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Bringing Together Our Global Community

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

This November, GSAS will sponsor its first-ever alumni event in Europe. This event, a symposium of Harvard faculty who will look at “The Modern Art Museum in a Global Context,” will be held in London as part of the University-wide “Harvard in Europe” series.

The GSAS event will help expand and consolidate Harvard’s role as a global leader in higher education. It will also enable many of our alumni living overseas to reconnect with one another and enjoy an afternoon of “continuous education.”

With approximately 2,000 GSAS alumni residing in Europe, we have been eager to sponsor such an event. Now that it’s upon us, we are already planning similar gatherings in other countries where GSAS alumni live and work.

And GSAS alumni are indeed everywhere. In addition to the 2,000 or so in Europe—and more than 30,000 in North America—about 1,300 alumni reside in Asia; over 200 in the Middle East; nearly 200 in Central and South America; over 150 in the Australia/Oceania region; and nearly 100 in Africa.

We have begun to see this international presence reflected in the composition of our Alumni Association Council: Chair See-Yan Lin (PhD ’77, economics) is from Malaysia, and Council members include Felipe Larrain (PhD ’85, economics) of Chile, Jill Levenson (PhD ’83, economics) of England.

These dedicated alumni are a testament to GSAS’s role in nurturing the world’s intellectual capital and in promoting the international exchange of ideas. To do this well, however, we need the input of our alumni living abroad. I ask you to take a moment to write to let us know how GSAS can better serve you—and how you would like to see GSAS better serve our students.

One issue on many people’s minds is the USA Patriot Act, which went into effect in January 2003. Part of its mandate is a closer scrutiny of international student visa applications.

I’m pleased to report that we saw far fewer visa denials than we had anticipated, coming into this academic year. We have worked closely with the US State Department to ensure that our academic visitors would be accorded the proper consideration.

We are as enthusiastic as ever about working with the brightest young scholars from every part of the globe, and we will continue to offer them the greatest research and scholarly opportunities available.

I look forward to meeting some of you in London shortly, and to hearing from others of you in the near future. 🌐
heirs is a story grounded in science. He’s a biologist, she’s an anthropologist, and they started their lives together while doing fieldwork in, and helping to save, a 24,000-acre Indonesian rainforest park and its inhabitants.

Cheryl Knott, an assistant professor of anthropology who earned her PhD in 1999, and husband Tim Laman, a scientific associate of the Museum of Comparative Zoology and wildlife photographer who earned his doctorate in organismic and evolutionary biology in 1994, met as students at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in the early 1990s.

A decade later, Knott and Laman are proud parents of three-year-old Russell and his sister-to-be (due in December)—and they’re still working in the rainforest, studying the animal and plant life unique to the Indonesian island of Borneo and one of its largest national parks, Gunung Palung (pronounced: goo-noong paw-loong). Knott has made a career studying orangutans, who only live in the wild in the jungles of Indonesia and Malaysia; Laman did his PhD work on strangler fig trees and has studied a variety of creatures in the park as a field scientist for Harvard and a wildlife photographer for National Geographic.

But Gunung Palung and the 5,000-acre Cabang Panti research site within it is threatened, Knott says. Illegal logging has degraded large areas of the park and has now invaded the study site’s trail system, putting into doubt the survival of the 2,500 or so orangutans that live there. According to a recent census taken by Knott’s team, that’s about ten percent of the world’s orangutan population; the other approximately 23,000 orangutans reside in national parks and reserves elsewhere on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra.

From January to February of this year, Knott, Laman, and their colleagues asked Indonesian officials for more protection of the site. They wanted to help government officials “realize the importance of this area and its uniqueness,” Laman says. “Consequently there was a big patrol—the national police force went in and cleared the place out. Hopefully, our efforts had something to do with that.”

Illegal logging involves a substantial portion of the village population around Gunung Palung. “Something like two-thirds of the households in the area are involved in illegal logging [around the national park],” Knott says. “That’s thousands of people.”

The good news is that the park’s forests have not been clear-cut. The damage has been “selective,” according to Knott. The biggest and best trees are cut, those sure to bring the best prices on the market, and smaller trees are taken later. Still, considerable damage is being done to the habitat.

“They come in and cut an area, it gets dried out, and then it’s vulnerable to fire,” Knott says. “Once it burns, and they convert it to rice fields, then it’s going to be totally gone. We’re at a point now where there’s been a lot of logging, but it’s been in pockets. If it was to stop now, [the forest] could … regenerate. It would take a while, but it would be okay.”

Whether that can happen depends upon stricter controls being placed on the illegal loggers. Unfortunately, the most extensive logging is being done in the lowland forest and the peat swamp, the areas where most orangutans live. Some can survive in the logged areas, but it is unclear whether the populations are large enough to be viable.

AN UPHILL BATTLE

Local corruption throws a major wrench into the battle for the rainforest. “We’ve had very little power to do much about it, and it’s very frustrating,” Laman says. “But the scale of corruption is so great, and the powers that are involved are so strong that, as scientists, we feel we have so little influence. We can only try to argue the case with Indonesian scientific agencies and parks departments. Changing the whole culture of corruption is … really going to be long-term.”

“Since the fall of [President] Suharto, there has been a lot of decentralization. A lot more control has been given to the provinces,” Knott says. “So, even though the national government wants to stop it … it’s difficult because some of the local government officials—the police, the military—are involved in illegal logging.”

The loggers who were arrested back in the winter of this year are still awaiting trial, according to Knott. “They have to be
tried locally,” she says. “Whether or not that’s going to happen, we’re waiting to see.”

Unfortunately, the rules of evidence are foggy to say the least, Knott says. “According to the local police, if you find someone with a chainsaw in a national park, you can’t arrest them for illegal logging because someone else will say, ‘How can you prove he was there doing illegal logging?’” she says. “If you have a picture of him cutting down a tree in the park, that’s not good enough evidence because, ‘That picture could have been taken somewhere else.’ And ... a policeman or ranger saying, ‘I saw this person cutting down a tree in a national park,’ isn’t considered valid testimony.”

Orangutan poaching for food and for the illegal pet trade, which has steadily increased in recent years, is also threatening the ape population.

“Most people [on Borneo] are Muslim, so they don’t eat orangutans,” Knott says. “But some of the Dyak people, the local indigenous people of that area, do eat orangutans. So some of the illegal loggers will kill to sell the meat to the Dyaks. And they’ll kill mothers for their babies for the illegal pet trade.”

Three years ago, Knott’s team set up a transit center for rescued baby orangutans. She estimates that they’ve brought in about 25 infants who had been kidnapped.

“When they’re infants, they want to cling to you like they’re little babies. But once they’re six-year-olds, what do you do with them? They’re super strong. They bite. So people don’t want them, they discard or abuse them, and we find them in cages,” Knott says.

The kidnappings are made even more disturbing when one realizes that for every kidnapped orangutan baby, a mother orangutan was killed. And since female orangutans only reproduce about once every eight years, the death of even one has a major negative impact on this diminishing species.

A DISTINCTIVE SPECIES

Orangutans are particularly susceptible to extinction. “They give birth so rarely; they’re not fast reproducers,” Knott says. “But they do seem to have quite high survivorship—their babies are not dying very often from natural causes.”

Studying orangutans is very time-intensive compared to many other animals. There are two reasons for this. One, orangutans have the longest interval between births of any primate, including humans. Two, they’re solitary creatures. After mating, mother and baby go in one direction while the now lone male goes in another. This seemingly anti-social lifestyle has to do with the scarcity and wide dispersal of the orangutans’ food supply. They must travel, literally, far and wide to secure food that is irregularly available.

