Applying for a Postdoctoral Position in the Sciences

By Cynthia Verba, GSAS director of fellowships

Fred Winston, professor of genetics, and Shannon Turley, assistant professor of pathology, recently discussed with GSAS students the process of applying for post-doctoral positions in the sciences—from the perspectives of the applicant and of the lab director who makes the hiring decisions.

They noted the informal nature of the process of landing a postdoctoral position, and made the following points:

• The candidate compiles a list of labs that would be of interest based on the dissertation advisor’s suggestions and a thorough online investigation of research activities and principal investigators at various labs.

• The candidate then writes an informal letter of inquiry, which can be done via e-mail with an attached résumé and a list of recommenders with their contact information. Some postdoctoral openings are posted in bulletins of professional associations, but the informal process is paramount.

• Some candidates are looking for a lab that will allow them to continue along their current lines of research, but many others are seeking to shift fields. The speakers strongly recommended the latter, since it enhances career opportunities in more than one field. Both speakers, however, emphasized that it is most important to choose something that you find deeply desirable, whether it entails a shift or continuing on a present course.

• At the receiving end, the lab director, before deciding to interview a particular candidate, typically contacts the candidate’s dissertation advisor by phone to make further inquiries of an informal nature: how well the candidate works with others in the lab, the particular contributions the candidate has made to lab projects, level of productivity, and any other issues.

They said that the interview often involves a presentation where the candidate discusses current research.

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Announcements

This is the last GSAS Bulletin for the 2005–06 academic year. Our next issue, September/October 2006, will be available during GSAS Registration.

Also, please note that in August 2006 the GSAS administrative offices will be moving from Byerly Hall to Holyoke Center.

The 2006 GSAS Commencement Marshals Named

Commencement Marshals are chosen by a Graduate Student Council committee from among graduating students nominated by their departments for their contributions to graduate student life. Marshals lead the GSAS procession during Commencement and carry the GSAS and Dudley House banniers.

Congratulations to the following graduating students: Cara Vonique James, health policy; Cheryl Ann Martin and Diana Ng, both regional studies–East Asia; Sharonna Hyla Pearl, history of science; Brant Robertson, astronomy; and Scott Sowerby, history.

—Ernst van Nierop, Graduate Student Council

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Program applications are available in the GSAS Administrative Dean’s Office, Byerly Hall, 2nd fl., and online at www.upenn.edu/grad/exchange.html. Applications for the fall term or for the entire 2006–07 academic year are due in the GSAS Administrative Dean’s Office in early July.

English Language Courses for International Students

The Harvard Institute for English Language (IEL) will offer a special course in integrated skills for GSAS students this summer. The course will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6–8:30 p.m., and will allow international students to develop their English-language skills, expand their vocabulary, discuss cultural adaptation, learn about faculty expectations, and meet other GSAS international students. Depending upon registration numbers, GSAS students may be joined by other IEL students at the same level of proficiency.

Register for this and other IEL courses at the GSAS Administrative Dean’s Office, Byerly Hall, 2nd fl. For course descriptions, go to www.iel.harvard.edu/summer/. Harvard Summer School, which sponsors IEL, charges late fees for registration after June 25. GSAS will pay tuition for one non-intensive IEL course in the Harvard Extension School or Summer School.

For placement in an IEL course, students must take the University’s English Language Placement Test. The test will be administered in the Science Center on: Monday, June 5, at 6 p.m.; Monday, June 12, at 6 p.m.; Saturday, June 24, at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, June 25, at 2 p.m. Please note that reservations must be made in advance to take the test on the June 5 or June 12 dates.

June Degrees

June degree candidates should submit their approved dissertations to the Registrar’s Office, 20 Garden St., by Friday, May 26. Please see the Form of the PhD Dissertation (online at www.gas.harvard.edu/academic/dissertation.html) for format and submission instructions. Contact Susan Donnelly at the Registrar’s Office (617-495-1489) with questions.

Commencement

Commencement is Thursday, June 8. GSAS can allot only two tickets per degree recipient for Morning Exercises. However, guests without tickets may watch the Morning Exercises on a wide-screen TV at Sanders Theatre or the Science Center. Each student receiving a diploma at the GSAS Diploma Awarding Ceremony may have two guest tickets for Sanders Theatre. Additional seating is available at the Science Center after 11:30 a.m. that day; each student may have three guest tickets. —Rise Shepsle

End-of-Term Concerns?

As the spring term comes to a close, are there academic or personal issues that you have wanted to address during the past months but have not known where to turn for help? I am available to talk with students about any concerns and to make referrals to other sources of assistance, if necessary. During the summer, I will be available by appointment. To schedule one, please contact me at 617-495-5005 or at efox@fas.harvard.edu. Conversations with me are confidential.

