ECONOMIC LOSS

HOW IS THE COUNTRY’S FINANCIAL CONDITION AFFECTING AMERICANS’ MOBILITY?

ALSO:
An excerpt from Diane McWhorter’s book about Wernher von Braun, Nazi Germany, and the American space race.
In a military-industrial complex in Alabama, veterans of the Third Reich helped put the United States on the moon.
The Making of “Women Making Democracy”

As I write this letter, I am in my sixth month as interim dean and learning more all the time about the magic that happens every day at the Radcliffe Institute. From conversations between fellows and students, to standing-room-only events and timely exhibits, to articles like our cover story, the Institute brings together people from different fields, backgrounds, and career stages for unique dialogues on important issues.

That spirit of multifaceted exploration also informs the Institute’s annual conference on women and gender. As dramatic events unfolded last year in the Middle East, I became increasingly aware of the lack of analytical attention to the gendered aspects of “Arab Spring” and began to imagine the Institute’s spring conference as an opportunity to address a critical gap in the discussion of this historic moment.

The response from my Harvard colleagues to this idea was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Jennifer Hochschild, a professor of government and African and African American studies, agreed to chair the conference planning committee, and we were joined by colleagues from the Divinity School, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Design, and Harvard Kennedy School. We came together from across the University with a shared interest in bringing greater awareness to the issue of gender in building democracy. The conference we are planning for this March is called “Women Making Democracy.”

We are convening international panels of academics, activists, artists, and journalists. On March 29, the dramatic reading of a new Egyptian play, A Comedy of Sorrows, will open the conference, and the following day will feature a keynote address and panel discussions about different aspects of women’s involvement in movements for democratic change. Participants will analyze women’s roles in “Arab Spring” and compare them with those of women engaged in struggles for democracy elsewhere in the world, including Eastern Europe, Latin America, and South Africa.

Because the Radcliffe community is dispersed across America and internationally, and because people around the world care about gender equality and democratic governance, we aim to increase access to our conference by streaming it live from the Radcliffe Institute and making video available on our website after the event. Registration and information for watching online will be posted soon on www.radcliffe.edu.

We welcome your interest in this upcoming event and in the other people and programs featured in this issue of Radcliffe Magazine. Please visit the Institute in person or virtually whenever you can.

Elizabeth Cohen
Interim Dean, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Harnessing Microscopic Motors

**BEYOND THE MACHINE** Scientists consider motors at the smallest scale

*by Courtney Humphries*

Most of us think of motors as artificial parts that power cars and equipment, but life runs on motors too. Essentially, motors are things that make movement possible. They include not only machines that convert electric energy into motion, but also the tiny proteins in cells that help muscles contract or shuttle microscopic cargo from place to place. A symposium at the Radcliffe Institute titled “Molecules, Movement, and Motors” brought together researchers in biology, medicine, physics, and engineering to discuss motors at the smallest scale. The talks, which took place October 14 at the Radcliffe Gymnasium, revealed how motors function in living organisms.

“You can, in principle, take any chemical reaction and use it to move things.”

Anna Balazs has designed artificial worms that move through narrow spaces in response to light.

**YOU CAN, IN PRINCIPLE, TAKE ANY CHEMICAL REACTION AND USE IT TO MOVE THINGS.**

Anna Balazs has designed artificial worms that move through narrow spaces in response to light.
Lawrence Goldstein posited that a breakdown in a neural transport system may cause Alzheimer’s disease.

how they go awry in certain diseases, and how engineers can use the principles of biological motion to construct tiny devices with lifelike movements.

Bioengineers can, for instance, take advantage of naturally occurring molecules that power small-scale movements in cells. Viola Vogel, who leads the Laboratory for Biologically Oriented Materials at ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule), in Zürich, has studied biological molecules responsible for movement within cells and for allowing cells to move around on surfaces. The research has shown, she said, that “the mechanical properties of biological molecules are different from synthetic molecules people had studied.” Now she’s trying to understand how these molecules respond to and create physical forces—for instance, how integrins, tiny molecular anchors on the surface of cells, help the cells move.

Other presenters talked about important biological motor proteins: kinesin, dynein, and myosin. Innovative techniques make it possible to study their mechanics in detail. For instance, Steven Block, a biophysicist at Stanford University, uses

## BEHIND THE SCENES

### The minds of “Motors”

Months of labor and logistics—involving faculty members throughout the University—take place in advance of events like the Radcliffe Institute’s yearly science symposium. Planning for “Molecules, Movement, and Motors” included the following people along with Radcliffe Institute staff members.

