The Great Chasm in American Politics:
Analyst Bill Schneider Addresses the Annual GSAS Alumni Day Gathering

Graduate Economics Alumni Gather for First Reunion

The 2004 Centennial Medalists: John Adams, Susan Fiske, Rick Hunt, and George Rupp

Commencement Photos

Alumni Books
Alumni Day 2004
Hundreds of GSAS alumni returned to Cambridge in April for a day of symposia with keynote speaker William Schneider of CNN, and senior Harvard faculty members Margaret Livingstone, Roger Owen, Roger Porter, and many others.

Graduate Economics Reunion
The first reunion held for graduate alumni in economics and business economics featured new scholarship from faculty, a discussion of the economist’s life in and out of academia, and thoughts on the PhD program in business economics.

The 2004 Centennial Medals
The medals for 2004—composer John Adams, social psychologist Susan Fiske, former University Marshal Rick Hunt, and humanitarian and educator George Rupp—reflect on their days at GSAS.

Commencement: A Photo Essay
Pictures from the annual rite of passage, which welcomed hundreds of new GSAS alumni to the “ancient and universal company of scholars.”

Alumni Books
New books from GSAS alumni explore gun violence, directing Shakespeare, a soldier’s letters, and the future of nonprofit organizations, among other topics.

On the cover:
An alternate view of Mount Rushmore
The Employment Picture: The Three-Years-Out Report

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

This spring, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences released its report on the employment situation for alumni (PhDs only) who earned their degrees in 1996. The report looks at employment for graduates in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences three years after receiving their degrees.

The selection of a three-year span is not arbitrary. The customary practice of reporting on PhD employment at the time of exit does not provide a picture of the career trajectories of PhD recipients over time. In this report, prepared by GSAS Fellowships Director Cynthia Verba, we compare the employment status at exit with the status at the time of data collection for this study. Such a comparison allows us to see what happens to PhDs at least three years after the degree, during which time many will have completed post-docs or held an adjunct professorship. The current report is a follow-up to a previous “three-years-out” report, and precedes a future volume, for which we are presently gathering data. Although they take time to compile, these reports provide important data for GSAS policies regarding students’ professional development.

The report reveals encouraging news about improvement in PhD employment. Its findings are based on employment data collected when students were “exiting” GSAS in 1996 compared with data collected three years later. The participation rate was 81% collected when students were “exiting” GSAS in 1996 compared with data collected three years later. The participation rate was 81%, increasing from 54% in 1996 to 92% in 1998. The social sciences start at a lower rate of academic employment, 43% than the humanities, and climb to 63% in the same three-year span. Academic employment, which does not include post-docs for this study, is lowest in the natural sciences, increasing from 11% to 32% (again, with postdocs having considerable impact on both these figures).

On the nonacademic side, graduates in the natural sciences (and to a lesser extent, those in the social sciences) had the strongest showing. Respondents in the natural sciences were especially well represented in the nonacademic realm, climbing from 24% employment at exit to 48% at three years out. Social sciences graduates modestly increased their rate of nonacademic employment in this period—

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A 50/50 NATION

Kicking off the day was keynote speaker William Schneider, senior political analyst for CNN. Schneider, who earned his PhD in government in 1972, also writes on politics for the Atlantic Monthly, National Journal, and Los Angeles Times, among other publications, and served as a visiting professor at Boston College. Schneider discussed modern presidential elections in an address he titled “The Civil War in American Politics: 1964–2004.”

The “civil war” in question, he said, is the one that occurred in the 1960s, when America was sharply divided over the Vietnam War, civil rights, and student protests. According to Schneider, the divisions that were wrought then have settled into today’s seemingly implacable and evenly balanced presidential contests, resulting in the red- and blue-state phenomenon, in which Republicans are favored in America’s heartland (the red states) and Democrats, on the coasts (the blue states). Schneider’s reference to a civil war was intentional: America, he said, had been a 50/50 country for nearly 40 years following the Civil War.

By the end of the 1970s, said Schneider, “the center had emptied out because two centrist governments had failed to rule,” referring to the presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

More recently, he said, American politics has been dominated by two figures, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, who represent opposite cultural strains within the same baby boom generation. Clinton was the first, and so far the only, president to emerge from the “elite culture” of the 1960s. Because of his values and lifestyle, Schneider said, many conservatives never accepted him as legitimate; and their rejection is reciprocated by the liberal view of Bush today. The result, Schneider said, has been an ever more polarized electorate. “Conservative Democrats and liberal Republicans don’t really exist anymore,” he said.
Still, presidents must be elected, even in this supercharged partisan atmosphere. In modern history, successful candidates have embodied a quality voters want but are not getting from the incumbent, said Schneider.

“In 1968, for example, the country was being torn apart, and America wanted an experienced professional to bring order: Richard Nixon,” he said. “At the time, Nixon looked like a centrist, with [George] Wallace on his right and [Hubert] Humphrey on his left. In 1976, after Watergate, America wanted integrity and morality—and Jimmy Carter correctly read that national mood.”

By 1980, however, Carter had endured an energy crisis, a hostage crisis, and inflation on his watch. “America yearned for strong, decisive leadership,” Schneider explained. “Enter Ronald Reagan.”

As for the upcoming presidential contest, Schneider said, “If you liked the 2000 election, you’ll love this one. In spite of 9/11, anthrax, tax cuts, recession, gay marriage, and two wars, politically it is still November 7, 2000. America is still divided, red versus blue.”

So what do voters want this year that they may not be getting from President Bush, Schneider asked rhetorically. “In 2000, Bush made this offer: ‘America is looking for a uniter, not a divider.’ But he failed to deliver,” he said. Schneider pointed to a recent Washington Post-ABC News poll that asked Americans whether Bush has done more to unite the country or divide the country. “Fifty percent said he has done more to unite the country; 48 percent said he’s divided the country. Americans are divided over whether Bush has divided the country!” Schneider noted.

Schneider’s view is that voters will want a president who can deliver what Bush promised in 2000—a unifier. Which is why, he said, speculation about a “Two Johns” ticket—Kerry and McCain—had such staying power.

The one thing Democratic nominee Kerry cannot do, Schneider argued, is run a harsh, divisive campaign aimed at rallying the Democratic base. “Howard Dean tried that, and Democrats rebuffed him, knowing it would mean disaster. Voters do not want to replace a president who divides the country from the right with a new president who divides the country from the left,” he said.

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“Gombrich said to really look at the Mona Lisa, how alive she looks, how her expression changes as you look around the image,” Livingstone recalled reading. “So I was moving my eyes around, and when I looked at her mouth, I thought she wasn’t smiling as much. So I went back and forth quite a few times looking around. I thought it was striking that she seemed to be smiling when I was not looking at her mouth. Gombrich says the reason her expression changes and she seems so lifelike is because her smile is blurry. But I thought … if it was just because it was blurry and ambiguous, it should vary depending upon what my brain was thinking and the mood I was in. But as far as I could tell it was quite systematic, depending on where I was looking.”

The reason for this, Livingstone said, is because our central vision is better at grasping details than our peripheral vision, but our peripheral vision is better at seeing “big things.”

“The Mona Lisa’s smile is big and blurry. Of course, this gives her a coy quality: She smiles when you’re not looking at her, and then when you try to catch her smiling, she stops,” Livingstone explained. “As you move your eyes around, the painting looks different. For an artist, the ability to get a dynamic quality in a static painting is a very important thing.”

