“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.” — John Steinbeck

Food for Thought

HOW ZACH NOWAK STUDIES SPATIAL HISTORY THROUGH PUBLIC SPACES, TRUFFLES, AND SPAM STORY BY LUSIA ZAITSEVA

Zach Nowak brought the canned meat product spam to the first day of section for a course on American food history.

Spam, first created in the United States in the late 1930s and used to fuel troops during the Second World War, has since fallen out of favor, going the way of ersatz coffee as a food most people would probably rather avoid if given the choice. Today, Spam often conjures up associations of tastelessness and poor quality rivaled only, perhaps, by Dickensian gruel.

It came as no surprise to Nowak, then, when his students expressed a uniformly negative reaction to the ill-reputed foodstuff. “None of them had ever had it, but they passed judgment on it immediately and refused to even try it,” he explains.

According to Nowak, a PhD student in American studies, the complex issues that arise from undue prejudice surrounding the once ubiquitous staple is just one example of the ways that food history can serve as a concrete lens for broader cultural and historical developments. spam, he explains, is a perfect example of the networks of cultural and racial connotations that inform every one of our food choices—kale and whole wheat are “good,” while Wonder Bread and Spam are “bad.”

A Lens to the Past

Though Nowak insists he isn’t a foodie, he’s been thinking and writing about food for most of the past decade. After graduating with a master’s in Italian studies from Middlebury College in 2010, Nowak, a fluent speaker of Italian, found himself in the role of research assistant to a professor of food history at an American study abroad program in Perugia.
Together, Alone: Indigenous Film Now

SCREENING OF THE SAPPHIREs (2012)

May 22 and 29, 2016, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Menschel Hall, Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy Street, Cambridge

The year was 1968. All around the globe, there were riots and revolution in the streets. There were hard drugs, soft drugs, free love, and psychedelic music; there was the shock of the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Bobby Kennedy, and there was Vietnam dominating the news.

For four young women from a remote Aboriginal mission in Australia, 1968 was the year that changed their lives forever. Sisters Gall, Julie, and Cynthia, together with their cousin Kay, are discovered by Dave, a down-on-his-luck Irish musician with attitude, a taste for Irish whiskey, and an ear for soul music. Dave steers the girls away from their rural home and flies them to the war zones of South Vietnam, where they sing soul classics for US Marines.

In tour on the Mekong Delta, the girls sing up a storm, dodge bullets, and fall in love.

Irish musician with attitude, a taste for Irish whiskey, and an ear for soul music. Dave steers the girls away from their rural home and flies them to the war zones of South Vietnam, where they sing soul classics for US Marines.

On tour in the Mekong Delta, the girls sing up a storm, dodge bullets, and fall in love.

Inspired by a true story, The Sapphires is a triumphant celebration of youth, courage, love, family, and soul music.

This series—presented in conjunction with the museums’ special exhibition

Indigenous Art from Australia—highlights contributions that Indigenous filmmakers have made and how they are reshaping cinematic representations.

Free and open to the public.

Notes from the Dudley Underground

THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND SYMBOLS OF COMMENCEMENT

BY JACKIE YUN, ROOM B-2 IN DUDLEY HOUSE —COME VISIT!

As Commencement Day approaches, here are a few highlights of the traditions and moments that GSAS students can look forward to on May 26.

The day’s celebrations begin with the GSAS Breakfast with the Deans on the Lawns at Richards Hall, 33-35 Oxford Street, between Richards and Perkins halls. Students arrive and with the help of family, friends, and classmates, adjust their regalia to prepare for the day’s events. This academic garb you wear tells the story of your studies.

Masters’ gowns are black with long slit sleeves that end in a curved pouch. The doctoral robe is crimson with black velvet down the front and three velvet chevron bars across long rounded sleeves with rounded foot. All Harvard regalia include crow’s feet on the front velvet stripes. These crow’s feet are double for an earned degree and triple for the honorary degree candidates. Their color designates the discipline of study including “dark blue for the doctor of philosophy” (Rossano, Harvard Magazine).

The length of the hood and width of the velvet border indicate the level of degree. The velvet borders are three (AM) and five (PhD) inches wide. The hood length varies based on degree: a master’s hood is three and one-half feet long, while the doctor’s is four feet. All Harvard hoods are black on the outside and lined in crimson. Masters’ caps are mortarboards with black tassels and doctoral students don a velvet tam with a black tassel. Take a look around, each inch, each color, each symbol holds meaning and symbolizes the expertise now held by its model.