New Resident Advisors

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to be resident advisors for the 2006–07 academic year:

**Child Hall**  Basement, Gary Sing; first floor, Emilie Dressaire; second floor, Elaine Gee; third, Hanley Chiang; fourth, David Saunders

**Richards Hall**  First floor, Alexander Key; second, Geneva Wirth; third, Antara Datta

**Conant Hall**  First floor, David Sullivan; second, Vernie Oliveira; third, Yanyan Liu; fourth, John Sniadecki

**Perkins Hall**  First floor, Tim Coates; second, Kristin Spivey; third, Sverre Johnsen; fourth, Onoso Imoagene

—Ellen Fox

Non-Resident Status

Non-resident applications for the fall term of the 2006–07 academic year are due on Tuesday, August 1. Students who will be traveling scholars, on leave of absence, or studying at another Harvard School should discuss their plans with their advisor and then complete the form. Also:

* international students considering non-resident status must obtain a signature from the Harvard International Office in order to process the form.
* GSAS students who have loans should speak to their financial aid officer about repayments before going on leave.
* non-resident students who wish to continue in that status next year must reapply; submit completed forms including all departmental signatures to the GSAS Administrative Dean’s Office, Byerly Hall, 2nd fl. The non-resident form is available online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/academic/nonres.html.

Exchange Scholar Program

Through the Exchange Scholar Program, GSAS students can study and work with faculty at one of ten other graduate schools for a term or an entire academic year. In addition to Harvard, participating schools are: University of California at Berkeley, Brown University, University of Chicago, Columbia University, Cornell University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Stanford University, and Yale University.

Participation in this program, including courses taken and/or research conducted, will be recorded on students’ Harvard transcripts. Tuition will be charged by and paid to Harvard; the University will continue to provide any previously granted financial aid.
An Important Message on Fellowship Outcomes

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

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

If you have any questions about your fellowship applications, please call 617-495-1814 to make an appointment to see me.

Fulbright Competitions 2006–07: Cultural Exchange and Fulbright-Hays

The next competition for Institute of International Education (IIE) Fulbright grants and other grants for graduate study abroad in academic fields and for professional training in the creative and performing arts opens Monday, May 1. Information sheets explaining the various types of Fulbright grants are available in the GSAS Administrative Dean’s Office, Byerly Hall, 2nd floor; IIE applications and brochures will also be available.

An orientation meeting will be held next fall during registration week. Please make an appointment with me for advice on writing a proposal or any other part of the grant application process.

Graduate Writing Fellows Program

Yes, you can both save time and give your students more helpful comments. The Graduate Writing Fellows Program provides TFs with time-saving, pedagogically sound strategies for responding to students’ writing. A two-day training session at the beginning of the fall semester focuses on how students learn, on using writing as a tool for learning course material, and on research about teaching writing. TFs also practice grading and commenting on actual student papers. Three catered meetings throughout the semester offer further guidance. For more information, contact Cassandra Volpe Horii (cvolpe@fas.harvard.edu).

Fall 2006 Christensen Discussion Leading Seminar

Lee Warren, associate director of the Bok Center, will lead a master class next term based on the case-study method. The ten-week class will meet at the Faculty Club one afternoon a week. Experienced TFs, as well as junior and senior faculty, are welcome to apply; e-mail Barbara Hall (bahall@fas.harvard.edu). Include continued on page 10

Correction: In the list of directors of graduate studies published in the February 2006 GSAS Bulletin, it should have been noted that Anthony R. Shaw Jr. is the director of laboratories for the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology.
Postdoctoral Positions in the Sciences  continued from page 1

points indirectly, describing work that was
done effectively as part of a team, while also
identifying your own individual contribu-
tion to a project.

• In regard to the value of shifting fields, one
speaker noted that once you enter a new lab it
makes most sense to take full advantage of the
particular strengths of that lab, which also
may change over time. Thus, research
interests commonly shift, and this is
well recognized by the people who are
conducting the interviews.

• In addition to preparing a strong presenta-
tion, an important part of preparation for
the interview is to be fully informed on
the research activities of the principal
investigators of the lab. Read up on their
important findings and prepare to ask some
well-informed questions about their research.
You should also be ready to answer some
standard interview questions; for example,
why you want this particular lab and what
direction your future research will take.

