a nurse and she had an older brother in medical school, so the choice seemed natural. “It’s safe, it’s respectable, so it’s easy to say ‘I think I’ll be a doctor,’” she remembers. Then everything changed.

Students of evolutionary biology are familiar with the concept of “punctuated equilibrium,” by which morphological change occurs not gradually over time, but in short bursts of forced transformation. Charles’s own transformation was delivered by Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS), a federal program that provides textbooks, stipends, and research experience to underrepresented students in the life sciences. San Diego State’s version of the program made it financially possible for Charles to pursue laboratory work as an undergraduate, but just as importantly, it introduced her to the culture of biological research – attending conferences, presenting posters, and eventually, even publishing papers. “That support was a huge variable in my choosing to enter a doctoral program,” Charles says.

What really confirmed her switch from medicine was discovering the open-ended nature of research. “You can ask a question and not need to know the endpoint. You can design a testable approach to an answer, and each answer produces more questions, which build and build. The constant evolution of your curiosity is what drove me toward research.”

Even as she was drawn toward such open-ended inquiry, Charles also wanted to pursue work of immediate consequence. Public health, then, seemed like an ideal fit. Since coming to Harvard and joining Gökhan Hotamisligil’s lab, she has pursued answers to some of evolution’s most intractable puzzles. Her research centers on obesity and diabetes, and specifically, on a class of fatty acid binding proteins that traffic lipid cargo, and contribute to the advancement of metabolic diseases and the aging process. Mice whose genes for these proteins have been knocked out seem to maintain their metabolic function until later in life, so a major question of Charles’s research is why the genes exist at all. “Our working hypothesis is that they’re so-called ‘thrifty genes,’ meaning that they served the purpose of tiding people over in times of famine.” In an era of overabundant nutrition, though, the genes have become a source of significant epidemiological risk.

It’s a reminder that evolution follows no clear trajectory, but is the disordered sum of uncountable factors from across the history of a species. Which happens to be what Charles believes is especially valuable about programs like the MBRS, which aim to man the front lines of science with a population as diverse as the country’s. “As scientists, we’re trained to approach things rationally and objectively. But ultimately, the



Khanichi Charles in her lab at the School of Public Health

questions that we choose are driven by our curiosity and our perspectives. So you want people contributing to technologies and science to have diverse perspectives, to approach these questions from new ways. The MBRS is perfect for that.”

In recent years, Charles has been returning to San Diego State, to speak with current MBRS students about her own career path. “Students need to be able to identify with someone,” she says. “If I tell them I had to repeat a course, or I didn’t get A’s on every single thing, then they can say OK, this person is in a PhD program at Harvard but she’s not perfect. She’s in a place now where I could see myself.”

Sometimes even evolution needs a nudge, and in mentoring others, Charles is only repaying the nudge she received as a biological neophyte. Without the support of MBRS, she says, “There would either have been a long delay, or I would never have entered a graduate program at all. I really credit them with my success thus far.”

“I was interested in biology, it was a subject I did well in in high school, but like most college freshmen, I ASSUMED THAT MY CAREER GOAL WAS MEDICINE.”

—KHANICHI CHARLES

COMMENCEMENT Schedule of Events



Dudley House Masters Reception

Wednesday, May 29

4-6 p.m. | Dudley House Masters Jim and Doreen Hogle host a reception for degree candidates and their guests, Main Dining Room, Dudley House.

Commencement Day

Thursday, May 30

6:45 a.m. | Harvard Yard gates open for all guests.

6:45 a.m. | GSAS Breakfast with the Deans, Gropius Lawns, behind Perkins Hall, 35 Oxford Street, for all degree candidates and their guests.

7:45 a.m. | GSAS Procession begins from 35 Oxford Street to Sever Quadrangle.

8:05 a.m. | Degree candidates line up next to Emerson Hall in Sever Quadrangle.

8:50 a.m. | Academic procession begins.

9:45 a.m. | Morning Exercises begin in Harvard Yard.

11:30 a.m. | The GSAS Diploma Awarding Ceremony in Sanders Theatre begins immediately following the Morning Exercises. The ceremony will be simulcast on large screens at the Science Center.

