The GSAS Research Workshops Program: A Call for Proposals

The GSAS Research Workshops Program encourages scholarly discussion of works-in-progress by supporting workshops for graduate students who are learning to conceive and write scholarly articles, thesis prospectuses, and dissertations. The 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.

Grants of up to $6,000 per year are available for projects in the humanities and social sciences. Workshops must include at least two faculty members and six graduate students who will meet regularly over the course of the academic year. Participants may also invite occasional visiting scholars (one to two per term) whose work is of special interest to give presentations. Funds may be used to underwrite the cost of travel expenses for a guest scholar, photocopying materials, refreshments for meetings, and a modest salary for a student to coordinate workshop activities.

This very successful program, instituted over a decade ago with a grant from the Ford Foundation, is now fully supported by the GSAS. It talks about how to go about securing teaching positions; what to do as teaching fellows in different kinds of settings such as sections, tutorials, and so on; and also how to build on that experience to approach the job search. I want to give credit to Sara Schwebel, a graduate student in the History of American Civilization Program, for putting together the handbook.

Do you rely on any outside resources?
HT: We also have talks by the Office of Career Services (OCS) and by [GSAS Director of Fellowships] Cynthia Verba. Robin Mount of OCS has given a series of talks on such things as how to prepare for interviews, how to write a résumé and curriculum vitae, how to present continued on page 10
Changing Official Information
The FAS Registrar’s Office and the GSAS Dean’s Office are very concerned that students’ biographical information is accurately maintained. To change your name, address, and other information, send your update to the Registrar’s Office in writing with your signature. Students may obtain Change of Address forms and Name Change forms at the Registrar’s Office (29 Garden Street), the Registrar’s Website (www.registrar.fas.harvard.edu), and at the GSAS Administrative Dean’s Office (Byerly Hall, 2nd floor).

International students must also report any change of address to the Harvard International Office (HIO) within ten days of moving to a new residence. Address changes can be submitted online at www.hio.harvard.edu/students_scholars/address_change.php.

Also, it is extremely important that international students notify HIO of any changes to their immigration status since their last registration so that HIO can update the information in SEVIS. At that time you will need to present proof of your new status (e.g., H-1B approval notice, “green card,” or Form I-551) to the HIO.

International Students and the Bok Center
The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning offers special help for international teaching fellows (TFs) at Harvard. TFs who want to improve their oral communication skills can get coaching in small-group sessions or one-on-one consultations throughout the year. TFs who are concerned about their English are urged to come to the Bok Center early in their Harvard career and not wait until they begin to teach.

Graduate students who are not currently TFs but who will teach at Harvard in the future are eligible for this service. Appointments may be made with Virginia Maurer (vmaurer@fas.harvard.edu) at any time during the year.

Throughout the term, the Bok Center also offers Teaching in the American Classroom Workshops that focus on language, culture and pedagogy. Check the Bok Center Website at http://bokcenter.fas.harvard.edu/ for upcoming workshops

Commencement Preview
Commencement Day will be Thursday, June 8, 2006. Information about GSAS Commencement activities will be mailed in April to all 2005–06 degree recipients (November 2005) and candidates (March and June 2006). The packet will include a detailed schedule of the day along with an order form for tickets. Also, Commencement information will be available on the GSAS Website at www.gsas.harvard.edu/academic/commence.html in March.

Applications for June degree candidates are due in the Registrar’s Office by Monday, April 3. Approved dissertations for June degree candidates must be filed in the Registrar’s Office by Friday, May 26. If you plan to attend the graduation ceremonies, begin discussing hotel and transportation issues with your family and make reservations as soon as possible for Commencement.

Tax Season
Information for international students about taxes is available at www.hio.harvard.edu. The Internal Revenue Service Website, www.irs.ustreas.gov, provides forms, publications, and instructions for electronic filing and answers to frequently asked questions. The site for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, www.dor.state.ma.us, provides forms for filing state taxes.

Academic Calendar
• Wednesday, February 1. Spring term begins. First meeting of classes. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., all new degree candidates and those returning from non-resident status register for spring term at 20 Garden Street (late fees apply as in the fall).
• Wednesday, February 8. Final study cards due in Dudley House for spring term.
• Friday, February 10. Last day to cancel registration for spring term without payment of tuition.

—Megan O’Connell

Interested in Living in a GSAS Residence Hall During the Summer of 2006?
Information and applications for housing in the GSAS residence halls for summer 2006 are available online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/student/housing/summerapply.html. Rooms in Conant Hall will be available for long-term summer occupancy by continuing GSAS students. Rooms in Richards Hall will be available June 1–22 for short-term summer occupancy. The deadline for summer housing applications is Thursday, March 9. Applications must be completed and submitted online for consideration. Summer housing assignments will be communicated via e-mail during the last week of March.

—Megan O’Connell
A Special Reminder to First-Year Graduate Students

Now that you have completed your first semester in GSAS, you are probably ready to become more fully acquainted with the fellowship services available to all GSAS students. Here are some of the highlights.

Counseling on Writing Fellowship Proposals.
A principal service offered by the director of fellowships is counseling on fellowship proposals and other related aspects of professional development. I encourage all graduate students who have any questions about fellowships or concerns about professional development to make an appointment by calling 617-495-1816.

Fellowship Publications. The following publications are available to assist you with your fellowship needs: Graduate Guide to Grants, Harvard Guide to Postdoctoral Fellowships, Harvard Fellowships, and Scholarly Pursuits: A Guide to Professional Development During the Graduate Years. All of these publications are available online at www.gas.harvard.edu/academic/fellowships.harvfell.html. Scholarly Pursuits is also available at the Dean’s Office, Byerly Hall, 2nd floor.

Professional Development Series. Each issue of the GSAS Bulletin lists events in this series (see last item of this column). Now that you are settled in, we hope that you will mark these events in your calendar and try to attend. They are a good way to prepare yourself for the next stages of graduate study.

“Surviving the Dissertation”
A Quick Tip session was held last December for graduate students, ranging from those still searching for a topic to more advanced students who have reached the writing stage.

Speakers included two graduate students engaged in writing the dissertation: Michelle Syba (English and American literature and language) and Asher Ragen (Near Eastern languages and civilizations). Also featured was Kathy Duffin, who works with dissertation writers at Harvard’s Writing Center.

Beyond the general theme of “survival,” speakers offered helpful and practical tips while maintaining a balance between candid realism and reassuring optimism.

Choosing a Topic
Focus your energy early on a potential dissertation topic, even if you have only a rough idea of the topic. The speakers provided reassurance to those still engaged in the search and suggested that students probably had at least a rough idea of a topic without realizing it. When speakers looked back on their own selection process, they realized that many of their early seminar papers and even their undergraduate research projects tended to form a pattern, hovering around particular themes.

In taking stock of what consistently interested them and gave them pleasure, they eventually singled out a topic with the most promise to be engaging and to bring out their strengths. In this manner they capitalized on all of the work they had done previously; choosing was a form of self-identity.

Kathy Duffin placed particular emphasis on the positive aspects of the dissertation. If you choose a topic that truly engages you, you are not just fulfilling a requirement, but enjoying the privilege of working on it. She also likened the dissertation process to the ups and downs in entering a long-term personal relationship. At first you fear that you will never find that someone; then, when you do, you experience qualms and fear of commitment; then you readjust and make compromises; then you affirm your commitment.

Think of choosing a topic as choosing a central question that drives your research, rather than a “topic” per se. Kathy Duffin emphasized that this is an important distinction. Scientists automatically think of the dissertation as a question or a puzzle, but it is more difficult for humanists to do so. Once you have a question and can answer it, you enter an active rather than a passive mode in your reading and research. A central question generates sub-questions, allowing you to see a structure.

