HGWISE 10th Anniversary Symposium on Saturday, April 25, 2015
SAVE THE DATE AND CALL FOR POSTER PRESENTERS

FIT TO PRINT

HOW TRAVIS BUSBEE AND RYAN TRUBY, GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE LAB OF PROFESSOR JENNIFER LEWIS, WORKED WITH LEWIS TO CREATE THE UNDERGRADUATE COURSE “INTRODUCTION TO BIOMATERIALS” BY LUISA ZAITSEVA

WE STILL CAN’T WALK ON WATER, BUT WE CAN WALK ON Oobleck.

While water, like most other liquids, gives way to force, oobleck—a cornstarch suspension that takes its name from a 1949 Dr. Seuss book—becomes more viscous under pressure. The undergraduate course “Introduction to Biomaterials,” known as BE 191, uses oobleck as an easily accessible example of a non-Newtonian liquid; look on YouTube and you’ll find videos of gleeful people running, rolling, biking, and skate-boarding over a puddle filled with it.

For all its entertainment value, however, oobleck is just about the worst material for 3D printing. As Travis Busbee, a graduate student in the lab of Professor Jennifer Lewis, explains, “For 3D printing, the ideal material is one that yields to stress, so it can be extruded through a nozzle and then be allowed to harden.”

Ask Busbee what the most important factor in 3D printing is, and he will tell you it’s material. The physical and chemical properties of a substance determine not only the ease with which it can be printed, but also what happens when it is put to its intended use.

As a senior at Ohio State University, Busbee worked to develop a cellular scaffold that could be injected through a catheter tube into the hearts of patients who had suffered heart attacks, thereby avoiding risky open heart surgery. “When cardiac cells die,” Busbee explains, “the pH of that area of the heart lowers. That makes it hard to implant new, healthy cells: they can’t survive in the acidic environment of the dead area.”

Busbee developed a material that could serve as an extracellular matrix for the newly implanted, healthy cells and could be injected with minimal invasiveness. On its way through the catheter at normal pH, the material is one that yields to stress, so it can be extruded through a nozzle and then be allowed to harden. The extracellular matrix also supports the newly implanted cells and could be printed in a way that mimics surrounding cells.

As a graduate student, Busbee now works to develop new materials for use in regenerative medicine, including printed cartilage and bone.

Fit to Print

Fit to Print

HGW I S E (Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering) is celebrating 10 years of advancing the academic and professional development of women in the sciences here at Harvard. To mark the occasion, HGWISE is hosting an all-day symposium on Saturday, April 25, 2015, in the Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge.

The symposium will include a poster session to highlight the research of Harvard women with prizes for best poster. The event will also feature a keynote address by Susan Lindquist as well as discussion panels featuring women who blazed trails in science throughout the decades, including Harvard researchers Melissa Franklin, Suzanne Gaudet, and Radhika Nagpal.

A networking reception will follow, and lunch and coffee-break snacks will be provided.

To RSVP, sign up to present a poster, or submit questions for our panelists, visit goo.gl/ZYFTl. Please contact hgwise@gmail.com with questions or to subscribe to our weekly newsletter and receive updates about the symposium and other events throughout the year.

MIT’s Susan Lindquist will deliver the keynote address.
Harvard COOP Supports GSAS Student Projects

Each year, the Harvard COOP provides funding for Harvard graduate student groups to conduct public service projects in the greater Boston or Cambridge area, with the goal of enhancing awareness of community service among Harvard students. The Dudley House Public Service Fellows accept applications from GSAS students who participate in projects that fit the criteria and recommend a select group to the COOP for support.

At a meeting in February, project winners met with COOP general manager Allan Powell to share their projects and receive funding. Interested in receiving support for your public service project? Want to learn more about public service at GSAS? Contact the Dudley House Public Service Fellows Mariam Goshadze and Huan Jin at dudleypublicservice@gmail.com.

Projects supported for 2015

Science in the News
Journal of Emerging Investigators
The Harvard School of Public Health Student-Community Action Partnership
Prevention, Health Awareness, and Choice through Education
Health Professions Recruitment & Exposure Program
Seeds of Hope
Harvard Medical School AIDS Action Initiative
Archeology in the Classroom: The Boston Public Schools Archeological Workshop

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING
Cambridge Campus
GSAS Residence Halls 2-2 Dudley House/Lehman Hall, 1 Harvard Yard, Cambridge, MA 02138, 617-495-5060, gcreslife@fas.harvard.edu, gcas.harvard.edu/current_students/residential_life.php

GSAS residence halls provide the opportunity to live and interact with other graduate students from different disciplines, backgrounds, and cultures.