Blurring an image is an effect that an artist intentionally chooses to stymie the way we see images. This, Livingstone said, is because of the phenomenon of stereopsis—or what gives us depth perception. “Stereopsis is the fact that your brain computes three-dimensional information from differences in the images in your two eyes,” she said.

“An artist who wants to paint something that looks three-dimensional on a flat canvas can use things like shading and perspective and aerial perspective and other depth cues. But if you stand in front of that painting, you’re still going to think it’s flat.”

To experience a painting as really three-dimensional, a viewer can close one eye, which will defeat the viewer’s stereopsis and prevents him or her from grasping the little details revealing that the image is two-dimensional, Livingstone said. But artists know that most viewers won’t do this, hence the turn to the blurring effect.

Another technique used by artists to defeat stereopsis was popularized by the impressionists, who, Livingstone said, sought “to paint the air.” Artists such as Renoir would put “repeated dots” or seemingly random dabs of paint in a painting. After a period of viewing, said Livingstone, these appeared “to fuse into objects at different depth planes.”

Gustav Klimt, perhaps best known for his painting The Kiss, also relied on this effect. What made Klimt’s effort remarkable, Livingstone said, was that he did not have stereopsis. According to Livingstone’s research, it turns out that many of the world’s greatest artists did not have stereopsis. This led her to wonder whether difficulty gauging distance and depth might actually be an asset, rather than a liability, for visual artists.

“When you go to art school and you’re learning to draw, they say, ‘Close one eye,’ because you have to take a three-dimensional scene and flatten it,” she said. “If you have poor depth perception, maybe you’ve already got a leg up.”

Livingstone based her research on an analysis of photographs of artists and judging whether their eyes were perfectly lined up.

“You can tell if somebody has no depth perception from their photograph because your visual system is so fine at the center of their gaze; if your eyes are not perfectly lined up, you cannot have good depth perception,” she said.

“We went down to the National Portrait Gallery and looked at portraits of about 50 or 60 artists and … I was astonished but very pleased to see that a huge number of them had misaligned eyes.” She named Winslow Homer, Andrew Wyeth, Edward Hopper, James McNeil Whistler, Picasso, Willem de Kooning, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Diego Rivera, Marc Chagall, Lee Krasner, Robert Rauschenberg, Ansel Adams, and Man Ray among them. “I’m not trying to say that being stereo-blind is an asset for an artist,” Livingstone said. “But the number of really talented artists who are clearly stereo-blind is staggering, which means that it can’t possibly be a handicap.”

Written language is quite young, dating back only about 5,000 years. And according to two scholars—and GSAS alumni—in Harvard’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, its origins, fundamentally and somewhat surprisingly, lie in accounting.

Writing was independently invented only three times in human history, said John Huehnergard, professor of Semitic philology, who earned his PhD from GSAS in 1979. One occurred in Mesoamerica among the Zapotec, Olmec, and Maya about 2,500 years ago, and another began in China approximately 3,500 years ago. But the first writing most likely emerged from ancient Mesopotamia, Huehnergard said, specifically from the southern region then called Sumer and today known as Iraq.

“The origin of writing … was not a desire to put down great literature,”

Professors Jo Ann Hackett, PhD ’80, and John Huehnergard, PhD ’79, discussed hieroglyphs, alphabets, and the origins of writing systems.
Huehnergard said, “but rather to keep track of things—records and accounts.” Early writers used tablets made of mud clay, which Sumerians had in great abundance, and used sticks and later reeds as styli. And they began by using pictures as symbols, which led to words.

“Pictures are the foundational elements of all writing systems,” Huehnergard said. “How do you show five bushels of barley? You have two options. You can draw five strips of barley—not terribly efficient. Or you can draw one strip of barley and perhaps five circles. How about 35 bushels of barley? You could draw 35 circles, but eventually you wouldn’t have any room left for what it was you were trying to express. So you invent a symbol for the next unit up ... [and] create an oblong character for ‘ten.’”

The early Sumerians also came up with the idea of “semantic association”—using one sign for several related concepts, Huehnergard said. “A picture of a person’s head could signify ‘head,’ but also ‘top,’ ‘chief,’ or ‘best.’” The Sumerians also combined signs, he said; putting together a picture of a head and a triangle to signify “food” formed the sign “to eat.”

The principle of semantic association was a powerful device for extending the use of pictures to represent words or concepts that are otherwise difficult to draw, but it was also a tricky one because it wasn’t specific enough, Huehnergard said. That’s where another important idea came in—the rebus principle. “You draw images of things that are easily represented [and are] homonyms of things that are more difficult to represent,” Huehnergard said. “If you want to specify ‘leg’ you draw a foot and an egg, because the word you want has to do with ‘foot’ but sounds like ‘egg’—‘leg.’

“We do this when we write ‘2nd.’ We don’t mean the number ‘two’ but rather the word ‘second.’ The ‘n’ and ‘d’ are phonetic complements that tell you how to read this symbol that otherwise has more than one value.”

“Once the Sumerians had this principle,” Huehnergard said, “it was not a very great leap to realize that just about any sign or picture could be used for its pronunciation alone. Sumerians began to combine signs solely on the basis of pronunciation. What sign for example would you use for the verb ‘to dig?’ You could draw a person with a shovel perhaps, but it gets complicated. The Sumerian word for the verb ‘to dig’ is ‘bal.’

They wrote that word with the signs for two tools that had nothing to do with digging. The first tool was a ‘ba’ and the other was an ‘al.’ The Sumerian use of ‘ba’ and ‘al’ to write the completely unrelated word ‘bal’ is the beginning of the basic principles that we use to write as well.”

For all its inventiveness, there was certainly a lot to remember in the early writing systems. Where our alphabet consists of only 26 letters, Huehnergard noted that Sumerian cuneiform used several hundred signs.

Writing systems evolved into more sophisticated and efficient alphabets. Jo Ann Hackett (PhD ‘80), Professor of the Practice of Biblical Hebrew and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy, and an expert on early alphabets, described the transition.

“The acrophonic principle says you draw a picture of something, you use that picture to represent the first sound occurring in that name—and anywhere else. Now all comparable instances of that sound are represented by just one symbol,” Hackett said. “This was a terrific advance because you only needed however many consonants you had in your language, and you could write anything you wanted.

“So the word for ‘ox’ in most Semitic languages is something like ‘alphi’ or ‘alpu.’ This became the letter ‘aleph,’ which is found in Hebrew, Arabic, and Aramaic, and it’s because the word for ‘alu’ begins with ‘aleph.’ The early word for ‘hand’ was ‘kaff,’ the palm of the hand really. This eventually turned into the letter ‘k’ because ‘kafl’ begins with ‘k.’ ‘Water’ is ‘ymam,’ which turns into the letter ‘m.’ The word for ‘head’ is ‘roash’ or ‘raish,’ which eventually becomes our ‘r.’

Interestingly, Hackett said, the earliest alphabets were largely made up of consonants, or “consonantal.” Vowels only began being used with the Arameans in the ninth century BC; then were adopted by the Hebrews, who used some vowel letters; and eventually by the Greeks, whom Hackett said, “used as vowels Phoenician letters they weren’t using for anything else.”

