Today’s Art Museum: James Cuno on Keeping Faith With a Skeptical Public

Sociologist Katherine Newman: Behind America’s School Shootings

New Writing by Harvard Faculty

Life on Mars?
Art Museums: Keeping the Faith
Alumnus James Cuno, former director of the Harvard Art Museums and newly named head of the Art Institute of Chicago, talks about how art museums can overcome the hype and return to basics.

Behind America’s School Shootings
In her new book, Rampage, Harvard sociologist Katherine Newman looks at why children from close-knit communities kill their classmates.

New Writing by Harvard Faculty
Excerpts from new books by Harvard scholars: historian Lizabeth Cohen’s take on the history of American consumerism, mathematician Barry Mazur on imagination and square roots, and literary critic Helen Vendler on the growing pains of young poets.

Life on Mars?
Harvard biologist Andrew Knoll on the truth—and fiction—about whether life existed—and could exist—on the Red Planet.

News and Notes
Awards, opinions, recognitions, and transitions of GSAS alumni and Harvard faculty. Pictured at left is Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson.

Alumni Books
George Washington’s legacy, on alternative economics, the premature aging of American culture, and finding salvation in an urban Boston neighborhood are some of the topics in this issue.
Professional Development and Career Options

Peter T. Ellison, PhD ’83, biological anthropology, GSAS dean

It’s an annual GSAS event that just got bigger. Career Options Day, in which GSAS alumni return to Cambridge to discuss their careers in non-academic fields, has become Career Options Panels, and is now a two-day event. This April, GSAS students and alumni also heard from graduates working in academe.

The Career Options Panels are cosponsored by GSAS and the Office of Career Services. In particular, longtime Graduate School Alumni Association Council member Sidney Spielvogel has generously contributed his time and expertise to planning the occasion.

Panel members included, among numerous other GSAS alumni, an editor with Houghton Mifflin publishers, an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and a senior scientist with Millennium Pharmaceuticals. The goal was to show our students and recent alumni just how transferable the PhD and AM are to biotechnology, public policy, financial services, patent law, and other intellectually stimulating fields—and help students make useful professional connections.

In addition, alumni now holding faculty positions presented an academic panel to discuss all-important topics such as job talks, scholarly conferences, writing a curriculum vitae, and the differences in teaching in small liberal arts colleges and large urban universities.

Both the academic and non-academic panels were extremely helpful to our students because they offered practical advice about how to enter particular careers—what to do and what not to do. Alumni panelists also were available throughout the day for one-on-one discussions with students.

While the two-day event was surely illuminating and encouraging for our students, alumni who participated as panelists also found it a gratifying experience. I would urge any GSAS alumni who are interested in participating in next year’s Career Options Panels to contact the Office of Career Services.

Elsewhere on the professional development front, GSAS Alumni Association Council members Alan Kantrow and Sandra Moose are developing a series called the Business Mindset Workshops. These workshops will be open to GSAS students who are considering entering biotechnology, patent law, consulting, and other fields within the business world. Set to launch this June, the workshops are designed to help graduate students understand both the inner workings of the business world and how their research and analytical skills are transferable to this arena.

Having had great success in their own careers as business consultants, Alan and Sandra have much insight and information to offer our students. We are grateful for their commitment—and for the involvement of the many GSAS alumni who continue to reach out to our students and share invaluable professional experience.

From the Dean

Martha Stewart

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COLLOQUIY ON THE WEB

The current issue of Colloquy, as well as recent back issues, are available on the Web at www.gsas.harvard.edu/colloquy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Colloquy welcomes your letters. Write to: Colloquy, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Byerly Hall 300, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3654, or e-mail gsaa@fas.harvard.edu.

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For the past ten years, GSAS alumnus Sidney Spielvogel has been an integral part of making the annual Career Options Day (now Career Options Panels) a success.
In the new book, Whose Muse? Art Museums and the Public Trust (Princeton University Press), GSAS alumnus James Cuno (PhD '85, fine arts) urges his fellow museum directors to reach through the hype of the blockbuster to their scholarly foundations—and so restore the public’s diminishing trust in one of society’s enduring institutions.

Q: In the book, much attention is paid to how the public’s trust for museums has diminished in the past 15 or so years because of moments such as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) controversies over funding allegedly “obscene” artists with tax dollars, and corporate underwriting of blockbuster art shows. If this is so, how can trust be regained?

JAMES CUNO: This book is the result of a set of conversations [art museum directors] had about concerns that, over the course of the 1990s, the public’s trust in museums was at risk, and that museums weren’t acknowledging this “contract” they had with the public, that they weren’t seeking to deepen that trust. There were particular events that led to this.

You mention the NEA … It was judged that museums were implicated in a process by which public monies were handed out … to advance [the NEA’s] interests in pornography or politics or whatever it might be, that museums seemed to be advancing that same view.

Next, of course, was the “Sensation” exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum of Art [in 1999]. It seemed the museum was in cahoots with people who had commercial interests in the outcome of the exhibition … that, at the public’s expense, the museum was involved in an activity that benefited private individuals. This started with the Chris Ofili piece called “African Virgin.” The mayor at that time, Rudolph Giuliani, was running for Senate, and he was approached by a conservative Catholic group who felt that [the painting] defamed their faith. So he tried to get the work of art removed.

When the museum wouldn’t remove it [Giuliani] tried to close down the museum, and [the court] said he couldn’t do that. A case was fought on that First Amendment issue, which [Giuliani] lost. But [as] this
was going through the courts, the mayor changed his tactic and said, look, this is really a private collector’s collection, and we know this private collector [Charles Staetchen] has a habit of exhibiting his works publicly and then selling either the works shown (or other works from his collection by the same artists) to his advantage. That is, it seems as if by giving his collection to be put up for the public by museums it enhances the market value of the work. Also, the … private collector was pushing the museum around, saying which works of art would be exhibited and in which ways, and each of those ways increased the cost [of the exhibition], which made the museum more reliant on him. There’s testimony by members of the staff saying they felt out of control, that the collector had too much involvement in this exhibition.

It turns out there was support for the exhibition from Christie’s, the auction house, through which [the collector] had recently sold quite a bit of work. In exchange for their support of the exhibition, the director of the Brooklyn Museum said he would sell some of the works of the museum through Christie’s auction house, then some of the artists’ dealers gave money…. It just looked like there was a network of people with conflicts of interest involved in this exhibition. The mayor made hay of that and, though he lost on the First Amendment grounds, in the process he embarrassed the museum.

**What else do you think has contributed to the diminishment of the public trust in art museums?**

**JC:** One was the [issue of] Nazi-era looted art in which claims were being made against museums as holding works of art that actually belonged to someone else. In almost every case those are very, very difficult charges or claims to be proved. Before a museum gives up a work of art to private individuals—takes a work of art from the public domain—the museum is obliged to make sure that that work of art does belong to the private individual. It’s not a very easy thing to research accurately because, as a consequence of war, records are too often fragmentary. So in the time it takes to do that research, you’ve got a victim of a horrific human catastrophe claiming that the museum is holding what is rightfully his or hers, or his or her family’s. So that wasn’t very good.

Finally, there was the trade in illicit antiquities. Museums again appeared to be holders of ill-gotten goods as claims were made by foreign governments that museums had objects in their collections that had been looted and/or illegally exported and thus were stolen goods. Such claims required considerable research, and such research takes time. And in the meantime museums looked like greedy hoarders of questionable things.

All of these events, combined with the “boom-boom” activity of museums—getting ever larger, ever richer, bigger attendance, more hyped and highly promoted exhibitions—seemed like a recipe for a “bonfire of the vanities” in the public’s perception of museums. And in the process, the public trust in the museum was increasingly put at risk, and just when there were breakdowns of trust in the Catholic Church, corporate executives, politicians, journalists, doctors, and lawyers. It seemed likely that museums were going to be the next [profession] to suffer the loss of trust and loss of authority that comes from increasing scandals and reckless institutional behavior.