Knott has charted the lives of females, males, and juveniles to learn more about orangutan reproduction and the environ-

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Walk into the lobby of William James Hall, which houses the psychology department, and you will find a sign reading, “Subjects Wanted.” The sign directs you to bulletin boards cluttered with various invitations to participate in psychological research projects in exchange for nominal monetary rewards. “Judge People for $$,” one reads. “Participants Wanted for Psychology Experiment on Memory” reads another.

Seems harmless enough.

Yet history has taught us that research concerning human subjects is as perilous as it is essential. Without such research, the advancement of knowledge in medicine, psychology, and sociology would be sluggish, if not altogether impossible. Without it, treatments for cancer, therapies for psychological illnesses, and advances in social understanding would be nonexistent.

Yet it is also true that without such research, thousands would have been spared atrocities and death at the hands of Nazi doctors during World War II, and hundreds of African-American men in the United States could have been cured of syphilis. The list goes on.

This tension between the methods used to advance scientific knowledge and the damage these methods may inflict on individuals has spurred the development of ethical standards concerning human research subjects. And it was in reaction to science’s most flagrant offenses that such codes of ethics were conceived.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Dean Gallant is assistant dean for research policy and administration and executive officer of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Standing Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research. “There were a number of cases in the 1950s and ’60s where the abuse of human research subjects led to the institution of federal regulations to protect these subjects,” he says. Among these was a study of immune-compromised patients by researchers who injected cancer cells into “an unwitting group of elderly people. Largely as a result of studies like this, federal requirements were instituted to establish committees such as ours.”

The Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research is one of three such institutional review boards (IRBs) at Harvard (the other two are within the Medical School and School of Public Health). IRBs approve all research proposals involving human subjects that would be conducted at the University, and they are also mandated to educate and inform researchers about the ethical complexities involved in human subject research.

IRBs also offer guidance for graduate student researchers. “There is a general online program offered to all researchers using human subjects—required when NIH funds are involved,” Gallant says. Harvard’s three IRBs, under the auspices of the Provost, have just been awarded a grant by the NIH to expand and enhance this online program, he says, including developing separate modules for different disciplines. In-depth instruction for GSAS students in the ethics of human subjects research is also integrated by departments into students’ research training curriculum, Gallant adds.

At the core of the standards adopted by Harvard and other research institutions is the Nuremberg Code. It was established during the 1946 trial of 20 physicians who, “in the name of science,” performed experimental procedures on concentration camp prisoners.

The Nuremberg Code laid out ten conditions to define the practice of ethical research. Among these was a mandate for the consent of subjects and for the worthiness of the research being considered.

Elements of the Nuremberg Code appeared in the code of standards set seven years later by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH guidelines were established in response to allegations that American doctors were performing unethical research on human subjects at hospitals and universities—as, for example, in the notorious Tuskegee and Willowbrook studies.

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study (1932–72) was a federally funded research project in which 400 African-American men with syphilis were deceived into participating in a study of that disease. During the course of the study, penicillin was discovered. Although the drug became widely used as an effective treatment for syphilis, it was withheld from the subjects of the...

In reaction to these research abuses, the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research was formed and, in 1979, published “The Belmont Report: Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research.” The human subjects regulations laid out in this report are revisited regularly.

Following these regulations closely is Jane Calhoun, an IRB research officer for Harvard’s Standing Committee on the Use of Human Subjects, Calhoun, Gallant, and other committee members review as many as 700 proposals each year.

“We do a certain amount of advising—most of the proposals we review require only that,” she says. “Occasionally we run across a proposal that causes concern.”

**A CASE IN POINT**

One proposal, submitted by Jill Hooley, professor of psychology, involved playing tapes of critical statements made by their mothers to subjects suffering—or recovering—from depression. Hooley studies why psychiatric patients relapse. “I am interested in family factors that might be associated with patients who do poorly or, conversely, who do well when they are recovering from an episode of illness,” she says.

“Research literature has taught us that certain kinds of family variables seem to be predictive of patients doing well when they are in the recovery process and that certain of these variables seem to be predictive of relapse,” Hooley adds. “One of these variables is criticism from a close family member. This finding has actually triggered the development of a number of family-based interventions to help patients with these disorders and to reduce rates of relapse.”

**MUSIC**

Camilla Cai, AM ’65, recently was named Kenyon College’s second James D. and Cornelia W. Ireland Professor of Music. Professor Cai, who joined the college’s faculty in 1986, specializes in the musicology of Germany and Scandinavia. She is the co-author of Ole Bull: Norway’s Romantic Musician and Cosmopolitan Patriot (Wisconsin, 1993) and books and chapters on Brahms, Mendelssohn, and Schumann, among other composers.

**PHYSICS**

John Mansfield, PhD ’70, reports that President Bush reappointed him for a second term as member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in Washington. The Board oversees the Department of Energy’s nuclear weapons and cleanup activities at sites around the country.

**REGIONAL STUDIES—USSR**

Harvey Fireside, AM ’55, writes: ‘My book, The ‘Mississippi Burning’ Civil Rights Murder Conspiracy Trial (Enslow, 2002), was awarded the Carter G. Woodson Book Prize for “the most distinguished social science book depicting ethnicity” for young readers, by the National Council for the Social Studies. The book was also among the finalists for the NAACP Image Award as the best children’s book” for 2002.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Stanley Heck, AM ’38, Romance languages and literatures, died July 3, 2003, in Lincoln, Mass. He had been a resident of Lincoln since 1940 and had a lifelong interest in the arts, including involvement in the Lincoln Players and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He was a past president of the board of the DeCordova Museum. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts, 295 Devonshire Street, Boston, MA 02110.

**TO SHARE YOUR NEWS**

Please submit Alumni Notes to: Colloqy, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Byerly Hall 300, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3654; or e-mail your news to gsaa@fas.harvard.edu. Please include your telephone number or e-mail address. Alumni Notes are subject to editing for length and clarity.
In his new book, Beethoven: The Music and the Life (Norton), Lewis Lockwood sets out, among other biographical endeavors, to put the music of the world’s most famous composer into its historical—and personal—contexts. Lockwood, Fanny Peabody Professor of Music Emeritus at Harvard, is also the author of Beethoven: Studies in the Creative Process (Harvard, 1992) and was previously an editor of the journal Beethoven Forum. An excerpt from Beethoven follows.—Susan Lumenello

In 1998 at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, Seiji Ozawa appeared in what may have been the largest electronic simulation of a concert hall ever imagined. He conducted six choirs that were located in New York, Berlin, Cape Town, Sydney, Beijing, and Nagano (six cities on five continents) in a televised simulcast in which all of them sang the “Ode to Joy,” the principal theme of the finale of the Ninth Symphony, electronically synchronized to overcome time differences. Remarkable as this achievement was, it had a background.

The “Ode” has been sung at every Olympic Games since 1956. By the 1990s it had become a common practice in Japan for massed choral groups and orchestras to come together in December of each year to give performances of Daiku—“The Big Nine.”

The newly achieved world status of the “Ode to Joy” melody is only one of the most visible ways in which the Beethoven legend that was created in the 19th century has been reshaped and enlarged many times over in the 20th. The very name Beethoven has attained cult status beyond that of almost any other classical composer; the cult has spread through many levels of high, middle, and popular culture in music, art, television, and film. The Beethoven image, now all too commercially viable, is itself the subject of a sizable literature. And no work has been more fertile in creating and maintaining this image than the Ninth Symphony.