• The issue of a good fit operates on both
sides. The candidate who goes on an
interview should pay close attention to the
morale within a lab, how contented the lab
members seem to be and how they interact
with one another. Choosing a lab where you
think you will be happy was cited as
the most important criterion from the
candidate’s perspective. You will also want
to get more precise knowledge about the
size of the lab, the opportunities to pursue
your own research, access to the lab director,
information about the duration of the
position, the duration of funding, etc. (This
same advice is also important at the
graduate student stage when choosing
a research lab or research team.) The
speakers both agreed that it is appropriate
to inquire about family leave policies and
even to ask about current investigators who
are parents.

Closely related to the informal nature of the
application process is the informal nature of
funding, especially in an era in which many labs
have experienced government cutbacks.

• Some postdocs are very much like salaried
positions; others are not. The informal
market, in particular, may yield positions
but without funding or with only partial
funding, in contrast to positions that are
publicized and that usually stipulate the
financial terms.

• In this era of uncertain federal funding, the
question of timing has further complica-
tions: One speaker noted that if a lab is
interested in you but cannot guarantee
funding, the lab is likely to make you an
offer if they think you have the potential to
acquire funding. By the same token, the
granting agency typically will ask in which
lab you intend to conduct your proposed
research project. Granting agencies often
have multiple deadlines, so it is possible to
apply for funding fairly soon after landing
a postdoctoral position.

• In applying for individual fellowships, be
aware that many are intended for recent
PhDs and often restrict eligibility to those
who have received the PhD within just
a year of the time of fellowship application.

During the question-and-answer period, students
expressed concerns about publication expectations
and time to degree.

• Speakers offered the helpful advice that if
either of these appeared to be weak spots,
the candidates should emphasize the potential
benefits of proceeding at their particular
pace: a change in direction with more
exciting potential results, papers that are
close to being ready for publication, etc. If
you have experienced a slow-down of a more
personal nature (e.g., illness or the birth of
a child) emphasize how you have mastered
time-management skills in response to the
particular situation and that you are now
progressing at a steady pace.

• One student asked whether it was advisable
to apply both for postdoctoral positions
and also for teaching positions, presumably
at small colleges rather than large research
universities (since the latter usually requires
a postdoc as a first step). Speakers empha-
sized again that pursuing their desires is the
best course students can follow.

The postdoctoral position in the sciences and the
process of applying have some distinctive features
that set them apart from the humanities and
social sciences:

• First and foremost, a postdoctoral position
in the sciences is typically the first step on
the academic ladder; it is not just an
option, it is almost an essential step. In the
humanities and social sciences, there are
fewer postdoctoral opportunities (although
growing in number in recent years),
and candidates are likely to apply for
them while also going on the academic
job market. It is simply another option,
a supplement that expands possibilities
for gaining a first position.

• In the sciences, many postdoctoral posi-
tions are obtained through networking
rather than through the formal posting and
application process that is more typical for
postdoctoral positions in the humanities
and social sciences.

Candidates in the sciences must learn how to
adapt to the informal postdoctoral market if they
are to land a position, and this means following
a number of steps:

• Discuss your interests and goals with your
lab director and other dissertation advisors,
and get a sense of how much they are
prepared to help you to find a position.

• In theory, this might be the first and last
step: your lab director picks up the phone
and arranges a position for you at the lab of
your choice. Many students, however, find
that even the most conscientious lab
directors and advisors may disengage once

continued on page 10
GSAS Host Student Program Reminder
Before you go on to other things for the summer, please remember to volunteer for the Host Student Program. Sign up online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/hsp/. Thanks for participating in welcoming our incoming international students at GSAS!

E-Dudley
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.

Free Lunch at Dudley House!
Free tickets are available to GSAS students and other Dudley House members to treat a faculty member (professors or instructors only) or favorite administrator to lunch at the Dudley Café. Pick up tickets at the Dudley House Office, third floor. Students are entitled to two pairs of tickets per term.

Dudley Café
Dudley Café will close for the 2005–06 academic year after the dinner meal on Friday, May 25. If you’re here for the summer, be sure to check out our outdoor café for lunch!
—Susan Zawalich (zawalich@fas.harvard.edu)

Dudley Arts
Monday, May 1. Salsa Dance Class. 9 p.m., Main Dining Room. E-mail sml@fas.harvard.edu with suggestions for other dance classes at Dudley House next year.

Wednesday, May 3. Exhibition: India: Life in Color. 7:30 p.m., Common Room. Exhibition runs May 4–June 4. Work by artist Kiran Soni Gupta, Mason fellow at the Kennedy School of Government and resident artist at Dudley House for ArtsFirst. ID required for alcohol.

Thursday, May 4. Indian Classic Film. 7 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge.

Thursday, May 4–Sunday, May 7. Traditional Indian Arts Workshops. Various times and locations. Artist Kiran Soni Gupta will teach henna tattooing, luminous glass painting, tie dying, and colored sand technique in a series of lunch and evening workshops. Workshop fees vary. Check the Dudley Website (www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley) or stop by the House Office to register or for more information.

