Images From Commencement 2007

GSAS Alumni Day: A Wrap-Up

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On the cover: One of the many gargoyles of Oxford College. By Grant V. Faint/Photodisc.
Better Support for More Degrees

On June 7, 2007, Commencement Day fell on a sunny, crisp Thursday, making the pageantry even more joyous than usual for degree-claimants, family members, and faculty. After the ceremony in Harvard Yard, a record number of GSAS students marched across the stage in a very crowded Sanders Theatre—including significantly more new PhDs than ever before. As Dean, I was delighted to shake the hand of each one as I handed him or her the degree.

In the natural sciences and engineering, swelling ranks of new PhDs follow from Harvard’s ability in recent years to admit and train more investigators, and we can expect this growth to continue as the University carries through its plans to expand scientific research in Cambridge, Longwood, and Allston. In the social science and humanities programs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, by contrast, the numbers admitted in recent years have remained relatively constant. More PhD recipients in 2007 reflects a recent shift in policies, which have sped students toward completing their degrees. During the past two years, GSAS has beefed up support for dissertation writers and, at the same time, worked with departments and faculty mentors to move students without delay toward completion.

A story lies behind this. When I took up the deanship two years ago, GSAS was instituting a generous new promise to students entering social science and humanities programs. Each student admitted in 2005 and after could expect, eventually, to claim a final year of support to write the dissertation. This was great, and very necessary to keeping Harvard competitive with other universities. But as an incoming Graduate School Dean, I also knew that across many universities in recent times, increased support promised to PhD students in the humanities and social sciences had led to candidates taking longer, on average, to complete their studies. Facing this unfortunate paradox, foundations have become less willing to spend money in fields where they cannot be sure that progress toward the degree will improve. Determined to avoid unintended effects at Harvard, I devised new policies—and after just two years, we can see positive results.

In the first place, starting in the fall of 2005, we set out to change the time horizon for PhD students entering Harvard. Along with delivering the promise of eventual dissertation funding, we also told entering students in the humanities and social sciences that they would have to be prepared to claim that funding no later than the seventh year of PhD studies. In some fields, like economics, most students are ready to finish dissertations in year four or five; in other fields, where difficult languages must be learned or trips to distant field sites are necessary, it can logically take six or seven years. But we set a limit. In the future, all doctoral candidates must have two dissertation chapters in draft by no later than March 1 of their sixth year of study, in order to use their dissertation completion fellowship no later than the seventh year (and they can register in GSAS no more than one year after the use of the fellowship).

In all social science and humanities programs, GSAS unwaveringly delivers this message to entering PhD students. Concurrently, many faculty leaders have taken creative steps to streamline the first few years of graduate study leading to the completion of General Exams and course requirements. This ensures that graduate students are ready to launch theses in the third year or early in the fourth year. In some cases, departments asked GSAS for permission to shift resources in revenue-neutral ways to streamline progress through basic requirements. I instantly approved such locally devised improvements because the faculty in each discipline know what works best in their circumstances.

It was very nice to promise new dissertation fellowships to social scientists and humanists entering GSAS starting in 2005. But what about PhD students who were already in very advanced stages when I became Dean? I did not want to leave them without support. With the help of new funds raised from alumni, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the University, GSAS was able, starting in 2006–07, to offer dissertation completion funding to any PhD student currently enrolled in an FAS humanities or social science program, provided that he or she presented two draft chapters or more the
There was in fact no doubt in Professor Jorge Domínguez’s address that Latin America and Latin Americans matter for the US, especially when it comes to the hot-button political issues of immigration and transnational crime.

Domínguez, the Antonio Madero Professor of Mexican and Latin American politics and economics, and University vice provost for international affairs, recalled his own journey to American citizenship, noting that as a teenager, he came with his family from Cuba to the US on a tourist visa intending to stay on, illegally, if necessary. Domínguez received a Harvard PhD in government in 1972.

He said that of the more than ten million illegal immigrants in the US today, about half are from Mexico. “How did the country get this way?” he said.

Domínguez dates “the birth of illegal migration from Mexico” to 1964. That year, a World War II-era contract between the US and Mexico designed to import Mexican workers to US factories and farms ended. The so-called “Bracero Program” was in place from 1942 to 1964.

In subsequent decades, said Domínguez, illegal immigration was tolerated because most Mexican laborers in the US, working seasonally on farms, would return regularly to their homeland. But in the 1980s, the US government began clamping down on illegal workers. During the Clinton Administration, the first fence was built along the US-Mexico border.

“The fence had zero net impact in deterring the flows crossing the border,” said Domínguez. What the fence did accomplish, he said, was to lead to the deaths of illegal immigrants because the easiest point of entry became the unforgiving desert.

The fence also meant that fewer people returned home to Mexico and more simply stayed on in the US. “The fence,” he said, “turned temporary migration into permanent migration. Now, once you make it through, you stay.” Additional fence building, Domínguez said, would likely lead to similar results.

Deportation is not a practical solution to the controversy over illegal immigration, Domínguez said. “It would be better,” he said, “to think of ways to help people become positive contributors to society.”

Domínguez praised at least part of the “Bush approach” to the problem, in which President Bush has called for a temporary worker program, as well as the McCain-Kennedy bill, recently before the US Senate.

The “Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act” called for an “Essential Worker Visa Program” with a new category...
for alien workers in jobs not otherwise covered in existing visa categories. (As Colloquy went to press, Congress is considering various new immigration legislation, including proposals based in part on McCain-Kennedy.)

Perhaps even more intractable than the problem of illegal immigration from Latin America to the US is the spread of transnational crime. “Much of this is associated with drug traffic,” Domínguez said, “but [it also involves] human beings, weapons, and other goods.”

Policy-making around this issue is at a standstill for three reasons, said Domínguez. “One is the high level of drug consumption in the US and elsewhere. Two is the systematic insistence on the illegality of this system. It adds to the criminality. Three [is] the sustained refusal of the US to participate in the international ban on trade in weapons. So it’s hard to address trafficking.”

Overall, however, relations between the US and its Latin American neighbors are good, Venezuela and Cuba notwithstanding, and “secure,” Domínguez said. The US exports more goods to this region than to any other [part of the world], and, he said, no known terrorists have moved from Latin American to the US.

“Latin America and Latin Americans matter,” he said, “because they help us think about who we are as human beings and where we come from.”

**ORGANISMIC AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY**

“Limbs from Fins: The Devonian Emergence of Terrestrial Tetrapods”

Farish Jenkins, Professor of Biology and Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology

Jenkins was a principal on the team that found the “missing-link” fish _Tiktaalik roseae_, which _Science_ magazine declared to be among the top ten most important discoveries of 2006.