Three government professors discussed the legacy of one of the Graduate School’s most outstanding alumni, the late Richard Neustadt, who died in November 2003 at age 84. Neustadt was an advisor to several American presidents and was particularly

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This year’s GSAS alumni weekend included the first-ever reunion held for graduate alumni in economics and in business economics at Harvard. This lively affair featured new scholarship from faculty in economics, a discussion of the economist’s life in and out of academia, and thoughts on the PhD program in business economics from that program’s founder, Professor Richard Caves. About 100 alumni attended, from across the United States as well as further afield—England, Colombia, Malaysia, Argentina, and the Netherlands.

In terms of the field of economics itself, President Summers—the former US Treasury Secretary—noted the recent impact economists had made throughout the world, particularly in the healthcare sector and in management consulting.

The poor, said economics chair Alberto Alesina, PhD ’86, the Nathaniel Ropes Professor of Political Economy, are far better off in Europe than they are in the United States.

Harvard President Lawrence Summers, who earned his PhD in economics in 1982, opened the reunion by declaring the department “strong” in terms of its scholarly distinction and faculty recruitment, while expressing a desire to increase the pace of hiring in that and in other departments across the University.

President Summers greets graduates. Summers, himself an economics alumnus, kicked off the first-ever reunion for Harvard’s graduate economics alumni.
In his talk, entitled “The Welfare State in Europe and the US: Why Are They So Different?” Alesina pointed out that government spending in Europe is about twice as much as in the United States; the pension system is more generous; and the labor market is regulated, giving workers more protections. Alesina attributed the differences largely to a cultural attitude based on divergent political histories.

Because America was founded by individuals who left Europe for opportunity, the idea of the “self-made man” has a strong hold over the culture, Alesina said. “The theory is that the US poor might become rich tomorrow. Europeans still think the poor are stuck in poverty,” he said. “All the evidence I know makes it very hard to support the view that a poor American can grow out of poverty any more than a poor European can.”

In part because of the many wars fought on the continent, Europeans tend to be sensitive about the rights of the suffering, Alesina said. Poor people are seen as “unfortunate” and find themselves in poverty because society is unfair. Redistribution of wealth is considered the right thing to do. In America, however, the common belief is that hard work can lead to economic success. So the idea of wealth redistribution is unpopular: “The poor are lazy” is the thinking.

For example, Alesina found it significant that most European nations adopted a progressive income tax in the 1890s, while the United States only did so on a consistent basis in the 1940s.

America’s racial and ethnic diversity has also hindered a fairer distribution of wealth, Alesina said. “It’s easier to feel sympathy for the poor if you look similar,” he said. “Americans tend to associate poverty with differences in race and are less sympathetic. In Sweden, for example, the poor are blond and blue-eyed, and so are the rich.”


**OVERCOMING PROCRASTINATION**

Economist David Laibson reminded alumni that the very human trait of procrastination can have a profound impact on personal economics. In his talk, Laibson recounted a recent study that he and his colleagues did on how the approximately 40,000 employees of a large insurance company chose—or failed to choose—their retirement plans.

Half of the employees involved in the study were automatically enrolled in a 401K plan, and half were required to activate their own enrollment. A year later, 90 percent of the first group were enrolled (employees had to withdraw themselves from the program) while only 30 percent of the second group were. “Despite the [savings] incentives,” Laibson said, “it seems the employees were at the whim of how the choice was framed.” The results, he added, “were shocking to economic theory.”

The key to the study was the default option. The first group didn’t have to do anything to be in the plan—the onus was on them if they wanted to opt out. But the second group had to take the initiative to opt in—a very different situation. “Defaults create an undesirable herding effect,” Laibson said.

He concluded that companies should not make automatic enrollment the default but, to curb procrastination, should inform employees that they must make a decision about joining the 401K within 30 days of employment. Indeed, he said, a subsequent study—with one group receiving an enrollment deadline and the other receiving none—led to a much higher participation rate in the first group. “It was a night and day difference,” he said.

**THE DISCIPLINE IN PRACTICE**

Three GSAS economics alumni spoke in detail about the place of economists in and out of the academy. Benjamin M. Friedman (AB ’66, PhD ’71), the William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy, described how he has combined teaching with research and consulting for the Federal Reserve and other policy-making bodies.

In fact, economists are making a greater impact in the nonacademic world than they are inside academia, Friedman said, especially outside the United States. Economists working in central banks around the world are so valuable, he said, that banks in Madrid and other major cities have created their own graduate schools leading to master’s degrees. “There are no good economics departments outside the US, not really,” he said. “We’re better financed and, as the world becomes an English-speaking place, around the world serious economics is taught in English—wherever you are.”

Shortly after earning her PhD in 1968, Sandra Moose became one of the first women in the then-burgeoning consulting industry. Working “in the field,” Moose said she had to shed some of her academic

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The Centennial Medal is the highest honor accorded by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. It has been given annually at Commencement time since 1989, the centennial of GSAS.

The medal recognizes the careers of alumni whose work reflects high achievement grounded in their study at GSAS. Past honorees include Zbigniew Brzezinski, Leon Kass, and Susan Sontag.

Medalists are nominated by GSAS alumni and affiliates; the Harvard Corporation votes on the nominations.

For 2004, the Centennial Medalists are composer John Adams, social psychologist Susan Fiske, former University marshal Rick Hunt, and humanitarian and educator George Rupp.

We are pleased to present reflections written by each medalist on their years at the Graduate School and the influences that informed their careers.

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SHAPING AN ARTIST

By John Adams

I think of my two years, 1970–71, in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as years of absorption rather than creativity. I didn’t yet have an original voice as a composer—that didn’t come until I was nearly 30. Instead I soaked up stimulus from everything that surrounded me, music being only a part of it. During the ’60s, “classical contemporary music” had gone down a dark hole of abstraction and aggressive dissonance, and much of it had become the domain of 12-tone ideologies for which I had no use. I couldn’t imagine a life writing music that would be intelligible only to a
SERENDIPITY HAPPENS

By Susan Fiske

I nearly tossed out the unopened Graduate School envelope. The award letter arrived at home, along with the usual bills, junk, and appeals. But its address was handwritten, so I opened it. The offer inside utterly surprised me. Not because I didn’t get my degree from Harvard; I did, in fact, twice, AB and PhD. Not because I wasn’t expecting. I come from several generations of Harvard graduates: brother, both parents, both grandfathers, and even one grandmother. My immediate family are academics. At dinner, we played with ideas and words, but never our food.

AGAINST THE GRAIN

By George Rupp

What attracted me to Harvard was the way the study of religion was set in broader cultural contexts. My own work was based in Christian theology and Western philosophy. But the Harvard program was structured so that the study of Christianity required examination of secular Western perspectives—and allowed attention to other religious traditions as well.

My teachers at Harvard represented these interconnections. Gordon Kaufman and Richard Niebuhr had done their own graduate work at Yale during the 1950s. But they had, in different ways, moved on from the pervasive influence of Karl Barth and so-called Neo-Orthodoxy, which I still experienced at Yale Divinity School in the mid-1960s. As a result, the study of religion at Harvard offered a refreshing openness to secular thought in general and the social sciences in particular.
handful of other like-minded composers. Furthermore, all my non-composer friends were listening to rock music and finding in it a mirror of their lives. Jimi Hendrix seemed to express more of what it meant to be alive at that time than the crabbled and parsed atonal music coming from Europe.