**Why is it so important that that not happen?**

**JC:** In the absence of trust severe measures of accountability would be put into place. This would change the culture of the museum and how it functions in our civic life. Museums would be performing to … meet the targets of regulators, as opposed to meeting the highest standards of quality. Under such conditions, suspicion replaces trust. And museums would necessarily lose some—perhaps even much—of their authority to carry out their professional work independent of politics, the politics of governmental regulators.

**In the book there is much concern expressed about museums fronting blockbuster art exhibitions at the possible expense of their permanent collections. Are you opposed to financial innovation through blockbuster art shows?**

**JC:** What we thought was getting lost in all the hype of the ’90s was the value of the permanent collection, which, after all, is the lasting legacy of any museum. Exhibitions come and go. At best, they produce new scholarship with a library shelf life of a few...
Behind America’s School Rampages: A Sociologist Reports

By Charles Coe

On March 4, 1998, students at Westside Middle School near Jonesboro, Arkansas, were returning to class after recess on what seemed like any other normal school day. Spring break had just ended, and everyone was quickly readjusting to the daily routines.

But instead of going into his classroom, one boy, Andrew Golden, smashed the glass cover of the firebox, tripped the alarm, and calmly walked out the exit to the schoolyard. As confused students and teachers streamed out onto the playground, a deadly rain of bullets suddenly poured down on them; Golden and classmate Mitchell Johnson had climbed a hill behind the school and were firing at whoever came out onto the yard. Within minutes after setting off the alarm, Golden and Johnson had fired 30 shots and hit 15 people—killing five. Johnson was 13, Golden, 11.

The Westside tragedy was just one of a spate of school shootings that plagued small, close-knit communities in the 1990s. By 1999, the US House of Representatives directed the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct an in-depth study of the problem. The National Academy of Sciences, assisting the DOE on this matter, asked Katherine S. Newman to participate in the study, now spearheaded by Mark Moore, director of Harvard’s Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations.

Newman, the Malcolm Wiener Professor of Urban Studies, chair of Harvard’s PhD program in social policy, and dean of social science at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, accepted the challenge—though the subject area was new to her. “I’d never done any research in the South,” she says. “I’d never done any research on crime, and I’d done little work with schools. So for me, the project was a stimulating and thought-provoking excursion into areas of sociology I had yet to explore.”

There was another reason the study appealed to her. “I’d recently developed a joint PhD degree program in sociology and social policy at Harvard that’s dedicated to the idea that scholars can play a vital role in helping to analyze social problems. I wanted to demonstrate in a very visible way the commitment of this new program to that kind of scholarship.”

Along with her co-authors—Cybelle Fox, Wendy Roth, Jal Mehta, and David...
Harding, all GSAS PhD candidates in social policy and sociology—Newman traveled to two communities that had suffered the trauma of school shootings: Jonesboro, Arkansas, the site of Johnson’s and Golden’s shooting spree; and West Paducah, Kentucky, where Heath High School freshman Michael Carneal opened fire on a school prayer circle, killing three students and wounding four.

Newman and her colleagues conducted extensive research, including more than a hundred interviews with victims’ and perpetrators’ families, students, teachers and school administrators, and police.

The result of their efforts is Rampage, which explores the nature of school violence and offers practical strategies that communities might use to prevent it. In particular, the authors conclude that each town’s culture played a significant role in the tragedies.

“The problem of dealing with troubled children is a very sensitive one in any community,” she says. “It’s extremely difficult for people who observe a troubled child to confront their lifelong neighbors. They’re uncomfortable saying, ‘I think there’s something wrong with your child,’ and to infer that [their neighbors] haven’t raised that child properly.”

But researchers discovered that this problem could be exacerbated by the close-knit nature of small towns. (The population of Jonesboro, Arkansas, for example, is approximately 50,000.) “People share church memberships, and families have been friendly over a number of generations,” says Newman. “They’re scout leaders and basketball coaches for each others’ children and generally have extremely complex, overlapping structures of relationships. Those relationships are so valuable, stable, and long-standing [that] to risk a rupture in them is extremely unsettling.” Teachers and administrators who might have concerns about students’ behavior may be reluctant to come forward.

“Even in towns where there’s a lot of gossip and a lot of intimate knowledge about each other’s behavior, certain things will be kept secret,” Newman says. “It can become a danger when a community becomes too cloistered and closed. The perceived consequences of a rupture in the social fabric become so great that people don’t come forward—even when they have information that, if shared, might spare a community from experiencing a tragic event.”

Obviously, the first question that comes up in a community that experiences a shooting is, “How could this happen here?” Rampage sheds much light on how the potential for violence went undetected by teachers and administrators, even though in both cases studied, threat behavior was exhibited for weeks before the shootings took place.

The shooters often exhibit a “Jekyll and Hyde” personality, Newman explains. “They are artful at presenting one personality to adults and one to their peers. Adults are shocked in the aftermath of a shooting, and often say things like, ‘I could have imagined 50 kids who I thought were more likely to do something like this.’ But their peers aren’t surprised because they’ve heard the shooter announce his intentions,” she says. “Of course what they hear, at least in the beginning, is ambiguous—statements like, ‘You’ll see who lives or dies on Monday,’ or ‘I’m going to be running from the police for awhile.’”

“Peers don’t really know what to think because these statements are coming from people who often say outlandish things to attract attention,” Newman says.

“It becomes difficult to interpret the real meaning of these comments, which is one of the reasons kids don’t come forward when they hear them. That was especially true in the early 90s, when this mini-epidemic of school shootings began. But after Columbine, it became less unthinkable that someone would come in and shoot up his school.”

CHALLENGING CULTURAL ASSUMPTIONS

Rampage challenges the common assumption that the shooters are isolated loners. “They never are loners, really,” says Newman. “They’re joiners, but they’re not successful joiners, and there’s a big difference.”

“A loner exempts and distances himself from the social world,” she explains. “These shooters are always joining, but are rarely fully accepted. The experience of social rejection is constant for them. They exaggerate slight, magnify the importance of their own faults, and feel they have no friends, although other peers might actually identify them as friends. And they often experience a lot of bullying, but they’re not purely victims; they themselves are often bullies.”

And, contrary to popular belief, shooters are not motivated primarily by anger and a desire to get back at peers who have rejected them. “One of the main points of our book is that the violence isn’t so much an expression of rage or revenge, it’s a way of achieving a degree of ‘public manliness’ they think will be admired by others. The shooters are very methodically trying to capture the admiration of their peers.”

DIFFICULT TERRITORY

During her time in these small towns, Newman developed a great deal of “affection and respect” for the parents, teachers, and others who participated in the study. “It’s hard to revisit this territory,” she acknowledges. “There’s tremendous anguish over what’s been lost. To be willing to go back through that horrible experience for the benefit of the society they live in—so that others might be spared that trauma—took a lot of character.”

Newman hopes the book will encourage parents and citizens to realize that, even with serious budget pressures on public schools, communities must invest in resources like counseling for students and appropriate security measures. She adds continued on page 11
“WHAT IS A MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM?”

By Barry Mazur

Mazur, GSA ’62, is the Gade University Professor in the Department of Mathematics.

