Photo Finish
Harvard’s 359th Commencement

Alumni Weekend: Celebrating Connections
The 2010 Centennial Medals
The Job Market: How We’re Faring
Alumni Weekend 2010
Celebrating connections, GSAS alumni returned to Cambridge for a talk by international health leader Paul Farmer, PhD ’90, anthropology, MD ’90, and faculty symposia on topics across the disciplines. The weekend also included a reunion for Harvard’s East Asia programs.

The 2010 Centennial Medals
The Graduate School’s highest alumni honor goes to Shakespeare scholar David Bevington, AB ’52, PhD ’59, English; East European historian Stephen Fischer-Galati, AB ’46, PhD ’49, history; economist Eric Maskin, AB ’72, PhD ’76, applied mathematics; and philosopher Martha Craven Nussbaum, PhD ’75, classical philology.

Commencement 2010
Celebrating the Graduate School’s newest alumni with images of a festive day in May.

The View from Here
Assessing today’s tough job market — and how Harvard’s new PhDs are navigating it.

Alumni Books
To ease your summer reading decisions, we offer pairings on subjects ranging from 20th-century literature to Chinese history to modern art.

On Development
Students and colleagues of the late Samuel P. Huntington, PhD ’51, government, honored the longtime Harvard professor and renowned political scientist by establishing a graduate fellowship in his memory.

On the cover: From left, Anahita Tafvizi, PhD physics, and Fabiano Romeiro, PhD computer science; Andrea Ault-Brutus, PhD health policy; grads in the Yard. Photographs by Martha Stewart.
Out of Bounds

In Harvard’s idiosyncratic parlance, “every tub on its own bottom” stands as shorthand for the proud independence of the University’s ten faculties and its other institutional units — and the distinctive cultures that flourish within each.

The phrase, describing the largely autonomous and decentralized financial and administrative organizations of the schools, reflects a structure that, in important ways, has made Harvard everything that it is today. It has allowed those disparate units to develop the expectations and teaching methods that are vital to their mission, strength, and identity.

And yet even as the individual schools have built distinguished reputations based on their own unique aims, Harvard University has been engaged in serious cross-faculty collaboration throughout its history. The capacity for such collaboration promises to be ever more relevant in the 21st century, when new methods and approaches to knowledge, teaching, and learning will be demanded.

Harvard has long recognized that to advance knowledge is necessarily to push the boundaries traditionally used to define it. The University-wide Interfaculty Initiatives (in which large-scale, topic-focused projects receive seed funding through the Office of the Provost), the Harvard University Science and Engineering Committee, the new trans-school Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology, and many successful joint degree programs all indicate serious interaction among our faculties.

Cross-disciplinary collaboration is everywhere at the Graduate School, no more vividly portrayed than in our 16 interfaculty PhD programs, which GSAS administers with other Harvard faculties. These include programs in the biomedical sciences (in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine); in architecture, landscape, and urban planning (with the Graduate School of Design); in health policy (with the schools of government, law, business, public health, and medicine); and in political economy and government, public policy, and social policy (with the Kennedy School).

For each of these programs, GSAS oversees admissions and confers degrees. But most important, the Graduate School works to enhance collaboration between the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the professional schools. Students receive a full grounding in the literature of an arts and sciences discipline, and they augment that study with training in the methodologies of the professions, gaining access to exceptional scholars across the University.

Professor Bruce Western, who directs the social policy PhD program — where students intensively study core methods in government or sociology — says it’s the “policy focus, growing out of the disciplines,” that distinguishes the program from a traditional political science or sociology degree. Students take advantage of all the disciplinary perspectives and intellectual resources of the University, Western says, engaging those resources to think about broad social problems that don’t fit neatly into any one field, such as poverty, discrimination, and enduring inequality — issues that affect everything from housing to education to the criminal justice system.

Our interfaculty programs meet the needs of a growing body of students whose interests and aspirations are not fully served by doctoral studies in a single field. And they provide a useful model of cross-faculty collaboration for the University as a whole.

Harvard’s excellence has been, and will continue to be, firmly located in the excellence of our schools and their distinctive cultures. For that reason, I am convinced that an ever stronger set of relationships among our faculties — capitalizing on the exceptional intellectual resources housed within them — has the potential to significantly bolster the schools, encourage innovation among our faculty and students, and support the collective priorities of the University in the 21st century.
Even more than most similar gatherings, this spring’s annual Alumni Weekend celebration at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences focused on connections — connections among cultures, governments, ideas, and people. Delivering the keynote address at Alumni Day, on Saturday, April 10, international health leader Paul Farmer, PhD ’90, anthropology, MD ’90, described his vision of how research universities can serve as a “living link” to developing countries, arming them with the tools to fight poverty, disease, and despair. And on Friday, April 9, graduate alumni of Harvard’s East Asia programs came together for a truly global reunion that featured a series of interactive panel discussions — featuring faculty and alumni — on Asian governance, culture, food, medicine, arts, technology, and media. Read on, and mark your calendar for next year’s Alumni Day, April 2, 2011.
The Faculty Club, traditional base for Alumni Weekend festivities, was closed this year, so alumni got a chance to relive their student days around Harvard Yard. The morning keynote on Alumni Day was in Emerson Hall, as usual, but lunch was at Dudley House, the graduate student center, located in Lehman Hall. Afterward, everyone headed to the Science Center to sample an interdisciplinary menu of faculty symposia—on photography and art history, the rise of multiracialism in the United States, the genetics of aging, the role of cooking in human evolution, challenges of the Internet age, and the art of making films about science. And for the East Asia reunion, following lunch at Loeb House, alumni spent the afternoon in one of Harvard’s newest buildings, the Center for Government and International Studies, on Cambridge Street.

