The new GSAS initiative to celebrate the innovations of PhD students selects eight to present their ideas at Sanders symposium

Happy Endings
A PhD student explores how adversity can lead to happiness. p.3

Artful Exit
Visit the Sackler before it closes for renovation! p.4

May at Dudley
It’s a lot of song and dance this month! p.5

HOROZON SCHOOLS

Edgar Barroso, Music
“Enhancing Music, Social, and Entrepreneurial Innovation through Trans-Disciplinary Collaboration”

Stephanie Dick, History of Science
“Aftermath: Following Mathematics into the Digital”

Alex Fattal, Anthropology
“Guerrilla Marketing: Information War and the Demobilization of FARC Rebels”

Hansun Hsiung, East Asian Languages and Civilizations
“Textbook Enlightenment: Europe, Japan, and the Rise of Global Distance Learning, 1720–1877”

Fenna Krienen, Psychology
“Big Brain Science: Strategies for Mapping the Human Brain”

Aaron Kuan, Applied Physics
“Graphene Nanopores for Single-Molecule DNA Sequencing”

Liz Maynes-Aminzade, English
“Macrorealism: How Fiction Can Help Us Understand a Networked World”

Jeff Teigler, Division of Medical Sciences
“Building Better Vaccines by Learning the Language of the Immune System”

Harvard Horizons Symposium
May 6, 4:30–6 p.m. in Sanders Theatre (reception to follow)
Tickets: Harvard Box Office and the door
www.gsas.harvard.edu/harvardhorizons

MAY 2013 | GSAS BULLETIN | 1
Dissertation Nuts and Bolts: Finishing and Submitting

ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS ON GETTING TO THE END OF THE LINE

On March 26, the GSAS Office of Student Affairs hosted a two-hour “Nuts & Bolts” session for PhD candidates approaching graduation, detailing proper preparation and submission of the dissertation. The following is a summary of that workshop. For additional questions or advice, please contact the Student Affairs Office at studaff@fas.harvard.edu or 617-495-1114.

Thomas Dodson, program coordinator at the Office of Scholarly Communications, led the program with a “myth busting” presentation on Harvard’s commitment to open-access scholarship. Currently, dissertations accepted by GSAS are deposited in two online databases: ProQuest and DASH. Subscription-only and accessed mainly by scholars affiliated with university libraries, ProQuest does not make its contents visible to search engines like Google. As Harvard’s open-access depository, DASH (Digital Access Scholarship at Harvard) is both publicly accessible and broadly searchable. Dodson explained that graduates may decline to deposit their dissertations in DASH, and that while all dissertations are submitted to ProQuest, authors may embargo access to them indefinitely or for specified periods of time.

Making reference to historical conceptions of the dissertation, Dodson went on to discourage graduates from adopting these measures. Since its European origins, Dodson noted, the PhD has been recognized as a contribution to public knowledge, disseminated by the most technologically efficacious means available. He urged graduates not to worry about the implications of open-access for publication, citing surveys indicating that the vast majority of publishers are willing to consider publicly available scholarly work for publication in journals and books. Students should speak to their advisors for guidance. Dodson also pointed to the benefits already being realized by initiatives like DASH, which currently receives around 3,000 downloads a day, mostly from locations outside the US. In places like Africa, he noted, where university libraries are extremely constrained in the number of academic journals to which they can subscribe, open access can be of tremendous use to scholars. Dodson then played a film in which professors Gary King and Stuart Shefﬁr reinforced these points. As King put it, “The PhD is not a reward for secret knowledge.”

Jonathan Hubbert from the Office of the General Counsel then presented some advice on copyright considerations in the dissertation, explaining the concept of fair use as it applies to materials reproduced in scholarly writing, and suggesting some ways graduates might go about seeking permissions in more ambiguous cases.

Finally, Maggie Welch and Kathy Hanley from the Registrar’s office spoke about the proper formatting of the dissertation, which is necessary for it to be accepted and for students to graduate. They noted that improper formatting leads to dozens of rejected dissertations every year, and they advised students to carefully follow the guidelines explained in the booklet “Form of the PhD Dissertation,” available on both the GSAS and the Registrar’s websites. Also available on the website is a list of the ten most common formatting errors for the PhD, which include missing acceptance certificates, improper pagination, and mislabeled ﬁgures and tables. They also stressed that the dissertation is a ﬁnal draft; once submitted to and approved by the Registrar, it cannot be modiﬁed in any way.