Jenkins described the hunt that yielded this amazingly three-dimensional fossil, cut from rock. Over the course of several years, field expeditions explored territory well north of the Arctic Circle. These trips certainly weren’t lacking in adventure. The team narrowly missed an encounter with a polar bear and—on more than one occasion—watched as their camp decamped in an Arctic gale.

_Tiktaalik_ is derived from the Inuit word for a large, shallow-water fish, but, said Jenkins, it’s “a very odd fish.” First, it was amphibious, and, second, it had front limbs that enabled it to move about on land—as well as overlapping ribs to support a body that, out of water, was encountering a much-greater gravitational load.

Perhaps most remarkably, _Tiktaalik_ had a neck and a mobile head. “No fish has a real neck—except this creature,” Jenkins said. The discovery, he concluded, “fills in one of the landmark transitions of animal evolution.”

**SYSTEMS BIOLOGY**

“Designing Biological Systems”

Pamela Silver, Professor of Systems Biology

One of the most exciting subfields of systems biology—an emerging science that incorporates the mathematical and
Editor Barry Gewen Reveals Its Inner Workings

As a preview editor for the New York Times Book Review, GSAS alumnus Barry Gewen is admittedly one of those “cultural gatekeepers.” Who and what gets through the gate was the subject of Gewen’s talk, given earlier this year at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

A Book Review fixture for 17 years, Gewen handles foreign policy, history, economics, and current events. He also is responsible for most Holocaust-related books and those on Hitler and Stalin. Gewen’s five fellow preview editors have other specialties—fiction, science, sports, and other subject areas. Before books are assigned to the preview editors, the Review’s top three editors, including Sam Tanenhaus, editor-in-chief, have sorted through the many hundreds of review copies, galleys (pre-publication versions of books that are made available to book reviewers), and reprints from publishers and literary agents.

Gewen, who earned his PhD in the history of American civilization in 1972, estimates that he sees 20 to 25 books every week, and he gives only about 25 percent of those to a reviewer. “You have to have a hard heart. One can’t afford to think a person has spent ten years of her life [on the book] and I’m spending 30 minutes to throw it away,” Gewen said.

It is impossible for him to read each book he receives in its entirety, he said, and though “in an ideal world, every galley stands an equal chance with every other galley…it isn’t precisely true.”

Galleys from major publishing houses—Knopf, Random House, and Farrar, Straus and Giroux, for example—may be given more time compared to those from, say, a small university press because, Gewen said, they’re geared to a popular audience rather than an academic one. “That’s not to say that, for example, the University of Kentucky Press doesn’t get a fair shake,” he pointed out.

However, some university presses are comparable to trade or commercial presses in terms of their books’ accessibility for the general reader, he said. In that select group, he included the presses of Harvard, Yale, and Oxford and—in a second tier—Princeton, the University of Chicago, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California, among others.

But the selection process also depends upon reading the book on its own merits, he said.

“We do the best we can to determine whether [a book] will be of interest to our readers. It’s easy to deal with the obviously good and the obviously bad books,” Gewen said. “The books in between pose the greatest problems and [are the ones we] spend the most time on.”
Margaret MacMillan’s *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World* was a book whose high quality took the editor by surprise.

He looks for a book that will “astonish” him—positively, of course. “One that came in was written by a woman whose previous books had included one on the role of Canada in NATO. I rolled my eyes, but it was *Paris 1919* by Margaret MacMillan” about the politics and personalities at the signing of the Versailles treaty. “I have no doubt it would become a classic,” he said, adding ruefully, “There aren’t that many *Paris 1919*‘s that come across the desk.”

Books on the Mafia, he added, “seem to give us more pleasure than to find a book that would have been neglected—and that’s emphatically, ‘Yes!’”

One of Gewen’s “proudest moments” as an editor was deciding to have reviewed a 1997 book published by the small academic press of Stanford University, *Golden Arches East: McDonald’s in East Asia*, edited by the Harvard social anthropologist James L. Watson (see the Fall 2004 issue of *Colloquy* for our interview with Watson).

Times columnist Nicholas Kristof wrote the *Golden Arches East* review, and *The Economist* later reviewed the book, noting, said Gewen, “that it not for the *New York Times*, this wonderful book would have been neglected—and that’s what I want on my tombstone! Nothing gives us more pleasure than to find a book by someone unknown to us from an out-of-the-way publisher,” Gewen said.

Still *Golden Arches East* was the exception to the rule because the *Book Review* does not often review academic books that lack general appeal, Gewen said. Once a book has been accepted for review, a reviewer must then be assigned. This process is also part of Gewen’s job as cultural gatekeeper, for—however unfairly—a reviewer can determine a book’s fate.

When it comes to selecting a reviewer for a particular book, Gewen goes first for literary “quality.” Reviewers are frequently picked from major cultural journals, such as *The New York Review of Books*, *Commentary*, and *Slate*, though he also considers writers from “everything from *Boston Review* to *Foreign Affairs*.”

An effort is also made to ensure that reviewers have no agenda that would prevent a fair review. “We do not set books up, contrary to what some believe,” Gewen said. “We make a fetish not only of fairness but the appearance of fairness.” He recalled one potential reviewer who, upon being asked if he could think of anything that would prevent him from being impartial to the book in question, said that he had just written a blurb for the book. “Does that disqualify me?” the reviewer asked Gewen, who replied emphatically, “Yes!”

In a more dramatic example, Gewen recounted the case—and, indeed, it eventually became an actual legal case—of the investigative journalist Dan E. Moldea and his 1989 book *Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football*. The book received a poor review by a *Times* sportswriter, who accused the author of “sloppy journalism.” In response, Moldea brought a defamation suit against...
Harvard’s Department of Music hosted the first reunion for its graduate alumni/ae in April, the day before GSAS Alumni Day. The event brought about 60 people back to Cambridge to enjoy symposia from faculty and graduate students, generous food and drink, and performances from various student musicians, ranging from a string quartet to Iranian folk music.

In Perfect Harmony

Music Department Celebrates Its First Graduate Reunion

Richard Wolf, the Harris K. Weston associate professor of the humanities, performs on the vina, a south Indian classical instrument.

Anne Shreffler, PhD ’89, the James Edward Ditson professor of music; Kay Kaufman Shelemay, the G. Gordon Watts professor of music and professor of African and African American studies; Carol Oja, the William Powell Mason professor of music; and Ingrid Monson, the Quincy Jones professor of African American music and department chair gather. Shreffler, Oja, and Monson presented a discussion on “New Frontiers in Musical Study.”