At left, Paul Farmer greets Reserve Coffy, a survivor of the Haiti earthquake, and his daughter-in-law, Yakini Ajanaku-Coffy. Reserve Coffy’s wife was severely injured in the quake; with Farmer’s help, the couple is now receiving treatment in Boston for ailments that include severe post-traumatic stress.

Above, clockwise, Cara Hugabonne, AM ‘02, regional studies—East Asia, and Jim Beirne, AM ‘89, regional studies—East Asia, brave the rain to get to Loeb House for the East Asia reunion; Edward Altshuler, PhD ’60, celebrates his 50th Reunion at Alumni Day; chatting over lunch at Dudley House.
LUNCH AT DUDLEY HOUSE, SYMPOSIA AT THE SCIENCE CENTER — GSAS ALUMS WERE ALL OVER CAMPUS, RELIVING MEMORIES OF STUDENT DAYS.

Clockwise from top left, Kathleen Adams and Gregory Jones, PhD ’06, physics, in the Science Center; Mia de Kuijper, MPA ’83, PhD ’83, economics, hosted a career-building breakfast for recent alums; Daniel Johnson, AM ’82, East Asian history, AM ’84, business economics, chats with a group of visiting scholars from China at the East Asia reunion; the dining hall at Dudley House was the site of this year’s Alumni Day luncheon.
A CALL TO ACTION
Farmer Envisions Harvard as a Bridge to the World

“Anybody who is involved in Haiti can tell you exactly where they were at 4:53 in the afternoon of January 12,” said Paul Farmer, PhD ’90, anthropology, MD ’90, the Maude and Lillian Presley Professor of Social Medicine in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. As a founding director of Partners in Health (PIH), the renowned global health care organization, Farmer had done critical work in Haiti for more than 25 years, and he had grown to love the country as a second homeland.

As he recounted in his Alumni Day keynote address, Farmer was reading David Halberstam’s The Best and the Brightest when a call came in telling him that there had been an earthquake. He had just returned from Haiti, having spent the holidays in Port au Prince with his family. Like many people, he told himself that the damage couldn’t really be that bad; the country, after all, had endured many natural disasters in the past. When he heard that the national palace — a building he had just visited with his children — had collapsed, “I didn’t believe it,” he said. It wasn’t until later that evening that he began to understand the significance of the event — that “the city was laid waste, just on that one day.”

Partners in Health was formed with a mission to “stand in solidarity with people who were facing both poverty and disease,” said Farmer, who recently was appointed UN special deputy envoy to Haiti by former president Clinton. “It was all about building local capacity.” January 12 demonstrated both the success of the PIH strategy and the vast amount of work still to do.

As Farmer said, the PIH infrastructure — “Haitian and Haitian-run” — had grown to include thousands of community health workers, 100 doctors, 600 nurses, and a string of public hospitals. Those hospitals “proved to be a treasure” in the days after the earthquake, but the logistics of providing trauma care in an underserved and now decimated urban setting were overwhelming. For as long as he’s been on “the Harvard-Haiti trajectory,” as Farmer calls his well-worn path from Boston to Port au Prince and back, he has thought about what it is that connects, or could connect, those two very different worlds. In the aftermath of the earthquake, when 50 percent of all US households donated to Haitian relief efforts, those connections, real and potential, surged back into view.

“Most of my work over the past 10 years has been, how do we deliver the technology that we have to the people who need it most? This is a major question for every research university in this country, and, to me, the major question facing Harvard. We have knowledge, and part of what we do with that knowledge is transmit it to the next generation. But so much of this knowledge also has relevance to the problems facing the world today.”

Standing with Haiti — as Farmer called it, accompanying Haiti in its rebuilding — means thinking creatively about jobs, schools, health care infrastructure, and environmental restoration, among other problems. Harvard has something to contribute to every aspect of that discussion, he argued.

“This is an island of privilege,” he said. “How can we be a living link to the world — whether you’re a historian who works in archives or a physician who provides clinical care? How do we do that as a research university in the 21st century?”
Lively discussion, along with laughter, reminiscence, and warm collegiality, characterized Harvard's first reunion for alumni of its graduate programs in East Asian studies, held on April 9. The day featured panels on Asian democracy and governance, arts and culture, and health, medicine, and food. The capstone was a roundtable discussion with Beijing-based journalists Evan Osnos, AB '98, from The New Yorker, and Gady Epstein, AB '94, from Forbes, who shared stories of politics, media, money-making, and activism in contemporary China.

The University’s most eminent scholars of Asia were on hand to kick off the day’s events and welcome alumni to lunch at Loeb House. Arthur Kleinman, AM ’74, anthropology, talked about how Harvard’s contemporary Asia scholarship — based both in departments and in research centers, pursued on terrain that is decentralized and entrepreneurial as well as collaborative — is “projecting Asia more effectively at Harvard, and Harvard more effectively in Asia.” Kleinman is Victor and William Fung Director of the Harvard University Asia Center and Esther and Sidney Rabb Professor of Anthropology (in addition to holding appointments at Harvard Medical School).