Meet the 2013 Commencement Marshals

Each year, departments and programs across the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences nominate graduating students who have contributed meaningfully to student life to serve as Commencement marshals. The outstanding students selected as 2013 marshals by a committee of the Graduate Student Council will lead the GSAS Commencement procession down Oxford Street and into Tercentenary Theatre in Harvard Yard for Morning Exercises, carrying the GSAS, SEAS, and Dudley House banners. They are traditionally the first Harvard graduates to enter the yard each year.

Geoffrey Allen, AM, Middle Eastern studies
Jade D’Apolo Guedes , PhD, anthropology
Allison Hill, PhD, biophysics
Pan-Pan Jiang, PhD, organismic and evolutionary biology
Heather Pon-Barry, PhD, computer science
Jonathan Ruel, PhD, physics
Hong Tian, AM, environmental science and engineering

RAs Take the Floor

Welcome GSAS Resident Advisors for 2013-14!

Child Hall: Basement – Qihan Liu; First Floor – Anna Puzynska; Second Floor – Cristi/Cristian Proistosescu; Third Floor – Tim Beaumont; Fourth Floor – Keru Cai

Richards: First Floor – Suhyun Kim; Second Floor – Iosif Zhakevich; Third Floor – Amy/Yuan Yuan

Conant: First Floor – Lisa Haushofer; Second Floor – Alex/Kingyu Zhang; Third Floor – Elaine Chung; Fourth Floor – Joanne Reilly

Perkins: First Floor – Maria Devlin; Second Floor – Anshul Kumar; Third Floor – Pan-Pan Jiang; Fourth Floor – Matthew Barfield

End-of-term stress?

Are there academic or personal issues that you wanted to address this term but did not know where to turn for help? As the director of student services for GSAS, Ellen Fox is available to discuss any concerns and make referrals to other sources of assistance, if necessary. She serves in an advisory role and provides ongoing support, during the summer and throughout the year. Conversations are confidential. Contact Ellen at 495-5005 or efox@fas.harvard.edu.
The Meaning of Adversity

IN THE AFTERMATH OF TRAUMA, A PHD STUDENT SEARCHES FOR HAPPINESS — PERSONALLY AND SCHOLASTICALLY

BY NICHOLAS NARDINI

H’SIEH HAYWARD WAS 16, CATCHING a ride to the beach in Hawaii with friends, when the car she was riding in slipped off a winding mountain road, crashing and leaving her paralyzed from the chest down. When she awoke from a coma, she says her doctors presented a litany of grim scenarios. “You’ll never walk again, you’ll use a wheelchair for the rest of your life, you’ll experience depression for about two years, and suicidality is normal for about five years.”

Then she got a second opinion.

Her brother had died in an accident a few years before, so when she spoke with her parents, they were simply ecstatic that she was alive. “The paralysis was nothing to them,” she says. “Life was beautiful, standing or sitting. It really didn’t matter.”

Thanks in part to this alternative perspective on her accident, Hayward was able to avoid the depression predicted by the doctors. And while the former competitive runner remains paraplegic today, she remembers the crash not primarily for what it disabled, but for what it enabled.

As a PhD candidate in social psychology, Hayward has devoted her time at Harvard to the science of happiness, and to understanding how to help others achieve it after great adversity. “There’s a great deal of work to be done, not just in societal perceptions of trauma, but in the actual medical practices following trauma.”

And while her findings about the relationship between trauma and happiness may be surprising to most, they do align perfectly with Hayward’s personal experience: instead of an obstacle to happiness, trauma can often serve as an impetus to its discovery.

For her dissertation, advised by Professor George Vaillant, Hayward tracked down a group of fifty survivors of traumatic-onset spinal cord injuries she had begun studying as an undergraduate at Stanford, and designed an 8-year longitudinal study comparing their happiness to that of a second group of uninjured subjects.

In a second study, she compared the happiness of major injury sufferers with that of major lottery winners. In both, she found that the injured group’s happiness looked much like that of the control group. “Societally there’s the conception that disability is associated with negative life experience: low quality of life, high depression, high substance abuse. And while there is some of that, by and large people are pretty happy. And they look just like people without disabilities.”

What’s more, she found that they tended to look even healthier than the control group in measures such as cognitive reappraisal, the ability to cope with adversity. This gives the disabled something of a happiness advantage over their peers, who have not been forced to examine their lives in the same way. Hayward’s third study was designed to examine this possibility, comparing the predictive power of money relative to happiness, versus the predictive power of a sense of meaning, measured using Michael Steger’s Meaning in Life Questionnaire.

