2 Writing Truth to Power
Student Zoe Trodd talks about her new book, *American Protest Literature*, and the classic writing that flowed from the American Revolution and the abolitionist, women’s suffrage, feminism, civil rights, and gay liberation movements.

4 The Father of Invention

6 New Writing by Harvard Faculty
We bring you excerpts from historian David Armitage’s book on the Declaration of Independence and its global influence (and influences); psychologist Marc Hauser writing on our intrinsic sense of right and wrong; and political scientist Stanley Hoffmann’s argument that the roots of contemporary terrorism are found in globalization.

8 Remote Sensing Comes Down to Harvard
Michael Rutter looks at how Harvard scientists and scholars are using the latest remote-sensing technology in their research in fields from anthropology to environmental engineering.

14 Recently Received
A round-up of books written and edited by GSAS alumni represent our usual scholarly eclecticism, including work on race and Hurricane Katrina, digitizing history, Gandhi and postmodernism, and religious literacy.

17 Also inside… On Development looks at the student group Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering.
from the dean

Innovative Moves

Since becoming dean of the Graduate School in 2003, one of my priorities has been to ensure that our graduate programs continually evolve to meet the changing needs of our students and help facilitate their scholarship and research.

That’s why one of my first acts as dean was to arrange support for two programs intended to support individual departments wishing to make improvements: first, a series of seed grants, and second, a Dean’s Prize for Innovation. I’m happy to report that our first awards cycle was completed this spring.

The seed grants, officially known as GSAS Seed Grants for Planned Improvements in Graduate Education, aim to assist PhD programs devise and launch changes that will significantly enhance students’ graduate training. These awards—for up to $25,000—are competitive, with up to three available annually.

In this first year, we awarded two seed grants: one to the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations (EALC), the other to the Department of English and American Literature and Language.

English will use its grant to fund a biannual two-day graduate student symposium for scholarly presentations and career-related discussion. EALC’s grant will go toward funding a variety of long-sought initiatives, including the creation of a dissertation prospectus database, a workshop series on academic careers, and a symposium for fourth-year graduate students to present their dissertation prospectuses.

The second grant program—formally, the Dean’s Fund for Innovation in Graduate Education—supports up to three prizes for past creative advances in some key aspect of program performance (for example, the mentoring and advising of graduate students, encouraging timely progress through the program, or more effective placement of graduates). The winner of the Dean’s Prize receives $25,000; and this year, two other PhD programs also receive slightly smaller amounts. We had an especially strong field of contenders in this inaugural year, and it is good to make a number of innovations visible to all graduate programs at Harvard.

The winner of the inaugural Dean’s Prize is the PhD program of the Department of Systems Biology for its implementation of a summer course for select graduate students from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Medical School. Now in its second year, the course aims to bring students of great promise—whether from a life sciences, engineering, or other academic background—or to speed on the techniques, mathematics, and computational tools needed to succeed in the emerging field of systems biology. In short, the course helps provide “common ground” for future training—and future research.

The two runners-up in the Dean’s Fund competition are the PhD programs in the Department of History and the Department of English and American Literature and Language. History developed an online graduate admissions system to enable more faculty to read applications, improve the efficiency of applicant evaluations, and better organize recruitment. English launched an array of changes in program requirements to streamline students’ journey to the degree.

All of these innovations represent just the sort of creative thinking that’s vital in a large institution like Harvard. That they emerged from within the departments rather than being imposed from without shows that they reflect the specific needs of the individual programs and the students they serve. The role of the Graduate School and the Graduate Policy Committee is to encourage such improvements—and spread the word about the most effective of them from one program to another. In a decentralized institution led by experts in many different fields, the best way to leverage steady improvements is by encouraging a process of “competitive emulation” among departments, all of which are striving to do better for our students. That is my philosophy as Dean.

Theda Skocpol
PhD ’75
Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Victor S. Thomas
professor of government and sociology
WRITING TRUTH TO POWER

Zoe Trodd Highlights American Protest Literature

BY CHARLES COE

America is a protest nation, says Zoe Trodd, pictured. “It’s a cliché but nonetheless true that America was invented. And a lot of the writers in my book were quite clear that they were participants in designing a country.”
The moment she sweeps into a room, Zoe Trodd smashes to bits any image of the fusty, dusty academic. Trodd is a tall, animated young woman who at first glance might seem more appropriately cast in a British romantic comedy than as a historical scholar. But the moment she starts to speak, her keen intellect and serious engagement with American political history are evident.

Tropp, a PhD candidate in the History of American Civilization Program, is the editor of the new book, American Protest Literature (Harvard University Press), a collection of classic writing that flowed from several political and social protest movements, including the American Revolution and the abolitionist movement, women’s suffrage, feminism, civil rights, and gay liberation movements.

Each chapter is divided into two sections: “The Literature,” writings produced in the early phase of a particular movement, and “The Legacy,” writings that represent thinking that emerged during that movement’s more mature phase.

Tropp came to Harvard from England intending to spend a year as a visiting scholar and then return to Oxford to work on a PhD focusing on radical 1930s British literature. That plan changed soon after her arrival in Cambridge, when she became intrigued by the work of Harvard’s John Stauffer, a professor of English and American literature and language and of African and African American studies.

“He explained to me that America is a protest nation,” Trodd says. “It’s a cliché but nonetheless true that America was invented. And a lot of the writers in my book were quite clear that they were participants in designing a country.”

Tropp and Stauffer eventually decided to collaborate and, in 2004, their co-edited volume Meteor of War: The John Brown Story (Blackwell) appeared, a critically acclaimed collection of letters and other primary source materials.

David Brion Davis, the Sterling professor of history emeritus at Yale and director of Yale’s Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, praised Trodd and Stauffer’s book for effectively conveying “how a supposed madman and brutal terrorist could also be hailed as a saint or as an anti-racist Jesus who turned the gallows into a cross.”

Brown was the fire-breathing abolitionist who in 1859 led 21 men in seizing control of the federal armory at Harper’s Ferry. He hoped to encourage slaves to join his rebellion, but two days later his dreams died when Robert E. Lee and a company of marines retook the armory. Brown was wounded and captured, and later hanged for insurrection.

“The historical impact of American protest writing has been enormous,” says Trodd. “You have a novel like Uncle Tom’s Cabin, which was respected as a piece of legitimate literature but also incredibly influential—the touchstone for the abolitionist movement. In 19th-century America, it sold more copies than the Bible. Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle led to major changes in the food processing industry. Martin Luther King Jr.’s ‘Letter from The Birmingham Jail’ helped pave the way for the Civil Rights Act.”

In the United States, “there isn’t the division between politics and aesthetics that exists in most other places. In Britain, people seem worried that when you mix politics and literature you get propaganda,” Trodd adds. “When I studied English literature at Cambridge, there was no history and literature program like the one I’m teaching in now. When I told my professor back at Oxford that I’d decided to study the history of American civilization, he told me, ‘That should be about a two-week program.’”