Following breakfast, graduates line up and march to the Morning Exercises. The sea of crimson gowns is led by the heralding of bagpipes and the student marshals. The marshals are eight outstanding GSAS students selected by a Graduate Student Council committee. Proudly carrying the GSAS, SEAS, and Dudley House banners, the marshals lead the GSAS Commencement procession down Oxford Street and into Harvard Yard for the Morning Exercises. The graduate-degree candidates enter Sever Quadrangle where they await the “caller,” a role filled for many years by our very own dean for student affairs, Garth McCavana. Announced by a trumpet, the caller stands on a pedestal hailing the graduate students forward to Tercentenary Theatre. The GSAS PhD candidates are the first Harvard graduate students to enter the yard each year for Morning Exercises and sit front and center. Look around, soon all the chairs will be filled with Harvard graduates from the college and professional schools.

The Middlesex Sheriff calls the ceremony to order by striking his staff on the stage three times stating, “The meeting will be in order!” When it is time for the conferral of degrees, GSAS Dean Xiao-Li Meng calls on the GSAS students to stand, students rise, cheering and waving their flags. Our flag represents the GSAs shield and the other symbolizes our beloved Dudley House. From the Holyoke Chair—the Jacobean chair that has been used during Harvard’s commencements since 1770—President Faust receives an incantation conferring students’ degrees. For the PhD graduates, Faust welcomes students “to the ancient and universal company of scholars,” and entrusts to them the “free inquity of future generations.” Dean Meng then presents the candidates for degrees of master of arts and master of science and the president certifies “that you have surmounted with distinction the first stage of graduate study.”

The morning ceremonies conclude with the ringing of the Memorial Church bell as students make their way to Sanders Theatre for the GSAS Diploma Awarding Ceremony. GSAS students receive their diplomas in the place where they began their Harvard careers, sitting in Sanders Theatre for orientation. Master’s and PhD candidates are called to the stage. You may see some on the stage who look far too young to be graduate students. In GSAS, children under the age of five are allowed to accompany their graduating parent across the stage and are presented with a “children’s diploma.” Next, students can toast their success at the GSAS Champagne Reception and Luncheon back at the Lawns at Richards Hall. The Afternoon Exercises begin in Harvard Yard at 2:15 p.m. President Drew Faust delivers her address, followed by this year’s commencement speaker, Steven Spielberg.

Congratulations to this year’s graduates and best of luck in your future endeavors. Enjoy Commencement and make sure to take notice of all the pomp and circumstance that accompany the day!

For more information, visit gsas.harvard.edu/commencement

Resident Advisors 2016–2017

The Office of Residential Life is delighted to announce the GSAS students chosen as resident advisors for the 2016–2017 academic year. In addition to organizing activities in the residence halls, resident advisors also provide first-year students with someone who can speak candidly about all aspects of the graduate school experience.

Child

Basement—Sasson Chahanovich

First Floor—Shereh Bloor

Second—Amaneet Lochab

Third—Becca Voelker

Fourth—Tuo Liu

Richards

First—Melinda Malley (Coordinating RA)

Second—Rodrick Kuate Defo

Third—Anne Sophie Pratte

Conant

First—Carlo Alberto Almadi

Second—Classe Wells

Third—Vinay Subrahaman

Fourth—Prahra Mitra

Perkins

First—Yi (Louis) Lu

Second—Daphne Penn

Third—Hardeep Divillon

Fourth—Carbin O’Neill

GSAS Bulletin | May 2016

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Italy, called the Umbra Institute. The professor’s approach to using food as a serious and productive way to learn about world history excited Nowak, who says, “Food was a great lens through which to look at the past. It really intrigued me, and I wanted to learn more.” After three years at the Umbra Institute, during which time he became the director of their food and sustainability program, Nowak decided to apply for a PhD back in the States.

