Teaching Lessons from Zen Masters

By James Wilkinson, director of the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, and lecturer on history and literature

What teaching lessons do the Zen masters offer us? Their continuous 1,500-year tradition —longer than that of any European university's—is certainly worth examining for its teaching techniques distilled over time. Any generalizations about Zen, of course, simplify a complex topic, but broadly speaking I believe four principal lessons remain fresh and relevant for teachers today.

The aim of traditional Zen instruction—and the first lesson it can impart to teachers—is to promote new ways of looking, seeing, and understanding among its students, leading ultimately to Enlightenment (with a capital “E”).

Meditation constitutes one of the three main tools to achieve this aim (the word “zen” itself means “meditation” in Japanese). The other two are mindfulness—becoming aware of the world around us and our place in it at all times—and the koan, which I will explain below.

In practice, all are used daily and in combination. Zen monks will typically practice sitting or walking meditation, perform useful temple chores such as cooking or cleaning, and wrestle with a koan set for them by the teacher who oversees their spiritual progress. That same teacher will also offer periodic lectures—so-called “dharma talks”—to the monastic community as a whole. But though such talks represent the most visible (and most frequently published) form of Zen teaching, they are pedagogically the least important.

One might think that the core of Zen teaching would be the substance of its doctrines. Surprisingly, however, much of its initial emphasis concerns what we might term “study skills”—how to sit, how to breathe, how to think (or not think) during meditation. The teacher, in other words, begins by transmitting the tools of inquiry rather than the results.

These tools have been described in great detail by Zen masters such as the 13th-century Japanese monk and scholar Dogen Zenji, who counseled his students to “sit up straight without leaning to the right or left and without bending forward or backward, the ears in line with the shoulders and the nose in line with the navel, resting the tongue against the roof of the mouth, with lips and teeth closed.” Such prescriptions are designed to aid independent exploration by the student. But only with the right tools can the right learning take place.

Alongside meditation and mindfulness, the koan (or “public record”) is the third and, in some ways, most distinctive tool for Zen teaching. We are generally familiar with koans such as “What is the sound of one hand clapping?” Yet most of the thousand or more koans are not one-sentence riddles but stories of meaningful encounters in real life or...
International Students and Work Authorization After Graduation

International students in F-1 and J-1 status are usually eligible to apply for a period of work authorization. It is called Optional Practical Training (OPT) for F-1 visa holders and Academic Training (AT) for J-1 visa holders.

In past years, F-1 students could apply for OPT for a certain period of time after graduation; this is no longer the case. Applications for OPT must now be received by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) before Thursday, June 8, or students will forfeit OPT. Please note that to apply for OPT and to obtain the necessary recommendation from the Harvard International Office (HIO), students must attend an OPT group session with international student advisor Kathryn Fogle. To make an appointment for a group session, go to www.hio.harvard.edu and use the HIO online appointment system.

The deadline for obtaining the OPT recommendation from HIO is Thursday, June 1.

For more information on OPT, go to www.hio.harvard.edu/students_scholars/student_employment/f1opt.php; for the OPT application form and other materials, go to www.hio.harvard.edu/students_scholars/student_employment/f1training.php.

Students on J-1 visas who are interested in applying for AT should visit www.hio.harvard.edu/students_scholars/student_employment/j1_training.php for more information. Contact HIO with any questions or concerns about these matters.

June Degrees

Applications for June degrees are due on Monday, April 3, in the Registrar’s Office. Applications, available at the Registrar’s Office, must be completed by the student and signed by the department chair. Approved dissertations are due Friday, May 26, in the Registrar’s Office. Term bills must be paid in full before Commencement Day (June 8) to receive the degree. Degree candidates who are not planning to attend Commencement can indicate on the degree application if they would like the diploma to be mailed to them or held at the Registrar’s Office.

Academic Calendar

Monday, March 20. Last day to register for or to add courses. After this date, students may add or register for TIME only. Last day for graduate students to add or change SAT/UNS grading option for designated language courses.

—Rita Shepse

Free Tax Assistance

Harvard Law School students will provide free tax assistance at the Cambridge Public Library, 45 Pearl Street, Central Square, on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tax assistance service will conclude on Friday, April 14. For additional information, contact Andy Knopp (aknopp@law.harvard.edu).

—Ellen Fox
“What Are My Students Thinking? Are My Students Thinking?”

Sometimes TFs find it hard to know how their students are doing. The contributions students make in class or the assignments they do can be off-topic, oracular, or just plain wrong, and TFs can wonder what’s going on behind their students’ eyes. Is the course material too confusing? Are their students’ attention spans waning? Is the teaching working?