For one of my two graduate years I had the inspiration of Leon Kirchner, a composer and performer of natural intuitive powers and enormous intellectual subtlety. From him I acquired a life-long respect for quality and depth in artistic expression. But the cognitive dissonance I was feeling between a dry, theory-bound universe of academic music and the wild, unfettered, Dionysian power of rock and jazz ultimately provoked a departure from Cambridge to the West Coast, a voyage that proved to be the right thing.

The two years I lasted in the Graduate School were turbulent in every sense. The Vietnam War had turned the country sour and embittered. I can’t think back on my graduate experience without images of Kent State and of a huge rally on the Boston Common, which ended in a violent riot in Harvard Square. The country felt to me as if its psyche were split down the middle.

But along with all the political chaos of the early ’70s came something else, something that was in the air and which we dubbed the “expansion of consciousness.” It was about matters both spiritual and ecological. The first Earth Day occurred during my second graduate year. And the drug culture, for all its foolishness and utopian zeal, did set the tone for a burst of creativity and a special kind of American-bred humanism that came to symbolize that era. I read Allen Ginsberg and Norman O. Brown and was aroused by a vision of a society that was free, sensually unfettered and, like the Buddha, infinitely compassionate … not exactly John Ashcroft’s America and perhaps even politically naive, but nevertheless with the human values in the right order.

Most of my friends were reading texts from the Far East, either Buddhist or Hindu. In Chicago and in Oakland, where I would soon end up, the Black Panthers stirred the pot, attempting a genuine social revolution from inside the urban community. I watched their movement crash and burn from pressures both within and without, and couldn’t help but be affected by the struggle it represented.

The American musical imagination that had already blessed the world with Duke Ellington and Miles Davis had by 1970 morphed into something wildly different but equally fruitful: rock. Who cannot think back upon those years without visualizing a stack of LPs whose music seemed to summarize the zeitgeist of one’s life at the time? This music was about freedom at its most absolute. Ellington and Miles Davis had by 1970 morphed into something wildly different but equally fruitful: rock. Who cannot think back upon those years without visualizing a stack of LPs whose music seemed to summarize the zeitgeist of one’s life at the time? This music was about freedom at its most absolute.

It took me another seven or eight years to forge a musical language to express all this in my own way. I was late to develop, a “slow learner,” in Thomas Pynchon’s phrase. But the “absorption phase” that was my graduate experience at Harvard turned out to be the one that most shaped me as an artist.

...
history, philosophy, and literature. My faculty mentors were Franklin Ford [PhD '50, history], H. Stuart Hughes [PhD '40, history], and C. J. Friedrich. Moreover, I was a bit older than other graduate students so I decided to get through as quickly as possible, and I did not apply for any teaching fellow positions.

After a year of research in Munich and in Palo Alto, I completed my coursework and dissertation in four years and received a PhD in 1960. I titled my dissertation “Joseph Goebbels: The Formation of his National Socialist Consciousness, 1897–1926.” Much of the work was based on Goebbels’s early, unpublished diaries.

In 1960, McGeorge Bundy [professor of history and future national security advisor to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson] appointed me a lecturer in the newly created Social Studies program and half-time as a “baby dean” in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. I served under two sympathetic Deans: Peter Elder and Reginald Phelps [AB ’30, PhD ’47, Germanic languages and literatures]. My responsibilities included Staff Tuition Scholarships, NDFL [National Defense Foreign Language program] scholar- ships, Fulbrights, and Whiting. Although we did not realize it at the time, these were “golden years” for graduate education. It was an exciting time to be in Harvard’s administration. Government and foundation financing for graduate students was plentiful; the number of graduate students in GSAS doubled in the decade of the 1960s; and the job market for new PhDs was relatively favorable.

Then came the turmoil of the 1970s. I was in Harvard Yard the night of “the bust” when Cambridge police pulled students—many of them graduate students—out of University Hall. It was not a good time for anyone at Harvard. In the administration, we referred to it as “the time of troubles.” But these years passed.

In 1974, I left GSAS to become the director of Mellon Faculty Fellowships in the Humanities, but I continued to serve for the next two decades on various GSAS fellowship committees. I found these ties difficult to break.

Beginning in 1960, I taught tutorials and courses in social studies, general education, freshman seminars, and the core program. Many of the courses were in the history of Weimar and Nazi Germany. Most memorable for me were my years of teaching with two Harvard faculty members: David Riesman (in his course “American Social Character”) and Erik Erikson (in his course “The Human Life Cycle”). I learned much about teaching and life from these two people, who became close friends.

From 1982 to 2002, I served as the University Marshal, with responsibilities for visitors who came to Harvard, with the International Office, and in the Harvard Commencement. It was a marvelous position that enabled me to meet some of the great, near great, and sometimes not-so-great people who came to Harvard. Memorable opportunities came to me to talk with Isaiah Berlin, Seamus Heaney, historian François Furet, as well as with political figures such as Helmut Kohl, Vaclav Havel, and Alan Greenspan. All of them, of course, had the highest regard for Harvard and its standards of intellectual excellence.

On the problematical side, I recall trying to be polite to assorted pushy princesses and self-inflated celebrities, and trying to round up faculty to meet with anti-democratic heads of state, most of whom have since disappeared from the political scene. A special source of satisfaction to me was working with Harvard’s International Office and encouraging the growth in numbers of international students and scholars coming to the University. These numbers nearly doubled during my years as the University Marshal.

I also continued teaching courses and maintained my ties with GSAS, mainly through helping with the presentations and citations for the GSAS Centennial Medals, awarded each June. Finally, this May, Harvard University Press published Harvard A to Z, coauthored by [former Harvard Magazine editor] John Bethell, the late Robert Shenton [PhD ’62, history], and me.

Centennial Medals: Rick Hunt
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analyzing mediating mechanisms in randomized experiments. And over beers, the four of us talked politics, oldies, and psychology.

Senior faculty provided options, too: R. Freed Bales, Robert Rosenthal, Thomas Pettigrew, and Herbert Kelman, all since retired, collectively taught me that complex social behavior can be reliably coded; a statistic is a tool not a rule; and progressive ideals can build on data. Phillip Stone gave me a job advising computer users in William James Hall on their data analyses, itself a course in research methods. One teaching-fellow-turned-colleague made a particular difference: The late Pierce Barker persuaded me that basic research was the highest calling for social advocates. You have to play by the rules of evidence, but you can make a difference with data.

Being a misfit allowed me to take risks. I wasn’t part of the mainstream anyway, so I had little to lose. Later, that Harvard experience let me risk my career as an assistant professor by writing an advanced text in a field that didn’t exist and by testifying as an expert witness in a gender discrimination suit that couldn’t win. The text helped define a field, and the testimony was affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Shortly after, I had a mid-career baby, whom I promptly hauled off to professional meetings, lacking any viable alternative. I knew I was using up idiosyncrasy credits, but we managed, and other social psychologist parents tell me they now feel more permission to do the same. In my lab these days, we continue to study prejudice, risking methods from neuro-imaging to lab experiments to national surveys to pan-cultural comparisons. We go where the data lead us and hope to contribute to society.

The best things in life are unexpected, and serendipity happens.
close to Harry Truman, in whose White House he worked, and John F. Kennedy.