Since coming to Harvard, Nowak has hit the ground running. He credits his advisor, Joyce Chaplin, James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History, with much of his positive experience in the program so far. According to Nowak, Chaplin was instrumental in encouraging him to pursue his developing interests—recalling a conversation they had when Nowak was a prospective student, he says, “Professor Chaplin said to me, ‘Rip up your statement of purpose. If in three years you pitch the same project for your prospectus that you did to apply, something is wrong.’ That was the best advice she could have given me, and it was incredibly freeing.” Indeed, although Nowak enrolled at Harvard thinking he would continue his food-centric pursuits, since then his ideas have changed considerably—he is now envisioning a dissertation that looks at the 19th-century American train station.

**A Shift in Focus**

Nowak’s nascent dissertation project will focus on the impact of the shared public space provided by train stations on the cultural landscape of industrializing America. As Nowak tells it, “The train station was an amazing space in which people from all sorts of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds could mix, coming and going without really knowing each other.” Like the post office or public park, the train station provided a space for social elites to impose, spatially, their intended societal order. But it was also a space for marginalized people—women, African Americans, and hobos—to resist that new order. In his work, Nowak seeks to understand the effect of this liminal space on the city, as well as how it fit into the broader cultural landscape of industrializing America. “The advent of the railroads taught Americans that it’s a good thing to take public money and give it to private corporations,” Nowak explains.

Although his primary focus has shifted, Nowak maintains that a constant thread nevertheless runs throughout all of his academic pursuits over the past few years. “I think I’ve always been interested in spatial history,” he says. Indeed, before coming to Harvard, Nowak authored a book on the global history of the truffle, which grows everywhere from the Far East to the Western hemisphere and was to be paired for its rich, unique flavor despite its unattractive appearance. These days, in addition to his dissertation, he is undertaking a research project centered on the use of and debates around public land in Boston’s Back Bay Fens. Referring to the reputation of the tall reeds that line the banks of the water as being conducive to late-night amorous escapades, Nowak says, “In the Back Bay Fens, people are using environmental arguments to advocate for destroying aspects of the landscape that they see as fostering deviant behavior, but their arguments are selective and actually faulty.”

In addition to the freedom Harvard has given Nowak to pursue his diverse interests, he is grateful for its institutional support. “It’s not just the money you get for your stipend or summer research, but all the resources available to fund incredible experimental learning opportunities while you’re here,” Nowak says. In his three years at Harvard, Nowak has collaborated with other students interested in food on several notable grants, from support from the Mahindra Humanities Center to organize a graduate conference on food studies to funding from the Graduate Student Council to move a graduate food studies journal to a print publication. But the Harvard resources Nowak has tapped include expertise. “For my Fens project, I learned from Harvard Herbarium botanist and curator Walter T. Kittredge how to create my own ‘natural archive’ by collecting, pressing, and mounting botanical specimens.”

**Empowering Emerging Scholars**

More recently, Nowak has been involved with another initiative: organizing a professional development series with the help of fellow students in American studies and their department administrator, Arthur Patton-Hock. With the assistance of the Office of Career Services and the Derek Bok Center and support from the Gochman Dean’s Fund for Innovation and Development, Nowak and his colleagues have organized panels for graduate students across departments on topics ranging from building a scholarly online presence to constructing an effective teaching portfolio.

Nowak, whose prior publishing experience taught him a lot about what to expect on the job market and beyond, says that the series is one of the most important steps fellow students can take to empower themselves. “With a huge emphasis on research in grad school, sometimes it feels like I’m learning how to be a baker,” he says. “I learn how to assess the flour, how to measure everything perfectly, how hot the oven has to be, but there’s not too much discussion on actually baking. That’s analogous to the teaching I’m going to have to do after the PhD.” The professional development series he helped develop is in part a response to this problem. “We want to have some discussions on pedagogy, how to get valuable teaching experience, and how it fits into the broader context of our lives as emerging scholars,” he explains.

As his baking analogy shows, food continues to be one of Nowak’s go-to lenses through which to understand the world. In his lesson on Spam, Nowak used this innovative approach to challenge his students’ notions regarding the significant and various assumptions that play into the ways we apprehend something as ubiquitous and quotidian as the food we eat. For his own part, Nowak had been forced to overcome his own prejudice toward Spam on a camping trip with a friend from Hawaii, where it is a beloved and integral part of the diet. “It was actually really good,” he says with a smile.

And although Nowak may have changed his mind about Spam, he’s unlikely to change his mind about the excitement and rewards of academia—he hopes to one day become a professor of history or American studies.

