Ideas in Bloom: Alumni Weekend 2005

Identity and Violence: Economist Amartya Sen Addresses the Annual GSAS Alumni Day Gathering

Graduate Alumni in Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology Return for Reunion

Achievement Honored: This Year’s Centennial Medalists

Commencement
Ideas in Bloom: Alumni Day 2005
GSAS alumni return for the annual intellectual rite of spring, featuring keynote speaker Amartya Sen and symposia on modern China, cancer research, US foreign policy, and trends in American studies, among other topics.

Social Lives
Graduate alumni in anthropology, psychology, and sociology participate in their first GSAS reunion featuring presentations by Harvard faculty in those departments.

Achievement Honored

Commencement: A Photo Essay
Images of another generation joining the company of scholars.

Alumni Books
New work from GSAS alumni on suburban dwellings, selecting industrial leaders, farm animals in American history, Ronald Reagan, forays into poetry, and much more.
Summertime Updates

As the longtime chair of the Graduate School Alumni Association Council, I am pleased to have this opportunity to report several items of interest from our annual summer meeting.

First, let me announce the appointment of Theda Skocpol, the Victor S. Thomas professor of government and sociology, as the new dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1, 2005. She succeeds Peter T. Ellison, professor of anthropology, who stepped down in June of this year following a successful five-year term.

Skocpol is an accomplished scholar and teacher—and a GSAS alumna, having received her PhD in sociology in 1975. She heads Harvard’s Center for American Political Studies and is the author or editor of several books on comparative and American politics, her most recent being Diminished Democracy: From Membership to Management in American Civic Life (2003).

In the area of admissions, we recently selected the incoming class for fall 2005. We were particularly pleased with the yield in the biological sciences, especially since this is the first year of admission into our new Harvard Integrated Life Sciences Program (HILS).

HILS links 11 areas of study—from chemical biology to virology—and enables students to work across faculties and maximize their learning experiences. We admitted 170 new students, for a total of more than 900 new students, for a total of more than 900 young scientists studying in this exciting field.

Housing is another area where we are seeing great progress. Rental housing stock in the greater Cambridge area is both expensive and diminishing as ever more units are converted to condominiums.

In an effort to keep GSAS students close to campus at affordable rents, last year we opened a property on Garden Street that has been very successful. Today, new buildings are under construction in the Longwood Medical Area, and we expect ground will be broken for a new residence located between Leverett and Dunster houses this fall.

These two new residences will provide 600 additional beds in apartment-style living. A third building located on Memorial Drive is expected to be erected in about two years.

I am also pleased to report that, after an initial period of insecurity about visas for some students in the post-9/11 era, roadblocks have diminished substantially. An improving political climate, as well as our ongoing relationship with the Office of Homeland Security, has better equipped us to aid students facing visa delays or related problems.

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While overall admissions numbers from China are down, this is the case for most American institutions due to security and trade issues, as well as more concerted recruiting efforts from universities in Asia, Australia, and Europe. At the same time, however, applications have increased from students in our other top ‘feeder’ countries: Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Korea, and Taiwan.

Elsewhere on the international front, we have seen a new fellowship program established between Harvard and Mexico, to bring top Mexican students here for graduate study.

This development coincided with a wonderful alumni event in Mexico City in March during which anthropologist William Fash presented a symposium on Mayan culture. A comparable event is being planned for India this year.

We hope to see you there or at another alumni event this coming fall and throughout the academic year.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS: SEN ON IDENTITY AND VIOLENCE

Economist Amartya Sen delivered an intellectually provocative keynote address titled “Identity and Violence.” Sen is the Lamont University Professor at Harvard, and also professor of economics and philosophy. He received the Nobel Prize in economics in 1998. His recent books are *Rationality and Freedom* (2002) and *Development as Freedom* (1999), and his Alumni Day talk was drawn from a forthcoming book, *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*.

“It is very interesting that identity, in the form of an exclusive sense of belonging to one group—can kill,” said Sen. “Identity-based thinking can lead to brutality.”

Sen, a native of India, recalled growing up in the 1940s during the years of the Partition in which Pakistan separated from India. “There was a massive identity shift in India—I watched it. Within the Hindu/Muslim/Sikh communities, the carnage that followed went hand-in-hand with people who ‘discovered’ their new and belligerent identity,” he said. “Identity shifts have occurred in different parts of the world—Yugoslavia, the Congo—with devastating effects.”
Of course, Sen acknowledged, “Identity can be a source of richness and is not a general evil. But identity-oriented thinking has to acknowledge our plural identities, and our freedom to decide on the relative importance of the many different groups to which any person belongs.”

Every individual sees him or herself as a member of several groups, he noted. “The same person can be an American citizen, of Caribbean origin, a Christian, a liberal, a woman, a historian, a long-distance runner, a tennis fan, a heterosexual, and a supporter of gay and lesbian rights,” he said. Yet none of these identities alone should be mistaken for a person’s sole identity, Sen added. Individuals must be allowed to choose or discover their identities. For instance, during the Indian struggle for independence, Sen said, “Gandhi decided to give priority to his identity as an Indian seeking independence over his identity as a London-educated lawyer.”

Sen disagreed that people can be categorized into distinct civilizations, and that there exists any “clash of civilizations,” as Harvard’s Samuel Huntington has predicted in his book of the same name. (Professor Huntington was an Alumni Day panelist and spoke later in the day.)

“Civilization-based thinking is limited,” Sen said. “The idea of a ‘clash’ begins with the...presumption that humanity can be classified into distinct civilizations. That overlooks the diversity within each category, and overlooks the mutual interaction between cultures.” Individuals can and usually do have multiple allegiances.

Even a search for global peace can have counterproductive consequences, if it is pursued without knowledge of human beings, said Sen. The Western response to global terrorism is “ham-handed,” he said. “The respect shown by praising religion rather than praising diverse aspects of other loyalties has had the effect of magnifying religious voices—when religiosity in its political use is itself problematic.”

“A person’s religion is not their complete identity,” he said. “It is possible for one Muslim to take a conflict-driven view and another to accept heterodoxy—without either abandoning their Muslim identity…. A Bangladesh Muslim is also a Bengali, as well as having identities based on his or her gender, class, personal taste, etc. in addition to religion.”

Sen said he finds the idea that civilizations are “all the same” as unacceptable as the idea of clashing civilizations.

“The problem is there is no solitary system of classification, and the illusion that one exists makes the world much more divisive,” Sen concluded. “Global harmony lies in recognizing the plurality of our identities.”

Following his talk, Sen answered questions from alumni ranging in topic from market capitalism to the European Union. Judging from the number of raised hands in the audience, this exchange might have occupied much of the day.

Comparative Literature
Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD ’75, informs us of several recent accolades. The Christian Science Monitor chose her 2004 book, Aged by Culture, as a noteworthy book of the year. The book will be translated into Turkish. In fall 2004, Gullette published an essay in the Nation called “Playing the Age Card” about the Social Security controversy, and she delivered a plenary lecture, “Sexuality Across the Life Course: What’s Age Got to Do With It?” at the 2005 National Women’s Studies Association Conference in June. Gullette is a resident scholar at the Women’s Studies Research Center at Brandeis University.

English and American Literature and Language
John Hildebidle, PhD ’81, a professor of literature at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has received MIT’s Arthur S. Smith Award for demonstrating “unusual commitment to undergraduate life and learning.” In February, he was in residency at the Writer’s Place, County Clare, Ireland. His next book of poems, Signs Translations, is forthcoming from Salmon Publishing in 2006.

History
George Dameron, PhD ’83, recently published Florence and Its Church in the Age of Dante (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005). He is professor of history and coordinator of the Humanities Program at Saint Michael’s College (Vermont). Currently nominated vice president of the New England Historical Association, he will also serve next year as president of the chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, sheltered by Saint Michael’s College (Gamma of Vermont).

Peter Viereck, SB ’37, PhD ’42, has recently published expanded or revised versions of his classic books Metapolitics (1941, expanded 2003), Conservatism Revisited (1949, revised 2005), and The Unadjusted Man (1956, expanded 2004). One of the principle theorists of modern conservatism, Viereck is also a poet and won the 1949 Pulitzer Prize for his book Terror and Decorum. He has continued to publish poetry (most recently, Tide and Continuities, 1995) alongside books of political thought. His most recent publications are a collection of essays, Strict Wildness: Discoveries in Poetry and History (Transaction Publishers, 2005), and Door (Higganum Hill Press, 2001).
ALUMNI DAY SYMPOSIA

After a conversation-filled luncheon, alumni attended the usual potpourri of presentations from Harvard scholars. Thoughtful questions from alumni kept the presenting faculty on their toes, figuratively if not literally.

TOPICS IN THE HUMANITIES

Music
Christopher Hasty, the Walter W. Naumburg professor of music and a specialist in 20th-century music, spoke on “Taking Rhythm Seriously.” His recent book, *Meter as Rhythm*, was honored by the Society for Music Theory as the outstanding theory study of 1998.

As he explained it, philosophers from Husserl to Kant have long complained that music is so fleeting, so ephemeral an art form that it is impossible to “fix” it—to critique it. “What’s disturbing about music is our insecurity about instability.... What music presents is this dynamic, changeable, very complex, evolving world that really eludes so much of our conceptual mechanisms,” he said.

Because rhythm demands repetition, it is an aspect of music to which critics and ordinary listeners can attach themselves. “Rhythm draws in the listener and, for performers, to know the rhythm is to know the music,” Hasty said.

However, among composers, those same repetitive qualities have aroused disdain or apathy. Modern composers such as Virgil Thomson and John Cage have focused on pitch, harmony, and the twelve tones at the expense of rhythm, said Hasty.

“We’ve become so fixated with the notion that it’s about systems and pitch we forget that the experiences are rhythmic,” he said. “I frankly think there have been some failings in that regard. To give up so much repetition and so much of our conceptual apparatus...it makes composition very difficult. If you’re going to do that well you have to be an incredible master. It’s raised the bar to the extent that it’s made most music not very masterful.”