Henry Rosovsky, PhD ’59, economics, former dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, reminisced about “how far we have come since the dawn of area studies” in the late 1940s and 1950s. Rosovsky, the Louis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor Emeritus, recalled that language studies were then generally poor, that economics was mostly uninterested in area specialties, and that regional studies had a very strong political or national interest component. In the early 1950s, China specialist John Fairbank had even urged graduate students to keep a diary of all of their activities in case political pressure was ever brought down, Rosovsky said.

William Kirby, PhD ’81, history, another former dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, also chronicled the effort to “make Harvard less of a colonial remnant and more of a global actor.” Kirby, T. M. Chang Professor of China Studies and director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, gave credit for that progress to “field-builders” like Fairbank and Edwin Reischauer, “whose work endures to this day.”

One of the proofs of that legacy, Kirby said, is the new Harvard Shanghai Center, the first University-wide facility in East Asia, “a wonderful center of learning and teaching at the crossroads of Asia.”
As perhaps the leading editor and critic of Shakespeare and early modern drama of his generation, David Bevington’s influence is deeply felt, and not just among his own devoted former students, who revere him for his generous mentorship. Legions of other, more anonymous, beneficiaries can be found in high school and college classrooms everywhere, and on stages around the world — anywhere that Shakespeare is encountered and embraced.
Bevington is the Phyllis Fay Horton Distinguished Service Professor, Emeritus, in the Humanities at the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 1967. Among his many achievements, he is editor of the 29-volume Bantam Shakespeare, originally published in 1988 and recently updated, and of Longman’s Complete Works of Shakespeare, sixth edition, from 2009.

He is also the senior editor of the Revels Plays (from Manchester University Press), which publishes critical editions of the plays of Shakespeare’s contemporaries, and the Revels Student Editions. And he was the senior editor of the Norton Anthology of Renaissance Drama, published in 2002.

Bevington’s authored books include Tudor Drama and Politics (1968); Action is Eloquence: Shakespeare’s Language of Gesture (1985); and Shakespeare’s Ideas: More Things in Heaven and Earth (2008). “His work has set the standard for both historical, textual scholarship and intellectual adventurousness,” says Paul Yachnin, Tomlinson Professor of Shakespeare Studies at McGill University. Indeed, he has been “foundational in moving the field of Shakespeare and early modern drama studies toward the various rich historicisms that have animated it in recent years,” says his former student David Scott Kastan, the George M. Bodman Professor of English at Yale, who adds, “His impact is everywhere evident in recent scholarship.”

And Bevington’s productivity continues: He is one of three senior editors of a forthcoming Cambridge edition of The Works of Ben Jonson, and he is preparing Murder Most Foul: The History of Hamlet for Oxford University Press.

“David is indefatigable,” says his longtime colleague Richard Strier, PhD ’76, the Frank L. Sulzberger Distinguished Service Professor at Chicago. “When I tell people that he is retired, they are amazed, since he teaches more than most (unretired) faculty do, and loves it. He also continues to pour out published work. Everyone wonders: does this man ever sleep?”

Stephen Fischer-Galati | AB ’46, PhD ’49, history

Perhaps more than anyone else, Stephen Fischer-Galati is responsible for establishing the field of East European studies in America and around the world. By virtue of his own research, and as the preeminent publisher in the field, Fischer-Galati is a scholar’s scholar, a generous builder of knowledge, without whom so much that is vital about our understanding of pre-and post-Communist European society would never have come to light.

Fischer-Galati, Distinguished University Professor, Emeritus, at the University of Colorado at Boulder, was for more than 40 years the editor of East European Quarterly, a vibrant journal he founded to encourage dialogue between and among the many scholars working independently on particular European nations. He is also the founding editor of East European Monographs, an imprint that during the past four decades brought out nearly 800 scholarly volumes from most of the leading historians in the area.

“There are those people who spend all their lives doing their own writing and their own work, and there are others who share,” says Roman Szporluk, Harvard’s Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History, Emeritus. “Stephen is one who shares. He has been an inspirer, and an organizer, and a mobilizer of others to produce work that would be of lasting significance.”

Through the Monographs, “he published more books on Eastern Europe than a dozen major university presses combined,” says Steven Béla Várady, McAnulty Distinguished Professor of European History at Duquesne University. “Without Stephen, the major libraries of the world would have very little on East Central Europe and the neighboring regions, and the world would be that much poorer.”

Born in Bucharest, Fischer-Galati’s own scholarly interests centered on twentieth-century Romania. His major works include The New Romania: From People’s Democracy to Socialist Republic (1967), Man, State, and Society in East European History (1970), The Balkan Revolutionary Tradition (1981), and Eastern Europe and the Cold War (1994). Among his many international honors, he has received the Doctor Honoris Causa from Poland’s Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and from Romania’s University of Craiova, and he has been decorated with the highest civilian honors of both Romania and Hungary. He has also been president of the International Commission for Slavic and East European Studies and president of the Romanian Studies Association.
Eric Maskin | AB ’72, PhD ’76, applied mathematics

As a Harvard undergraduate entranced by what he has called the “striking beauty” of mathematics, Eric Maskin stumbled upon a course called “information economics,” taught by Kenneth Arrow, a 1972 Nobel Prize winner who later became Maskin’s PhD advisor. Among other topics from the frontier of economic theory, the course explored Leonid Hurwicz’s work in the emerging field of mechanism design — a revelation to the young Maskin.