In the mind of the general public there are actually two “Ninth Symphonies.” One is the “Ode to Joy” itself, as choral anthem; that is, just the melody, not the elaborate and complex movement from which it comes. The other is the symphony as a complete work, a large-scale four-movement cycle in which the enormous finale brings solo and choral voices into the symphonic genre for the first time. Seen as a whole, the movement plan of the work forms a progressive sequence in which the three earlier movements balance each other but also prepare the finale and give it much of its structural and aesthetic meaning. Beethoven’s setting of the first strophe of Schiller’s poem, beginning “Freude, schöner Götterfunken” (“Joy, beautiful spark of divinity”) is the admitted centerpiece of its finale, but it is matched in significance by a second, contrasting section in a radically different style that sets the first chorus of the “Ode,” “Seid umschlungen, Millionen” (“Be embraced, you millions”). The theme and text of “Freude, schöner Götterfunken” is eventually combined contrapuntally with that of “Seid umschlungen, Millionen” to form the great climax of the movement. The “Seid umschlungen” theme has no chance whatever of being selected as a singable anthem by amateur choral groups because it is melodically difficult and harmonically obscure, and is of a totally different type and character. In other words, it is an important feature of the modern history of the Ninth Symphony that at popular levels it is barely known as a symphony at all but is represented only by its most famous melody.

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The Ninth Symphony: The Personal and the Political

By Lewis Lockwood

THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NINTH

In 1815, during the Congress of Vienna, perpetual spying was the order of the day, and police informers were everywhere. Artists such as Beethoven who were known for their republican views were suspect, and the Conversation Books (Editor’s note: After his hearing became severely diminished, Beethoven used “conversation books” to communicate with people through written questions and remarks) reflect the atmosphere of suspicion that ruled the city. An 1820 entry that was probably made in a café says, “another time—just now the spy Haensl (Editor’s note: Lockwood notes that this is probably the spy Peter Hensler) is here.” This situation, combined with Austria’s difficult economic recovery, Beethoven’s personal financial reverses, and the disappearance or death of many of his traditional aristocratic supporters, fueled his habitual anxiety. When Dr. Karl von Bursy, recommended by his old friend Amenda, visited him in June 1816, Beethoven ranted loudly about the state of things in Vienna:

[V]enom and rancor raged in him. He defies everything and is dissatisfied with everything, blaspheming against Austria and especially Vienna. ... Everyone is a scoundrel. There is nobody one can trust. What is not down in black and white is not observed by anyone, not even by the man with whom you have made an agreement.
In a Conversation Book of 1820, [Beethoven’s acquaintance Anton] Schindler wrote (in a passage not regarded as a later addition):

Before the French Revolution there was a great freedom of thought and politics. The revolution made the government and the nobility distrust the common people, which has led to the current repression. ... The regimes, as they are now constituted, are not in tune with the needs of the time; eventually they will have to change or become more easy-going, that is, become a little different.

It is against such a background that we can take the measure of Beethoven’s decision in 1821–24 to return to his old idea of setting Schiller’s “Ode to Joy” and to present it, not as a solo song to be heard in the private salons of music lovers but as an anthem that could be performed on the grandest possible scale in the concert hall, the most public of settings. His further plan, to make that melody the climax of a great symphony, distantly recalls Haydn’s use of his famous patriotic hymn, “Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser,” as a slow movement with variations in his C Major Quartet Opus 76 No. 3, composed in 1797 just a few months after he had written the anthem itself. Beethoven, in this new symphony that would have Schiller’s “Ode” as centerpiece, meant to leave to posterity a public monument of his liberal beliefs. His decision to fashion a great work that would convey the poet’s utopian vision of human brotherhood is a statement of support for the principles of democracy at a time when direct political action on behalf of such principles was difficult and dangerous. It enabled him to realize in his way what Shelley meant when he called poets the “unacknowledged legislators of the world.”

CHANGING VIEWS OF THE NINTH

The Ninth Symphony, of all Beethoven’s works, has had the broadest impact and the widest range of interpretations. From Beethoven’s time to ours, generations of commentators, musicians, artists, and critics have stepped forward to give voice to their interpretations, many of them focusing only on the “Ode” rather than on the symphony as a whole. Very few have explored what may seem to some critics in our time the historicizing and anachronistic question of what it was, or could have been, that Beethoven himself intended this work to mean and to express.

The interpretive trend began effectively with Wagner, whose entire career was conditioned by his fascination with the Ninth: in his early years he copied the entire score, arranged it for piano, performed it many times, restored some passages, and claimed it as the starting point of his lifetime aesthetic mission to equal and surpass Beethoven by reshaping opera along symphonic lines into music-drama. As Beethoven transformed the symphony and spoke to the world by combining instrumental music with words, Wagner would reshape culture, especially German culture, by means of music-drama based on national myths.

In My Life, Wagner writes that he was impelled by the “mystical influence of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony to plumb the deepest recesses of music.” On another front, every German composer of symphonies after Beethoven, from Mendelssohn and Schumann to Brahms, Bruckner, and Mahler, understood that the Ninth had come to be a central bulwark of musical experience that each would have to confront in carving out a personal path as a symphonist. In fact each composer also confronted the Ninth in individual works, whether by the choice of key or scale, by the use of solo and choral voices, or by thematic content. Schumann, for example, who worshipped Beethoven like a god, quotes Karl Voigt, the husband of Schumann’s friend Henriette Voigt and portrayed by Schumann as an enthusiastic common listener, as saying about the Ninth as a monumental experience, “I am the blind man who is standing before the Strasbourg Cathedral, who hears its bells but cannot see the entrance.”

Worship of Beethoven, above all the symphonies, was rampant in the more conservative 19th-century centers of American musical culture. The Ninth, which had received its first London performance in 1825, was given its American premiere in New York in 1846 by the recently founded New York Philharmonic Society. In Boston, Brahmins and transcendentalists alike acclaimed Beethoven as a godlike figure (said Margaret Fuller, “the mind is large that can contain a Beethoven”). A major purpose in founding the Boston Symphony Orchestra in the 1880s, in addition to rivaling New York, was to make possible the performance of Beethoven’s symphonies, with the Ninth as the cornerstone of the great tradition. Though other Western musical traditions, especially in the earlier twentieth century, were less enthralled with the Beethoven symphonies, especially the Ninth, as these works receded further into the past, still the power of mass media and the message of brotherhood in the finale continued to make the Ninth a natural symbol at great political events celebrating freedom, as at the concert led by Leonard Bernstein on December 25, 1989, celebrating the tearing down of...
mental and evolutionary factors that affect it—not only for the sake of orangutans but also for furthering knowledge of human evolution.

She recently discovered a “really interesting phenomenon” that could affect the timing of male development in orangutans. Among orangutans, there are two “types” of males: a big male with large cheek pads and a smaller one without cheek pads. “Both are reproductively mature, but their behavior is quite different,” she says.

To find out what makes them different, Knott is investigating a combination of nutritional and social factors that may determine when males develop. Scientists, she says, do not know yet whether “all males eventually develop [into big males] if they live long enough, and whether there are some that are 50 years old and never developed.”

The phenomenon of the “two types” is extremely rare among mammals, Knott says. “There have been times in zoos where they remove the big males and the smaller males develop,” she says. “So zoos have thought it was some kind of suppression. The problem is, in the wild these guys are solitary—they don’t run into each other. So they’re probably not having a suppressive effect.

