Commencement Guide for GSAS

FOR MAY GRADUATES, IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

Congratulations! We look forward to celebrating with you on May 29, 2014. To prepare, take note of these important dates:

Regalia Orders (PhD candidates): March 24–April 25
Regalia Orders (Master’s candidates): March 24–April 9
Last Day to Apply for the May 2014 degree: March 28
Order Your Tickets: April 1–25
Pick Up Your Tickets: May 23, 27–28

Celebrate!
› Have Your Cake and Eat It Too
House Master’s Reception at Dudley House, Wednesday, May 28, 5–7 p.m.
› GSAS Takes Oxford Street!
On Commencement morning, GSAS candidates process down Oxford Street and, by tradition, are the first to enter Harvard Yard. Festivities begin with an early breakfast, 6:45 a.m. – 7:45 a.m., Gropius Lawns (35 Oxford Street). Processional begins promptly at 7:30 a.m.!
› Raise a Toast — and Eat Lunch!
Following Morning Exercises and the GSAS Diploma Awarding Ceremony, you’ll be ready to celebrate with your guests at a champagne reception and luncheon on the Gropius Lawns (35 Oxford Street).

Information: www.gsas.harvard.edu/commencement

Announcing the 2014 Horizon Scholars

EIGHT STUDENTS SELECTED TO PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH AT SECOND-ANNUAL HARVARD HORIZONS SYMPOSIUM IN APRIL

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce the 2014 Horizon Scholars, eight PhD students whose ideas, innovations, and insights have the potential to make groundbreaking contributions to their disciplines. These students have been selected by the Harvard Horizons program to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Harvard University’s PhD students. They form the second class of the Society of Horizon Scholars, a fellowship cohort that will offer opportunities for long-lasting community, mentorship, and professional and academic growth.

Over the next month, these scholars will receive in-depth mentoring on the art of effective presentation. They’ll deliver talks at a campus-wide symposium on April 22, 4:15–6 p.m., in Sanders Theatre, with a reception to follow in the Queen’s Head Pub.

Save the Date

HARVARD HORIZONS SYMPOSIUM
Join Harvard University President Drew Faust, Provost Alan Garber, FAS Dean Mike Smith, and GSAS Dean Xiao-Li Meng as Harvard’s PhD students take center stage!
April 22, 2014 4:15–6 p.m., Sanders Theatre
Faculty, staff, and students from across the University are invited to attend the program, and to stay for a reception after the symposium in the Queen’s Head Pub. Free tickets will be available at the Harvard Box Office and at the door at Sanders Theatre. (Details on distribution to follow.)
Black History/Art History

Throughout February, Harvard was home to an exciting series of lectures and performances that highlighted the role of art in intellectual and cultural inquiries into race, politics, and global exchange. The series, called Black History/Art History, was curated by PhD students Layla Bermeo (history of art and architecture) and Kevin Tervala (African and African American studies), pictured above at a February 11 lecture by Deborah Willis, a University Professor at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Other scholars and performers featured in the series — which expressly hoped to provide new ways to assess Black History Month itself — included Mwangi Hutter, John Peffer, and Shaun El C. Leonardo.

Communication Reports

NPR CORRESPONDENT AND ALUM DELIVERS COMSCICON KEYNOTE

GSAS alum and NPR correspondent David Kestenbaum, who earned his PhD in physics in 1996, delivered the keynote address for ComSciCon-Local, a January workshop on science communication for graduate students. The talk was attended by more than 300 students, faculty, and other members of the Harvard University and MIT communities, including the 40 graduate students who were accepted to participate in the two-day workshop. Organized by PhD students at Harvard and MIT, ComSciCon is a professional development program “that empowers young researchers to communicate complex technical concepts, like those arising in science and engineering, to broad and diverse audiences,” according to its press materials. Prior to his talk, Kestenbaum joined ComSciCon’s other invited experts to provide one-on-one feedback on the writing that participants produced during the workshop.
Healthy Start