But he is best known for his book *Presidential Power: The Politics of Leadership*, in which he contended that the true power of the American president—given a system of separate institutions sharing power, elections, and, more recently, the growth of interest groups and the news media—lies in his power to persuade.

Written in 1960, *Presidential Power* was revised by Neustadt four times over 30 years. The last edition was published in 1990. It has sold more than a million copies, has been translated into several languages, and still is used widely in college political science classes.

“The 20th century expanded the power of the presidency to act, but Dick Neustadt recognized the complementary power to persuade,” said Paul Peterson, the Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government.

Roger Porter, the IBM Professor of Business and Government, offered something else from Neustadt. “The president is a choice-making machine, constantly deciding with whom to meet and what decisions to get involved in,” he said. “In doing so, presidents are constantly either increasing or decreasing their political capital.” Porter himself has advised several presidents, including Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush.

In response to Porter’s remark that presidents are truly alone at the top, several alumni asked whether a strong staff doesn’t, in fact, buffer some presidents, such as Ronald Reagan or George W. Bush. “The idea of an amiable guy with a powerful staff doesn’t work,” Porter said. “Each member of the staff has his or her own interests, and eventually their large ideas come into conflict. It is the president who must decide.”

THE FUTURE OF OUR UNIVERSE

Astronomer Abraham Loeb said the universe is “the biggest system that we know about” and, from what we know of its origins, the universe started hot. “At some point about a million years after the Big Bang, atoms started to form in the universe,” Loeb said. “Then the very first stars and first black holes generated radiation to break cosmic hydrogen.”

Astronomers are spending a great deal of time, energy, and funding in the search for those very first stars. In fact, said Loeb, the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope—the James Webb Space Telescope—is being designed to fly in 2011 with the goal of detecting the light that was produced by early stars in the universe.

However, Loeb spent most of his talk not on the origins, but on the future of the universe—and he did not offer a cheery outlook.

“One of the remarkable discoveries that came about a few years ago is that the universe is actually accelerating,” he said. “It’s not just expanding, but the expansion speed recently started to get faster and faster with time. So, in fact, if there is a source at a certain distance from us and you were to follow it as a function of time, you would see that the source is receding away from you at a faster and faster speed. You would expect that if there were mass inside this volume it would slow down. How is that possible?

“It turns out to be a result that Einstein came up with when he formulated his theory of relativity. If the vacuum itself is not completely empty but has some energy density to it—and that’s allowed by the laws of physics—it could have the same energy density everywhere. It doesn’t matter for anything but gravity; this energy density gravitates and produces a repulsive force. So, if a vacuum in the universe has some energy density—and this energy density dominates over the density of matter—then you would expect the universe to participate in an explosive motion, a motion that accelerates with time rather than slows down.

“This discovery happened only recently because the vacuum only recently had the density that is comparable to the density of matter. Very early on, the vacuum was a very small constituent in the universe ... compared to the density of matter. But recently, the matter density was diluted to the point where the vacuum started to dominate. When we look at the universe nowadays, it seems to be accelerating because the density of matter goes down as the universe is expanding. The vacuum becomes more and more dominant.”

What are the consequences for the future? “Imagine a source that is moving ...
The British ruled India for decades, but shortly after they left in the 1940s, India reverted back to its previous, homegrown empire, the Mughal, said Sugata Bose, the Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs and director of graduate studies in the history department.

“It is not an accident that the march of the forces of a disaporic patriotism toward Delhi began with a ceremonial parade and prayers in September 1943 at the tomb of the last Mughal emperor in Burma,” Bose said. “Miscalculation by the colonial masters enabled these forces to restage the legal and political battle over sovereignty in 1945 inside the precincts of the red fort of Delhi.”

But even back in 1877, at the height of British imperial power in India, sovereignty was tenuous. That year marked Queen Victoria’s assumption of the title “Empress of India,” but it also witnessed the coming together of Muslim and Hindu religious and political leaders in India, said Bose, adding, “Here lies the clue to the easy union between the Hindu and the Muslim opposition today in India.

“In the early 1920s, the Hindu and Muslim were once more in what the Englishman [British historian F.W. Butler] dubbed ‘an unnatural alliance,’” Bose continued. “But Butler pointed out that when this was said, what was not being seen was the immensity of the censure that was implied in this verdict. ‘The triumph of British Oriental policy,’ Butler concluded with scathing sarcasm, ‘Has been to achieve the union of Muslim and Hindu in India [and] of East and West in the wide world of Islam. There only remains the removal of the schism of Shi’a and Sunni in Islam.’ What British Oriental policy was not able to achieve,” Bose wryly noted, “perhaps the American administration’s current Iraq policy will be able to do.”

Robert Travers, an assistant professor of history and an authority on the British Empire in India, spoke about why academia has—at just this time—become so enamored with the study of empire.

“Since the rise of academic history in the late 19th century, university departments have been structured by the dictates of national boundaries,” Travers said. “Specialization in history has been—and still is—defined by modern nation-states. Even medieval or ancient histories are studied as origins of modern national history, long before the nation was even a twinkle in the eyes of its begetters. [But] this nationalist organization of knowledge is old news.”

Globalization, Travers said, makes this so, and imperial histories are “a way of bringing the nation down to size.” He declared, “The past is not just a collection of nation-states in the making but also a world of multinational corporations, cross-cultural encounters, migrant laborers, diasporic communities, global warfare, and other trans-regional connections. All these things are the stuff of empires.”

In response, he said, Harvard’s own history department is showing itself to be breaking free of national boundaries. “Sven Beckert is following up his first book on New York capitalists [The Monied Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1830-1896, 2001] with a new world history,” Travers noted. And, he said, numerous other faculty members have been following suit. “David Armitage has broken with a long tradition of modern colonial empires,” Travers noted. “Erez Manela is showing how the Wilsonian moment—Wilsonian doctrines of interna-
nationalism at the end of the First World War—was a truly global event that shattered the ideological complacency of imperialism and energized nationalists from Korea to Cairo.

Travers also noted a political motive behind the impulse to study the imperial over the national. “The new historical interest in empires is the ground of fervent ideological contests among historians,” he said. “Imperial history is where the ranks of post-colonial critics meet the growing band of neo-imperialists.”

Finally, the study of empire in the academy is “hot,” Travers said, because a new generation of historians from India, the Middle East, Africa, and parts of the world previously under-represented in American universities have emerged. “They’ve...been able to re-illuminate central strands of European history by looking, as it were, from the outside in,” he said. “In the new world order, the dominance of the West can no longer, I think, be taken for granted, nor can it in history departments.” In fact, he added, lost empires “may be the last refuge of the historians of old Europe in the new global marketplace of history.”

Historians Robert Travers (left) and Sugata Bose discussed the concept of empire in understanding global history.

Since 1980, the economies of most Middle Eastern countries have grown better than expected—as well as many Latin American countries, said Dani Rodrik, the Rafiq Hariri Professor of International Political Economy at the Kennedy School of Government.

Interestingly, he said, the economies of most of the so-called oil countries, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, have not done as well as their neighbors, such as Iran, Jordan, Israel, and Turkey. In those countries, key social indicators such as infant mortality and life expectancy are headed in the right directions.