“I’ve looked at testosterone levels in the males, and [it’s much higher in] the big males than the smaller males,” she continues. “But the interesting thing is that we’ve discovered these big males will only stay in this ‘big’ stage for a fairly brief period. They can’t sustain it; they shrink. And the smaller males do reproduce, so they’re not really sub-adults.”

Knott described what happened to one of the big males in her study over a year’s time. “He went through this period of really intensive mating, but then the cheek pads started to diminish. His whole body size and his demeanor totally changed. He stopped producing these long calls they make. He stopped mating,” Knott says.

“If a male can only maintain this ‘prime’ form for a brief period, then the smaller males should wait until conditions are variable, both nutritionally and possibly socially, before they develop,” she adds. “This may be why you see this delayed development in some males.” Knott also is investigating whether these “past-primes” may revert back to being prime males.

In terms of nutrition, reproduction is directly related to the orangutans’ ability to get adequate calories. During Knott’s PhD work, she discovered that hormonal levels in females are lowest during periods when fruit—orangutans’ main food source—is least available. Levels rise when fruit production and consumption increase, which is when matings and conceptions occur more often. During periods when fruit is scarce, orangutans’ (who weigh from around 100 to more than 200 pounds) caloric intake can be less than 1,500 calories per day.

The discovery that large males can’t retain their prime condition forever, as they do in zoos, may also be related to nutrition. “They can’t seem to maintain [being a ‘prime male’] for very long—it is very expensive, energetically,” Knott says. “There are a lot of questions we haven’t answered yet. You really want to study apes over a lifespan … to see what’s really happening—to see the birth interval, to see what really controls reproduction, to understand juvenile development.”

Knott and her team are also using GIS and GPS (satellite) monitoring to study orangutan travel patterns over large areas. “An individual, especially a male, will come in our area, then disappear, and we’ll see him maybe a year later,” Knott says. “I want to start long-term overnight follows. Right now we follow them maybe a couple hours out of the study trail system. Then they get too far away, and we have to let them go. We want to camp in the forest and keep following them, really track them to see how far they’re traveling. That’s also important for conservation too—to see how big of an area they use.”

EXPANDING THE ACADEMIC DOMAIN

Although Knott is a biological anthropologist (one of her advisors was GSAS Dean Peter T. Ellison), she has come to realize that she and her husband Laman, a field biologist, can no longer conduct scientific research without being involved in conservation. It’s become a critical part of their scientific work.

“Almost every field biologist I know usually has some kind of conservation component to their work. We can no longer go into these areas and just do our own thing with no one bothering us,” she says. “Local people expect us to be much more accountable, to explain what we’re doing there, explain how it benefits them. So it’s interesting. You can no longer just do the pure research.”

Laman, who worked as a research assistant studying interactions among plants and animals in the Gunung Palung National Park even before he became a Harvard graduate student, remembers how it used to be.

“I first went there over 15 years ago,” he says. “Even the park was surrounded by all these [relatively] undisturbed forests. It was a huge wilderness area. You felt like you were going into the middle of
A “prime” male orangutan (left) in Knott’s study, compared with a “past-prime” male, shows colossal cheekpads and aggressive attitude.

nowhere. I guess I imagined it was always going to be like that. But in the last 15 years there’s been an incredible amount of development in Indonesia. In areas around the park, the population’s been going up as [people] are moving in from Java. They’re just cutting down the forests and converting [the land] to agriculture.”

In 1997, Knott and her team established the Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Project to help preserve the park and its unique species of animals, bird, and plant life—and to make it possible for academic work to continue. The project sponsors a staff of about ten field assistants and local people and conducts awareness campaigns in the region and environmental education in its school systems. They also have a billboard campaign, a weekly radio program, and regular public meetings that can attract hundreds of people.

“There’ll be a village moderator, a ranger, field assistants. Often they can be kind of contentious because you might have illegal loggers come in, so we talk about what we’re doing,” Knott says. “[People] wonder, ‘What are the researchers doing up there?’”

The project also hosts field trips for high school students. “Most of these kids live in the local villages, but they’ve never seen a wild orangutan, and they’ve never been to the rain forest even though they live a few minutes from [it],” Knott says. “They stay for about three days and take data, learn about what we do, practice being researchers.”

Knowing that many of these people are involved in illegal logging and the illegal pet trade, educating area parents and other adults is another challenge the Harvard group has taken on. Some villagers do recognize the value of medicines found in rainforests, Knott says. They also see that much of the world’s oxygen is generated in rainforests and that without them global rain patterns will be disrupted. The biological diversity argument can also have an impact. But, she says, “those arguments don’t always resonate at the village level, especially among the people doing the logging, most of whom are farmers.”

One argument that does resonate is protection of the Gunung Palung watershed. “We explain that the water they’re getting comes down from the mountain and that if you destroy the rainforest, you’re going to destroy your water source,” Knott says. Knott’s group also has developed a “pride campaign” to encourage locals to value the wildlife that is uniquely Indonesian.

“Orangutans are only found in Borneo and Sumatra. Proboscis monkeys are only in Borneo,” she says. Local children participate in art-related programs like plays and coloring contests. But even these, Knott explains, are “mostly targeting parents.”

In one coloring contest, children made pictures of orangutans for a billboard. “When a billboard was revealed showing what orangutans really looked like, everyone was shocked to see that they were orange. They didn’t even know,” she says. “These kids live right there [by the forest], but they have less knowledge of what an orangutan is than a kid in Somerville does. There’s no environmental education.”

But the logging of the habitat is what’s killing the park and the orangutans. In addition to the awareness and education campaigns, Knott’s group also targets their efforts towards the local people who are illegally logging. “Sometimes you go and find out that [one of the loggers] is so-and-so’s little brother who works for me,” she says. “These are local people, who say [they’re] just looking for food, which is sort of true, but sort of not…”

The money the loggers make is, even by village standards, not great, compared to what is being taken away. “Basically, the forest is being cut down for peanuts—the local people are not making much money off of this,” Knott says. “A rich businessman will support a team to do some illegal logging. He’ll give them money up front, so they’re constantly in debt to this person. These local guys are being exploited by the middlemen.”

The logging itself is also extremely dangerous. Trees are felled and local men stand astride the trunks. Holding chainsaw blades between their bare feet, they walk backwards and cut the tree into sections. The “milled” wood is dragged out of the forest on wooden sleds.

A TENUOUS FUTURE

Once the forest is gone, the orangutans will die. Knott and Laman try to be hopeful that it won’t reach that point. But it’s clearly painful for them, knowing that it’s possible their long-time study site may vanish along with the park and their opportunities for studying wildlife in its natural habitat.

“It doesn’t do any good to say, ‘Oh, we’re saving some of the Amazon, so we don’t need to save Borneo,’” Laman says. “It’s a different rainforest. Every single different region of the world—whether it’s African rainforest, South American rainforest, or Southeast Asian rainforest—has a totally different species composition of plants and animals. In Borneo, you’ve got orangutans and hornbills; in South America, you’ve got sloths and macaws and jaguars. They’re all rainforests, but they’re all very different rainforests. So you want to save all of these places, or at least parts of them.”

Gunung Palung still harbors a multitude of amazing wildlife. “If we can get these areas protected for future generations, this is the time to do it, not ten years from now—ten years from now it’s going to be too late,” Laman says.