AN MD-PHD STUDENT AIMS TO UNITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL HEALTH BY NICHOLAS NARDINI

WHEN HE WAS AWARDED A PRESIDENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP from Harvard this summer, to work as a special assistant to World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim (MD ’91, PhD ’93), it was Matthew Basilico’s latest stop on a career path that began in the very first lecture he attended as an undergraduate at Harvard. “The class was Gov 1100, ‘Political Economy of Development,’” and the professor ended the lecture with an admission of the subject’s limits: “Fundamentally, we still don’t understand the problem, but then was given opportunities to pursue economics as a concentration, and spent his summers in Kenya and Malawi, working with the Clinton Foundation and with Partners in Health. During the school year he devoted most of his free time to HIV activism, and a conference he organized on enhancing research in neglected diseases caught the attention of Jim Kim, then chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at HMS. Kim asked Basilico into his office for a 10-minute chat. They wound up talking for two hours.

After graduation, Basilico worked with Kim and Farmer on the development of societies of the World 25, “Case Studies in Global Health,” as well as a textbook based on the course. After a Fulbright year in Malawi, he enrolled at Harvard Medical School. Two years later, realizing that he was unable to read most texts on economic development written after 1930, he decided to begin a PhD in economics, too. His aim, now, is to bring some of the perspectives of medical anthropology to this field. “Everyone in the economics department brings something to the table,” Basilico says. “For some it’s mathematical genius, for others it’s unusual insights. What I hope to bring is a life experience grounded in clinical service with marginalized communities, and the daily struggles of the poorest of the poor.” He’s drawn inspiration from his mentor Jim Kim, a doctor by training now at the helm on an institution employing thousands of PhDs in economics. While briefing, reviewing talking points, and drafting speeches for Kim this summer, he witnessed the intersection of global health and economics at the highest level. At an event called “Follow the Sun,” he watched as Kim spent 24 straight hours in world-traversing conference calls, discussing strategy with local World Bank officers.

Basilico lives as a resident tutor in Adams House with his wife Marguerite. Serendipitously, she is also a ski racer, works on health inequities in Malawi, and a medical student. In their field work, Basilico says, they have seen how accurate his first Harvard lecture was about the continuing mystery of economic development. “When you see the human suffering produced by the lack of an answer to this question, I don’t really know how I could wake up and not work on it. I feel so fortunate that this incredible sequence of events happened where I was introduced to the problem, but then was given opportunities to pursue solutions.”
Advance in your early research career. Register through Crimson Careers. For current and future postdocs, the session will cover what you need to know, and do, to efficiently mentor to thrive as a postdoc, as well as planning and executing a successful postdoc tenure. Designed most out of their training. This seminar lays out strategies for choosing the right research environment, brainstorming, and exploring career options. Space is limited and registration is required for this workshop series. Please make every effort to commit to all four meetings. Registration: Email Laura Stark (lstark@fas.harvard.edu) with your G-level and department.

Navigating Grad School: Lab Choice, Mentors, and Funding
Thursday, March 6, noon–1:30 p.m. Longwood Campus, TMEC 209. The decisions that you make in your first years as a grad student set the foundation for a successful graduate school career and beyond. Come hear DMS faculty and advanced graduate students share advice on how best to select a lab or to change labs for your dissertation, how to think about your own work-style in relation to your PI’s mentoring style, and about funding sources and strategies for applying for graduate fellowships. Register through Crimson Careers.

Making the Most of Your Postdoc
Monday, March 10, 3–4:30 p.m. Longwood Campus, TMEC 209. Postdocs are faced with many obstacles in their pursuit of being an independent investigator, none more frustrating than getting the most out of their training. This seminar lays out strategies for choosing the right research environment to thrive as a postdoc, as well as planning and executing a successful postdoc tenure. Designed for current and future postdocs, the session will cover what you need to know, and do, to efficiently advance in your early research career. Register through Crimson Careers.