The dissertation as a whole is one large question; chapters are the answers to sub-questions. Without a central question, subsidiary questions, and a structural outline, you really don’t have a doable topic; you probably have many doable topics. This can be one of the biggest pitfalls for dissertation writers, so be sure to set limits and recognize that you can never exhaust a topic. Formulating a central question is a way of setting boundaries. The central question may not leap out at you immediately, but be aware that you are searching for that question.

Choosing Dissertation Advisors
Work to your own strengths, know your own needs, and recognize that one person usually cannot fulfill all your needs. In any case, it is now a requirement that three people serve on the dissertation committee.

While it is helpful to have a famous senior faculty member on your committee, it is also important to have a “cheerleader”—who might be a junior faculty member. Talking to more advanced students in your department can give you an idea of which advisors have reputations for getting students through in a timely manner, getting good placements for students, and are flexible and realistic enough to give you room for your own ideas. It is also important to know if your potential advisor plans to stay at Harvard, at least for awhile.

The speakers strongly recommended supplementing the advising process with a peer group of dissertation writers who are basically at your stage. The group can be as small as just two people. All the speakers had found peers who really got to know their work, and they noted that they felt it was less risky to share a rough draft with a peer than with a faculty advisor.

The Research and Writing Stage
Kathy Duffin emphasized that writing and research should not be thought of as separate processes: the dissertation is about communicating your ideas. Start writing as early as possible once you have identified a central question. Each attempt at putting an idea on paper may make the next research step far more efficient, since you will have a better notion of what you are looking for, a better notion of the questions you wish to pose, and a better sense of the central question versus subsidiary questions.

She advised students to imagine an audience to whom you are discussing your discovery. If you think of this as implicitly engaging in dialogue with others, it can help to overcome the feeling that it is an isolating experience. She noted that it takes many drafts to create one long argument and that most continued on page 12
“How Do I Get a Discussion Going in My Discussion Section?”

You ask your students a question, a question you’re sure will spark insight after insight, until their minds crackle with intellectual energy and their discussion bursts the overhead lights. Your students, however, shift in their seats. Unnerved, you ask again. Your students stare into their bottomless books.

Silent students. New and seasoned TFs can feel uneasy when they try to draw their students into discussion but their students lapse into silence. While silence isn’t always bad in a section (silent students might be thinking or a savvy TF might use silence to encourage students to think), TFs usually try to foster discussion in their discussion sections.

If you want to help your students engage in worthwhile discussions, you can assist them in several ways.

You might start by asking them whether they know how scholars in your discipline discuss what they study. Do your students know how chemists, historians, or anthropologists engage in a critical discussion? Do they know how to answer a question or pose one, make a claim or complicate one, focus a topic or introduce one?

If they do, then they’ll begin discussing how they should engage with one another. If they don’t, then you’ll have the chance to teach them how they should. Either way, you’ll show your students you value what they have to say and that you want them to speak like scholars. You’ll also get them discussing.

More strategies for fostering student discussion are included in the lively guide to section teaching, *The Torch or the Firehose*, which you can pick up at the Bok Center, and in the *Teaching Fellows Handbook*, which you can read online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/pdfs/teachfell.pdf, or pick up at Byerly Hall.

Document your Teaching, Become a Better Teacher, Get your CUE Evaluations!

CUE evaluations provide important documentation of your teaching ability. Save them to use in a teaching portfolio, which you’ll probably need if you go on the academic job market.

CUE evaluations can also be extremely useful in helping you evaluate and improve your teaching. You can bring them to the Bok Center, where a staff member trained in reading evaluations will be happy to discuss them with you. Call for an appointment at 617-495-4869.

Practice Your Teaching Among Friendly Peers—Microteach!

If you’re nervous about teaching for the first time or returning to the classroom, the Bok Center’s microteaching workshops can provide you with a trial-run before you have to lead your first section. Microteaching—organized practice teaching in front of an audience of peers—is an efficient, proven, and fun way to get off to a strong teaching start. The Bok Center offers open microteaching sessions for TFs in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. After the microteaching workshop, you can also request a follow-up appointment with Bok Center staff members to receive further feedback on your teaching. For more information about microteaching or to register for an upcoming session, contact the Bok Center at 617-495-4869.

Arrange to Videotape

Have you ever seen yourself teach? The Bok Center offers you an opportunity to see what it’s like to be a student in your own classroom. You can arrange to have your section videotaped at the Bok Center (or if you give a guest lecture for the course, your can also have that taped). After the taping, you will meet with a Bok Center staff member to watch the videotape and reflect on your teaching. By watching yourself—and your students—in action, you will arrive at new ideas about how to convey information in effective, exciting ways. You can also request a copy of your videotape, which you can add to the teaching portfolio you will take with you on the job market. Please note that all consultations at the Bok Center, including videotape consultations, are confidential. To schedule a videotape session, call the Bok Center at 617-495-4869. Please be ready to give the name of your course, size of your class, section meeting time, and first and second choice dates for videotaping.

Head Teaching Fellows Network

Being a Head TF is a challenging job! Tap into knowledge gained by Head TFs across departmental and Core classes by participating in the Head Teaching Fellows Network, an information exchange sponsored by the Bok Center. Head TFs meet in person to discuss such issues as equity in grading and evaluations, the hiring of TFs after a term starts, and time management. They also talk throughout the semester on a listserv. To join the group or learn more about it, see bokcenter.harvard.edu/progs/headtf or e-mail John Girash (girash@bok.fas.harvard.edu).

Cabot Postdoctoral Fellowships for Innovation in Teaching

As part of its mission to support and improve undergraduate teaching at the College, the Bok Center offers up to two postdoctoral fellowships each year. Postdoctoral fellows enhance their careers as teacher-scholars by designing an original research project focused on some aspect of teaching and learning at Harvard College and by participating in the daily work of the Bok Center along with senior staff and graduate student consultants.

Fellows are granted a stipend for half-time work during the academic year and may arrange additional financial support through their academic department or elsewhere. Strong preference will be given to applicants familiar with Harvard courses and departments. The PhD must be completed by June 2006. Applicants should submit a CV and short research-project proposal by March 15, 2006. The Bok Center values diversity on its staff. For more information about the postdoctoral fellowship and application process, see bokcenter.harvard.edu/progs/postdoc.html.

Experienced, Creative, Energetic TFs Needed!

If you’re eager to use your talents and insights to enhance teaching in your discipline, we invite you to apply for a 2006–07 lead teaching fellow position. As a lead TF, you’ll act as a peer consultant to other TFs in your department, both by advising individual instructors and by creating training programs, workshops, seminars, and other teaching-related projects. You’ll also benefit from the professional development you’ll receive in the form of training and mentoring from the Bok Center and from your collaboration with your department’s faculty and administrators. Lead TF positions are equivalent to teaching appointments, with the same compensation and time commitment as teaching one to two sections per semester in your home department. Applications are due March 1, 2006. For more information, please see bokcenter.harvard.edu/progs/tfs.

—Beckie Hunter
Dudley Fellows 2006–2007
Applications for next year’s Dudley Fellow positions are available in the House Office and on the Dudley Website (www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley). Applications are due on Friday, February 10; interviews will be held later in February. This is a great opportunity to gain community, comradeship, and compensation, and to help improve the lives of your fellow hard-working graduate students. We invite all applicants to an informal reception to meet the House Masters Jim and Doreen Hogle, House Administrator Susan Zawalich, and several current Dudley Fellows to discuss the fellows program. Please join us in the Common Room on Thursday, February 2, anytime between 4 and 5:30 p.m.