**Crossing Kazakhstan: The Monumentality of Linear Landscape**

**ON VIEW APRIL 27 TO OCTOBER 3, 2016**

Japan Friends of Harvard Concourse Gallery, Center for Government and International Studies, South Building, 1730 Cambridge Street

A mixed-media exhibition by three Harvard PhD students: Xiaoxuan Lu, Benny Shaffer, and Justin Stern. Through images, video, and maps, this installation presents an index of “everyday monuments” along the length of Kazakhstan’s A2 Expresway, which runs parallel to the Turkmenistan-China Gas Pipeline.

**MOLLY AKIN**

**“Food was a great lens through which to look at the past. It really intrigued me, and I wanted to learn more.”**

**MCCABE FARMAN**
2016 Harvard vs. MIT Case Competition

The Harvard Graduate Consulting Club and Consulting Club at MIT invite you to participate in the 8th annual Harvard vs. MIT Case Competition, which takes place July 11 through 22, 2016! The Case Competition provides an exciting opportunity for non-business Harvard and MIT graduate students and researchers to sharpen their analytical skills, acquire teamwork experience, network with peers and industry professionals, and address a real-life business challenge. No prior business knowledge or consulting experience is required.

Interested in learning more? Contact harvardconsultingclub@gmail.com.

Ready to apply? Visit www.harvardmitcasecompetition.com/apply. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on June 13, 2016.

Upcoming Events at the Peabody Museum

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Work in Progress

Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge

Lecture, panel discussion, and book signing with Miki Kratsman, Photojournalist, Artist, Activist; Head of Photography, Basis School of Art; Contributor to Haaretz; and 2011 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography, Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology

Distinguished Argentine-Israeli photographer Miki Kratsman has worked in the Palestinian Occupied Territories for over three decades, documenting the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including its daily effect on the Palestinian population. In Kratsman’s view, the accumulated documentation of this difficult daily routine is more significant—and more disquieting—than single images of dramatic events. Kratsman will discuss his new book, The Resolution of the Suspect, and his approach to making visual the ways in which the shadow of death hovers, sometimes literally, over his Palestinian subjects.

Free and open to the public with free event parking at the 52 Oxford Street Garage. Sponsored by the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology.

Meet the 2016 Commencement Marshals

Each year, the Graduate Student Council chooses eight graduating students as Commencement marshals. On the morning of Commencement, these students help the GSAS deans organize the procession from the GSAS Breakfast with the Deans into Harvard Yard. Walking at the head the procession, they proudly carry the banners of GSAS, SEAS, and Dudley House as they lead the graduating class into Tercentenary Theatre. It is a wonderful tradition and considered an honor to be chosen as Commencement marshal.

Nominations are made by members of the GSAS community, including students, the nominee’s department administrator, or Harvard faculty.

“GSAS Commencement Marshals are chosen for their service to the community of graduate students and selected by a committee of their fellow graduate students,” says John Gee, vice president of the GSC and a member of the selection committee. “It is a special honor that recognizes all of the ways graduate students help each other get through their degrees—from extracurricular clubs to dissertation workshops, from Dudley House activities to simple support and encouragement.”

The 2016 Commencement Marshals

Ann Durbin, PhD, Medical Sciences
Esther Hyun, AM, Regional Studies–East Asia
Edlyn Levine, PhD, Applied Physics
Rakeen Mahbod, PhD, Government
Sorell Massenburg, PhD, Applied Physics
Rohan Mazumdar, AM, Statistics
Cian Power, PhD, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Katherine Rose, PhD, Slavic Languages and Literatures

2016–2017 Dudley Fellows Announced

Dudley House employs a vibrant group of GSAS graduate students as Dudley fellows. Coming from departments and programs from throughout GSAS, fellows plan events, activities, and programming for Dudley House and serve for one or two academic years.