All the best mathematical problems are come-ons: there is a gentle irony behind them. The problem-setter usually presents to you a very precise task. Solve this! An equation, perhaps: just solve it. But if the problem is really good, a solution of it is nothing more than a letter of introduction to a level of interaction with the material that you hadn’t achieved before. Solving the problem gets you to a deeper level of question-asking. The problem itself is an invitation, a goad, to extend your imagination. This is true of good school problems but is also true of some—perhaps all—of the famous and venerable mathematical problems. For example, there is the Poincaré conjecture, one of the great yet unachieved goals of three-dimensional geometry. The Poincaré conjecture is a precise claim about the characterization of three-dimensional space, and mathematicians would keenly like to know: “Is it true?” “Is it not true?” But the impetus behind the problem is far greater than determining whether it is true or false. Work on the problem presents a possible way of extending our three-dimensional geometric intuition. Now, you might say that we all know three-dimensional space: we get into and out of our sweaters, we tie

With this feature, *Colloquy* presents excerpts from new books written by Harvard faculty in the arts and sciences.

“DEPRESSION: RISE OF THE CITIZEN CONSUMER”

By Lizabeth Cohen

Cohen is the Howard Mumford Jones Professor of American Studies in the Department of History.

The competing vision of Americans as purchaser consumers came through powerfully in a 26-minute public relations film that the Chevrolet Motor Company produced in 1937, entitled *From Dawn to Sunset*. Released only months after General Motors, Chevrolet’s parent company, signed a historic union contract with the United Auto Workers (UAW), it depicted employees in 12 plant cities serving the corporation and the nation more as purchasers of goods, including but by no means limited to cars, than as workers in factories. The film followed the typical day of an “army of interdependent automotive workers and salaried personnel” in these 12 cities, showing repeated scenes of workers receiving pay packets and then, often accompanied by wives and children, spending them in downtown stores on everything from new living room furniture to children’s bicycles and stylish clothing. To triumphant music, the narrator proclaimed that “tens of thousands of men on one single payroll have money for themselves and their families to spend,” making possible “the pleasure of buying, the spending of money, and the enjoyment of all the things that paychecks can buy.”

Chevrolet obviously had a vested interest in depicting new UAW members as well-paid and job-secure customers rather than as tenacious rank-and-file unionists. But much more was at stake. That Chevrolet sought to improve its public image by boasting that “the purchasing power of pay packets fuels the local economies of 12 plant cities” revealed the company’s confidence in consumers as the savior of the nation’s economy. Because “America has a ready purse and gives eager acceptance to what the men of motors have built,” the United States will enjoy “a prosperity greater than history has ever known,” the film proclaimed. It was the buying power of consumers in the aggregate, not the protection of individual consumers in the marketplace, that manufacturers like General Motors, along with a growing number of economists and government officials by the late 1930s, thought would bring the United States out of depression and ensure its survival as a democratic nation.


“ON GROWING A NATION OF BUYERS, IMAGINING MATH PROBLEMS, AND T.S. ELIOT’S GROWING-UP YEARS”

By Barry Mazur

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All the best mathematical problems are come-ons: there is a gentle irony behind them. The problem-setter usually presents to you a very precise task. Solve this! An equation, perhaps: just solve it. But if the problem is really good, a solution of it is nothing more than a letter of introduction to a level of interaction with the material that you hadn’t achieved before. Solving the problem gets you to a deeper level of question-asking. The problem itself is an invitation, a goad, to extend your imagination. This is true of good school problems but is also true of some—perhaps all—of the famous and venerable mathematical problems. For example, there is the Poincaré conjecture, one of the great yet unachieved goals of three-dimensional geometry. The Poincaré conjecture is a precise claim about the characterization of three-dimensional space, and mathematicians would keenly like to know: “Is it true?” “Is it not true?” But the impetus behind the problem is far greater than determining whether it is true or false. Work on the problem presents a possible way of extending our three-dimensional geometric intuition. Now, you might say that we all know three-dimensional space: we get into and out of our sweaters, we tie
things together with knots, we dance, we
explore caves and mountains. The Poincaré
conjecture tells us—*plus ultra*—that there is
more to be imagined, there are yet ways in
which our three-dimensional intuition might
be refined, and it challenges us to do so.

“Before the discovery of America, *Ne plus ultra* was the
motto of the royal arms of Spain, the western limit of the
known world. Beyond us, proclaimed the motto, there is
no more. After the discovery, however, when Charles V
inherited the throne of Aragon and Castille, he simply
deleted the Ne from the motto. There is [even] more.

—Excerpt from “What is a Mathematical Problem?” from
*Imagining Numbers* by Barry Mazur. Reprinted by
permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, L.L.C.

**“T.S. ELIOT: INVENTING PRUFROCK”**

By Helen Vendler

Vendler, PhD ’60, is the A. Kingsley Porter University
Professor in the Department of English and American
Literature and Language.

Coming of age, for most people, means
making decisions about one’s convictions,
allegiances, and attachments. For poets,
coming of age requires as well finding
one’s own distinctive language, one’s idio-
lect, and it is this problem I especially
address in T.S. Eliot. Now that Christopher
Ricks has edited and magnificently anno-
tated Eliot’s earlier poems (1909–1917) in
*Inventions of the March Hare*, we are in a
better position to understand how Eliot
saw his own apprentice writing, and how
he trained himself so that he could, in his
20s, write his first great poem, *The Love
Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*. In focusing on
Eliot’s early “Curtain Raisers”—a phrase I
borrow from the self-deprecating poet
himself—I don’t mean to claim for these
predecessors to *Prufrock* either greatness
or literary permanence. Yet they all show
an intense desire to find a set of available
discourses through which to present very
intractable material.

That intractable material troubling the
young Eliot would include (in rough sum-
mary) a Puritanical suspicion of sex com-
bined with romantic sexual longing; a high
sense of the historical tradition of poetry
together with a conviction that poetry
must belong to its contemporary moment;
an intense analytic intellectuality combined
with a desire for drama (even melodrama);
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young Eliot would include (in rough sum-
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sense of the historical tradition of poetry
together with a conviction that poetry
must belong to its contemporary moment;
an intense analytic intellectuality combined
with a desire for drama (even melodrama);
a pervasive attraction to religion without
adult attachment to any church; and a
New England propriety struggling with a
withering irony. The intellectuality con-
tended against the sexuality, the irony
against the melodrama, the conventionality
against the romanticism. Though Eliot,
like any beginner, needed to find structure
and genres suitable to his material, his first
imaginative priority, given the musicality
of his ear, was to find discourses—extend-
sed systems of language—to give voice to
the qualities warring within him. Taking a
cue from Browning, Eliot sometimes pro-
jected these aesthetic, sexual, and intellec-
tual emotions onto dramatic characters.
Yet the inner lyric self wanted its say too,
and that directly personal voice alternates,
in the young writer, with the voices exter-
nalized in dramatic personae. I want to
consider here the discourses available to
the young Eliot, which he draws on and
perfects, in writing the 1911 *Love Song of
J. Alfred Prufrock*.

Eliot returned again and again, in his
prose, to the dilemma of idiom that he and
other young American poets of his genera-
tion encountered as they came of age. There
were simply no older poets on the English
or American scene to adopt as models. Instead, he turned to Dante
and work emerging from modernist France.

According to the Institute of Scientific
Information, his work has contributed
materially to disparate topics, including
heart-rate fluctuations, the nature of
Alzheimer's disease, and DNA coding.

Gus G. Tirellis, AM ’54, writes that he has retired after 30 years
with the US Army’s ARDEC team
(Armament Research, Development,
and Engineering Center) in Dover, New
Jersey. He worked in optical design and
received a patent for an 81mm mortar
inspection device for ammunition
production plants. He also worked in
thermography at the Radford Army
Ammunition Plant (Virginia) and in laser-
guided weapon systems at various US
military bases.

**PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL
RELATIONS**

In March 2004, ACA Galleries in New
York presented two exhibitions featur-
ing work by Irwin Kremen, PhD
’61: “Three in One: Collage Painting
Sculpture” and “A Black Mountain
Assemblage.” Kremen has had more
than 30 solo exhibitions at museums and
contemporary art centers, and his work
has been acquired by the Smithsonian
American Art Museum, the Fine Arts
Museum of San Francisco, the Houston
Museum of Fine Arts, and the Philadelphia
Museum. Upcoming exhibitions will be
held at Duke University in 2006, and at
the University of Rome in 2007. Kremen
began making art while a psychology pro-
fessor at Duke.

