Tradition, Unbound

GSAS ADOPTS ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF THE DISSERTATION — AND OFFERS VALUABLE ADVICE FOR SURVIVING THE REST OF THE PHD’S CAPSTONE BY BARI WALSH

until now, a key part of receiving a PhD from Harvard was taking a cab ride to a factory in Charlestown (it was not T accessible) to have your dissertation bound.

Now that scenic journey is a thing of the past.

After a pilot program launched by GSAS to great success among March degree candidates, all future Harvard PhD dissertations will be submitted electronically for degree completion, binding, and archiving.

Working with ProQuest/UMI, the national repository for dissertation archiving, GSAS has developed a simple online interface where students can upload a PDF version of their dissertation. The submission portal incorporates and streamlines various paper documents students once had to submit to the Registrar’s office, adding order to the process. The submitted PDF is reviewed by the Registrar’s office to check its formatting, and then it goes on to ProQuest. Students pay $35 for binding — a value, considering that the cost of the acid-free, archival paper alone would typically surpass that amount in an offline process. And students save the $60 they once had to pay when they submitted an unbound hard copy to ProQuest. They also avoid the unpleasant need to reprint and rebind if their first submission doesn’t meet formatting specs. From the portal, students can also order additional copies and set embargoes.

“When we conducted workshops for March degree candidates to demonstrate the new system, the students immediately saw the benefits of electronic submission,” says Garth McCavana, the dean of student affairs for GSAS. “You can push send at 11:59 p.m. on your submission day, and you’re done,” says McCavana. He estimates that students will save at least a week, perhaps more. And for those rushing to finish, the days of paying a $200 surcharge for overnight binding are over. Moreover, the new system allows students to submit their dissertations from anywhere in the world, adding incomparable convenience.

“In a sense, electronic submission dilutes that momentous feeling of actually holding your bound dissertation in your hands,” McCavana says. “But students have overwhelmingly felt that the time gained and the convenience far outweighs those sentiments.”

So the takeaway for students submitting dissertations this spring: plan a party around your computer when you press “submit.”

You’re invited: The GSAS Office of Student Affairs will host two demonstrations of the new electronic submission portal in the coming months. May degree candidates and other interested students are invited.

• March 9, 2–4 p.m., Dudley House Common Room
• April 23, 2–4 p.m., Dudley House Common Room

Don’t Miss

February at Dudley

Music, art, writing — it’s all at Dudley House this month.

Sound and Vision

PhD student and composer Edgar Barroso scores big.

Scholarly Life

“Tradition, Unbound” by Bari Walsh.

GSAS Bulletin

February 2012 Volume XLI, No. 5

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

“The best way out is always through.” — Robert Frost

Graduating This Year?

GSAS students, if you’re planning to graduate this March or May, we invite you to take part in Commencement activities on May 24.

The GSAS celebration begins early, at a breakfast with the deans on the museum lawns. It continues with the annual procession down Oxford Street to the Yard, where GSAS candidates lead all Harvard students into Tercentenary Theatre in a symbolic recognition of the central role of theatre for the diploma awarding ceremony, GSAS candidates head to Sanders on May 24.

Following Morning Exercises in the Yard, GSAS candidates head to Sanders Theatre for the Diplomas Awarding Ceremony, where candidates cross the stage, receive their diplomas from the FAS and GSAS deans, and become Harvard alumni.

Important deadlines for ordering your regalia and Commencement tickets are coming up. Regalia ordering — through the Harvard Coop — opens on March 19 and ends on April 4 for AM candidates and April 20 for PhD candidates.

Find the details you need here: www.gsas.harvard.edu/commencement

Nominate a Commencement Marshal!

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

Make a nomination at: www.gsc.fas.harvard.edu/commencement

GSAS students are invited. You can even nominate yourself! Deadline: April 2.
A New Annual Tradition, January@GSAS Offers Career-Planning, Skill-Building

For the third year running, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences convened a flexible January series of seminars, workshops, and recreational opportunities for students to engage with during winter break.

Partnering with institutions across campus, including the FAS Office of Career Services, the Harvard College Library, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, and its own Dudley House, GSAS brought together more than 70 events targeted at graduate students. Some events were designed to introduce emerging research tools or impart career-development advice, while others sought to encourage new connections, new perspectives, or simple relaxation.

With those January offerings—collectively known as January@GSAS—the Graduate School is responding to students’ expressed desire for short, intensive workshops on pragmatic topics like improving presentation skills, expanding data-analysis skills, language skills, and learning new research tools.