Arts
Tal Grebel, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Kate Balug, Architecture
Maria Devin, English

Athletics
Will Steinhardt, Earth and Planetary Science
William Menegus, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Computers, Web Page
Alan She, Applied Physics

Coordinating Fellow
Eliia Gettell, Classics

Food Literacy
Lei Lin, Inner Asian and Altaic Studies

Gato Rojo Manager
Taylor Bluher, Harvard Divinity School

Intellectual/Cultural
Justin Stern, Architecture
Emma Childs, Romance Languages and Literatures
Jonas Ruegg, East Asian Languages and Literatures

Literary
Anne Roehrborn, Germanic Languages and Literatures
Madeleine Wolf, Romance Languages and Literatures

Music
Max Murray, Orchestra, Music
Sarah Politz, Jazz Band, Music
Daniel Ang, World Music Ensemble, Physics
Alana Malyes, Chorus, Music

Outings
Marina Madrid, Applied Physics
Joseph Olson, Physics

Public Service
Mariam Goshadze, Study of Religion
Huan Jin, East Asian Languages and Literatures

Social
Nare Janvelyan, Chemistry
Adam Tanaka, Architecture
Shuyan Zhang, Applied Physics

Dudley Orchestra in concert
Walk for Hunger
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2016, in Boston. Dudley House Public Service is again proudly participating in the Walk for Hunger. Every May, over 40,000 people walk all or part of a 20-mile course through Greater Boston, earning the pledges they’ve collected to support Project Bread’s fresh approach to ending hunger in our state. Join us as a walker, sponsor, or both in the largest public fundraising walk in the Commonwealth! RSVP to dudleypublicservice@gmail.com if you’d like to be part of this great event and donate at hvrd.me/10D4cK.

Around the World with Fred Astaire
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016, 12:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M., on the big-screen in the 2nd Floor Common Room at Dudley House. Dudley House Classic Films presents Fred Astaire. All singing!! All dancing!! South America, Paris, New York, London, Venice!!
12:00 p.m. Welcome and Introduction to Fred Astaire
12:15 p.m. Flying Down to Rio (1933)
2:00 p.m. You Were Never Lovelier (1942)**Birthday Cake, Ginger Floats, and Coffee**
4:15 p.m. Roberta (1935)
6:15 p.m. Funny Face (1957)
8:00 p.m. Top Hat (1936)
Refreshments and special “extras” between films!! Everyone welcome!

The Dudley House Jazz Bands Spring Concert
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016, AT 8:00 P.M., first floor, Dudley House. Join us for this exciting concert with pieces played by Dudley’s best and brightest jazz musicians. The Combo and the Big Band will present two exciting sets of original and newly-arranged music that explores the limits of the intimate, the spiritual, the political, and more. Refreshments will be served. ID required for alcohol. More info at dudley.harvard.edu/dudley-jazz-band.

Dudley House Boat Bash
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016, BOARDING BEGINS AT 6:15 P.M., BOAT DEPARTS PROMPTLY AT 7:00 P.M. TO RETURN BY 10:00 P.M. The semester is nearly over and summer is almost here: It’s time to go out with a bang! We look forward to welcoming you aboard the Provincetown II party boat. Bartenders offer food and a wide range of drinks for purchase, and DJs will spin tunes on two decks as we cruise across Boston Harbor to view a spectacular sunset and dance the night away. Tickets available from the Dudley House 3rd floor office. Early bird $15 (up to May 6), standard $20 (May 9 through 12). Dudley members and their guests welcome. Proper ID required to board the boat. Cash required for food and drinks.

Dudley House Your Graduate Student Center since 1991
Lehman Hall, Harvard Yard ◆ www.dudley.harvard.edu ◆ 617-495-2255
FACULTY DEANS James M. Hogle and Doreen M. Hogle ◆ HOUSE ADMINISTRATOR Susan Zawalich
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Develop the Skills to Succeed

Upcoming Events at the Office of Career Services

The Office of Career Services (OCS) provides a wide range of services and resources tailored specifically to the needs of master's and PhD students. Advisors work confidentially with GSAS students on a wide range of career-related issues, from broad self-assessment and decision-making to specific advice on resume, CV, and cover letter preparation for academic and nonacademic job searches. OCS also offers monthly events designed to help graduate students with their professional development.

New: Career Advising Appointments for PhD Students on the Longwood Campus!
The Office of Career Services is pleased to announce that one-on-one appointments with Suprawee Tepsuporn will continue on Tuesdays in May and June for PhD students on the Longwood campus. Currently an assistant director in the Office for Career Advancement at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Tepsuporn holds a PhD in immunology and completed her postdoctoral training in oncology at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. She provides career advising for GSAS students at any stage of their career development, helping them to navigate career exploration, networking, job searching, and preparing for interviews and salary negotiations in a variety of careers.