He won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2007, along with Hurwicz and his Harvard Graduate School classmate Roger Myerson, PhD ’76, for helping to lay the foundations of that field he’d stumbled upon in those early days at Harvard. Mechanism design theory has had a broad impact, both in academia — in subjects such as incentive theory, game theory, and political science — and in the real world of utility regulation, executive pay structures, and election design. Much of Maskin’s early work was in the area of implementation theory, which addresses questions of whether, when, and how social goals can be implemented. A vast literature on the subject has since developed, influenced by Maskin’s groundbreaking analysis.

Maskin has been the Albert O. Hirschman Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study since July 2000. For the 15 years prior to that, he had been on the economics faculty at Harvard, part of a remarkable, probably unrivaled group of senior theorists.

“A great scholar is one who can identify good research questions and then, with great care and thought, begin to uncover some of their answers,” says co-laureate Roger Myerson, the Glen A. Lloyd Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago. “By this vital standard, I can testify, Eric Maskin is truly one of the greatest scholars I have ever known. Since I was a student and found him already waiting outside our advisor’s office, I have often had the experience of finding what seemed to me an important new research question, only to discover that Eric had already been working on it. His work is always deep and rigorous, yielding fresh insights into the subtle problems of social science. His impact on economic theory has been immense.”

Martha Craven Nussbaum | PhD ’75, classical philology

Martha Nussbaum once told an interviewer that among the great comforts of her life were Mahler, Henry James, John Stuart Mill, the poetry of Louise Glück, and the Chicago White Sox. That is a clear signaling of her wide-ranging and vividly lived passions — though it is, of course, woefully incomplete.

One of this country’s most prominent public intellectuals, Nussbaum’s interests span the disciplines of philosophy, classics, law, religion, and political science. Her writings have explored ethics and shame, gender equality and animal rights, and education and democracy (to name some favorite topics).

Nussbaum is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, appointed in philosophy, the law school, and the divinity school. Her work, according to Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow, focuses on three big questions: What is the best account of the human experience for purposes of moral philosophy, and how should that account inform law and public policy? How can a conception of human capabilities inform measurements of welfare and of what people can demand of their governments? And what does the study of the humanities afford legal studies, the academy, and society in general?

“In addressing these questions,” Minow says, “she challenges me and so many others to use our minds and hearts to pursue what most matters.”

Known for her strong advocacy of the ideas she believes in, she has often set the academic world abuzz, on all sides of an issue and its politics. Her two newly published books illustrate her bold thinking. From Disgust to Humanity: Sexual Orientation and Constitutional Law, published earlier this year, identifies a “politics of disgust” at the root of opposition to gay marriage. And her latest book, Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities, is a powerful argument that threats to the humanities may have dire consequences not just to education, but to our way of life.

Nussbaum’s friend and colleague Diane Wood, a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, describes the impact of such scholarship as broad and energizing. Nussbaum “has added a human dimension to the legal issues that judges like me face every day,” says Wood. “Her work informs a wide range of social and legal policies, including health care, education, and welfare, just to name a few.”
The 359th Commencement

On a warm, sunny, and — for the first time — May Commencement day, Harvard’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences awarded 354 Doctor of Philosophy degrees and 66 Master of Art/Master of Science/Master of Engineering degrees. The 420 students who participated in Commencement activities on May 27 came from 48 departments or programs. One GSAS alumna was among the ten people (including Justice David Souter and actress Meryl Streep) awarded honorary degrees during Morning Exercises: Susan Lindquist, PhD ’76, biology, Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and professor of biology at MIT (and past GSAS Centennial Medalist).

1 Claude-Andre Faucher-Giguere, who earned a PhD in astronomy, inspects the diploma that makes it official.

2 Kobe Dufu, who earned his PhD in cell and developmental biology, is surrounded by proud family members after the degree ceremony.

3 Hillary Downs, AM, Middle Eastern studies, accepts congratulations on stage at Sanders Theatre.

4 Gabriella Berzin, whose PhD is in Near Eastern languages and civilizations, shows off her accomplishment — and her three daughters.

5 Amanda (Mia) Bagneris and Lyndon Gill, who both earned PhDs in African American studies, react to the proceedings at Sanders.

Photographs by Martha Stewart
6 Commencement marshals preparing to lead the GSAS procession into Harvard Yard for Morning Exercises: from left, Anahita Tafvizi, PhD, physics; S. Andrew Schroeder, PhD, philosophy; Denise Ho, PhD, history; Fabiano Romeiro, PhD, computer science; Luigi Adamo, PhD, biological and biomedical sciences; Christina Warinner, PhD, anthropology; Hillary Downs, AM, Middle Eastern studies; and Xin Yi Lim, AM, regional studies—East Asia.

7 Candi K. Cann, whose PhD is in the study of religion, celebrated with her daughter.

8 GSAS candidates process down Oxford Street to the Yard.

9 David Deming, who got a PhD in public policy, joins the festivity in the Yard.

10 Honorary degree recipients Meryl Streep and retired Justice David Souter, who delivered the Commencement address at Afternoon Exercises.
In a forbidding economic climate that has seen employment in all sectors stagnate or decline, the state of the academic job market has been the subject of particularly gloomy prognostication. On the one hand, there isn’t much new in that, since full-time academic jobs have long been scarce, as anyone who has been on the market knows. And yet the severity of this economic crisis — the anxiety of watching institutions downsize before our eyes — has given rise to a sense that we’re seeing a fundamental change in higher education, making familiar notions of how academic careers develop seem quaint.