“There’ve been some good signs recently with the national government taking...
some action,” Knott adds. “But [the study site is] in danger of being shut down. There are only about three orangutan research sites in the world now.” Others have been closed, either because there is too little forest left, or because the presence of loggers makes it impossible—and dangerous—to work.

Congress has helped by passing the Great Ape Conservation Act, signed into law in 2000. It provides about $5 million a year to support the conservation and protection of great apes by giving grants to local wildlife management authorities and other organizations involved in the effort to protect the animals and their habitat. Knott’s organization in Gunung Palung has received support from this fund, and she urges people to contact their Congress member about continuing or even increasing support.

Consumers can also buy “environmentally certified wood,” which lets them know the wood they’re buying did not come from rainforests. Woods like Asian mahogany and lauan (used in inexpensive plywood) are among the many types found in Indonesian rainforests.

“A lot of the public outcry does help pressure the Indonesian officials at the national level to take action,” Knott says. The Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Project put up a petition on its Web-site and received about 8,000 signatures worldwide to stop illegal logging in the park.

“I think things like that do have an impact,” Knott says. “[It] could pressure our leaders to pressure other national governments as a condition of international aid, for example, to protect forests, to show they’re really doing something.

“The orangutan may be the first great ape to go extinct in the wild,” Knott says. “Their trajectory for extinction is greater than for chimps or gorillas—they’re the most threatened. You figure 80 percent of orangutan habitat has been lost in the last 20 years. It’s just totally shocking that the great apes could become extinct.”

For more information on the Gunung Palung National Park, go to www.fas.harvard.edu/~gporang.

Life in the Field

Knott and Laman’s fieldwork is good, important, even noble, but it’s definitely not easy.

“You wake up usually at around 3:30 a.m.,” says Knott. “You need to get to the nest when the orangutan wakes up, [around] 5 a.m. That involves getting there in the dark, so maybe you have to travel for an hour in the forest in the dark, then you follow them all day till they make a nest at night. You’re on the ground, watching them up in the trees. Sometimes they don’t go very far, and it’s really easy. But other days … we’re on the side of a mountain. You’re also often carrying all your gear. So, it’s challenging. You’re running after them, and in the swamp area you might be up to your knees in water. When you’re looking for them it’s better if you can walk fast. It’s definitely physical, but it’s not grueling.”

Orangutans are arboreal creatures—they live in treetops, in what is called the rainforest canopy. So Laman spends much of his time harnessed to a 200-feet tall tree (higher than the Peabody Museum, to reintroduce an earlier marker) with 30 pounds of equipment in a backpack, watching the wildlife. It’s not hard to see why he would bring back amazing photographs, along with biological data—few people have the stamina or academic background for this kind of work.

Occasionally, big males will come down to the ground and chase people, though Knott and Laman have never been chased. There are other dangers, though.

“I’ve been pretty lucky,” Knott says. “But there’s malaria, Dengue fever, giardia. I had one student who was hit by a tree branch and it opened her scalp up. She had to be sewn up. Someone broke [a] foot once jumping in the river. There are various accidents and diseases that you can take medicine for—although not for Dengue fever. But if you have enough DEET (an insect repellent) on, you can protect yourself from mosquitoes.”

As Laman dryly says, “There’s definitely an adventure component.”

Human Subjects / Humane Research

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Because she was going to be working with human subjects, Hooley sought approval from the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects.

“Professor Hooley first ran a pilot study with only six healthy women with no history of depression,” recounts Calhoun. “Next she tried the same procedure with women who had recovered from an episode of depression. Only then did she apply to do the study with depressed women. Thus, she and the committee [on the Use of Human Subjects] had quite a bit of information to go on in evaluating possible risks to the women. At that point, the committee asked for a number of changes and additions. For instance, only women who had previously told their mothers of their depression could participate and no freshmen could participate. Professor Hooley was asked to provide volunteers a more extensive explanation of the imaging process that would be used; to explain to the mothers as well as the daughters that the daughters might become upset while participating and what would be done to help them.”

This example, Calhoun says, demonstrates the collaboration between an investigator and the IRB, which “provided ideas about some additional measures that could further minimize the risk that anyone would be upset or harmed by the experience of participating as a research subject.”

Hooley’s research—which was approved by the IRB—involves playing taped messages both of criticism and praise to her subjects while watching brain activity with the help of MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). The goal is to determine if the

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A September 2000 article, “Don’t Talk to the Humans: The Crackdown on Social Science Research,” in Lingua Franca (the now-defunct magazine of academic life), between 1998 and 2000, the NIH suspended or shut down research programs at eight different institutions across the country for violations ranging from inadequate record-keeping to “a failure to review projects that should have been vetted.”

These actions have led to an increased vigilance by IRBs and have spawned a debate questioning the usefulness of these regulations. Are these ethical codes effective, or do they perhaps deter the ethical researcher by setting up an intellectual roadblock?

“The issue is boiling over for a variety of reasons,” says Nicholas Christakis, professor of medical sociology at Harvard Medical School. “It is definitely the case that there is more and more scrutiny coming from IRBs. I support the ethical conduct of human research and I support the review of that research, but I think that what has happened is that there has been a loss of perspective about what the real risks in human research are.”

“There is a balance between the IRB’s job and the furthering of science and knowledge,” Jill Hooley says. “The paperwork we have to give to subjects is getting more and more detailed. I know some participants look at this and say, ‘What are you doing here? I thought you were just giving me questionnaires?’ So how can we best incorporate good principles of looking after human subjects and still do the research that we want to do?”

“My view as a scientist is that I don’t want to do research that I wouldn’t be a participant in myself,” Hooley says. “That’s my yardstick.”

For more information about Harvard IRBs, including the official FAS policy statement on ethical research, and links to some research reports and federal guidelines mentioned in this article, please go to www.fas.harvard.edu/research/humsub.html.

Janna Bruclei Looker is a freelance writer living in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Help Graduate Students Launch their Careers

GSAS and the Office of Career Services (OCS) invite you to help us assist graduate students interested in academic and non-academic career opportunities. Whether exploring options during their studies or looking for jobs at graduation, GSAS students can benefit from your advice and support.

Here are some ways to volunteer:

- Register to be a career adviser through The Professional Connection, the online networking database
- Advertise your internships and employment positions through OCS’s MonsterTrak job-listing service
- Be a panelist for GSAS and OCS Career Options Day
- Participate in the GSAS/OCS Alternative Careers Fair
- Organize career-related events for students and alumni through your local Harvard Club
- Participate as an employer in OCS’s on-campus recruiting program
- … Or share your own ideas with OCS!

To get involved, contact Robin Mount, PhD, director of GSAS Career Services and associate director of OCS, at 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; (617) 496-8957; e-mail: ocs@harvard.edu.
the infamous Berlin Wall. At this concert Bernstein substituted the word “Freiheit” (“freedom”) for Schiller’s “Freude” (“joy”).

As an example of the way in which the Ninth has been used by political regimes of every stripe, including the most loathsome, consider the Nazis between 1933 and 1945. After making certain that Beethoven himself had no suspicious racial or national tinge of the non-Germanic in his background (the clear evidence of his Flemish ancestry was denied in a series of articles), the masters of the Nazi propaganda and cultural machinery promoted his works, especially his more powerful and public ones, as the essence of Germanic and Aryan strength. To quote a passage from an article by a Nazi “race expert”:

“Nordic are, above all, the heroic aspects of his works, which often rise to titanic greatness. It is significant that today, in a time of national renovation, Beethoven’s works are played more often than any others, that one hears his works at almost all events of heroic tenor. [Editor’s note: From a 1934 article by Walther Rauschenberger in “Volk und Rasse.”]