Everett Mendelsohn Mentoring Awards
Every year at this time, the Graduate Student Council sponsors this program, named in honor of former Dudley House Master, Professor Everett Mendelsohn, to honor faculty members who are wonderful mentors for graduate students. To nominate your mentor, check out the procedure at the GSC Website (http://hcs.harvard.edu/gsc). The deadline for submissions is Monday, February 13.

Dudley House E-Mail List
What’s the fastest way to get up-to-the-minute news about events at Dudley House? Subscribe to the Dudley House e-mail list. To sign up, visit www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley and click on Mailing List or Subscribe.

Wireless Dudley
Dudley House is equipped with wireless technology enabling laptop computers to be used in any of the House’s public areas. Visit www.fas.harvard.edu.harvard.edu/computing/kb/kb0826.html for instructions about how to outfit your computer for wireless communication.

Free Lunch! Invite a Faculty Member or GSAS Administrator to Dudley Café
Free tickets are available for GSAS students to treat a faculty member (professors or instructors only) or favorite administrator (from a department, GSAS, or elsewhere on campus) to lunch at Dudley Café. Pick up tickets at the House Office, 3rd floor. Students are entitled to two pairs of tickets per term.

—Susan Zawalich

Sixth Annual Fellows’ Film Festival
Current and emeritus fellows and staff members have chosen a beloved film and present it for your entertainment. Showings are in the Graduate Student Lounge on our big-screen TV. All are welcome. Note various times of the film showings.

Thursday, February 2. Funny Farm (1988, 101 mins.). Presented by Daniel Levenson at 7 p.m. Chevy Chase stars. When Andy and Elizabeth buy a farm in Vermont, they can’t imagine the trouble that awaits them. Andy has quit his job as a sports journalist and is planning to use the peace and quiet of the country to write the Great American Novel.

Friday, February 3. Monsters, Inc. (2001, 92 mins.). Presented by Jenny Smythe at 6 p.m. Pixar and Disney work magic in this Oscar-winning animated film. Monsters generate their city’s power by scaring children, but they are terribly afraid of the children themselves.

Friday, February 3. Head-On (Gegen die Wand) (2003, 120 mins.) Presented by Eylem Ozaltun at 8 p.m. “You can put an end to your life without killing yourself,” whispers the doctor. And Cahit, 40, whose suicide attempt has brought him to the psychiatric clinic, knows what he means: by starting a new life. Fatih Akin’s remarkable film is an exploration of Turkish culture in Germany, a comedy, a tragedy, and above all, a romance.

Saturday, February 4. Aladdin (1992, 90 mins.). Presented by Linda Liang at 4:30 p.m. A classic of Disney animation, with Robin Williams providing a star turn by voicing the genie.

Wednesday, February 8. Office Space (1999, 89 mins.). Presented by Natasha Devroye at 7 p.m. Directed by Mike Judge. Although classified as a comedy, Office Space is actually more of a documentary for many office workers and, quite frankly, is an inspiration. Please do yourself a favor and see it, preferably with co-workers/lobby.

617-495-2255; fax: 617-496-5459
www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley
Hours: Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–11 p.m.
Saturday–Sunday 4–10 p.m.

Do not miss this multiple award-winning film! In German and Turkish and with English subtitles.

Niall Ferguson, the Laurence A. Tisch professor of history, will speak on “Rethinking Twentieth-Century History” for the annual Daniel Fisher Dinner in March. A limited number of free tickets will be available in the House Office starting Monday, February 20. See page 7 or contact Yao Chen (yaochen@fas.harvard.edu) for more information.

The Graduate Student Center
Dudley House
James M. Hogle, master (jhogle@hms.harvard.edu)
Doreen M. Hogle, co-master (doreen.hogle@hbsr.com)
Susan Zawalich, administrator (zawalich@fas.harvard.edu)
Chad Conlan, staff assistant (conlan@fas.harvard.edu)
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7 p.m. “I had a farm in Africa at the foot of the Ngong Hills...” Directed by Sydney Pollack and winner of seven Oscars, including Best Picture. This film was based on the Danish Baroness Blixen’s memoirs of her coffee plantation in 1920s Kenya and her affair with the dashing adventurer, Denys Finch Hatton.

Friday, February 10. A Swashbuckling Evening with Zorro! Presented by Susan Zawalich at 6 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. Treat yourself to a healthy dose of panache as two of the greatest screen Zorros fight for justice in Old California with a sword and a smile.

6 p.m. The Mark of Zorro (1920, 90 mins.). Douglas Fairbanks Sr., the man who invented film swashbuckling expertise, stars in one of his greatest roles. What verve! What daring! What a guy! One of the great classics of silent screen.

7:45 p.m. The Mark of Zorro (1940, 94 mins.). Tyrone Power fights the good fight against corrupt politicians and that fabulously villain/swordsman, Basil Rathbone. A great movie movie!

Wednesday, February 15. Crash (2004, 113 mins.). Presented by Zeba Wunderlich at 7 p.m. Crash details the collisions among the lives of a group of diverse people in Los Angeles and how their interactions are shaped by prejudice.

Thursday, February 16. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2002, 161 mins.). Presented by Erez Lieberman at 7 p.m. Potter II chronicles the lives of Harry, Ron, and Hermione at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Everything seems to be going well until the Chamber of Secrets is opened.

Friday, February 17. Amelie (2001, 122 mins.). Presented by Fan Zhang at 7 p.m. Amelie, an innocent and naïve girl in Paris with her own sense of justice, decides to help those around her and along the way, discovers love. A deeply wonderful romantic comedy; five Academy Award nominations.

Saturday, February 18. The Shawshank Redemption (1994, 142 mins.). Presented by Yao Chen at 7 p.m. “Fear can hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free.” Join us to see how the life of Andy Dufresne changes when he is convicted and jailed for the murder of his wife. A moving story of patience, hope, and friendship—some of the essentials we need for study and research. Questions? Contact Yao Chen (yaochen@fas.harvard.edu).

Wednesday, February 22. Raising Arizona (1987, 94 mins.). Presented by Angie Lai at 7 p.m. Edwina ‘Ed’ McDonough (Holly Hunter) is an ex-cop; her husband H.I. (Nicolas Cage) is an ex-con. Blissfully content as newlyweds, the pair is devastated when they learn they can’t have children. Not to worry: They reckon they’ll just “borrow” from one furniture magnate Nathan Arizona’s (Trey Wilson) new quintuplets.


Friday, February 24. My Fair Lady (1964, 170 mins.). Presented by Linda Liang at 7 p.m. The musical version of Shaw’s Pygmalion, written by Lerner and Loewe. Professor Higgins (Rex Harrison) changes the life of a cockney flower girl (Audrey Hepburn) by changing her speech. Great songs. Great production numbers. A real big studio classic film musical.

Monday, February 27. The Third Man (1949, 104 mins.). Presented by Jonathan Ledlie at 7 p.m. Orson Welles gave one of his most memorable screen performances as the amoral Harry Lime in this classic black and white thriller, filmed in post-WWII Vienna. Often mentioned as one of the ten best films of all time.

Tuesday, February 28. The Triplets of Belleville (2003, 78 mins.). Presented by Danielle De Feo at 7 p.m. When her grandson is kidnapped during the Tour de France, Madame Souza and her beloved pooh Bruno team up with the Belleville Sisters, an aged song-and-dance team from the days of Fred Astaire, to rescue him. An amazing classic of animation.