11:30 a.m. | Champagne reception begins on the Gropius Lawns, behind Perkins Hall, 35 Oxford Street, and continues until approximately 3 p.m. for all degree recipients and their guests.

Noon | Buffet luncheon for degree candidates and their guests begins on the Gropius Lawns, behind Perkins Hall, 35 Oxford Street, and continues until approximately 3 p.m.

1:30 p.m. | Alumni procession begins.

2:15 p.m. | Afternoon Exercises begin in Harvard Yard. President Drew Faust gives her address, followed by Commencement speaker Oprah Winfrey.

5:15 p.m. | Graduate Hooding Ceremony for Division of Medical Sciences grads.

► **Tickets are required for all Commencement events. Visit www.gsas.harvard.edu/commencement.**

OUR ANNUAL ALUMNI CAREER SHOWCASE . . .

Leveraging Your PhD in the Work Place

► **Friday, April 26, 4-7 p.m.**
**Dudley House Common Room,
Harvard Yard**

Back by popular demand! A program to help PhD students explore career options beyond academia.

► SCHEDULE

4-5 p.m. *Nuts and Bolts: Landing a Job in a Tough Economy*

Hear from 2013 GSAS graduates who have successfully landed jobs.

5-6:30 p.m. *Alumni Panel on Leveraging the PhD*

Alumni will discuss their own career decisions and how the skills and knowledge they developed during their graduate programs influenced their professional success.

6:30-7 p.m. Networking Reception

► ALUMNI PANELISTS

Oana Dan, sociology
research scientist, Nielsen

Maurício Oliveira Carneiro, organismic and evolutionary biology
computational biologist, Broad Institute

Vicky Zhou, biological and biomedical sciences
consultant, Boston Consulting Group

Alexander Epstein, engineering sciences
general engineer, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Kate Stanton, English
assistant dean of undergraduate education at Harvard and lecturer in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality program

Yota Batsaki, comparative literature
executive director, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection

Shaila Rahman, medical sciences
associate, Flagship Ventures

Gina Helfrich, women's studies
Director, Harvard College Women's Center

Joseph Koipally, Biochemistry
associate, Fish & Richardson

Please register through Crimson Careers (via www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu). This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Career Services and the GSAS Office of Alumni Relations.

Building Connections and Community for International Students

HOST STUDENT PROGRAM ENTERS ITS 25TH YEAR

Every year, Dudley House and GSAS sponsor the annual Host Student Program to welcome incoming international students. Host students are continuing GSAS students who provide friendship and informal advice to incoming international GSAS students as they make the transition to life in the United States and to graduate studies at Harvard. For the many current GSAS students who may have benefited from this program, becoming a host is a chance to give something back.

This month, currently enrolled GSAS students will receive a program invitation. Registration is conducted online, and students are matched as closely as possible according to their preferences.

Host students contact their "match" over the summer, and everyone meets at the **Host Student Dinner on Monday, August 26, 2013**. This is a celebratory start to the academic year and a wonderful opportunity to learn about the resources of Dudley House and GSAS as a whole.

► For more information, contact Susan Zawalich (zawalich@fas.harvard.edu), Dudley House Administrator

JONATHAN RUEL



The 2012 Host
Student Dinner

Don't Miss!

DUDLEY
HOUSE



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

Red Sox Baseball at Fenway Park

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1 P.M. The Red Sox, looking to rebound from a bad 2012, take on AL East rival Tampa Bay at Fenway, now 101 years old and the cathedral of America's pastime. Tickets (\$29.50) at the House Office starting April 4.



Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 8 A.M.–1 P.M. Get outside and join Dudley Public Service for this annual cleanup right in our own backyard. The Charles River Watershed Association will direct us, and volunteers will receive gloves, trash bags, and a free t-shirt.

◆ *RSVP to dudleypublicservice@gmail.com.*

Murder Mystery Night

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 7:30–11 P.M. For one night, Dudley House becomes the scene of a 1920s speakeasy, and you, the players, will be gangsters out on the town, living out rivalries, love affairs, and, of course, murder. There is a storyline but no script; the participants are the performers, and the performance is the party. Sign-up begins April 5 in the House Office; tickets are \$10.