Regaling reunion attendees with song are, from left, Jesse Rodin (PhD ’07), Carolann Buff, and Jacob Cooper. Rodin will join the music faculty at Stanford University this fall.
Sharing a laugh at the discussion on “Scholarship and Performance” are, from left, Robert Hill, PhD ’87, a professor at the Freiburg University of Music, Germany; Christoph Wolff, the Adams University professor; and Sean Gallagher, PhD ’98, associate professor of music.

Performing classical Iranian music are Harvard undergraduates (far left) Meghan McLoughlin and (far right) Rachel Carpentier. At center is Mohsen Abtahi, a local musician who has been working with Harvard students for several years in the classes of Professor Richard Wolf.

Ethnomusicologist Kay Kaufman Shelemay makes a point at the panel “Teaching Music in the 21st Century.” To her left are Hans Tutschku, the Gardner Cowles associate professor of music, and Alexander Rehding, professor of music.

Photos by Martha Stewart.
IN PRAISE of EXCELLENCE
FOUR GRADUATES RECEIVE THE GSAS ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BY SUSAN LUMENELLO

This year’s recipients of the Centennial Medal are computer science pioneer Frederick Brooks, biological anthropologist Sarah Hrdy, literary scholar and former Harvard President Neil Rudenstine, and economist Jeffrey Sachs. The medal—founded in 1989, the Graduate School’s centennial—is given annually to GSAS alumni/ae who have made important contributions to society that have emerged from their graduate study. Past recipients include Margaret Atwood, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jill Ker Conway, Roald Hoffmann, Elaine Pagels, and E.O. Wilson.

Photos by Martha Stewart.

FREDERICK BROOKS
PHD ’56, APPLIED MATHEMATICS

Brooks earned his PhD in applied mathematics in 1956 and joined the staff of IBM, where he helped transform the burgeoning computer industry through his management of the famed 360 system, one of the 20th century’s most important technological developments. He founded the Department of Computer Science at the University of North Carolina, where he is the Kenan professor of computer science. In 1985, he was among three former IBM engineers to receive the first National Medal of Technology.

Wrote Brooks: “It is indeed a high honor to join the distinguished list of those who have received the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Centennial Medal. The Harvard Comp Lab was a tremendously exciting and formative forge for my professional life. Howard Aiken was a towering giant, whose immense contributions are not fully appreciated even today. Even more than his technical mastery was his commanding personality. He wielded the hammer in the forge. Aiken challenges me yet today: He came to each dissertation-writing student’s office every day to assess—and to occasion—progress.

“Philippe E. Le Corbeiller was the greatest teacher I have ever had, and he still inspires and informs my teaching. Harry Minno led us circuit-by-circuit through the drawings for Loran [LOnge RAnge Navigation], radar, and two prototypical electronic computers, a tremendously instructive journey.

“But it was Ken [Kenneth E.] Iverson, then a new assistant professor, who taught me most. Iverson was later winner of computing’s highest honor, the Turing Award, for the ‘one little book’ that didn’t suffice for tenure at Harvard. Ken continued on page 17
Hrdy earned her PhD in anthropology in 1975 and eventually went on to join the faculty of the University of California at Davis. She is the author of several influential books about the effect of evolution on female nature as well as on child development, including The Langurs of Abu: Female and Male Strategies of Reproduction, The Woman That Never Evolved, and Mother Nature: A History of Mothers, Infants, and Natural Selection. Discover magazine named her one of the 50 most important women in science.

 Writes Hrdy: I was a transfer student to Radcliffe, so appreciated even more than most the breadth of opportunity that Harvard College offers undergraduates. I had come to study with the great Mayanist Evon Vogt who taught me what a rich field anthropology, the study of human nature in all its diversity, could be. A year after graduation, I returned to Harvard to join a proposed graduate program in human biology. That program never transpired. Instead I became caught up in the excitement and promise of Ed [E.O.] Wilson's sweeping new vision of a field of study called sociobiology that would integrate the biological and social sciences. Between 1971 and 1975, I had the unsurpassable good fortune to study under Irv [Irven] DeVore, one of the founders of modern primatology; Bob [Robert L.] Trivers, a brilliant social theorist; and Wilson himself.

 But it would be misleading to only recall the intellectual excitement of those years. As it happened, I was my advisor's first-ever woman graduate student. Cora Du Bois was the only woman professor I recall being at Harvard the year that I received my undergraduate degree, and continued on page 17

A Renaissance scholar, Rudenstine earned his PhD in English and American literature and language in 1964. After teaching English at Harvard for several years, he joined the Princeton University faculty, where he taught and, eventually, became provost. He became the 26th President of Harvard University in 1991 and served until 2001. He currently chairs ArtSTOR, a Mellon Foundation initiative that makes artwork images available to scholars and students.

 Writes Rudenstine: My years at the GSAS were decisive for me. When I left Oxford, bound for Harvard, I was still far less certain about my future career than any PhD candidate ought to have been. But thanks to the guidance and kindness of Douglas Bush, Ben [Reuben A.] Brower, Harry Levin, Alfred Harbage, and others, I found myself more and more drawn and conclusively so to the university world of teaching and scholarship. I also began to feel that the Renaissance and its literature were my natural center of gravity partly influenced, in the best possible way, by my teachers.

 Professors Bush and Levin undertook the dubious duties of acting as my dissertation advisors. Meanwhile, I became a tutor at Adams House where I had the luxury of an office, and I was able to work with a succession of extremely bright to brilliant students who congregated at Adams because the Master Ben Brower made the House wonderfully hospitable to undergraduates (and others) who were interested not only in literature, but in all the arts.

 The GSAS was not, in itself, an actual community. But it was a roomy and accommodating institution that allowed continued on page 17

Sachs is one of the foremost thinkers on international development, debt reduction, and transforming economies, having advised governments from Bolivia to Poland, as well as two United Nations Secretaries General. His recent book, The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time, was a New York Times best-seller.

 After receiving his PhD in economics from Harvard in 1980, Sachs joined the faculty of his own department. His rise within the ranks was swift by 1984, he was the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade and, by 1998, the director of the University's Center for International Development.

 Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Sachs advised governments throughout Eastern Europe. At the request of the Solidarity movement, Sachs advised Poland on major post-Communist economic reforms. For this work, he received the Commanders Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, a national honor bestowed by the Polish president.

 He has also advised governments in Latin America, including Bolivia, for which he was an architect of that country's debt buyback program of 1988. The Bolivian buyback became an important milestone in resolving the debt crisis in developing nations.

 In 2002, Sachs joined Columbia University where he is the Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, professor of health policy and management, and the director of the Earth Institute, which supports pioneering projects in the biological, engineering, social, and health sciences.