Chinese Civilization
Philip Kuhn chairs the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and is the author most recently of *Origins of the Modern Chinese State* (2002). He spoke on China’s historical experience of “Empire and Nation.”

“Imperial China is the longest-lived and last surviving of the world’s great empires—the Russian or Tsarist; the Ottoman-Turk, which was broken up after World War I; the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which evolved out of the Holy Roman Empire, which followed on the fall of Rome in the Middle Ages; and the British Empire,” said Kuhn, a GSAS alumnus (PhD ‘64).

Though it is one of the last Communist countries, he said that in China “empire is still alive in some guise or other in the Chinese body politic and probably in the minds of many Chinese.”

That attitude is hampering China’s rather painful evolution from empire to state. The old empire once managed to comprise many ethnicities, but today’s Chinese leaders want to create a single national affiliation (shades of Professor Sen’s keynote address arise here) among its citizenry.

“Control and ethnicity are celebrated, but in effect it’s a kind of culturo-cide that’s going on,” said Kuhn. “They let the ethnic peoples dance in native costume during their national days, just as the Tsarist Empire and Soviet Union used to do. But in fact they have no power as Tibetans or as Mongolians. Any breath of ethnic separatism is ruthlessly stamped out.

“There is in the modern age a marvelous way of dealing with ethnicity without violence and that is flooding them with Han immigrants. Tibet is now full of Chinese engineers, teachers, military people, bureaucrats, and merchants doing very well—if they can stand the atmospheric thinness,” he said. “But once they catch their breath, they are gradually taking control of the Tibetan economy and, ultimately, Tibetan culture will be a kind of museum piece, which is one of the great tragedies of the modern age, but it won’t be the only one.”
“As a field biologist,” Pfister commented, “I think this is a good lesson to bear in mind, that we can go out and learn from what we see and observe.”

What Pfister has learned in his years studying “the little things” is that trees and forests cannot function without fungi.

Though it may be thought that fungi are plants, Pfister said, in fact they more closely resemble animals, albeit very small ones. Like animals, fungi do not make their own food and must find a food source, which they find mainly in—and on—plants.

No accurate count exists for the number of fungi in the world. “Big things get described, worked on—we haven’t missed very many of those in the world….Though those aren’t necessarily the largest groups in terms of the numbers of species. If we were really looking for the cutting edge of trying to work out biodiversity, we’d probably look at fungi or insects because those are the under-explored groups,” he said.

Pfister referred to Harvard’s Microbial Initiative Symposium, whose mission is, in part, to make such a count. It is known, for example, that approximately 250,000 types of plants exist in North America. “If we took every plant and said there must be a fungus that grows on that plant or some number of those—it may grow on the roots or on the leaves—but if we made a simple assumption that every plant had a unique fungus, then we’d already have 250,000 fungi. That’s just in one little part of the world. [Fungi] also interact with animals and other organisms.” Estimates, Pfister said, may run into the tens of millions.

In Pfister’s lab, he and his students are studying several types of fungi—one is a fungus that traps and consumes nematodes, which are invertebrate wormlike organisms; another is known as the devil’s cigar—a cylindrical fungus with spores that explode from the top.

Why study fungi? “They’re economically important in a number of different ways. Lipitor and other statin drugs were medically important in a number of different ways. Lipitor and other statin drugs were discovered from fungal metabolisms. They have unique biochemistries….They are organisms that, at least in this little tiny way, have some ecosystem connection to the health of trees and forests,” said Pfister, adding that fungi are “beautiful and interesting and unexplored.”
The reunion kicked off with speakers from each of the featured departments, who addressed the topic of race and ethnicity from their unique academic perspectives.

- Archaeologist David Carrasco, the Rudenstine professor for the study of Latin America, said that for many Mexican Americans, the story of American ethnicity, which in most history books starts in colonial New England, leaves them out. Instead, Mexican Americans derive a sense of their ethnicity by telling stories about what is considered the original Aztec homeland, found in the western region of the United States—California, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah.

- Biological anthropologist Maryellen Ruvolo spoke about the latest theories on the biological basis of race. According to the most recent studies, she said, it is “biologically meaningless” to talk about differences among individuals in terms of race. “Racial and ethnic differences are nearly zero,” she said. But those differences are still studied because they may matter at the molecular level in the hunt for finding cures for diseases.

- Social anthropologist Steven Caton discussed his ethnographic project on the changed situation for American Muslims since the September 11 attacks. It is estimated that 4-8 million Muslims live in the United States, Caton said, adding that it is the nation’s fastest growing religion. “By 2010,” he said, “Muslims are expected to be the second-largest religious group in the United States.” Using the population in Boston, Caton said he and his colleagues are looking at the effects of immigration policies, increased scrutiny on Muslim charity groups, and changes in Islamic centers and mosques.

- Psychologist Mahzarin Banaji, the Richard Clarke Cabot professor of social ethics, presented her work on bias, called Project Implicit. She said that psychologists and other social scientists have long tried to measure bias by asking direct questions, but very different answers are obtained when people are asked instead to associate images with attitudes. “There is a big difference in response,” she said. “The unconscious mind forces an understanding, though we have proof it’s not true. If a policeman sees a black man or a white man reach into his pocket for his wallet, he may have different reaction.” Banaji’s test is available at https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/.

- Mary Waters, chair of the sociology department, described her New York Second-Generation Study. The survey, which is being conducted by telephone, includes people ages 18–32, who are the children of immigrants from Russia, the...
Dominican Republic, China, the West Indies, Colombia, and other nations. Immigrants, she pointed out, make up more than 20 percent of the US population.

Her findings are showing that a racial hierarchy exists in the economic lives of these second-generation adults—“the darker, the poorer,” said Waters. Also, those surveyed reported acceptance of intermarriage and that they feel, generally, a greater sense of acceptance by their society than previous generations of immigrants have. In fact, according to Waters, “Immigrant blacks are doing better [economically] than native blacks are.”

She also found that those surveyed described themselves as belonging to more than one racial or ethnic category. In light of that, one alumnus asked Waters about the limitations of the race and ethnicity categories in the federal census, and suggested that she advise them. Waters smiled and replied that she served on the board of the US census bureau.

“We know those questions are terrible—they wouldn’t pass a survey seminar,” she said. “Politicians change them after survey researchers design them.”

THE BODY

Three anthropologists discussed various perspectives on the human body. Noreen Tuross, the Landon T. Clay professor of scientific archaeology, was a scientist at the Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian Institution before coming to Harvard last year. She spoke about aging.

“We live a long, long time,” she said. “The real conundrum, of course, is why humans live decades beyond their reproductive prime.”

It appears that natural selection is no longer in play, Tuross said, and that allows us to age, more or less gracefully.

“What’s cheery about this?” she said. “Thanks to a well-heeled baby boomer population who wants to believe that they can be forever young. There is an enormous increase in research in these post-menopausal, post-reproductive-year aging changes.”

Biological anthropologist Daniel Lieberman has received a great deal of attention in the past year for his published work on how long-distance running played a prominent role in man’s evolution.

“There were two major transitions in evolution,” explained Lieberman, a GSAS alumnus (PhD ’93). “The first was from a chimp-like common ancestor to Australopithecus, which occurred around 16 million years ago. That was a creature that did a lot of climbing in trees but also knuckle-walked. The first hominids were climbers and bipedal walkers. Traditionally, the story has been that the second transition, around two million years ago, was from a [tree-climbing] bipedal [two-legged] creature to something that had big brains and was a really good walker… That’s actually wrong.”

Running as we know it today—in an upright gait, leaning forward, taking long strides—is part of what defines modern man; it set us apart. Yet running has been ignored as an evolutionary factor. “Prior to 2004 when our paper came out in Nature, there’d only been one paper ever in the history of human evolution on running. Just one!”

It’s been completely ignored. People don’t think that running played any role,” said Lieberman.

Why has the scholarly community ignored running? Primarily because humans do not run very fast, and we are awkward compared to quadrupeds, he said. “The point is all the naysayers have been looking at the wrong kind of running. They’ve been looking at sprinting not endurance running,” he said. “Humans are exceptional endurance runners compared to any quadruped.”

There are several reasons for this, including no hair or fur to slow us down, sweat glands to keep us cool, narrow waists to pivot our torsos, long legs for striding, arched feet that allow us to spring forward, and large joints in the lower body to absorb shocks.

Although people now enjoy jogging and even running marathons, Lieberman explained why primitive humans might have needed to run long distances. One hypothesis is that we started running to hunt, and during a hot day, could chase animals into exhaustion.

Another possibility was scavenging, he said. “Say you’re a hungry Homo erectus out there in the Savannah and you see vultures in the distance. You know there’s a carcass being eaten, say, by lions and that when the lions leave there may be some meat or [at least] marrow and brains, which are full of protein and fat. If you get there before the hyenas do, you’ll have a lot of incredibly valuable resources.”

In fact, the fossil record shows bones that have been smashed up and the marrow extracted. “Clearly hominids are getting access to these resources before hyenas are,” he said. How? Although hyenas are also endurance runners, they confine their activity to mornings and evenings—humans can run at any time.

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MICHAEL ARTIN
PhD 1960, MATHEMATICS

Michael Artin is one of the world’s leading mathematicians and a pioneer of a new method of doing algebraic geometry, having reframed a subject in existence for 300 years.

His father was Emil Artin, the great number theorist. The family came to America from Germany in 1937. Artin has since written that, if there was a direction in which his father pointed him, it was toward chemistry. “He never suggested that I should follow in his footsteps,” Artin once wrote, “and I never made a conscious decision to become a mathematician.”