◆ *Contact Anna or Beth (dudley.social@gmail.com).*

A West African Musical Residency

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 26–27. Hailing from Benin, Jomion and the Uklos are a group of five brothers who play their own style of jazz, mixing virtuosic trumpet and vocals with traditional rhythms. The group will join the Dudley House Jazz Band for a two-day residency, including a master class (noon on Friday, Common Room) and a joint concert (\$5 students, 8 p.m. on Saturday, Main Dining Room). Sponsored by the Committee on African Studies and Dudley House.

GSAS Boat Bash

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 10:30 P.M.–2:30 A.M. Celebrate the end of classes with a late-night DJ'ed party aboard the luxury yacht *The Spirit of Boston* as it cruises Boston Harbor. Purchase tickets — which include two drinks, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and transportation back to Harvard Square — for \$30 each from the House Office. ◆ *Contact dudley.social@gmail.com.*



Dudley in Concert at Sanders

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 3 P.M. Pianist Robert Levin will join the Dudley House Orchestra for Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 16. Then, the Dudley House Orchestra and Chorus will perform Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Tickets at the Harvard Box Office. Reception at Dudley House follows.

Dudley House Your Graduate Student Center since 1991

Lehman Hall, Harvard Yard ◆ www.dudley.harvard.edu ◆ 617-495-2255

HOUSE MASTERS James M. Hogle and Doreen M. Hogle ◆ HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR Susan Zawalich

Humanities Unbound

NEW POSSIBILITIES, NEW COLLABORATIVE PRACTICES ENLIVEN THE HUMANISTIC FIELDS

BY EMMA MUELLER

HUMANIST. THE WORD CAN STILL CONJURE QUAINLY archaic images of a lone scholar hunched over a dog-eared text, deep in study, desk-bound. And yet the humanities today are brushing aside the stereotypes and embracing methods and techniques that are increasingly collaborative, experimental, computational, and scientific. Adjectives like “edgy” are even being thrown about.

We can attribute some of this new energy to the emerging set of scholarly practices known as the digital humanities. The term lends a title to this domain where the traditional modes of humanities research intersect with new tools like data mining, statistical analytics, and graphic design. It is a pursuit that inspires collaboration across disciplines, which has in turn yielded a new breed of humanists with a set of broader, more diverse skills. This is good news for today’s graduate students; it is creating new opportunities on the job market and potentially making them more desirable as candidates.

At a recent panel discussion in the Lamont Forum Room dedicated to the subject, Jeffrey Schnapp, professor of romance languages and literatures and a pioneer in the field, touched on this argument that increased collaboration can lead to the acquisition of essential workforce expertise. “The kinds of skills associated with teamwork,” he began, “with working with diverse populations of people with different kinds of expertise, who have to collaborate on shaping research questions—iterating them and producing deliverables—those kinds of skills add to the skillset of humanists, who have been traditionally identified with a sort of solitary mode of inquiry. And we’ve therefore been deemed unsocial somehow, unable to operate in large corporations.” But with the introduction of digital humanities, this perception is finally beginning to shift. “It changes the humanities culture away from this idea that somehow making and doing is something that *they* do, while *we* think, we study. That boundary line is no longer the way it was,” explained Schnapp.

The panel was hosted by the Office of Career Services and moderated by Diana Sorensen, the FAS divisional dean for arts and humanities and the James F. Rothenberg Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and professor of comparative literature. It was meant to explore how the new practices and changing perceptions are opening new avenues for scholarship and professional development.

So how can humanists leverage these new opportunities and convey their skills to potential employers? “It’s really about marketing yourself based on the skills that you can offer, and looking for the people that compliment your skills,” offered Beth Altringer, director of the Behavior

for Better Innovation Group and a visiting lecturer at the School of Engineering. Altringer went on to explain how the day-to-day tasks of a graduate student in the digital humanities really aren’t that different from, say, the steps one takes to build a business. As a student interested in the digital humanities, you build your community, you do the research and create an intelligible representation of that research, all the while asking the questions that really matter to people. These are the same skills involved in entrepreneurship; candidates just need to articulate that to employers.