There’s one way to answer these and other important questions: ask. Ask your students about their learning in your course. You might simply pause in your section and ask your students if this or that idea or problem makes sense. You might ask if they’ve followed an explanation you’ve given. You might ask whether they’ve understood the goals of their last assignment. In each case, make sure to listen to their answers. Sometimes taking a moment to check in with your students is the best way to refine your teaching and prevent them from checking out.

You can get a more thorough sense of what your students are thinking about your course by getting early feedback (see next item).

Early Feedback

Getting feedback early is a robust way to ask your students about their learning. The Bok Center offers evaluation forms (in both printable and online formats) for courses, sections and tutorials. Online forms work especially well for courses with active Websites. If you have a smaller class you may prefer to get feedback through discussion, without using forms; we can help with that as well. Just as important as getting early feedback is discussing it with your students. You certainly don’t have to do everything they suggest, but discussing their feedback lets them know you’ve considered and value what they’ve had to say. For assistance with setting up or evaluating student feedback, contact the Bok Center or visit bokcenter.harvard.edu/progs/evals.html.

Winter Teaching Conference Videotapes

The Bok Center has videotaped many of the 2006 Winter Teaching Conference sessions. To schedule a viewing appointment, contact the Bok Center or e-mail us at bokcenter@fas.harvard.edu.

Get Last Term’s CUE Evaluations

The Dean of Undergraduate Education and the Bok Center strongly urge you to get your CUE scores and evaluations as they become available. CUE scores can be very helpful in improving your teaching and should be saved to use in a teaching dossier or portfolio for your job search. The Bok Center staff will be happy to discuss them with you for either purpose. Please contact us to set up an appointment.

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 one or 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. 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 Wednesday, March 15. The Bok Center values diversity on its staff. Fellows are granted a stipend for half-time work during the academic year and may arrange additional financial support through their academic department. 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 Wednesday, March 15.

For more information about the postdoctoral fellowship and application process, see bokcenter.harvard.edu/progs/postdoc.html. —Eric Lemay, Cabot Postdoctoral Fellow

Graduating Residents

Students who are receiving a degree at Commencement (Thursday, June 8) may stay in their residence hall rooms until 12 noon on Friday, June 9. Students who are graduating and wish to stay in their residence hall rooms until June 9 should contact Housing Services at 617-495-5060 or gsashous@fas.harvard.edu as soon as possible to notify us of their plans.

Important GSAS Housing Dates

Thursday, March 9, 2006:

Application deadline for inclusion in the lottery for summer housing.

Monday, May 1, 2006:

Academic year 2006–07 housing application deadline for all GSAS students.

—Megan O’Connell

Interested in Living in a GSAS Residence Hall for Summer 2006 or Academic Year 2006–2007?

Summer 2006

Information and applications for housing in the GSAS residence halls for summer 2006 are currently 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 on the second, third, and fourth floors will be available for short-term housing on a weekly basis through Sunday, June 18. If demand for rooms exceeds the number of rooms available, a lottery will be conducted. Priority for rooms will be given to current residents who wish to stay for the entire summer.

The deadline for summer housing applications is Thursday, March 9, 2006. All applications must be completed and submitted online (www.gsas.harvard.edu/student/housing/summerapply.html) for consideration. Summer housing assignments will be communicated via e-mail during the last week of March.

Academic Year Housing 2006–2007

Information and the application for housing for the 2006–07 academic year are available at www.gsas.harvard.edu/student/housing/apply.html. All application materials must be received by Monday, May 1, to be included in the initial housing lottery.

GSAS students with questions regarding housing may call or e-mail GSAS Housing Services at 617-495-5060 or gsashous@fas.harvard.edu.

Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning

Science Center 318
617-495-4869
bokcenter@fas.harvard.edu
http://bokcenter.harvard.edu

“What Are My Students Thinking? Are My Students Thinking?”

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There’s one way to answer these and other important questions: ask. Ask your students about their learning in your course. You might simply pause in your section and ask your students if this or that idea or problem makes sense. You might ask if they’ve followed an explanation you’ve given. You might ask whether they’ve understood the goals of their last assignment. In each case, make sure to listen to their answers. Sometimes taking a moment to check in with your students is the best way to refine your teaching and prevent them from checking out.

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conversations between famous teachers and their students. An example of the former is Dogen’s story of the Zen master who goes to the marketplace and overhears a client ask the butcher to cut a fine piece of meat for him. Instead of acceding to this request, the butcher puts down his knife, crosses his arms, and asks: “Sir, are there any pieces that are not fine?” Whereupon the Zen master has an awakening.