Located near Harvard Law School, GSAS residence halls have over 400 rooms available for graduate students. First-year graduate students are guaranteed housing if they apply by April 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Harvard Law School Housing
3031 Massachutes Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, 617-495-1880, housing@law.harvard.edu, hlshousing.harvard.edu/dept/dos/housing

If Harvard Law School has rooms available in early August, GSAS students can apply to live in them. Check the website for availability.

Longwood Campus
Harvard Medical School—Vanderbilt Hall
107 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston, MA 02115, 617-432-1629, vandebilt_hall@hms.harvard.edu, hms.harvard.edu/departments/vanderbilt-hall

If housing is not available on any campus, you can also check out other housing options and roommate advertisements by visiting the HUH website, huhousing.harvard.edu. View currently available properties and locations on the HUH website, huhousing.harvard.edu. You can also check out other housing options and roommate advertisements. (Please note that these databases are not screened by HUH).

OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT TIPS

Some students choose to live off-campus in Cambridge, Boston, and the surrounding area. Here are some tips to remember when seeking off-campus apartments:

Read the lease agreement carefully and ask questions if anything is unclear.

Know what is expected of you in terms of pre-payments (first month's rent, last month's rent, security deposit) or a finder's fee.

Calculate the anticipated costs of utilities (i.e., heat, electricity, Internet) when determining which apartments you can afford.


Inquire about superintendant/landlord response to facility issues and emergencies.

Check the apartment to ensure that it is in acceptable condition.
SOLVING UNIQUE CHALLENGES

A passion for solving unique challenges at the crossroads of materials science and biotechnology is what brought Busbee and Ryan Truby, also a graduate student in the Lewis lab, to Harvard. Together, they are part of a small team known as the “Biostix Subgroup.” “Our goal is to print viable, functional tissue constructs with supporting vasculatures, or blood vessel networks,” says Truby. As an undergraduate at the University of Texas, Truby, who did his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering, worked to develop nanoparticle contrast agents to be used in detecting cancer with ultrasound-based imaging. After spending several years focused on nanoparticle contrast agent design, as Truby tells it, “I looked up and realized that there was a lot out there that I wanted to do to expand my understanding of materials.” It was Truby’s knowledge of nanoparticles that led him to Lewis, then at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. “I came across Professor Lewis and her research on nanoparticle-based inks for printed electronics applications while looking at various graduate programs.”

After speaking with Lewis about a project to 3D print cells and tissues, Truby decided to join the Lewis lab (which migrated to Harvard before he started graduate school). Today, his work centers on developing a technique for 3D printing engineered tissue constructs with extremely complex forms and vasculatures. Truby explains that not only does his method allow for greater cell viability due to its increased throughput and efficiency, but also that “it allows you to fabricate anatomically relevant constructs unlike any other method developed before.”

The Lewis lab’s innovations will bring scientists one step closer to printing a nephron, the subunit of the kidney that works to regulate blood composition through filtration. If scientists could print a living renal structure, the tissue could be used to model nephrotoxicity. According to Truby, nephrotoxicity accounts for nearly 50 percent of failures in phase 1 clinical drug studies. Catching drug failure at an earlier stage would, in turn, allow for cheaper drug development. “As things stand now, drug companies sink millions of dollars into animal and other testing before they figure out that a medication doesn’t work in humans,” Truby explains. “If scientists can figure out how to print a viable nephron, we can see how the human body will react to a drug much earlier in the process.”

The Lewis lab’s innovative work has gained a lot of attention in recent years—in addition to National Geographic and the Wall Street Journal, it was featured prominently in a November 2014 issue of The New Yorker. According to Truby, though, “the press is a bonus for everyone—being a part of the group is far more special than the press coverage we get.” While in some settings this level of national attention might foster competition, Truby says “it hasn’t changed us. There’s no internal competition, and we just want to keep doing great things as a team.”

AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

While research is clearly the focus of the Lewis lab, in early 2015 Professor Lewis, Busbee, and Truby took on another project: developing BE 191. Together, they worked to design a course that would not only introduce students to the fundamentals of working with biomaterials, but do it in an engaging, hands-on way, even in lecture. Under Professor Lewis’s guidance, Truby says, “I began to think more about how people learn, how to most effectively teach someone, and how to transform the traditional lecture into a more interactive experience.”

On the first day of class, the students were asked to brainstorm the best design for a hip replacement by considering how the physical properties of the polymer, metal, and ceramic components related to their function as well as the overall performance of the implant. This was just one of many hands-on, in-class activities that Busbee and Trudy created for the course. As Busbee says, “it means a lot more when students can see these materials in real life.”

The course is now in its second year, and although Busbee and Truby are no longer involved, they worked to document their work and make the transition to new teaching fellow leadership as seamless as possible. According to Lewis, “Ryan and Travis had a huge impact on the success of BE 191.”

Busbee is on leave this year to work on a 3D printing company called Visuall with Lewis, which will allow users to print entire multi-material electronic devices. He says he enjoyed his experience teaching but hopes to rejoin industry after finishing his PhD. Truby, meanwhile, plans to stay in academia with a focus on teaching. “I want my research to make an impact but I also want what I teach in the classroom to do the same.”

Besides a passion for new materials and their application, Busbee and Truby share a desire to bring science to people, inside the classroom and out. “What excites me,” Busbee says, “is innovating. I want to make those innovations accessible to people so they can be used to solve real-world problems.”

HARVARD ART MUSEUMS

FRAGMENTS OF A LOST PAST OR EVIDENCE OF A CONNECTED HISTORY?

THE ROLE AND CONCEPT OF ISLAMIC ART IN THE MUSEUM CONTEXT

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Menschel Hall, Lower Level, Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy Street, Cambridge

The first years of the 21st century witnessed an impressive re-evaluation of Islamic art and archaeology. Most of the larger collections of Islamic art have been, or still are, undergoing reorganization, in part because museums and galleries have become increasingly important forums for public interest in Islamic cultures. Yet there has been little discussion of content, categories of order, and the new role of museums. In this lecture, Stefan Weber, director of the Museum of Islamic Art at Berlin’s Pergamon Museum, traces the history of permanent exhibitions of Islamic art and archaeology from the early 20th century to the present. Following the lecture, select galleries related to the talk will be open for one hour. Free admission.

For more information, visit the Harvard Art Museums online at harvardartmuseums.org.

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MOSQUE LAMP, MAMLUK, EARLY 14TH CENTURY. MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART BERLIN.

ASHEL ROOM 202
Confronting Violence
Thursday and Friday, April 9 and 10, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Knafel Center, 10 Garden Street

During “Confronting Violence,” we’ll explore how activism and cultural change, including considerations of gender, can affect public policy and reduce violence. The conference will begin on the evening of April 9 with an arts event and discussion featuring hip-hop music, and April 10 will bring a day of presentations that explore entrenched challenges, identify successful models of activism, and illuminate ways to confront—and overcome—violence.

Learn more about the GCC and initiatives at gcc.fas.harvard.edu.

Bok Center
Open Studios
Thursdays, March 19 through May 28, 2015, 3:00 p.m., Science Center Room 317

The Bok Center’s Media, Literacy, and Visualization Group will host a series of Open Studios for GSAS students to work on projects related to visual teaching. Please drop in and meet with Bok Center staff, including artist in residence Kally Nyks.

For more information, visit the Center’s events page at bokcenter.harvard.edu/events-workshops.

Harvard hosting ECO-5
On Saturday, April 11, 2015, Harvard hosts the 2015 ECO-5 conference, an event run for linguistics graduate students by linguistics graduate students. The conference rotates among five participating schools—the University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts, MIT, the University of Maryland, and Harvard—and has evolved from a syntax student conference to an event open to other subfields of linguistics. ECO-5 offers a great opportunity for graduate students early in their careers and more advanced students to gain presentation experience before they are accepted to strong peer reviewed conferences. ECO-5 is a fun and informal way to get to know your peers from other institutions and foster new friendships and collaborations.

For more information, including program and conference location details, contact the ECO-5 organizers Lena Borise at borise@fas.harvard.edu or Laurence B. Viollet at bviollet@fas.harvard.edu.