It is important to recognize, however, that the intent behind the new scholarly methods is not to do away with the traditional, individualist, monographic approach, but to complement it. The essay, for instance, will always play an integral role in humanistic scholarship. Still, the world is indeed digitizing. With products like Google Glass on the horizon, the “literature of our lives” has literally gone digital, and it’s important that humanists keep up with these new forms of narrative. “As uncomfortable as it makes me personally,” admitted Altringer, “I think we can’t turn back from this moment where people are collecting more and more and more information. And if the past is any indication, people will want to document their lives and create their own autobiography. And this will happen in an environment with way more data than we’ve ever had. And as we begin to analyze this data, many more entrepreneurial opportunities for those who want to go into that, as well as research opportunities, will become available.”

Students can probe deeper and begin to experiment by getting involved with one of many Harvard affiliated organizations making waves in the field. One such group is the metaLAB, a research engine for the arts and humanities founded by Schnapp at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society. The metaLAB offers part-time research positions, learning courses, community events, and a fellowship program. Both the Center for Hellenic Studies and Dumbarton Oaks have digitally focused internships and fellowships, and the Behavior for Better Innovation Group at SEAS runs courses on innovation and entrepreneurship, as does the Harvard Innovation Lab.

Resources

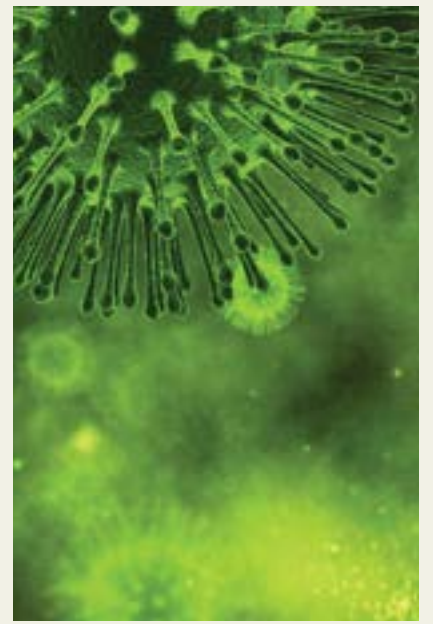
<http://metalab.harvard.edu/>

<http://chs.harvard.edu/>

<http://www.doaks.org/>

<http://www.b4bi.org/>

<http://ilab.harvard.edu>



Artful Science

You’re invited to the opening reception of a student exhibition that celebrates the unexpected connections between science and art. Come explore the creativity of Harvard’s life sciences community!

Glimpse into Life Science

Exhibition on display from April 1 through June 18.

Gallery Talk and Opening Reception

April 17, 5:30–8 p.m.

Talk: CGIS South So10 –Tsai Auditorium

Reception: CGIS Knafel building, Fisher Family Commons

The evening will begin in Tsai Auditorium at CGIS South, with remarks by **Angela DePace** and **Felice Frankel**, coauthors of the 2012 book *Visual Strategies: A Practical Guide to Graphics for Scientists and Engineers*, which explores the intersection of science and design.

A gallery reception will follow across the street at CGIS Knafel, including approximately 50 selected works from student submissions, mostly images from research done in life science labs at Harvard.

Announcement of winning submissions at 7:30 p.m. by Assistant Dean John McNally, along with DePace and Frankel.

Angela DePace is an assistant professor of systems biology at Harvard Medical School and an affiliated faculty member in the PhD program in biological and biomedical sciences.

Felice C. Frankel is a research scientist at the Center of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT and a noted science photographer and expert in visual expression of scientific and technical information.

Organized by Alicia Nugent, Allison Nishitani, and Anna Turetsky. Sponsored by Harvard Integrated Life Sciences.



At an OCS panel, faculty including Jeffrey Schnapp (left) and Gregory Nagy described how emerging digital practices are creating new possibilities for scholars.

EMMA MUELLER

Dudley House Orchestra AND THE Dudley House Chorus

In Concert, Sanders Theatre

➤ **Sunday, April 28, 3 p.m.**

Mozart Concerto No. 16 in D Major, K. 451
Featuring Robert Levin, Piano

Beethoven Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, op. 125
Featuring the Dudley House Chorus

Aliana de la Guardia, soprano
Julia Cavallaro, alto
Daniel Kamali, tenor
Wesley Ray Thomas, baritone

Tickets available at the Harvard Box Office or from Orchestra or Chorus members.