Nora S. Newcombe, PhD ’76,
won the 2003 George A. Miller Award
for Outstanding Recent Article in
General Psychology from the American
Psychological Association. Her article,
“The Nativist-Empiricist Controversy in
the Context of Recent Research on Spatial
and Cognitive Development,” appeared in
*Psychological Science*. Newcombe is the
James H. Glackin Distinguished Faculty
Fellow at Temple University.

**ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND
LITERATURES**

Gina M. Miele, PhD ’03, was named
director of the recently founded Coccia
Institute for the Italian Experience in
America, at Montclair State University.
Miele was the lead teaching fellow for
the Harvard Study Abroad Program in
Calabria and Sicily in 2002, and founded
ed=GM2, educational specialists.
years or decades. Permanent collections are just that: permanent. Blockbuster exhibitions do not always produce new scholarship. They are too often conceived ... to attract attention to the museum and generate revenue; at best to attract membership. All of this temporary exhibition activity was, by definition, temporary and, into the bargain, super-hyped and artificial. By comparison, the permanent collection was made to seem like a bunch of sorry little pictures with lights on them—and that was about all the attention it got.

We just didn't want temporary exhibition hype to throw a shadow over the permanent collection ... Temporary exhibitions and the permanent collection should be complementary. We're not against large and popular exhibitions—insofar as they add value to and derive from the permanent collection.

Let's say you’ve got an extraordinary collection of Renaissance drawings, paintings, sculpture, silver, but you don’t have Renaissance tapestries. It makes sense to bring a temporary exhibition of Renaissance tapestries together from around the world to create a complementary experience to the permanent collection—such an exhibition was the Renaissance tapestry exhibition at the Metropolitan [Museum of Art in 2002]. And that exhibition was hugely popular, hugely original, and provided the rare opportunity to see those beautiful things, which were dispersed around the globe, together in one place at one time. Such exhibitions do the right thing: they advance scholarship and enrich our understanding of a museum’s permanent collection. If a museum is doing exhibitions just to create excitement and bring numbers to the door, then that’s just not enough. That’s a hollow activity in my view.

Could you point to any recent exhibitions you feel have been wrong-headed?

JC: If the motorcycle exhibition that was at the Guggenheim Museum [“The Art of the Motorcycle” in 1998] had been done by the Museum of Modern Art [MOMA] in New York, you would have said that it made sense there because MOMA has—and has had for most of its history—a very distinguished modern design collection. There would have been a context for such an exhibition. But it was organized and presented at the Guggenheim Museum, which didn’t have an appropriate permanent collection for it. The exhibition reduced the museum to a kunsthalle, an empty space just for temporary exhibitions. I gather there’s going to be an exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts [MFA] in Boston of Ralph Lauren’s vintage cars. Now, the Boston museum does have a collection of decorative art objects. It has a collection of musical instruments of some distinction, so you could at least argue for a context for their guitar show [“Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar” in 2000–01], however thin you might have thought the exhibition itself. But there’s no permanent collection in the MFA to justify a vintage car show, and especially this one. It would be one thing if these were simply vintage cars of extraordinary design, but let's be honest: these are Ralph Lauren's vintage cars. This is like having Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Pre-Raphaelite paintings or Elton John’s photographs. These are celebrity exhibitions first, and they are of interest because of the celebrity status of their collectors and the luxury lifestyle they lead or are associated with.

Some argue that such exhibitions attract new audiences. [But] I don’t think there's any evidence that new audiences, if attracted in any significant number, are retained much beyond the end of the exhibition.... My sense is that museums are most successful as civic institutions with long-term relations to their local publics. I am suspicious of the argument that justifies these exhibitions as ways to “build new audiences.” I think they are primarily intended to bring in more money.

Statistics show that museum attendance is up in the last decade. Would you attribute that to these blockbuster shows? Is attendance being artificially skewed?

JC: It’s different in the case of each museum, I’m sure. But there’s certainly an effect of hyped activity of museums and the attention they get in the press. People are more aware of museums probably than ever before. There’s more of a festive air about them, more attention given to the retail needs of visitors. Not that any of this is necessarily or totally wrong. You want a café in a museum because you want people to stay a long time, and people need refreshment breaks. It’s when such retail activities get out in front of works of art that it becomes troublesome.

In a survey the NEA did a few years ago, it showed that more people go to art museums than go to all sporting events combined—a staggering statistic. So why are we killing ourselves to bring in more and more people? That doesn't seem to be the goal, justifiable in and of itself. We already get five million people a year coming to the Metropolitan Museum. MOMA probably gets three to four million. The job is not to get more people in the museum, only; the job is to give [visitors] the opportunity to deepen their regard for works of art.

Will you do something different at the Art Institute of Chicago to achieve those goals? You talk in the book about “clearing away the clutter.” How will that help improve accessibility and excitement?

JC: We’ve got to provide our visitors with the opportunity to take from the museum what they wish to take. We can’t presume they only want one thing from a museum—a temporary exhibition by an artist they already know they like. We want
them to feel like they can come for any reason: to learn something, to be inspired, to feel safe, to relax, to laugh, to be spiritually enriched. In any case, we want to make sure that everything we do and say ... advances their understanding of works of art. Then the rest of it falls into place. Too often it has seemed to be the other way around. How many people came in to this museum, what’s the size of the budget, what’s the size of the staff, how big is your capital campaign, who’s the name architect you’ve hired? The work of art is put at the end of the list. There’s been a certain loss of modesty among museums.

**Are you saying directors or museum trustees are viewing art institutions as cash cows?**

**JC:** Not in the sense of making money for themselves ... It’s just that there’s tremendous pressure on museums to do other things than provide people access to works of art ... to defend ... [their] public subsidy and/or tax status as public institutions in terms of an obvious and measurable public good. Some people see the museum as a socially therapeutic institution, justifying itself in terms of its social programs that bring people in off the streets and give them opportunities to enhance their self-esteem and to strengthen or celebrate their particular social identity. These are desirable goals, but ... museums needn’t justify themselves on those terms. It seemed museums were desperately looking to try to answer the charges of irrelevance that were being tossed at them.

**Could you talk about the “Bilbao effect”?**

**JC:** Ever since Bilbao [the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, built in 1997] and its apparent success, some city leaders [have] the idea that their city would benefit by the same kind of museum, same kind of building—really—a signature piece of architecture that would be beautiful and futuristic, would show optimism, and would attract investment in the city. They see the museum as a means of regenerating the fortunes of a city.

**What about the art inside of it?**

**JC:** That’s the question. The Guggenheim Bilbao, after all, has almost nothing inside of it except what tours through it, and that almost doesn’t matter. It’s just an occasion for excitement. A photograph is taken and gets in the magazines and the newspapers, and tourists come.

**In the roundtable discussion portion of the book, it is noted that art is being talked about less than attendance figures, the financing of the new wing, and so on. Why?**

**JC:** Those are kinds of measurable targets.

**Money and attendance figures are quantifiable, unlike art?**

**JC:** Yes. How do you measure how your life’s been changed by a work of art in the museum? How do you justify that? We are in this business because we had an opportunity once to have our lives changed by the experience of museums, and that’s all we want to do, perpetuate that opportunity for others.

**What’s wrong with the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas showing Monet paintings from the collection of Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts, as it is currently doing? Isn’t that taking art to a wider audience?**

**JC:** I think this whole explanation of “taking art to the people” is disingenuous. If you wanted to take art to the people—and this is Boston art in a Boston institution—take it to Roxbury or South Boston, places within this region that are often described as disadvantaged and whose population may not be well represented among the numbers of people who come to the Boston museum. Why take it to a middle-class entertainment center thousands of miles away—unless you’re being given a million dollars to do so?