1. **JOANNA AIZENBERG** Director of the Science Program and Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; Amy Smith Berylson Professor of Materials Science, Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Director, Kavli Institute for Bionanoscience; Founding Core Faculty Member, Hansjörg Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering
2. **ELIZABETH C. ENGLE** Professor of Neurology and Ophthalmology, Children’s Hospital Boston; Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
3. **SAMARA RECK-PETROZ** Assistant Professor of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School
4. **JOAN RUDERMAN** Senior Advisor to the Science Program, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; Marion V. Nelson
5. **DIMITAR D. SASSELOV** Senior Advisor to the Science Program, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; Professor of Astronomy, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Director, Harvard Origins of Life Initiative
6. **THOMAS L. SCHWARZ** Professor of Neurology and Neurobiology, Children’s Hospital Boston
7. **ROSALIND A. SEGAL** Senior Advisor to the Science Program, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; Professor of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School; Ted Williams Senior Investigator, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
8. **JUDITH A. STEEN** Assistant Professor of Neurobiology, Children’s Hospital Boston

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*Photographs by Tony Rinaldo*
With a better understanding of how proteins function, scientists can use them as parts in tiny devices.

optical tweezers (lasers that act as a tractor beam on tiny objects) to trap and manipulate kinesin. With a better understanding of how these proteins function, scientists can take them out of their natural context and use them as parts in tiny devices.

Ayusman Sen, a chemist from Pennsylvania State University, also draws inspiration from nature to design intelligent micro- and nanoscale motors. The goal is to create machines that power, move, and even organize themselves. Such small-scale machines could be used as sensors, as vehicles to deliver drugs in the body, or to construct and repair larger devices. Sen explained that at the most basic level, a motor can be considered intelligent if its movement is directed by information—and the information in question can be as simple as a difference in the amount of a chemical over space or time. An enzyme can move as it reacts with the chemical making up the gradient and releases energy. The result is a single-molecule pump that powers itself. “You can, in principle, take any chemical reaction and use it to move things,” Sen said.

Anna C. Balazs, a chemical engineer at the University of Pittsburgh, has been working to design small objects that mimic movements in nature, like those of bacterial cells, worms, or cilia (hair-like projections that beat in waves). “We take our inspiration from biology,” she said. All these biological objects “sense changes in the local environment and respond to those changes,” she said. Balazs, who solves complex problems in chemical engineering by modeling them on a computer, designed worm-like objects made of a soft material that swells in response to light; the artificial worms can be made to beat like cilia or navigate through narrow spaces with only light to guide them.

A breakdown or dysfunction in the body’s natural motors can lead to disease. Lawrence Goldstein, a cell biologist at the University of California at San Diego, theorized that a breakdown in an important transport system inside neurons may be the primary culprit in Alzheimer’s disease.

And James Spudich, a cardiovascular researcher at Stanford University, said that defects in the motors inside heart muscle can lead the muscle to deteriorate, a condition called cardiomyopathy.

Defects in the movement of cilia can lead to fertility problems, heart disease, kidney disease, respiratory infections, and learning disabilities. Susan Dutcher, a cell biologist at Washington University, is trying to understand how these structures function.

In the final presentation, Samara Reck-Peterson, a cell biologist at Harvard Medical School, said that this highly interdisciplinary endeavor to understand and take advantage of molecular motors faces a few challenges.

Scientists still have much to learn about individual biological motors, and when they try to design machines with them, they must find ways to power movement at a small scale and to design machines with abilities that are more sophisticated and programmable. For this knowledge to be useful in health care, biologists must find ways to intervene in diseases where motors have failed.

Finally, Reck-Peterson said, new technologies are needed to better access and manipulate these small structures. Our desire to understand how molecular motors work, she said, is often the driver to find new tools to study them.

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COURTNEY HUMPHRIES is a freelance writer whose articles have appeared in the Boston Globe, Harvard Magazine, and other publications.
A Matter of TRUST

by Colleen Walsh

FOR 17 YEARS, ANTHONY BRAGA HAS WORKED CLOSELY with the Boston Police Department (BPD) on a variety of initiatives, including the prevention of gang violence, the disruption of illegal gun markets, and prisoner re-entry programs. Using his research skills, he has explored “academic” questions such as the distribution of violence across the city. But Braga’s theoretical work has also had important practical applications, helping Boston employ its resources much more effectively.