Wednesday, May 24. a grain of salt…. FiLmprov, that ever-evolving experiment in the union of film, musical improvisation, and beyond will offer a menu of nutritious animated films by Kate Matson and delicious improvised music coordinated by musical director Mark Harvey. 8 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. http://filmprov.tripod.com.

Dudley Classic Films
Friday, May 12. Fred Astaire Birthday Festival: All Singing! All Dancing! All Fred and Ginger! Join us for our annual day-and-night celebration of Fred Astaire’s birthday (he was born May 10, 1899). This year, films will celebrate the golden partnership of Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Stop by at any time during the day to celebrate these great American entertainers. All films will be shown in the Graduate Student Lounge. Additional musical numbers from other Fred and Ginger movies will be shown between film showings.


2 p.m. Flying Down to Rio (1933, 89 mins.). The first time Fred and Ginger were paired in a musical they played supporting roles for...
comic relief, stealing the picture and the hearts of millions! What a finale—daring girls turning cartwheels on the wings of airplanes! Birthday cake and coffee will be served after this film.

4 p.m. The Barkleys of Broadway (1949, 109 mins.). Fred and Ginger’s last film together, 16 years after their first. They play a famous Broadway team, battling spouses who break up so they can learn how much they need each other. Music by the Gershwins.

6 p.m. Follow the Fleet (1936, 110 mins.). Score by Irving Berlin. Fred and Ginger play former lovers reunited when sailor Fred happens into the dancehall where Ginger is working. Fabulous numbers include “Let’s Face the Music and Dance” and “Let Yourself Go.”

8 p.m. Roberta (1935, 106 mins.). According to the Internet Movie Database, “A Heart-Load of Maddening Beauties…In Gasping Gowns…A Fortune in Furs…A Ransom in Jewels…In a Song-Studded Romance of Paris in Lovetime!” Music by Jerome Kern. Fred and Ginger meet again in Paris and fall back in love while dancing up a storm!

Intellectual and Cultural Events

Tuesday, May 9. Fireside Chat with Charles Ansbacher. 7 p.m., Common Room. Charles Ansbacher, conductor and founder of Boston Landmarks Orchestra, will speak on “Who Needs a Conductor?” He holds titles and positions with orchestras in Boston, Moscow, Sarajevo, and Bishkek, and is conductor laureate of the Colorado Springs Symphony. He also has conducted for the Vienna State Opera and Moscow Symphony Orchestra and served as a White House fellow, chair of the Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities, and executive director for Boston 2000. Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Yao Chen (yaochen@fas.harvard.edu).

Music at Dudley House

Information about the Dudley music program is available at www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley or by calling the Dudley Music Line, 617-495-4162.

Friday, May 5. Dudley House Jazz Band. The Spring Concert will be held at 9 p.m. in the Main Dining Room. Thanks to William Bares for his outstanding leadership of the group for the past two years. If you are interested in joining the group next year, e-mail gidal@fas.harvard.edu.
—Marc Gidal

Saturday, May 6. Dudley House Chorus. The Spring Concert will be performed at 8 p.m. in the Main Dining Room. The concert will feature Renaissance madrigals and chansons from across Europe. Admission is free. A short reception will follow in the Fireside Room. Thanks to Michael Barrett for leading the Dudley Chorus this year. If you are interested in joining the group next year, e-mail obermuel@fas.harvard.edu.
—Karola Obersmueler

Sunday, May 7. Dudley House Orchestra. The Spring Concert will be performed at 4 p.m. in Sanders Theatre and will be the finale to the Harvard Arts First Celebration. Program: Shostakovich: Symphony No. 12: “The Year 1917”; Berlioz: Les nuits d’été (Summer Nights); soprano: Susanna Phillips. Phillips won the Metropolitan Opera, Placido Domingo, and Marilyn Horne Foundation competitions; she sings with the Chicago Lyric Opera. Tickets: $8 (general public), $5 (students and Harvard affiliates). Tickets available at the Harvard Box Office and the Dudley House Office. E-mail schroed@fas.harvard.edu with questions.
—Drew Schroeder

Dudley Traditional Music Ensemble. Thanks to Lydia Bean for her wonderful leadership of the group this year; their end-of-the-year concert was held on April 29. If you are interested in joining this eclectic group next year, e-mail kaushans@fas.harvard.edu.
—Alexis Kaushansky

Dudley Outings

Saturday, May 13. Whale Watching. Sail from Boston Harbor on the Voyager III, a New England Aquarium catamaran, to Stellwagen Bank, a busy feeding area for whales, dolphins, sea birds, and other marine life. We have 19 spots; sign up in the Dudley House Office. Cost: $23/person. Questions? E-mail Jenny Smythe (smythe@fas.harvard.edu).