 He has also served as a special advisor to former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals to reduce extreme poverty, disease, and hunger by 2015, and he is a special advisor to the current Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon.

continued on page 17
**THE 356th Th COMMENCEMENT**

**IN JUNE, HARVARD AWARDED 963 DEGREES TO GSAS STUDENTS:**
556 doctors of philosophy, 340 masters of arts (including continuing degrees), 65 masters of science, 1 master of forest science, and 1 master of engineering—the greatest number of degrees conferred to any of the University’s graduate or professional schools. Per tradition, interim President Derek Bok welcomed new GSAS alumni/ae to “the ancient and universal company of scholars.”

Among the University’s nine honorary degree recipients were two GSAS alumni: Harvard’s Victor S. Thomas Professor of English and American Literature *Emeritus* Daniel Aaron, PhD ’43, history of American civilization; and former Harvard president Lawrence Summers, PhD ’82, economics.

In remarks made later at the Diploma Awarding Ceremony, held at Sanders Theatre, GSAS Dean Theda Skocpol passed along words of wisdom and good wishes to the graduates. Quoting Garrison Keillor’s signature sign-off on public radio’s “Writer’s Almanac,” she advised: “Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.”

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1. Hoi-eun Kim poses outside Sanders Theatre with his wife and their son, sporting traditional Korean garb. Kim earned his PhD in history with a dissertation comparing the experiences of German physicians in Japan and Japanese medical students in Germany during each country’s imperial periods of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

2. Susan Zawalich, administrator of Dudley House, the graduate student center, shares a moment with Fan Zhang, who served as a public service fellow at the House. Zhang earned her PhD in public policy with a dissertation featuring essays on environmental economics.

3. Chaeyoon Lim wrestles with his regalia before joining the procession into Tercentenary Theatre for the Morning Exercises. Lim earned his PhD in sociology for his dissertation “Networks, Mobilization, and Citizen Participation in Politics.”

4. The traditional trio of bagpipers and drummer leads the GSAS procession down Quincy Street. The Graduate School makes a proud—and noisy—showing on Commencement Day morning.

5. GSAS Administrative Dean Margot Gill waves to a group of students and faculty members standing outside the Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department’s Mallinkrodt Laboratory.

6. Two biostatistics graduates appear to be a small island of serenity in Tercentenary Theatre’s sea of activity during Morning Exercises. Brisa N. Sánchez, left, earned her PhD with a study on environmental epidemiology; Ronnie A. Sebro, for a dissertation on population.

7. Exultation! The degrees have been conferred—as if one couldn’t tell from the reaction of these students, from left: Melanie Adrian (PhD, study of religion), Melissa Jenkins Shields (PhD, English and American literature and language), Jonathan Kregor (PhD, music), and Michael Westover (PhD, astronomy). In addition to being hard-working graduate students, these four also served as Commencement marshals. Nominated by their departments for their community contributions and selected by the Graduate Student Council, marshals lead the...
GSAS procession into Tercentenary Theatre for the Morning Exercises. The other marshals for 2007 were Meredith Fisher (PhD, organismic and evolutionary biology), Rynda Hudman (PhD, engineering and applied sciences), and John Paul Sniadecki (AM, regional studies—East Asia).

8 GSAS Dean Theda Skocpol—herself a GSAS alumna—addresses the new graduates at the Diploma Awarding Ceremony at Sanders Theatre.

9 Liang Luo gets a welcome hug from a friend. Luo earned her PhD in East Asian languages and civilizations with a dissertation entitled “The Theatrics of Revolution.”

10 Dudley House Master James Hogle, the Edward S. Harkness professor of biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology, hands a “baby diploma” to the young daughter of graduate William Johnson, who earned his PhD in biostatistics. Johnson’s son peeks out from behind Dad’s elbow.

11 In the Memorial Hall transept, Guillermo Bleichmar and Catherine Dry examine the fine print of his diploma. Bleichmar earned a PhD in comparative literature with a study of literary realism, “from Wordsworth to Joyce.”

12 Hiten Patel, who earned a master of science degree in engineering and applied sciences, poses with his proud parents outside Sanders Theatre.

13 Medical sciences graduates Justin Ichida and Franklin Huang get decorative at the GSAS luncheon. Both specialized in genetics.

14 Newly minted alumnus Xingyi Deng raises his arms in triumph—or is that relief—upon collecting his diploma. Deng received his PhD in chemistry. The exit sign behind him offers a suitable comment.
HARVARD ECONOMIST IS FIRST WOMAN TO WIN TOP ECONOMICS MEDAL

Susan Athey, a professor of economics, won the John Bates Clark Medal, in April 2007. The highly prestigious medal honors achievement in the field for an economist under age 40, and has frequently preceded Nobel honors. Athey, 36, is an applied theorist “who has made important contributions to economic theory, empirical economics, and econometrics,” said the awarding body, the American Economic Association.

SEVERAL FACULTY AMONG GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

In April 2007, the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation announced awards to 189 artists, scholars, and scientists selected from almost 2,800 applicants for awards totaling $7,600,000. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed “on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.” Several Harvard faculty were honored: Daniel Carpenter, professor of government, for a study of the American antislavery petition in context; Margaret Crawford, professor of urban design and planning theory, for a study on rethinking urban space; Kay Kaufman Shelemay, the G. Gordon Watts professor of music and professor of African and African American studies, for a study of Ethiopian music and musicians in the US; Anne C. Shreffler (PhD '89, music), the James Edward Ditson professor of music, for a study of new music, the avant-garde, and early Cold War politics; and Salil Vadhan, the Gordon McKay professor of computer science and applied mathematics, for a study of zero-knowledge proofs.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ELECTS HARVARD FACULTY MEMBERS

In May 2007, at its 144th annual meeting, the National Academy of Sciences announced the election of 72 new members and 18 foreign associates from 12 countries in recognition of their “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.” These included five Harvard scientists: Michael B. Brenner, the Theodore Bevier Bayles professor of medicine; Gerald Gabrielse, the George Vasmer Leverett professor of physics; Curtis T. McMullen (PhD ‘85, mathematics), the Maria Moors Cabot professor of the natural sciences; Jonathan G. Seidman, the Henrietta B. and Frederick H. Bughler Foundation professor of genetics; and Clifford J. Tabin, professor of genetics. The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers that advises the federal government on matters of science and technology.