I think we have to be very honest [about] the circumstances in which visitors see works of art. In the Bellagio, as I understand it, you’re immediately hit by slot machines, lights, sounds, all the sensory aspects of gambling. There are signs for entertainment this way, a wedding chapel that way, and over there, a gallery where you can see paintings. Is this actually respectful of Monet’s work? Do we believe he made his pictures to be seen in a gambling casino? He was far too serious an artist for that. He painted for history, to be seen as the ... greatest French landscape artist of all time, to be patron-
Water makes biological splash on Mars

Harvard’s Andrew Knoll looks for signs of Martian life

By William J. Cromie

Finding new signs of water on Mars was not unlike finding a needle in a haystack. Now scientific explorers and their robot helpers face a trickier task, looking for life, a needle they are not even sure is there.

If life did exist, don’t expect traces of little green primates or even little green bugs. According to Andrew Knoll (PhD ’77, geology), the Fisher Professor of Natural History at Harvard University, “Any life that evolved was probably very simple, on the level of bacteria and less than the width of a human hair in size. You’d need a microscope to see it.”

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration invited Knoll to participate in the Mars Rover expedition from the control center at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Here, he and his colleagues see new parts of the Red Planet every day through the camera eyes of two robots. Knoll has traveled all over Earth looking for the earliest living things, and NASA hoped he might spot a site like those he has seen on our Blue Planet.

He did. In southwest Spain, by an ancient river, Knoll has worked on deposits of iron and sulfur minerals very similar to those discovered on Mars. One uncommon iron mineral, called jarosite, forms only in the presence of water—acidic water.

Sulfur, originally belched up by volcanoes billions of years ago, is believed to have combined with and been carried into basins by water. This sulfuric acid then joined with metal ions to produce the sulfur minerals found by the robot Opportunity.

Its cameras also photographed tiny pockets where mineral crystals formed in sediments deposited by water. The crystals later dissolved, leaving what geologists call “vugs,” which can be seen in many places on Earth.

In the Spanish river, creatures now thrive in acidic water. But that doesn’t convince Knoll that life ever existed on Mars. Getting samples of rocks with fossilized bacteria in them would be the only way to know for sure. But the first mission to bring back rock samples is not scheduled until the next decade.

Evidence of water activity has also been found on the other side of Mars, by Spirit, Opportunity’s twin. So far, however, the amount seems to be much less than in the once-drenched surface explored by Opportunity.

GOOD-LUCK LANDING

“In one way, looking at the geology of Mars is an extension of what I have been doing for the past 30 years,” says Knoll, 52. “In another way, it’s like entering a whole new realm of science. It is very exciting, a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

Knoll cites the great good luck in landing a robot only about 13 feet from the kind of rock layers deposited by water. “Such layers are the kind of library I consult when looking for signs of early life on Earth,” he says with a smile. “Right now, we don’t know how much water was on Mars or when. What we need to do next is determine as much as we can about the history of water on that planet.”
The flat plains in the equatorial region of Mars where the rover robots landed are not the only place where water existed or still exists. Ice caps now cover both poles. And, in the past, water may have bubbled up from underground reservoirs penetrated by the impact of meteorites. Future technology will most probably produce robots capable of landing in such places. Opportunity and Spirit could only set down on flat areas, and their solar batteries keep them within 10 degrees of the equator where sunlight is at a maximum. Knoll imagines higher-tech Marsbots with more range and dexterity.

**ASTRONAUTS ON MARS**

What about sending astronauts to look for evidence of life? In January, President Bush called for manned landings on the moon by 2020, and using lunar bases as a steppingstone to Mars at an unspecified time. Asked what he and other scientists working with the Mars rovers think about this, Knoll said, “We haven’t had a lot of discussion about it. It’s too tangential to the work at hand. We’re trying to understand what we are seeing every day. We don’t have much time to think about being part of history now, or what the future exploration might be like.”

Scientists seem to be of two minds about walking on Mars, according to Knoll. Some see it as manifest destiny, others as an expensive stunt. “Robots should be technically mature by the time we’re ready to send people to Mars,” Knoll notes. “At that time, we’ll have to decide whether the nation would be better off sending humans or sophisticated robots.”

Knoll has searched some of the most inaccessible spots on Earth for signs of the planet’s earliest inhabitants. One place he hasn’t been is the bed of the deep ocean where a weird assortment of plants and animals live in cold darkness and acidic waters. Asked if he’d like to continue his search on Mars, Knoll answered, “Not really. I’d much rather go to the bottom of the ocean.”

—William Cromie is the science writer for the Harvard Gazette.

**America’s School Rampages continued from page 5**

that communities also must think seriously about how they can address the epidemic of bullying and encourage students to come forward when peers make violent threats.

In an unusual move, Newman listed in the book’s credits her four doctoral student collaborators as co-authors. “They all made tremendous contributions in both the research and writing,” she says. “Harvard should be proud that we have students who could perform so brilliantly on such a complex and demanding project.”

Perhaps even more unusual is that all five co-authors decided to donate their entire advance and all subsequent royalties to the two schools where the shootings took place.

“We wanted teachers and administrators to use the money to improve the quality of life there,” Newman explains. “They welcomed us into their communities and opened up some very painful experiences to our close scrutiny. They did so to help other people, and it wasn’t easy for them.”

Nor was it always easy for Newman. “This was the hardest fieldwork I’ve ever done,” she says. “I conducted some of the most sensitive interviews myself because I thought they required a lot of experience, and there were times I wasn’t sure I’d be able to get through them. As a parent, I couldn’t help but feel empathy for people who lost their children in such a horrible way. They’ll never get over their losses. How could they?”

—Charles Coe is a freelance writer living in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**HARVARD HISTORY OF SCIENCE MUSEUM TO OBSERVE “TRANSIT OF VENUS”**

Harvard’s Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments (CHSI), now in its new digs in the Science Center, will observe the Transit of Venus on Tuesday, June 8, during Harvard’s Commencement week. According to Sara Schechner, CHSI curator, this rare astronomical event, in which Venus can be seen crossing the face of the Sun, was last “seriously observed” in Cambridge in June 1769. “The observers were Professor John Winthrop and Harvard students, and CHSI has the apparatus used that day. We also have some of the instruments used by Winthrop to observe the Transit of Venus in 1761 in Newfoundland.”

The Transit will be in progress, Schechner says, at about 5 A.M. EDT and will end just before 7:30 A.M. Alumni are invited to observe the Transit with both modern and vintage instruments. For more information, visit www.fas.harvard.edu/~hsdept/chsi/index.html or call CHSI at 617-496-9542.

Last spring, Colloquy reported on plans for a museum housing the University’s Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments (CHSI). We’re happy to note that CHSI has indeed moved its collection into a new wing of the Science Center, and large-scale exhibitions are being planned for the fall. Pictured here is the CHSI Conservation Lab, as seen from the new special exhibition gallery. This June, CHSI will sponsor a rare viewing of the Transit of Venus using new and vintage astronomical instruments.

*Charles Coe*
HARVARD PLANS STEM CELL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Harvard is in the process of establishing a privately funded research institute to grow and study human embryonic stem cells (final details will not be available until late April 2004). According to a statement from the University, “Harvard believes stem cell research is essential in advancing potential treatments for serious human ills. Harvard will continue to work within the laws and regulations in advancing these treatments.”