At Harvard, the news right now is better than the headlines would predict. Employment rates for exiting PhD recipients have remained consistent for years [see box], and the 2009–2010 job market was by many accounts better than expected for many departments. And the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has developed a strong series of professional development programs, some centrally located, many department-specific, that have fostered community for students facing tough career decisions and market challenges.

“The Graduate School has significant experience with difficult job markets, so we feel well prepared to address the immediate concerns,” says GSAS Dean Allan Brandt. “At the same time, there is wide recognition that this is only the initial stage of a broader shift within higher education.” Harvard President Drew Faust, speaking to GSAS students last year, intimated something similar when she described the challenges to traditional university funding models and the uncertain effects of “what may turn out to be a real reconfiguration in how higher education has to think about funding itself.”

Since the collapse of the stock market in the fall of 2008, a variety of factors have conspired to produce the stingiest job market in memory: dramatic declines in endowments at leading private universities, cuts to funding of public institutions, and declines in individual nest eggs, which prompt retirement delays. Earlier this year, scholarly associations in history, economics, and English and foreign languages all released data showing alarming, double-digit drops in the percentage of jobs available in their respective disciplines. The sciences, where the market is affected both by public money and by corporate bottom lines, have not been spared.

According to Laura Malisheski, the assistant director of graduate student and PhD advising at the Office of Career Services (OCS) in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, many job seekers in 2008–2009 felt like an earthquake had struck. “People would apply for jobs, get to different stages in the process, and find that suddenly — whoops — the ground opened up and the job didn’t exist anymore. It was devastating.”

As the ramifications became clear, resources were mobilized quickly at the Graduate School, which worked with OCS to launch a series of programs about how to stay afloat in a challenging market. “What we’ve been telling people is to make a Plan B and a Plan C,” says Malisheski. That includes investigating postdoctoral fellowships, visiting assistant professorships, and international opportunities. “You have to be flexible, you have to broaden the ways in which you identify opportunities, and you have to stay engaged,” she says, since a tenure-track offer, if it comes, might be a few years away.

OCS reports that its programs drew their largest audiences ever this past year, during a market that was equally challenging, if not as maddening as in 2008–2009. “There were fewer instances of posted positions being pulled off the market — but there were fewer positions overall,” Malisheski says. The bright spots? Smaller colleges with less endowment dependence, growth in international opportunities, growth in postdoctoral positions in the humanities and social sciences, and, outside of the academy, growth in consulting positions, particularly around health policy and finance.

Harvard’s year-old College Fellows Program exemplifies the growing importance of postdocs outside the sciences, helping new
Amid Market Turbulence, A Steady Course

According to the annual Harvard PhD employment reports prepared by GSAS Fellowships Director Cynthia Verba, the turbulence in the job market made surprisingly little discernible difference in the eventual rate of employment for the Graduate School’s 2008–2009 PhD cohort. GSAS polls its exiting PhD recipients about their employment prospects as they complete their degrees, and then it connects with them again three years later to find out how the picture has changed. Exit results for PhD recipients from 2008–2009, when it was assumed the impact of the downturn would be apparent, vary little from those of the five preceding years.

The academic employment rate in the humanities was 58 percent for that cohort, compared with 59 percent for the 2003–2008 cohorts (with employment defined as any academic job, tenure-track or otherwise, and excluding postdoctoral fellowships). In the social sciences, the academic employment rate was 44 percent, compared with 45 percent cumulatively.

The academic employment rate in the natural sciences was, as usual, much lower; since more than half of all exiting PhDs became postdoctoral fellows. Across all departments, 53 percent of the employed members of the 2008–2009 cohort were moving into tenure-track positions.

Surveys conducted at the three-year-out mark typically reveal a considerably brighter employment picture, and the most recent cohort to reach that juncture, the 2005–2006 cohort, was no exception. Employment climbed into the 90 percent range in both the social sciences and the humanities. In the natural sciences, employment jumped from 30 percent to 62 percent, with another 35 percent in postdocs. For those in academic employment, the figures for tenure-track positions grew over the three-year period; in the social sciences, the figure went from 45 percent to 71 percent, and in the humanities from 36 percent to 65 percent.

PhDs find shelter and resource-strapped institutions meet teaching needs. This past year, the program hired 21 fellows — from Harvard and elsewhere — for one-year teaching and research appointments, giving these scholars time to work on publishing projects as they burnished course-development and teaching credentials.

Matthew Baggetta, PhD ’09, sociology, says that when he hit the market in the fall of 2008, the opportunities were “dismal at best. There were probably a third of the number of jobs as regularly available, and then half of those disappeared.”

As a College Fellow in 2009–2010, he developed and taught three courses, structuring the load so he had time to put together thoughtful packages for the positions that opened in the fall. Last spring he accepted a tenure track offer from Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs, one of eight College Fellows to land tenure-track jobs. (Seven others have been reappointed for next year.)

If the market in sociology remains tight, markets in other disciplines, responding to unique circumstances, vary widely. Some, like statistics and Middle Eastern studies, are surprisingly robust; in others, like history, Harvard students are outperforming the down market. “It’s important that we remain attuned to the specifics, even as we follow closely the substantial shift in the big picture,” says GSAS Administrative Dean Margot Gill. “There is such diversity across fields, with highly varied tracks, and we need to be thoughtful about that when thinking about the overall job market.”