“Students have told us they view January as a time not only to make serious headway in their own scholarly work, but to catch up on job-search preparation and other career planning they may not have had time for during the term,” says Garth McCavanaugh, GSAS Dean of Students. “They also see it as the ideal time to work on fellowship proposals and to expand their grasp of the ever-growing roster of research technologies offered by our libraries and research centers.”

Highlights included a workshop led by two GSAS alums on how to apply one’s PhD to the business world; a workshop on gaining confidence and overcoming the “impostor syndrome”; a session on writing the dissertation with an eye toward publication; a fellowship-writing boot camp; a financial planning session; and, as ever, Dudley House’s annual ski trip, which took 100-plus students to Sugarloaf in Maine. This January also included a roster of courses sponsored by the Graduate Student Council and taught by graduate students, who were awarded stipends after a proposal process. We list the intriguingly diverse topics (with instructors) here, as inspiration for next year.

January@GSAS Mini-Courses

- **Analyze Data and Create Figures with Mathematica**
  Instructor: Adam Palmer
- **Big Idea for the New Year: Intro to Plato**
  Instructor: Daniel Bertoni
- **Capitalism and Freedom**
  Instructor: Syed Shimal Reza
- **Chocolate, Culture, and the Politics of Food**
  Instructor: Carla Martin
- **Everything You Need to Know About Going Crazy at Harvard**
  Instructor: Aounakis Bhattacharyya
- **Instant Spanish: Cambridge and Longwood**
  Instructor: Cherie Ramirez
- **Magic and Scientific Thinking: How Insights from Magicians Can Broaden Our Big Ideas for the New Year**
  Instructor: Anouska Bhattacharyya
- **Photoshop Essentials**
  Instructor: Peter Macko
- **“Poetry makes nothing happen.” What is poetry good for?**
  Instructor: Eleanor Spencer
- **Strangers in the Middle Kingdom: Non-Chinese People in Chinese History**
  Instructor: Jin Wen
- **The Art of Survival**
  Instructor: Kate Kohn
- **The Fight to Save the World: Global Health and Human Security**
  Instructor: Jason Silverstein
- **The Human Face and Its Role in Our Everyday Judgments and Decisions**
  Instructor: Christelle Ngoumou

- **Myths, Facts, and a Taste of Food and Fitness in the 21st Century**
  Instructor: Cara Fallon
- **Obesity: Where Is It Taking Us? What Are We Doing About It?**
  Instructor: Manda Datta
- **Professional Online Identity**
  Instructor: Shawn Douglas, PhD ’09, a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard’s Wyss Institute, a day-long seminar on building a professional online identity; A seminar on financial planning for graduate students drew a good crowd.

Images from top to bottom: Karen Hladik, PhD ’84, and Mila A.M. de Kuijper, MPA ’93 (pictured at center, with student organizers), led a day-long seminar on business applications of the PhD; PhD student Carla Martin taught a GSAS mini-course on chocolate; Shawne Douglas, PhD ’99, a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard’s Wyss Institute, at a workshop on building a professional online identity; A seminar on financial planning for graduate students drew a good crowd.

Harvard Graduate Student Council

GSAS Bulletin | February 2012

Harvard Open Meeting
March 7, 6:30 p.m.
Remember, if you have applied for student group funding, you MUST have a representative at the meeting.
This meeting will be held on the Longwood Medical Campus, location TBA.

Approaching Deadlines
- Winter Conference Grants: February 8th
- Student Group Funding Applications: February 15
- Final Round of Student Group Funding Applications: March 14

Don’t miss out on these opportunities to have the GSC help you finance that conference or event!

Applications, more information:
www.gsc.fas.harvard.edu

A Musical Interlude

- **Friday February 17, 8 p.m.**
The Chiara Quartet
A Program of Schubert Quartets

**John Knowles Paine Concert Hall Free, but tickets required (available at Harvard Box Office, Holyoke Center).**

- **Saturday, February 18, 8 p.m.**
Harvard Group for New Music
With Ensemble Nikel

**John Knowles Paine Concert Hall Free and open to all.**
Support + Counsel

GSAS students, do you know a faculty member who deserves to be recognized for outstanding mentoring?

Make your nomination for the Graduate Student Council’s Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards

Nominees and winners will be honored at the 14th annual Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards Ceremony April 12, 2012 Dudley House

GSA Bulletin

On Teaching

TIPS, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES FOR TFS FROM THE DEREK BOK CENTER

Making Q Evaluations Work for You
Review your last Q scores as you begin teaching this spring and fine-tune your efforts to meet the needs of your new students. Make an appointment with your Department Teaching Fellow or others at the Bok Center by emailing bokcenter@fas.harvard.edu.