But as he progressed through college, studying chemistry, physics, biology, and mathematics, he found the last subject closest to his heart and began graduate work at Harvard, becoming part of the group of students studying with the late great Oscar Zariski—the so-called Zariski School.

The 1950s were particularly exciting times for mathematics—and Harvard was a hotbed with Zariski, John Tate, and others. At the suggestion of Zariski, Artin looked into a problem raised by the Italian School—Enriques’ surfaces. This topic...
ROBERT HORVITZ
PhD 1974, CELLULAR AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
Robert Horvitz is one of the world’s leading molecular biologists. His work in cell apoptosis—or, cell “death”—as a means of finding treatments for forms of cancer and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig’s disease, is foundational. His stature is grounded in a lifelong scientific curiosity and an extraordinarily adept mind.

As a graduate student at Harvard, Horvitz joined a high-powered molecular biology lab led by Nobel Prize-winner Walter Gilbert and worked on the T4 virus, the model organism of the day.

Horvitz later took a postdoctoral position at Cambridge University in England and studied there with Sydney Brenner. He also became deeply involved with a very important worm—the nematode C. elegans—which Horvitz used to make genetic studies in neurobiology.

Working on a fellowship from the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Horvitz began to apply his studies in worm biology to areas related to human neuromuscular disorders, particularly ALS.

He joined MIT’s biology faculty as an associate professor in 1978 and has been at that university ever since. In the early 1980s, Horvitz and his lab members

ELAINE PAGELS
PhD 1970, STUDY OF RELIGION
In a recent interview, Elaine Pagels told a New York Times reporter that she was interested “in how Christianity became what it became.” It is perhaps a little ironic that Elaine Pagels is helping the rest of us to understand the origins and, if you will, the gospel truth of the Christian religion.

She came to Harvard in the 1960s to study religion and was part of the team studying the Nag Hammadi scrolls. These documents, originally found in 1945, shed light on early Christian debates on theology and practice and became the centerpiece of her dissertation—and of her first book.

Published in 1979, The Gnostic Gospels was based on Pagels’s translations of the Nag Hammadi Library and contradicted the image of the early Christian Church as a unified movement. The book won both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Michael Spence has been a leader both in his field of economics and in higher education administration.

After a brilliant undergraduate career at Princeton—which included four years on the varsity hockey team—followed by two years as a Rhodes scholar in Oxford, Spence entered Harvard as a graduate student in economics, studying with luminaries Thomas Schelling, Richard Zeckhauser, and Kenneth Arrow.

It was Arrow who directed Spence’s dissertation, the subject of which was to become the defining topic for his life as an economist: market signaling.

The thesis not only signaled an up-and-coming economist—it also signaled Spence’s good humor and expansive intellectual attitude. Wrote Spence back in 1972:

“...Since the term ‘market signaling’ is not exactly a household term, I feel I owe the reader a word of explanation. I find it difficult, however, to convey an accurate impression of the meaning of the term and the scope of economic activity to which it is intended to refer...In short, I have a signaling problem.”
Chemical Biology
Gregory Verdine is the Erving professor of chemistry, co-directs Harvard's new PhD program in chemical biology, and directs the newly created Dana Farber/ Harvard Program in Cancer Chemical Biology. He spoke on the latest efforts in his department on treating cancer through chemical biology, an emerging discipline that integrates chemical and biological approaches.

The idea, he said, is to create synthetic molecules that will trick cancer cells into committing suicide. If that sounds strange, it's actually a common practice among mutated cells.

Consider what happens in the case of sunburn, Verdine said. “You peel. The cells have a sensor and can tell if there’s been DNA damage. Apoptosis (cell death) tells the cells to commit death and you slough off a large layer of dead cells. The cells check themselves to see if they’re abnormal or normal,” he said.

With cancer, unfortunately, mutated cells are unable to check themselves apparently. “Cancer cells override the cell-death impulse,” Verdine said. “They take on survival characteristics by increasing certain components that defy cell death.”

That makes cancer “uniquely difficult” to treat, he said. “There’s an ongoing evolutionary process. The challenge is to find drugs to work against this moving target.”

That’s where chemical biology comes in. In Verdine’s lab and in those of many of his colleagues, efforts have been underway to create drugs that will “fool” cancer cells into committing suicide while at the same time not killing off healthy cells.

Currently, work is being done at the animal level, although that is difficult because of ethical constraints and the need for appropriate modeling of human cases. Still, there have been promising results with certain synthetics battling leukemia in mice. Experiments also are costly and time-consuming; in fact, Verdine spoke of a “huge discovery gap” because of the difficulty in raising private funding for science research. “The federal government has to bridge this gap, otherwise, in ten years, work will be done offshore in China or India,” he said.

Still, Verdine was optimistic that Harvard scientists working with researchers at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston will make important progress. “The data with the mice shows we’re on track for expanding horizons,” he said.

At the same time, Harvard scientists are also making advances in the imaging of tumors. “That will be the ultimate solution for cancer treatment and early diagnosis,” Verdine said. “We’re working hard on imaging cancer cells earlier and earlier.”

TOPICS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

History of American Civilization

“A few of you, for one reason or another, might be familiar with a speech that [Elaine Tyler May] the former president of the American Studies Association offered at the end of her year as president, in 1995,” began Kloppenberg.

“She talked about the ‘three Marxisms’ that had dominated the study of American culture over the last 50 years. This startled a lot of people to think there would be ‘Marxisms’ in the heart of the study of America.’”

The first “Marxism” was that of Karl, whose ideas “had been so central in the work of many scholars in the 1930s—the focus on class, on economic issues,” said Kloppenberg.

By the late 1940s and 1950s, Karl had been replaced by Leo Marx, a historian currently at MIT and an alumnus (PhD ’50) of the History of American Civilization program. “Leo Marx was one of many scholars who wrote in a genre known as the ‘American character study,’” said Kloppenberg. “His book The Machine in the Garden [1967] was an attempt to explain what was distinctive about the United States as a result of...the crucial role that technology has always played in the development of American civilization.”

The third Marxism belonged to Groucho because of the shift in American history and American studies “toward a focus on popular culture—film, comedy, comic books—parts of American culture that traditionally had flown beneath the radar of scholars in American culture, but that from the 1960s on have been central to what it is that goes on in programs that study American culture,” said Kloppenberg.

In recent decades, new themes have emerged in American studies, and Kloppenberg presented his own Marxisms as relevant to scholars in the 21st century: Louis Marx, Meyer Halavi Marx, and Herschel (or Heinrich) Marx.

Toymaker Louis Marx, whose toy soldiers and other figures were popular in the 1950s, represents the shift of interest among scholars toward “people at play,” said Kloppenberg. “Recreation, vacation, what people do with their time when they’re not at work [are part of] a field that is now exploding with the interest of a number of rising young scholars,” he said, noting that Harvard graduate students are doing comparative studies of movies in the United States and Mexico, and dolls in the US and England, among other topics.

The second Marx that Kloppenberg named as relevant to the future of American studies was Meyer Halavi Marx, the rabbi of Trier, Germany, and, incidentally, Karl Marx’s paternal grandfather.

“Religion...is a dramatically under-studied theme in American history and American studies,” Kloppenberg said. “It seems as though understanding the
multiplicity of forms of religious identification and affiliation in American history is one of the great mysteries to the American academy."
The third Marx was Herschel (later Heinrich) Marx, who happened to be Karl Marx's father. Marx Senior, who changed his name to Heinrich when he renounced his Judaism in an attempt to integrate into German society and to practice law, “signals the importance of law for American studies and American history,” said Kloppenberg.
The law has shaped the American experience, he continued, from immigration and bankruptcy, to laws covering slavery, segregation, and various forms of sexual activity.

Beyond the trio of Marxes, Kloppenberg pointed out that transnationalism—going beyond national boundaries—is having a great influence on studies of American culture as it relates to the country’s immigrant character.

“It’s no longer safe to assume that migration was from Northern Europe to the United States [alone],” Kloppenberg said. Today, scholars of American culture must be aware of African-American migration from the Southern Atlantic into North America, of the importance of the Pacific Rim and of Mexico, and the French Canadian experience, among others.

Alumni asked, as usual, smart and probing questions. John E. Moon, who earned his PhD in the history of American civilization in 1968, asked whether the expanding literary canon is leaving behind American classics such as Moby Dick and Huckleberry Finn, Moon also wanted to know how the graduate program approached the “vulgar nationalism in recent years” of the United States.

Taking the second question first, Kloppenberg said Harvard historians such as Ernest May and Akira Iriye have “opened up” American foreign policy studies. “It used to be the case...that the study of American foreign policy was the study of diplomats and the State Department—the establishment,” he said. “That’s no longer true. People who study foreign policy now study it as transnational history. They tend to...emphasize the global reach of American capitalism and non-governmental organizations of various sorts as much as they emphasize the work of the diplomatic community.”

Regarding the literary canon, Kloppenberg said, “We’ve tried to say, ‘Yes, you still need to know your Melville, your Wharton, and your Faulkner, but you also need to know Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, and other slave narratives.’ Now that the canon has been expanded in many ways, it might be more difficult to know the older texts as thoroughly as earlier generations knew them, but we want our students to understand that there have been many more voices in our national conversation.

“It’s a question of balancing the most valuable texts familiar to earlier scholars against more recently discovered texts that illuminate other dimensions of American culture. Our goal is to broaden rather than replace the canon.”

**Foreign Policy**

Three foreign policy experts from the Department of Government spoke on issues of globalization and sovereignty.

GSAS alumnus Samuel Huntington, the Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor, served at the White House in the 1970s as Coordinator of Security Planning for the National Security Council. He was a founder of the journal *Foreign Policy*, and his many books include most recently *Who Are We? The Challenges to America’s National Identity* (2004) and *The Clash of Civilizations and The Remaking of World Order* (1996).

“For the first time in history, we have a global economy and, also, a truly global politics,” Huntington said. “We’re now in a situation where societies all over the world are interacting in a more equal way. The West obviously is still the leading civilization, but others are major actors.”