Thursday, May 25. Boston Red Sox vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays. 7:05 p.m., Fenway Park. Grandstand tickets: $45. Limit one per GSAS student/Dudley House member. We will sell tickets in person at the Dudley House Office starting at 9:15 a.m. on Monday, May 8—first come, first served. No phone or e-mail orders. We hope to get more Red Sox tickets for future games; check the Dudley e-mail list. Questions? E-mail Jenny Smythe (smythe@fas.harvard.edu).
—Jenny Smythe

Social Events

Monday, May 8. Ice Cream Social. 7:30–10 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge. Celebrate summer’s arrival by enjoying fabulous Herrell’s ice cream with your fellow students.

Wednesday, May 10. Cuban Cooking Class. 7 p.m., Private Dining Room. Join graduate student Stacy Giufre for a Cuban cooking lesson and learn to make some regional specialties and then eat the results. Limited to 15 students. Tickets: $5. On sale Monday, May 1, Dudley House Office. Questions? E-mail Zeba Wunderlich (wunderl@fas.harvard.edu).
—Zeba Wunderlich

Dudley Public Service

To sign up for regular updates about public service events, visit http://lists.fas.harvard.edu/mailman/listinfo/dudley-pubserv. Volunteering with fellow GSAS students is a great way to share your interests and talents, make a difference, take a break from your studies, and get to know the greater Boston area.
Sunday, May 7. **Walk For Hunger.** 8 a.m., Dudley House steps. This scenic 20-mile walk, sponsored by Project Bread, is the largest annual fundraiser for the hungry in Massachusetts. Sign up at www.projectbread.org.

**Dudley Literary**
Thursday, May 4. **Dudley Review Launch Party.** 7 p.m., Common Room. Celebrate the publication of the 2006 Dudley Review! Program includes readings from writers published in the journal. Refreshments provided (21+ for alcohol). Complimentary copies of the Review will be available. For more information, e-mail dudley_literary@yahoo.com.

To subscribe to the Dudley Literary Newsletter, send a blank e-mail to: dudley_literary-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

**Intramural Athletics Keep Up to Date.** Visit www.fas.harvard.edu/~dudley/athletics. Dudley House Athletics Fellows coordinate Dudley’s entries into Harvard’s intramural program; your options run the gamut from table tennis and soccer to basketball and squash.

**Dragon Boaters Wanted**
Thousands of years ago, Chinese fishermen took to the waters to splash their oars and beat their drums hoping to scare the fish and water dragons of the Mi Lo River away from the distressed poet Ch’u Yuan.

Every spring, dozens of GSAS students and other Dudley House members take to the Charles River. The paddlers are not your average crew. Sandwiched between an energetic drummer and a well-balanced steersperson, 18 paddlers battle head-to-head with other teams in an all-out 500m sprint. When they’re not racing on the Charles, the Harvard Dudley team competes with style all over the Northeast. At the Boston Dragon Boat Festival, the team has dominated the local division, grabbing first place every year since 2001, and they have enjoyed strong finishes at many of their other races as well. Every October, the team ends a successful season with a partially subsidized trip to China to compete in front of thousands of onlookers against paddlers from universities.
around the world. If you have the heart of a dragon, or perhaps just some extra time on your hands, check out one of the USA’s fastest growing water sports: dragon boating. Team Dudley practices are flexible, and are held weekday evenings and/or weekend afternoons beginning May 1. Check the Website for details about information sessions and practices (http://hcs.harvard.edu/dboat/).

—Laura Magnotti

Reception for Degree Candidates

Wednesday, June 7. Jim and Doreen Hogle, master and co-master of Dudley House, invite all GSAS degree candidates and their guests to a reception. 4–6 p.m., Dudley House.

Dudley Fellows and Staff for 2006–07

Congratulations to the new and continuing Dudley House staff members for 2006–07. Dudley fellows (all GSAS students) are responsible for event programming and help run the House. E-mail zawalich@fas.harvard.edu with any programming suggestions for next year.