NEW CLASS OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ACADEMY FELLOWS INCLUDES HARVARD FACULTY

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, based in Cambridge, Mass., announced in April 2007 the election of 203 new fellows and 24 new foreign honorary members. Those elected include former Vice President Al Gore, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Represented among this year’s newly elected members are, as always, several Harvard faculty members. These are: Nancy Andrews, the Leland Fikes professor of pediatrics; David Blackburn, the Archibald Carey Coolidge professor of history; David Cutler, the Otto Eckstein professor of applied economics; Leopold Damrosch Jr., the Ernest Bernbaum professor of English literature; Lars Hernquist, professor of astronomy; Thomas Lentz, the Elizabeth and John Moors Cabot director of the Harvard University Art Museums; N. Gregory Mankiw, the Robert M. Beren professor of economics; Venkatesh Narayanamurti, dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the John A. and Elizabeth S. Armstrong professor of engineering and applied sciences; and Junying Yuan, professor of cell biology. The Academy, founded in 1780, currently includes more than 170 Nobel laureates and 50 Pulitzer Prize winners. Academy research focuses on science and global security, social policy, the humanities, and education. —Compiled by Susan Lumenello
CAREER OPTIONS PANELS

In cooperation with the Office of Career Services and the GSAS Council, GSAS presented a two-day event in April for students and alumni/ae about careers in both academic and nonacademic fields. Most speakers were GSAS alumni/ae themselves; they discussed their pathways to their current jobs and met individually with interested panel attendees. This event is in its 13th year.

Alumni/ae speakers were: Erdin Beshimov (AM ‘06, regional studies—Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia), business development associate, Experience, Inc.; Marcella Bounds (AM ‘69, history) senior analyst, Central Intelligence Agency; Mable Chan (AM ‘93, regional studies—East Asia), coordinating producer, Good Morning America, ABC News; Carrie Conaway (AM ‘01, sociology), director of planning, research, and evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Education; Jan-Hein dees. This event is in its 13th year.

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Alumni/ae speakers were: Er...
technical approaches of engineering, statistics, and mathematics to biological problems—is synthetic biology, said Silver.

With this science, the goal is to actually design biological systems. “We’re really trying to understand what evolution has given us to work with,” she said, “and that’s a lofty problem.”

Examples of current research in synthetic biology include attempts to design bacteria that can sense substances such as TNT (for use by the defense department) or can “mine” precious metals. Efforts are also underway to design a bacterium that would produce synthetic versions of expensive, hard-to-acquire medicines.

“Some people get very anxious” about humans manipulating elements of the natural world, acknowledged Silver. “But humans have been manipulating nature for quite a long time.”

One example of scientific manipulation occurred, she said, in the 1970s in the Harvard biology labs with the development of recombinant DNA, or rDNA.

“Recombinant DNA extracts DNA from natural sources and puts it together in ways that can do things like make bacteria that can produce insulin,” said Silver. “In fact, that was done right across the street, and [it] created Biogen, one of the first biotech companies.”

Over the decades, rDNA has been “transformative,” Silver said. “It’s given us a profound understanding of nature. We now know secrets of our own genome. It’s given us a vast array of protein-based drugs and will do more. I think synthetic biology will lead to that [with] transgenic animals and plants.”

Silver believes that synthetic biology will provide the next “transformative” medical technology by replicating large pieces of DNA to, for instance, design better stem cells, make synthetic tissues, and create cheaper drugs.

In Silver’s lab, she and her graduate students are working on building memory and logic into cells. “That’s basically what cells are: they are little circuits,” she said. “We would like to be able to make them do what we want.”

THE HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE

“Materials, Meaning, and Mediation in the Middle Ages: The Ste.-Chapelle in Paris as a Multimedia Work”

Jeffrey Hamburger, Professor of History of Art and Architecture

The Ste.-Chapelle, built between 1240 and 1248, is a multimedia work because it comprises many art forms—architecture, metalwork, painting, and stained glass, among them—and because it is a medium (of another kind) in itself, serving as a mediator between the human and the divine, said Hamburger.

The chapel, “a masterpiece of high gothic architecture,” was built in part to house relics of the Passion, which were “among the prized possessions of the French monarchy,” said Hamburger, whose most recent book is the coedited volume The Mind’s Eye: Art and Theological Argument in the Middle Ages.

“Our ownership identified Paris as the new Jerusalem, the center of Christendom,” he said. Relics—including fragments of the lid of the box that held the holy sepulcher—enhanced the chapel’s religious credibility.

To round out his thesis that the chapel is a multimedia work of art, Hamburger remarked that even the chapel’s patron, King Louis IX, could be viewed as part of the artistic gestalt of the building.

“Shortly after Louis’s canonization in the late 13th century, his body was enshrined in the altar of the Ste.-Chapelle; the patron of the relics had himself been transformed into a relic,” said Hamburger.

“In many respects Louis was ahead of his time; he was a performance artist.”

In the Middle Ages, artists were still seen as artisans— mediums themselves through which divinity could be experienced by the viewer.

“Mediation was reserved for the priest,” said Hamburger. “In modernism, however, if there is a high priest, it is now the artist, and museums have become our temples.”
GOVERNMENT

“Will Global Capitalism Fall Again?”

Jeffry Frieden, the Stanfield Professor of International Peace, Department of Government

The question, said Frieden, “is the world’s central issue today.” The last time the world was as economically integrated as it is today was in the 50 or so years preceding World War I—from the 1860s to 1914—and then, as now, he said, “we saw an extensive tying together of markets for goods, people, capital, and transportation....And that didn’t end particularly well: There was World War I, a global depression, and World War II.”

The reason for that period’s economic disintegration was a postwar turning away from economic integration, he said: The Soviet Union spent its energies on social revolution; the fascist countries, on nationalist militarism; and the developing countries, especially in Latin America, on “nation-building.”

Even many industrialized nations—including the United States and much of Western Europe—turned from internationalism, he said. “The collapse was due to an ineffective response by political systems to the new economic challenges.”

By the 1990s, however, the world experienced a “second wave” of globalization. While some have enjoyed enormous benefits from an integrated global economy, Frieden said, “there can be serious costs to certain regions, industries, and entire countries. It is not enough to reward the winners [of globalization]; we need to address the concerns of the losers [too]. ... What may be good for the economy as a whole may not be good for everyone in those economies.”

Why might the good times end in the United States? Frieden pointed to three problems: the decline in wages of unskilled American workers, the growing gap between rich and middle-class Americans, and the country’s current fiscal deficits.

And at some point, he went on, Americans will “have to produce more than we consume and save more than we invest. This is likely to create tensions over globalization as our long orgy of debts and deficits comes to an end.”

A Romanist and technical advisor for the film Gladiator, Coleman described how the Roman amphitheatre—exemplified most notably by the Colosseum of Rome—serves her as a scholar and teacher.

It was in the amphitheatre that Romans staged their storied spectacles. These included comparatively gentle aquatic and animal displays. But most spectacles, unfortunately, involved the public slaughter of criminals, slaves, or other marginalized individuals by animals—or one another—in so-called games.