Like most koans, this story resists analysis by normal logic. The task for the Zen student is to make sense of it nonetheless. Surely some pieces of meat are finer or more desirable than others, and yet the butcher’s question implies the opposite. And the response of the Zen master in the story suggests that the butcher’s remark is not only meaningful, but a potential key to personal transformation. Against the everyday impulse to discriminate between categories of “better” or “worse,” the Zen student is invited to shed preconceptions and look at reality afresh.

The experience of solving koans suggests a second lesson that can be derived from Zen teaching—the role of what we might term “productive difficulties.” The Zen teacher does not tell his or her students what they should believe. Instead he sets them a problem to solve and then waits for them to solve it on their own, offering feedback on their progress to the next one the teacher will assign.

The “illogic” of the koan is deliberate. Its aim is to help the student overcome the distortions imposed by words, which map imperfectly onto reality. (There is, in fact, a distrust of language in Zen thought that amounts to an almost anti-intellectual bias.)

What is also at stake is the suspicion that form might trump substance, that memorizing formulas might be taken as a substitute for genuine insight. The test of learning for the Zen teacher is not what the student says, but how he or she acts. There is no way to fool a Zen master merely by mouthing the right words. Dogen wrote that when he attained enlightenment, he went to his teacher, lit incense, and then described what had happened. But it was not Dogen’s description that convinced his teacher of the truth of his enlightenment; it was the manner in which he lit the incense.

Thus a third lesson from Zen masters is that what works for one will not necessarily work as well for another. But the essence of the koan is that it requires thinking for yourself in a sustained effort, directed at a single goal. It is education in depth rather than in breadth, for only once a koan has been “solved” can the student progress to the next one the teacher will assign.

One of Dogen’s most accessible writings concerns instructions for the cook in a Zen monastery: “When you prepare food, never view the ingredients from some commonly held perspective... Maintain an attitude that tries to build great temples from ordinary greens, that expounds the dharma through the most trivial activity.”

Taken as whole, what is striking about Zen pedagogy is the contrast between the scope of its ambition and the economy of its means. In it a small number of techniques are used to great effect. The Zen master does not seem to do much, and yet that “not much”—the right tools, the right koan, the right encouragement—engages students on the path toward transformation. Of course, their students bring dedication and willingness to engage in prolonged effort, but the masters harness these energies in maximally productive ways.

How do they manage this? I would argue that it is because they see their students with a depth of true understanding. They have absorbed so thoroughly the lesson of the butcher koan that each student appears to them truly “fine,” though all are different.

So the fourth and final lesson from the Zen masters might be that with a clear perception of your task, a little teaching goes a long way.
Dudley House—Where Is It?
Dudley House is located in the corner of Harvard Yard directly across from Au Bon Pain and Out of Town News. As a GSAS student, you are automatically a member of Dudley House and have access to all of its facilities and activities. Suggestions for new activities or resources are always welcome.

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! Treat 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.

Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards Reception
Join your fellow students and the faculty winners of the Mendelsohn Mentoring Awards at a celebratory reception at the Faculty Club, Wednesday, March 22, at 5 p.m. Hosted by the Graduate Student Council.

—Ivan Zawalich (zawalich@fas.harvard.edu)

“I can’t believe where you went” Exhibition—Opening Reception
Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge. Meet the artists and enjoy our special exhibition by GSAS students and other Dudley House members who have some fascinating tales and pictures from around the world. The exhibition will be displayed throughout March. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Intellectual and Cultural, Arts, and Literary programs of Dudley House. Questions? Contact us at dudley.exhibition@gmail.com.

Intellectual and Cultural Events
Monday, March 6. Daniel Fisher Dinner. 6 p.m., Main Dining Room. Niall Ferguson, the Laurence A. Tisch professor of history at Harvard and author of the best-selling Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power, will speak on “Rethinking 20th-Century History.” A limited number of free tickets will be available; check in the House Office. For more information, contact Eylem Ozaltun (ozaltun@fas.harvard.edu). Note: Since regular dinner will not be served in the Dining Room that evening, students on the meal plan may dine interhouse.

Wednesday, March 8. Language Table/Exchange Mixer. 7 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. Bring a dessert from your culture and meet people from around the world. Come with your language table members, language exchange partner, or just turn up by yourself. Questions? Contact Yao Chen (yaochen@fas.harvard.edu).