With American Protest Literature, Trodd makes a case that this writing should be appreciated and taken seriously.

“It’s a canon bound together not only by politics but by its literary quality and characteristics,” she says. “I wanted to reclaim this work as literature, which meant analyzing it in a literary way, and present it as part of a tradition.”

In the introduction to the collection, she states that this writing “provides a revolutionary language and a renewed vision of the possible. It gives distinctive shape to long-accumulating grievances, claims old rights, and demands new ones. It creates space for argument, introduces doubt, deepens perception, and shatters the accepted limits of belief.”

But the value of American protest writing lies not simply in its political content, Trodd explains, but also in its literary qualities, best revealed by examining it from a theoretical and literary standpoint. Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. “looked at the tradition of the African American oral narrative and said, ‘This is literature because I can analyze it as literature.’ You can do the same with American protest writing,” she says.

What’s more, Trodd sees a thread of tradition and historical memory embedded in protest literature. “Abolitionists drew on and claimed as progressive the tradition of those who wrote in support of the American Revolution. Later, the anti-lynching writers would in the same way draw on the abolitionists’ tradition. And second-wave feminist writers would be inspired by the work of the first wave,” she says. “This body of work is filled with those connections and cross references.

“Documents like the Declaration of Independence and the [US] Constitution and the amendments that followed are, in a way, America’s ‘birth certificates,’ and they opened a space for writers that we continued on page 10.

According to Chaplin, currently on sabbatical as a research fellow at the Huntington Library in California, Franklin's reputation since his death has misleadingly focused on his role as one of America's Founding Fathers to the neglect of his importance to the history of science.

Franklin considered himself first a man of science, in 18th-century terms, a natural "philosopher," when philosophy referred to understanding all knowledge, even of the natural world.

Yet Chaplin emphasizes that Franklin's virtual rock-star status during the latter decades of his life hinged as much on his intellectual prowess in science as it did a commitment to self-promotion. Science, Franklin had long realized, was his road to recognition.

**THE (CLOSED) GATES OF HARVARD**

Franklin might not have been quite so starved for success had he been able to enter Harvard, as was originally planned for the promising Boston boy.

He was born in 1706 into an enormous family, even for those days. Writes Chaplin, “Franklin was the 15th of his twice-married father’s 17 children and the eighth of his mother’s ten children.” Still, he stood out as an eager and able learner, and the family paid for him to attend a Latin grammar school with the idea that he would enter Harvard in order to become a minister.

But when family funds ran low, spending money on any one son’s education became untenable, and young Benjamin enrolled in a less-expensive school. “The Reverend Mr. Benjamin Franklin, A.B. Harvard, would never exist,” writes Chaplin.

Many years later, though, when he was world famous, Franklin would come to Harvard’s rescue. “When Harvard’s scientific instruments were pretty much decimated by fire, Franklin, in London at the time, helped the faculty restock, as it were, and got the best for them,” says Chaplin. “So that makes me think [that] in a sense he’s saying, ‘I am a Harvard man,’ in a different way, but, perhaps more importantly, as a patron.” And she notes that Franklin was “probably more famous than any Harvard graduate of the 18th century.” Ultimately, Franklin left school at age ten, having at least learned to read and write there, and went to work in the family business, candle and soap making.

Most readers may be able to pick up the Franklin narrative at this point: how, when the young man came of age, he left his father’s business and took up his own, printing...how printing enabled him to pursue writing and publishing...how he left Boston for Philadelphia, fleeing business competition from an older brother...how he took over running the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, assumed the identity of Poor Richard and published “his” *Almanac*, but began writing mostly—and increasingly—about science.

In colonial America, abstract science was often the domain of amateurs, albeit intellectually able ones. There was nothing comparable to London’s Royal Society and few institutions of higher education to produce a professional class. The field, then, was wide open, and Franklin knew it. Indeed, so humble was American science, Franklin used his house as his laboratory.

But, says Chaplin, “You cannot overstate how ambitious he was, even as a child. Franklin clearly always wanted to be famous.”
Of course, without an “astonishing” intelligence, she adds, there would have been no Franklin as we know him. “But he also was incredibly driven,” she says. “I mean, a lot of people are intelligent, but you never hear about them. Franklin was very, very careful always to make sure that he was getting ahead. He never did anything where he didn’t think there was some advantage, some way of expanding people’s knowledge of him.”

**ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR**

Over the years, Franklin would conduct inquiries into phenomena ranging from inoculation and curing the common cold, to heat absorption and circulation.

His most important scientific contributions were his theory of electricity and his work on ocean phenomena, particularly the Gulf Stream, says Chaplin. Certainly, Franklin is better known for the former than for the latter, but as Chaplin points out, it is significant that his earliest—and his last—scientific writing had to do with the sea.

A journal he kept during an early Atlantic crossing in 1726 was, she writes, “the progenitor of all Franklin’s work in the sciences. It was his first extended inquiry into the natural world—indeed, the first sign that he thought he had something to say about it.”

Franklin began to study electricity in 1747, during a period when, according to Chaplin, “electrical investigations had become a kind of craze.” One point of these initial experiments was, Chaplin writes, to “visualize electricity, the invisible fluid.”

Franklin and his collaborators did that—and more. They first confirmed European experiments that electricity exhibited repulsion, which could be manipulated, and revealed which materials were conductors or nonconductors. “But they also revealed two new properties of electricity: the significance of pointed objects and the importance of nonconductors,” writes Chaplin.

Franklin moved onto the question of electricity as matter and demonstrated his findings with his version of the famous Leyden jar, a device that had helped redefine electrical experimenting.

The inquiry led Franklin to declare that electricity was present almost everywhere in the atmosphere. “That central idea—that electricity is a particular form of matter—is really what established electricity as a part of science,” says Chaplin. “It was something you could observe under controlled circumstances and that you could generate propositions about, so that other people could replicate your experiments, come to the same conclusions.”

It was also, she says, an important turning point, not only in the history of electricity but also in the history of physics.

But how, one might ask, did the legendary kite figure into the story? There is no disputing that in 1752 Franklin, with his son William, flew a kite in an electrical storm. But, writes Chaplin, the experiment was not done to identify lightning with electricity. That had already been observed. The kite was used to verify that finding—but also to gauge the charge of the clouds and to determine the presence of electricity in the atmosphere.

Franklin, writes Chaplin, “was doing far more than playing with a kite, and it reduces his efforts considerably to describe them as resulting only in a clever device, the lightning rod.” But the pastoral father-and-son scene did inspire a popular Currier and Ives print.

Franklin’s other major scientific contribution was his work on the Gulf Stream and on oceanic phenomena generally. Having grown up around seafaring people in Boston, Franklin always had a passion for sea travel. His work as a scientist and, later, as an emissary for the new United States frequently took him across the Atlantic, and he took advantage of the long sea journeys for experimentation.