The problem, Rodrik said, is that Middle Eastern economies, in general, appear to have “run out of steam.” And the consultants advising governments, most of them Washington-based, are still relying on 20-year-old solutions that worked once, but are less effective today.

“The Washington consensus has been that the way you modernize economies is to liberalize markets, privatize enterprises, and stabilize prices,” Rodrik said. The same advice has been offered to Latin American countries, with less effective results, he added. “Without a true private sector, economies fail.” In fact, he said, private industry requires less reform. Reform is truly needed, he said, for democratizing public institutions.

From left, Professors Dani Rodrik, Cemal Kafadar, and Roger Owen, who discussed the realities and possibilities of economic reform in today’s Middle East.
notions about practices. “Consultants take an observation that an economist might view as an aberration, put it in the center of the plate, and get very interesting insights for our clients.” Moose, now senior vice president at the Boston Consulting Group, said consultants have come up with insights that, despite some initial skepticism, academic economists have come to rely on.

“We were in the trenches in changes in information technology—the meaning of lowering transaction costs, substituting markets for hierarchies, and now outsourcing, the redefinition of what a company is, of what an industry is,” she said. Alternatively, she added, the consulting world will be looking to academic economists on increasingly complex anti-trust issues and “managing the global supply chain.”

John Moon, who earned his PhD in business economics in 1994, has his feet equally in the academic and nonacademic worlds. A managing director at Morgan Stanley working in private equity, Moon also teaches at Columbia Business School. He said he’s noticed a “discontinuity” between business economics as it is taught and as it is practiced. “Empirical finance, as well as practice, are way ahead of the finance theory taught at business schools,” he said. “What we teach MBAs today is largely what was taught to MBAs in the 1970s.”

Moon described the “two languages” of economics, one spoken in academia and one spoken in the field. And he stressed how important it was for the practice of economics that some bilingualism be introduced.

Longtime GSAS Alumni Association Council member and economics alumnus Ken Froewiss (AB ’67, PhD ’77) moderated the panel. Formerly an economist “in the field,” Froewiss currently serves as the Clinical Professor of Finance at New York University’s Stern School of Business.

FOCUS ON BUSINESS ECONOMICS

The interdisciplinary business economics program is a force within both the economics department and Harvard Business School. Its founder is Richard Caves, PhD ’58, the Nathaniel Ropes Professor of Political Economy Emeritus, who said the program “is run on the principle that theory in economics is required in business.”

Put another way, said George P. Baker III, a program alumnus and the Herman C. Krannert Professor of Business Administration: “We look for nexus on either side of the river.”

Business economics is a small program—but it’s growing. Historically, the program has admitted roughly three students annually; for the 2004-05 academic year, it will enroll eight. Traditionally strong in the field of finance, the program

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For Harvard’s 353rd Commencement, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences awarded 574 total degrees: 277 for doctor of philosophy, 254 for master of arts (including continuing degrees leading to the PhD), and 43 for master of science. Fourteen students received the degree of doctor in political economy and government or doctor in public policy, in conjunction with the Kennedy School of Government.

The University also recognized two GSAS alumni with honorary degrees. Novelist Margaret Atwood, AM ’62, GSA ’67, received a doctor of letters degree, and biologist E.O. Wilson, the Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus and honorary curator in entomology at Harvard, received a doctor of science degree. Professor Wilson received his PhD from GSAS in 1955.

ABOVE: Newly minted GSAS alumni celebrate their moment in Tercentenary Theater, many waving flags from various nations.

CLOCKWISE BELOW: The GSAS Deans at the Dean’s Breakfast, which kicks off Commencement day. From left, Garth Mccavana (PhD ’90, Romance languages and literatures), associate dean for student affairs; Margot Gill, administrative dean; and Peter T. Ellison (PhD ’81, anthropology), dean.

The GSAS Commencement Marshals gather (from left): Daniel Frost (Romance languages and literatures), Melissa Much (earth and planetary sciences), Balkiz Ozturk (linguistics), Angela Lai (regional studies–East Asia), Xiaojiang Hu (sociology), and Jean-Francois Rene (regional studies–East Asia).

Abdol-Reza Mansouri, who earned his degree in applied mathematics, stands with his family.

Lawrence Hamlet, who received his PhD in government, takes a breather with son Jonathan outside Sanders Theater.

Photos: Martha Stewart
from 24% to 28%. These figures undoubtedly reflect the fact that many nonacademic jobs (for example, in business or government) require skills and training that are often an integral part of study in the natural and social sciences.

The humanities, not surprisingly, had the smallest proportion in nonacademic employment. However, graduates’ share of such jobs grew the most rapidly—considerably better than doubling (7% to 16%) in three years. Of course, the latter figure is not large. But the rate of change in this area underscores the importance of efforts (by GSAS, the departments, and the Office of Career Services) to prepare humanities graduate students for potential nonacademic—and particularly business—employment.

In addition, the three-years-out data shows that 4% of humanities graduates (and 2% of social sciences graduates) had found employment in academic administration.

Another important point is that overall employment figures seem to hold steady across several PhD cohorts. The three preceding PhD cohorts—1993 through 1995—revealed figures nearly identical to those in the current data. And in terms of exit data only, responses for the 2000–01 and 2001–02 cohorts (for whom three-years-out data is not yet available) appear to be in a similar range to those for the 1996–99 cohort.

Finally, while the report presents encouraging news that employment for PhD-holders does improve over time, it also highlights the importance of time. That is, the differences in employment figures between exit and three years out are considerable, suggesting that many graduates—regardless of discipline—will face a prolonged period of job hunting and job insecurity.

The good news is that all disciplines show improvement over the three-year period, and for that we can credit the hard work of GSAS students, faculty, and staff.

Roger Owen, the A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History and an authority on the region’s economic and political history, narrowed the discussion’s focus to Iraq.

The puzzle of Iraq’s economic history, Owen said, is that while it is rich in oil, it is also endowed with water and land. “These [resources] should have come together to form one of the Arab world’s most vibrant economies,” he said. Two reasons Iraq has failed to achieve that status, Owen maintained, are because the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flood “at the wrong time and are too salty,” and because Saddam Hussein took farmers’ land and gave it to political loyalists, wreaking havoc on any future sorting out of rights. Today, Owen said, 70 percent of Iraqis live in cities.

“Saddam Hussein used the country’s oil economy to educate Iraqis,” Owen added. “But he also imported [technologies] and failed to create an Iraqi industrial base. The idea that oil money could be used to develop a [self-sustaining] market economy” has been proven faulty, Owen said, because the industry had been neglected and was sabotaged during the 2003 invasion. Right now, he said, privatization is “on hold.”

On a happier note, Cemal Kafadar, chair of Harvard’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies, reminded alumni that 2004 marks the Center’s 50th anniversary and that plans for celebratory events are in the works for this coming fall.

Roger Owen is also building a respected reputation in two other burgeoning fields: contract theory and organizational economics.

Business economics is adapting to changing realities in other ways, said Jerry Green, chair of the PhD program and the David A. Wells Professor of Political Economy. “People don’t behave according to old economic models,” he said. “That means we need new theories of behavior. The next phase will be to take research paradigms—psychological theories of decision-making that form economic activity—and get a picture of an industry, or of a relationship between government and industry.”