Thursday, March 16. Fireside Chat with GSAS Dean Theda Skocpol. 7 p.m., Common Room. Part of our new series, “Fireside Chats with the Deans and Masters” in which current and former GSAS deans and Dudley House Masters discuss their academic work. Most of us only know these individuals as administrators, but every one of them is also a great scholar. Theda Skocpol is the Victor S. Thomas professor of government and sociology at Harvard and will speak on “Voice and Inequality: From Membership to Management in American Civic Life.” Questions? Contact Yao Chen (yaochen@fas.harvard.edu).

Friday, March 17. Houghton Library Tour. Meet in front of Dudley House at 1:50 p.m. We'll join the guided tour at 2 p.m. Houghton Library is Harvard's principal rare books and manuscript repository. View collection highlights, including the personal effects, notes, books, and other objects of interest from Copernicus, Emily Dickinson, John Keats, Edward Lear, Dante, Tennessee Williams, Goethe, Cervantes, and Lewis Carroll.

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Monday, April 3. **Senior Common Room Dinner.** Reception: 5:30 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. Dinner: 6 p.m., Common Room. Elio Brancaforte (PhD ’01, comparative literature), assistant professor of German, Tulane University, will speak on “Silk, Maps, and Scorpians: A Journey from Hamburg to Isfahan, 1634 and 2004.” A limited number of free tickets will be available in the House Office starting Monday, March 20. For more information, contact Eylem Ozaltun (ozaltun@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).

**Dudley Classic Films**

Friday, March 3. **An Evening of French Noir with Jean Gabin.** 6 and 8 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. French actor Jean Gabin was one of the most electrifying screen icons in the history of cinema. If you have never seen his work or felt his intense screen presence, here’s your chance to enjoy both in two of his great classics. Despite these films’ doom-laden descriptions, both are truly special viewing experiences. Films will be shown in French with English subtitles.
- At 6 p.m.: *Pépé le Moko* (1937). Gabin is a wanted man adored by women, betrayed by rivals, pursued by police. A classic of French poetic realism and a most influential film and performance.
- At 8 p.m.: *La Bête Humaine* (1938). Famed film director Jean Renoir adapted the Émile Zola novel and created a powerful story of murder, fatalism, and despair. Working-class train engineer Gabin witnesses a crime, then falls deeper and deeper into a web of desire and disaster.

—Susan Zawalich (zawalich@fas.harvard.edu)

**Outings**

Saturday, March 18. **Middlesex Fells Hike.** 9:30 a.m., Dudley House steps. See wildlife emerge from hibernation and get a great view of Boston’s skyline. No hiking experience needed. Bring friends, subway and bus money, comfortable waterproof shoes, water, and something to eat.

—Jenny Smythe (smythe@fas.harvard.edu)

**Social Events**

Saturday, March 18. **Harvard/MIT Mega Dance Party.** 9 p.m., Main Dining Room. Hip-hop, salsa, techno, ’80s, swing, R&B. Harvard and MIT graduate students and their guests welcome. ID needed for alcohol. Tickets cost $2 and are available at the door and at the House Office. Questions? E-mail Natasha Devroye (ndevroye@fas.harvard.edu).

Date TBA. **Cooking Class.** Interested in teaching a cooking class? E-mail Zeba Wunderlich (wunderl@fas.harvard.edu).

—Geetika Tewari (gtewari@fas.harvard.edu), Natasha Devroye (ndevroye@fas.harvard.edu), Daniel Jafferis (jafferis@fas.harvard.edu), Zeba Wunderlich (wunderl@fas.harvard.edu)

**Dudley Arts**

Contact Arts Fellows Danielle De Feo (dfeo@fas.harvard.edu) or Sue-Ann Ma (sma@fas.harvard.edu) for news on upcoming exhibits, classes, and museum outings.

**Dudley House Music Program**

**The Dudley House Jazz Band.** If you’re interested in joining the fun this term, please contact us. Rehearsals are Sundays at 4 p.m. in the Common Room.

—William Bares (wbares@fas.harvard.edu)

**World Music Ensemble.** We’re a small group of musicians who play traditional music from around the globe and are particularly looking for another fiddler (or a violinist who’s looking for a change).

—Lydia Bean (bean@fas.harvard.edu)

**Dudley Chorus.** We would love to have you sing with us this spring term! Please contact me if you are interested.

—Michael Barrett (mbarrett@post.harvard.edu)

**Dudley Orchestra.** Fresh off our November concert of Rossini, Finzi, and Tchaikovsky, the Dudley Orchestra is reloading. Our next concert will be the last event of the Arts Weekend, Sunday, May 7, in Sanders Theatre. E-mail if you’re interested in joining the orchestra; we’re always looking for new members.