The article “Maritime Observations,” published in the journal of the American Philosophical Society in 1786, was a summation of his work—primarily his **continued on page 11**
THE INFLUENCE OF INDEPENDENCE, THE NATURE OF VIRTUE, AND THE POISON OF TERRORISM

Colloquy regularly presents excerpts from new books written by Harvard faculty in the arts and sciences. In this issue, you’ll find recent work by historian David Armitage, psychologist Marc Hauser, and political scientist Stanley Hoffmann. —The editor

“THE WORLD IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE”
By David Armitage
Armitage is a professor of history.

This was the world into which the members of Congress believed they were introducing the United States of America by means of the Declaration of Independence. In its self-justifying pamphlet Observations on the American Revolution (1779), Congress took independence to be a settled but embattled fact: “we must hold ourselves ready to repel force by force wherever assailed, and firmly retort to every infringement of the law of nations with unfailing perseverance.” If the independence of the United States could be defended, and the law of nations upheld, then the United States would become what Thomas Paine and others had predicted: an asylum for oppressed humanity, a beacon of knowledge and benevolence, and a universal entrepôt for the commerce of the world.

“What’s Wrong?”
By Marc Hauser
Hauser is a professor of psychology.

HUNDREDS OF SELF-HELP BOOKS and call-in radio stations, together with the advice of such American ethic gurus as William Bennett and Randy Cohen, provide us with principled reasons and methods for leading a virtuous life. Law schools across the globe graduate thousands of scholars each year, trained to reason through cases of fraud, theft, violence, and injustice; the law books are filled with principles for how to judge human behavior, both moral and amoral. Most major universities include a mandatory course in moral reasoning, designed to teach students about the importance of dispassionate logic, moving from evidence to conclusion, checking assumptions and explicitly stating inferences and hypotheses. Medical and legal boards provide rational and highly reasoned policies in order to set guidelines for morally permissible, forbidden, and punishable actions. Businesses set up contracts to clarify the rules of equitable negotiation and exchange. Military leaders train soldiers to act with a cool head, thinking through alternative strategies, planning effective attacks, and squelching the emotions and instincts that may cause impulsive behavior when reasoning is required to do the right thing. Presidential committees are established to clarify ethical principles and the consequences of violations, both at home and abroad. All of these professionals share a common perspective: conscious moral reasoning from explicit principles is the cause of our moral judgments. As a classic text in moral philosophy concludes, “Morality is, first and foremost, a matter of consulting reason. The morally right thing to do, in any circumstance, is whatever there are the best reasons for doing.”

This dominant perspective falls prey to an illusion: Just because we can consciously reason from explicit principles—handed down from parents, teachers, lawyers, or religious leaders—to judgments of right and wrong doesn’t mean that these principles are the source of our moral
decisions. On the contrary, I argue that moral judgments are mediated by an unconscious process, a hidden moral grammar that evaluates the causes and consequences of our own and others’ actions. This account shifts the burden of evidence from a philosophy of morality to a science of morality.

“Globalization and Terror”
By Stanley Hoffmann

Hoffmann is the Paul and Catherine Buttenwieser University professor in the Department of Government.

TERRORISM IS THE POISONED fruit of several forces. It can be the weapon of the weak in a classic conflict among states or within a state, as in Kashmir or the Palestinian territories. But it can also be seen as a product of globalization. Transnational terrorism is made possible by the vast array of communication tools. Islamic terrorism, for example, is not only based on support for the Palestinian struggle and opposition to an invasive American presence. It is also fueled by a resistance to “unjust” economic globalization and to a Western culture deemed threatening to local religions and cultures.

If globalization often facilitates terrorist violence, the fight against this war without borders is potentially disastrous both for national integration and for economic development and globalization. Anti-terrorist measures may lead to what Pierre Hassner has called the “barbarization of the Bourgeois.” In addition, they restrict mobility and financial flows, while new terrorist attacks could lead the way for an antiglobalist reaction comparable to the chauvinistic paroxysms of the 1930s. Global terrorism is not the simple extension of war among states to nonstates. It is the subversion of traditional ways of war because it does not care about the sovereignty of either its enemies or the allies who shelter them. It provokes its victims to take measures that, in the name of legitimate defense, violate knowingly the sovereignty of those states accused of encouraging terror. (After all, it was not the Taliban’s infamous domestic violations of human rights that led the United States into Afghanistan; it was the Taliban’s support of Osama bin Laden.)

But all those trespasses against the sacred principles of sovereignty do not constitute progress toward global society, which has yet to agree on a common definition of terrorism or on a common policy against it. Indeed, the beneficiaries of anti-terrorist measures have lost so much of their sovereignty of late. Now the crackdown on terror allows them to tighten their controls on their own people, products, and money. They can give themselves new reasons to violate individual rights in the name of common defense against insecurity—and thus stop the slow, hesitant march toward international criminal justice.

Alumni Notes

Applied Mathematics
Joseph S. Pliskin, PhD ’74, reports the publication of his latest book, Focused Operations Management for Health Services Organizations (2006, Jossey-Bass, with Boaz Ronen and Shimeon Pass). Pliskin is the Sidney Liswood professor of health care management at Ben-Gurion University (Israel) and an adjunct professor of health policy and management at the Harvard School of Public Health.

English and American Literature and Language
Ruben Quintero, PhD ’88, is editor of and a contributor to A Companion to Satire: Ancient and Modern (Blackwell, 2007), featuring original essays on satire, from its first appearances in the prophetic books of the Old Testament to the present.

E. San Juan Jr., PhD ’65, reports that he was a fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center in Italy last year. He also has two books forthcoming later this year: In the Wake of Terror: Class, Race, Nation, Ethnicity and the Postmodern World (Lexington) and US Imperialism and Revolution in the Philippines (Palgrave Macmillan). San Juan is the director of the Philippines Cultural Studies Center (Conn.) and the author of Racism and Cultural Studies.

Government
Harry G. Harris, MPA ’67, PhD ’70, writes: “Still having some entrepreneurial zeal after a three-pronged career in the federal government including stints in the Pentagon and White House, academia and private sector, I launched two new health care companies, HealthCare California and MedSupply, in Fresno, Calif. During leisure moments, I serve as foreign trade advisor to the mayor of Fresno, as well as continue worldwide consultancies on globalization and entrepreneurial issues.”

History
John J. Bukowczyk, PhD ’80, published Permeable Border: The Great Lakes Basin as Transnational Region, 1650–1990 with the University of Pittsburgh Press in 2005 (with coauthors Nora Faires, David R. Smith, and Randy William Widdis). The book won the 2005 Albert B. Corey Prize, awarded biennially by the American Historical Association and Canadian Historical Association for the “best book on Canadian-American relations or on the history of both countries.” Bukowczyk is a professor of history and director of the Canadian Studies Program at Wayne State University in Detroit.

continued on page 9
In February of this year, the University’s new Center for Geographic Analysis, with the Harvard Center for the Environment and the Sigma Xi Harvard Chapter, hosted a workshop to showcase how Harvard faculty have used remote sensing in fields as diverse as biology, epidemiology, atmospheric sciences, and archeology (see sidebar).