Intellectual and Cultural Events

Monday, February 6. Senior Common Room Dinner. Reception at 5:30 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge; dinner at 6 p.m., Common Room. Barbara J. Grosz, the Higgins professor of natural sciences and one of the world’s foremost experts in helping computers behave more intelligently, will speak on “Beyond Mice and Menus.” A limited number of free tickets is available in the House Office. For more information, contact Eylem Ozaltun (ozaltun@fas.harvard.edu).

Monday, February 13. Crosstalk: “Human Trafficking: Myths vs. Realities.” 7 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. Glenda Giron (Kennedy School, MPP2) will discuss child trafficking, and Kyla Mitsunaga (regional studies—East Asia, G2) will discuss trafficking, and Kyla Mitsunaga (regional studies—East Asia, G2) will discuss trafficking of women to Japan for sexual exploitation. There will be a short DVD viewing. Questions? E-mail Denise Ho (dho@fas.harvard.edu).

Thursday, February 16. Fireside Chat with Professor Peter Ellison. 7 p.m. in the Common Room. Come to the first session of our new series, “Fireside Chats with the Deans and Masters” in which we invite current and previous GSAS deans and Dudley House Masters to discuss their academic work. Most of us only know them as administrators, but every one of them is also a great scholar.

Former GSAS Dean Peter Ellison is the John Cowles professor of anthropology and the principal investigator of Harvard’s Reproductive Ecology Laboratory. He will discuss “Studying the Ecology of Human
Reproduction." Refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Yao Chen (yaochen@fas.harvard.edu).

Monday, March 6. Daniel Fisher Dinner. 6 p.m., Main Dining Room. Niall Ferguson, the Laurence A. Tisch professor of history, will speak on “Rethinking Twentieth-Century History.” A limited number of free tickets will be available in the House Office starting Monday, February 20. Students in the Longwood Medical Area can phone 617-495-2255 to arrange for tickets. Note: Since regular dinner will not be served in the Main Dining Room that evening, students on the meal plan can dine inter-House or sign up for the Fisher Dinner. For more information, contact Yao Chen (yaochen@fas.harvard.edu).

Ongoing. Language Tables and Language Exchange. Want to practice a foreign language or speak your native one? Join the Language Tables and Language Exchange Programs. Sign up at www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley/fellows/cultint/web05-06/language/signup.html. Questions? Contact Yao Chen (yaochen@fas.harvard.edu).

Literary Program
Our program aims to encourage the literary bent of Harvard University’s graduate students, Dudley undergraduates, and the community at large. You do not have to be in a literature department to join. The community welcomes everyone from slam poetry fans to those interested in hardcore criticism. The program organizes a monthly reading group for fiction and nonfiction, a bi-weekly writing group, a yearly (print) literary review, as well as numerous other events including author readings, children's literary events, and more. You can access our complete spring calendar on our Website; go to www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley and click on the “Literary” link. For more information, e-mail dudley литератур@ yahoo.com.

Tuesday, February 7, and Thursday, February 23. Creative Writing Workshops. 7–9 p.m. Share your work with fellow creative writers of all interests and abilities. Poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, etc. welcome. We’ll be meeting on the 3rd-floor Lounge outside the House Office. Questions? E-mail dudley литератур@yahoo.com. All members of the Harvard community are invited and encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, February 15. Dudley Literary Open Mike. At Café Gato Rojo, Dudley House, 7 p.m. Join us for a lively evening of poetry and music. Please arrive a few minutes early to sign up to read or perform. Refreshments will be served. All members of the Harvard community are invited and encouraged to attend. Questions? E-mail Dan Levenson (dlevens@fas.harvard.edu).

Monday, February 27. Book Club: Oracle Night. Join us for a discussion of Paul Auster’s wonderful novel Oracle Night. The boundaries between fiction and reality become blurred in this text, which is simultaneously a touching love story and a meditation about temporality, the process of writing, and the role of imagination in our lives. Copies of the book will be left at the House Library, 3rd floor, beginning February 1. Refreshments will be served. Fireside Room, 7 p.m.

Social Events
Saturday, February 4. Red Wine Tasting. 7 p.m., Café Gato Rojo. Alvaro Amador will offer wines from around the world made from the classic red varietals. Whether you are looking for a crash course in wine to impress your Valentine’s Day date or are interested in fine-tuning your palate, this promises to be another lively and enjoyable evening. Contact Chad Conlan (conlan@fas.harvard.edu) with questions or for last-minute tickets.

Saturday, February 25. Dudley’s Annual *Extra Hot* Salsa Party. Main Dining Room. It may be cold outside, but it will be extra hot this Saturday night! Latin tunes and dancing will transform Dudley House into La Casa de Dudley for a night! Learn some moves at the dance lesson at 8 p.m., and then heat up the dance floor 9 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Tickets are $5 and go on sale at the Dudley House Office. Tickets will also be available at the door. Open to GSAS students, other Dudley House members, and their guests. Proper ID required for alcohol. Questions? E-mail Geetika Tewari. —Geetika Tewari (tewari@fas.harvard.edu), Natasha Devroye (ndevroye@deas.harvard.edu), Daniel Jafferis (jafferis@fas.harvard.edu), Zeba Wunderlich (wunderl@fas.harvard.edu)

Dudley Arts
The Dudley Arts program organizes events in the visual and performing arts. Art, dance, and film classes form a large part of the year's activities. Outings to museums and musical performances are also scheduled regularly. The larger projects include plays, festivals and exhibits. Student art exhibits are mounted several times a year in the Common Room, and fellows are always looking for artists wishing to show their work.
—Danielle De Feo (dfeo@fas.harvard.edu), Sue-Ann Ma (sma@fas.harvard.edu)

Music Program
Dudley House Jazz Band
We had a wonderful fall rehearsing together culminating in a wonderful concert last December. If you're interested in joining the fun this term, please contact us. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. in the Dudley Common Room.
—William Bares (wmares@fas.harvard.edu)

World Music Ensemble
Join the World Music Ensemble for the spring semester! We're a small group of musicians who play traditional music from around the globe. We're particularly looking for another fiddler (or a violinist who's looking for a change). Rehearsals start up again this month on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Contact Music Fellow Lydia Bean for more information.
—Lydia Bean (bean@fas.harvard.edu)

Dudley Chorus
Come hear our concert on Saturday, February 11, at 8 p.m. in Lowell Lecture Hall. And we would love to have you sing with us this term; please contact Michael Barrett.
—Michael Barrett (mbarrett@post.harvard.edu)

Dudley Orchestra
The Dudley Orchestra, fresh off its concert of Rossini, Finzi, and Tchaikovsky last November, is reloading for this new semester. If you’re interested in joining—and we’re always looking for new members—visit the www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley/fellows/music/music.html for information.
—Drew Schroeder (schroed@fas.harvard.edu)

Dudley Outings
Saturday, February 18. Cross-Country Skiing. Cross-country skiing? Not only is it a fantastic workout, it is also a lot of fun. You can go as slow or as fast as you want, laugh with friends, and enjoy the beautiful scenery around you. We will travel to Jackson, NH, which claims to be the “the #1 Cross-Country Ski Area in the Eastern United States.” They have over continued on next page
Please note: Information in this calendar is accurate as of January 20, 2006. For the most recent information, check Dudley House e-mail postings. Contact Susan Zawalich at zawalich@fas.harvard.edu for information on events.