Huntington laid out a hierarchy of global power, which he said reflected a hybrid “uni/multipolar system” in which “the remaining superpower, the United States, can veto the actions of others but the superpower can only accomplish its actions with the cooperation of small powers.”

The United States is alone at the top of this model. Among the first tier of “regional powers” are France, Germany, Russia, China, India, Iran, Brazil, and Israel, while the second tier included the United Kingdom, Poland, Japan, Austria, and Egypt. “Other countries” occupied a significantly lower level of power on the world stage.

“International relations are always about power but also always about something else,” Huntington said. In the 20th century, that “something else” was ideology—capitalism versus communism. “Today, the Cold War has been replaced by culture and religious [issues], ancestry, values, ethnicity,” he said. “In the new world, global politics is the politics of civilization.”

The West has been the major civilization since 1990, and Huntington said he expected it to remain so through the 21st century. “But it will decline because of the dynamism of Islam and the economic dynamism of China,” he said.

During the question-and-answer period, Huntington was asked about his book *The Clash of Civilizations*, in regard to Amartya Sen’s criticism of its thesis during his keynote talk earlier in the day. Sen had said that butting one civilization against another was reductive and denied the diversity within cultures and the mutuality across them. “As I argued in that book, there is more and more and more evidence that cultures and civilizations and religion are playing a crucial role in world politics,” Huntington said.

Beth Simmons, a professor of government and GSAS alumna (PhD ’91), followed to talk about democracy and the role of international law-making agencies such as the United Nations, the World Court, and the World Trade Organization.
She said an irony now exists because the many countries that have signed onto these institutions have, in effect, ceded their citizens’ democratic rights.

“Democratic governments delegate far more authority to international institutions than any other kinds of government,” Simmons said. “This really creates an irony...because we think of democracies as being the most bottom-up governing institutions.”

Democratic countries want to encourage markets and global property rights, she said, but decisions are increasingly being made at the global level. “Liberal democracies are more likely to delegate authority...than any other kind of country,” she said. “They are more likely, for example, to commit to working with the World Court. Democratic countries seem the most ready to cede the people's sovereign authority to external institutions. This represents the trading of a desire for liberal efficiency for democratic self-rule.”

This delegation is leading to a so-called “democratic deficit,” said Simmons. “You can think of authority and governance as being a delegation chain. It begins with the people, who are supposed to have the ultimate authority, delegating to our national governments to act in our interest. We vote—we constrain that agent of our interest,” she said. “But then that national government delegates some decision-making authority to international organizations as well.... The further you get from the people, the more potential slack there is.” “Slack” manifests itself in massive and powerful bureaucracies that lack “transparency,” she said. “It's very difficult to find out what a lot of these organizations are doing.” The World Court and International Monetary Fund, for example, have been accused of being “bureaucracies out of control.”

What's more, powerful states dominate these international organizations, which, Simmons reminded the audience, are not intended to be fully democratic.

American democracy is not at risk because of its political and economic global power. “The US has veto power on the [UN] Security Council, a large amount of the voting power at the International Monetary Fund [and] at the World Bank. We are heard, believe me, and the rest of the world will tell you this,” she said.

The real danger is to the democratic values of “internationally weak democracies” such as New Zealand and Costa Rica. “These less powerful nations account for 44 percent of the world’s population,” Simmons said. “Unless we’re very careful about the way international institutions govern, a large part of the world’s population will be effectively disenfranchised by globalization.”

She suggested that these institutions become “more transparent” in their decision-making processes, and so allow national legislatures to present proposals to their citizens.

But she also proposed something more controversial, which is to re-weigh representation in the UN and other organizations by two measures. “The more democratic you are, the bigger your vote should be, and the larger your population, the more your vote should count,” she said. “This rightly gives more impact to governments like India, which are both populous and very democratic. We should also, of course, have a floor so that the New Zealands and Costa Ricas of the world have some voice.”

Autocratic governments should be allowed to continue to participate, she said. “Even though their votes are discounted, they will have some incentive to improve their democratization and to represent the true views of their people.”

Glyn Morgan, an associate professor of government and of social studies, ended the panel with insights into globalization as “filtered” through the perspective of the European Union. Morgan, the author most recently of The Idea of a European Superstate: Public Justification and European Integration (2005), said that integrating Europe has hit some rough patches.

“On one hand,” he said, “Europe looks like a great success precisely because it successfully brought about a common currency and the integration of a lot of Central and East European countries. Viewed at another angle, Europe has not been a great success.”

Over the course of this year, the 25 member states of the EU have voted or will vote (many states have yet to vote) on ratification of their constitution, which was adopted by heads of state last year.

“The process of trying to get the constitutional treaty ratified has proven much more difficult than Europe's leaders thought,” Morgan said of the various campaigns to sell Europeans on the constitution. “It looks very much now as if France is going to reject the European constitutional treaty when it has a referendum on May 29 [as it, in fact, did]. If France rejects the constitutional treaty, then the idea of a European constitution is pretty much finished, and Europe will have to go back to the drawing board and think about how they're going to put together institutions to hold them together.”

Morgan identified three main areas of dispute: how far do Europeans wish to go in centralizing their political function? “On the one hand you get countries like Britain who are more enamored of the nation-state, and on the other hand you get countries like Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany [who aren't],” he said.

Different views exist even among the European leaders over what they signed. “After the constitution was signed last July, the headline from Blair was, 'We have finally vanquished the idea of a European superstate.'
The headline from Germany’s Gerhard Schroeder was, “We will carry this one stage further to a European federal state.” You had a constitution but different ideas over what [leaders had] signed up for,” said Morgan.

Another area of disagreement is whether the proposed constitution would promote laissez-faire economic liberalism or a more regulated economy.

“This disagreement has caused particular problems in the recent efforts of President Chirac to persuade his people to sign the constitutional treaty,” said Morgan. “Chirac is having to persuade his people that European integration does not mean the victory of Anglo-American market capitalism. It looks as if the European constitutional treaty is going to fail precisely because the French citizens are going to vote it down on that ground.”

The third area of dispute is the sharp divide within Europe on attitudes toward the United States. “There are a bunch of countries that are much more anti-American than others, and we could see some of those things emerge in the run-up to the Iraq War,” Morgan said.

“One factor that might unite Europeans is security,” said Morgan. “Security is a fundamental and basic interest of all people everywhere,” he said. Furthermore, he said, the EU cannot be secure if it depends on the United States for its defense.

“Security is a fundamental and basic interest of all people everywhere,” he said. Furthermore, he said, the EU cannot be secure if it depends on the United States for its defense.

“For the post-war era, the United States has been the principal power that protects Europeans,” Morgan said. “It has done this by NATO, which is a Cold War creation I do not see surviving over the next 20–50-year period. All European leaders like to make statements that Europe needs to be a superpower.

“Even someone like Tony Blair has said that Europe needs to be a superpower. It’s bizarre, Blair says, that Europe, with a population now in excess of the United States, and with a total GDP in excess of the United States, is so dependent on the United States for its defense.”

Morgan said he disagreed with the idea that Europe can or should become a superpower without becoming a superstate.

“I think the great lesson of the United States has been that an extremely decentralized political system is incapable of projecting power abroad,” he said. “Europeans are going to come up against the hard fact that, if they do wish to become a superpower, project power abroad, and be prepared to balance against the United States, they will have to become a much more integrated political system.”

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**HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES**

An Alumni Day tradition is the presentation of Paul Revere bowls from Boston’s Shreve, Crump & Low to visiting alumni who are celebrating the 25th or 50th anniversaries of their GSAS degrees. This year, four alumni were honored: Homer Hagedorn, who received his PhD in history in 1955; Brian Joseph, who received his PhD in sociology in 1980; Benito Legarda, who received his PhD in economics in 1955; and George White, who received his AM in mathematics in 1955. The bowls are engraved with the GSAS shield.
“That may have been the great advantage of human running,” he said. “Interestingly enough, it’s not until after we see these features of running in the human body that we get the evolution of large brains. So early *Homo erectus*’s brain is quite small relative to body size, and big brains don’t occur until after. I think the evolution of running happened because running enabled our early ancestors to get access to high-quality foods necessary to grow a large brain.”

Medical anthropologist Arthur Kleinman, chair of the anthropology department, discussed how social and economic change affects the body. He said that even with the global AIDS epidemic and the spread of certain viruses, communicable diseases are declining around the world in terms of numbers of people affected. Conversely, neuropsychiatric conditions are rising.

“This...is a reflection of changes in political economy and the way we live,” he said. “Depression itself—major depressive disorder—[accounts for] the largest amount of disability in the world today. Six neuropsychiatric conditions figure in the top 20 causes of disability. For all societies that we have evidence of that are undergoing rapid social change, their rates of mental health problems increase as social health problems...especially infectious diseases, also increase in amount.”

In China, which is his geographical area of expertise, Kleinman noted the rapid social and economic changes, from communism to market capitalism.

“During this period of huge social and economic change—improvements in living—we have this picture: increasing suicide rate, increasing depression rate, increasing substance abuse rate, a huge take-off in HIV/AIDS so large that China, India, and Russia now are becoming the epicenter of HIV/AIDS,” he said.

The rate in particular is remarkable, Kleinman noted. From an international perspective, the United States has a low suicide rate: 10 per 100,000 last year. China’s suicide rate is 23 per 100,000, almost two and a half times the American suicide rate. Suicide in China accounts for 3-6 percent of all deaths, making it the fifth most important cause of death. Among adolescents and young adults 15-34 years of age, suicide is the leading cause of death, accounting for almost 20 percent of all deaths.

“In China, about 40 percent of suicides relates to mental illness, principally depression,” he said. “In the United States, the claim is made that most suicide is due to mental illness. It probably isn’t. China’s a better example of this. Suicide relates to things like job loss, deep poverty, and major social changes occurring in families and local settings. This is an area in which anthropology has corrected the picture.”

**COGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Ken Nakayama, the Edgar Pierce professor of psychology, and Elizabeth Spelke, professor of psychology, spoke about their ongoing projects.

Nakayama, whose field is visual perception, described several cases of individuals who have vision but cannot see or recognize certain key features. He called this phenomenon “To See, But Not To See,” by which he meant that many of us are “blind” to most things in our environment.

Nakayama discussed a patient called JB, a 51-year-old sergeant major with a wife and children, whom he studied in an ophthalmology laboratory in Colorado. “A very highly intelligent man,” he said, “But he can’t recognize his wife, can’t recognize his kids by sight or by clothing, can’t even recognize a lot of common objects. But he can read.”
When Nakayama and his colleagues showed JB pictures in magazines, the patient identified a teapot as an animal, a car as a two-wheeled bicycle, and an elephant as a kite. However, JB was able to draw pictures of similar objects from his own visual memory. “There’s some kind of linkage between visual memory and perception that’s somehow broken,” Nakayama said.

Nakayama also is researching visual prosopagnosia, or face blindness. “There are people who have prosopagnosia due to brain damage, but what we have tapped into is something quite different—normal prosopagnosics,” he said.

Nakayama described a patient he called Bill, a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara, who could only recognize men’s faces by their hair and beards. “Bill…always had trouble as a kid,” Nakayama said. “He went into the Navy and had a total nervous breakdown because everybody in the Navy has got short haircuts, hats, and stuff like that.”

Nakayama set up a Website (www.faceblind.org) to invite prosopagnosics to be tested. About 400 people have responded, he said. “We’ve tested a number of them. I would say about 30…have really severe prosopagnosia, and many of them are very bad.”

One case is a 16-year-old named LJ who had a seizure at a dance when strobe lights began to go off. LJ became very disoriented and, shortly, prosopagnostic. Nakayama conducted tests with LJ, showing him photos of the famous faces of Charlie Chaplin, Albert Einstein, Adolph Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Oprah Winfrey, and Osama bin Laden. LJ recognized only Chaplin and bin Laden. “LJ has also what I call face perception deficit [which] we’ve never seen in prosopagnosia,” Nakayama said. “Most prosopagnostic patients we’ve studied can tell a face from a non-face. LJ somehow does not have the global pattern of face to put the parts together.”

Nakayama reminded alumni that the visual system takes up about 35 percent of the brain. “Those of us who study visual perception—probably when you were graduate students here, visual perception might have been a separate topic—have a goal to reintegrate visual perception back into mainstream psychology and to…instill in students the idea that vision is…a real integral part of psychology.”

Developmental psychologist Elizabeth Spelke and her colleagues research the cognitive abilities that are uniquely human, in particular, reading and arithmetic. “We ask: How is it that we’re able to gain these skills as children? How can we deploy them as adults? How come some people have trouble developing skills like reading and mathematics, and what sorts of things can we do to enhance them?”

One problem of this research is that most of what we know about the brain comes from studies of non-human animals. “If you’re interested in math and science and reading and so forth, it’s not clear that you’re ever going to have an animal model of any of those things. That raises the question, How are we able to make sense of what we find from studying animals to…illuminate uniquely human cognitive abilities?”

One way is to realize that complex and uniquely human abilities such as arithmetic calculation and reading are the result of older, core knowledge systems, she said. “We don’t construct new abilities out of whole cloth. We take older, simpler abilities and put them together in a new way. A lot of the work that I do with colleagues here at Harvard investigates these core-knowledge systems through parallel studies of human infants and non-human primates,” said Spelke.

Over the past decade, studies have been done on the development of mathematical thinking, particularly natural number concepts and arithmetic, Spelke said.

It turns out that young children (under age two) and non-human primates share an innate system for representing small numbers of objects exactly. An experiment was conducted with young children to test number sense using always-attractive cookies. Children will reliably go to the box that has the larger number of cookies, Spelke said. “They’ll go to a box with two cookies over a box with one; they’ll go to a box of three cookies over a box with two.”

Identical tests were done with cotton-top tamarin monkeys in the lab of Harvard psychologist Marc Hauser. “The findings were that an adult cotton-top tamarin is like a nine-month-old infant, better than a six-month-old infant, but showing qualitatively very similar patterns of performance,” she said. The similarity of limits suggesting this number awareness is not unique to humans but has a much longer history.

Young children also appear to possess an innate ability to understand large sets of entities, objects, events, and sounds—even if they don’t know exactly what the numbers are, Spelke said.

Children eventually synthesize these two kinds of abilities into a single, advanced concept of number. Evidence shows that between ages 2 and 4, children figure out the meanings of numbers and, even more impressive, how to count.

How does this happen? “They build on the two systems that babies and monkeys and everybody starts with. They learn that the word ‘one’ applies just in case you’ve got this system for tracking objects, there’s one of those systems out there, and the other number words apply just in case you’ve got the system for distinguishing 8 from 16, this large number system,” said Spelke. “Six months later, they figure out ‘two.’ And figuring out ‘two’ means bringing these systems together to represent [the idea that] there’s a set out there and it’s composed of one thing and another thing. ‘Three,’ then, can be learned in the same way because the small number system can go up to three. At that point, children are in a position to notice two things: that as they progress from ‘two’ to ‘three’ in their list of count words, they add one object to the scene and increase the size of the set. That notion can then be generalized to all the other words. Essentially, it gives you the natural number concept that kids need at the start of school.” Animals cannot do this, she noted.
 Debate is ongoing as to whether these number concepts are universal across languages, Spelke said. She described recent experiments focusing on people in the Amazon who lack number words and a counting routine. Do they have the same natural number concepts? “There are two labs studying two different, closely related groups,” she said. “They have very similar data, but they reach opposite conclusions. I think this issue is supremely open.”

**STUDIES OF THE CITY**

Sociologists Robert Sampson and William Julius Wilson spoke on their research into matters of urban life. Sampson, whose most recent book is *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70,* has been studying crime and disorder in Chicago. A couple of themes have emerged from his work.

One is that if a neighborhood is strong, even if it is poor, residents feel a sense of well-being. This is a phenomenon Sampson called “collective efficacy,” which includes the collective supervision of children and trust that neighbors will behave civilly. Sampson, the Henry Ford II professor of the social sciences, said that even some middle-class neighborhoods had higher homicide rates than poor neighborhoods because they lacked such cohesion.

“Can we think about trust and cohesion in the modern city in a way that’s not dependent upon close-knit social ties with our neighbors? I think it’s fair to say that we don’t really know our neighbors, and I don’t think anyone ever really did,” he said. “We have to probe more deeply into what’s going on. We’ve thought about it in terms of ‘collective efficacy’ and we have evidence that collective efficacy is a strong predictor of crime and violence.”

Another theme Sampson found defies a long-standing sociological theory called “broken windows theory,” expounded by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling in the article, “Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety,” which appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1982. Their idea was that small things—like broken windows in a neighborhood—trigger bigger things—like crime, because criminals perceive that people are unwilling or unable to take action.

The theory is wrong, Sampson said, because what seems like disorder to outsiders may not seem so to neighborhood residents. Race is also a factor. “The concentration of poverty and racial minorities increases perceptions of disorder because of biased perceptions present in the larger society,” he said.

William Julius Wilson is the Lewis F. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor. His forthcoming book is *The Roots of Racial Tensions: Urban Ethnic Neighborhoods.* Since the passage of welfare reform legislation in 1996, Wilson has been conducting a wide-ranging study of the legislation’s effect on 2,500 households in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio. So far, his findings show that leaving welfare has had no effect on children’s health but has had great effect on the health of their mothers.

Mother’s who are no longer on welfare, but who once would have qualified, find themselves in day-to-day struggles that threaten family cohesion, Wilson said. They have low wages and consequently often hold two jobs, working 70 hours a week on average. These jobs usually do not offer sick leave, vacation time, or health insurance. On average, “welfare-leavers” spend 64 percent of their income on rent or mortgage. Their own health problems are usually ignored as their free time is spent caring for their children and their health problems.

Wilson’s findings presented a dismal picture. The one positive note was that, in the past several years, the percentage of two-parent families has increased by four percent. Policy briefs (available at www.ksg.harvard.edu/urbanpoverty) based on the research are being shared with politicians and leaders, including John Edwards, the 2004 Democratic vice presidential candidate. Wilson himself will give Congressional testimony this year on his findings, though he was “pessimistic” that this or other poverty issues would find a place in upcoming Congressional campaigns.

**GLOBALISM: THREE VIEWS**

In this panel, three anthropologists offered their perspectives on matters of globalization. Paleoanthropologist David Pilbeam brought alumni up to speed on the latest findings regarding human evolution.

“We now know that our closest relatives—chimps—lived in Africa over the last millions of years and that we diverged at least seven million years ago,” he said.

The general consensus these days as to how *Homo sapiens* developed from *Homo erectus* is called the “Out of Africa” or “replacement model” theory, he said. This theory argues that all living populations of *Homo sapiens* are derived from a single, rather recent common ancestor that lived in Africa, and that descendents of both the archaic ancestors of *Homo sapiens* and *Homo erectus* went extinct, replaced by spreading modern humans.

Pilbeam also talked about the October 2004 discovery of a “Hobbit” on the Pacific island of Flores. This creature, dated as recently as 18,000 years ago, appears to be a completely “new” hominin, he said.

“It’s small, about as tall as *Australopithecus,* had a brain size as large as *Australopithecus,* was associated with stone tools and burnt bone, and was found with very interesting fauna: pygmy elephants and giant rats. It’s an astonishing and surprising discovery, and the current consensus is that it might be a dwarfed *Homo erectus.*”
“In prehistory, globalization—which was carried out by walking—was necessary for the expansion of cultures,” said archaeologist Ofer Bar-Yosef.