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**THE RESILIENT SECTOR**

*The State of Nonprofit America*

By Lester M. Salamon, PhD ’72, government


In a bottom-line society, what is the role—and future—of nonprofit groups in America? Salamon decisive what he sees as a trend among nonprofits toward adopting a more businesslike approach, which, he writes, will “erode the values” of hospitals, universities, charity groups, and similar institutions. Instead, he offers a range of solutions to maintain the public trust that nonprofits need to engender. The author is director of the Center for Civil Society Studies at Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies and editor of *The State of Nonprofit America* (2002), among other publications.
President Bush honored 57 of the nation’s most promising young scientists and engineers with the Presidential Early Career Awards, presented by his science advisor in a ceremony this May. Among the researchers recognized was Harvard’s John Wakeley, the Thomas D. Cabot Associate Professor in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. Wakeley’s work centers on devising new methods to analyze DNA-sequencing data to be used by population biologists and mathematicians in developing theories about the genetic histories of populations.

HARVARD FACULTY ELECTED TO NATIONAL SCIENCES ACADEMY ...

In April, the National Academy of Sciences announced its election of 72 new members, including several Harvard faculty in the arts and sciences. Elected were: Lawrence Bobo, the Norman Tishman and Charles M. Diker Professor of Sociology and of African and African American Studies; Benedict Gross (AB ’71, PhD ’78, mathematics), the George Vasmer Leverett Professor of Mathematics and dean of Harvard College; and Charles Lieber, the Mark Hyman Jr. Professor of Chemistry. Medical School faculty members Mark T. Keating, professor of cell biology and of pediatrics; and John T. Potts, the Jackson Distinguished Professor of Clinical Medicine, also were elected.

... AND TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Last April, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences announced the election of 178 new fellows and 24 new foreign honorary members. Established in 1780 by John Adams, John Hancock, and other scholar-patriots, the Academy aims “to cultivate every art and science.”

Newly elected Harvard faculty are: James E. Alt, the Frank G. Thompson Professor of Government; Mario Davidovsky, the Fanny P. Mason Professor of Music; Catherine Dulac, professor of molecular and cellular biology; Barbara J. Grosz, the Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences; Steven E. Hyman, University Provost and professor of neurobiology; Eric N. Jacobsen, the Sheldon Emory Professor of Chemistry; Nancy Lipton Rosenblum (AB ’69, PhD ’73, government), the Senator Joseph Clark Professor of Ethics in Politics and Government; and Rubie S. Watson, the William and Muriel Seabury Howells Director of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY RECEIVE GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIPS

Members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences were among the recipients of the 2004 Guggenheim Fellowships: Michael P. Brenner, the Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Mathematics and Applied Physics (mathematical models in developmental biology); Stephen M. Kosslyn, the John Lindsey Professor of Psychology (mental imagery and the brain); Curtis T. McMullen, the Maria Moors Cabot Professor of Natural Science (dynamics over moduli space); and Timothy A. Springer, the Latham Family Professor of Pathology (X-ray crystallography of integrins and their cytoplasmic activators). This year’s fellowship winners, announced in April, were selected from over 3,200 applicants for awards totaling nearly $7 million. Guggenheim fellows are appointed “on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment,” according to the foundation.

GSAS ALUMNUS IS NEW KENNEDY SCHOOL DEAN

David T. Ellwood, the Scott M. Black Professor of Political Economy, is the new dean of the Kennedy School of Government, succeeding longtime dean, Joseph Nye, also a GSAS alumnus, who stepped down June 30. Ellwood, who received his PhD in economics in 1981, is one of the nation’s leading scholars on poverty, welfare, and the family. A member of the Kennedy School faculty since 1980, he has served twice as its academic dean. During the mid-1990s, Ellwood was also a senior official in the Department of Health and Human Services and an advisor to President Clinton on welfare reform. He is the author of Welfare Realities: From Rhetoric to Reform (1994, with Mary Jo Bane) and Poor Support: Poverty in the American Family (1988).

The Graduate School Fund

The Graduate School Fund seeks to raise current unrestricted funds for the GSAS through support of its alumni, and your participation in our effort is vital to the Fund’s success. Your gift will be used to support Graduate Society Fellowships, Research Workshops, and the English Language Program.

To find out how to get involved or to make a gift, contact: Jennifer Campoli, director of GSAS giving, 124 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-5795; 1-800-VERITAS; jennifer_campoli@harvard.edu.

For more information, go to http://post.harvard.edu/gsf.
ROMANTICISM AND TRANSCENDENCE
Wordsworth, Coleridge, and the Religious Imagination
By J. Robert Barth, SJ, PhD ’67, English and American literature and language
For Wordsworth and Coleridge, writing poetry was often an act of religious faith and devotion. Using those authors as his jumping-off point, Barth discusses art-making as prayer, religious journey, and form of worship. Barth is the James P. McIntyre Professor of English at Boston College. His previous books include The Fountain Light: Studies in Romanticism and Religion (2002, as editor).

EUROPE WITHOUT BORDERS
Remapping Territory, Citizenship, and Identity in a Transnational Age
Edited by Mabel Berezin, PhD ’87, sociology, and Martin Schain
The essays here examine the concept of territory in today’s Europe. Writes Berezin in her Introduction: “Spatial recalibration in Europe presents opportunities as well as challenges. Territory is durable but not eternally fixed.” 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).*

FIGHTING FASCISM IN EUROPE
The World War II Letters of an American Veteran of the Spanish Civil War
Edited by David E. Cane, AB ’66, PhD ’71, chemistry, Judy Barrett Litoff, and David C. Smith
Three years of very personal, articulate, and historical letters from one soldier responding to the birth of his son—co-editor David Cane, now a chemist at Brown University—and preparing to return home to New York. These 300 or so letters, which were only discovered in 1995 by the junior Cane, represent a valuable documentary history.

ESSENTIAL SHAKESPEARE HANDBOOK
By Leslie Dunton-Downer, AB ’83, PhD ’92, comparative literature, and Alan Riding
DK Publishing is known for its richly illustrated travel guides. But the authors of this work strike out on a different sort, into Shakespearean drama. The book offers entertaining and enormously useful analyses of every play in the canon, photos from film and theatrical productions, detailed plot outlines, essays on each play’s cultural significance, and other features.

SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL
Homer Plessy and the Supreme Court Decision that Legalized Racism
By Harvey Fireside, AB ’52, AM ’55, regional studies–USSR
Told in an accessible narrative style, this book takes readers through Plessy v. Ferguson, one of the Supreme Court’s most tragic decisions, which, in 1896, legalized the “separate but equal” status of African-American citizens in education, legal justice, and access to public services. Plessy was overturned in 1954 by Brown v. Board of Education. Fireside is a visiting professor at Cornell University and the author of several books for young adults about landmark civil rights cases, including The “Mississippi Burning” Civil Rights Murder Conspiracy Trial (2002).

PICKY PARENT GUIDE
Choose Your Child’s School With Confidence
By Bryan Hassel, PhD ’97, public policy, and Emily Ayscue Hassel
Readers with young children in school or preparing for their first year may find this book a useful guide to educational options. It assesses the pros and cons of different types of schools, gives tips on how to judge a “good” teacher, and outlines ways to improve a child’s enjoyment of—and performance in—school. A companion Website for the book is at www.pickyparent.com. Bryan Hassel is director of Public Impact, an education policy consulting firm in North Carolina, author of The Charter School Challenge (1999), and co-editor of Learning from School Choice (1998, with Paul E. Peterson, the Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government at Harvard).