—Drew Schroeder (schroed@fas.harvard.edu)

**Dudley Public Service**

Thursday, March 9. **Blood Drive.** 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. Did you know that one pint of blood can save as many as three lives? Help save lives as Mr. Auburn Hospital and Dudley House team up for a blood drive. Sign up for a time slot or just drop in when you have time. E-mail dudleypublicservice@gmail.com for more information.

Ongoing. **Homeless Meals Program.** Join us Thursdays, 2:30–8 p.m., as we volunteer at Christ Church in Cambridge (just around the corner from Dudley). For details about the program, contact Linda Liang (lliang@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 to suit your interests and schedule. E-mail for information.

Ongoing. **Public Service List Serv.** Sign up at www.fas.harvard.edu/%7Edudley/fellows/pub serv/pubserv.html for e-mail reminders and events information.

—Linda Liang, Fan Zhang (dudleypublicservice@gmail.com)

**Dudley Literary Program**

Tuesday, March 7, and March 21. **Creative Writing Workshops.** 7 p.m., 3rd floor Lounge. Share your poetry, fiction, and essays...
March | Dudley House Calendar

Please note: Information in this calendar is accurate as of February 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.

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<td>Dudley Jazz Band Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Dudley Book Club</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Dudley Orchestra Rehearsal</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Spring Recess</td>
<td>Dudley House Open</td>
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with fellow writers of all types and levels. All members of the Harvard community are welcome to bring their work and/or offer critical feedback. Refreshments will be served. Questions? E-mail Dan Levenson (dlevens@fas.harvard.edu).

Thursday, March 9. **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.** 7 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. See another installment of our Harry Potter film series! Bring your kids and friends for a memorable night. Refreshments will be served!

Monday, March 13. **Poetry Anyone?** 7 p.m., Fireside Room. Join the Dudley Literary fellows for a discussion of the poetry of Pablo Neruda. Bring your favorite poems or lines or just come to listen. Copies of some poems (in translation) will be distributed. Anyone who would be able to do a reading of Neruda in the original language will be very welcome! Refreshments will be served.

Spring Calendar. Go to www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley and click on “Literary.” For more information about any of our offerings, e-mail dudley_literary@yahoo.com.
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

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

- **Wednesday, March 1. Schlesinger Library Film Series: Orlando**, directed by Sally Potter. Adaptation of Virginia Woolf’s novel about a young British nobleman granted eternal life who changes sex during his journeys. Discussion with Kate Thomas, assistant professor of English, Bryn Mawr College, follows the film. 6 p.m., Radcliffe College Room, Schlesinger Library, 3 James Street, 617-495-8647.

- **Thursday, March 2. Voices of Public Intellectuals Lecture Series.** Peter Salama, chief of Immunization and Child Survival, UNICEF. This year’s series explores forced migration in the context of war and the developing international response to assisting and protecting people caught up in rampages of violence in their own country. 4 p.m., Cronkhite Living Room, 6 Ash Street.


- **Wednesday, March 8. Radcliffe Institute Fellows’ Presentation Series: “Interdisciplinarity on the Benchtop: Cognition and Learning in Biomedical Engineering Research Laboratories,” Nancy Nersessian, Georgia Institute of Technology, current Radcliffe Institute fellow. 4 p.m., 2nd-floor Colloquium Room, 34 Concord Avenue, 617-495-8212.

- **Friday, March 10. Science Symposium: “Biodiversity and the Anthropocene: Perspectives on the Human Invasion of the Natural World.” This conference will explore diverse perspectives on measuring and managing the human impact on nature. Maxwell Dworkin Hall, 33 Oxford Street. Time TBD.

- **Tuesday, March 14. Voices of Public Intellectuals Lecture Series: Irene Khan, Secretary General, Amnesty International. 4 p.m., Cronkhite Living Room, 6 Ash Street.


- **Monday, March 20. Radcliffe Institute Fellows’ Presentation Series: “Recent Work: Artist’s Talk,” Sarah Sze, Columbia University, current Radcliffe Institute fellow. 4 p.m., Cronkhite Living Room, 6 Ash Street, 617-495-8212.

Music Department Events

- **Friday, March 10. Fromm Festival.** Fromm Players at Harvard: Milton Babbitt: Phonemen; Pierre Boulez: Anthe me 2; Earle Brown: Octet 1; Orjan Sandred: Amazon eule Voices; Alvin Lucier: Music for Piano with Slow Sweep Pure Wave Oscillators; Luigi Nono: A Pierre, Jacopo Baboni Schilingi: Concubia Nocte for Soprano and Electronics. 8 p.m., Paine Hall.