LinkedIn: OCS Insider Tips
Monday, March 10, 4–5 p.m. OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. Did you know that 79% of job opportunities are posted on at least one social network? And that 77% of those are posted on LinkedIn? Join us to learn how to use your LinkedIn account, add at least one past work experience or internship, and add one group. Register through Crimson Careers.

An Introduction to Intrapreneurship
Thursday, March 13, 4–5 p.m. OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. Interested in entrepreneurship? Not all innovative ideas take place in start-ups. By pure definition, intrapreneurship means, “the act of behaving like an entrepreneur while working within a large organization.” Come hear the head of innovation at Johnson & Johnson talk about how creative/innovative thinking can take place in any organization. Register through Crimson Careers.

Life After Consulting
Tue, March 25, 4–5:30 p.m. OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. Have you considered a career or accepted a position in management consulting? Wondering what pathways exist after spending time in the field? Join us as a panel of professionals discuss their careers post-consulting and how the industry uniquely prepares you for a variety of exciting opportunities. Register through Crimson Careers.

Exploring Careers Beyond Academe: Professing Literature Course
Tuesday, March 26, 6–8 p.m. 16 Quincy House, Cambridge (Dana Palmer House, Room 102). 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, or hop over to something nonacademic? Come to this presentation by Laura Stark, PhD, Director for Career Advising and Program for GSAS students at the Office of Career Services, and learn how to take control of some of those big career decisions! Should I continue to pursue a faculty career? What are my other options? How can I even get started? If I pursue nonacademic options, how will I know I’m making the right decision? Learn how OCS can help you on your way to career success and satisfaction. This program is part of the “Professing Literature” course run by Karen Thormber, Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard. The program is open to all Harvard GSAS students and will be tailored toward those in the humanities. If you are not already enrolled in “Professing Literature,” RSVP through Crimson Careers.

Talk Your Way into a Great Job
Wednesday, March 26, 9:30–11:00 a.m. OCS, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge. The best way to find the perfect job is to meet with and gather information from people already working in your field of interest. This workshop will demystify the process of networking and give you practical tips. Register through Crimson Careers.
Don’t Miss!
OUR DUDLEY HOUSE PICKS OF THE MONTH. FOR MORE EVENTS, OUTINGS, AND GATHERINGS, GO TO WWW.GSAS.HARVARD.EDU/DUDLEYTHISMONTH.

St. Patrick’s Day Game Day for Kids
SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 3–5 P.M., Dudley House Game Room (3rd floor).
An afternoon of movies, music, snacks, and games, with a Saint Patrick’s Day theme! This event is open to the entire Harvard community and is designed for families with children two to twelve years old. Contact DudleyPublicService@gmail.com for more information.

Music for Food: A Concert to Fight Hunger
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 8 P.M., Brown Hall, New England Conservatory.
Music for Food is a Boston-based concert series and hunger-relief initiative that asks concertgoers to donate money or non-perishable food at the door. Donations of any size are accepted, and all contributions go to the Greater Boston Food Bank. Join us for a program entitled, “Bohemia, Stopping in Buenos Aires.” RSVP to DudleyPublicService@gmail.com by noon on March 16.

An Intellectual Feast
SENIOR COMMON ROOM DINNER, MONDAY, MARCH 24. Reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge, dinner at 6 p.m. in the Common Room, and a talk by Professor Claude Bruderlein, entitled “Talking to the Taliban: Humanitarian Negotiations in Conflict Zones.” Bruderlein, the current adviser to the President of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and a professor at Harvard School of Public Health, will discuss his experience negotiating for humanitarian access in conflict zones ranging from Afghanistan under the Taliban to North Korea. Tickets can be acquired in the House office.

Give Blood
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 10 A.M.-2 P.M., Graduate Student Lounge. Your donation will go directly to Mount Auburn Hospital to save up to three lives! Contact DudleyPublicService@gmail.com to sign up. On donation day, bring your photo ID, drink plenty of water, and eat a good breakfast. Juice and snacks will be on hand. Rescheduled from February due to weather.