Building Connections and Community for International Students
Host Student Program 2015

Dudley House announces the start of the 27th-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 via e-mail. 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 24, 2015. 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, e-mail Susan Zawalich, Dudley House administrator, at zawalich@fas.harvard.edu.

Fellowship Applications—Events to Help You Start Planning Now for Fall Deadlines!
FELLOWSHIP ORIENTATION AND ADVICE ON PROPOSAL WRITING

Two upcoming sessions organized by the GSAS Fellowships Office will help you get ready for the fall, when most fellowship deadlines occur. “Applying for Postdoctoral Fellowships” takes place on Thursday, April 23, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Dudley House Common Room. Learn how to research postdoctoral opportunities and how to write a winning proposal at the postdoctoral level.

The “Fellowship Information Session” will provide details on applying for the Fulbright and other traveling fellowships, including how to learn about fellowship opportunities and how to write a winning fellowship proposal. GSAS has an excellent acceptance rate for Fulbright fellowships, with more than 50 percent of applicants winning grants to study abroad. Don’t miss this chance to learn more. The session happens on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Dudley House Common Room.

Reminder: Scholarly Pursuits: A Guide to Professional Development during the Graduate Years is available online at gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/scholarly_pursuits.php. Be sure to read the advice on writing fellowship proposals and view winning samples.

Graduate Student Council Elections and Open Meeting

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) elections will be held at the Open Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge at Dudley House. The GSC represents the interests of the GSAS student body in academic, residential, and administrative matters that directly affect graduate students. Current issues include working conditions for teaching fellows, innovative learning opportunities in January, support of social causes, technology, child care, and transportation.

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Reminder: Scholarly Pursuits: A Guide to Professional Development during the Graduate Years is available online at gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/scholarly_pursuits.php. Be sure to read the advice on writing fellowship proposals and view winning samples.
**Dudley House Distinguished Speaker Series Presents**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 6:00 P.M.,** Graduate Student Lounge. Join the Dudley House International/Cultural Fellows for a lecture and reception with Christine Quinn, former Speaker of the New York City Council (2006–2013) and spring 2015 resident fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics. Quinn will speak on “breaking ground” and forcing political change in politics. A reception will follow in the Dudley House Fireside Room. ◆ **E-mail Justin Stern with questions at justindstern@fas.harvard.edu.**

**Dudley Rave**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 8:30 P.M.,** Dudley House Dining Room. Join your fellow students for an epic night out as Dudley is transformed into a massive clubbing mecca. Sip delicious beer and wine to smooth and deep house music. At 10:00 p.m., head down the rabbit hole as our resident PhDJ unleashes fierce European club music on the Dudley crowd. Dress in white for the black lights and prep yourself for lasers and glow sticks galore.

**Faculty/Student Dinner**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 5:30 P.M.,** reception in the Graduate Student Lounge, 6:00 P.M. dinner in the Common Room. Invite your favorite faculty member to join you for a lovely catered dinner. One or two students may accompany one faculty member. ◆ **Tickets available in the House Office while they last, check with Jeff Chenette for more details (617-495-2255).**

**The Undiscovered Country: Shakespeare at Mount Auburn Cemetery**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1:00 P.M.,** Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Honor Shakespeare’s 451st birthday with a visit to Mount Auburn Cemetery. Led by volunteer docent and Dudley House Administrator Susan Zawalich. ◆ **Cost: $5, rain or shine. Meet at the Cemetery just before 1:00 p.m. or at Dudley before 12:30 p.m. to take the bus as a group.**

**Dudley House Classic Films Presents: Shakespeare Uncovered: Hamlet and Hamlet**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 6:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.,** Common Room. To honor Shakespeare’s birthday, Dudley House Classic Films presents Shakespeare Uncovered: Hamlet, with David Tennant and other actors who have played Hamlet, and a stunning modern production of Hamlet with David Tennant, Patrick Stewart, and a fabulous ensemble cast from England’s Royal Shakespeare Company.