- **Saturday, March 11. Fromm Festival.** Ensemble für Intuitive Musik Weimar (Germany): John Cage: Variations IV and Variation II; Karlheinz Stockhausen: Vorahnung—for Ensemble and Intensität—for Ensemble. 8 p.m., Paine Hall.


- **Friday, March 17. Blodgett Chamber Music Series: The Ying Quartet: Haydn Quartet in D Major, Op. 71, No. 2. Ashley Fure (Blodgett Composition Competition Winner): Shrapnel; Debussy Quartet in G minor, Op. 10. Free passes required; available beginning March 3 at Harvard Box Office, Holyoke Center Arcade; 617-496-2222. 8 p.m., Paine Hall. Free parking after 7 p.m. in Everett Street Garage.

Harvard University Art Museums Exhibitions

For more information, go to www.artmuseums.harvard.edu.


- **Tempo, Tempo! The Bauhaus Photomontages**

Bureau of Study Counsel Spring 2006 Reading Course and Groups

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Location: 5 Linden Street. Tel.: 617-495-2581. E-mail: bsc@harvard.edu. Web: www.bsc.harvard.edu. Unless otherwise indicated, all groups and workshops are free and open to graduate and undergraduate students. Call to register or for more information.

- **Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies.** Through readings, films, and classroom exercises, students learn to read more purposively, selectively, and with greater speed and comprehension. A 14-day course, for one hour a day over a period of 14 days.
a few weeks. Cost: $25 for GSAS degree candidates. Register at the Bureau or call for more information.

• Discussion Group for Women in the Sciences. With Claire Shindler and Katesy Townsend. Four-session discussion group. Dates/times to be determined; expected to begin in early March. Topics might include negotiating relationships with advisors, balancing social life and academics, and career choices and family concerns. Pre-group consultation necessary. E-mail shindler@bsc.harvard.edu or ktownsend@bsc.harvard.edu with questions or for an appointment.

• Online Forum for Men of Asian Background. Facilitated by SungLim Shin and Susan Dubois. Full-semester 24/7 online forum; start date to be determined. Topics might include (depending on participant interest) ethnic identity, masculinity, competing identity and roles, relationships, racism, and cultural adjustment. Participants will be anonymous to each other (by using aliases) and known only to the forum facilitators. One meeting with the facilitators is required before the forum begins.

• Creative Relating. With Suzanne Renna and Carline Jean-Baptiste. Ten-session group. Wednesdays, 3–5 p.m. For students wishing to learn new ways of communicating and relating to those who are important in their lives—roommates, teammates, teachers, friends, and family members. Pre-group consultation is necessary.

• What We May Be: Body, Mind, and Spirit. With Suzanne Renna and Susan Dubois. Eight-session workshop. Thursdays, 1:30–3:30 p.m. For undergraduate and graduate student women wishing to increase self-knowledge and build a dependable sense of what is trustworthy and consistent in themselves. Pre-group consultation necessary.

• Cultural Transitions Group. With Christine Héro. Eight weekly meetings; dates/times to be arranged. Expected to begin early March. For newly arrived international students interested in sharing their culture and finding their own place at Harvard. This group provides a safe place for students to discuss themes that may include but are not limited to friendships and cultural expectations in the US, food and eating habits, writing papers and understanding “plagiarism,” sexuality on campus, balancing academics and life, feeling lonely and isolated. Pre-group consultation necessary.

• Meditation Drop-in Workshop. With SungLim Shin. Mondays, 4:30–5:15 p.m., full semester, while classes are in session. Each meeting will include brief instructions about meditation and 15–20 minutes of meditation. No pre-registration is necessary. Some Monday meetings may not take place, so please call ahead of time to confirm.

• Speaking Up in Class. With SungLim Shin. Tuesdays through March 14, 1–2:30 p.m. Through discussion and exercises in a supportive group context, we will focus on increasing self-confidence and managing anxiety in academic settings. Pre-group consultation necessary.

• Lust, Trust, and True Love. With Ariel Phillips and Mike Basseches. Three weekly meetings, Mondays, 2–3:30 p.m. A place for students to talk with one another about similarities and differences in expectations and experiences regarding sex at Harvard. No pre-group consultation necessary. For more information, e-mail Ariel Phillips (aphillips@bsc.harvard.edu).

• Insanely Busy: What Would Happen if I Slowed Down? With Sheila Reindl and Ariel Phillips. 1.5-hour workshop. Available to Houses or student groups upon request. An opportunity for students to talk about their strivings and about realistic possibilities for living a life that honors their values and goals but isn’t always on “fast forward.” To schedule a workshop, contact Ariel Phillips (aphillips@bsc.harvard.edu) or Sheila Reindl (reindl@bsc.harvard.edu), or call the Bureau.