Departmental TF Applications Due March 16
If you’re eager to use your talents and insights to enhance teaching in your discipline, apply for a 2012-2013 Departmental Teaching Fellowship. As a Departmental TF, you will work as a peer consultant to TFS in your field by advising individual instructors, creating training programs, running workshops and seminars, and initiating other teaching-related projects. Being a Departmental TF is an opportunity for advanced professional development in the form of training and mentoring from the Bok Center, collaboration with faculty and administrators, and engagement with the scholarship of teaching and learning. For more information and application materials, please see bokcenter.harvard.edu or contact Virginia Maurer (vmauer@fas.harvard.edu).

Head TF Network
The Head TF Network brings together Head TFs in large departmental and Gen Ed classes to share questions and collective wisdom. If you missed the Head TF orientation in January it’s not too late to join — just email John Girash (girash@fas.harvard.edu) or see the “Head TF” pages on the Bok Center’s website.

Follow the Bok Center
The Bok Center is on Facebook and Twitter (@derekbokcenter)! Follow for teaching resources, links to thoughtful reporting on teaching-related issues, and Bok Center updates.

Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies
Through readings, films, and classroom exercises, students learn to read more purposefully, selectively, and with greater speed and comprehension. A 10-day course, for one hour a day over a period of two weeks. Cost: $25 for GSAS students. The spring sessions will be held: February 6 to February 17, Monday to Friday, 8-9 a.m. and February 6 to February 17, Monday to Friday, 4-5 p.m. To register, come to the Bureau at 5 Linden Street, or call 617-495-2918 for more information.

Commitment and Creativity
1½-hour workshop offered on request to departments or student groups. Counselors will facilitate discussions of identity and belonging—including issues of race, ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, religion, sexual identity, and sexual orientation. To arrange for a workshop, contact any Bureau counselor (see staff box at bsc.harvard.edu), or consult with Sheila Rendil (srendil@bsc.harvard.edu).

Identity and Diversity: Background, Belonging, and Becoming
Offered on request to departments or student groups. Counselors will facilitate discussions of identity and belonging—including issues of race, ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, religion, sexual identity, and sexual orientation. To arrange for a workshop, contact any Bureau counselor (see staff box at bsc.harvard.edu), or consult with Sheila Rendil (srendil@bsc.harvard.edu).

Dissertation Writers’ Support Group
Six weekly meetings. Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m., beginning February 2. Doctoral students are invited to discuss their dissertation work and gain emotional and intellectual encouragement from one another. The group may elect to continue to meet without the leaders after the sixth meeting. Pre-group consultation required.

Speaking Up in Class
Three sessions: Wednesdays, February 15, 22, 29, 1-2:30 p.m. This group provides strategies for students who wish to have more of a voice in their classes. Through discussion in a supportive context, the group focuses on increasing self-confidence and managing anxiety in academic settings. Pre-group consultation required.

Time Management Workshop
Friday, February 17, 1-2:30 p.m. Through exercises and discussion, this workshop offers students an opportunity to develop and strengthen time management strategies. Students are encouraged to identify their priorities and to puzzle through the difficulty of making time for all. To register, e-mail cschindler@bsc.harvard.edu.

Procrastination Group
Three sessions: Tuesdays, February 28, March 6, 13, 9-10:30 a.m. Through discussion and practical exercises, this group works on understanding the experience of procrastination and on freeing one’s self to use one’s creative processes in moments when one feels resistant, blocked or paralyzed. Pre-group consultation required.

Support + Counsel

A SAMPLING OF ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS FROM THE BUREAU OF STUDY COUNSEL, 5 LINDEN STREET; WWW.BSC.HARVARD.EDU.

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The Bok Center is on Facebook and Twitter (@derekbokcenter)! Follow for teaching resources, links to thoughtful reporting on teaching-related issues, and Bok Center updates.
Don’t Miss!

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

Fabulous Fellows Film Festival
An annual winter tradition — drop by for a cozy evening at the House, with films selected as favorites by Dudley Fellows and staff. Popcorn and refreshments served! This year’s lineup (all showing in Dudley’s Graduate Student Lounge) is below. Check the Dudley e-mail list for updates.