Meaning, it turns out, is a much better predictor of happiness than money. The negative mental effects of injury, then, may be offset by the search for meaning it provides. “Psychological scientists tend to believe that adversity results only in psychopathology. Until ten years ago there was almost no research on the positive consequences of adversity.” Hayward’s mission, she says, is nothing less than “to change the conception that disability is a negative experience.”

Since her injury, Hayward has pursued humanitarian work related to this cause, bringing 300 wheelchairs to Mongolia, working with disabled orphans in Costa Rica, and providing psychological counseling after the Indonesian tsunami. She is a volunteer member of the United Nations NGO Committee on Mental Health, and last year she spoke at the UN about her research for a briefing on fostering accessible societies. She will graduate this month and plans on entering a clinical respecialization program to allow her to pursue both research and advocacy.

Driven by a mission to “CHANGE THE CONCEPTION that disability is a negative experience.”

Commencement 2013

ARE YOU TAKING PART IN COMMENCEMENT THIS YEAR? CONGRATULATIONS!

Remember to pick up your tickets!

May 24, May 28–29: Holyoke Center Information Center | Lobby | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
May 30 (Commencement Day): GSAS Information Tent | Maxwell Dworkin (33 Oxford Street) | 7 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

➽ See the full timeline for GSAS Commencement events:
www.gsas.harvard.edu/commencement

MAY 2013 | GSAS BULLETIN
Introducing your 2013–2014 Dudley Fellows

Here's to another great year at Dudley House, the GSAS graduate student center!

**Arts**
- Trisha Banerjee (English), Tina Liu (BBS), Tom Wisniewski (Comparative Literature)

**Athletics**
- Kelly Anne Miller (Applied Physics), Beth Smoot (Biostatistics), Nuri Kim (EALC)

**Web Communications**
- Gregory Malecha (Computer Science)

**Coordinating Fellow**
- Chris Brown (Romance Languages and Literatures)

**Food Literacy**
- Ben Wong (Biostatistics)

**Gato Rojo**
- Tara Dankel (Committee on the Study of Religion)

**Intellectual/Cultural**
- Thenesoya Martin de la Nuez (Romance Languages and Literatures), Stephanie Sobek (Middle Eastern Studies), Iaroslava Strikha (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

**Literary**
- Donal Cahill (Psychology), Marissa Grunes (English)

**Music**
- James Blasina, Chorus (Music), Aaron Kuan, Orchestra (SEAS), Peter McMurray, World Music Ensemble (Music), Sarah Politz, Jazz Band (Music)

**Outings**
- Edlyn Levine (SEAS), Gaku Nagashima (SEAS)

**Public Service**
- Janine May (Chemistry), Xiaolin Zhuo (Sociology)

**Social**
- Ben Franta (SEAS), Tom Lovering (Mathematics), Gregory Malecha (Computer Science)

An Artful Exit

CATCH HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HARVARD ART MUSEUMS COLLECTIONS BEFORE THE ARTHUR M. SACKLER MUSEUM GALLERIES CLOSE ON JUNE 1!

Currently on View

- In Harmony: The Norma Jean Calderwood Collection of Islamic Art
  A brilliant display of some 150 objects from the Persian cultural sphere, including fine ceramics, illustrated manuscripts, drawings, and lacquerware.

- Re-View
  An overview of objects drawn from the collections of the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Arthur M. Sackler museums, including American, Latin American, European, Islamic, and Asian art from antiquity to the present.

To prepare for the reopening of our 32 Quincy Street facility in fall 2014, the Sackler Museum galleries at 485 Broadway will close at the end of regular hours on Saturday, June 1. Offices, classrooms, and the lecture hall will remain open for staff, faculty, and students, and for events.

[harvardartmuseums.org/renovation](http://harvardartmuseums.org/renovation)

Celebrating Diversity in the Sciences

A gathering to honor the legacy of a pioneering Harvard figure was held at Longwood on April 12, sponsored by the Minority Biomedical Scientists of Harvard (MBSH), a PhD group dedicated to advancing opportunity and support for minority researchers. The Inaugural Joceilyn Spragg Memorial Lecture was billed as celebration of diversity in the biomedical sciences — a fitting way to remember the influence and the achievements of its namesake.