One of the major ways early culture spread was through the search for food. The spread and cultivation of various cereals—barley and rice, in particular—are indicative, he said, of how culture spread as well.

The earliest farmers probably began in southwestern Asia, Bar-Yosef said. This is where the Natufian culture developed and where archaeologists have found pestles and mortars, used to grind grain into flour. Bar-Yosef said evidence was also found of house mice, which indicates that food was available to rodents, and this means that the hamlets and villages were already sedentary.

“Perhaps what we see today is no more than a major interactive expansion that started when the old and the new world came to be one major sphere with what we call the Colombian exchange of foods and other materials. Humans, if given a chance, will expand in every possible direction,” he said.

Social anthropologist Kimberly Theidon talked about how peasants living amidst the ongoing civil war in Colombia have initiated regional peace communities by taking advantage of globalization.

“Literature says that globalization results in the erasure of place,” she said. “I want to shake that up. You can’t think about how people struggle to reconstruct place and locality in a very globalized civil war without taking into account that such struggles are characterized by claims to territory, to a place-based sense of collective identity.”

These Columbian peasants, she said are “reconstructing the local” by calling upon academics such as Theidon, United Nations peacekeepers, and Catholic Church workers to bring news of their plight to the outside world. The peasants themselves are engaged in erecting statues dedicated to victims, re-enacting massacres, and commemorating anniversaries. They also have Websites.

“People are wise,” she said. “They realize that as long as you can kill peasants and nobody knows about it, you can get away with it. What’s interesting to me is that there’s a Website for each peace community, so you can go online and know what’s happening….It’s at times a cruel fiction that there’s an international community that cares, but fortunately it’s not always a fiction. Indeed, when the leader of one of the peace communities was killed in February 2005, Websites and allies became very important.”

**CURRENT RESEARCH IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND IN PSYCHOPATHOLOGY**

Richard Hackman, professor of social and organizational psychology, and Richard McNally, professor of psychology, talked about the work being done by various colleagues in their department—Hackman on social psychology and McNally on clinical work.

Some of the most interesting work that Hackman highlighted:

- **Joshua Green,** who will join the faculty in 2006, is addressing a long-standing philosophical question known as the trolley problem: A runaway trolley is hurtling down the tracks toward five people who will be killed if it proceeds on its present course. You can save these five people by diverting the trolley onto a different set of tracks, one that has only one person on it. But if you do this that one person will be killed. Is it morally permissible to turn the trolley and prevent five deaths at the cost of one? Most people will say yes.

  “In a slightly different version of the question, once again, the trolley is headed for five people. You’re on a footbridge over the tracks next to a large man. The only way to save the five people is to push this man off the bridge and onto the path of the trolley. Is this morally permissible? Most people would say no. It’s the same thing—five lives for one in version A and in version B. The puzzle is why is it okay to sacrifice one person for five in the first case and not in the second case. Green is doing MRI studies to discover what is occurring in people’s brains as they consider this moral dilemma. The answer is located in neural processes. In the first case, you’re making the analysis as a moral reasoning problem—you’re actually doing a cost-benefit calculation; it’s a cool, deliberative decision. In the second case, a different system drives the emotional response. Green is pursuing the nature of neural processes involved in other kinds of moral decision-making, particularly in the role of disgust and its link to moral judgment.”

- **Jason Mitchell,** who also will join us in 2006, is interested in the neural processes that are involved in understanding the mental states of other people. He has a fascinating finding that’s emerged, quite surprisingly, from his neural imaging work, putting people in the fMRI [functional magnetic resonance imaging] scanner. It appears that the brain may have evolved over the eons in a way that meets these kinds of…social needs of reading other people, and that a little module [of the brain] may be used specifically for representing and processing the psychological states of other people. It’s in the medial area of the prefrontal cortex [and] is active when we’re trying to figure out what other people are thinking and what they’re likely to do. So, Jason is trying to figure out what else, if anything, also has distinct brain regions recruited for particularly social phenomena.”

Psychologists Richard Hackman and Richard McNally

Social anthropologist Kimberly Theidon

Archaeologist Ofer Bar-Yosef
“Wendy Mendes looks at the physiological effects of social isolation—what goes on in the nervous, immune, and endocrine systems—and how the body experiences stress in terms of levels of motivation and cognitive functioning.”

“Daniel Wegner is conducting two types of studies of mental control. One is on how we can influence our own thoughts and through those thoughts, our actions; and another is on the processes that guide apparent mental causation—the experience of ‘I am willing my actions, thoughts, deeds.’”

“Daniel Gilbert is studying “affective forecasting”—the process by which people mentally represent their future states. Most who study social behavior, including economists, think people are generally motivated to achieve happiness. If so, we should be able to predict how we’re going to feel in a variety of alternative futures, and we have to act to bring about the best and avoid the worst of those futures. The problem is that the first step in the process is something we don’t do well—predicting how we’re going to feel. There are powerful systematic errors in predicting our future emotional states. In part, Dan’s research shows that we overestimate the intensity and the duration of both positive and negative things that may happen to us.”

“Ellen Langer is studying mindfulness theory—the benefits of being awake and thoughtful in one’s life, rather than being driven by uninspected habitual routines and going through life on autopilot. She is doing this work as it relates to aging, education, business, and—most recently—art and creativity.”

“Phillip Stone has brought his creation—the General Inquirer, developed in the 1960s—into the 21st century. The General Inquirer was the first computerized content analysis system. One fed it speeches, articles, sermons, and so on, and it would tell you the types of words contained, and the patterns they revealed. With this updated device, which is now much faster, more accessible, and able to manage more text, Stone is studying language in the so-called red and blue states—what is different and what is common. The General Inquirer may be accessed at www.wjh.harvard.edu/~inquirer/.”

Hackman’s own research focuses on teams. “I finished recently a decade of research trying to identify what makes for a really great team—athletic teams, cockpit crews, musical ensembles, and symphony orchestras,” he said.

According to Hackman, “We way overattribute responsibility for collective outcomes to the leader.” A leader can only really create the conditions for winning; he or she can’t “make” a team succeed, he said. The work was published in his book Leading Teams: Setting the Stage for Great Performances.

Of late, Hackman has been looking at improving leadership training for industry to help would-be leaders do more than just engage in feel-good activities. He is also working with the US intelligence community to analyze their work conditions and “allow teams to get dots connected across disciplines and specialties.”

McNally then discussed the work of several colleagues in clinical psychology.

“Jill Hooley works in “expressed emotion” (EE)—namely, hostility, criticism, and “smother-love.” People who suffer from schizophrenia or depression are at a greater risk of relapsing if they live with family members with high levels of EE. Using MRI techniques, Hooley is showing what happens to the brain when people with borderline personality disorders, who engage in self-cutting and other self-harming behavior, are criticized.”

“Diego Pizzagalli uses different biological methods to elucidate the functional neuroanatomy of depression. He is identifying certain profiles to help physicians target treatments and improve chances for recovery. He also studies anxiety disorders, focusing on the phenomenon of attentional bias—how individuals with, for example, social phobia tend to selectively attend to any threatening information and social cues.”

“Matt Nock works in the area of child and adolescent psychopathology with aggressive kids and those who engage in self-harming behavior. He has found, for example, that some individuals engage in self-harming behavior because they feel numb and others because they’re in turmoil.”

As for McNally’s own work, he studies post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, and panic disorder. “Are there personality styles that people have to get past horrific events?” he said. He said he’s also found evidence that a “stiff upper lip” coping style can actually work better at adjusting to, for example, losing a loved one to suicide, than a more overtly emotional style.

McNally is also working with the US Air Force on a study of risk and resilience variables among medical personnel deployed at a hospital in Balad, Iraq. “This hospital gets shelled twice a day, but the real stresses, we learned, are not about people trying to kill you while you’re performing surgery or engaged in nursing. The real stresses have been totally psychological ones about the conflicts of treating ‘terrorists’ and ‘insurgents.’”
TOPICS IN FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND CULTURE

Three sociologists took on three big categories. Leading off was Jason Kaufman, the John L. Loeb associate professor of the social sciences. His latest book is For The Common Good? American Civic Life and the Golden Age of Fraternity (2002), and he is currently working on several projects, including a five-year-long study of the relationship between high school arts/music training and post-secondary educational attainment.

Using data from the National Educational Longitudinal Survey, collected by the Department of Education, Kaufman has found that children who take dance or music classes or work on the school newspaper are more likely than others to apply to competitive colleges. The more sophisticated the cultural activity, the more competitive the four-year college the student applies to will be.

“So if you’re a policy maker for the Department of Education and the question is should we spend more money giving kids hands-on music and arts training, the answer is absolutely yes,” Kaufman said.

Orlando Patterson, the John Cowles professor of sociology, described what he is currently working on several projects, including a five-year-long study of the relationship between high school arts/music training and post-secondary educational attainment.

Patterson’s explanation for this paradox is that there are two “cultures of freedom” in America.

“There is the formal public freedom—the one you learn in your civics lesson, the constitutionally protected liberties. This is highly institutionalized still,” he said. “We have an active civil society, although increasingly elite-dominated, but still a large number of organizations exist. The division of power still holds to some extent, but much more so than in any other society.”

Something else has happened, he said, which is that more and more Americans understand—or misunderstand—freedom as separate from government. Patterson believes this began in the 1980s as exemplified during the presidential contest between George H.W. Bush and Michael Dukakis. Bush used Dukakis’s membership in the American Civil Liberties Union as a derogatory characteristic—“a card-carrying member”—and the derision stuck. Rights seemed to be seen as apart from “freedom.”

In conducting his study on perceptions of freedom, Patterson relied on open-ended questions, asking people to talk about freedom.