Citing ethical considerations, President Bush has limited federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to existing lines of cells. Harvard biologist Douglas Melton recently created 17 new stem cell lines, which he has said he will share with fellow scientists. Stem cells are found in human embryos, umbilical cords, and placentas, and help create the human body. Scientists believe that harvested stem cells might be used for replacement organs and tissues, and to fight diseases such as diabetes and Parkinson’s. Other universities, including Stanford and the University of Wisconsin, operate privately funded stem cell research centers.

GUTMANN NAMED NEW PENN PRESIDENT

Amy Gutmann, AB ’71, PhD ’76, government, will become the next president of the University of Pennsylvania in July 2004. Gutmann has been on the faculty at Princeton University for 28 years and is provost and the Gutmann has been on the faculty at Princeton of the University of Pennsylvania in July 2004.

A team of librarians from Harvard and the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science is launching a program to train Iraqi librarians and archivists, and modernize that country’s libraries. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded the schools $100,000 for the two-year project, part of the NEH program “Recovering Iraq’s Past,” which funds projects to help rebuild that country’s cultural heritage. The program will begin in May 2004. Harvard librarians will oversee special projects and serve as long-term mentors via the Internet. Sidney Verba, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and director of the University Library, said library employees would “help rebuild the intellectual base of higher education in Iraq.” Harvard librarians have also helped to rebuild Bosnian library collections since 1996.

HARVARD CHEMIST HONORED WITH PRIESTLEY MEDAL

Elias Corey, the Sheldon Emery Research Professor of Chemistry, has received the 2004 Priestley Medal, the highest honor of the American Chemical Society. In his long career, Corey has developed ways to assemble complex chemical structures that have been used for medicines, particularly his synthetic hormone-like compounds used to mimic the body’s immune system. His ongoing work is developing small “mimics” of complex enzymes, which Corey terms “molecular robots.” Corey has been a chemist at Harvard since 1959.

HARVARD TO HELP IRAQ’S LIBRARIES

A team of librarians from Harvard and the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science is launching a program to train Iraqi librarians and archivists, and modernize that country’s libraries. Harvard librarians will oversee special projects and serve as long-term mentors via the Internet. Sidney Verba, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and director of the University Library, said library employees would “help rebuild the intellectual base of higher education in Iraq.” Harvard librarians have also helped to rebuild Bosnian library collections since 1996.

SPRINGER WINS 2004 CRAFOORD PRIZE

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the 2004 Crafoord Prize to Timothy A. Springer, PhD ’76, biochemistry and molecular biology, the Latham Family Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School and the senior investigator at the Center for Blood Research; and Eugene C. Butcher of Stanford University. The pair was recognized “for their studies on the molecular mechanisms involved in migration of white blood cells in health and disease,” according to the Academy. The Crafoord Fund was established in 1980 to promote basic scientific research worldwide in mathematics, astronomy, geosciences, biosciences (especially ecology), and polyarthritis. Springer’s laboratory homepage may be found at http://cbrr.med.harvard.edu/investigators/springer/lab.

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HARVARD SCIENTISTS PROTEST BUSH ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

In February, over 60 leading scientists—including Nobel laureates, former federal agency directors, and university presidents—protested “the misuse of science by the Bush administration” and signed a report issued by the Union of Concerned Scientists. “Restoring Scientific Integrity in Policy Making” charges the Bush administration with “distorting and censoring scientific findings that contradict its policies,” particularly regarding climate change, reproductive health, and nuclear weapons. The signatories called for legislative and regulatory action. Harvard faculty joining the petition were: Lewis M. Branscomb (PhD ’50, physics), professor in public policy; Eric Chivian, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and director of the Harvard Center for Health and the Global Environment; and Paul M. Doty, Mallinckrodt Professor of Biochemistry Emeritus.
Also signing were: John P. Holdren, Heinz Professor of Environmental Policy; William Lipscomb, Lawrence Professor of Chemistry Emeritus; James J. McCarthy, Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography and director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology; Matthew S. Meselson, Cabot Professor of the Natural Sciences; Norman F. Ramsey, Higgins Professor of Physics Emeritus; and E.O. Wilson (PhD ’55, biology), Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus.

In an Associated Press report, White House Science Advisor John Marburger III acknowledged the scientists’ prominence and the importance of dialogue about the issues raised, but added that the report fails to make the case for its “sweeping accusations.” The report is available at www.ucusa.org/global_environment/rsi/report.html.

SAMUEL JOHNSON COLLECTION TO HOUGHTON LIBRARY

The Houghton Library has inherited the Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of material relating to Samuel Johnson from the late March, Vicountess Eccles, the library announced in March 2004. It is one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive compilations of 18th-century rare books, manuscripts, and personal correspondence. It contains more than 4,000 rare volumes and 5,500 manuscripts and letters between Johnson and his acquaintances. It also holds more than 5,000 prints, drawings, and objects, including the only known copy with untrimmed pages of the first edition of Dr. Johnson’s 1755 dictionary, the first in the English language. Many of the collection’s books have Johnson’s own marginalia. Selected items will be displayed in a special suite of rooms set aside for the Hyde Collection.

BUELL WINS 2003 WARREN BROOKS AWARD

Lawrence Buell, the John P. Marquand Professor of English, has won the 2003 Robert Penn Warren-Cleanth Brooks Award for Outstanding Literary Criticism from the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies at Western Kentucky University. He received the award for Emerson, an assessment of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s works. The jury honored Buell because he “cogently assesses Emerson’s radically original contributions to fields of thought as disparate as science, politics, religion, philosophy, literature and social action.”

HELEN VENDLER TO DELIVER THE 2004 JEFFERSON LECTURE

The National Endowment for the Humanities announced that Helen Vendler, the A. Kingsley Porter University Professor, will deliver the 2004 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities, the 33rd such lecture, in May 2004. The Jefferson Lecture is the highest honor the federal government bestows for distinguished intellectual achievement in the humanities. Vendler received her PhD in English and American literature and language from GSAS in 1960. She holds 23 honorary degrees from universities and colleges in the United States, England, Ireland, and Norway. Her many books on poets and poetry include Coming of Age as a Poet: Milton, Keats, Eliot, Plath (2003), Seamus Heaney (1998), and The Art of Shakespeare’s Sonnets (1997). For an excerpt from Vendler’s most recent book, see page 7.

New Writing continued from page 7

The Art Museum

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ized by presidents, not to be a temporary distraction from other—and easier—forms of entertainment.

Does a casino provide the setting that gives people the opportunity to really deeply engage in Monet’s paintings? I doubt it. I think it provides them a chance for a quick diversion from the real reason they came to Las Vegas: stage shows, gambling, and swimming pools.

Are art museums elitist?

JC: How elite is an institution that attracts five million people? I don’t get it.... I think some museums are more in danger of flirting with celebrity-ism than elitism. I can understand that people might feel intimidated with museums. We feel intimidated by all kinds of things with which we are unfamiliar. Museums are working hard to eliminate the factor of intimidation in the visitors’ experience and to make the museum open and inviting to all interested people. You don’t want to pander to the public to do this. In fact the public doesn’t need museums to pander to them—the public trusts museums to do much more.

Harvard Alumni Directory

Harvard University will soon publish the 21st edition of the Harvard Alumni Directory, a valuable means of keeping in touch with other alumni and the University. GSAS alumni are encouraged to complete the Alumni Directory survey online at Post.Harvard (www.haa.harvard.edu/connect). By completing the survey, you will also update the online alumni directory, which is accessible only to the Harvard alumni community. A form for reserving your own printed copy of the directory—to be distributed in March 2005—will be mailed to you separately. Please take advantage of this opportunity.
Priceless
On Knowing the Price of Everything and the Value of Nothing
By Frank Ackerman, PhD ’75, economics, and Lisa Heinzerling

Can traditional economic analyses accurately—or usefully—measure the value of human life, or of forests or clean air? It’s doubtful. Instead, the authors present an alternative approach that aims to “restore a sense of moral urgency to the protection of life, health, and the environment…” Solutions are offered in clear, accessible prose that illuminate the gravity of the choices society must make. Ackerman is an economist at the Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University and the author of Why Do We Recycle? Markets, Values, and Public Policy (1996).