Among others in Germany who knew better but shamelessly sold out to the Nazi regime was the musicologist Arnold Schering, who in 1934 associated Beethoven with Hitler as a “Führer-type.” It was easy enough for musical propagandists to harness the Third and Fifth Symphonies as emblems of the Third Reich, but the Ninth at first gave them some trouble, since its message of human brotherhood could hardly be squared with the doctrine of Aryan racial superiority. The Nazi-tainted musicologist Hans Joachim Moser figured out that Schiller’s and Beethoven’s “kiss to the whole world” could not really mean “every Tom, Dick, and Harry, as it was too often misunderstood back in Germany’s red years,” but must refer to “the simple idea of a humanity conceived in as German a way as possible.” With foresight that now seems ironic, the “Ode to Joy” was performed in 1936 at the Olympics in Berlin and was announced not as a symbol of international brotherhood but as a “proclamation of the Nazi Volksgemeinschaft [“people’s culture”].” With equal prudence, the Ninth was performed frequently at concerts in Germany but was kept out of concerts for those living in occupied territories, especially in Eastern Europe, obviously to prevent their getting its message. In April 1942 Wilhelm Furtwängler conducted the Ninth at a celebration for Hitler’s birthday.

More recently, as other intellectual and social ideologies have competed for domination, the Ninth has been reinterpreted in other ways. [Critic Theodor] Adorno regarded its optimism as awkward and old-fashioned, out of phase with the inwardness of Beethoven’s other late works, above all the last quartets, owing to the naked directness of its finale and its obvious bid for popular acceptance. Since the late quartets, more than any other Beethoven works, stood as essential objects of artistic value for Adorno—above all the late quartets as mediated through their importance to the music of Arnold Schoenberg—it is not surprising that the Ninth Symphony disappointed him. Although in certain of his writings Adorno had sensitive things to say about the first movement and slow movement, he was blind to the ways in which the Ninth brought aspects of Beethoven’s earlier symphonic style forward into his late period, and so for him the Ninth (by which he really means the finale above all) “falls outside the late style altogether.”

On another front, and with great éclat, a feminist critic has denounced the first movement as an example of “horribly violent” masculine rage, and a feminist poet reviled the entire work as a “sexual message” written by a man “in terror of impotence or infertility, not knowing the difference.” [Editor’s note: In his notes, Lockwood identifies the critic as Susan McClary, a GSAS alumna, writing in Feminine Endings: Music, Gender, and Sexuality, and the poet as Adrienne Rich in “The Ninth Symphony of Beethoven Understood At Last as a Sexual Message.”] The list of political interpretations is long and will inevitably lengthen in time. One critic, running a substantial risk in using encomia, wrote that a “great work such as the Ninth Symphony cannot be protected from those who would abuse its immense power.” In fact, against the strong, totally committed forms of ideological interpretation in the current phase of ascendant “cultural studies,” in which modern political and social content is read into every work of art or literature, there is no recourse or final court of appeal; to a convinced ideologue, objections are simply the product of an opposed ideology and cannot possess any special claim to “truth,” a word that can now be used in some critical circles only with quotation marks.

Accordingly, those looking for ground to stand on outside ideology may be able to do so only by recommitting themselves to analysis, which concerns itself exclusively with the structural, or recommitting to history, that is, to understanding the Ninth not as a disembodied art product out of time and space, but as the work of an artist living in a particular period and context, who carried out a project that had personal meanings that we can reconstruct from the accumulated debris that has covered his tracks since then. Our job would then be not only to try to understand the work in the context of its origins but to make that understanding, as nearly as possible and with minimal distortion and loss of content, meaningful in the present. This is the essential direction of this discussion, offered with the hope that by perceiving what Beethoven wanted us to understand, as an engaged artist caught up in the conflicts of his own time, we can gain a little respite from the regressive cycles of strong ideological claims and counterclaims, covering our ears as best we can to the howls from outside telling us that we are simply different kinds of ideologues. It is not that the potential meanings of such a work are remotely exhausted by those we can uncover in its origins; it is, rather, that some knowledge of its origins can help inform and solidify a broad range of other hypotheses and viewpoints that can otherwise lapse into postmodern solipsism.

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GSAS ALUMNUS ABIZAID IN CHARGE IN IRAQ

Lt. Gen. John Abizaid, AM ’81, Middle East studies, took over US Central Command in Iraq in July 2003. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with five Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Bronze Star. He is a graduate of West Point and commanded divisions in tours in Bosnia, Kosovo, and the Persian Gulf War.

HARVARD CHEMIST WINS KYOTO PRIZE

In June 2003, George Whitesides, Mallinckrodt Professor of Chemistry, was named a winner of the 19th Annual Kyoto Prize. The prizes, sponsored by the Inamori Foundation, honor “the pursuit of peace and betterment of humanity.” Whitesides is a pioneer in the field of bioengineering and is engaged in the emerging field of nanotechnology. Laureates will receive a diploma, a Kyoto Prize Medal, and approximately $400,000 at a ceremony to be held in Japan in November 2003.

PRIESTLEY MEDAL TO CHEMISTRY’S COREY

E. J. Corey, Sheldon Emery Professor of Chemistry, will receive the 2004 Priestley Medal for Distinguished Service to Chemistry, the highest honor presented by the American Chemical Society. Corey, who has been on the Harvard faculty since 1959, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1990. He is best known for developing the process of retrosynthetic analysis, used to manufacture synthetic cellular “targets” for use in chemical and biological research. Corey’s later work has focused on creating anti-cancer compounds and on the use of computers in organic chemistry.

BIOLOGIST COLLIER HONORED FOR WORK IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH

John Collier, PhD ’64, cellular and developmental biology, won the annual Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Infectious Diseases Research in July 2003. Collier, Maude and Lillian Presley Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at Harvard Medical School, was recognized for “contributions to our understanding of the molecular mechanisms by which bacteria cause disease,” according to a Harvard Medical School statement.

Collier, a Harvard faculty member since 1984, is an authority on anthrax and other biological toxins; he has also shown how immunotoxins may fight cancer. The award brings a $50,000 cash prize and a commemorative medallion.

2003 EUSA LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD TO HOFFMANN

The European Union Studies Association (EUSA) awarded its 2003 Lifetime Contribution Award in EU Studies to Stanley Hoffmann, Paul and Catherine Buttenwieser University Professor in Harvard’s government department.

“Without Hoffmann’s wisdom and science, Europeans and Americans would not know and understand each other nearly as well as they now do,” said Martin A. Schain, EUSA chair, in a statement. Hoffmann’s most recent book is World Disorders: Troubled Peace in the Post–Cold War Era (Rowman & Littlefield, 1998).

PEN USA LITERARY AWARD RECOGNIZES ALUMNUS ELLSBERG


RADCLIFFE FELLOWS ANNOUNCED

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study will sponsor 56 fellows for 2003–04, selected from more than 700 applicants. Among the new fellows is Caroline Elkins, PhD ’01, history, and assistant professor of history at Harvard. Professor Elkins will write a book on the Mau Mau crisis, the 1950s anti-colonial rebellion in Kenya.