The English Department, which might have expected a daunting market, instead had its best year in memory in 2009–2010. Eight students were on the market, and seven were successful; six received tenure-track offers. “On the one hand, the market is getting worse,” says James Simpson, Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Professor of English and director of graduate studies. “On the other hand, Harvard graduates are getting the jobs. It may be hubris to state that so confidently, but it is a fact about the year just gone.”

The department has institutionalized a vigorous professional development series aimed at encouraging students to “set aside any sense of disabling discretion, to be candid about their interests and candid about their successes,” Simpson says.

Two placement officers work closely with candidates on the job market. In a series of mock interviews, students in the placement group play the roles of interviewee, interviewers, and observers, with a detailed post-mortem afterward. “It is a full-dress interview,” Simpson says. “It’s quite scary. The idea is to have all students jump through this hoop of fire at least two or three times before they go into the real interview.”

In the Astronomy Department, the job market has been affected by declines in NASA’s budget and by a flat budget at the National Science Foundation, where the proposal success rate in astrophysics is now less than 20 percent, says John Huchra, Robert O. & Holly Thomis Doyle Professor of Cosmology and the director of graduate studies. Given those pressures, the department feels it had an outstanding year, placing all eight of its PhD graduates into good postdocs. “One of the things that is important in our job market is that astronomy is a growing field worldwide,” says Huchra. “So a number of students are taking jobs outside the country — and that helps.

“I’ve also tried very hard to make sure that the department is open to people taking jobs outside of academia,” he continues. “The production rate of PhDs in many fields far exceeds the reproduction rate of new faculty lines — in astronomy it’s about three to one. However, we produce people who are extremely employable in other fields, including industry and research laboratories.”

Flexibility and early preparedness are key, in astronomy and across the spectrum. But as longer-term, structural shifts in the funding of higher education start to reveal their impact, questions about the size of PhD programs, their fundamental intent, and career expectations will need to be addressed. Harvard, says Brandt, will actively engage in the evolving discussion over such questions. “We have a responsibility to our students to shape that debate,” he says.
Editor’s Note: Colloquy offers summer pairings in this issue — books that beg to be considered and enjoyed alongside one another. Happy reading.

Adventures Among Ants (University of California Press, 2010) is an incisive look at family Formicidae that introduces the neophyte to marauder ants, army ants, and leafcutter ants, among many others. It’s also a good read — part personal memoir, part rousing adventure story. Like his graduate school mentor, E. O. Wilson, Mark W. Moffett (PhD ’87, organismic and evolutionary biology) is a keen interpreter of the intricate social choreography of this insect world. The book, illustrated with Moffett’s striking color photographs, benefits from his understated sense of humor. (A YouTube search reveals that Stephen Colbert is a fan.) In discussing his photos of insect life, for instance, Moffett notes that before leaving for the field, he purchased “a how-to book on photographing supermodels, Cosmopolitan-style” and “miniaturized” the techniques.

With Anthill (W. W. Norton & Co., 2010), E. O. Wilson (PhD ’55, biology) — two-time Pulitzer Prize—winner and Pellegrino University Professor of Entomology emeritus — makes his impressive debut as a novelist. Anthill begins as a coming-of-age story set in southern Alabama, in a landscape of old-growth forest and the fictional Lake Nokobee. These early chapters warmly evoke a world of piney woods and hushpuppies, but the novel takes its protagonist north to Harvard Law School and then home for a high-stakes effort to save the lake and its environs. In between, an account of the growth and struggles of ant colonies near the lake (from the ants’ point of view) provides both a mirror and contrast to the larger human story.

Since the 1980s, anthropology has been in crisis, exploring its own methods and claims to knowledge. Fieldwork Is Not What It Used to Be (edited by James D. Faubion and George E. Marcus, Cornell University Press, 2009), established scholars address larger interpretive themes, while younger ones recount the challenges of their graduate research. Thus, Jennifer Hamilton recalls the frustrations of working in a highly politicized setting (involving Native Americans in British Columbia) in which subjects’ responses felt more “scripted” than candid — yet she concludes that the experience furthered her understanding in unexpected ways. Coeditor Marcus (PhD ’76, anthropology) views first fieldwork experiences not simply as opportunities to practice methods or as professional rites of passage, but as a way of beginning to participate in a culture of anthropological craftsmanship.

Being There: The Fieldwork Encounter and the Making of Truth (edited by John Borneman and Abdellah Hammoudi, University of California Press, 2009) is a collection of essays that speak, like those of Faubion and Marcus, to a field examining its own methodology and raison d’être. Although the subtitle alludes to “the Making of Truth,” its essays don’t convey “capital T truth” so much as smaller, sharply observed epiphanies. Harvard anthropologist Sally Falk Moore vividly reflects on her experiences researching the Chagga people as Tanzania’s socialist government whimsically whipsawed the rules of the game, and coeditor Borneman (PhD ’89, anthropology) concludes that fieldwork remains central to anthropological understanding, in no small part because it is “the beginning of a process of mutual subject discovery and change.”
After Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison worked for forty years on another, never-completed book. In Ralph Ellison in Progress (Yale University Press, 2010), Adam Bradley (PhD ’03, English) begins with the mystery of this unfinished novel but opens far broader vistas. He reveals Ellison as a writer who was continually “in progress,” chronicling his artistic choices (including those the novelist proved unable to make). The result is a bracing exploration of his creative achievements and shortcomings. As coeditor of Three Days Before the Shooting ...— the posthumously published version of Ellison’s second novel, which reflects the author’s final vision of its plot and focus — Bradley has a thorough knowledge of Ellison and the onion-like layers of his work.