Longwood-based GSAS students are welcome to schedule an appointment with Tepsuporn through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students. Her office is located in the Kresge Building, Suite G4, 677 Huntington Avenue.

Students can also meet with Heather Law and Laura Stark on the Cambridge campus, Monday through Friday in the OCS office at 54 Dunster Street. All three advisors look forward to helping you with your career planning.

Real-Life Stories from the Academic Job Search

May 10, 2016, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., OCS Reading Room, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge

Whether you are on the academic job market now or plan to be in coming years, you will benefit from learning firsthand from recent PhDs who have taken the next step in their academic careers. Come hear job search stories and advice from recently-hired PhDs who are working in a variety of academic positions. Please register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students

Analytics Academy

May 18, 2016, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., OCS Conference Room, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge

Hear from GSAS alumnus Tom Davenport, who literally wrote the book on business analytics—the hottest growing field for PhD students in North America. If you use Amazon, then you may know it consistently predicts consumer goods you’ll prefer, even better than you do! This is the essence of analytics. In today’s competitive global economy, organizations are looking for PhDs with personality who can demystify big data trends into understandable business terms. Hear from an expert and learn more about how you can enter this exciting field.

Please register through Crimson Careers at harvard-csm.symplicity.com/students

CONTACT
Office of Career Services
54 Dunster Street
Phone: 617-495-2395
ocs.fas.harvard.edu/gsas-advising

Laura Stark, Director of Career Advising and Programming for Master’s and PhD Students
lstark@fas.harvard.edu

Heather Law, Assistant Director, Graduate Student and PhD Advising
hlaw@fas.harvard.edu

The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning

Teaching Next Year?
The Derek Bok Center’s Fall Teaching Conference takes place on August 25 and 26, 2016. With programming geared toward new and experienced graduate student teachers at Harvard, the conference features workshops and sessions led by experts from across the university.

Check out last year’s videos at bokcenter.harvard.edu/fall-teaching-conference. Registration details will be posted on the site during summer 2016.

CONTACT
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning
Science Center 316A, One Oxford Street
Phone: 617-495-4159, Fax: 617-495-3739
E-mail: bokcenter@fas.harvard.edu
bokcenter.harvard.edu

DEREK C. BOK AWARD WINNERS

In recognition of the central role GSAS students play in Harvard’s teaching mission, GSAS joins with the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning every year to present the Derek C. Bok Awards for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates. Five TAs received the awards at a Bok Center reception on April 12, 2016, selected from a long list of students nominated by their departments.

This year’s winners are (left to right): Andrew Baker, history; Hyungsuk Tak, statistics; Katie Kohn, film and visual studies; Kaitlyn Vredenburgh, philosophy; Theodore Leenman, sociology.

The Derek C. Bok Award is made possible thanks to a gift from David G. Nathan ’51, MD ’55, the Robert A. Stranahan Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, and his wife Jean Louise Friedman Nathan.
The Fellowships Office

The Fellowships Office offers a range of services designed to assist graduate students in their search for fellowship funding and provide advice on professional development. Individual counseling is the centerpiece of fellowship and professional development services.

Fullbright Competition 2017–2018: Cultural Exchange IIE Fulbright

The Institute of International Education (IIE) announces the official opening on May 1 of the next competition for Fulbright Grants and other grants for graduate study abroad in academic fields and for professional training in the creative and performing arts. Visit gsa.harvard.edu/current_students/fellowships.php for more information.

If you would like advice on writing a proposal or any other part of the application process, please make an appointment with Cynthia Verba by phoning 617-495-1814. Samples of winning proposals are available in Scholarly Pursuits at gsa.harvard.edu/current_students/scholarly_pursuits.php.

Professional Development Series:

What do YOU Want to See?

As the Fellowships Office wraps up its programming for the academic year, we are already considering topics for next year. Forward your suggestions to Cynthia Verba by calling 617-495-1814.

On Fellowship Outcomes:

An Important Message

At this time of year, many fellowship applicants have learned whether or not they have received a fellowship. This is an appropriate time for some reflections on the process: Above all, I would like to say to everyone who participated in competitions this year, that you all have reason to be proud of your efforts. Many of those who did not win received enthusiastic comments from committee members. The line between winner and non-winner was often very thin.