Katharine Park, PhD ’81, history of science, Samuel Zemurray Jr. and Doris Zemurray Stone Radcliffe Professor of the History of Science and of Women’s Studies at Harvard, will complete her book Visible Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection. Harvard Professor of Government Jennifer Hochschild will write on Madison’s vision of America and how identity politics informed that vision. Susan Moller Okin, PhD ’75, government, Marta Sutton Weeks Professor of Ethics in Society in the Stanford University Department of Political Science, will study how “neglect of gender in economic development … has distorted and retarded the promotion of women’s human rights in recent decades.”
The Hanging of Ephraim Wheeler: A Story of Rape, Incest, and Justice in Early America
By Irene Quenzler Brown, PhD ’69, history, and Richard D. Brown, PhD ’65, history

The Browns deliver a novelistic account of the pathetic circumstances surrounding the trial and execution of a failed Massachusetts farmer. Along the way they offer insights into evolving American attitudes toward race and interracial marriage, crime and punishment, and the justice system. Richard Brown, co-author of Massachusetts: A Concise History (Massachusetts, 2000) and other books on colonial American history, is Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Connecticut, where Irene Brown is associate professor of family studies.

Changing the World: American progressives in War and Revolution, 1914–1924
By Alan Dawley, PhD ’71, history

World War I and an expanding American empire, particularly in Latin America, compelled 20th-century progressives to broaden their reform efforts from the domestic arena to the international stage, writes Dawley. A professor of history at the College of New Jersey, Dawley is also the author of Class and Community: The Industrial Revolution in Lynn (Harvard, 1976), winner of the Bancroft Prize; and Struggles for Justice: Social Responsibility and the Liberal State (Belknap, 1991).

Hunting Down the Monk: Poems
By Adrie Kusserow, MTS ’90, PhD ’96, anthropology

Most of these poems address a Westerner’s search for spiritual satisfaction in the religions of the East; others explore, with moving clarity, the deeply felt experiences of childhood, loss, and the death of a parent. The author is professor of anthropology at St. Michael’s College.

Nationalizing the Russian Empire: The Campaign Against Enemy Aliens During World War I
By Eric Lohr, PhD ’99, history

During times of war, nationalism tends to escalate. Lohr tells the grim story of how Russia’s nationalism manifested itself during World War I with the wholesale deportations of Jewish, Muslim, German-born, and other “enemy” citizens. This forced emigration of about one million people directly contributed to the tensions that erupted in the 1917 upheaval, writes Lohr. The author is assistant professor of history at Harvard and co-editor of The Military and Society in Russia, 1450–1917 (Brill, 2002).

Gambling Life: Dealing in Contingency in a Greek City
By Thomas M. Malaby, AB ’90, PhD ’98, anthropology

In this highly readable ethnography, Malaby shows how gambling—with its culture grounded in an acceptance of risk and reliance on luck and hope—has permeated
the economy and social life of one small community on the island of Crete. The author is assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and has published in Anthropological Quarterly, Social Analysis, and other journals.

**Helen Hunt Jackson: A Literary Life**
By Kate Phillips, PhD ’97, history of American civilization

Phillips, author of the acclaimed novel *White Rabbit* (Houghton Mifflin, 1996), turns to literary scholarship in this account of the life of Helen Hunt Jackson, the subject of Phillips’s doctoral dissertation. Jackson—best known for her novel *Ramona*, a plea for racial justice in the American West, and for her work on behalf of Native American rights—is presented here as emblematic of the trials and triumphs of late-19th-century intellectual women.

**Hollywood’s White House: The American Presidency in Film and History**
Edited by Peter C. Rollins, AB ’63, PhD ’72, history of American civilization

On-screen American Presidents, writes editor Rollins, have served as “our representative men,” reflecting society’s shifting views of the men in the Oval Office, from Darryl Zanuck’s worshipful Wilson (1944) to Oliver Stone’s psychodrama *Nixon* (1995). Rollins, Regents Professor of English at Oklahoma State University, is co-editor of *Hollywood as Historian: American Film in a Cultural Context* (Kentucky, 1983) and editor of the journal *Film & History*.

**Lyndon Johnson and Europe: In the Shadow of Vietnam**
By Thomas Alan Schwartz, PhD ’85, history

To many, Lyndon Johnson was the classic “ugly American,” a perception based largely on his diplomatic performance during the Vietnam War. Schwartz, an associate professor of history at Vanderbilt University, sets out to correct that perception with this “more dispassionate assessment” of Johnson’s foreign policy. He cites Johnson’s efforts toward nuclear non-proliferation and his early pursuit of détente with the Soviets as just two examples of LBJ’s previously unheralded diplomatic successes. Schwartz is also the author of *America’s Germany: John J. McCloy and the Federal Republic of Germany* (Harvard, 1991).

**Averting “The Final Failure”: John F. Kennedy and the Secret Cuban Missile Crisis Meetings**
By Sheldon M. Stern, PhD ’70, history

Since their declassification in 1997, the tapes of President Kennedy’s Executive Committee meetings have been pored over by numerous historians, including Harvard’s Ernest R. May, co-author of *The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House During the Cuban Missile Crisis* (Belknap, 1997), and considered the “official” transcription. The Ex Comm, as it was known, comprised the President, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, and a handful of others in the President’s inner circle, who navigated the 13 days known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Where previous books have presented more or less straight transcriptions, Stern has created a narrative version that brings the human element to the Ex Comm meetings. Stern also presents an extensive appendix in which he outlines more than 100 differences with the official transcripts he found in listening to the tapes. In some cases, Stern presents new versions of historic conversations and moments in the crisis. Sheldon Stern was the historian at the Kennedy Presidential Library from 1977 to 1999.

**House by House, Block by Block: The Rebirth of America’s Inner Cities**
By Alexander von Hoffman, PhD ’86, history

Von Hoffman, a senior research fellow at Harvard’s Joint Center for Housing Studies, describes how grassroots groups and small businesses—aided mightily by various tax incentives and government subsidies—combined to revitalize the South Bronx, South Central Los Angeles, and other downtrodden neighborhoods in Boston, Chicago, and Atlanta. Von Hoffman is also the author of *Local Attachments: The Making of an American Urban Neighborhood* (Johns Hopkins, 1994) and has written for the *Boston Globe*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and other publications.

Authors: GSAS alumni who have published a new book within the past year and would like it to be considered for inclusion in Alumni Books should send a copy to: Colloquy, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Byerly Hall 300, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3654.
Among recent interpretations that do exhibit interest in the historical context of the work is one that sees the Ninth in the context of “political Romanticism,” a term that refers to a putative synthesis of Schillerian optimism about humanity’s aspirations to freedom and joy, and to the post-Enlightenment Romantic aesthetics of writers such as E.T.A. Hoffmann. This view perceives a steady progression through several of Beethoven’s major works, which are seen first and foremost as vehicles of political philosophical thought, emerging in the Eroica as a musical translation of the “universal history,” that is, the idea of the “education ... of humanity from an instinctual harmony with nature to a state of rational, civilized freedom.” Since Prometheus was manifestly devoted to showing the triumph of education and civilization over the state of nature, the parallel fits to some degree. Certainly it is plausible that in the Eroica “we behold the fiercest rays of the French Revolution refracted through the cooling ether of German idealism.” The progression is not presented as a steady one, in which the Ninth was simply the end product of a consecutive series of enlightened statements about human progress and brotherhood. Quite the contrary: by the time of the Ninth, the manifest abandonment of Enlightenment ideals by all post-1789 regimes from the 1790s to the 1820s—first the Terror and its adversaries, then Napoleon and his adversaries, then the newly victorious autocratic governments—led to political stasis and retrenchment. The light had failed.