• Returning From Abroad: When a New Person Returns to an Old World. With Frank McNamara. Four weekly meetings; dates/times to be arranged. For those who would like to discuss how experiences abroad have influenced their understanding of themselves and their ways of seeing the world. Pre-group consultation necessary.

• What Should I Do? A Workshop for Friends, Lovers, and Roommates of People With Eating Disorders. With Sheila Reindl and Suzanne Renna. One-time workshop: Friday, March 3, 4–5:30 p.m. Support and guidance to students who think someone they know has an eating disorder and who are concerned about what their responsibility and role regarding that person should be. No advance registration required.

• What Are You Doing with Your Life? With Sheila Reindl and Frank McNamara. Eight weekly meetings; dates/times to be arranged. Explore purpose, passion, and potential, along with the conflicts and challenges you feel in defining who you are, what you are doing, and where you are going in life. Limited to graduate students. Pre-group consultation necessary.

Introducing Harvard@Trilogy
Harvard Real Estate Services announces its newest property: Harvard@Trilogy at 170 Brookline Ave., Boston. This property offers a new rental option for full-time Harvard graduate students, faculty members, and employees near the Longwood Medical Area. Slated for occupancy in August 2006, there will be 154 Affiliated Housing apartments located on the second through tenth floors in the center of the Trilogy housing and retail complex. Applications for all Affiliated Housing apartments will be accepted in March. To learn more, go to www.hres.harvard.edu/re.htm, click on “Affiliated/Residential Housing” and then on “New Housing.” The site contains photos, sample floor plans, and information about neighborhood amenities.

Peabody Museum Lecture and Reception
Wednesday, March 1. “Moche Portraits from Ancient Peru,” Christopher B. Donnan, professor of anthropology, University of California at Los Angeles. 5:30 p.m., Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St. Call 617-496-1027 for more information.

Spring Programs

New! Professional Development Series for GSAS Students in the Life Sciences

In collaboration with the Harvard Integrated Life Sciences Program (HILS), we are offering a series of professional development workshops geared toward scientists. All events will be held in the Longwood Medical Area. Upcoming events in this series are:

- Thursday, March 9. Landing Your First Post-doc. 5:30–7 p.m., Goldenson 122. Professor Fred Winston and other Division of Medical Sciences (DMS) faculty will discuss the important steps to landing a great post-doc. Refreshments will be served.

- Thursday, March 23. Beyond the Bench: Careers in the Life Sciences. 5:30–7:30 p.m., Goldenson 122. Hear how GSAS life sciences alumni/ae have parlayed their advanced degrees into careers in public health, publishing, public policy, education, government, financial services, patent law, consulting, industry, and biotech. Cosponsored with students in the Biological Sciences in Public Health (BPH) program. A wine and cheese networking reception hosted by HILS will follow the panel.

- Wednesday, April 5. Important Things to Consider When Choosing a Lab. 12:30–1:30 p.m., TMEC 250. Upper-year Division of Medical Sciences (DMS) graduate students will share advice on how to best select a lab for your dissertation research. Pizza and beverages will be provided by DMS.

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 share with students how advanced-degree holders make decisions, explore professional directions, and go through career changes and shifts. Students from all GSAS departments, both men and women, are invited to attend since many issues being discussed are pertinent to graduate students in all fields. Refreshments will be served. To register, e-mail Robin Mount (rmount@fas.harvard.edu). Upcoming events in this series are:

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

- Thursday, April 6. Andrea Shievella, PhD ’93, technology licensing officer, Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 5:30–7:30 p.m., Dudley House Fireside Room.

Wednesdays, March 8. The Power of Procrastination. A lecture by Jorge Cham, author of “Piled Higher and Deeper,” a comic strip that might be described as the graduate student’s “Dilbert.” 5:30–7:30 p.m., Jefferson Lab 250, Department of Physics. Cosponsored by OCS and the Graduate Student Council. View the comics online at www.phdcomics.com or pick up copies of Cham’s collected works at the book-signing and reception following the lecture. Attendees will be eligible to win a free book.

Friday, March 17. Job Search Check-In. 10–11:30 a.m., OCS Conference Room. For students who have been actively seeking jobs outside academe and who wish to touch base about their progress, overcome barriers to their search, and get advice on how to proceed.