Put simply, remote sensing is the measurement of some property of an object by a recording device that is not in physical contact with the object. The device and distance remain flexible, from a child’s eyes scanning the highway during a backseat game of punch buggy to a covert snapshot from the famed U2 spy plane to a sophisticated weather satellite peering down through dark cold space.

The pictures taken by modern systems, most courtesy of NASA satellites, capture data that goes well beyond the proverbial thousand words. Recent advances in imaging technology allow researchers an astounding level of clarity, revealing the contours of tectonic plates and, somewhat more alarmingly, the numbers on license plates. Spectral, radiometric, and electromagnetic sensors can detect the presence of individual chemical compounds in the atmosphere or determine the health status of a single tree. Images taken of the same site over several decades show the macro effects of human and natural events from flooding to deforestation and often provide the only remaining evidence of ancient ruins destroyed by modern wars.

continued on page 13
SNAPSHOTS: REMOTE SENSING RESEARCH AT HARVARD

PATHS OF POLLUTION

Daniel Jacob, the Vasco McCoy Family professor of atmospheric chemistry and environmental engineering, conducts much of his research in the turbulent troposphere—the lowest portion of the earth’s atmosphere—where, he says, “all the problems seem to happen.”

Air quality, ozone, and aerosol levels come into vibrant view thanks to remote sensing by a string of low-orbiting satellites. Jacob’s team has spent several years tracing the path of mineral particles and CO2 emissions from China’s burgeoning industrial sector (see previous page). It turns out that pollution produced in Beijing affects the air people breathe in places as far away as Boston.

“It is difficult to make a strong case without such observation; remote sensing technology gives you a vivid representation,” says Jacob. “The data could even be used to police international agreements for CO2 enforcement.”

Thanks to the exquisite glow of millions of pixels, countries cannot hide any inconvenient truths about the globalization of pollution.

A BEETLE IN A HAYSTACK

Paul Moorcroft, professor of biology, and his former graduate student Heather J. Lynch are looking for the equivalent of a beetle in a haystack: What role did hungry pine beetles play in the devastating 1988 fire in Yellowstone National Park?

By combining data from a pilot who had monitored the health of the park with LANDSAT satellite images and spectral information, the team was able to determine whether a group of trees had experienced drought, disease, or insect damage over time.

Moorcroft and Lynch discovered that the pine beetles’ dietary habits influenced the spatial patterning of forest fires—but only after a time lag of approximately 15 years. While the dry “crumbs” from the beetles’ ill-mannered munching was ideal fuel for combustion, the duo determined that fire risk was primarily due to the change in the way groups of trees are distributed throughout the forest. Seeing the forest for the trees (and all the bugs in-between) may one day help researchers to predict the location of future fires and help preserve a national treasure.

BY SEA OR BY LAND

Step aside, Indiana Jones. The field of archeology owes more to map rooms and once secret snapshots than whip-snapping bravado. Joseph Greene, an archeologist and assistant director of Harvard’s Semitic Museum, is pondering why “we have Dead Sea scrolls but no Dead Sea boats.”

Classical literature, art, and recovered Roman-era anchors all suggest boats once dotted the salty waters, but the evidence ends there.

Modern topographical images overlaid on ancient maps have let Greene dig below the surface without the need of a spade. A more complete picture of the sea’s water levels, soil density, sediment composition, and flooding patterns might provide insights about the nature and use of waterborne traffic. Greene eventually hopes to add the human component of commerce and politics to complete his map, a process known as meshing people with the pixels.

Jason Ur, an assistant professor of anthropology, freely admits that he spies on the classical world. Approximately 800,000 low-cost, declassified images from the US government’s CORONA project, once used to track Cold War-era nuclear missile deployments, have become his treasure trove.

continued on page 13

alumni notes

continued from page 7

Robin Higham, PhD ’57, reports that his book Why Air Forces Fail: The Anatomy of Defeat (University Press of Kentucky, 2006, edited with Stephen J. Harris) is a selection of both the History Book Club and the Military Book Club. Higham is a professor of military history emeritus at Kansas State University.

Medical Sciences

Carole B. Shmurak, AM ’66, has published a new book in her Susan Lombardi mysteries series, Death By Committee (2006, Sterling-House Publisher), set in academe. Shmurak is the coauthor of the Patty Trescott series of young adult novels, one of which was nominated for an Agatha Award in 2001. Deadmistress, her first Susan Lombardi mystery, was named a Notable Book of 2004 by Writers’ Notes magazine.

Music

Naomi André, PhD ’96, published Voicing Gender: Castori, Travesti, and the Second Woman in Early 19th-Century Italian Opera (Indiana), in 2006. The book traces the development of female characters during a period of acute transition in operatic tradition and style. André is an associate professor in the School of Music at the University of Michigan and a longtime member of the Graduate School Alumni Association Council.

Organismic and Evolutionary Biology


Sarah Boyer, PhD ’07, has joined the Macalester College Biology Department as an assistant professor beginning in the fall of 2007. Her research interests include evolution, historical biogeography, and systematics of invertebrates.

Regional Studies—East Asia

Walter “Judge” Mason, AM ’69, has retired after 37 years of teaching about the literature, culture, and history of Japan and China at Exeter Academy (New Hampshire), Academy of the Sacred Heart (Michigan), and Verde Valley School (Arizona). He was also the headmaster of Friends School in Detroit. Mason is currently an educational consultant and certified educational planner (www.judge mason.org), “helping families find boarding settings (college, prep school, therapeutic) where children can thrive.”

continued on page 13
Influential words: Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle, published in 1906, led to major advances in the food processing industry and to the creation of the Food and Drug Administration.

don’t have in Britain,” she continues. “We have no Constitution or Bill of Rights. There’s nothing on paper that states the country’s core beliefs. So, as a nation that arguably has higher ideals than others, America has developed a body of writers to keep it true to those ideals.”

Viewed together, this genre of writing comprises a breathtaking body of work, from Thomas Paine’s Common Sense and the eponymous Black Elk Speaks, to Allen Ginsberg’s Howl and Ron Kovic’s memoir Born on the Fourth of July. Trodd has assembled a collection that burns with passion, intelligence, and righteous anger.

Although asking if she had a favorite chapter in American Protest Literature seemed akin to asking a mother to name her favorite child, Trodd cited one section in particular as having helped shaped the focus and direction of her work. The inspiration for her next book, To Plead Our Own Cause: Narratives of Modern Slavery (with Kevin Bales; Cornell University Press, forthcoming in 2007), came while she was researching the chapter on the abolitionist movement and read Bales’s 1999 book Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy, the first to address the dilemma of the more than 27 million people currently living in slavery.