Coleman has done extensive research on this topic, including writing about the psychological devastation when gladiators who had survived battles and were quartered together were forced to kill each other in the arena. In her most recent book, Martial: Liber Spectaculorum, published in 2006, Coleman presented the first full-scale edition of the poet Martial’s writings on the connection between maintaining empire and delivering spectacle.

In the classroom, Coleman teaches “The Roman Games,” a course on the Classical era and a very popular entry in the Core curriculum (159 students enrolled the last time it was taught, according to Coleman).

Her forthcoming projects—both rather necessarily gruesome in subject matter—include a book called Deadly Spectacles, about arena spectacles, and another, as yet untitled book on public executions in the Classical era. continued on next page
FACULTY SYMPOSIA, continued from previous page

The Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.

THE HARVARD FOREST

“Reading and Conserving the New England Landscape”

The 3,000-acre Harvard Forest, located in central Massachusetts, is one of the more unique of the University’s “living laboratories.” It’s also headquarters for a region-wide effort to conserve forests and open land through the creation of land trusts.

“New England is…a very interesting ecological and historical story, and many people…have said that it’s actually an environmental story that’s important for all Americans to be familiar with, in fact, all of the globe, to be familiar with,” said Foster. “One of the reasons is that it shows the phenomenal ability of nature to recover from intense human activity.”

Because 80 percent of the New England landscape is privately owned, Foster said, “the way to protect that land is not by edict or zoning but by connecting [owners] with land trusts in their communities. 

So far, he said, the response to this approach to land conservation has been “remarkable.”

Even at the rapid pace of development, particularly in Massachusetts, Foster said, “It’s still possible to protect the land.”

HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES!

An Alumni Day tradition is the presentation of commemorative pewter bowls to visiting alumni who are celebrating the 25th or 50th anniversaries of their GSAS degrees. This year, four alumni were honored with these gifts from Tiffany. From left: GSAS Dean Theda Skocpol; Mou-Shiung Lin, PhD ’82, applied sciences; Daniel Johnson, AM ’82, East Asian history, AM ’84, business economics; Charles Schilke, AM ’82, history; Louis Allred, PhD ’57, chemistry; and Robert Frost, PhD ’57, chemistry.
was my boss, my office-mate, my most influential dissertation advisor, my collaborator and coauthor, and my friend.

“Aiken’s forge was shared by about eight graduate students during my time, a brilliant group of friends. My Harvard years were made especially rich by the young physicist whom I married two days after Commencement, Nancy Greenwood [AM ’55, physicist whom I married two days after her Harvard degree]. I am much indebted to Harvard.”

HRDY, continued from page 9

she had just retired. I had to reach far outside of Harvard to find women mentors, and as I labored to help correct several wrong assumptions about females then entrenched in Darwinian analyses, I did so in near total ignorance of the handful of women writers on the margins of biology who long before my time had struggled in a similar vein.

“Years later I would describe this solitary process: ‘Each step in understanding what might be meant, for example, by a term like androcentric was embarked upon very slowly and dimly, sometimes resentfully, as some savage on the fringes of civilization might awkwardly rediscover the wheel.’

“I did not then foresee the massive social and intellectual transformations that would occur at Harvard and elsewhere. Looking back, I feel tremendously grateful for the opportunities I had to enter scientific realms formerly all but closed to women. I feel even more grateful for the opportunities open to my daughters’ generation. But I do not for a moment take any of these advances for granted. I continue to rely on sociobiology’s unique vantage point for interpreting events on the historical stage to help me understand the tensions surrounding reproductive issues [that] still continue to threaten women’s choices.”

RUDENSTINE, continued from page 9

doctoral students to be part of any number of different Harvard communities: one’s fellow graduate students, one’s department, one’s comradesely teachers-in-arms, one’s House, one’s accustomed floor level in Widener Library, and one’s more general sense of being a part—however small—of Harvard itself. Those years—along with my time as a member of the English department—were the beginning of a long relationship with Harvard that has clearly grown increas-ingly deep over the years, and that has helped to shape and define—to my great good fortune—so much of my life for nearly half a century.”

SACHS, continued from page 9

In 2004 and again in 2005, Time magazine named him among the 100 most influential leaders in the world, and, in 2005, he received the Sargent Shriver Award for Equal Justice.

Sachs’s hundreds of articles and numerous books have informed scholars, policy-makers, and ordinary citizens. In his most renowned book, The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time, Sachs offered a blueprint to eliminating extreme poverty by 2025.

“The reason people die of extreme poverty is that they have nothing,” Sachs has said. “They don’t need a lot to stay alive, and they don’t even need a lot to start the process of economic development. It would not require heroism on our part in order to help save those lives and help to promote economic development where it is not occurring now on the planet. It would just take having our eyes opened. It would take some attention.”

from the dean, continued from page 13

the assured dissertation funding (no later than G7!) promised to PhD students who entered GSAS in 2005 and after. Time to degree should thereafter go down across the board.

I am very proud of the changes that faculty and students have achieved very quickly over the past two years. If we stay the course in GSAS, we at Harvard will continue to break new territory for graduate education. We will show that more money can actually hasten, not delay, the completion of PhDs, including in the social sciences and humanities.

Of course, a success of this sort also produces a dilemma, as many of you know if you tried to find a seat in Sanders Theatre on June 7. For 2008 and beyond, we in GSAS know we must revamp the graduation ceremonies to make them more accessible to all, as we continue to see larger numbers of men and women claiming their hard-earned PhDs—and doing so with a shorter investment of precious years in their adult lives.

Dr. Clifton F. Mountain, AB ’46, GSA ’47, died April 19, 2007, in Los Angeles, Calif. He was 83. At the time of his death, he was a clinical professor at the University of California Medical Center at San Diego, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery. He was responsible for the development of the International System for the Staging of Lung Cancer, used worldwide, and was a renowned thoracic surgical oncologist. A memorial service will be held July 20, 2007, at 2 p.m. at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Hickey Auditorium, 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, Texas.
**THE ESSENTIAL SHINRAN**  
*A Buddhist Path of True Entrusting*  
Edited by Alfred Bloom, PhD ’63, study of religion  

This volume offers annotations and translations of important writings of the monk and teacher Shinran Shonin (1173–1262), who founded the Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Buddhist tradition in Japan, during the turbulent Kamakura period. This movement, writes Bloom, became the largest Buddhist sect in Japan, spreading to the West by the end of the 19th century. Bloom is professor of religion emeritus at the University of Hawaii and the author of *The Life of Shinran Shonin: The Journey to Self Acceptance*, among other books.