Coordinating Fellow: Zeba Wunderlich (biophysics)

Arts/Drama/Film Fellows: Andy Friedman (astronomy); Eva Helfenstein (history of art and architecture); and Jie Li, assistant (East Asian languages and civilizations)

Athletics Fellows: Jason Gallicchio (physics); Jonathan Fan (engineering and applied sciences); and Linda Barnes, assistant (political economy and government)

Intellectual/Cultural Fellows: Jonathan Ruel (physics); Katherine Humphry (politics); Cassi Pittman, assistant (sociology); and Sui-Ann Mao, assistant (astronomy)

Literary Fellows: Jamey Graham (comparative literature) and Patricia Vieira (Romance languages and literatures)

Music Fellows: Marc Gidal, Jazz Band (music); Alexis Kaushansky, World Music Ensemble (molecular and cellular biology); Karola Obermueller, Dudley Chorus (music); and Drew Schroeder, Dudley Orchestra (philosophy)

Outings Fellows: Jenny Smythe (engineering and applied sciences), Dmitri Byzalov (economics), and Rachel Pepper, assistant (physics)

Public Service Fellows: Fan Zhang (public policy); Fatin Abbas, assistant (comparative literature); and Adrian Kwek, assistant (philosophy)

Social Events Fellows: Natasha Devroye (engineering and applied sciences); Geetika Tewari (engineering and applied sciences); Daniel Jafferis, assistant (physics); and William Yuen, assistant (engineering and applied sciences)

House Master: Jim Hogle, the Edward S. Harkness professor of biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology

Co-Master: Doreen Hogle

House Administrator: Susan Zawalich

Residential Dean: Laura Johnson

Staff Assistant: Chad Conlan

Staff Assistant and Undergraduate Coordinator: Carvina Williams

Thanks for the Memories

Thanks for the work, commitment, and spirit of our graduate student staff members who are leaving Dudley House next year to pursue post-graduate careers, work on their dissertations, study abroad, and take on other challenges.

These students have all made significant contributions to the viability and vitality of our graduate student center, and we wish them the best as they move into emeritus/fellow status: William Bares (jazz band), Michael Barrett (chorus), Lydia Bean (world music ensemble), Yao Chen (intellectual/cultural events), Danielle De Feo (arts), Nineta Elphick and Molly Faulkner-Bond (Café Gato Rojo), Denise Ho (intellectual/cultural events), Hobie Hoffmann (outings), Angie Lai (coordinating fellow), Jonathan Ledlie (athletics), Daniel Levenson (literary), Linda Liang (public service), Sue-Ann Ma (arts), and Eylem Özaltun (intellectual/cultural).

Work-Study Jobs Available

If you are interested in working in the Dudley Library or Café Gato Rojo, please e-mail zawalich@fas.harvard.edu.

Summer Hours

Café Gato Rojo and the Dudley House Library will be closed during the summer months and will reopen in mid-September 2006. The Dudley House Office, GSAS Housing Services, and Office of Student Services will remain open during the summer, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (closed on July 4). Dudley Café will provide lunch throughout the summer at our outdoor café in Harvard Yard.

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

Harvard Satirical Press: Call For Submissions

Feel like laughing and procrastinating at the same time? If so, check out www.harvardsp.com and enjoy Harvard’s only official graduate student comedy magazine, generously funded by the Graduate Student Council, the Harvard COOP, Pip Printing, and you, if you ever decide to give us your money. Look for print copies of our spring 2006 issue all around campus and at Dudley House, and be sure to check out our online archive. If you think you’re funny and want to give it a shot, we are currently accepting submissions for our May 2006 issue. Submission deadline: Monday, May 15. Send submissions/other inquiries to: harvardsp@gmail.com; attn.: Andrew Friedman, editor in chief.

Peabody Lecture: Seeing Both Forest and Trees: Imagining Maya Kingdom and King at San Bartolo, Guatemala

Wednesday, May 3. William Saturno, University of New Hampshire. 5:30 p.m., Yenching Institute, 2 Divinity Ave. 617-496-1027.

2006 DEAS Industry Partnership Workshop: Bioengineering, Materials Science, and Nanosystems

Friday, May 5. Free for members of the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences (DEAS); open to all GSAS students. Visit www.deas.harvard.edu/partnerships/ for a workshop agenda and complete details. For information about preparing and submitting materials, go to www.editorial.deas.harvard.edu/posterinfo2006.html. Space is limited; to attend, you must register at www.deas.harvard.edu/partnerships/.

Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club Presents: The Playboy of the Western World

Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St. For ticketing requests, e-mail powwtickets@gmail.com or go to www.fas.harvard.edu/~tickets. May 3 & 4, 7:30 p.m.; May 5 & 6, 8 p.m. Tickets: $12/$8 students/Harvard affiliates/seniors. Reserve at Harvard Box Office, 1350 Massachusetts Ave., 617-496-2222; or Loeb Drama Center Box Office, 617-547-3800. poww.hrdctheater.com.