The primary message for those who did not receive a fellowship is that there is absolutely no reason to doubt your abilities. Yes, it is nicer to win. But the meaning of winning or losing should not be distorted into a harsh picture of polar opposites. Once again, all the applicants were part of a very distinguished group of graduate students; all applicants have reason to be proud. And personally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and the outstanding applications that we saw this year.

If you have any questions about your fellowship applications, make an appointment to see Cynthia Verba by phoning 617-495-1814.

Scholarly Pursuits

gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/scholarly_pursuits.php

Inspiration from Harvard Horizons: A View from the Fellowships Office

BY CYNTHIA VERBA, DIRECTOR OF THE FELLOWSHIPS OFFICE

We have had the pleasure of witnessing over the past four years the extraordinary performances of eight Harvard Horizons Scholars selected each year to communicate the substance of their work from the stage of Sanders Theatre. The eight scholars receive intensive training to present their research in a compelling and polished fashion, while strictly observing a five-minute limit for their talks. We have come away from each of these events not only with a vivid awareness of the exciting work our graduate students are doing, but also an appreciation for the value of nurturing and mentoring in assisting students to do justice to their topics.

From the perspective of the Fellowships Office, I am reminded that these eight students are in excellent company, with many of their fellow graduate students currently developing exciting and important topics while seeking advice and support that includes financial support. And this is where the lessons from Harvard Horizons intersect with the goals of the Fellowships Office.

A major concern of the Fellowships Office is professional development, with an important focus on helping students write a compelling and polished fellowship proposal—crucial when dealing with a highly-competitive fellowship environment. The annual Harvard Horizons symposium has provided some of the most vivid illustrations of what a polished presentation can look like; it has set a shining example of what the proposal writer should aim for, although in the case of fellowships, the presentation is in written form and typically longer than the contents of a five-minute talk.

Shortly after the launch of Harvard Horizons, some Horizons scholars were asked by Graduate School Alumni Association Council members to cite aspects of their experience that they thought would be particularly valuable to offer the wider community of students; they named some of the very same skills promoted by the Fellowships Office in individual advising sessions and in group workshops, specifically how to:

- communicate effectively to a broader audience, well-educated, but outside of their own field (fellowship selection committees are frequently from a variety of fields);
- develop the ability to single out the most compelling ideas in the dissertation, those that clearly demonstrate why the topic matters, how it makes a difference;
- present those ideas succinctly and prominently, in a manner that captures the attention, with special focus on creating opening statements that make the audience want to know more.

We encourage graduate students to take full advantage of the rich resources available at Harvard to help with the process of professional development, over and above the training offered in the individual departments. This includes not only the Fellowships Office, but also the Derek Bok Center, and the Office of Career Services. Similarly, the newly-created GSAS Center for Writing and Communicating Ideas is already developing exciting plans to assist students.

CONTACT

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Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center
1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 350
Phone: 617-495-1814
E-mail: cverba@fas.harvard.edu
gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/fellowships_office.php

Cynthia Verba, Director of the Fellowships Office, and staff assistant Elizabeth Perten advise graduate students in their search for fellowship funding and provide help with professional development.
Get Out
EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

❱❱ On Your Bike
Massachusetts is the only state in the nation with a statewide bike week—join in! Bay State Bike Week takes place from May 14 to May 22, 2016. Whether you’re looking to participate in one of hundreds of events statewide or host your own event, Bay State Bike Week has something for the novice to experienced rider. Participants are eligible to win prizes and get additional rewards. Find out more at www.baystatebikeweek.org.

Events at the Radcliffe Institute

◗ How Much Is One American Worth? Public Opinion toward Globalization
May 10, 2016, 4:15 p.m., Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Knafel Center, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge
Diana C. Mutz, Samuel A. Stouffer Professor of Communication and Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, has found that the mass public’s views of international trade are strikingly different from those of economists. In this lecture, Mutz will highlight Americans’ differential valuation of human lives when it comes to economic globalization.

◗ An Evening of New Music with Composer Felipe Lara
May 11, 2016, 8:00 p.m., Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Knafel Center, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge
Felipe Lara is a Brazilian composer who produces new musical contexts by means of (re)interpreting and translating acoustical properties of familiar source sonorities into project-specific forces. Featuring Claire Chase, musicians from the International Contemporary Ensemble, the JACK Quartet, and violinist Elizabeth Weisser.

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