Dudley House Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 Career Transition Workgroup</td>
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<td>PDR: 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Dudley Orchestra Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDR: 8 p.m.</td>
<td>PDR: 1 p.m.</td>
<td>SCR Dinner with Barbara Grosz</td>
<td>Creative Writing Workshop</td>
<td>Dudley Chorus Rehearsal</td>
<td>CR: 7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Dudley Jazz Band Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Reception: GSL: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: CR: 6 p.m.</td>
<td>3rd Floor Lounge: 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Dudley Orchestra Rehearsal</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDR: 8 p.m.</td>
<td>PDR: 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Cross Talk</td>
<td>Dudley World Music Ensemble</td>
<td>Dudley Chorus Rehearsal</td>
<td>CR: 7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Dudley Jazz Band Rehearsal</td>
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<td>GSL: 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Dudley Orchestra Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDR: 8 p.m.</td>
<td>PDR: 1 p.m.</td>
<td>President’s Day Holiday</td>
<td>Dudley House Closed</td>
<td>Dudley World Music Ensemble</td>
<td>Dudley Chorus Rehearsal</td>
<td>CR: 7:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>Deadline for Mendelsohn Mentoring Award Nominations</td>
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<td>FSR: 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Dudley Orchestra Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDR: 8 p.m.</td>
<td>PDR: 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Dudley Book Club</td>
<td>Dudley World Music Ensemble</td>
<td>Dudley Chorus Rehearsal</td>
<td>CR: 7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Dudley Jazz Band Rehearsal</td>
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<td>FSR: 7 p.m.</td>
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Dudley House continued from previous page

156 km of trails (approximately 100 miles) ranging from those that run through old-growth New England forests to international race courses. We will be based out of Jackson Village, which has food and some ski shops. Never been cross-country skiing? Not a problem! We will have a group lesson in the morning, and then you will be all set to tackle the trails for the rest of the day. If you know how to cross-country ski, rent skis and just be on your merry way. Lessons (classical cross-country skiing), ski rentals, and a day trail pass are $40; classical ski rental and a day trail pass are $31. The cost for skating cross-country skis and a day pass is $40. Drivers get a $10 discount. Space is limited to 20 people (drivers get preference). Sign-ups begin Wednesday, February 1. See Chad Conlan, 3rd floor, Dudley House, and reserve your spot. —Jenny Smythe (smythe@fas.harvard.edu)

Dudley Public Service

Visit www.fas.harvard.edu/~7Edudley/fellows/pubserv/pubserv.html for information, or e-mail dudleypublicservice@gmail.com with ideas or to find out how to get involved! Also, if you have not done so, please sign up at the Webpage for the list-serv for e-mail reminders and event updates.

Homeless Meals Program

Join us Thursdays, 2:30–8 p.m., as we volunteer in the Homeless Meals Program, Christ Church, Cambridge (just around the corner from Dudley). On February 16, we’ll walk over together to participate, 5:30–7 p.m. Meet at Dudley House. For more details about the program, contact Linda Liang (liang@fas.harvard.edu).

Ongoing Volunteer Placement Service

Want to volunteer but don't know where to start? The Dudley Public Service Fellows can suggest volunteer options that suit your interests and schedule. —Linda Liang, Fan Zhang (dudleypublicservice@gmail.com)
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

Events are free and open to the public. For more information, check www.radcliffe.edu.


• Thursday, February 16. Lecture in the Sciences: “Formation and Evolution of Extrasolar Planetary Systems.” Debra Fischer, professor of astronomy, San Francisco State University. This event is cosponsored by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. 4:15 p.m., Lecture Hall A, Science Center, 1 Oxford Street.

• Wednesday, February 22. Radcliffe Institute Fellows’ Presentation Series: “Plato on Models and Trees.” Mary-Louise Gill, Brown University, current Radcliffe Institute fellow. 4 p.m., 2nd-floor Colloquium Room, 34 Concord Avenue, 617-495-8212.

• Thursday, February 23. Lecture: “Maroons and the Emancipation Process in the United States.” Steven Hahn, Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols professor of history, University of Pennsylvania, and 2004 Pulitzer Prize winner in history. This lecture is the keynote address of the 19th Annual Southern Intellectual History Circle Conference. 6 p.m. Cronkhite Living Room, 6 Ash Street.

Covenant is at the Foundation of All Our Rights’: Slave and Free Black Marriages in the Nineteenth Century.” Tera Hunter, Carnegie Mellon University, current Radcliffe Institute fellow. 4 p.m., 2nd-floor Colloquium Room, 34 Concord Avenue, 617-495-8212.

Teaching in History and Literature

Applications are invited for Teaching Fellow positions on the History and Literature Tutorial Board for 2006–07 in the following fields in history and literature: America, Britain, Medieval, Early Modern Europe, Modern Europe, Russia, Latin America, North Africa, and South Asia. We are interested in candidates who take comparative and transnational approaches, and especially those with expertise in transatlantic, transpacific, and post-colonial studies. All candidates must have a strong interdisciplinary background. Completion of General Examinations and teaching experience are required. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. For an application, stop by the History and Literature Office, Barker Center 122, 12 Quincy Street; call 617-495-4029; or visit www.fas.harvard.edu/~histlit/. Application deadline: Friday, February 3.

Harvard University Art Museums

Phone: 617-495-9400. Website: www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. Wheelchair access to the Fogg and the Busch-Reisinger is on Prescott Street at the entrance of the Fine Arts Library. The entrance to the Sackler is wheelchair accessible. Hearing assistants are available; make arrangements with Visitor Services, 617-495-8286.

Intramural Athletics

Tuesday, February 21. Crew Organizational Meeting. 7:30 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. Now is your chance to row on the Charles! Come to the meeting for information about this popular program.

—Jonathan Ledlie and Jason Gallicchio (www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley/athletics)

Dudley House Library

Did you know there is a library at Dudley House? It’s on the 3rd floor and is a non-circulating library that provides a cozy space for graduate students to study and relax. Hours: Monday—Thursday, 9 a.m.—10 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.—6 p.m.; Sunday, 4—10 p.m. In conjunction with the Graduate Student Council, the library provides limited free laser printing to all GSAS students who have paid their student activities fee. In addition to books, dictionaries, and other resources, there is an assortment of popular magazines for leisure reading. A valid GSAS/ Harvard ID is required for access.

—Jascha Smilack (smilack@fas.harvard.edu)

Dudley House continued

continued on next page
Notices continued from previous page

- Wednesday, February 15. Lecture Series: Cities: Their Art and Architecture: "Amsterdam: Where Everything Is for Sale." Ivan Gaskell, Margaret S. Winthrop curator of paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts. Fogg Art Museum, Norton Lecture Hall. 6:30 p.m. 32 Quincy Street. Participants may dine at the Harvard Faculty Club, 20 Quincy Street, following lecture. Reservations required; call 617-495-5758.

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Harvard Music Department


Research Lectures for Non-Specialists


--

oneself at interviews. She’s given these talks to groups of students, and they were very well attended, but she also gives much more individualized sessions to students as they go on the job market. And I understand that several students have been helped very much and they have been successful in their job search. Dr. Verba gave talks about how to go about applying for fellowships and so on. We have those talks at the beginning of the year and then later on in the spring.

We also have mock job talks for students about to go on the job market or having already secured interview dates. They are critiqued by members of the faculty and by fellow students. We also have mock interviews, again with the same kind of situation: members of the faculty pretending they are part of an interview committee and interviewing candidates.

Recent members of the faculty have also discussed such things as teaching portfolios and their own experiences in going on the job market. So we have this variety of services for our students, which I think are very helpful. I understand that our history students have been quite successful in the job market.

How do you envision your role as director of graduate studies as it relates to graduate students in your department?