“All Americans claim to have a lot of freedom. There is little variation across gender or ethnic groups,” he said. “Freedom is ‘doing what I want.’ The most important finding was the insignificant number of people who mentioned anything to do with politics when talking about freedom. The New York sample is about 1,540 people; something like 14 people mentioned anything to do with politics. That’s really incredible. We talked to people for two to three hours about freedom and they never once said something about voting or ‘writing a letter to my congressman.’ It just never came up.”

Martin Whyte, professor of sociology, discussed concepts of distributive justice in China. “In China, market principles and ideas for more than a generation under Mao Zedong were systematically denounced as inhumane, unfair, and unjust. Now, curiously, you have China’s Communist leaders telling people that markets are good, that competition is good.”

“The question is: How much acceptance is there or, on the other hand, how much nostalgia is there for the kinds of rules of the game that existed under socialism?”

Whyte has been conducting research in China for the last several years, specifically in Beijing. According to a survey conducted a few years ago, Whyte found more acceptance of capitalist principles and less nostalgia for socialist principles in Beijing than was found in a comparable survey conducted in Warsaw, Poland, even though Warsaw is democratic, even Western-oriented, whereas China is still ruled by a Communist Party.

According to Whyte, most Chinese people are optimistic that they can “get ahead” in their system, whereas Warsaw residents have much more pessimistic expectations. “Part of [this difference in survey results] has to do with a paradoxical feature of the Chinese case. There are still more official restraints on the media, so when the Communist Party wants to convince people that market competition and principles are good, they can do so with much less chance of being contradicted and facing critical commentary,” Whyte said.

“In Warsaw, there’s...social commentary, critical analysis, and lots of criticism of the leaders for being corrupt,” he said. “Such critical views cannot be publicly expressed in China. China’s Communist leaders are trying to create a capitalist popular mentality without wanting yet to call it capitalism, and they seem to be succeeding.”
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 9, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences conferred 820 degrees—420 doctors of philosophy, 334 masters of arts, and 66 masters of science (including continuing degrees)—at the University’s 354th Commencement.

Harvard presented honorary degrees to eight individuals, including GSAS alumna Carolyn Walker Bynum, RAD ’62, PhD ’69, history; and Edward Witten, GSA ’80, Junior Fellows Program. Bynum is a professor of Western medieval history at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University and the author of several volumes, including most recently *Metamorphosis and Identity* (2001). She was a MacArthur fellow and the Jefferson Lecturer in 1999, and she received the GSAS Centennial Medal in 2001. Witten, an authority on string theory, is the Charles Simonyi professor of physics, also at the Institute for Advanced Studies.

Clockwise from far left:
1 Jocelyn Kasper holds an inflatable globe, which many graduates carried to acknowledge the international character of GSAS. Kasper received her PhD in medical sciences.
2 The GSAS Commencement marshals, from left: Benjamin Bruch (PhD, Celtic languages and literatures), Ahmad Ahmad (PhD, Near Eastern languages and civilizations), Diana Kang Ong (AM, East Asian studies), Hannah Louise Clark (AM, Middle Eastern studies), Margaret Flinn (PhD, Romance languages and literatures), John Walsh (PhD, Romance languages and literatures), Viviane Mahieux (PhD, Romance languages and literatures), and Lee Mack (AM, East Asian studies).
3 Smiling David L. Elias, who earned his PhD in Near Eastern languages and civilizations, relaxes outside Sanders Theater.
4 Anthony Volpe and son Michael sport matching regalia. Volpe earned his PhD in applied mathematics.
5 More fathers...Brian Raymer has his hands full as he accepts his diploma from FAS Dean William Kirby. His children each received “baby diplomas,” which certify their presence at the Diploma Awarding Ceremony at Sanders Theater. Raymer received his PhD in chemistry and chemical biology.
6 The GSAS procession enters Harvard Yard for the Morning Exercises, complete with traditional bagpipers.
7 GSAS Administrative Dean Margot Gill assists Kazutaka Hayashi with his master’s hood. Hayashi received his degree in East Asian studies.
8 Andrew Mehle is the champagne bearer at the GSAS Commencement Luncheon, held on the Museums Lawn following the Diploma Awarding Ceremony. Mehle received his PhD in medical sciences.
In 1982, Pagels joined the religion faculty at Princeton University as a professor of early Christian history. And soon after, she published her second book, *Adam, Eve, and the Serpent*, in which she explored the development of the ideas of moral freedom, sexuality, and sins of the flesh in the four centuries following Christ.

After experiencing personal tragedies—the deaths of her young child and of her first husband in consecutive years—Pagels found herself thinking about matters of faith as never before. She has said she was now drawn to the church personally and spiritually, as well as intellectually.


Market signaling is the phenomenon in which various “sides” within a given market—for example, job-seekers and employers, or stockholders and corporate boards—try to communicate to each other in anticipation of profit. Spence explained it all quite clearly and with maximum results.

Spence joined the economics faculty at Stanford University, where he worked on applied microeconomic theory and industrial organization. In the mid-70s, he returned to Harvard, taking up a joint appointment in the Department of Economics and at the Business School. In one of his graduate theory courses, he handed out A’s to two students: Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer.

Later, after serving as chair of Harvard’s economics department and as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Spence returned to Stanford to become the dean of their Graduate School of Business and the Philip H. Knight professor in economics. He stepped down in 1999 to serve on the boards of both blue-chip companies and start-ups.

Spence continued his work as an economist—and was at last recognized with the 2001 Nobel Prize in economic sciences, an honor he shared with George Akerlof and Joseph Stiglitz.
SCIENTIST WINS BESSEL RESEARCH PRIZE

Navin Khaneja, assistant professor of electrical engineering, received one of ten Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Prizes from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences (DEAS) announced in April. Khaneja is a GSAS alumnus and received his PhD in applied mathematics in 2000. His work focuses on “developing methods for optimal control of quantum systems,” said a DEAS statement. “Many scientific tools require control over quantum phenomena, including existing technologies such as nuclear magnetic resonance, spectroscopy (used to understand the structure and dynamics of proteins), and future innovations such as quantum computers (designed to significantly increase computational power).

ARTS AND SCIENCES ACADEMY TAPS FAS FACULTY, GSAS ALUMNI

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences announced in April the election of its 225th class of fellows. Among the 196 new fellows are: Yve-Alain Bois, the Joseph Pulitzer Jr. professor of modern art; John Coatsworth, the Monroe Gutman professor of Latin American affairs and director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies; James Engell (AB ’73, PhD ’78), the Gurney professor of English literature and professor of comparative literature; William Kirby (PhD ’81), dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Edith Lowry (PhD ’82), director of the National Gallery of Art, and Renee Belfer professor of international affairs at the Kennedy School of Government were also elected.

Prominent GSAS alumni elected to the academy are: Glenn Lowry (PhD ’82), director of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Earl Powell III (PhD ’74), director of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; novelist Francine Prose (AB ’68, AM ’69, mathematics, GSA ’88, Junior Fellows Program), the Donner professor of science.

Other Harvard faculty named to the academy are: Medical School faculty Alfred Goldberg (PhD ’68, medical sciences), professor of cell biology; Louis Kunkel, professor of pediatrics and genetics; and Tom Rapoport, professor of cell biology. Jay Lorsch, Louis E. Kirstein professor of human relations at the Business School, and Stephen Walt, the Robert and Renee Belfer professor of international affairs at the Kennedy School of Government were also elected.

HARTL AND OTHER FACULTY ELECTED TO NATIONAL SCIENCES ACADEMY

The National Academy of Sciences elected 72 new members for “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research,” it was announced in May. Election to the 142-year-old academy is considered one of the highest honors for a US scientist or engineer. The academy, a private organization established in 1863, acts as a scientific advisor to the federal government. Among the new members is Daniel Hartl, Higgins professor of biology in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. His research interests include evolutionary genomics, molecular evolution, and population genetics. He has published 20 books, including most recently Genetics: Analysis of Genes and Genomes (2004, with E. W. Jones, 3rd ed.). He served as president of the Genetics Society of America (1989) and the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (2001).

Other Harvard scientists elected to the National Academy of Sciences are: Medical School faculty Christophe Benoist, professor of medicine; Tom Rapoport, professor of cell biology (an honorific spring for Professor Rapoport; see item above); Christine E. Seidman, professor of medicine and of genetics; and Calestous Juma, professor of the practice of international development at the Kennedy School of Government.

GSAS ALUMXI RECEIVE RADCLIFFE MEDALS

The 2005 group of Guggenheim fellows was announced in April. Among the 186 artists, scholars, and scientists selected from over 3,000 applicants, were: Marc Hauser, professor of psychology, for a project on the evolution of a moral instinct; John Huennergard (PhD ’79), professor of Semitic philology; for the creation of a historical grammar of biblical Hebrew; and Eugene Y. Wang (PhD ’97), the Gardner Cowles associate professor of history of art and architecture, for a project on ninth-century Chinese mandalas and reliquaries.

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GSAS ALUMX RECEIVE RADCLIFFE MEDALS

Susan Lindquist and Rita C. Sagalyn were among six women honored in June by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Alumnae Recognition Awards are presented annually to graduates “whose lives and spirits exemplify the value of a liberal arts education.” Lindquist (PhD ’77) is a professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the former director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. Her work in biochemistry has led to important advances for understanding disease and heredity. In 2004, Sagalyn (AM ’50) became the first woman to be inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneer Hall of Fame. She was honored for her pioneering flight experiments and satellite investigations into space dynamics.
CREATURES OF EMPIRE
How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America
By Virginia DeJohn Anderson, PhD ’84, history

Early colonists who brought various livestock with them encountered Native Americans who did not keep farm animals. The gradual result, writes Anderson, was a true clash of civilizations throughout New England and the Chesapeake region. King Philip’s War and Bacon’s Rebellion were deadly examples of the conflict, although the pattern continued long afterward. Anderson is an associate professor of history at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the author of New England’s Generation: The Great Migration and the Formation of Society and Culture in the 17th Century (1991).