During a symposium at the Radcliffe Institute on October 21, “Reimagining the City-University Connection: Integrating Research, Policy, and Practice,” Braga, a senior research fellow in the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at Harvard Kennedy School and a professor of criminal justice at Rutgers University, said that at the heart of such collaboration are strong relationships and a sense of trust.

To develop that trust, he attends major BPD meetings, accompanies patrols, and tries to be sensitive to the political and operational environments in which the officers work. Building trust is a fundamental part of a police officer’s job, agreed panelist Daniel Linskey, the BPD’s superintendent-in-chief. And establishing it with Braga was critical in ensuring that the partnership was a success.

The city–university connection—long an important relationship for sparking innovation, promoting collaboration and research, and transforming lives on a broad scale—was the focus of a daylong symposium at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

To view a video of this event, visit: http://www.radcliffe.edu/events/video.aspx.

Photographs by TONY RINALDO
“Braga had to build trust with us, the senior leaders in the police department, to make sure that he was giving us good guidance and good information,” said Linskey. “He built trust up and down the line with the police.” Linskey acknowledged that fighting violent crime is “bigger than the police department,” and called support from the academic community in helping to curb crime “priceless.”

Letting in “Outsiders”
Drawing officials from Harvard and the City of Boston, along with attendees from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, the crowded conference explored a range of topics including violence, technology, education, public health, innovation and research, and ways to further cooperation.

With his opening remarks, Robert J. Sampson, the Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences in Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences and director of the Social Sciences Program at Radcliffe, said universities have much to learn from working closely with city partners on a wide range of initiatives, and that cities, in turn, can benefit greatly from engaging directly with the academic community.

“We are trying to advance the simple but powerful idea that important social problems and deep intellectual questions can be addressed in ways ... that provide new knowledge, and a key part of this is the interaction with city officials, agencies, and others working on the ground,” said Sampson. “In fact, our claim is that the best knowledge requires that basic researchers learn from those who practice.”

“In return,” he added, “we believe that practitioners, city researchers, those in government, can learn from interacting with researchers who may look at their data with fresh eyes and independent insights.”

Trust emerged as a major theme during the event, which was organized and cosponsored by Radcliffe’s Academic Ventures, the City of Boston, and the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, which has been strengthening Harvard’s connections with state and local governments since its founding in 2001.

City government has to “have enough trust itself to let in outsiders,” said Edward L. Glaeser, director of the Rappaport Institute and the Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics at Harvard. Glaeser, who led a panel called “Lessons and Challenges of City-University Connections,” said colleges have much to learn from cities, adding that those relationships work only if they are “mutually beneficial.”

University administrators described strategies for developing close connections with surrounding communities. Henry S. Webber, executive
“Reimagining the City-University Connection” convened experts from seven schools at Harvard, six other area universities, six departments in the City of Boston, and elsewhere around the country. The symposium was organized and cosponsored by the Radcliffe Institute, the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston (a University-wide entity housed at Harvard Kennedy School), and the City of Boston and was planned by the following people.

NIGEL JACOB Cochair, Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics, City of Boston
LINDA KOWALCKY Deputy Director for Institutional Sector Management, Boston Redevelopment Authority; Mayor’s Liaison to Higher Education, City of Boston
ALVARO DE CASTRO E LIMA Director of Research, Boston Redevelopment Authority
DAVID LUBEROFF Executive Director, Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, Harvard University
DANIEL O’BRIEN Project Manager, Harvard Boston Research Initiative, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
ROBERT J. SAMPSON Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Director of the Social Sciences Program and Codirector, Harvard Boston Research Initiative, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
CHRISTOPHER WINSHIP Diker-Tishman Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Codirector, Harvard Boston Research Initiative, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

Jennifer Tour Chayes lobbies for transparency and trust.

vice chancellor for administration at Washington University in St. Louis, said that as one of the largest private employers in the region, the university makes it a priority to contribute to economic growth and partnerships in the area. It also aims to promote public discussion of key issues and to apply its academic strength to areas such as entrepreneurship and innovation, public health, and public education.

Transparency and Trust
Underlying Jennifer Tour Chayes’s work is the concept of privacy. The founder of Microsoft Research New England, a lab that unites disciplines such as math, physics, economics, and ethnography, Chayes has used technology in school systems and local communities to examine issues including bullying and health care.