Disney’s Tangled, February 1, 8 p.m.
Groundhog Day, February 2, 7:30 p.m.
Princess Mononoke, February 3, 6 p.m.
Grand Illusion, February 10, 6:30 p.m.
A League of Their Own, February 15, 7:30 p.m.
Wet Hot American Summer, February 16, 6 p.m.
Manhattan Murder Mystery, February 17, 7 p.m.
Miracle, February 22, 7:30 p.m.
The Red Shoes, February 23, 6 p.m.
Bright Star, February 24, 7 p.m.

Ice Skating!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2–5 P.M.  Dudley House and the Harvard Figure Skating Club will host an ice-skating event at the Harvard Bright Hockey Center (near the Harvard Stadium). Admission is free. A limited supply of free rental skates is available; e-mail dudley.social@gmail.com with your shoe size.

Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 8 A.M.–2 P.M., Weston Ski Track. Cross-country skiing is a great way to explore the outdoors in the winter and a fantastic cardio and strength workout. Get acclimated on this outing — we’ll take the T to Weston Ski track, where we can rent skis and take a one-hour lesson.
◆ Tickets: $40, on sale starting February 6.

Writing and Study Bootcamp
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18-19, 9 A.M.–4 P.M., Café Gato Rojo. Need a weekend dedicated to your academic work? We provide a quiet setting, two days of lunch, and plenty of caffeine. Dudley House students from all disciplines are welcome to join in this two-day period of silence and study. The cost is $80, and to ensure your commitment, no portion of this fee will be refunded if you do not attend. Sign up and pay in advance at the House Office; Longwood students may call 617-495-2255. Limited to 12 attendees.
◆ Contact dudley_literary@yahoo.com.

Dudley Arts Chamber Music Initiative
Call for musicians! After an auspicious debut at the Lily Pad this past fall, the Dudley Arts Chamber Music Initiative will continue this spring. Its ongoing mission is to connect GSAS musicians with professionals throughout Greater Boston for interesting collaborations at unusual venues.
◆ If you’re interested in performing contact Thomas Wisniewski (twisniew@fas.harvard.edu).

Dudley House
Celebrating 20 years as the Graduate Student Center
Lehman Hall, Harvard Yard  ◆  www.dudley.harvard.edu  ◆  617-495-2255
HOUSE MASTERS James M. Hogle and Doreen M. Hogle  ◆  HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR Susan Zawalich
Sound and Vision

**COMPOSER EDGAR BARROSO SCORES WITH A JURIED SELECTION AT THE TOKYO FILM FESTIVAL BY JOANNA GROSSMAN**

**EVEN AS A YOUNG CHILD, GROWING UP IN GUANAJUATO, Mexico, Edgar Barroso remembers being fascinated by the possibility of creating something meaningful out of sound. Over the course of the years — having learned to play several instruments along the way — this gifted composer and Harvard PhD candidate in the Music Department has created a vast array of music, winning numerous prizes and awards in the process.**

Now he has drawn his widest — certainly most global — audience, as composer of the score for The Compass Is Carried by the Dead Man, which premiered as a juried selection at the Tokyo International Film Festival last October. Barroso recorded the score at Harvard’s state-of-the-art Studio for Electroacoustic Composition, where he received support from his advisor, Professor Hans Tutschku, the director of the studio, and Ean White, the technical director.

The Compass Is Carried by the Dead Man was selected for competition by the Tokyo festival — one of the world’s most prestigious — out of almost a thousand entries. Directed by Arturo Pons, the film tells the story of a young boy who is lost in the desert somewhere along the U.S.-Mexico border. The child meets a man in a mule-driven wagon who gives him a compass and instructs him to head north. The man soon dies, but the boy continues driving the wagon, encountering many new characters along the way. The result is a poetic piece that uses dark humor to depict an allegorical odyssey.

“The director and I decided to have the music play an important role by making it a part of the narrative,” Barroso says. He notes that one of the most challenging aspects of integrating music into film is grasping the precise rhythm and tempo so that his music can set the appropriate tone. Barroso is no stranger to writing scores, having composed music for documentaries and art installations. “Music gives the image weight; you can make a scene heavy or light, and I enjoy adding an extra dimension to something that is visual and outside of my field.”

For Barroso, the appeal of scoring music also lies in the collaborative nature of the work. Collaboration has always been music also lies in the collaborative nature of the work. Collaboration has always been important to me, to follow my instincts and beliefs.” Barroso says.