**NIKOLAI GOGOL**  
*Between Ukrainian and Russian Nationalism*  
By Edyta Bojanowska, PhD ’02, Slavic languages and literatures  

Gogol (1809–1852), best known for the novel *Dead Souls* and short stories such as “The Nose,” was Ukrainian born but claimed by Russia as a cultural icon. This book defies the traditional “Russocentric view” of Gogol and portrays him as a victim of competing nationalisms and of Russian imperialism. Bojanowska delineates the writer’s struggle between his impulse to honor Ukraine (“Little Russia”) and his efforts to satisfy Russian critics. The author is a lecturer on Slavic languages and literatures at Harvard.

**CHIKANOBU**  
*Modernity and Nostalgia in Japanese Prints*  
Edited by Bruce A. Coats, PhD ’85, fine arts  

This superbly researched and richly illustrated volume was created for the 2006 exhibition of the printmaker Chikanobu (1838–1912), the first to survey his 30-year career. Much of Chikanobu’s work was of elaborate “idealized” women, children, and warriors, but he also documented scenes of daily from during the Meiji imperial period. The exhibition was held at the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College, where Coats is a professor of art history.

**THE RISE AND FALL OF COMMUNISM IN RUSSIA**  
By Robert V. Daniels, AB ’46, PhD ’51, history  

One reviewer called this a “marvelous chronicle of an intellectual at work over a lifetime of trying to understand the Soviet Union and, eventually, its downfall.” The book takes a more reflective approach to his earlier writings on Soviet history, including America’s role. He concludes that the 74-year “‘Soviet experiment’ failed” mainly because it was a totalitarian state, but he also acknowledges that government’s rare successes. Daniels is professor emeritus of history at the University of Vermont. His previous books include *The End of the Communist Revolution* (1993).

**OHIO’S WAR**  
*The Civil War in Documents*  
Edited by Christine Dee, PhD ’02, history  

This superbly researched and richly illustrated volume was created for the 2006 exhibition of the printmaker Chikanobu (1838–1912), the first to survey his 30-year career. Much of Chikanobu’s work was of elaborate “idealized” women, children, and warriors, but he also documented scenes of daily from during the Meiji imperial period. The exhibition was held at the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College, where Coats is a professor of art history.
Using newspaper articles, letters, diaries, and other documents from the Civil War period, Dee has provided a window into the wartime experiences and beliefs of ordinary citizens—soldiers and farmers, men and women, blacks and whites—living in the region. Dee is an assistant professor of history at Fitchburg State College (Mass.).

STRUCTURES AND SUBJECTIVITIES

Attending to Early Modern Women


Derived from a symposium sponsored by the University of Maryland’s Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies, this volume presents essays by art historians, literary scholars, historians of science, and others on early modern woman’s relationships with religious hierarchies, the arts, and the law, among other subject areas. Through it all, the contributors find women have consistently sought to challenge the various—and powerful—systems designed to keep them in check. Hartman, who also wrote the book’s introduction, is professor of English emerita at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York.

THE BLACK AND WHITE OF AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC

From Slavery to World War II


In this social history, Lee describes how whites and African Americans have interacted—positively and negatively—over many decades in the creation, distribution, recording, and performance of music, particularly jazz. Ellis Marsalis provides an introduction. The author is professor of Romance languages and literatures emerita at Boston College.

ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK

The Dangerous Art of Dennis Cooper

Edited by Leora Lev, PhD ’92, Romance languages and literatures Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2006, 278 pp.

What is so dangerous about contemporary author Cooper’s novels? It’s not so much the settings (subterranean Los Angeles, generally) or the characters (often demimonde drug users and prostitutes) but the “psychosexual, ethical battles” that take place in the books and “Cooper’s refusal to mainstream or sanitize queerness or variances within heterosexism.” The book features essays by and interviews with William S. Burroughs, filmmaker John Waters, and novelist Michael Cunningham. Lev is an associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at Bridgewater State College (Mass.).

BEIJING

From Imperial Capital to Olympic City

By Lillian M. Li, AB ’64, PhD ’75, East Asian history; Alison J. Dray-Novey, AB ’65, PhD ’81, East Asian languages and civilizations; and Hali Kong Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, 321 pp.

The authors trace the dramatic history of Beijing, a city that lacked an independent urban identity until the early 20th century, when the last imperial dynasty fell. Today, as it looks ahead to the 2008 Olympics, the city is at a defining moment; it is at once “a national showcase and a monument to rampant economic growth [and] a museum.” Li is the Sara Lawrence Lightfoot professor of history at Swarthmore College; Dray-Novey, professor of history at the College of Notre Dame (Maryland).

KENNETH BURKE ON SHAKESPEARE


This volume accomplishes what the influential American scholar Kenneth Burke (1897–1993) had envisioned: It presents a collection of his seven decades of Shakespeare criticism. Newstok also provides annotations, a historical introduction, and an account of Burke’s literary legacy; and he brings to light some previously unpublished material. The editor is an assistant professor of English at Gustavus Adolphus College (Minn.), and an Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral fellow at Yale University.

SHAPING THE GAME

The New Leader’s Guide to Effective Negotiating


Following up on his book The First 90 Days: Critical Success Strategies for New Leaders at all Levels, this volume shows what managers coming into a new job must know from the 91st day forward. Mainly what they must know, writes Watkins, is how to negotiate. The author is the founder of Genesis Advisers, a leadership strategy consultancy based in Massachusetts, and a professor of practice at INSEAD (the European and Asian Institute for Business Administration). He also served on the faculty at the Harvard Business and Law schools. ©

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 gsas@fas.harvard.edu.
the Times. In 1994, a court of appeals finally decided the case for the Times. When the galley for Moldea’s next book arrived at the Book Review, however, Gewen said the editors decided to review it, “though it wasn’t very good, since otherwise people would have thought we didn’t review it because of the lawsuit. It was all about the appearance of fairness.” He added, sarcastically, “If you want to get your book reviewed, my advice is to sue us for $10 million.”

One complaint Gewen and his fellow editors often receive is that their reviewers of choice are not very diverse in terms of race and gender. “We’re constantly being accused of underrepresenting various groups, especially women,” he said. “The real gatekeepers are the preview editors, and there are currently three males and three females.

“If one is going to think in terms of groups and numbers, the two groups that would have a better case [for underrepresented as reviewers] are Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans. The numbers are…low. It’s not [due to] a prejudice on our part. It is [because] we don’t know who they are. It may be a shortcoming of the Book Review: that we’re not seeking out the publications in which Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans are writing. But there are only so many hours in a day, and we go through as many publications as we can looking for new reviewers.”

On the other hand, Gewen said he would not seek out a reviewer specifically because of his or her ethnicity. “If my editor said we hadn’t had a review by a Korean American in over two years, and to go out and get one, I would find that unseemly,” he said.