Discussion: Schooling America: How the Public Schools Meet the Nation’s Changing Needs

Wednesday, May 10. Patricia Albjerg Graham, the Charles Warren research professor of the

Harvard University Art Museums Expositions and Events

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 beforehand by calling Visitor Services, 617-495-8286.

- Monday, May 8. Light Conversation: Seminars with Contemporary Photographers: Oscar Palacio. 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Fogg Art Museum, Mongan Center, 32 Quincy St.
- Tuesday, May 9. Family Night at the Fogg! 6–8 p.m., Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St. Children of all ages will enjoy gallery tours, storytelling, arts and crafts activities, and refreshments.

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

For more information about these or other events and exhibitions, call 617-495-8600 or check www.radcliffe.edu.


Bureau of Study Counsel

5 Linden St.; tel.: 617-495-2581; e-mail: bsc@harvard.edu. Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

- Online Forum for Men of Asian Background. Facilitated by SungLim Shin and Susan Dubois. Full-semester 24/7 online forum. Beginning date to be determined. One meeting with the facilitators is required before the forum begins; contact the Bureau.
- Meditation Drop-in Workshop. With SungLim Shin. Mondays, 4:30–5:15 p.m., while classes are in session. Some meetings may not take place, so call ahead to confirm.
- Insanely Busy: What Would Happen If I Slowed Down? 1.5-hour workshop; also available to Houses or student groups upon request. To schedule a workshop or for more information, contact facilitators Ariel Phillips (aphillips@bsc.harvard.edu) or Sheila Reindl (sreindl@bsc.harvard.edu), (617-495-2581).
Upcoming Spring Programs
The academic year is coming to a close, but the Office of Career Services (OCS) still has a variety of workshops designed for GSAS students. For more details on the spring schedule, visit www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu and click on “GSAS.”

Monday, May 8. Preparing for the Fall Job Market: Academic CV and Cover Letter Workshop. Your CV and cover letter are the first documents that academic search committees see. If you’re planning to go on the academic job market this fall, begin preparing your documents now! 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., OCS Conference Room.

Friday, May 12. Preparing for the Fall Recruiting Season: Résumé and Cover Letter Workshop. The fall recruiting season begins even before classes do! Don’t be caught without a tight and tailored résumé when the first companies arrive on campus in search of PhD candidates. All GSAS students and alumni are welcome, whether applying for jobs soon or waiting for the recruiting season. 10–11:30 a.m., OCS Conference Room.

Monday, May 15. Building Professional Connections. The best way to find the perfect job is to gather information and meet people through networking. This workshop will demystify the process of networking and give you practical tips on how to actually get out there and network your way into a fabulous job. 2:30–4 p.m., OCS Conference Room.

Tuesday, May 16, and Wednesday, May 17. Drop-In CV and Résumé Reviews. If you’re gearing up for a job search, either on the academic or nonacademic job market, drop in for a quick critique of your CV, résumé, and/or cover letter. Tuesday: 10 a.m.–12 p.m., Wednesday: 1:30–4 p.m., 3rd floor, OCS.

Tuesdays, June 13, 20, and 27. Career Transition Workshop Series. If you’ve been considering a nonacademic career, take action this summer! In this intensive series, we will discuss the career-transition process, engage in self-assessment, and brainstorm ideas for career options. Registration for all three sessions is required; e-mail Laura Malisheski (malishes@fas.harvard.edu) with your name, department, and G-level or year of graduation (for GSAS alumni). 1–3 p.m. (until 4 p.m. on June 27), OCS Seminar Room.

Wednesday, June 21, and Friday, June 23. Business Mind-Set Workshop Series. Run by GSAS alumnus Alan Kantrow (PhD ’79, history of American civilization), chief content officer at the Monitor Group, this workshop is designed to help GSAS students go from the thought processes and decision-making styles favored in academe to those favored in the business world. Prepare to engage in interactive discussions, reading analysis, and case studies.

Space is limited to 20. Preference will be given to those completing their degrees in the next year. To register, e-mail Robin Mount (rmount@fas.harvard.edu). Series meets 3–5 p.m., location TBA.

Walk-in Hours
GSAS career counselors hold walk-in hours Mondays, 1–4 p.m., through June. 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 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, résumé, and interviewing and negotiation skills. Call 617-495-2959 to schedule an appointment.

—Laura Malisheski

Postdoctoral Positions in the Sciences
continued from page 4

they see the training process coming to an end. Or they simply might not have the connections or influence you hoped they might. They may make a few suggestions, but are not prepared to do much more.

• Prepare a résumé that highlights relevant research you have done, fellowships you have won, your publications, and professional activity.

• Draft a cover letter that conveys your interests and your qualifications; the unsolicited letter of inquiry is similar to a cover letter for a posted opening in some respects, except that you are asking if there might be a given position for someone with your skills and qualifications.