The work, she said, requires transparency and trust. “If we don’t respect people’s privacy, we will lose their trust,” she cautioned during a session titled “Governance and New Technologies.” To develop trust, she said, “we have to give accurate information on the costs and benefits of giving up privacy, and then use the citizens’ data consistently with their wishes.”

Improving Education
Several speakers addressed the vital need for
city-university collaborations in improving urban education. Stephen Raudenbush, a sociology professor at the University of Chicago who also chairs its committee on education, discussed a number of ongoing collaborations between the university and Chicago’s public school system. The university runs four schools on the city’s South Side, directs an ambitious teacher training program, and conducts policy analysis based on data that have been collected from the city’s public schools since 1991.

The work, said Raudenbush, has several important effects. Not only does it improve community relations, but it helps the university develop important knowledge about “how we create the best possible schooling for some of the nation’s most disadvantaged kids.” Such vital work requires actively running the schools where you want to create that change, he said, and training teachers in those same schools.

“You have to put your ideas to the test,” said Raudenbush, who also stressed the need to “capture the imagination of the big universities in taking the lead doing this kind of work.” Outstanding schooling, he said, should be taken every bit as seriously as we take “the challenge to finding a cure to cancer.”

Sarah Glover, executive director of the Strategic Data Project at HGSE’s Center for Education Policy Research, explores how to bring the right people, the right data, and the right analysis together to help “vastly improve the quality of decisions that are being made in education today.”

With the help of 45 fellows who work in 10 school districts in two states, the group examines teacher effectiveness and student trajectories. Glover discussed one study involving teacher placement, which revealed that in hard-to-staff schools, novice teachers were frequently placed with lower-performing students. The findings, she said, helped her colleagues explore with district administrators the important question of what it means “to strategically place teachers with kids to increase student achievement.” But developing effective partnerships, ones that encourage effective exchanges of information, takes a lot of time, said Glover, who called for transparency, openness, and the creation of a common set of goals.

Developing effective partnerships, ones that encourage effective exchanges of information, takes a lot of time, said Sarah Glover. She called for transparency, openness, and common goals.

Collaborating on Critical Issues

At a reception following the event, Harvard Provost Alan Garber acknowledged the vital role that city-university connections play in addressing critical issues such as violence and poverty. Cities “can tell us much more about what we should be studying, and we can learn by talking to one another,” he said.

Examples of such dialogue include various ongoing collaborations between university partners and the City of Boston that were also on display during the reception. A number of Harvard graduate students discussed their work, including a study being conducted by a postdoctoral fellow at the Rappaport Institute and HKS’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance in collaboration with a doctoral student in engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The study explores how regular information and updates about the predicted arrival times of Boston’s commuter trains affect the behavior and attitudes of riders.

“My breath has been taken away” by the event, said Lizabeth Cohen, Radcliffe’s interim dean and the Howard Mumford Jones Professor of American Studies, praising sessions that offered new ideas from a variety of perspectives. “There were people coming from so many walks of life. Process matters as much as product, and I think that we all showed that today.”

Colleen Walsh is a staff writer for the Harvard Gazette.
Anita Hill on Finding Home

TWENTY YEARS after Clarence Thomas, Anita Hill turns to reimagining equality.

by Deborah Blagg

BEST KNOWN FOR HER GAL-
vanizing testimony during
Clarence Thomas’s Supreme
Court confirmation hearings,
Anita Hill visited Radcliffe
in mid-November to deliver
the Schlesinger Library’s
annual Maurine and Robert
Rothschild Lecture. In her
welcoming remarks, Nancy
F. Cott called Hill’s 1991 ap-
ppearance before the all-male
Senate Judiciary Committee
“an act of personal and politi-
cal bravery that was hugely
consequential” in focusing
a national spotlight on the
issue of sexual harassment
and gender inequality in the
workplace. Cott is the Carl
and Lily Pforzheimer Direc-
tor of the Schlesinger and the
Jonathan Trumbull Professor
of American History in the
Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Twenty years later, Hill,
now a professor of social
policy, law, and women’s
studies at Brandeis Univer-
sity, is bringing to light new
perspectives on the topic of
equality in America. Her
lecture, titled “In Search
of a 21st Century Vision of
Equality,” drew from ideas
in her new book, Reimag-
ing Equality: Stories of
Gender, Race, and Finding
Home, which examines how
the concept of “home” has
figured in the imagination
of individuals committed to
gender and racial equality in
the United States.