He even launched his own cross-disciplinary workshop. In 2009, he and five other international graduate students, who met during the summer before their first year at Harvard as students in the GSAS English Language Program, launched the Open Source Creation Group, which is dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary collaboration through seminars and workshops. The group — which includes founding members Rosario Hubert (literature), Nicolas Chervier (immunology), Yinan Zhang (SEAS), Viri Rios (government), and Aylin Yildirim (anthropology) — meets regularly to share research.

In addition to collaborating with colleagues, Barroso cites teaching as one of the most rewarding intellectual experiences he has had at Harvard. He received the Derek Bok Center’s certificate of distinction for his work as a teaching fellow for Introduction to Electroacoustic Music. Many of his former composition students still meet with him on a weekly basis at Adams House, where Barroso serves as Resident Tutor, to discuss their latest musical works.

Though many undergraduates have learned to play primarily classical music, Barroso encourages them to create art that speaks to their own era. He tells students that they do not need to love modern genres to be original, but they should react to contemporary music and think about how their own work will reflect their ideas rather than the voice of other composers. His own Harvard advisors, Tutschku and Chaya Czernowin, “have helped me infinitely in the search for my own voice as a composer and encouraged me to follow my instincts and beliefs.”

For Barroso, a large part of the appeal of contemporary music is that it translates well across many different types of audiences. “It doesn’t necessarily have so much weight of history or a tremendously strong aesthetic. Contemporary music is often naturalistic and focuses more on the pureness of sound.”

Performing contemporary music is one of the goals of the Harvard Group for New Music, an active and well-regarded ensemble that Barroso co-directs. The group includes graduate students from the composition, theory, musicology, and ethnomusicology programs, and it brings in performers from all over the world to play music written by Harvard composers. Part of what makes their performances so compelling is that pieces must not have been premiered elsewhere. “It’s the newest music that we, as a group of composers, believe in,” Barroso says.

The Next HGNMT concert is April 14, with baritone Frank Wörner.

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**A Collegial Setting for Works in Progress**

The GSAS Research Workshops Program fosters community building within research areas, encourages constructive peer and faculty mentoring, and allows students and faculty to test-drive their current research projects in a collegial setting.

The program supports workshops for graduate students who are learning to conceive and write scholarly articles, thesis prospectuses, and dissertations. These workshops also offer faculty members an opportunity to share drafts of their scholarly work with others in their field. Topics may be cross-disciplinary, and although faculty must submit the formal application, graduate students are encouraged to generate interest and ideas for workshops.

This successful program — which has supported 226 workshops to date — is fully supported by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Grants of up to $5,000 per year are available for projects in the humanities and social sciences.

**Applications for the next round of funding are due March 16, 2012. Download an application here:** www.gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/research_workshops.php

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For more information, visit http://edgarbarroso.net.
As PhD candidates contemplate their futures, the dissertation looms large, both in psychic terms and in reality. It is the epic hurdle, the shoals upon which dreams get battered or — in best-case scenario — new knowledge is born. On the academic job market, the dissertation is the item of greatest interest to hiring departments, serving as the most important means of distinguishing among candidates. And for students exploring nonacademic careers, the dissertation is a proving ground, a place to test applications and assess impact.

The GSAS Office of Fellowships helps students navigate these rough waters. Its most recent event was a December 5 panel discussion entitled “Surviving the Dissertation: Strategies for Getting from Beginning to End of the Process.” Four speakers — two completing students and two recent alumni — shared their experiences from the early stage of choosing a topic through the research and writing stages. Cynthia Verba, the director of fellowships for GSAS, summarized their conversation and advice:

All of the speakers found dissertation topics they really liked, and all had established close and comfortable working relationships with their advisors, who played an important mentoring role. None of this happened purely by chance. The speakers knew in advance what they hoped to get out of the dissertation and mentoring experience, and they did their best to make sure that it happened. As they described the steps they took, it became clear that they were skilled at problem solving, swinging into the active mode earlier rather than later. Here are some of the things that they recommended:

**On choosing a topic.** Over and above the importance of choosing a topic that you like is the need for practical considerations as well: a topic that can be done within a reasonable amount of time, a topic that taps the pulse of what is exciting in the field. In the present job market, people in smaller fields should find a topic that aims for a wider audience rather than being overly specialized, and this may be important in all fields. Speakers found that it took a lot of discussion with many other people before reaching a topic that met these goals, including consultation not only with advisors, but people outside of the field. Talking through the potential topic proved helpful in solidifying it. Start writing as soon as possible; don’t get caught up in the dissertation prospectus.