In recent years, Hemingway — with his terse prose and fine hard love of bullfights and boxing — has faced critical suspicion: some would oust him from “the canon” altogether. With Art Matters: Hemingway, Craft, and the Creation of the Modern Short Story (Louisiana State University Press, 2010), Robert Paul Lamb rises to his defense. Lamb (AM ’85, English, PhD ’88, history of American civilization) focuses less on Hemingway’s oft-parodied prose style than on his impact on short-story writing, highlighting the ways in which he draws readers emotionally into his stories. Crafting short stories as if debriding a wound, Hemingway simplified his language, preferred concrete description over the emotional or abstract, and eliminated a distinct narrator’s voice — all of which force readers to invest the stories with their own experiences and feelings.

In The Blacks of Premodern China (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010), Don Wyatt (AM ’78, regional studies—East Asia, PhD ’84, East Asian languages and civilizations) analyzes Chinese perceptions of otherness, not any specific black population, noting that premodern Chinese emphasized physical differences less than those of culture (as in “we have it — you don’t”). The term Kunlun, for instance, was applied to Africans — but originally designated Malays and other South Asians. Though the sources are extremely scarce for the early portion of his story, contact with Africans increased during the 1400s: The great explorer Zheng He first reached East Africa early in that century; European traders, with black servants, appeared in China’s ports; and some Cantonese merchants bought African slaves. This work illuminates a little-known aspect of China’s past.

Philip A. Kuhn’s Chinese Among Others: Emigration in Modern Times (Rowman and Littlefield, 2009) is monumental — recounting the emigration of tens of millions of Chinese over the course of five centuries to South Asia and Australasia, North America, the Caribbean, and beyond. Kuhn (AB ’54, PhD ’64, East Asian languages and civilizations) describes regional recruitment patterns, social organization overseas, and the emigrants’ reception, noting how great an impact the chosen destination had on the emigrant experience. In addition, by interleaving his narrative with vivid primary sources and individual vignettes, Kuhn — Harvard’s Higginson Professor of History and of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Emeritus — integrates human and personal elements that could easily be lost in so vast a narrative. The result is a masterful work of historical interpretation.

Tracing the ecological sensibilities of twentieth-century architecture, From Bauhaus to Ecohouse: A History of Ecological Design (Louisiana State University Press, 2010) focuses on the role of ideas more than the practical spread of eco-friendly techniques (for example, the use of passive solar heating). Peder Anker (PhD ’98, history of science) begins with Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus School, offering a useful corrective to Tom Wolfe’s venomous From Bauhaus to Our House. In addition, his wide-ranging narrative addresses the autocratic utopian H. G. Wells, inventor-technocrat Buckminster Fuller, various participants in the extended debates over space colonization, and the scientific-hippie nexus that was Biosphere 2.

Psycchedelic: Optical and Visionary Art Since the 1960s (MIT Press, 2010) is the dazzling catalogue for an op art exhibition that runs through the summer at the San Antonio Museum of Art, where editor David S. Rubin (AM ’74, fine arts) is contemporary art curator. The plates burst with iridescent colors, geometric op-art draftsmanship, and surreal invocations to transcendence — or the abyss. In his interpretive essay, Rubin evokes the cultural context for this visually vibrant and rhythmic style and explains the interrelationships among the artists. Most important, for those who regard psychedelic art as a day-glo time capsule from the sixties, he shows its continuing stylistic vitality. &}

Reviews by James Clyde Sellman, PhD ’93, history
SUCCESSFUL? THANK YOUR MENTOR

“Mentoring is an ability not to foist yourself upon your younger colleagues, but to somehow bring out of them the strengths they have,” says Professor Everett Mendelsohn, whose success in striking that balance prompted the Graduate Student Council to name its annual mentoring award in his honor. This year’s presentation of that award — the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award — was an especially festive affair, taking place for the first time in Dudley House and drawing faculty and students from across the Graduate School’s disciplines.

The recipients, nominated by graduate students and feted on April 13, were Professors Alán Aspuru-Guzik in Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Norman Daniels of Global Health and Population, Farish Jenkins of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Michele Lamont of Sociology, and Elaine Scarry of English.

On hand to deliver remarks was David Kaiser, PhD ’97, physics, PhD ’00, history of science, whose work at MIT (where he is an associate professor in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society) examines the changing means of training graduate students in the sciences over the last century.

“One immediately finds that graduate training is a kind of moving target,” Kaiser said. “Basic questions such as ‘What should all physicists know, and how should we teach them?’ have varied enormously from place to place, often over rather short time-scales. ‘Scientists are not born,’ I often find myself saying, ‘they are made’ — and the means of making young scholars can tell us a great deal about the history and culture of institutions and disciplines, as they have varied across time and space.”

But there are some constants, Kaiser said. “All of us are here today because of mentors who have invested in us,” he told an audience that included not just the award-winning mentors and their students, but many of the 45 professors nominated for the honor. “When I look back on my own education,” Kaiser added, “I am amazed by my good fortune.”