Bales, a professor of sociology at London’s Roehampton University and president of Free the Slaves, the US sister organization of Anti-Slavery International, has served as a consultant to the United Nations Global Program Against Trafficking in Human Beings. At Trodd’s invitation, Bales addressed a class she was teaching on American protest literature. The two later decided to collaborate on To Plead Our Own Cause.

“There are more people living in slavery today than at any point in history,” says Trodd, referring to the hundreds of thousands of people in countries around the world, including the US, working in forced labor operations. According to a 2005 State Department report, about 600,000 to 800,000 people, mostly women and children, are slaves working in industries from prostitution to factory and hotel work.

Over the course of a year, Trodd interviewed “hundreds” of slaves and former slaves. “I started out using the question-and-answer method, but quickly abandoned it because I was uncomfortable with how my questions or even body language might shape their accounts. Instead I just said, ‘Tell me your story,’ and left the room, letting them narrate their stories alone into a tape recorder.

“After working on American Protest Literature, I wanted to take the next step,” Trodd says. “I wanted to use literature, the stories of the slaves themselves, to help end slavery. I see this next book as a way to bridge the divide between academia and the world. Being an activist academic is really important to me. I have a political point of view, and I don’t see any problem being clear about that. There’s politics in every classroom, and saying there isn’t is a form of politics in itself. The key is to make room for debate. I have some extremely right-wing students in my classes, and I love it. They bring different perspectives, and we can have an energetic but respectful dialogue.”

Trod offers no apologies that her definition of protest literature is politically left of center.

“There’s already a lot of space given to so-called reasonable conservative positions that come from the libertarian tradition,” she says. “And in the foreword, John Stauffer makes the point that conservatism is essentially an anti-change philosophy. But the writing in American Protest Literature comes from a tradition that is endlessly working to achieve change with words.

“In that sense, I’d say that conservative protest literature is almost an oxymoron. And to be honest, it’s also a matter of personal taste. I didn’t want to spend a year plowing through [Ku Klux Klan] pamphlets and Ronald Reagan speeches and statements of abortion clinic bombers and old newspaper articles defending slavery and segregation.”

Given her upbringing, Trodd’s commitment to progressive politics comes as no surprise. “I was raised in London by crazy socialist, feminist, radical parents,” she recalls. “I spent my childhood listening to people chant [against Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher], ‘Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, out, out!’ and ‘What do we want? Fair pay! When do we want it? Now! And [in my mind] I can still see all the little prams lined up at the nuclear protests in the park. It was wonderful.

“My parents still don’t know quite what to think about the fact that I’m here,” she adds. “But I’ve finally gotten them to realize that their vision of America—President Bush and so forth—isn’t what interests me. My America is the protest culture, the people on the margins. Because of them, we’ve seen the end of slavery and lynching, the success of women’s suffrage, the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and all the rest.”

Trod dedicated American Protest Literature to her father, whose PhD was in British protest literature and labor union history. “My intention with the book was to honor his legacy while at the same time creating my own space as a scholar and historian.

“I’d like people to realize that writers’ words have helped change the world,” she adds. “I think it’s very important at this particular time to remember that America has a long history of people who felt that there was nothing more patriotic they could do than offer dissent.

“I’m guided in this work by the words of James Baldwin, who said, ‘I love America more than any other country in the world, and, exactly for that reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.’”

Charles Coe is a freelance writer living in Cambridge, Mass. He writes regularly for Colloquy.
all-important Gulf Stream charts but also his thoughts on ocean currents, weather patterns, and thermal data. In fact, writes Chaplin, “Franklin had been among the very few naturalists who used thermometers to measure the sea’s surface...he had more and more elaborate measurements of temperature than anyone else.”

Although Franklin’s sea science became a “forgotten contribution,” Chaplin says it can be considered even more robust than his electricity experiments. “by the early 19th century, Franklin’s [maritime] work continues to have a kind of active presence. People aren’t disputing it or moving away from his conclusions, as they did with his work on electricity.”

Franklin’s genius is undeniable, Chaplin says: “I think his contemporaries would have wanted to make an impact in any one area like that. Franklin does it in two areas.”

During this period, Franklin was, if not the most famous person in the world, then certainly one of the most. His visage graced prints, wallpaper, and snuff boxes. He won the Copley Medal from the Royal Society, an honor perhaps comparable to being denied Harvard, it must have been. After being denied Harvard, it must have been a great solace to become a member of the Royal Society of London, the world’s most prestigious organization of scientists. He hypothesizes, for instance, “as it did nine days after the Boston Tea Party. “Even British moderates were turning against colonists. Were none of them dutiful?” Franklin, not allowed to say "as a primitive stove."

As an American it’s hard for me to ask,” she adds, “but if there weren’t an American Revolution, I wonder what science might Benjamin Franklin have done?”

So, though the philosopher genius supported the idea of American independence in some form, he observed the transformation from afar. “I think he could not have imagined that he would support a complete break from Britain,” says Chaplin.

It finally took a scandal to drive Franklin from Britain in March 1775. He returned to Philadelphia on one of the last ships still traveling to the colonies—at “the fifty-ninth minute of the eleventh hour,” writes Chaplin.

The scandal in question occurred when Franklin, still in London and now serving as Postmaster General for the colonies—which made him a member of the British government—circulated private letters of certain British officers.

The letters, written by two officials of the colonial government in Massachusetts, were sent by an unidentified individual to Franklin. In the letters, written over the course of a couple years, the officials expressed their wishes to “use more forceful action against...intransigent Bostonians, perhaps by removing government from popular control,” writes Chaplin.

Franklin showed the letters to the speaker of the Massachusetts Assembly, and the two men took the letters to be evidence of a British plan to destroy colonial autonomy, writes Chaplin. The letters were published in Boston in 1773 and aroused anger—both for what the letters implied and because private mail had been made public.

The act seems to contradict Franklin’s love for England, until one realizes that he made a firm distinction between its government, whose policies toward the colonies he was finding increasingly tyrannical, and its community of letters, of which he was a member in good standing.

Franklin’s scandalous action was “almost suicidal,” says Chaplin. “It almost does seem that [Franklin] found the tension unbearable and made this incredible error, perhaps even somewhat deliberately.”

On Christmas Day of that year, Franklin came clean as the primary circulator of the letters. But his confession, writes Chaplin, was a case of bad timing, coming as it did nine days after the Boston Tea Party. “Even British moderates were turning against colonists. Were none of them dutiful?” Franklin, not allowed to say a word on his own behalf, was denounced in a public inquiry and fired two days later.

He was 68 years old and, says Chaplin, now “threw himself into the revolutionary cause.” Franklin subsequently served as an ambassador to France to solicit (and win) support for independence, and, of course, he helped write the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

“In one way, the American Revolution destroyed Franklin’s scientific career...But in another way, the Revolution guaranteed his immortal fame,” writes Chaplin. “...Franklin had surpassed all other modern philosophers. He had gained glory in natural science, as figures such as Newton had also done. But then he guided a new nation through war and into international recognition, tasks even Newton never had to face.”