HT: I make sure that our students—new students in particular—know what the requirements are, give advice on the type of courses they’re supposed to be taking in order to fulfill the requirements, and generally give support. I have a very good graduate student coordinator, Gail Rock. I think it’s really important to have great staff, and we’ve been fortunate to have Gail and her predecessor Trevor Dickie.

How do you work with students who seem to be having trouble finishing their program?

HT: We have a yearly review of the progress of every single student, and that happens in May.

So we collect information from their advisors as to how far along they are, how much progress has been made. If there is a problem with lack of progress, it’s an individual issue [such as] health problems or difficulty getting a visa to do fieldwork in a particular country. We have to take each [issue] case by case, and the student’s major contact has to be with the individual advisor rather than with the DGS.

How would you suggest preventing students “slipping through the cracks”?

HT: I think language training is a huge issue. It’s somewhat less in my department, and I think that we’re pretty good as far as time to degree, close to seven years. So I’m not seeing a huge need for my intervention. I would say if departments could get their students to take their Generals together that would be a huge help.
# Directors of Graduate Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African and African American Studies</td>
<td>Werner Sollors, the Henry B. and Anne M. Cabot</td>
<td>professor of English literature and professor of African and African American studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology—Archaeology Wing</td>
<td>C.C. Lamberg-Karlovsky, the Stephen Phillips</td>
<td>professor of archaeology and ethnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology—Biological Wing</td>
<td>David Pilbeam, the Henry Ford II</td>
<td>professor of human evolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology—Social Wing</td>
<td>Michael Herzfeld, professor of anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning</td>
<td>Antoine Picon, professor of the history of architecture and technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>John Huchra, the Robert O. and Holly Thomas</td>
<td>Doyle professor of cosmology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences in Dental Medicine</td>
<td>Bjorn R. Olsen, professor of oral and developmental biology and the Hersey professor of cell biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences in Public Health</td>
<td>Dyann Wirth, professor of immunology and infectious disease</td>
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<td>Biology, Molecular and Cellular</td>
<td>Markus Meister, the Jeff C. Tarr</td>
<td>professor of molecular and cellular biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology, Organismic and Evolutionary</td>
<td>George Lauder, professor of biology and the Alexander Agassiz professor of zoology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology, Systems</td>
<td>Pamela Silver, professor of systems biology</td>
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<td>Biophysics</td>
<td>James Hogle, the Edward S. Harkness</td>
<td>professor of biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>David Wy pij, associate professor of pediatrics and associate professor of biostatistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Economics</td>
<td>Janice McCormick, executive director, Harvard Business School Doctoral Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celtic Languages and Literatures</td>
<td>Tomás Ó Cathasaigh, the Henry L. Shattuck</td>
<td>professor of Irish studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Biology</td>
<td>Jon Clardy, professor of biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Physics</td>
<td>Andrew G. Myers, professor of chemistry and chemical biology, Anthony R. Shaw Jr., director of laboratories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry and Chemical Biology</td>
<td>Andrew G. Myers, professor of chemistry and chemical biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>John Duffy, the Dumbarton Oaks professor of Byzantine philology and literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative Literature</td>
<td>Luis Giron Negron, the John L. Loeb associate professor of the humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earth and Planetary Sciences</td>
<td>Charles Langmuir, professor of geochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Asian Languages and Civilizations</td>
<td>Mark Elliott, the Mark Schwartz</td>
<td>professor of Chinese and Inner Asian history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Elihanan Helpman, the Galen L. Stone</td>
<td>professor of international trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering and Applied Sciences</td>
<td>Howard Stone, the Vicky Joseph</td>
<td>professor of engineering and applied mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>English and American Literature and Language</td>
<td>Nicholas Watson, professor of English and American literature and language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>David Foster, senior lecturer on biology, director of the Harvard Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germanic Languages and Literatures</td>
<td>Judith Ryan, the Robert K. and Dale J. Weary</td>
<td>professor of German and comparative literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and East Asian Languages</td>
<td>Mark Elliott, Mark Schwartz</td>
<td>professor of Chinese and Inner Asian history</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Huc-Tam Ho Tai, the Kenneth T. Young</td>
<td>professor of Sino-Vietnamese history</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of American Civilization</td>
<td>James Kloppenberg, the David Woods Kemper ‘41</td>
<td>professor of American history and Harvard College professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of Art and Architecture</td>
<td>Hugo Van der Velden, professor of history of art and architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of Science</td>
<td>Mario Biagioli, professor of the history of science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information, Technology and Management</td>
<td>Janice McCormick, executive director, Harvard Business School Doctoral Programs</td>
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<td>Inner Asian and Altaic Studies</td>
<td>Leonard Van der Kuij, professor of Tibetan and Himalayan studies</td>
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<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>C.-T. James Huang, professor of linguistics</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Richard Taylor, the Herchel Smith professor of mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Thomas Fox, associate professor of neuroscience and associate dean for graduate education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Eastern Studies</td>
<td>Cemal Kafadar, the Vébki Koc professor of Turkish studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Anne C. Shreffles, the James Edward Ditson professor of music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations</td>
<td>Jay M. Harris, the Harry Austyn Wolfson</td>
<td>professor of Jewish studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Behavior</td>
<td>Janice McCormick, executive director, Harvard Business School Doctoral Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Christine Korsgaard, the Arthur Kingsley Porter professor of philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Melissa Franklin, the Mallinckrodt professor of physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Economy and Government</td>
<td>William Hogan, the Lucius N. Littauer professor of public policy and administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Susan Carey, the Henry A. Morse Jr. and Elizabeth W. Morse professor of psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>William Hogan, the Lucius N. Littauer professor of public policy and administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Studies—East Asia</td>
<td>David McCann, the Korea Foundation professor of Korean literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Studies—Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia</td>
<td>Timothy Colton, the Morris and Anna Feldberg professor of government and Russian studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion, Study of</td>
<td>Anne Monius, professor of South Asian religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romance Languages—French</td>
<td>Tom Conley, the Abbott Lawrence Lowell professor of Romance languages and literatures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romance Languages—Italian</td>
<td>Lino Pertile, the Carl A. Pescoulido professor of Romance languages and literatures, and Harvard College professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romance Languages—Portuguese</td>
<td>Joaquim-Francisco Coelho, the Nancy Clark Smith professor of the language and literature of Portugal and professor of comparative literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romance Languages—Spanish</td>
<td>Doris Sommer, the Ira Jewell Williams Jr. professor of Romance languages and literatures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanskrit and Indian Studies</td>
<td>Parimal G. Parli, assistant professor of the study of religion and of Sanskrit and Indian studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slavic Languages and Literatures</td>
<td>Julie Buckler, professor of Slavic languages and literatures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>Christopher Winship, the Norman Tishman and Charles M. Diker professor of sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Christopher Winship, the Norman Tishman and Charles M. Diker professor of sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Carl Morris, professor of statistics and professor of health care policy</td>
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writing is actually re-writing and revision. The idea of thinking out the whole argument and writing a very rough draft or diagram of the whole was strongly endorsed by a student panelist. Duffin found that this helped to avoid a complete re-write of earlier drafts of single chapters which might have been necessary had she not allowed the subsequent development of ideas to come into clearer view.

Another speaker noted that, at times, she became absorbed with questions that didn’t seem to fit with the rest. This absorption is often an indication that a place needs to be found for the idea, which may require reformulation of the central question. Or it also can mean that it is necessary to discard an idea that no longer fits, even if it’s an idea that you cherish. One speaker said she is making a collection of her favorite discarded ideas.