Women are “a different category,” he said, because, for example, they are a minority among the experts in one of his specialties, foreign affairs. “So, in judging whether women are fairly represented in reviewing for the Book Review, I don’t think it’s fair to see it as a 50-50 proposition. When it comes to reviewing books, the sex of the author or reviewer doesn’t enter my mind,” he said.

Gewen reverses that stance for very particular instances, however. For example, with Harvard government professor Harvey Mansfield’s 2006 book Manliness, Gewen decided a man should review it “because it handled male identity.” The assessment of Times reviewer Walter Kirn was not favorable.

Gewen also had advice for academics who would strive to write reviews for the Book Review: Think of a dentist from Scarsdale. “You have to hold her in your mind when you’re writing a review. She’s busy, but she wants to know about the current debates,” he said. “There has to be a little bit of show biz in what you do to grab [readers] and hold onto them.”

The Scarsdale dentist notwithstanding, Gewen said his publication doesn’t know precisely who its readership is. No consumer surveys have been done on Book Review readers specifically, though he said a 2000 Times survey of Sunday Times readers generally showed that 30 percent read the Book Review, a result he finds disappointing.

Only partly kidding, Gewen added, “Actually, our audience is just two people: our publisher, Arthur Sulzberger, and our editor, Bill Keller. If they’re happy, we’re happy.”

So, the cultural gatekeepers exist. In an environment in which newspapers are reducing or even eliminating their books sections, though, are they still relevant? “Book reviewing in this country is in a scandalous state,” Gewen said. “The New Yorker generally does one major review an issue and, considering their audience, could do much more.”

Other book-reviewing publications can hardly compete with for the Times in terms of its readership and staff size, he said. The Book Review’s closest competitor is the Washington Post’s Book World, but it has less than half the staff size of the Times’s section.

Another aspect of the contemporary book-reviewing business, Gewen said, is review sections that are intended to cover literature “from a particular point of view.” He cited the political magazines The Nation and The National Review, left- and right-leaning, respectively, as examples. “They do something very different from what we do,” he added.

But with the general turmoil in newspaper industry due to the public’s increased reliance on the Internet for news and entertainment—and because of rising costs of newspaper printing and distribution—is even the venerable Book Review at risk?

“The accountants may say, it makes a small profit, but why do we need 17 people putting out this sort of publication?” Gewen asked rhetorically. He answered with confidence that the Sulzberger family, the Times’s long-time owners, “have pride in the paper and pride in the Book Review. As long as they’re there, the Book Review will continue.”

And if not? “If the Book Review were folded or diminished, American culture would be much worse,” he said. 

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Sisters Honor Family History by Supporting Graduate Study in East Asia

By Abigail Adair

Willing to subject myself to thousands of piercing arrows, I shall always write to guide hundreds of generations. Determined to advance people’s rights and remove old customs, I must further my studies to embrace new knowledge.

This poem, entitled “Self-Encouragement,” dated 1901, depicts the conviction with which the scholar and journalist Liang Qichao (1873–1929) approached his work of promulgating Western thought in China. Liang was a leading intellectual and political reformer during the final years of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911).

Three generations later, two of Liang’s great-granddaughters have established the Liang Qichao Travel Fund at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to support graduate students’ endeavors to “embrace new knowledge” in China. Ann Bennett Spence, AM ’69, and Jean Bennett, AB ’69, MAT ’72, initiated the fund as a way to honor their family’s rich history of connecting West and East.

The East-West connections that Liang promoted were considered revolutionary at the time. His writings had considerable influence, politically and culturally, in China during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1898, he was driven into exile in Japan by the Empress Dowager Tz’u-Hsi for his role in the political movement known as the Hundred Days’ Reform.

During his 14 years of exile, Liang traveled extensively and continued his reform efforts from abroad. In 1912, with the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty, Liang was at last free to return to China, where he continued to play a key role in scholarship and politics. In particular, he focused on introducing Western ideas to China and on researching and reinterpreting Chinese history. His descendants include many academics and professionals, and his last surviving son is today a noted scientist in China.

The event that led to Ann and Jean’s branch of the Liang family tree was the then-shocking marriage of Liang’s granddaughter Chou Nien-tz’u to an American scholar, Josiah Whitney Bennett of Cambridge, Mass. In the late 1930s (when the couple became engaged), interracial and intercultural marriages were hardly acceptable in either the United States or China. Not surprisingly, the marriage made news, including a headline—“Will Marry Chinese Girl”—in the July 23, 1940, New York Times.

Josiah Bennett was the fifth generation in his family to enter Harvard College (Class of 1938), but, as Jean recalls, “he always joked he left because he got straight As and [felt he] should quit while he was ahead.”

In addition to his sense of humor, Bennett had an adventurous streak that took him to Yenching University in Beijing (now Beijing University), where he met his future wife. Several years after their wedding, his doctoral work at the University of Chicago was cut short by World War II.

In 1946, Bennett returned to China as a diplomat, accompanied by his wife and infant daughter Ann. Jean was born in Nanjing two years later. But after Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party came to power, the Americans in Nanjing were evacuated to the Philippines. The Bennetts went on to live in Taipei, Tel Aviv, Washington, Lagos, and Saigon.

Today, Ann is a managing director at a global investment consulting firm while Jean, continuing a lifelong elementary and secondary teaching career, works at a charter school in Los Angeles.

Ann received her AM degree from Harvard in East Asian studies in 1969, a period when, she explains, her field was highly constrained by politics, American and Chinese. Between the US government’s staunch anticommunism and the Cultural Revolution then under way in China, she says, “it was impossible for GSAS students to go to Beijing or other parts of mainland China to pursue research.”

Today, however, scholarly exchanges between the US and China are thriving, and the Liang Qichao Fund will help facilitate that exchange for Harvard graduate students.

“We wanted to do something to support graduate students,” says Ann. “And just as Liang Qichao thought it was important for China to understand the West, we think it’s important for the West to understand China.”

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

Two of Liang Qichao’s great-granddaughters shown outside their home in Nanjing, China, in 1949. Ann Bennett Spence (on left) and Jean Bennett have initiated the Liang Qichao Travel Fund as a way to honor their family’s rich history of connecting West and East.
Alumni Events and Notices

For more information on GSAS alumni matters, contact the GSAS Alumni Relations Office at gsaa@fas.harvard.edu or 617-495-5591, or visit www.gsas.harvard.edu/alumni.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2008 GSAS Alumni Weekend will be held on Friday, April 4–Saturday, April 5, 2008, here in Cambridge. Check the GSAS Website (www.gsas.harvard.edu) under “Alumni” for details as the event nears, or e-mail gsaa@fas.harvard.edu.

HARVARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GLOBAL SERIES

The 2008 series will be held on Friday, March 28–Saturday, March 29, 2008, in Shanghai, China. For updates and information, go to http://post.harvard.edu/.

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