Few people at Harvard did more to encourage and promote diversity in the sciences than Joceilyn Spragg, PhD ’69, who died in 2010. And few demonstrated her leadership and commitment to developing programs that support and mentor minority students. She served first as faculty coordinator (1991–1998) and then as faculty director (1998–2010) of diversity programs and special academic resources in the Division of Medical Sciences at Harvard Medical School, where she developed one of the premier summer research programs in the country, the Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program (SHURP), and created the MBSH group.

The event held in her memory, funded by the Division of Medical Sciences and the GSAS Graduate Student Council, featured a talk by Gentry Patrick, PhD ’00, associate professor of biology at the University of California San Diego. Later in the day, Patrick and fellow researchers led a career panel for students, followed by a reception.

[harvardartmuseums.org/renovation](http://harvardartmuseums.org/renovation)
Cape Cod Outing
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 8 A.M. - 10 P.M.  Stroll along the Cape Cod coast by its sandy dunes and scenic marshes. We will drive to Wellfleet to visit the Audubon bird sanctuary and hike along little-known peninsula beach trail by the ocean. We’ll end the day with fresh seafood! Tickets are $30 and include transportation and entrance to the bird sanctuary.  ◆ Contact Anna Leshinskaya (aleshins@fas.harvard.edu).

Walk for Hunger
SUNDAY, MAY 5, MEET AT 8 A.M. on Dudley House front steps. Dudley House Public Service is participating again this year in the Walk for Hunger, one of Boston’s largest and most critical fundraisers.  ◆ You can both join our team and make donations on our team website, www.projectbread.org/goto/dudleyhouse.

A World of Music
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 8 P.M., Dudley House Dining Hall. The Dudley World Music Ensemble Concert invites you to feast your senses on a wild mix of musical flavors from around the world — from Ottoman classical music to Qawwali-inspired, pop-rock songs from India; from full-on video game music to the tranquil sounds of ancient China. Come and enjoy this eclectic repertoire of music you otherwise can’t hear anywhere. Reception to follow.

It’s De-Lovely!
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 7 P.M., Dudley House Dining Hall. The Dudley House Choir presents an evening of Broadway classics, featuring well-loved standards by Cole Porter, Stephen Sondheim, Lerner and Loewe, and Rodgers and Hammerstein.  ◆ Contact director Elizabeth Craft (craft@fas.harvard.edu).

Our Annual FredFest
FRIDAY, MAY 10, NOON–10 P.M., Graduate Student Lounge. Curated by Dudley House Administrator Susan Zawalich, the Fred Astaire Birthday Festival is a day and night celebration of the birth of Fred Astaire (May 10, 1899), the timeless American dancer and entertainer who starred in some of the most wonderful films of the 20th-century American canon. Drop in anytime for films and refreshments (including Ginger floats, Fred water, and birthday cake)!

2 p.m.  The Bandwagon (1953, 112 min.) From the era of great MGM musicals. A glimpse into the backstage traumas of putting on a stage musical, often mentioned as one of the greatest film musicals of all times.

Noon, Introduction to Fred Astaire

12:15 p.m. In 1981 The American Film Institute honored Fred with its Life Achievement Award at a televised banquet — a magnificent, star-studded introduction to his life and work, with clips of some of his greatest film performances.

4:15 p.m.  Easter Parade (1948, 103 min.) The only film Fred made with Judy Garland — and they make a marvelous team.

6 p.m.  Holiday Inn (1942, 100 min.) Fred is joined by Bing Crosby in this Irving Berlin musical.

7:45 p.m.  Flying Down to Rio (1933, 89 min.) We end our journey back in time, enjoying this madly entertaining film that first paired Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Don’t Miss!
OUR DUDLEY HOUSE PICKS OF THE MONTH. FOR MORE EVENTS, OUTINGS, AND GATHERINGS, GO TO WWW.GSAS.HARVARD.EDU/DUDLEYTHISMONTH.
Making the Difference

PROFESSORS PATRICIA D’AMORE IN THE DIVISION OF Medical Sciences, David Mooney at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Jacob Olupona in African and African American Studies, Katharine Park in History of Science, and William Julius Wilson in Sociology are the recipients of the 2013 Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award.

The Graduate Student Council has given this award — presented on April 10 in a Dudley House ceremony attended by winning and nominated faculty mentors — each year for the last 15 years. It is named for Professor of the History of Science, Emeritus, Everett I. Mendelsohn, a former master of Dudley House, and it celebrates the essential nature of strong mentoring at the graduate level — and the faculty who go out of their way to mentor GSAS students professionally, academically, and personally in ways large and small.