In fact, Chaplin says only one other individual in history can compare with Franklin for the combination of scientific genius and global fame: Albert Einstein.

AFTERLIFE/AFTERMATH

In the decades and centuries since Franklin’s death (in 1790), his scientific reputation has dissipated, in popular perception, into not much more than a facility for clever inventions: the lightning rod, bifocals, a primitive stove.

Certainly, says Chaplin, Franklin later in life cultivated an image of himself as the American common man with his furry hat and slightly disheveled look, and he emphasized his origins as a working printer. Quite a turnabout from the earlier days when he was well rid of that life and working to acquire gentlemanly airs.

What would Franklin have done had the Revolution not come along?

“There was a revolution. I think he would have more—and more interesting— contributions to earth science. He’s seen as a great pioneer in the history of physics, but he has very interesting things to say about the construction of the globe, both its earth and its seas. He hypothesizes, for instance, that the crust of the earth is basically a set of plates in motion. ... So he’s really moving in a direction of seeing how the planet was put together physically and what patterns can be determined about it.

“As an American it’s hard for me to ask,” she adds, “but if there weren’t an American Revolution, I wonder what science might Benjamin Franklin have done?”
Physics graduate student Peter Lu has discovered in ancient tilework evidence of an understanding of geometry that may predate Western mastery by at least 500 years. Lu’s finding (with Princeton’s Paul J. Steinhardt) was published in a February 2007 issue of Science. The tilework, found in medieval architecture across the Islamic world, appears to exhibit knowledge of advanced decagonal quasicrystal geometry—a pattern that never repeats. This concept was discovered by Western physicists and mathematicians only in the 1970s and ‘80s. Art historians have long assumed that simpler elements of the patterns were created with elementary tools such as straightedges and compasses. But there has been no explanation for how artists and architects could have created the unmistakably complex tile patterns adorning many medieval Islamic edifices. The tiles consist of sets of five contiguous polygons—a decagon, pentagon, diamond, bowtie, and hexagon—and may have been used to generate a wide range of tiling patterns for buildings. Using tools to do so, says Lu, would have been “exceedingly cumbersome” and, he suspects, quite unlikely. Lu’s research stirred up great interest; the BBC, the New York Times, Scientific American, and the Times of India, among many other publications, covered it.

Irene Chen has won the 2006 GE & Science Grand Prize for Young Life Scientists for her essay, “The Emergence of Cells During the Origin of Life.” The essay was published in the Dec. 8, 2006, issue of Science. Chen is in Harvard’s MD/PhD program; she received her PhD in biophysics in 2005 and is expected to receive her MD this summer. The award recognizes outstanding PhD students from around the world and rewards their research in molecular biology. In a statement, Chen said, “The cell, as an evolutionary unit, could emerge from replicating molecules through very simple physical mechanisms. This work suggests that evolving higher levels of biological organization might have been surprisingly easy during the origin of life.”

Frances D. Fergusson, AB ’66, PhD ’73, fine arts, was elected president of Harvard’s Board of Overseers for 2007-08. She is president emerita and professor of art at Vassar College and was in the final year of a six-year Overseer term. William F. Lee, a College alumnus and an Overseer, will become vice chair of the board’s executive committee in terms beginning after Commencement. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Fergusson received the GSAS Centennial Medal in 1999. In 1998, she received the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, and Vanity Fair named her one of “America’s 200 Most Influential Women.” The Board of Overseers is the larger of Harvard’s two governing boards, the other being the President and Fellows of Harvard College, known as the Harvard Corporation. Typically, five Overseers are elected annually by Harvard degree-holders to six-year terms. The Overseers provide advice and counsel to the University on a wide range of issues important to Harvard’s future.

—Compiled by Susan Lumenello
Not surprisingly, the continuous improvements of remote sensing owe a great debt to military espionage, beginning with blurry shots taken from balloons or towers more than a century-and-a-half ago. While spying from such great heights opens the door to breaches in privacy, with proper care, remote sensing tells an incomparable and hauntingly accurate story of our past, present, and future.

Workshop presenter Paul Cote, assistant director of Computer Resources at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design, described remote sensing this way: “It’s like seeing the nervous system of the word.”

All that—without having to break the bank to get into orbit. ☝

For complete information and downloadable presentations from the Remote Sensing Technology and Applications Workshop, visit: www.gis.harvard.edu.

*Michael Patrick Rutter is communications director at Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He writes regularly for Colloquy on technology.*

**SNAPSHOTS continued from page 9**

Ur uses decades’ worth of image data to find and reconstruct ancient roads in Syria, Iraq, and Iran. Landmarks that would only be seen as “shallow linear depressions” from the ground appear as “vivid scars” from space. This foot-level view of history sheds light on the nature of urban settlements and, more importantly, how past cultures may have used a network of roads to live and work.

To encourage technophobes to incorporate remote sensing into their research, Ur joked that, “he’s not a rocket scientist.” Time traveler might be a more appropriate title—and much less sinister than spy. ☝

*In the Jordan rift valley, Africa and Asia are pulling apart from each other, and the land in between has been subsiding for millennia. The sinking has created the Dead Sea: Rivers (most notably the Jordan) drain into the deep basin created by the parting tectonic plates. The lake surface is nearly 400 meters (1,300 feet) below sea level, making it the lowest surface feature on Earth. The only outlet for the water is evaporation. This Landsat 7 satellite image shows the entire extent of the modern Dead Sea on August 7, 1999. Images such as this one allow Harvard archaeologist Joseph Greene to virtually dig for ancient life patterns and reconstruct the region as it once was.*

Submit Alumni Notes to: Colloquy, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Holyoke Center 350, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138-3846; fax: 617-496-5333; or gsaa@fas.harvard.edu. Please include your telephone number or e-mail address. Alumni Notes are subject to editing for length and clarity.
DIGITAL HISTORY
A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web
By Daniel J. Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, PhD ’78, history

Although access to primary and secondary education has increased within certain countries in the past century, other, poorer nations are not educating their children. In this volume, experts, from economists to public policymakers, weigh in on the necessity for—and feasibility of—providing accessible and quality public education for children throughout the world. Cohen is the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé professor of populations at Rockefeller University and professor of populations at Columbia University; co-editor Bloom, the Clarence James Gamble professor of economics and demography at the School of Public Health.

EDUCATING ALL CHILDREN
A Global Agenda
Edited by Joel E. Cohen, AB ’65, PhD ’70, applied mathematics, DPH ’73; David E. Bloom; and Martin B. Malin

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina’s devastation, the wider world witnessed countless tragedies—some hurricane-related, some not. In this collection of essays, various scholars and activists examine how racism and social inequality exacerbated the disaster for many victims. Proposals are also presented on rebuilding New Orleans and protecting vulnerable residents of threatened areas. Hartman is director of policy at the Poverty and Race Research Action Council in Washington, DC, and teaches sociology at George Washington University.