Citing examples from her
own family history, Hill, the
youngest of 13 children in a
rural Oklahoma family, noted
the pattern of economic and
geographic migration fol-
lowed by successive genera-
tions of African Americans
from the Civil War to the 21st
century. While the pro-
gression from slave cabins
to cities to the suburbs to
“having a First Lady who is
the descendant of slaves” is
remarkable, Hill observed,
“our understanding might be
quite different if we heard the
stories about what constitutes
equality from the perspective
of someone like my mother.”

Her mother, Irma Hill, was
born in Lone Tree, Oklahoma,
in 1911, and lived there for
over 80 years. “She was not
a part of any migration,” Hill
emphasized, yet she and
others who have supported
those who go on to higher
achievements also seek
equality—“not by moving, but
by staying and building.” The
concept of home as a place
“where one can safely view
the world and where one’s
ideas are seen as valuable”
is the foundation of Hill’s
vision of equality. But she is
concerned that as the aver-
age home size in the United
States grew from 1,400 square
feet in 1970 to 2,700 square
feet in 2009, “we have moved
from the American Dream as
community to an American
Dream as opulence.”

Even before the recent
economic downturn, the
three-car-garage version of
the ideal American home
excluded many, said Hill,
whose vision for a bet-
ner future hinges on policy
decisions that will make
it possible for those with
limited incomes “to enjoy
all the opportunities society
has to offer.” “How do we
make choices that include
more people?” she asked,
highlighting the need for
affordable neighborhoods
“where you can walk safely at
night, buy wholesome food, get
to medical facilities, and
get to your job.”

Deborah Blagg is a free-

Photographs by Tony Rinaldo
The veteran documentary maker spotlights his craft

The Wisdom of

With 39 titles under his belt—all but two of them documentaries—Wiseman has earned his place among the giants of American filmmaking.
Wiseman often captures on film the mesmerizing, troubling, and even wistful and funny aspects of ordinary human experience. During his standing-room-only talk, he showed examples from his work, including, from left to right, Basic Training (1971), Law and Order (1969), and Welfare (1975).

by Corydon Ireland

At 81, Frederick Wiseman is the American dean of the documentary genre known as direct cinema. Since 1967, he has made nearly a film a year—each one meant to reveal the diversity of experience, including tragedy, humor, humiliation, humdrum, and even horror.

Wiseman, peppery and lean, was at Harvard on December 1 to deliver a witty illustrated primer on how to shoot, edit, and “read” a documentary. He spoke before a packed audience at the Radcliffe Gymnasium, delivering the Julia S. Phelps Annual Lecture in Art and the Humanities, sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute.

You can’t get advanced training in filmmaking in an hour and 24 minutes, the time Wiseman took at the podium. But you can gain insights. However, don’t expect to hear any pronouncements in the language of film criticism, which he professes not to understand.

“There’s an enormous amount of [expletive deleted] about documentary film,” he told one questioner, “and I try not to participate in it.”

Wiseman was equally dismissive of his career before films. Speaking of his time at Yale Law School, he said, “I was physically present.” But it was the law that, in a way, led him to make his first documentary film, Titicut Follies (1967), a journey of relentless shocks. The title refers to a talent show put on by the inmates of Bridgewater (Massachusetts) State Hospital, a correctional institution that at the time housed the criminally insane—some of them kept naked and ranting in cells. It was a place where Wiseman would take his Boston University law students on a field trip designed to show them the fate of some of their clientele.

His films since then have been about institutions both dark and light, including one that he called a logical follow-up to a film about a place for the insane: High School (1968). He has also plumbed a zoo, a park, a hospital, a police precinct, a welfare office, and a public-housing complex. But don’t call him one-sided, or a chronicler of the downtrodden, said Wiseman. He’s after the complexity, ambiguity, and diversity of impressions you might derive from a play or a novel—art forms to which he compares his films.

Wiseman’s talk wasn’t long on personal history; it was long on technique. How, exactly, do you make a documentary film? How do you research, shoot, and edit a product meant to give viewers the illusion of actual experience in a certain place?

His idea of research is nonconformist and might involve a day or half a day. “The shooting of the film is the research,” said Wiseman, who prefers to arrive at a school or an office or a hospital knowing very little about it. At the end of the day, he watches silent rushes alone and lets the structure of the story and its characters emerge from the reality of what he sees. “I show up at a place,” he said in a summary of his technique. “The analogy for the process is Las Vegas. It’s a crapshoot.”