A Swing in Your Step
SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 9:30 P.M.–MIDNIGHT. The Spring Swing, an annual Dudley House tradition, offers a chance to bring out your finery and take the dance floor in style, accompanied by the smooth sounds of the Dudley Jazz Band. Waltzing lessons precede the event (8:30–9:30 p.m.). Watch your email for information about tickets.

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

Make a nomination at www.gsc.fas.harvard.edu!

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

Nomination deadline: March 12, 2014. Marshals will be announced in mid April.
Picture This
From refrigerators that compile grocery orders to the trail that follows us around the Web, the large-scale collection and analysis of data is increasingly a part of our lives. To make sense of the glut of information we can now gather, data visualization has become an in-demand skill. HarvardX Research Fellow Sergiy Nesterko, PhD ’12, statistics, shared strategies for managing and interpreting information in a January workshop called Interactive Data Visualization. Offered as part of January@GSAS, this hands-on tutorial provided students with an overview of current trends in data visualization and the foundational coding skills needed to bring data to life. Nesterko, who created an interesting visualization showing worldwide registration for all HarvardX offerings (harvardx.harvard.edu/harvardx-insights/world-map-enrollment), believes that visualization tools will be increasingly useful to scholars across disciplines. “No matter their program, chances are that GSAS students will need deal with data for their research projects,” he says. “Interactive visualization allows a story to be told with data in a compelling way, leveraging the inherent ability of a human eye to identify patterns.” — Molly Akin

GSAS alum and current HarvardX research fellow Sergiy Nesterko works with Kate Hartman, a PhD candidate in religion who focuses on Buddhist studies, on a visualization project.

Alumni Career Initiative
This January, members of the GSAS Alumni Council returned to campus to share professional insights about careers in consulting, finance, nonprofit administration, and entrepreneurship. Their two-day workshop, called Business Applications of the PhD, drew more than 130 students eager to explore ways in which their PhD training could be valuable in a variety of nonacademic settings. The workshop was jointly sponsored by the Graduate School’s Alumni Council, the GSAS Business Club, and the GSAS Consulting Club, and it was presented as part of January@GSAS.

Alan Kantrow, AB ’69, PhD ’79, led a session called “Making Strategy Actionable,” during a segment on careers in consulting.

Surviving the Dissertation: A Recap
By Cynthia Verba

The following piece summarizes the dissertation panel sponsored by the GSAS Office of Fellowships, held on December 4, 2013. The panel, titled “The Dissertation: Strategies for Getting from Beginning to End of the Process,” featured PhD student Sun-Young Park, from urban planning, and postdoctoral fellow Naor Ben-Yehoyada, PhD ’11, anthropology.

The panelists helped to put students’ mind at ease about approaching the dissertation, primarily by emphasizing that nothing is written in stone: they both attested to the fact that their very first thoughts about the topic bore little resemblance to the final results. Both confessed that when they wrote a prospectus, they felt very uneasy to do so, but realized that it was time to take the plunge and write something respectable to submit. They urged students to think of the prospectus as just an initial phase of an initial idea; an agenda for exploration rather than a blueprint.

Park reported that when she was actually in the field doing research, she wrote a second draft of the prospectus, and it was much stronger. The same advice was given for the writing stage: start writing early, and then be prepared to return to your drafts and make them stronger. In the same spirit, she warned not to separate research from writing: you need to process ideas promptly that arise from research, or the ideas dissipate. She also recommended the use of writing software, such as Scrivener, which facilitated writing in installments, articulating ideas while they were still fresh. The main point is to try and make some progress, no matter how little at a time. She closed by emphasizing once again that it is best to think of the dissertation as a series of sprints, and if you keep it up, you will finish.