INNOVATION IN THE LAB

“This is a wonderful story of collaboration and imagination,” said Harvard President Drew Faust, moments before cutting a ribbon to open the new Harvard Center for Biological Imaging (CBI) on May 11.

The unique facility, housed in the BioLabs at 16 Divinity Avenue, is the brainchild of Jeff Lichtman, a professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB). As a longtime imaging specialist, he wanted to find a solution to a seemingly intractable problem: microscopes are enormously expensive (“they literally cost what a house costs,” he said), but, like computers and cell phones, they go out of date in three or four years.

“We needed an evergreen imaging facility,” said Lichtman. With MCB assistant professor Sharad Ramanathan and chair Catherine Dulac, the Higgins Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, he proposed creating a center with an innovative open architecture. Rather than sequestering individual microscopes in closed rooms, the new center’s scopes are at stations in an open space, with direct-down lighting and easily movable 5-foot-high partitions.

Then they developed what Lichtman calls a “health club” model to govern use of the center. “Normally, facilities work on an hourly rate, typically $30 to $60 per hour to use the equipment,” he explained. “Labs wanting to use the CBI will purchase annual memberships at $2,000 per year per person. That works out to about an hour-and-a-half a week at $30 an hour, and most labs use way, way more than 1.5 hours per week,” Lichtman said.

Rather than purchasing microscopes, the CBI worked with Carl Zeiss Microimaging to establish a leasing arrangement that not only guarantees that the microscopes will be replaced every 24 to 36 months, but also provides for a Zeiss engineer to be on site at the CBI full time, maintaining the delicate instruments and helping researchers.

The new imaging facility is open to researchers from across the Cambridge and Longwood campuses, as well as to those with laboratories in affiliated hospitals.
When Samuel P. Huntington died in December 2008 at the age of 81, obituaries worldwide chronicled the achievements of this prodigious scholar of political science. Those who knew him from the classroom, as Harvard’s Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor, remembered him as a teacher and mentor of lasting influence. In recognition of that impact, a group of them — former students and colleagues alike — established a new graduate fellowship, the Samuel Huntington Fellowship Fund, to support students in the social sciences at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The fund will provide general aid to PhD students who demonstrate academic excellence in the social sciences—including international affairs, American politics, and political science. The hope is that Huntington’s legacy will carry forward in the work of these young scholars.

Nearly a million dollars has been raised thus far by a committee of Harvard alumni and friends who knew Huntington, PhD ’51, as a teacher, mentor, classmate, or colleague: Co-Chairs Peter L. Malkin, AB ’55, JD ’58, and Henry Rosovsky, PhD ’59, LLD ’98, along with Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, PhD ’53; Jorge I. Domínguez, PhD ’72; John A. Kaneb, AB ’56; Henry Kissinger AB ’50, PhD ’54; Sidney R. Knafel, AB ’52, MBA ’54; Ira Kukin, PhD ’51; Win L. McCormack, AB ’67; Joseph S. Nye, PhD ’64; Robert D. Putnam; James R. Schlesinger, AB ’50, PhD ’56; Lawrence H. Summers, PhD ’82, LLD ’07; and Fareed R. Zakaria, PhD ’93.

Malkin, a friend of Huntington, told Harvard Magazine that the idea for the fellowship was sparked by a notebook found among Huntington’s papers that painstakingly budgeted for every expense during the scholar’s own graduate years at Harvard.

Huntington valued his sustained connection with the University. “It is difficult for me to imagine a more rewarding or enjoyable career than teaching here,” he wrote in a letter on his retirement from active teaching in 2007. By that time he had graced Harvard classrooms for more than 50 years, since he was 23 years old.

Over that same span, he authored, coauthored, or edited 17 books and more than 90 scholarly articles. Among them were The Soldier and the State: The Theory and Politics of Civil-Military Relations, a book that still informs military policies today, and The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order, which has been translated into 39 languages since its publication in 1996.

“Sam was the kind of scholar who made Harvard a great university,” says economist and longtime friend Henry Rosovksy, the Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor, Emeritus, and former dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. “People all over the world studied and debated his ideas. I believe that he was clearly one of the most influential political scientists of the last fifty years.”

“He was anchored in American life and his American identity, but he ended up addressing so many broad questions,” adds Timothy Colton, PhD ’74, the Morris and Anna Feldberg Professor of Government and Russian Studies at Harvard, who did his dissertation with Huntington in the early 1970s. “His degree of openness to new topics and following questions where they take him is not as often found today as when he was making his way.”

In addition to his career at Harvard, where he served as government department chair and led several centers and institutes, Huntington cofounded the journal Foreign Policy, was foreign policy adviser to Vice President Hubert Humphrey in his 1968 presidential campaign, and served in the Carter White House as coordinator of security planning for the National Security Council.

His wide-ranging research touched on American government, democratization, military politics, civil-military relations, comparative politics, and political development.

Jorge Domínguez, Harvard’s vice provost for international affairs and Antonio Madero Professor of Mexican and Latin American Politics and Economics, describes Huntington as “one of the giants of political science worldwide during the past half century. He had a knack for asking the crucially important but often inconvenient question. He had the talent and skill to formulate analyses that stood the test of time.”

For more information, or to contribute to the Samuel Huntington Fellowship Fund to support PhD students in the social sciences, contact Roger Cheever (rcheever@harvard.edu or 617-496-0246) at the Harvard University Development Office, 124 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.
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