* This note replaces a previous note that contained erroneous information, published in the spring 2004 Colloquy.—Ed.
By David Hemenway, AB ’66, PhD ’74, economics

Hemenway tries to rise above the political debate over gun control by dealing with the problem of gun injuries and deaths as a public health dilemma, best addressed with public health policies, such as supporting organizations that work to prevent suicide and to treat depression, mental illness, and anger management. The author also suggests establishing a governmental agency—or enhancing an existing one—to regulate firearms as a consumer product, just as toys and alcohol are regulated. Hemenway is a professor of health policy at Harvard’s School of Public Health and director of the School’s Injury Control Research Center and Youth Violence Prevention Center.

THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE
Politics and the Fragile World Trade Organization

By Thomas A. Hockin, MPA ’63, PhD ’66, government

As a former Canadian trade minister, Hockin was a participant in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and a negotiator of the North American Free Trade Agreement. In this new volume, he examines both sides of the ideological chasm underlying the continuing debate over free trade and concludes that, to avert a global depression, the United States must support the WTO. Hockin is currently president of the Investment Funds Institute of Canada.

DIRECTING SHAKESPEARE
A Scholar Onstage

By Sidney Homan, PhD ’65, English and American literature and language

Longtime theatrical director Homan discusses a career spent staging the plays of Shakespeare and the unique scholarly considerations he brings to the task. Homan is a professor of English at the University of Florida and an actor/director. His previous books include Beckett’s Theaters (1984) and Shakespeare’s Theater of Presence (1986).

THE FOUNDATIONS OF MIND
Origins of Conceptual Thought

By Jean Matter Mandler, PhD ’56, psychology and social relations

How the mind assigns meaning to concepts is the heart of this book. Mandler dramatizes the process by describing how this occurs in a typical baby and concludes that, while there are commonalities in the way we acquire different types of knowledge, the mind develops at varying rates, depending on the particular kinds of processing involved. The author is the Research Professor of Cognitive Science at the University of California at San Diego.

LAUREN’S LINE
A Novel

By Sondra Spatt Olsen, AM ’58, English and American literature and language

Departmental politics at fictional Municipal College are at play in this comedy of academic manners. The intrigues, backstabbing, and rumor mongering all ring true, as various faculty vie for a newly vacated tenured position in the English Department. Spatt Olsen, a former lecturer at Queens College, City University of New York, is the author of the short story collection Trots, winner of the Iowa Short Fiction Prize. Her work has been published in the New Yorker, the Iseoa Review; and other literary publications.

RETURN TO BASE
Memoirs of a B-17 Copilot, Kimbolton, England, 1943–1944

By Jesse Richard Pitts, AB ’41, PhD ’58, sociology

In this memoir, Pitts vividly and candidly describes his experience of arriving at a British airbase as an eager “junior birdman” (and new college graduate). He spent a year flying almost continual bombing missions over Germany and France and, after completing his service, Pitts, a native of France, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and French Croix de Guerre. He later married the daughter of a French Resistance fighter and returned to Harvard for his PhD. Pitts taught at Wayne State University and at other universities, and co-edited the book Theories of Society: Foundations of Modern Sociological Theory (1966) with longtime Harvard sociologist Talcott Parsons, his dissertation advisor, and others. Pitts worked on this war memoir during the last years of his life; he died in 2003.

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Combining two of their personal philanthropic objectives—education and poverty alleviation—Harvard College alumni Christopher S. Pascucci and his wife Silvana B. Pascucci recently endowed the Pascucci Graduate Student Dissertation Fellowship Fund at Harvard. The Pascucci Fund will support graduate students whose research will benefit poverty-stricken peoples both in the United States and around the world.

A member of the Committee on University Resources and the New York Major Gifts Committee, Christopher Pascucci discussed his reasons for endowing a graduate fellowship fund at Harvard and his hopes for those who receive the fellowships.

Q: Chris, in 1996 you endowed a Cornerstone Scholarship Fund at Harvard College. What inspired you to support graduate students as well?

A: It’s clear that the excellence of Harvard College is sustained largely by its ability to attract the most qualified students, regardless of their ability to pay. Harvard’s alumni have made need-blind admissions possible through their generous commitment to undergraduate financial aid.

The same need exists, however, on the graduate level. In fact, the need is perhaps even greater, yet the message, somehow, seems more difficult to project.

Q: Your fellowship will support graduate students who are focusing on research in fields such as poverty alleviation?

A: That’s correct. The Pascucci Graduate Fellowship Fund is specifically designed to support students who are involved in research that will hopefully benefit society in the future. One example would be to further research on micro-credit, which is one of the most powerful tools in poverty alleviation. Micro-credit—the making of very small loans to enterprising people who then use them to start their own small businesses—is sprouting up in poverty-stricken rural villages all over the world. It’s self-sustaining and therefore has the scalability to help millions of people lift themselves out of poverty. We have been involved in supporting poverty alleviation for many years, and micro-credit is the most effective tool we’ve seen.

Q: How does supporting Harvard graduate students fit in with your family’s philanthropic objectives?

A: Quite honestly, graduate student aid was not something that my wife and I had initially thought about, yet we now understand how critical it is to Harvard, as evidenced by President Summers’s full commitment to it. Extremely talented students from everywhere would like to conduct valuable research at GSAS. Many of them, including those who are inspired to undertake research in areas of great social importance, do not have the ability to pay. What’s more, such areas do not promise great remuneration to the students in the future.

Harvard’s graduate schools need these talented students and, in the end, we all benefit from their research.

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

As a former student of Harvard University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, you are automatically a member of both the Graduate School Alumni Association (GSAA) and the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA).

The GSAA brings events and publications targeted to you as a scholar in the arts and sciences. The HAA brings broader services designed to connect you with the University-wide alumni community. Much of that connection is available to you online through PostHarvard at www.post.harvard.edu, where you can access the alumni directory, obtain a Harvard e-mail forwarding address, register for events and activities, and learn about special offers and excursions.

One such opportunity is offered in collaboration with IBM and allows you to save up to 32 percent on select ThinkCentre desktop or wireless ThinkPad notebook computers. Current students also benefit. For each purchase of a select IBM PC, the HAA will make a contribution in the buyer’s honor to the University Fund for Graduate Student Aid. This fund allows talented graduate students who wish to pursue careers in fields that make an impact on the world but have relatively low financial security—such as education, public health, government, and academia—to be less burdened by student loan debt as they pursue their careers.

Harvard@Home offers you a way to experience some of the exciting research, teaching, and public addresses making news at Harvard, without leaving your home or office.

Conversely, Travel/Study Programs are designed to take you away to a wide range of destinations with educational extras.

And whether you are at home or abroad, you can find a Harvard Club in Massachusetts, Malaysia, and points in between. For locations, check www.post.harvard.edu.

Alumni are now eligible to join the Harvard University Employees Credit Union (HUECU), which recently expanded its field of membership. HUECU currently serves 25,000 members and has ATMs in Cambridge, making it a convenient option for GSAS alumni who live and work in the Harvard Square area. The credit union is a full-service office offering consumer and real estate loans; checking, savings, and retirement accounts; and electronic and online services. Visit www.huecu.org or call 617-495-4460 for more information.