Ben-Yehoyada strongly reinforced Park’s recommendations. He observed that there are very different skills involved in passing generals, where you more or less are asked to present what you have learned, versus the dissertation, where you have to create something new. He also noted that in the field of anthropology, many scholars write diaries or keep a field journal, so writing is an ongoing endeavor, and the dissertation is largely a process of organizing what you are writing. He strongly emphasized that the dissertation undergoes many changes before it is finished, and even afterwards, stating that you can have even seven or nine versions. He particularly recommended circulating dissertation pages and getting feedback, which automatically entails revision. Now, as a postdoctoral fellow, he has set himself the task of writing his dissertation as a book, which it did not resemble at the beginning of the year, he says. In the end, he came to think of the dissertation as a job to get over with, on the path to writing a book.

A REMINDER:
Scholarly Pursuits: A Guide to Professional Development During the Graduate Years is online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/scholarlypursuits
Scholarly Pursuits is also available in paper at Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center 350.

By Cynthia Verba

The following piece summarizes the dissertation panel sponsored by the GSAS Office of Fellowships, held on December 4, 2013. The panel, titled “The Dissertation: Strategies for Getting from Beginning to End of the Process,” featured PhD student Sun-Young Park, from urban planning, and postdoctoral fellow Naor Ben-Yehoyada, PhD ’11, anthropology.

The panelists helped to put students’ mind at ease about approaching the dissertation, primarily by emphasizing that nothing is written in stone: they both attested to the fact that their very first thoughts about the topic bore little resemblance to the final results. Both confessed that when they wrote a prospectus, they felt very uneasy to do so, but realized that it was time to take the plunge and write something respectable to submit. They urged students to think of the prospectus as just an initial phase of an initial idea; an agenda for exploration rather than a blueprint.

Park reported that when she was actually in the field doing research, she wrote a second draft of the prospectus, and it was much stronger. The same advice was given for the writing stage: start writing early, and then be prepared to return to your drafts and make them stronger. In the same spirit, she warned not to separate research from writing: you need to process ideas promptly that arise from research, or the ideas dissipate. She also recommended the use of writing software, such as Scrivener, which facilitated writing in installments, articulating ideas while they were still fresh. The main point is to try and make some progress, no matter how little at a time. She closed by emphasizing once again that it is best to think of the dissertation as a series of sprints, and if you keep it up, you will finish.

Ben-Yehoyada strongly reinforced Park’s recommendations. He observed that there are very different skills involved in passing generals, where you more or less are asked to present what you have learned, versus the dissertation, where you have to create something new. He also noted that in the field of anthropology, many scholars write diaries or keep a field journal, so writing is an ongoing endeavor, and the dissertation is largely a process of organizing what you are writing. He strongly emphasized that the dissertation undergoes many changes before it is finished, and even afterwards, stating that you can have even seven or nine versions. He particularly recommended circulating dissertation pages and getting feedback, which automatically entails revision. Now, as a postdoctoral fellow, he has set himself the task of writing his dissertation as a book, which it did not resemble at the beginning of the year, he says. In the end, he came to think of the dissertation as a job to get over with, on the path to writing a book.

A REMINDER:
Scholarly Pursuits: A Guide to Professional Development During the Graduate Years is online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/scholarlypursuits
Scholarly Pursuits is also available in paper at Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center 350.
Get Out
EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

March (Food) Madness
Dine Out Boston is a two-week food event that lets you sample the best Boston-area restaurants at special (lower) prices. If you’ve been waiting for a chance to play foodie, this is it. March 16–21, 23–28.
www.bostonusa.com/visit/dineoutboston

SURVIVING GRADUATE SCHOOL: THE CONTEST

Welcome to the Bulletin’s monthly contest!
We ask readers to answer a question or share a grad-school survival skill. We pick the best answer(s) and print the winner in the next edition, and you win a GSAS totebag!

THE MARCH CONTEST
Your Time Management Trick
Grad school is busy, but your workload is often self-regulated, self-paced, and unstructured. Tell us your secret for effective time management — whether it’s an app, a calendaring or email-management system, a grading tool, or a reading or writing aid.

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.

OUR FEBRUARY WINNER:
Jennifer Hsiao, a PhD Candidate in Biological and Biomedical Sciences, correctly identified this photo as the arches of Walker porch outside of Memorial/Annenberg Hall (facing the science center plaza).