At this year’s ceremony, Mendelsohn — who attends every year — remarked on the spirit of camaraderie in the room. “Each of us in this room is choosing a life of teaching and scholarship. But what we do as teachers is not something that we get sat down and given instructions on. It’s something that, in some measure, we gain through our interaction with students. If we do it well, we pass it on.”

The ceremony’s guest speaker was Julie Buckler, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, who won the Mentoring Award in 2004 and calls it “one of the honors that I prize most highly.” In her brief remarks, she tried to capture the nature of mentoring by referring to a recent New Yorker piece by pianist Jeremy Denk, in which he reflected on a lifetime of piano lessons and the impact of his instructors. A good mentor, Buckler said, is “vigorous and engaged, flexible and responsive, and above all, respectful.” As she summarized it, “Mentoring is simply a way of making authentic connections that serve the needs of others.

“I’ve received a number of awards and honors in my academic career, but none is more special to me than this.” — William Julius Wilson

David Mooney

Robert P. Pindus Family Professor of Bioengineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

In nominations, students praised David Mooney for fostering a safe, encouraging, and intellectually exciting laboratory environment. As one of his advisees wrote, “Dave has a remarkable ability to remain connected to each trainee in his group. He finds the time to meet biweekly (or more frequently) with each and every student and postdoctoral fellow in a large research group, even with a busy teaching and travel schedule, and maintains open and honest communication.”

Another wrote, “Professor Mooney has always said that the reason he decided to pursue a career in academia is that he loves being a mentor to students, and his love is apparent. He always comes prepared, sometimes more so than I, to our meetings. And he always meets me with such refreshing enthusiasm that through the ups and downs of my projects, I always felt uplifted, encouraged, and refreshed after our meetings.”

All of his nominators stressed that Mooney’s most impressive quality was his commitment to the intellectual and professional growth of his students. “He truly cares about the well-being and success of his students,” another wrote. “He welcomes conversations about the struggles of graduate school and an academic career.” As yet another nominator put it, “When I leave Bill’s office, I feel reenergized and inspired.”

William Julius Wilson

Louis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor in the Department of Sociology, the Department of African and African American Studies, and the Harvard Kennedy School

The renowned sociologist William Julius Wilson was described as “like a father to me” by more than one of his nominating students. “Not much can be said about Bill Wilson that has not already been said by other scholars, United States presidents, and different award committees,” one wrote. “What goes unnoticed is how great a mentor he is.” Such was the theme of all of his letters of nomination, which expressed unanimous awe that a scholar of Wilson’s stature could find the time to prepare detailed comments on graduate student work, attend conferences where his advisees were presenting, and respond to emails within 24 hours. He is “extraordinarily kind, generous and supportive,” one student wrote. “He regularly goes well beyond what could reasonably be expected of any faculty member, let alone one of the most prominent sociologists in the world.” And if his nominators didn’t describe Wilson as a father figure, they described him as a friend. “Of course,” one wrote, “having a friend like Bill does have many phases, which I learned when he could not attend President Obama’s first inauguration and offered his ticket to me instead.” “Bill truly cares about the well-being and success of his students,” another wrote. “He loves being a mentor to students, and his love is apparent. He always comes prepared, sometimes more so than I, to our meetings. And he always meets me with such refreshing enthusiasm that through the ups and downs of my projects, I always felt uplifted, encouraged, and refreshed after our meetings.” All of his nominators stressed that Mooney’s most impressive quality was his commitment to the intellectual and professional growth of his advisees. “He truly enjoys seeing us grow, and he is there with us each step of the way.” And he encourages his advisees to spread their wings.
and take risks. “He understands that failure happens often in the pursuit of cutting edge research, and he is always willing to hear about failed experiments and help us work through them,” one nominator wrote. “He is patient and encouraging, even when progress with experiments feels slow.”