**Dudley Jazz Bands—Mingus & More**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 8:00 P.M.,** Dudley House, First Floor. Come to this exciting concert with tunes played by Dudley’s best and brightest jazz musicians! The Big Band takes on the challenge of Charles Mingus’ exhilarating, dynamic, and quirky music. The combo presents energetic original tunes and arrangements. ◆ **Free admission. Refreshments will be served. ID required for alcohol.**

**Dudley Jazz Jam**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 8:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M.,** Dudley House Common Room. Are you a graduate student at Harvard? Do you play an instrument? Do you like jazz? Come enjoy the last jam session of the semester, and get to know the vibrant Dudley Jazz Program! Singers and instruments of all levels welcome. ◆ **For more information, visit dudley.harvard.edu/dudley-jazz-band.**

**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
Job Talk

PERIODIC UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES ON CAREERS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

- **Take Control of Your Career**
  Sometimes, climbing the academic ladder feels like you’re climbing into the clouds. You know what’s up there, but you can’t really see it. Do you know you want to keep climbing this ladder? What are your other options? How can you even get started? Come learn how to take on some of these big career questions. In this workshop, engage in interactive career self-assessment exercises to better understand your skills, interests, and values. Then, we will discuss a variety of careers of interest along with ways to explore them. Leave with a plan to discover, explore, and pursue career options based on your unique self-assessment...and maybe even identify your dream job!

  **Take Control of Your Career—for Scientists and Engineers**
  Thursday, April 2, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., check the OCS website for location information and register through Crimson Careers.

  **Take Control of Your Career—for Humanists and Social Scientists**
  Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Lamont Library, Forum Room. Please register through Crimson Careers.

- **Job Search for International Students**
  Thursday, April 9, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. Come hear Dan Beaudry, 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 tips for how to overcome shyness, strategies for navigating the US job market, and how to maximize your chances of landing a job in the United States. Please register through Crimson Careers.

- **Social Intelligence for Scientists: Getting and Keeping Ahead by Understanding Others**
  Monday, April 13, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Longwood Campus, 5th floor, Minot Room, Countway Library. Featured Speaker: Sabrina Woods, associate director, career services, Northeastern University and holistic career coach & LinkedIn trainer

- **Preparing for the Job Search: Resumes and Cover Letters**
  Monday, April 27, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. Are you a PhD looking at nonacademic careers? Are you concerned about how to write an effective resume and cover letter? Come and learn tips on how to tighten and tailor your resume to help you land an interview! Please register through Crimson Careers.

- **Preparing for the Academic Job Market: CVs and Cover Letters**
  Tuesday, April 28, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. 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 appealing, CV, and craft a compelling, tailored cover letter that will help propel you to the next step in this challenging market. Please register through Crimson Careers.

- **Going on the Academic Job Market**
  Friday, May 1, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. If you are 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. Be sure to stay for the “Dossier 101” workshop—plan to attend both to prepare for the academic market in the fall. Please register through Crimson Careers.

- **Dossier 101**
  Friday, May 1, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. Are you a GSAS Student going on the academic job market this fall? One of the more challenging aspects of this process is collecting and sending your confidential letters of recommendation. Consider using Interfolio, an electronic dossier service managed by OCS. Maureen Hilton, the OCS dossier coordinator, will provide helpful tips on using the Interfolio system to manage your letters and other job search documents so you can get your applications in on time. This workshop is the perfect complement to the “Going on the Market” workshop—plan to attend both to prepare for the academic market in the fall. Please register through Crimson Careers.

- **Leveraging Your PhD in the Work Place**
  Friday, April 24, 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Dudley House Common Room. Explore career options beyond academia and learn how to leverage your PhD

- **Nuts and Bolts: Landing a Job in a Tough Economy**
  4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  Are you curious how recent PhD graduates found their jobs? Come hear from recent GSAS graduates who have successfully landed a job.

- **Alumni Panel on Leveraging the PhD**
  5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
  Alumni will discuss their own career decision-making: how they adapted to jobs outside academe, and how the skills and knowledge they developed during their graduate programs influenced their success.

- **Networking Reception**
  6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
  Speak with alumni and Harvard affiliates about their specific jobs and career paths. This event is co-sponsored by the FAS Office of Career Services and the GSAS Office of Alumni Relations.

- **The Bureau of Study Counsel**
  The Bureau of Study Counsel (BSC) supports Harvard students in their learning, growth, and development. The BSC offers resources to help you approach your intellectual work with strategy, skill, and spirit; make challenging choices; develop a sense of voice and authority in your scholarship, relationships, and leadership; work well and play well with others; discover what leaves you feeling enlivened and engaged; and make meaning of your work and your life. Visit bsc.harvard.edu to learn more or stop by the BSC at 5 Linden Street.