Europe Without Borders
Remapping Territory, Citizenship, and Identity in a Transnational Age
Edited by Mabel Berezin, PhD ’87, sociology, and Martin Schain

At the heart of this book is what to do in contemporary Eastern Europe, a region in which, the authors contend, territory matters but borders don’t exist. Essays address how Europeans form territory, react to boundary shifts, and maintain cultural identity as countries are reshaped or even disappear. Berezin is an associate professor of sociology at Cornell University and the author of Making the Fascist Self: The Political Culture of Interwar Italy (1997).

Harvest of Despair
Life and Death in Ukraine Under Nazi Rule
By Karel C. Berkhoff, AM ’92, regional studies–USSR

For too long, social science, particularly anthropology, has ignored the phenomenon of mass marketing, writes the author. But this book presents new evidence that global marketing is changing cultures worldwide. Berkhoff is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and co-editor of Consumption and Market Society in Israel (2004).

Starting in Our Own Backyards
How Working Families Can Build Community and Survive the New Economy
By Ann Bookman, PhD ’77, anthropology

The highly competitive, high-stress biotechnology field—along with inflexible school rules—hurt working parents trying to raise their children, writes the author. Bookman, who based her book on a study of the lives of 40 families in greater Boston over five years, says families—and communities—will suffer without greater flexibility from employers and increased recognition of work restrictions by schools and other public institutions. Bookman is the executive director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Workplace Center and a visiting scholar at MIT’s Sloan School of Management. She is co-editor of Women and the Politics of Empowerment (1990).

George Washington
By James MacGregor Burns, PhD ’47, political science, and Susan Dunn, PhD ’73, Romance languages and literatures

Washington’s legacy included the formation of a strong executive branch and putting our national unity above other issues, including slavery—already divisive in the young nation. But Washington erred, Burns and Dunn write, by failing to see how such “lesser” issues might destabilize the union. This book is the first volume in the new American President Series. Burns is the Woodrow Wilson Professor of Political Science Emeritus at Williams College and the author of the

**Shooting the Sun**

A Novel

By Max Byrd, PhD ’70, English and American literature and language


The author of several historical novels featuring Presidents Jefferson, Jackson, and Grant, Byrd turns his attention here to Charles Babbage, the noted 18th-century British mathematician and creator of the first digital computer, called the Difference Engine. Byrd offers a fictionalized account of Babbage’s eventful wagon-train journey across the United States to publicize the machine.

**The Literature of Lesbianism**

A Historical Anthology from Aristoi to Stonewall

Edited by Terry Castle, GSA ’80, Junior Fellows Program


This volume gathers six centuries of writing about the lives and loves of homosexual women. Castle has approached the material not to make a moral or political point, but rather to assess when Western literature began to consider erotic desire between women as a subject. One discovery is “how commonplace” the lesbian theme has been, and she excerpts works by authors from Shakespeare and Zola, to Patricia Highsmith and Graham Greene. Castle is the Walter A. Haas Professor of humanities at Stanford University and the author of The Apparitional Lesbian: Female Homosexuality and Modern Culture (1993), among other books.

**The Mt. Monadnock Blues**

A Novel

By Larry Duberstein, AM ’71, history


Set in 1990s Boston, Tim is a 40-year-old gay man engaged in a custody battle over which surviving relative will raise his dead sister’s young children. The novel, by turns comic and heartrending, takes on AIDS ignorance, gay rights, and parenting in slightly less-enlightened times. Duberstein’s previous novels include Handsome Sailor (1998) and The Alibi Breakfast (1995).

**Aged by Culture**

By Margaret Morganroth Gullette, AB ’62, PhD ’75, comparative literature


Gullette, who refers to herself as an “age critic,” offers pointed insights into how American culture is itself “aging” men and women. She contends that the spread of plastic surgery, ageism in the workplace, and threats to Social Security, among other phenomena, have created a culture that “steals hope” from us as we move through the stages of life. Gullette is a resident scholar at the Women’s Studies Research Center at Brandeis University and the author of Declining to Decline: Cultural Combat and the Politics of the Midlife (1997).

**Lives and Landscapes**

A Photographic Memoir of Outport Newfoundland and Labrador, 1949–1963

By Elmer Harp Jr., SB ’35, PhD ’53, anthropology; edited by M.A.P. Renouf


Elmer Harp began his anthropological fieldwork in coastal Canada as a Harvard graduate student 50 years ago; this book is the result of his studies of the tightknit communities in that region. The documentary photos and commentary bring a vanished world to life. Harp is professor of anthropology emeritus at Dartmouth College.

**From Warfare to Welfare**

Defense Intellectuals and Urban Problems in Cold War America

By Jennifer S. Light, AB ’93, PhD ’99, history of science


Technologies developed to fight the cold war—from think tanks to satellite surveillance—were adapted, the author writes, for civilian use by urban planners and municipal leaders to battle the urban chaos and unrest of the 1960s and ’70s. The author is an assistant professor at Northwestern University’s School of Communication and Department of Sociology.

**Streets of Glory**

Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood

By Omar M. McRoberts, PhD ’00, sociology


This study of Boston’s Four Corners neighborhood shows how a diverse “religious ecology”—as exemplified by nondenominational storefront churches—literally delivered salvation to this crime-ridden district, preventing it from sinking into an urban war zone. McRoberts is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Chicago.

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Left of the Color Line
Race, Radicalism, and 20th-Century Literature of the United States
Edited by Bill V. Mullen and James Smethurst, PhD ’96, English and American literature and language
This collection of essays explores how left-wing writers and intellectuals in the 20th century, including Ralph Ellison and Chester Himes, made their mark on minority literature and culture. Critical turning points such as the Harlem renaissance, the cold war, and the black arts movement of the 1960s and ’70s are assessed. An assistant professor of Afro-American studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Smethurst is also the author of The New Red Negro: The Literary Left and African-American Poetry, 1930–1946 (1999).

Fantasies of Flight
By Daniel M. Ogilvie, AB ’61, PhD ’67, psychology and social relations
Standard psychological theory holds that people who dream or fantasize about flying reveal an impulse toward freedom and release. Ogilvie, a professor of psychology at Rutgers University, disputes that. Rather, he writes, flying represents an urge to move to a safer place, to return “to less troubled times.” Ogilvie bases his case on examples as varied as J.M. Barrie’s Peter Pan and the 1997 Heaven’s Gate mass suicides.

Friendly Fire
The Near-Death of the Transatlantic Alliance
By Elizabeth Pond, GSA ’62, AM ’63, regional studies–USSR
Relations between the United States and Europe are at their lowest point since the 1950s, writes Pond, a journalist based in Germany. She recounts the deterioration witnessed in 2003—primarily around the Iraq war but also involving global issues, such as the Kyoto Protocol—and offers some light at the end of a gloomy tunnel. Pond is the author of The Rebirth of Europe (1999) and co-author of The German Question (1996).

Impressionist Cats & Dogs
By James H. Rubin, PhD ’72, fine arts
In their efforts to capture the world as it was, Impressionists naturally included pets. Renoir and Degas were particular enthusiasts (though Degas’s friend Monet was an exception to this pro-pet attitude). Rubin describes how cats and dogs broke into the art world and what their presence has meant to artists and viewers alike. An art historian at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Rubin is also the author of Impressionism (1999) and Courbet (1997).