Another speaker suggested keeping a notebook or journal and writing down ideas as they occurred as a great way to start writing. A journal can also stem the panic of being stuck in a writing block by providing an alternative outlet.

Another suggestion was to work on one small section of the dissertation at a time to avoid being overwhelmed. Keep in mind that you don’t need to start at the beginning; you can start at an easy place and rearrange later.

The speaker also suggested looking at models in other dissertations. These don’t have to be in your specific field to give you an idea of the dissertation as a genre.

It is also helpful to set deadlines and to avoid unmanageably-long chapters. Map out on paper a vision of what your progress will be for the next year and keep the end in sight.

Don’t wait to start writing until you have read everything you think you need to read. This will help you to avoid being a perfectionist and avoid paralyzing “ideals.” Only a small fraction of your research will make it into the dissertation.

Avoid becoming overwhelmed by the secondary literature by skimming material without taking copious notes. Once you have a sense of what is relevant, you can go back and do more careful reading and more thorough note taking. This then becomes a form of writing.

Similarly, Duffin called for a separation between the creative process, which comes first, and the process of carefully shaping your ideas on a page. In time it will be necessary to self-critique what you are doing, but some separation is essential. Being too critical in the beginning can put a damper on creativity.

One speaker regretted not finding the most helpful software much earlier and not systematically entering data and recording bibliographic information. Pooling discoveries of some of the more helpful tools and technology was also suggested.

Don’t wait too long to get feedback: schedule sessions with advisors, sign up to give talks, talk with friends, and set up deadlines. Be proactive in dealing with your advisor. Some advisors micro-manage; others can seem to be negligent. Try to elicit the help that you need: submit a cover letter with specific questions along with your chapter; suggest a meeting date. Don’t allow progress to be tied into your advisor’s timing for response. Don’t allow yourself to get paranoid and think the worst if your advisor does not respond; that seldom has anything to do with you.

If you have trouble getting your advisor’s feedback, consult others; don’t stop working. When you do get feedback try to push advisors to articulate the problem as clearly as possible, distinguishing between fundamental structural problems versus problems of grammar. One speaker suggested keeping a record of dissertation meetings with faculty members. It can serve as a reference for implementing suggestions, and also as a reminder to the advisor of earlier advice. Departments also have recognized the importance of communicating about the dissertation and maintaining momentum. Some have instituted colloquia in which students discuss dissertation ideas and progress with fellow students and faculty members on a regular basis.

Don’t follow a strict order in writing chapters; don’t write your first chapter first, but rather the chapter you feel most ready to write. However, when assembling what you have written, be sure to state your central question early in the dissertation, even if you arrived at your final formulation late in the game. It is important to give the structure of your argument, rather than to give the order in which you made your discoveries (which many people tend to do). All the speakers emphasized that you need to stay motivated, keep writing, even if it’s just a single page. Try not to procrastinate, don’t keep finding excuses, such as “one more” book or article that must be read, or more preparation for the class you are teaching. Put the dissertation first rather than last.

Be flexible and even take a playful approach when confronting surprising research results. The speakers noted that research always entails the unexpected: if all the findings were fully predictable, the topic probably wouldn’t be worth exploring in the first place. You may know the big questions, but you cannot know all the sub-questions in advance, and you will surely discover new questions that are suggested by the archival material or other sources of data.

The formulation of the topic could be expected to change many times, since it is necessary to follow research findings where they lead. It is a good idea to think of the prospectus as a “proto” prospectus, rather than a definitive statement. In fact, one speaker cut his topic in half, with the positive take that now his dissertation had become more focused. Another positive take on changes that have to be made is to call it a “fruitful mismatch” between prospectus and dissertation.

Don’t wait too long to apply for fellowships. The speakers strongly encouraged students to apply for fellowships, seeking help from the faculty and the GSAS Fellowships Office. They noted that winning a fellowship can make your own advisor look at you differently, and that once you win your first fellowship, that starts you on a path to win other fellowships. (More details on applying for fellowships are found in chapter 5 of Scholarly Pursuits.)

Treat the dissertation as your current job. The speakers noted that being a PhD student can be an infantilizing experience. Many of your nonacademic peers are already out in the “real world.” Thinking of your dissertation as a job keeps you on track, keeps procrastination to a minimum. (Note that all the speakers confessed to having engaged in various forms of procrastination.)
Interestingly, while the speakers said that conference talks can be helpful in creating deadlines that have to be met, they warned against becoming a “conference junkie.” They explained that conference talks are not dissertation chapters and are usually considerably shorter. (An ideal dissertation chapter is around 50 pages, according to one speaker.) It is easier to convert a chapter into a conference talk than vice versa. That often occurs after you have received the degree, perhaps after you have taken your first job.

On Getting a Life
During the dissertation writing stage it is important to have social activities built into your life and to be in contact with other people. Finally, when all practical tips had been exhausted, the speakers were unanimous in the feeling that it takes a huge amount of faith that you will prevail and finish the dissertation. We are all grateful for the many words of wisdom, especially since they came from people who are truly in a position to speak from experience.

Good luck on your dissertation to people at all stages.

GSAS Series on Grantsmanship and Professional Development


- Wednesday, April 12. Fulbright Orientation: Getting Ready for the Fall. 4 p.m., Dudley House.

- Thursday, April 20. Grantsmanship Seminar: Getting Ready for the Fall. 4 p.m., Dudley House.

For further details, call 617-495-1814.

—Cynthia Verba

Selected 2006 Fellowship Deadlines

Deadlines cited below for Harvard fellowship competitions are final. Some Harvard competitions, especially those requiring departmental nomination, have an earlier deadline by which candidates must submit required materials to their departments. For information on those deadlines, students will need to consult their departments. Students should also consult The Graduate Guide to Grants, available at the GSAS Administrative Dean’s Office, Byerly Hall, 2nd floor, and online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/academic/fellowships/guide.html; or directly contact the sponsoring/fellowship organization for the most up-to-date information on deadlines and applications.

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Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. One hundred sixty-six workshops have been supported by the program to date, involving more than 200 faculty members and more than one thousand graduate student participants.

The next application deadline for the GSAS Research Workshops Program is Friday, March 10, 2006, for funding to begin in the fall term of 2006–07. Proposals should be submitted to Dean Margot Gill, Byerly Hall 224, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

If you have questions or would like more information on how to start generating a workshop proposal, please call Rosemary Schulze or Jamie Ersbak in the Administrative Dean’s Office at 617-495-1814. For a list of this year’s workshops, a copy of the application guidelines, and the application cover sheet, please visit the Research Workshops Webpage at www.gsas.harvard.edu/academic/workshops.html.

—Rosemary Schulze
Office of Career Services

54 Dunster Street
617-495-2595; fax: 617-496-6880
www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu

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Sharon Belden, MA, MED, assistant director, career planning for GSAS students and PhDs
Pat Pearson, coordinator, dossier service
Deb Carroll, assistant director, recruiting for GSAS students

Upcoming Programs

New! Professional Development Series for GSAS Students in the Life Sciences
In collaboration with the Harvard Integrated Life Sciences (HILS) program, the Office of Career Services (OCS) is offering a series of professional development workshops geared toward scientists. Events will be held in the Longwood Medical Area.

• “CVs for Scientists: Academia and Industry.” Tuesday, February 7, 12–1:30 p.m., Longwood Medical Area—Armenise Amphitheatre. Your CV is a critical marketing tool, whether you are planning to pursue a post-doctoral research position, a faculty position, or a position in industry. Using examples from academia and industry, we will discuss how to prepare an effective CV that optimizes the presentation of your relevant skills and experiences in an aesthetically pleasing style.