Walk-in Hours

The GSAS counselors hold walk-in hours Mondays, 1–4 p.m. If you have a quick question, please 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 one of the GSAS career counselors to discuss your career goals and options, learn how to find opportunities for internships and jobs, and get advice and feedback on job-search strategies such as your CV, résumé, interviewing, and negotiation skills. To schedule an appointment, call 617-495-2595. For more details, visit www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu and click on “GSAS.”

—Laura Malisheski

Notice continued from previous page

University of Arizona. 5:30 p.m., Yenching Institute, 2 Divinity Ave. Call 617-496-1027 for information.

CERtoon 2006: Campus Energy Reduction Cartoon Competition

FAS students are invited to enter cartoons dealing with campus energy reduction. Prizes include $500, an i-Pod shuffle, and a $100 gift certificate. Rules, entry form, and past winners are at www.greencampus.harvard.edu/certoo. Entries due: 4 p.m. on Friday, March 3. Questions? Contact maura.leahy@harvard.edu, 617-384-9604.

Humanities Center Panel: “Age of Terror” Series


Lecture: “Continental Differences in Human History”

Wednesday, March 8. Jared Diamond, professor of geography, University of California at Los Angeles. 8 p.m., Lecture Hall B, Science Center.
Harvard’s registration system. International students with any comments on the online database of fellowships should contact Jonathan Ruel (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 Sarah Carter (scarter@fas.harvard.edu).

Students are encouraged to voice their opinions and concerns at the GSC open meetings. Some of the issues raised at previous 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, please submit it at least one week prior to the meeting to gsc@hcs.harvard.edu.

Mentoring Awards Ceremony
The Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards, sponsored by the GSC, are presented annually to faculty members who go beyond the call of duty in mentoring GSAS students. This year’s award ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 22, at 5 p.m. at the Faculty Club. All faculty and GSAS students are invited to attend.

Grants and Group Funding
The next deadline for student group funding applications is Wednesday, March 22; the deadline for conference and summer research grant applications is Monday, May 1. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these great opportunities. 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. 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, e-mail major domo@fas.harvard.edu containing only the text: “subscribe gsc-list.” Visit www.hcs.harvard.edu/~gsc to view our calendar of events.

—Jina Suh

What Is It? continued from back page

Gabriel Poliquin (linguistics), Daniel Pollack-Pelzner (English and American language and literature), Jonathan Ruel (government), Svetlana Rukhelman (comparative literature), Lindsay Sabik (health policy), Kyoko Sato (sociology), David Saunders (English and American literature and language), Shai Shen-Orr (molecular and cellular biology), Emily Shortridge (health policy), Tim Sikorski (medical sciences), Nico Slate (history), Emily Standen (organismic and evolutionary biology), Ramona Uritescu-Lombard (Committee on Degrees in Literature), Jinghua Wangling (East Asian languages and civilizations), Michael Weidman (engineering and applied sciences), Alex Wellerstein (history of science), Will Yuen (engineering and applied sciences), Travis Zadeh (comparative literature), and Nasser Zakariya (history of science).
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 Monday, March 6, 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 February Bulletin question is the Theodore Roosevelt plaque at the entrance to the Malkin Athletic Center on Winthrop and Holyoke streets. Congratulations to the following correct guessers: Sejin Ahn (medical sciences), Patrick Baker (history), Fiona Barker (government), Lauren Brandt (history of American civilization), Bor-rong Chen (engineering and applied sciences), Chen-Mou Cheng (engineering and applied sciences), Robert Cherng (physics), Dick T. Co (chemical physics), Alex Ciaszar (history of science), Jason Eric Donald (chemistry and chemical biology), Shari Dwoskin (English and American language and literature), Mark Elenko (medical sciences), Robert Fannion (government), Harumi S. Furuya (government), Supriya Gandhi (Near Eastern languages and civilization), Stacy Giufre (Romance languages and literatures), Daniela Helbig (history of science), Chris Honett (music), Pelagia Horgan (English and American language and literature), Chuck Houston (psychology), Jeanne Hsu (medical sciences), Cara James (health policy), Odile Joly (English and American language and literature), Ben Kaufmann (physics), Brodi Kemp (government), Hoi-eun Kim (history), Sarah Sun Kim (regional studies—East Asia), Luke Leafgren (comparative literature), Li Li (information technology and management), Sarah Mahoney (medical sciences), Liz Main (physics), Cheryl Makarewicz (anthropology), Jason Manoharan (English and American language and literature), Robin Meray (medical sciences), Stephen Miran (economics), Dmitry Mironenko (regional studies—East Asia), Ryan Moore (government and social policy), Brenda Ng (engineering and applied sciences), Greta Pane (English and American language and literature), continued on page 11

*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.