But Wiseman knows how to throw the dice. He uses a small crew, handling the sound himself and, by instinct, naming the shots he wants. Postproduction is slow and long. Shooting might take a few weeks or a month, but editing can take a year.

“Part of the fun of doing it is the surprise,” Wiseman said of his instinctual shooting and slow editing. In the end, he added, the intention is to create “a dramatic structure out of ordinary experience.”

That ordinary experience—captured in the film clips he used to illustrate his talk—can be troubling. In Law and Order (1969), a burly police officer is
seen choking a prostitute during an arrest. (Wiseman, alert to ambiguities, refused to condemn him.) The scene is proof, he said, that a camera does not change behavior and that “most of us think our behavior is appropriate for the situation we are in.”

That ordinary experience can also be mesmerizing, as in the six-minute “night crawl” scene in Basic Training (1971). Faced with five hours of rushes, Wiseman had to compress what was literal about the training—camouflage, silent communication, traversing barbed wire—and what abstractions it evoked. He chose the metaphor of dance. The music score was dual: the sound of crickets and then the sound of machine guns.

That ordinary experience can be wistful and funny, too. Wiseman used the opening sequence of Welfare (1975) to illustrate both the continuity of his shots and a lesson needed at the time: that public benefits go to a variety of races, not just one. We see clients getting their welfare mug shots and a medley of people waiting, most of them well dressed. In the first “talk sequence,” said Wiseman, a man has a loud complaint that eases into a conversation, which shows how public offices can include moments of private intimacy. Then a homeless couple’s plea for help becomes a comic riff on marriage. “Any documentary filmmaker,” Wiseman said later, “runs into a lot of funny material.”

And that ordinary experience can be both visually gorgeous and suggestive of tedium. In Belfast, Maine (1999), a sequence about a sardine factory shows little fish in silvery streams slipping and flushing through stainless steel troughs. It’s a trip to death, snipping, and being sealed into cans. With them in the noise and the steam are the workers, steady and grim-faced, wearing hairnets. “You begin to feel,” said Wiseman, “what it’s like to work there.”

After his talk, you began to feel what it’s like to make documentary films. And along the way, Wiseman offered related wisdom for filmmakers. Permission? Just ask. Video or film? It doesn’t matter. Wiseman has shot two recent films in high definition, his first foray into the digital realm. “It still takes me a year to edit a film,” he said.

Stay organized, he advised. Wiseman enters each shot into a log, along with every camera roll, sound roll, and edge code. “It’s the only area of my life I’m meticulous about,” he said.

The elderly Wiseman said he had reached a point “where I can hardly remember my name—but I remember all my rushes.” He ended with a story from making Near Death (1989), about an intensive care unit. It required that he visit the morgue, where he became friendly with a supervisor. On the last day of filming, Wiseman thanked him for helping. The supervisor replied, “See you soon.”

Corydon Ireland is a staff writer for the Harvard Gazette. This article is adapted from one that originally appeared in the Gazette.
by Pat Harrison

In 1968, after Ellen Willis had published a single article about music—the story of Bob Dylan’s early career—the New Yorker hired her to be its first rock critic. Willis had worked on her Dylan piece, “Before the Flood,” published in the countercultural magazine Cheetah, for five months, and it showed. Her views were complicated, ambiguous, and illuminating. She was already writing as a cultural critic and not limiting herself to music.

“Dylan has exploited his image as a vehicle for artistic statement,” Willis wrote. “The same is true of Andy Warhol and, to a lesser degree, of the Beatles and Allen Ginsburg. (In contrast, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe were creatures, not masters, of their images.)” Insightful stuff, especially from a 26-year-old.

The Schlesinger Library acquired Willis’s papers in 2008, after Nancy F. Cott, the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the library and the Jonathan Trumbull Professor in Harvard’s history department, contacted Willis’s widower, Stanley Aronowitz, a distinguished professor of sociology and urban education at the City University of New York. Processing of the Willis papers was made possible by gifts from the Radcliffe College Classes of 1950 and 1968.

Among the 10 boxes of Willis’s papers are correspondence, diaries, drafts of articles, artwork her daughter Nona Willis Aronowitz made as a child, short stories, unfinished novels, and an original copy of the Cheetah issue containing the Dylan piece. There’s also a brief note that Simone de Beauvoir sent to Willis at Rolling Stone—where she was a columnist from 1976 to 1978—regretfully declining a request for an interview.