The Intelligencer
A Novel
By Leslie Silbert, AB ’96, AM ’02, history of science
The idea for this first novel—a detective thriller—grew out of a graduate class the author was taking on Renaissance drama. During a discussion of Dr. Faustus, a classmate informed Silbert that its author, Christopher Marlowe, was a spy for the Queen. Imagination and erudition merged, resulting in this romp. Readers travel from 16th-century London to the present day, where a young detective becomes enmeshed in a mystery connecting her back to Marlowe himself. Silbert is a private investigator in New York City.

The Secular Revolution
Power, Interests, and Conflict in the Secularization of American Public Life
Edited by Christian Smith, PhD ’90, sociology
To a considerable extent, contemporary debate over the “secularization of American public life” misses the point, these essays contend. The American past is not a particularly religious one, Smith writes, although secular attitudes and assumptions have often come under fire from faith-based forces seeking to inject religiosity into legislatures, schools, and courts. Smith is the associate chair in sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the author of Christian America? What Evangelicals Really Want (2000).

The Theory and Practice of Revolt in Medieval England
By Claire Valente, AB ’89, PhD ’97, history
For two centuries, ten English kings faced serious—indeed, sometimes mortal—rebellion from their subjects. This political violence, Valente writes, was an essential form of protest until civil war raged and British reformist impulses were formalized by the creation of Parliament. The author is an independent scholar.

A Scream Goes Through the House
What Literature Teaches Us About Life
By Arnold Weinstein, PhD ’68, comparative literature
In reading about the drama of other lives, contends the author, we may find a pathway from our own dilemmas into a greater connection with the human condition (e.g., those suffering from depression may find illumination in the character of Hamlet). Works by Sophocles, Dickens, Proust, O’Neill, Burroughs, DeLillo, Tony Kushner, and Toni Morrison, among others, are studied for the life lessons they offer. Weinstein is the Edna and Richard Salomon Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature at Brown University and the author of Fictions of the Self: 1550–1800 (1999), among other books. 🎤

—Compiled by Susan Lumenello
Why Do You Give? Alumni Offer Their Thoughts

By Marnie Hammar

As part of their academic pursuits, GSAS students are taught and encouraged to ask “why.” It seems quite natural, then, to inquire of our most loyal Graduate School Fund supporters their reasons for giving to GSAS year after year.

Captured here are the thoughts of some of the many GSAS alumni who commit so much of their time and energy toward transforming today’s graduate student experience. Perhaps you’ll see here a few more reasons why you should give.

TO KEEP GSAS AT THE TOP

“I want to contribute toward Harvard’s maintaining its status of attracting the top graduate students in the world. We need to keep up with or surpass other graduate schools in student funding to achieve and maintain this goal!”—Barbara C. Luna, PhD ’75, applied sciences

TO GIVE BACK

“Why do I give? It’s simple: I’m paying to give back. When I was a graduate student, I benefited from subsidized tuition and received substantial direct support from Harvard. Had it not been for that, I wouldn’t have made it through. Since leaving Harvard, my graduate training has formed the basis of everything I have done in my professional life, and my Harvard ties opened doors for me at key junctures. Any success I’ve had in my career is largely due to the fact that I earned a PhD at Harvard.”—Kenneth C. Freewiss, AB ’67, PhD ’77, economics

“I received a big boost from Harvard when I was down. In 1942, President Roosevelt ordered that all Japanese Americans be evacuated from the West Coast. Noting that this act disrupted the college educations of many students, and could have a long-term impact on our society, the Quakers formed the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. I was extracted from Manzanar Relocation Center and sent to the University of Missouri for a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering…Years later, Harvard offered me a scholarship and, now, I have a doctor of science degree from the best university in the world.”—F. Robert Naka, SD ’51, applied sciences, AMP ’67

“My years as a graduate student in Harvard’s chemistry department were some of the happiest of my formal education. The training I received led me into a career that was fascinating and productive. In a sense, my gifts to GSAS are a thank-you for a happy professional life.”—Myron S. Simon, AB ’47, PhD ’49, chemistry

“GSAS did a great deal for me and I am determined to return my support. Harvard remains the greatest university in the world, and continues to deserve, justify, and need the financial backing of its alumni from each of its many departments.”—Robert Solwin Smith, PhD ’56, government

“GSAS introduced me—an achiever, albeit from a very parochial background—to the world: new points of view, new fields of learning, people from different cultures. It also instilled a yen for investigation, objectivity, and depth. And it provided fellowships to achieve all this, which I would like to pay back, with interest, to others.”—Sidney M. Spielvogel, AM ’46, economics, MBA ’49

TO FURTHER THE EXPANSE OF KNOWLEDGE

“I want to support research and scholarship at the highest level. Often, these research activities are either not commercially viable or are too far ahead of the market to win commercial backing in their early stages. Harvard has the greatest assemblage in the world of researchers and scholars pushing at the frontiers of knowledge and understanding, so it is where I feel my dollars will have the greatest impact.”—Michael R. Yogg, PhD ’78, history

“Beyond love and compassion in one’s life, I can think of nothing more valuable than a fine education. For those with the aspiration and talent to pursue graduate-level education in the arts and sciences, we need to provide the resources so that they may flourish in their studies. It is through the support of alumni/ae that our great institution continues to be self-perpetuating.”—Marianne Steiner, ME ’78, SM ’78, applied mathematics

TO TRANSFORM TODAY’S GRADUATE EXPERIENCE

“Quality of thought isn’t the issue—Harvard continues to attract creative minds. Rather, it is ‘quality of life’ that is key. And ‘quality of life’ for graduate students is improved dramatically through support from the Graduate School Fund.”—Mary Sutherland, AM ’73, regional studies—East Asia, MBA ’83

“I give because I want to help Harvard’s graduate enterprise transcend a limitation I experienced—that is, the lack of adequate, permanent funding for graduate fellowships to attract and support consistently outstanding students across all disciplines. Currently, we have a striking opportunity to permanently change that situation.”—Homer J. Hagedorn, PhD ’55, history

“I give to the Graduate School Fund to make sure no Harvard graduate student has to eat canned beef stew cooked on a hot plate in Perkins Hall like I did as a graduate student many years ago.”—Donald R. van Deventer, PhD ’77, economics

TO IMPACT THE WORLD

“Giving to GSAS is a force multiplier: It not only helps graduate students earn their degrees but also helps Harvard College students receive top-flight personal tutoring, helps Harvard faculty produce world-class research, and helps Harvard itself unite through its interdisciplinary programs with other Crimson faculties. A contribution to GSAS impacts the world, as alumni scatter from Cambridge to pinnacle leadership positions in academia, government, nonprofits, the professions, and business.”—Charles N. Schilke, AM ’82, history

To learn more about supporting the Graduate School Fund, please contact Jennifer Campoli at 1-800-VERITAS or at jennifer_campoli@harvard.edu.

—Marnie Hammar is associate director of communications at the University Development Office.
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SAVE THE DATE!
Next year’s GSAS Alumni Day will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2005. Look for your invitation in the mail.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:
GSAS CENTENNIAL MEDALISTS
Help GSAS recognize its most distinguished alumni through nomination for the Centennial Medal. Some of the 56 individuals who have received this honor since 1989 include Jill Ker Conway, author and former president of Smith College; Bill Schneider, journalist and political analyst; and Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University. The Centennial Medal is awarded each June to alumni in recognition of their contributions to society.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: THE GSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
Your nominations are requested for alumni to serve on the Graduate School Alumni Association Council. The Council is the governing body of the Harvard Graduate School Alumni Association and meets at Harvard twice yearly to represent and advance the interests of GSAS students and alumni. Typically, members will have achieved distinction in their careers or may have made significant contributions through community service. Council members also share a strong commitment to Harvard and to graduate education.

Send nominations to: Graduate School Alumni Association, Medals Nominations, 8 Garden Street, Byerly Hall 300, Cambridge, MA 02138; or gsaa@fas.harvard.edu. Nominations will be forwarded to the GSAA Council Medals Committee.

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