AN ARCHITECT OF DEMOCRACY
Building a Mosaic of Peace
By James Robert Huntley, AM ’56, government

Former diplomat Huntley presents a memoir of a World War II veteran who became an advocate for world peace. The book chronicles his work with the US Foreign Service during the 1950s, his graduate year at Harvard, and his efforts in the 1960s to create international pro-democracy organizations, such as the Atlantic Institute for International Affairs in Paris and the Atlantic Council of the United States. Brent Scowcroft provides a foreword. Huntley is presently vice president of the Washington, DC-based Council for a Community of Democracies.

ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELOS
The Trials of Statesmanship
Edited by Paschalis M. Kitromilides, PhD ’79, government

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina’s devastation, the wider world witnessed countless tragedies—some hurricane-related, some not. In this collection of essays, various scholars and activists examine how racism and social inequality exacerbated the disaster for many victims. Proposals are also presented on rebuilding New Orleans and protecting vulnerable residents of threatened areas. Hartman is director of policy at the Poverty and Race Research Action Council in Washington, DC, and teaches sociology at George Washington University.
Prime minister of Greece (1910–1920, 1928–1932), Venizelos played a singular role in the emergence of Greece as a modern nation-state. Yet, the last book-length study of his role was produced more than 50 years ago. The contributors here, scholars from around the world, present new research on Venizelos’s influence on Greek and European history, and, given his role in the peace talks following World War I, on diplomatic history in general.

Attention is paid to Venizelos’s relationship with neighboring Turkey, as well as his “failure of nerve” over Greece’s 1936 invasion into Asia Minor. Editor Kitromilides is a professor of political science at the University of Athens and the director of the Institute for Neohellenic Research at Greece’s National Research Foundation.

OUR UNDEMO CRATIC CONSTITU TION

Where the Constitution Goes Wrong (And How We the People Can Correct It)

By Sanford Levinson, PhD ’69, government, Oxford University Press, 2006, 233 pp.

The United States Constitution, argues legal scholar Levinson, has too many provisions that defy the will of voters and of citizens in general. In fact, he writes, the document “is radically defective.” As examples of such flaws, Levinson cites, among several others, the fact that the Constitution allows that presidents may be elected without a majority of the popular vote and that Supreme Court judges are appointed for life. To redress these, Levinson proposes that a referendum to reform the document take place at a Constitutional convention in 2008. Whether such a vote will actually be taken is unknown, but Levinson’s arguments and proposals are quite clear. The author holds the Garwood Centennial Chair at the University of Texas Law School. His books include the edited volume Torture: A Collection (2004).

GAIA’S REVENGE
Climate Change and Humanity’s Loss

By P.H. Liotta and Allan W. Shearer, PhD ’03, urban planning, Praeger, 2007, 208 pp.

In Greek mythology, Gaia was the goddess of Earth. Her “revenge” for human accumulation of greenhouse gasses, write the authors, is global warming. How to manage the problem? Liotta and Shearer propose viewing it as a matter of security with climate change perceived as the threat. Environmental degradation, they write, can be a direct threat to health and a contributing factor to conflict: “limited natural resources may trigger clashes between or within states.” The book outlines various scenarios—both grim and hopeful. Shearer is an assistant professor of landscape architecture at Rutgers University.

THIN CULTURE, HIGH ART

Gogol, Hawthorne, and Authorship in 19th-Century Russia and America


Although they were contemporaries, Nikolai Gogol and Nathaniel Hawthorne never read each other’s work and probably never even knew each other’s names. Yet parallels between their lives and work are striking and, writes the author, important. Perhaps the most important commonality was that, though the authors were from radically different countries, each represented a nation struggling to create its own culture amid Western European literary dominance. Lounsbery is an assistant professor of Russian literature at New York University.

EDUCATIONAL METAMORPHOSES

Philosophical Reflections on Identity and Culture


Particularly for students from the working class, where attaining higher education is rarely a given, going to college represents a transforming experience, emotionally and culturally. The experience can be frightening; One can become almost a new person and be seen as abandoning an old group to join a new one. Martin turns to examples in literature to make her compelling point, including Shaw’s Pygmalion, the film Educating Rita, Emlyn Williams’s play The Corn is Green, and I.B. Singer’s story “Yentl the Yeshiva Boy.” Martin is a professor of philosophy emerita at the University of Massachusetts at Boston and the author of several other books, including Cultural Miseducation: In Search of a Democratic Solution (2002).

ALDOUS HUXLEY

Modern Satirical Novelist of Ideas

By Jerome Meckier, PhD ’68, English and American literature and language; edited by Peter Firchow and Bernfried Nugel, Verlag, 2006, 380 pp.

This anthology of 40 years of Meckier’s Huxley scholarship, going back to the period when the author was a student at the Graduate School, offers a remarkable scholarly view of Huxley as a novelist of ideas and as cultural arbiter. Meckier is professor of English emeritus at the University of Kentucky and the author of books on Huxley as well on Charles Dickens and Victorian-era fiction. continued on next page
RELIGIOUS LITERACY
What Every American Needs to Know
By Stephen Prothero, PhD ’90, sociology and study of religion

“One of the most religious countries on earth,” writes the author, “is also a nation of religious illiterates.” With this book, Prothero, chair of the religion department at Boston University, sets out to end that paradox by presenting a brief history of the world’s many religious traditions and a dictionary (spanning Abraham to Zionism). Given the United States’ pluralistic religious society, as well as the influence of religion globally, Prothero contends it is imperative that Americans know the basics of the major world religions, regardless of their own personal beliefs. His previous books include American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon (2003).

THE ENDURANCE OF NATIONALISM
Ancient Roots and Modern Dilemmas
By Aviel Roshwald, PhD ’87, history

Roshwald, a historian at Georgetown University, delves into the origins of nationalism and contends that this phenomenon, which many scholars see as modern, existed in ancient times. Nationalism has been praised and condemned, but its complexity, writes Roshwald, accounts for its endurance. The author’s previous publications include Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires (2001).

POSTMODERN GANDHI AND OTHER ESSAYS
Gandhi in the World and at Home
By Lloyd I. Rudolph, AB ’48, MPA ’50, PhD ’56, government; and Susanne Hoeber Rudolph, PhD ’55, government

Gandhi was neither a traditionalist nor a “back bencher,” write the Rudolphs, husband-and-wife academics; he was an early postmodernist, particularly in his renowned practice of nonviolent collective action. And just as Gandhi sought to revive certain nationalist traditions in India, he also worked to destroy entrenched values that he felt harmed his country and countrymen. Lloyd Rudolph is professor of political science emeritus at the University of Chicago; Susanne Hoeber Rudolph is the William Benton distinguished service professor emerita at the same university. Together, they have published several books on Indian politics.