In 1969, while Willis was writing for the New Yorker, where she remained on staff until 1975, she and other New York feminists founded Redstockings. The name came from combining “bluestockings” (for intellectual women) with a color that signaled their leftist politics. Redstockings’ manifesto and principles, contained in Willis’s papers, may sound over-the-top to contemporary readers (“All men receive economic, sexual, and psychological benefits from male supremacy. All men have oppressed women”), but they are true to their time. Willis eventually focused more on feminism, family, and politics than on rock music in her writing.

Interest in Willis was renewed in the spring of 2011, when the University of Minnesota Press published a collection of her articles edited by her daughter. Out of the Vinyl Deeps: Ellen Willis on Rock Music contains 59 of Willis’s essays, most of which originally appeared in the New Yorker.

To celebrate the book’s publication, Aronowitz organized a conference in April 2011 titled “Sex, Hope, & Rock ‘n’ Roll: The Writings of Ellen Willis.” The conference was held at New York University, where Willis had taught journalism beginning in 1990 and founded its Cultural Reporting and Criticism program. Speakers included Robert Christgau, a reigning rock critic of the 1960s and 1970s, and Daphne Brooks RI ’11, an English and African American studies professor at Princeton University. Brooks had explored Willis’s papers during her Radcliffe fellowship.

She noted that Willis was more engaged with white male musicians such as Dylan and the Rolling Stones than with black artists and feminists. But she also pointed out several instances when the cultural critic broadened her scope, including a profile Willis wrote during college of the black playwright Lorraine Hansberry, for Mademoiselle.

Willis was only 64 when she died of lung cancer, in 2006, but her voice lives on in her work. Younger feminists are becoming aware of her through Aronowitz’s book and the three collections of essays published during Willis’s lifetime—Beginning to See the Light: Sex, Hope, and Rock-and-Roll (Knopf, 1981); No More Nice Girls: Countercultural Essays (Wesleyan University Press, 1993); and Don’t Think, Smile! Notes on a Decade of Denial (Beacon Press, 1999).

Feminists of any age might welcome Willis’s commentary on contemporary culture right now. ❧

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**WILLIS: PLAYING AT TOP VOLUME**

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**THE VELVET UNDERGROUND** What it comes down to for me as a Velvets fan, a lover of rock and roll, a New Yorker, an aesthete, a punk, a sinner, a sometime seeker of enlightenment (and love) and sex—is this: I believe that we are all, openly or secretly, struggling against one or another kind of nihilism. I believe that body and spirit are not really separate, though it often seems that way. I believe that redemption is never impossible and always equivocal. But I guess that I just don’t know.—1979

**JONI MITCHELL’S BLUE** What hit me first was that the freaky voice had found its purpose. Before, it had just been there; now Joni was controlling it, using it to express an exploratory urgency that her lyrics confirmed. Blue was less a collection of songs than a piece of music divided into sections.—1973

**JANIS JOPLIN** It occurs to me that perhaps Thelma and Louise is the memorial Janis deserves. And with that thought, I grab my Joplin in Concert album off the shelf—the one with the cover picture of Janis wearing funny round glasses and feathers in her hair and an immortal smile—and play “Get It While You Can” at top volume. This above all is Janis’s message to the world: Don’t turn your back on love.—1993

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Quotes are from Out of the Vinyl Deeps: Ellen Willis on Rock Music.
A SYMPOSIUM looks at the gains women have made in the workplace—and considers the challenges that lie ahead.

Are Women the New Majority in the Workplace?
by Pat Harrison

It was a day Clara Goldberg Schiffer ’32 would have enjoyed. From start to finish, the message of speakers at the September 9 symposium titled “The New Majority? The Past, Present, and Future of Women in the Workplace” was about the gains women have made by working together and the fight that still lies ahead to achieve equity with men. In her long career in the federal government, Schiffer dedicated herself to working in behalf of women and children.

Held in honor of Schiffer’s generosity to the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, the symposium featured 10 speakers, including Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust, who opened the day’s proceedings. Faust commented on the importance of the Schlesinger, “the library that embodies the history of women,” and said that from her days as dean of the Radcliffe Institute, she remembered Schiffer well. Schiffer died in 2009.

Answering the question posed by the symposium’s title, Nancy F. Cott, the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger and the Jonathan Trumbull Professor of American History, said that for a brief time, at the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010, when the recession hit more men’s jobs than women’s, women did represent more than half of nonfarm employees on payrolls. But in the subsequent recovery, men gained more jobs while women’s job losses continued.