- **Study @ 5 Linden**
  Looking for a quiet and cozy space to study with company, coffee, and cookies? Check out Study @ 5 Linden Spring term: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  Reading and Final Exam Periods: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tanner Lectures
Casuistry, For and Against: Pascal’s Provinciales and Their Aftermath

The Mahindra Humanities Center and the Office of the President at Harvard present Carlo Giusti, the Franklin D. Murphy Professor of Italian Renaissance Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, and 2015 Tanner Lecturer.

Lecture 1, Wednesday, April 15, 4:00 p.m., Room 105, Emerson Hall

Casuistry and irony: Some Reflections on Pascal’s Provinciales

INTRODUCTIONS
Drew G. Faust
President, Harvard University
Horii K. Bhabha
Director, Mahindra Humanities Center
RESPONDENT
Robert Maryks
Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College

Lecture 2, Thursday, April 16, 4:00 p.m., Room 105, Emerson Hall

Irony, Geometry, Casuistry: Two Case Studies

RESPONDENT
Lowell Gallagher
Associate Professor of English, University of California, Los Angeles

Seminar, Friday, April 17, 12:00 p.m., Room 100, Barker Center

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS
Mark Jordan
Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Christian Thought, Harvard Divinity School
Francesca Kamn
Littauer Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
MODERATOR
Horii K. Bhabha

Free and open to the public.

Find out more about these and other events sponsored by the Mahindra Humanities Center at mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu.

Continuous Improvement
HOW ONE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEVERAGED GSAS AND BOX CENTER PROGRAMMING

FOR RAYMOND KO, WINNING A CERTIFICATE OF Excellence and Distinction in Teaching was the culmination of years of hard work. As a student in Hong Kong, he studied English but since the curriculum emphasized reading rather than oral and communication skills, he found it challenging to follow conversations with his American friends that were full of slang and the names of people and places he did not know.

That’s why when Ko came to Harvard in 2009, he participated in GSAS’s English Language Program, a four-week targeted training designed not just to help new students improve their English, but also to provide an intensive immersion into the ways of the American classroom and the eccentricities of US slang and culture. Students gain lasting benefits: a more confident grasp of English, professional tools and resources, an understanding of GSAS, Harvard, and the US, and—perhaps most important—friendships to help ease their transition.

Through ELP, Ko was able to practice English conversation with native speakers and fellow international students, while fine-tuning the reading comprehension skills he learned back home. Ko and his ELP cohort also received training in educational methodologies such as brain mapping and speed writing. They attended talks by senior Harvard professors and learned about the importance of class participation. “We were encouraged to speak out, express opinions, and acknowledge others, which are essential in an American classroom,” says Ko.

After ELP ended and Ko began his graduate studies in earnest, he realized that he could benefit from more training in advance of serving as a teaching fellow. Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning programming aimed at international students seemed a logical next step. The Bok Center offers seminars in the Professional Communication Program for International Teachers and Scholars. “Our primary offerings are Classroom Communication Skills for International Teaching Fellows and ‘Public Speaking for International Speakers and Scholars,’” says Pamela Pollock, associate director for professional and scholarly development. Through these small, collaborative seminars, students work on improving their oral English comprehensibility and accuracy, learn and practice general pedagogical strategies for teaching interactively, refine their impromptu speaking skills, and build their ability to interact effectively with undergraduates. “They learn concrete strategies for improving their speaking skills in a variety of academic and professional contexts.”

Students also benefit from individual coaching sessions with instructors and undergraduate consultants, who are hired and trained to give international graduate students an undergraduate perspective on issues related to teaching and academic life at Harvard. They provide feedback on teaching and language skills, and are also available for one-on-one discussion, teaching, and language practice. “Through Classroom Communication Skills Course for International Teaching Fellows,” Raymond met weekly with me and with an undergraduate consultant,” Pollock says. “He took full advantage of every opportunity the course presented for him. It was clear he cared deeply about improving both his speaking and teaching skills.”

Ko’s hard work paid off when he won a Certificate of Excellence and Distinction in Teaching for the class “Modeling and Differential Equations for the Life Sciences” in the Department of Mathematics. “Being recognized by my students was happily satisfying, giving my dedication to the class and my continuous effort in improving myself as an international student,” Ko says. “As a teacher, I am pleased to read in teaching evaluations that my students learned productively and enjoyed the process, and that I contributed in a positive way to their college experience.”