A reception at Dudley House will follow.

Of Note

OFFERINGS FROM HARVARD MUSIC

■ Saturday, April 6, 8 p.m.

John Knowles Paine Concert Hall

HARVARD GROUP FOR NEW MUSIC

New works by Harvard composers performed by Severine Ballon, solo cello

■ Friday and Saturday

April 12 and 13, 8 p.m.

John Knowles Paine Concert Hall

FROMM PLAYERS AT HARVARD CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE FROMM FOUNDATION (1952-2012)

With Sound Icon

Jeffrey Means, Artistic Director and Conductor

A two-concert celebration of works commissioned by the Fromm New Music Foundation

■ Friday, April 12

Liza Lim: Shimmer Songs (2004)

Luciano Berio: Circles (1960)

— Jennifer Ashe, soprano

Leon Kirchner: Concerto for violin, cello, 10 winds and percussion (1960)

Bruno Maderna: Giardino Religioso (1972)

■ Saturday, April 13

Gunther Schuller: Tre Invenzioni (1972)

Lee Hyla: Pre-pulse Suspended (1984)

Karola Obermuller: elusive corridors (2012)*

— Michael Norsworthy, clarinet

Barbara White: Third Rule of Thumb (1999)

Elliott Carter: Double Concerto (1961)

— Paavali Jumpanen, piano; Yoko Hagino, harpsichord

*premiere

■ Friday, April 19

Sanders Theater

BLODGETT CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

presents

Chiara Quartet

Haydn: String Quartet in C Major, Op. 20, No. 2

Edgar Barroso: Engrama*

Dvorak: Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 81 with Robert Levin, piano

(*Blodgett Composition winners)

Free tickets available at Harvard Box Office beginning April 5.



Continued from page 1

focus on the substance — your work, that is — rather than on logistics or anxiety.

All international travel poses risks, of course, and travelers should be prepared to respond to trouble no matter where they're going, says Steve Taylor, the associate director for international safety and security at Harvard Global Support Services. This relatively new office was created to provide operational guidance and resources to students, faculty, and staff who are traveling or managing projects abroad. Taylor, a global security and travel specialist who has been to 72 countries and counting, has a network of contacts in countries around the world and can offer in-depth, sophisticated advice about almost any destination — and often even the name of a friendly resident to meet for tea.

He urges students to do their homework, to be objective, and to analyze their actual risk any potential setting. Travel to high-risk countries might conjure images of roadside bombings or violent mobs, leading students to neglect a given country's problem with mugging. And travel to low-risk countries might foster a general sense of complacency, leading them to jump into a car in New Zealand without ever considering flat tires or the location of the nearest gas station.

Travelers should “identify where they fit in a particular threat matrix,” says Taylor. “Look at what the real threats are, and determine whether you constitute a potential target. Do you blend, or will you stand out?”

Taylor keeps close track of emerging or overlooked threats in locations where graduate students might venture, and he debriefs returning students to get up-to-date intelligence. “We put people in touch,” he says. “We had a student in South Sudan last summer, and we've got a new student heading over there now. We can make connections between them, and that's enormously helpful for the new student, especially in a country where I have few contacts.”

He urges students to do a sort of “what if” inventory: What if I get mugged and lose my ID? What if the building I'm staying in catches fire — do I have secondary accommodation? What if I need emergency medical care — can I pay for it? Do I have emergency funding? Proactively anticipating potential dangers helps clear away worry and

enhances productivity during the trip.

When it comes to travel that is likely to involve the threat of real danger, “Our role isn't to say you can't go,” says Taylor. “Our role is to advise and help you get there safely, carry out your research safely, and get home safely.” There are times when he urges students to consider whether the risks outweigh the benefit, but if the student needs to go, Taylor will work with him or her on a risk-assessment plan and an emergency action plan.