It is even more important to find out about the research lab, since you are essentially proposing how you can be of use to them and how your qualifications would best suit their needs. (For sample letters of inquiry, see chapter eight of Scholarly Pursuits, available at www.gas.harvard.edu/academic/fellowships/scholarly.html.)

Save the Date! Fall Teaching Conference
Our annual Fall Teaching Conference will be held September 13 and 14, 2006. Experienced teachers will cover a wide range of topics aimed at helping new TJs and experienced teachers. Breakfast and lunch will be served. If there are teaching topics or issues you would like to see covered in a session or would like to discuss with your colleagues, contact us at bokcenter@fas.harvard.edu.

—Beckie Hunter
Recap of April Open Meeting

We discussed ways to incorporate graduate student input into such issues as the selection of the University’s next president and FAS dean, as well as into planning for the future of science and engineering at the University.

We discussed possible changes to how GSAS will regulate the G-clock and leaves of absences to persuade graduate students to finish their studies within seven years. Although the rules and regulations are not finalized or official, changes will have a great impact on graduate students and their departments. We encourage students to think about this issue and talk to their departments. If you have any comments or questions about this issue, contact Crystal Fleming (cfleming@fas.harvard.edu).

GSC approved budgets for nine of ten applying student groups; the GSC Budget and Funding Committee will meet again to discuss the remaining case. Student groups are encouraged to provide detailed funding applications. Contact GSC Treasurer Jonathan Ruel (ruel@fas.harvard.edu) for the most updated funding guidelines.

Elections were held for next year’s GSC executive officers. The results are: Crystal Fleming, president; Sarah Carter and Christine Thomas, vice presidents; and Jonathan Ruel, treasurer. The position for secretary is still open. Congratulations to the winners!

GSC Open Meeting: Wednesday, May 3

6:30 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge, Dudley House. This will be the last open meeting of the 2005–06 academic year. To put an issue on the meeting agenda, submit it to gsc@hcs.harvard.edu.

Commencement Marshals

Six student marshals lead the GSAS Commencement procession and carry the GSAS and Dudley House banners. Marshals are nominated by their department administrators and selected by a GSC committee, which reviews nominees’ CVs and letters. Marshals are selected based on their contributions to graduate student life. Four PhD recipients and two master’s degree recipients were chosen, as were alternates for each position. See page 1 of this issue for a list of the 2006 marshals.

Grants and Group Funding: Application Deadline May 1

The next deadline for conference and summer research grant applications is May 1. We encourage all students to take advantage of these great opportunities. Please check to see if you are eligible to apply for a conference or summer research grant. Funding is available to support research and conference attendance, as well as for student groups sponsoring events that serve the community. New student groups are always welcome to apply. Visit our Website for guidelines and application forms, or e-mail us with questions or concerns.

In Common

Grad Student Peer Counseling

Preoccupied? Have something on your mind? Just need to talk? Call us. In Common is an anonymous and confidential peer counseling hotline for graduate students.

Call us Monday – Thursday, 8p.m. – 12a.m.
617-384-TALK (8255)

We’re here for you.

The GSAS Bulletin

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Mailing List and Calendar

To find out about GSC events, send a message to majordomo@fas.harvard.edu containing only the text: “subscribe gsc-list.” Visit www.hcs.harvard.edu/~gsc to view the GSC calendar of events. Linkedin

—Jina Suh

GSAS Online

For information on fellowships, housing, the GSAS Handbook and other publications, student organizations, services, and more at the Graduate School, visit www.gsas.harvard.edu.
Congratulations to the following correct guessers who noticed that the photo from the April issue was a detail of the ceiling of the Holyoke Center Arcade: Serafin Colmenares (medical sciences), Amalia Culp (history of art and architecture), Chi-Kuo Hu (systems biology), Alison Denton Jones (sociology), Yingfen Kao (medical sciences), Sukhee Lee (East Asian languages and civilizations), Geng Li (medical sciences), Ian Martin (economics), Luis Antonio Mejia (medical sciences), Yifat Merbl (systems biology), Liang Ooi (systems biology), Bert Van Herck (music), and Cecily Vanderspurt (medical sciences).

In case any readers have been thinking that the selection of these What Is It? Where Is It? photos is totally arbitrary, the photo to the right represents the new location of the GSAS administrative offices. That’s right. As of August 2006, we’re leaving our longtime digs in Byerly Hall for Holyoke Center.

Please note, this is the last issue of the 2005–06 academic year. What Is It? Where Is It? will resume in the September/October 2006 issue of the GSAS Bulletin. Have a safe, relaxing, and productive summer!