Katharine Park

Samuel Zemurray, Jr. and Doris Zemurray Stone Radcliffe Professor in the Department of History of Science

In their nominations, history of science students past and present expressed deep admiration for Katharine Park as a scholar, a selfless mentor, and a person whose warmth and humility make others feel instantly at ease. Nominators collaborated to compile a list of memorable mentorship moments from Park. “Once I (rather abruptly) visited [her] at the research institution where she was spending her year leave, and she paused to talk to me for three hours. Another time I gave her the first draft of a paper and a week later she responded with four pages of comments and suggestions. There could be a long list of such stories,” one wrote. Another nomination quoted from a collectively authored speech given when Park stepped down as director of graduate studies: “Generations of graduate students in the History of Science Department have relied on Katy’s thoroughness, organization, and compassion. Her commitment to graduate education and to her graduate students has been evident in every visa application she’s helped navigate, every incomplete she’s helped us plan to complete, every conversation she’s had with us about courses, job applications, generals, and teaching.” A rigorous scholar who inspires rigor in others, and possessing of a “straight-shooting pragmatism” about everything from grant applications to the job market, Park is “an ideal advisor who constantly enriches the definition of a fulfilling academic life.”

Patricia D’Amore

Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School

Patricia D’Amore’s mentoring abilities “were evident as soon as I joined her laboratory,” one nominator wrote, citing D’Amore’s effective laboratory management — a possible legacy of her MBA from Northeastern — as key to her success as a research leader. “In the very first weekly lab meeting that I attended, Dr. D’Amore had all of her staff fill out a survey so she could assess our communication preferences, our career expectations, and what organizational roles we preferred. Thus, Dr. D’Amore tailored her management and mentoring style to individual trainees.” Another praised her for her personal warmth and humility make others feel instantly at ease. “She often checks up on my Google Chat status, and if it looks like I am sick or feeling sad, she will chat with me to see what is wrong and try to cheer me up. It definitely makes me feel good to know that I have a mentor who will take the time to look after her students’ emotional health, and not just their research productivity.” The result, numerous nominators reported, is a decidedly special laboratory atmosphere, in which members greet each other in the morning, coordinate lunches, and celebrate, often with cake — and often enough, in fact, that new members of the D’Amore lab are warned about the dreaded “lab five” they can expect their waistlines to suffer. “I know there will be a time one day when I look back on the people who have had the most influence in my life,” one advisee wrote, “and that Dr. D’Amore will be at the top of my list.”

Jacob Olupona

Professor of African and African American Studies and Professor of African Religious Traditions, Department of African and African American Studies, Committee on the Study of Religion, and Harvard Divinity School

Jacob Olupona “quite literally spends all of his considerable energy ensuring that his students have the necessary direction, guidance, and instruction for us to succeed,” wrote one student nominator — one of many praising both his valuable professional counsel and his tireless dedication. One advisee was having trouble finding funding for summer research, for instance, until Professor Olupona restructured his own research budget to make a place for the advisee. Another wrote, “Even though I never mention of his name and that I am his student has opened doors for me at every academic institution I have visited in Nigeria, he has most students here call him by his first name and never considers himself too important to share his personal stories and experiences with undergraduate students who are simply curious about religion and/or African Studies. It is truly an honor to have such a highly respected public figure take such a deep personal interest in my development as a person and a scholar.” Another recalled Olupona spending Sunday afternoon at the office writing letters of recommendation requested at the last minute. “I have yet to see Prof turn away a student in need,” that nominator wrote. And others echoed the same theme, with one writing, “Each time I approach Prof. Olupona — whatever I have asked — he has come through and done all that he could to help ensure my success.”

Sitting with a graduate student, “I imagine that I’m facing my own daughter, son, or cousin.” —Jacob Olupona

To see more photos from the Mentoring Award ceremony, visit www.gsas.harvard.edu/news.
Get Out

EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Need a deserted island? Boston’s got ‘em

The 34 islands that dot Boston Harbor — some tiny and unoccupied, others with Civil War–era forts and food kiosks — offer an easy escape from the city. Grab a ferry from the Aquarium stop on the Blue Line T. More: www.bostonharborislands.org

SURVIVING GRADUATE SCHOOL: THE CONTEST

Welcome to the Bulletin’s new monthly contest!

We ask readers to answer a question or share a trick of the trade — a survival skill they’ve picked up during their Harvard years, or a shortcut that makes the burdens of grad school a little less heavy.

We pick the best answer(s) and print the winner in the next edition, and you win a GSAS totebag!

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 April Winner:

We asked you to tell us about your workspace and any special inspirations you keep there:

“I keep an inspiring image on the desktop of my computer of a brain made of hands. Not only is it a calming piece of beauty at my workspace, but it also inspires and supports me as I continue to carry out research on how the brain develops. It reminds me that it will take many experiments at the hands of many researchers to understand the brain’s complexity, and that creativity in research is a virtue. I am an incremental, but still critically important part of this body of work.”

— Ryann Fame

PhD candidate in molecular and cellular biology