ARCHITECTURE AND SUBURBIA
From English Villa to American Dream House, 1690–2000
By John Archer, PhD ’77, fine arts

The single-family detached house stands, literally and metaphorically, as a calling card for its owner’s identity—or what the owner wishes to project. Archer takes readers on a centuries-long journey through a history of homes, habitats, and their stature as more than just dwelling places. The author is a professor of cultural studies and comparative literature at the University of Minnesota. His previous book was The Literature of British Domestic Architecture, 1715–1842 (1985).

CIRCLE
Poems
By Victoria Chang, AM ’94, regional studies—East Asia

In this first collection, Chang drew upon Emerson’s 1841 essay “Circle” for her narrative concept. But where Emerson wrote, “the past is always swallowed and forgotten,” Chang reclaims her own history through poems on T’ang dynasty suicide, Maoist China and the Red Brigade, and her family’s relationship to the “new” China. Chang’s work has appeared in literary journals and in Best American Poetry 2005. She is the editor of the anthology Asian American Poetry: The Next Generation (2004).

VICTORY & VEXATION IN SCIENCE
Einstein, Bohr, Heisenberg, and Others
By Gerald Holton, PhD ’48, physics

More scientists are presenting ever more theories, proofs, and studies—but what is the attitude of these scientists toward their peers and their times, and what was that attitude of our more renowned researchers? Holton looks at the social and intellectual contexts in which scientists of the present and past approach their work. The author is the Mallinckrodt research professor of physics and research professor of the history of science at Harvard. His previous books include most recently Einstein, History, and Other Passions (1995).

ME MAY MARY
By Mary Cameron Kilgour, MPA ’73, PhD ’82, political economy and government

This heartrending but ultimately inspirational memoir comes from a career diplomat and recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Service Award in 1993. Kilgour describes growing up in a violent home in the 1950s, her subsequent removal to a home for girls, and the caring family and adults who guided her toward a successful career in academia and foreign service.
WEATHERS PERMITTING
Poems
By Stephen Sandy, PhD ’63, English and American literature and language

In his latest collection, Sandy brings his articulate language and clear-eyed vision to matters concerning children, landscape, love, and, in some cases, the weather. He is the author of 11 books of poetry, including *Surface Impressions* (2002) and *Black Box* (1999).

THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT
Literary Nationalism in the 1960s and 1970s
By James Edward Smethurst, PhD ’96, English and American literature and language

The Black Arts Movement was the cultural wing of the Black Power Movement, and had a major influence on popular and “high” arts. Smethurst describes the movement as an outcropping of a kind of nationalism: “an insider ideological stance…that casts a specific ‘minority’ group as a nation with a particular, if often disputed, national culture.” Here, Smethurst focuses on the literary, including the importance of writers such as Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, and Amiri Baraka; regional theater groups; and literary journals. Smethurst, an assistant professor of Afro-American studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is the author of *The New Red Negro: The Literary Left and African American Poetry, 1930–1946* (1999) and coeditor of *Left of the Color Line: Race, Radicalism, and 20th–Century Literature of the United States* (2003).

SONOITA PLAIN
Views from a Southwestern Grassland
Photographs by Stephen E. Strom, AB ’62, PhD ’64, astronomy; text by Carl E. Bock and Jane H. Bock

Alumni Books usually focuses on the words written by GSAS alumni. In this case, the point of interest is visual. Strom is associate director for science at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory; he’s also a photographer whose work resides in several major archives. For this new project, he teamed up with biologists Carl and Jane Bock to present a beautifully illustrated and written book on an important Arizona grassland—its ecological value, its majesty, and its historical place.

MORNING IN AMERICA
How Ronald Reagan Invented the 1980s
By Gil Troy, AB ’82, PhD ’88, history

Troy looks at the “Reaganization” of the United States that he maintains took place during the 40th President’s two terms in office. He makes the connection between Ronald Reagan’s politics, policies, and media savvy, and 1980s phenomena such as the popularization of Wall Street, the rapid rise of MTV and CNN, and the AIDS epidemic. It was an era of optimism but one that celebrated materialism and consumerism, and Troy argues that Reagan was the “Wizard of the American Id.” Troy is a professor of history at McGill University whose books include *Mr. and Mrs. President: From the Trumans to the Clintons* (2000) and *Affairs of State* (1997).

TIBETAN BUDDHISTS IN THE
MAKING OF MODERN CHINA
By Gray Tuttle, PhD ’02, Inner Asian and Altaic studies

One might be hard-pressed to imagine that Tibetan Buddhists could have had any impact on modern China. In fact, writes Tuttle, Buddhists have played a “crucial role” in China’s transition from empire to nation-state. The author is an assistant professor of Asian history at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Mass.).

— Compiled by Susan Lumenello

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, Byerly Hall 300, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3654. Questions? E-mail gsaa@fas.harvard.edu.
As a medical researcher, Hortensia Moreno felt her statistical skills needed strengthening. “Some of the papers I read contained new statistical methods that were unknown to me,” she explains. “I decided that I needed to update my knowledge and gain experience in statistical analysis as it applies to public health.”

In researching appropriate programs, she discovered that Harvard maintained an excellent biostatistics department. As luck would have it, not only did she get into Harvard, but she also became part of the first class of PhD students to benefit from a unique new fellowship opportunity.

Moreno joins several others attending GSAS as the result of a groundbreaking partnership between Harvard University and CONACYT—Mexico’s National Council of Science and Technology. The partnership, established in 2004, led to the creation of a premier fellowship program at Harvard for outstanding PhD students from Mexico.

In addition, Fundación México en Harvard, the philanthropic organization of Harvard alumni in Mexico, will provide funds to support the CONACYT–Harvard graduate fellowships. Both CONACYT and the Fundación intend that the partnership will ultimately benefit the people of Mexico.

Moreno’s interest in biostatistics is altruistic, too. “I hope to become an expert in biostatistics methods and apply my knowledge to the study of public health problems, with the aim of improving quality of life for people,” she says. “I hope to become a leader in the field and share my knowledge and experience with other colleagues and public health researchers.”

José Francisco Ursúa Remírez will join Moreno as a CONACYT fellow this fall when he undertakes study toward a PhD in economics. His love of economics grew from a fascination with the sophistication of the discipline, but also from the potential it holds to affect the lives of ordinary people.

“One reason I decided to study economics is because its highly challenging theoretical constructions, aimed at solving economic problems, can reach our concrete reality and improve the quality of human lives,” he says.

“Coming from a developing country that faces enormous challenges, this dynamic search for answers made the study of economics very appealing to me.”

Not only did Remírez study economics as an undergraduate, but he also earned a BA in law, demonstrating his lifelong penchant for learning. Ultimately, Remírez plans to seek a research career and knows that Harvard is the next step in attaining this goal.

“The opportunity to study for a PhD at Harvard is immensely valuable to me because it is an unparalleled start toward the research career that I seek,” he says. “I also want to take advantage of Harvard’s challenging academic environment to increase, as much as possible, my analytic and intellectual skills.”

CONACYT, Mexico’s foremost agency supporting graduate education, is composed of 27 public centers of research and technology. It seeks to strengthen scientific development and to guide the technological modernization of Mexico.

Established in 1989, Fundación México en Harvard preserves a long-standing commitment to the University and to graduate students, aiming to ensure that all Mexicans admitted to graduate and postgraduate study at Harvard receive adequate financial resources to pursue their education. It has supported nearly 500 scholarships for Mexican students, worth more than $3.5 million.

The inspiration for this fellowship program flows from the joint efforts of CONACYT’s Director General Jaime Parada and Fundación México en Harvard representatives Antonio Madero, MBA ’61, and Alfredo Elias Jr., MBA ’75.

“This is a model of cooperation between government interests and the priorities of our Mexican alumni population,” says Margot Gill, administrative dean of GSAS.

“This program allows us to fully fund Mexican students in all disciplines, so that they may achieve great things here at Harvard before bringing their skills to bear for the benefit of Mexico,” she adds.

To find out about supporting the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, please contact Katherine Christy at 1-800-VERITAS or at katherine_christy@harvard.edu.

Ann Hall is a senior writer in Harvard’s Office of Alumni Affairs and Development Communications.
Alumni Events and Notices

For more information on GSAS alumni matters, contact GSAS Alumni Relations (e-mail: gsaa@fas.harvard.edu; tel.: 617-495-5591), or visit the GSAS Website at www.gsas.harvard.edu/alumni.

Save the Date
The 2006 GSAS Alumni Weekend will be held on Friday, April 7–Saturday, April 8, in Cambridge. Check the GSAS Website under “Alumni” for details as the event nears, or e-mail gsaa@fas.harvard.edu.

Harvard Alumni World MasterCard Launched
A University-affiliated charge card has been launched with proceeds going to the Presidential Scholars initiative. This fund provides fellowships for graduate students pursuing careers in service to society. Benefits also accrue to cardholders. For more information and to sign up for a card, see www.haa.harvard.edu/.

Harvard Alumni Association Nominations
Alumni are welcome to submit nominations for the Harvard Board of Overseers, elected directors of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA), and recipients of the HAA Award and HAA Medal. Go to www.haa.harvard.edu/ for details.

Harvard@Home
“The Business of Baseball” features a compilation video of the 2004 Boston Red Sox World Series victory parade, as well as interviews with Boston Red Sox players, management, and fans as they celebrate the team’s first World Series win since 1918. Also featured is a pre-World Series panel discussion of America’s most popular sport from the perspectives of a team owner, sports attorney, and sports analyst; and a presentation by Janet Marie Smith, the Red Sox vice president of development and planning, on the history of America’s baseball stadiums and the future of Fenway Park, Major League Baseball’s smallest and oldest ballpark.

This program offers over two hours of video content, slides, and questions from the audience. To view the program, visit: http://athome.harvard.edu/dh/bob.html.