He recounts a story about one student who was doing research on the drug cartels of northern Mexico. The student was a fluent Spanish speaker who was familiar with the situation on the ground but provided a daily itinerary to Taylor's office, based on the demonstrated threat of kidnappings. The student and Taylor even decided to place a tracking device on the student's phone. “Big brother was watching, but it was for a reason,” Taylor says with a smile. “Students go abroad to do research, and we want them to be able to focus on that, rather than being paranoid or fearful.

“I've been in the situation where my car has broken down in the middle of the desert,” he continues. “I've made the mistakes. I can save them the heartache.”

Traveling Abroad?

BEFORE YOU GO, VISIT

www.traveltools.harvard.edu

- ▶ Register your itinerary in the Harvard Travel Registry
- ▶ Learn about services offered by Harvard Travel Assist (formerly called International SOS)
- ▶ Find visa requirements and application assistance
- ▶ Plan to update the Travel Registry while abroad if your plans, locations, or contact information change

globalsupport@harvard.edu; 617-495-1111

The Mahindra Humanities Center

▶ *Mining Imagination: Ethnographic Approaches Beyond Knowledge Production*

A Volkswagen Fellowship Symposia

Friday and Saturday, April 5-6, Room 133, Barker Center

Seating is limited. RSVP mschauble@fas.harvard.edu.

▶ *The Rita E. Hauser Forum: Film Screening of The Reluctant Fundamentalist and Conversation with Filmmaker, Mira Nair*

Wednesday, April 10, 4 p.m.,

Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge.

Tickets required. To reserve a ticket, email RSVPNair@brattletheatre.org.

▶ *Confronting Evil: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*

A conference cosponsored by the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard, the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, and the Volkswagen Foundation.

Friday, April 19, 4 p.m., Emerson Hall, Room 105

Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m., Emerson Hall, Room 210

▶ *Right and Subjectivity: Reflections on a Precarious Relationship*

A Volkswagen Fellowship Symposia

Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, Room 133, Barker Center

Seating is limited. RSVP dloick@fas.harvard.edu.

▶ *The Humanities and the Future of the University*

Tuesday, April 30, 4 p.m., Radcliffe Gym, 10 Garden Street

Organized by the Mahindra Humanities Center with support from the Office of the President. Free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

Participants: Lawrence S. Bacow (Tufts University), Homi K. Bhabha (Harvard University), Stefan Collini (University of Cambridge), Drew G. Faust (Harvard University), Lynn A. Hunt (UCLA), Sheldon I. Pollock (Columbia University), Diana Sorensen (Harvard University).



Learn more:
mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu



Get Out

EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

► The Boston Marathon: If you can't beat them, join them

Marathon Monday is April 15, and it's a festive day to be in Boston — an unofficial holiday that brings throngs to Kenmore Square and the Back Bay. Stake out your spot and help hydrate the runners — some of the world's most elite, plus a lot of locals who've trained hard to get a bib. See a map of the course here: www.boston.com/marathon.

SURVIVING GRADUATE SCHOOL: THE CONTEST

Welcome to the Bulletin's new monthly contest!

We ask readers to share a trick of the trade — a survival skill they've picked up during their Harvard years, or a shortcut that makes the burdens of grad school a little less heavy. We pick the most creative or useful answer(s) and print the winner in the next edition, and you win a **GSAS totebag!**

OUR MARCH WINNER:

My favorite librarian at Harvard is **Xiao-He Ma**, an erudite librarian for the Chinese Collection at Harvard Yenching Library. Mr. Ma has kept my research interests on his radar screen ever since I talked to him about my dissertation topic, and he has been keeping me informed of new books and journals related to my research. Once I was looking for parallels of a story in East Asia, Mr. Ma directed me to look up a Vietnamese catalogue of pre-modern Chinese written materials, which eventually led me to track down a precious 17th century Vietnamese adaptation of an earlier Chinese story.

—Xiaosu Sun

PhD candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

>> www.gsas.harvard.edu/contest

NEW: APRIL CONTEST



Tell Us About Your Workspace

Do you have a secret nook no one knows about? Do you have special toys on your desk to distract you (or keep you focused)? Share a quick description of where you do your best work.

E-mail your answer to
bulletin@fas.harvard.edu.

The contest is open only to students at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. When submitting, include your full name and your department/program. We allow only one submission per person per contest.