But the situation was more drastic than this viewpoint proposes. The Ninth, in my view, was written to revive a lost idealism. It was a strong political statement made at a time when the practical possibilities of realizing Schiller’s ideals of universal brotherhood had been virtually extinguished by the post-Napoleonic regimes. Beethoven’s decision to complete the work was thus intended to right the balance, to send a message of hope to the future, and to proclaim that message to the world.

Alumni Hales, McCullagh, and Sangines-Krause Join GSAA Council

By Paula Szocik

In July 2003, three GSAS alumni were named to serve on the Graduate School Alumni Association (GSAA) Council, a 40-member board focusing on such issues as graduate scholarship, financial aid, student life, global outreach, and alumni careers. Council members serve three-year terms.

R. STANTON HALES

R. Stanton Hales, PhD ’70, mathematics, is president of The College of Wooster in Ohio. From 1990 to 1995, he was vice president for academic affairs and professor of mathematical sciences. Prior to his appointment at Wooster, Hales was associate dean of the College and professor of mathematics at Pomona College, where he received the Rudolph J. Wig Distinguished Professorship Award. He has served as consultant to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the California Savings and Loan Commission.

SUZANNE FOLDS MCCULLAGH

Suzanne Folds McCullagh, PhD ’81, fine arts, is Anne Vogt Fuller and Marion Titus Searle Curator of Earlier Prints and Drawings at the Art Institute of Chicago. She has been a member of the curatorial staff of that department since 1975. Her specialty is in French and Italian Renaissance and Baroque prints and drawings. Author of numerous articles and exhibition catalogues, including Italian Drawings Before 1600 in The Art Institute of Chicago (1979), a scholarly collection catalogue of over 700 drawings. She is active as a director of the Harvard Club of Chicago and also serves on the board of the College of the Atlantic, among other educational and civic institutions.

ALLEN SANGINES-KRAUSE

Allen Sangines-Krause, PhD ’87, economics, is a managing director and co-head of the General Industrials Groups with Goldman Sachs International in London. He taught graduate and undergraduate courses at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and has been a guest lecturer at the Said Business School, Oxford University.

A FOND FAREWELL

We say farewell to the following GSAS alumni who have concluded their terms as Council members: John Armstrong, AB ’56, PhD ’61, applied sciences; Michael A. Cooper, PhD ’91, English and American literature and language; Gerard Fergerson, PhD ’94, history of science; Richard Nenneman, AB ’51, AM ’53, government; and Wallace P. Wormley, PhD ’76, psychology. We thank them for their years of service to the Graduate School.

For a complete list of GSAA Council members, go to www.gsas.harvard.edu/alumni/ members.html.

Paula Szocik is director of alumni relations and publications at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

FOR THE FUTURE...

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Completing the Translation: The GSAS English Language Program

By Marnie Hammar

When was the last time you debated the merits of idealism versus materialism? In a foreign language? The 14 students in Karl Reynolds’s class in the English Language Program (ELP) did just that.

Every August since 2000, a select number of international students participate in the English Language Program before beginning their graduate work. Designed largely for students with little prior exposure to the United States, this four-week program combines cultural acclimation with language skills.

For 2003, the program welcomed 48 students from 14 countries and 19 academic departments. They were immersed in rigorous study for most of August, with class and other activities six hours a day, five and a half days a week, and homework in the evenings and on weekends.

“This program is really intensive,” says Reynolds, instructor for the Harvard Institute for English Language Programs and one of four ELP instructors. “This isn’t summer camp—it’s a glimpse into the lives they will lead in September.”

**FOCUS**

The program comprises four main areas: writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Students read assignments, write essays, critique one another’s writing, and lead or participate in discussion groups. They also give formal presentations in groups and individually.

On the day the class debated idealism and materialism, a student led her classmates in a rousing discussion of William James. At the conclusion, Reynolds critiqued the leader, the class, and their interaction. He also offered speaking tips, emphasizing correct pronunciation of words that arose in the discussion and explaining some of the idiosyncrasies of the English language.

“The ELP class [is] a safe place. Students aren’t self-conscious about being corrected because they are all in the same situation. They learn to trust each other very quickly,” says Reynolds.

Says Dadi Darmani, an ELP participant from Indonesia: “Not only is this program essential for improving my language proficiency, it also gives me a good glimpse of Harvard and Cambridge. I think it is very significant in providing me a smooth transition to my academic career.”

To acquaint ELP students with the American teaching style, Harvard faculty occasionally give guest lectures. “The American lecture style is interactive, with more questioning, debate, and discussion than [that of] many other countries,” says Reynolds. “This can be uncomfortable for students who might be accustomed only to lectures.”

Field trips to destinations such as the Museum of Science help acclimate students to American culture beyond Harvard. The final week of the program is spent at the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, where students give practice lectures and receive critiques from classmates and guest students.

At the end of the four weeks, Reynolds says he sees a dramatic change in the program’s participants. “They come so far;” he says. “They have so much more confidence in their speaking and writing abilities. They are ready to focus on what they came here for.”

Students also build a community that lasts well into their academic careers, Reynolds adds.

“They leave the program knowing that they can go to their fellow participants for support in the struggles they will undoubtedly encounter [during] their first year,” he says. “It’s a lasting community.”

**SUPPORT**

The Graduate School funds all aspects of the English Language Program, from tuition, books, and supplies, to housing and meals, and a major portion of that funding is alumni contributions to the Graduate School Fund (GSAS’s annual giving fund).

The continued success of ELP depends on the ability of GSAS to fund these four weeks for every eligible student. These Fund contributions are essential to the future of this most important program.

“All new students, whether they are international or not, go through a period of adjustment,” says Reynolds.

“It’s even more challenging for international students because they are trying to simultaneously understand a new culture and new concepts in their classes. The ELP helps them to feel comfortable in Cambridge and in the classroom before they start getting graded. It’s a good head start.”

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

Marnie Hammar is associate director of communications at the University Development Office.
Faculty Talks

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003
CHICAGO, IL
Edward L. Keenan (AB ’57, PhD ’66, Middle East studies), Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History and director of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, will speak on “Surfing, Browsing, Serendipity, and the Organization of Knowledge in the Electronic Age: The Intimate Revelations of an Aging Humanist.”

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2003
LONDON, ENGLAND, UK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003
NEW YORK, NY

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004
WASHINGTON, DC
John Dowling (AB ’57, PhD ’61, molecular and cellular biology), Harvard College Professor and Gordon and Llura Gund Professor of Neuroscience, and Judith Dowling (AM ’89, regional studies—East Asia) will speak on “The Art of Seeing,” how artists have long understood the ways the brain processes visual information. Professor Dowling is the author of Creating Mind: How the Brain Works (Norton, 1998), among other works.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004
SANTA BARBARA, CA
Robert Kirshner (AB ’70), Clowes Professor of Science, will speak on “The Extravagant Universe.” He is the author of, most recently, The Extravagant Universe: Exploding Stars, Dark Energy, and the Accelerating Cosmos (Princeton, 2002).

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2004
SARASOTA, FL
Maria Tatar, professor of Germanic languages and literatures and Harvard College Professor, will speak on “Scenes of Storytelling: Fairy Tales and their Cultural Effects.” She is the author of The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales (Norton, 2002) and Off With Their Heads: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood (Princeton, 1992).

Call (617) 495-5591 or e-mail gsaa@fas.harvard.edu for more information on any of the above events.