Pollock was thrilled with Ko’s success. “Working on language proficiency and teaching skills can be a long process; there are not always immediate results,” she says. “It is great to see a student a few years after taking the class who has done so well and is able to look back and appreciate the path he took to get there.”

Interested in learning more about language opportunities and resources for international graduate students? Check out “Resources for International Students,” in the Current Students section of the GSAS website (gsas.harvard.edu) or the Bok Center’s Professional Communication Program for International Teachers and Scholars at bokcenter.harvard.edu/international-tcs.

Ethnobotany in the 21st Century: Lecture and Book Signing

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015, 6:00 P.M., IN THE GEOLOGICAL LECTURE HALL, 24 OXFORD STREET, CAMBRIDGE.

Free event parking at 52 Oxford Street Garage.

Michael J. Balick, Vice President for Botanical Science, The New York Botanical Garden

For more than three decades, Michael Balick has studied the relationships between plants and people—the field known as ethnobotany—in the Amazon Valley, Central and South America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Micronesia. In this lecture, he will discuss the relevance of working with indigenous cultures to document their knowledge of medicinal plants and evaluate their potential for broader applications. He will also highlight some of the medicinal plants used by non-Western cultures, such as ashwagandha tea and maca, which are becoming available and popular in the West and are discussed in his most recent book, Rodale’s 21st Century Herbal: A Practical Guide for Healthy Living Using Nature’s Most Powerful Plants.

Free and open to the public. Presented by the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology and the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

APRIL AT THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

Ethnobotany in the 21st Century: Lecture and Book Signing

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 6:00 p.m. in the Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge. Free event parking at 52 Oxford Street Garage.

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Graduating This May?
Visit gsas.harvard.edu/commencement for all the details

Order your tickets:
Grads and professional schools.

Order your tickets: April 1–24, 2015
Pick up your tickets: May 22, 26–27, 2015,
at the Information Center in the Richard A. and
Susan F. Smith Campus Center and on May 28, 2015, at the GSAS Information Tent in front
of Maxwell Dworkin on Oxford Street (where the Commencement procession begins)

Commemoration 2015 Student Orations Competition
One of the oldest and most cherished traditions of the Morning Exercises of Commencement is the Orations Competition in which three students chosen by a panel of judges deliver from memory an address to an assemblage of approximately 32,000, including members of the governing boards, honorary degree recipients, faculty, parents, alumni and graduates. One student is chosen as a representative of the thirteen Harvard graduate and professional schools.
To be chosen as an orator is considered to be among the highest honors a student can achieve. In the distant past, these orations were delivered in defense of one’s thesis but, over time, topics have broadened and may now address current issues and events and/or personal experiences at Harvard or in the wider world.

Key Dates
Preliminary Auditions—Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. in Harvard Hall, Room 104
Final Auditions—Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at 5:45 p.m., Harvard Hall, Room 104
To learn more or to apply, visit the competition entry site at hvard.me/JQ6pB.

Celebrate Science!
Learn something new at the Cambridge Science Festival, a 10-day series of lectures, exhibitions, concerts, plays, and workshops showcasing the latest local developments in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. This year’s events include a course on cocktail science, a panel on Star Wars fan culture, a DNA-themed improv performance, and the 3rd annual robot zoo.
Visit www.cambridgesciencefestival.org for details.

Fromm Players at Harvard:
Voces de America Latina
International Contemporary Ensemble
Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, 2015, 8:00 p.m. in John Knowles Paine Concert Hall

CONCERT I: April 17, 2015
Carlos Turnbull, Culp’s Deeds (2012), ICElab Commission
Hilda Paredés, Seed of Time (2003)
Marisol Jiménez, Caro Cibus
Gabriela Ortiz, Huitzitl Estudio Tongolele (2012)
Tania León, Tópico (2006)

CONCERT II: April 18, 2015
Felipe Lara, Tierno (2013)
Leo Brouwer, Parabolico (1973)
Julio Estrada, Memorias para el recitado (1997)
Mario Davidovich, New work (2005)
Marcos Balser, Codex Seraphinianus (2014)
Tania León, Indígena (1991) Free and open to the public; no tickets required. First come, first seated.