• “Drop-in CV and Résumé Reviews.” Tuesday, February 14, 11 a.m.—4 p.m., Longwood Medical Area—DMS Lounge, TMEC 442. Drop by for a 10-minute personal review of your job-search materials or use the time to have your career-related questions answered. Learn what OCS can do to help you land the academic or nonacademic position you desire.

• “Landing Your First Post-doc.” Thursday, March 9, 5:30–7 p.m., Goldenson 122.

• “Beyond the Bench: Careers in the Life Sciences.” Thursday, March 23, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Goldenson 122.

New! Dudley House Career Chats—Women in Science Series
OCS and Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (HGWISE) present the following series of Career Chats in which women scientists help students learn how people make decisions, explore directions, and navigate career changes and shifts. Refreshments will be served. To register, e-mail Robin Mount (rmount@fas.harvard.edu). Upcoming chats are:

• Robin Selinger, AB ’84, PhD ’89, physics, professor in chemical physics, Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, Thursday, February 23, 5:30–7 p.m., Dudley House Fireside Room.

• Carol Livermore, PhD ’98, physics, assistant professor of manufacturing, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Thursday, March 2, 5:30–7 p.m., Dudley House Fireside Room.

Career Transition Workgroup
PhD students and alumni: If you’ve been considering nonacademic careers, take action this spring and join us for this three-week series, to be held Monday afternoons at Dudley House (January 30, 1–3 p.m.; February 6, 1–3 p.m.; February 13, 1–4 p.m.). In this intensive series, we will discuss the career transition process, actively engage in self-assessment, and brainstorm ideas for career options. Registration is required; space is limited. To register, e-mail malishes@fas.harvard.edu with your name, department, and G-level or year of graduation for GSAS alumni. If you are unable to attend this series, we will offer it again after Commencement.

New! Job-Search Bootcamp
Friday, February 24, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., OCS Conference Room. Are you graduating soon and just realized you’re interested in a job outside the Ivory Tower? Worried that you’ve missed out on opportunities? This workshop is designed to catch you up fast on what you need to know to find a job outside the academy, including developing a résumé, researching organizations, writing cover letters, and preparing for interviews.

The Power of Procrastination
Wednesday, March 8, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Jefferson Lab 250. OCS and the Graduate Student Council are pleased to present this lecture by Jorge Cham, author of “Piled Higher and Deeper,” a comic strip that might be described as “the graduate students’ Dilbert.” You can view the comics at www.phdcomics.com or pick up copies of his collected works at the book signing following the lecture.

Spring Schedule
For details on other spring-term programs, visit www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu and click on “GSAS” to view schedules as they are available.

Ongoing Services

Walk-in Hours
The GSAS counselors hold walk-in hours every Monday, 1–4 p.m. If you have a quick question, drop in for a 10–15-minute meeting with Laura Malisheski (Mondays, 1–2 p.m.) or Robin Mount (Mondays, 2–4 p.m.).

Individual Counseling Appointments
Whether an academic or nonacademic path is in your future, you are invited to schedule an appointment with a GSAS counselor to discuss career goals and options, learn how to find opportunities for internships or jobs, and get advice and feedback on job-search strategies such as your CV or résumé, interviewing, and negotiation skills. To schedule an appointment, please call 617-495-2595.

—Laura Malisheski

Graduate School Fund

SUPPORTING GREAT MINDS

The Graduate School Fund helps provide dissertation completion fellowships.

post.harvard.edu/gsf

February 2006 | GSAS Bulletin
**Who We Are**
As the official representative body of students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Student Council (GSC) communicates students’ concerns to the Harvard faculty and administration; appoints students to serve on faculty committees on graduate education, health, housing, the libraries, and other topics; provides support for graduate student organizations and students needing to travel to conferences or needing funds to do research over the summer; and creates a forum for discussion of issues of importance to graduate students.

**GSC Open Meeting Wednesday, February 1**
GSC open meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month (except January) at 6:30 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge of Dudley House. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1. We will have more discussions on the GSC budget, funding for student groups, and conference and research grants.

Students are encouraged to voice their opinions and concerns at GSC open meetings. Some of the issues raised in past meetings include support for student parents, difficulties in receiving social security numbers for international students, dissertation completion funding, and guidelines for general exams. The GSC pursues these issues with the GSAS deans and University administration in order to serve your needs. Please do not hesitate to contact the GSC with any questions or concerns. To place an issue on a GSC meeting agenda, submit it at least one week prior to the meeting to gsc@hcs.harvard.edu.

**Online Course Enrollment**
If you have any feedback or comments on issues regarding Harvard’s online course enrollment e-mail ro-help@fas.harvard.edu. International students with any comments on the online database of fellowships should contact Jonathan Ruel at ruel@fas.harvard.edu. The Committee on Pedagogy is soliciting information on teacher training offered by each department. Any feedback or comments should be sent to Kathryn Izzo at izzie@fas.harvard.edu.

**Mentoring Awards**
The GSC created the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards to honor faculty members who go beyond the call of duty to mentor graduate students. We encourage GSAS students who have benefited from a strong mentoring relationship to nominate their mentors, by e-mail to gsc@hcs.harvard.edu or by letter to Dudley House, Room M4. The deadline for nominations is Monday, February 20.

**Grants and Group Funding**
The next deadline for student group funding applications is Wednesday, March 22, and the deadline for conference and summer research grant applications is Monday, May 1. We would like to encourage all students to take advantage of these great opportunities. Our funding is available for students in need of financial support for research and conferences, and for student groups with various events that serve the community. New student groups are always welcome. Please visit our Website for more guidelines and application forms, or e-mail us with questions or concerns.

**Mailing List and Calendar**
To learn about GSC events, send a message to majordomo@fas.harvard.edu containing only the text: “subscribe gsc-list.” Please also visit the GSC Website to view our calendar of events, www.hcs.harvard.edu/~gsc.

—Jina Suh
What Is It? Where Is It?

Guess the subject and location of the photo on the right and win an official GSAS tote bag. It’s a big bag (14” x 18”) made of 100% heavy-duty cotton with an outside pocket and top-closing snap. Holds gym clothes, scholarly tomes, and dissertation chapters by the dozens.

Submit your guess with your name, department/program affiliation, and mailing address by Friday, February 10, to: bulletin@fas.harvard.edu. Please be sure to put “What Is It” and the contest month in the subject line of your e-mail.

The answer to the January Bulletin question is a window on the Carpenter Center from the Prescott Street side. Congratulations to the following correct guessers: D Ryan Anderson (chemistry), Joseph Barillari (engineering and applied sciences), Erin Bauer (history of art and architecture), Leon Berkelmans (economics), Victoria Campbell (regional studies—Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia), Seo-Young Jennie Chu (English and American literature and language), Dilyan Donchev (political economy and government), Melissa Eppihimer (history of art and architecture), Yaroslav Gorbachov (linguistics), John Hanna (medical sciences), Susan Kashiwa (East Asian languages and civilizations), Erica Kim (history of art and architecture), Soohan Kim (sociology), Sukki Kong (sociology), Aden Kumler (history of art and architecture), Patrick Liu (linguistics), Megan Luke (history of art and architecture), Taeyoung Park (statistics), Jacob Proctor (history of art and architecture), Allan Sumiyama (information, technology and management), Tian Yuan Tan (East Asian languages and civilizations), Lanka Tattersall (history of art and architecture).

*Members of the GSAS community are welcome to enter the contest every month to test their visual memory, but only one tote bag will be given out per person per term.