TARGETING IN SOCIAL PROGRAMS
Avoiding Bad Bets, Removing Bad Apples
By Peter H. Schuck, LD ’65, AM ’72, and Richard J. Zeckhauser, AB ’62, PhD ’69, economics

Most would agree that the best use of public funding for social programs is to target those programs to the people and places that need them the most. All, write the authors, would agree that such is not the case. “Bad apples” and individuals found unworthy of benefits must be identified and purged from entitlement systems. Schuck is a professor of law at Yale University whose dozen books include Meditations of a Militant Moderate (2005). Zeckhauser, a professor of political economy at the Kennedy School of Government, has published ten books, including The Early Admissions Game: Joining the Elite (2003).

At last…Tax-free gifts from IRAs to Harvard

It’s easy! Now you can give vital support to help GSAS advance its mission. Those 70 1/2 and older can take advantage of this opportunity through 2007. For details, call 617-496-4149 and ask for Sarah Carothers in Gift Planning.

617-495-4647 • 800-VERITAS (Office of Gift Planning)
www.post.harvard.edu/pgo • E-mail: ogp@harvard.edu

Authors: GSAS alumni who have published a general-interest book within the past year and would like it to be considered for inclusion in Alumni Books should send a copy of the book to: Colloquy, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Holyoke Center 350, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138-3846. Questions? E-mail gsaa@fas.harvard.edu.
In 2004, a small lunchtime gathering of graduate women scientists planted the seed for what has evolved into a strong organization at the University: Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (HGWISE).

“We started talking about issues we face as women in science, and, although we were from different departments, we found that the issues were quite universal,” says Meredith Fisher, a sixth-year PhD student in organismic and evolutionary biology.

“We decided we needed to do something.”

The group, which welcomes male participation at its events, now has 300 members and supports many events and programs that provide educational, professional, and social opportunities to graduate students. HGWISE also serves as a central source of information on resources for women in science and engineering via their Website and weekly e-mail announcements.

The HGWISE mission is “to enhance the graduate experience of women in science and engineering at Harvard, to increase the representation of women in science and engineering at all levels, and to improve the environment for women currently pursuing careers in science and engineering.”

The new organization came into being primarily because women graduate students, particularly in scientific and technical fields, felt they were working as if sequestered.

“Graduate school in general, for men and women, can be an isolating place,” says Fisher. “As women, we tend to discuss this more. Many of us need both scientific and social interactions during this time. There is a real need for support and encouragement to pursue this track.”

When Fisher and cofounders Mary Farrow, a student in biological sciences in public health, and Martine Zilversmit and Sarah Boyer, both PhD students in organismic and evolutionary biology at the time, approached GSAS Administrative Dean Margot Gill with the idea, they received substantial support.

GSAS sponsored an HGWISE kick-off luncheon meeting in February 2005 that drew more than 60 students, not only from the Graduate School but from the School of Public Health and the Medical School as well.

HGWISE offers a broad range of programs, including alumni career chats, networking events, lectures by guest speakers, weekly coffee hours with current women faculty, and professional skills training workshops. The organization also works with the Harvard Task Force on Women in Science and Engineering to advance policies related to issues such as maternity leave, child care, and recruitment. Members of HGWISE also serve as mentors to undergraduate students.

Although the group partners with other organizations, including the undergraduate association Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe, the programs run by HGWISE are largely supported by funds from GSAS. Alumni giving through the Graduate School Fund largely sustains student organizations such as HGWISE.

“It is incredible to see the amount of time and effort that volunteer members put in to run our programs, and we are grateful to GSAS for their financial support,” says Fisher. “There remains so much more we want to do, and hopefully we will continue to grow and have the funds to expand our offerings and increase our impact.”

As the organization develops, participants plan to use their collective voice to advocate on behalf of issues important to its members. “We want to be a force for good at Harvard—not working against anyone, but moving toward positive change,” says Fisher.

Abigail Adair is the assistant director for communications with the University Development Office.

For more information about HGWISE, visit www.hcs.harvard.edu/hgwise. For information about supporting the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, contact Marne Perreault, director of GSAS Giving, at 617-495-1629 or marne_perreault@harvard.edu.
Alumni Events and Notices

For more information about events, visit the GSAS Website at www.gsas.harvard.edu, call 617-495-5591, or e-mail gsaa@fas.harvard.edu.

GSAS ALUMNI DAY—WALK-INS WELCOME!
Saturday, April 14, 2007 | Cambridge, Massachusetts

Hear from Harvard faculty on their recent scholarship; catch up with old friends; and enjoy a day of intellectual and social refreshment. Keynote speaker: Jorge Dominguez, Harvard vice provost for international affairs, and the Antonio Madero professor of Mexican and Latin American politics and economics.

Other scheduled speakers include Kathleen Coleman, professor of Latin, on the “Roman Amphitheatre”; David Foster, director of the Harvard Forest, on the “New England Landscape”; Jeffrey Frieden, professor in the Government Department, on “Global Capitalism”; Jeffrey Hamburger, professor of the history of art and architecture, on “The Ste.-Chapelle in Paris as a Multimedia Work”; Farish Jenkins, professor of biology, on the emergence of “Terrestrial Tetrapods”; and Pamela Silver, professor of systems biology, on “Designing Biological Systems.” See www.gsas.harvard.edu/alumni/alumni_events.php for the day’s schedule.

CAREER OPTIONS PANELS
Thursday & Friday, April 26 & 27, 2007
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Academic Career Options Panels (April 26) will feature GSAS alumni panelists who teach and conduct research in academe. Nonacademic Career Options Panels (April 27) will feature GSAS alumni panelists who have parlayed their advanced degrees into careers in publishing, public policy, international development, financial services, patent law, consulting, biotechnology, and other fields. For more information about this event, contact the Office of Career Services at 617-495-2595 or visit www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: THE GSAS CENTENNIAL MEDAL AND GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Help GSAS recognize its most distinguished alumni through nomination for the Centennial Medal. The medal recognizes contributions to society that emerged from graduate study at Harvard. Some of the 68 alumni who have received this honor since 1989 include theological scholar Elaine Pagels, historian Bernard Bailyn, author Susan Sontag, and biologist E.O. Wilson. The medal is awarded annually at a ceremony held during Commencement Week.

Alumni are also invited to submit nominations to the GSAA Council, the governing body of the Harvard Graduate School Alumni Association. Typically, Council members will have achieved distinction in their careers or may have made significant contributions through community service. Council members share a strong commitment to Harvard and to graduate education.

To nominate an alumna or alumnus for either honor, submit a letter stating your reasons for selecting the candidate, marked either for the Centennial Medal or for the Graduate School Alumni Association Council, to: GSAS Alumni Association, Holyoke Center 350, 1350 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. Nominations may also be e-mailed to gsaa@fas.harvard.edu.

The GRADUATE SCHOOL of ARTS AND SCIENCES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Holyoke Center 350 • 1350 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138-3846 USA

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 1636