**On maintaining momentum.** Ask advisors and committee members to help establish deadlines that you must honor; establish further deadlines by committing to presentations. Even while teaching, try to set aside writing time. Some set daily writing goals by number of words, others just set regular time schedules. All agreed on the importance of establishing deadlines as a form of structure.

**On addressing isolation.** All the speakers joined at least one writing group. Being in a group helps with establishing artificial deadlines and provides support. One speaker found it helpful to have a second group, consisting of people working in areas close to her field and also at a similar stage in the dissertation. Even now that she has finished, she still continues to share with these close colleagues when she is writing an article or preparing for a conference. Speakers also engaged in networking, especially as their research took them to new places, leaving their support groups behind. This meant asking friends and advisors for names of contacts at the new destinations.

According to Verba, each speaker confessed that this is not an easy process, and that at times it could even be painful. But by assessing needs very thoughtfully, each was able to find effective ways of addressing the challenges.

**What Makes a Good Dissertation Topic?**

GSAS’s resident expert on the subject is Cynthia Verba, the longtime director of fellowships at the Graduate School, whose own PhD (from the University of Chicago) is in musicology. Her answer to the question of how to choose a good dissertation subject: “One of the most important factors in choosing a dissertation topic is to work on something you really love, enough so that you can contemplate staying with it over a fairly prolonged period of time — well after you have received the degree. It also doesn’t hurt to have some innate talents in the chosen area. I personally turned to music in my early school years, even before piano lessons, because I found I could sit at the piano and play every popular tune that I knew, along with the harmonies that I apparently heard along with the tunes. Once in college, I developed what has been my lifelong scholarly musical interest, and that is the relationship between theory and practice. Much of my work has revolved around the figure of Jean-Philippe Rameau, who was both a leading theorist and composer.”

To put this in another way, a good dissertation topic should be one that will allow you to produce a professional polished piece of work within a limited amount of time and with a limited amount of cost. So get advice on how to limit the scope of a project without limiting the significance of the questions addressed.

**Share Your Thoughts!**

GSAS is starting a community-wide discussion on the subject of how to pick a dissertation topic. Share your thoughts on Facebook and Twitter (#dissertation), and look for advice from faculty and deans in the next GSAS Bulletin. How do you home in on a topic that will prove engaging and frutiful, while avoiding dead ends? How do you know that what fascinates you today will be fascinating three years from now? What roadblocks did you encounter, and what surprises?
Get Out!
EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES OFF CAMPUS

Hit the Ice!
Skating on the Frog Pond is a winter tradition in Boston. Take the red line to Park Street, rent your skates, and get in the seasonal groove. After, walk across the Common and grab a hot chocolate on Charles Street. Information: www.bostonfrogpond.com.

Job Talk
PERIODIC UPDATES ON CAREERS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

Just for Scientists: CV, Resume, or Something in Between?
Tuesday February 7, 4–5 p.m., check location at www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu. Every scientist needs a CV, no matter your career direction. Using sample documents that helped scientists land positions in academia and beyond, we will discuss how to optimize the presentation of your relevant skills. Part of the Professional Development Series for Life Scientists.

Drop-in Resume & CV Reviews at Longwood,
Monday, February 13, 1–4 p.m., TMEC 442 (OMS Lounge). The GSAS team at OCS is holding our regular walk-in hours at Longwood as part of the Professional Development Series for Life Scientists.

What is Your Next Step?
For Regional Studies AM Students, Tuesday, February 21, 4:30–6:30 p.m., OCS Reading Room, 54 Dunster Street. Your master’s program is just two years, so you’ll want to begin planning for your next career step as soon as possible. In this interactive workshop, open to all master’s students in the three regional studies program, we will identify your skills, interests, and values and brainstorm career options and strategies. Contact your departmental administrator to register.

Walk-In Hours and Appointments
The GSAS counselors hold regular walk-in hours every Monday 1–4 p.m. If you have a quick question, please drop in for a 10-15 minute session, 54 Dunster Street.

Connect to GSAS Online
More News
Bookmark the GSAS news site for features about graduate student life at Harvard and timely information about careers, fellowships, teaching, and deadlines! www.gsas.harvard.edu/news

All About You
As you move through your degree, keep track of your grades, status, and outstanding requirements by using the Graduate School’s Student Progress Database. https://asperin.fas.harvard.edu/progress

Your faculty advisor can also view your information, and your department administrator can update it if anything looks erroneous or incomplete.

Follow HarvardGSAS
Find us on Twitter and Facebook.