Lynn Rhinehart, general counsel of the AFL-CIO, was unequivocal about the value of labor unions for women: “The benefits and advantages of women being represented by a union at work are numerous, plentiful, overwhelming.” Women covered by union contracts are more likely to have paid sick days and paid holidays, she said, and the pay gap is smaller for them.

One of Clara Schiffer’s daughters, Lois J. Schiffer ’66, summed up the timeliness of the symposium, pointing out that women have more opportunities than they had in the past but still face many obstacles. “The stalling of our economy, the partisan divide, the failure of all of us to convey effectively what the government does for our benefit, the greatest income disparity since the 1920s—all of these are grave challenges for workers in our nation and women workers in particular.”

For a full list of symposium speakers, visit www.radcliffe.edu/events/calendar_2011/workplace.aspx.

WOMEN ON THE CLOCK: HARD WORK AND LOW WAGES, a Schlesinger Library exhibition, showcases women who work for an hourly wage—from the service industry to the blue-collar trades. It runs through March 12, 2012.
**Drowsy Driving**

If you haven’t slept in 24 hours, you’re just as impaired as if you were legally drunk.

by Corydon Ireland

American drivers, medical researchers at Harvard have a message for you: Wake up.

Drowsy driving, these researchers say, is an understudied, underappreciated, and underfunded public health and safety concern. Consider a few facts about the act of operating a motor vehicle while sleep-deprived: Every week, 2 million Americans nod off at the wheel; drowsy drivers get into 1.9 million crashes a year; and 20 percent of all serious motor vehicle accidents—one out of every five—involve sleepy drivers. The annual death toll is 7,500, and serious injuries number 50,000.

After all, what is a car, truck, or bus operated by a driver who falls asleep? “It’s a missile,” said Charles A. Czeisler, the Baldino Professor of Sleep Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He helped organize an Exploratory Seminar earlier this year at the Radcliffe Institute. The meeting—from May 9 to 12—addressed two interrelated challenges: new directions for the mathematical modeling that researchers use to predict sleep and wakefulness and new ways to translate sleep research into regulatory standards for wakefulness in operational environments. “We always want our work to be applicable to the real world,” said seminar co-organizer Elizabeth B. Klerman, a researcher in sleep and sleep modeling and an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

To start on these challenges, Czeisler and Klerman were joined at Radcliffe by other researchers and by experts from outside the realm of medical science: mathematicians, economists, lawyers, transportation executives, health policy analysts—and one expert each from where this rubber really meets the road: politics, regulation, and law enforcement. They included the Massachusetts state senator Richard T. Moore; Rachel Kaprielian, registrar of the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles; and Marian J. McGovern, superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police.

Also on hand were two sleep and safety experts from Australia, where drowsy-driving policies are solidly in place. The traffic police there make 4 million random stops a year looking for sleepy or drunk drivers—who, physiologically, share many impairments.

Up to 20 times a year, the Radcliffe Institute provides funding and a venue for disparate experts to define new questions, test hypotheses, and advance knowledge. The program invites seminar proposals from Harvard faculty members or former Radcliffe fellows.

Since 2002, the seminars have fanned like bright comets across a firmament of issues. For 2010–2011, they include seminars on condensed-matter astrophysics, sound art, and the narrative confluences of fiction and evolutionary biology. No matter what the subject, the core themes at Exploratory Seminars are always the same: take risks, ask new questions, and push boundaries.

“I don’t usually talk to somebody at a law school about our work,” said Klerman, who directs the Analytic and Modeling Unit within the Division of Sleep Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. “You get out of your silo.” Czeisler, who is chief of the same division, agreed that the Radcliffe setting creates some novel dialogues. “That was one of the highlights of the Radcliffe seminar,” he said, “to bring people together and share perspectives we don’t ordinarily get.”

Exploring ways to implement policy based on research and theory “is good for both academics and policymakers,” said Moore. “It allows sharing and
at the same rate as those of a rested counterpart, but they reopen much more slowly.

A related study has already appeared in print, in August. Harvard researchers Chungbai Zhang and Stefanos N. Kales investigated “psychomotor vigilance testing” (PVT) to assess reaction times among commercial drivers and emergency first responders. PVT may help screen drivers who are at risk of daytime sleepiness because of obstructive sleep apnea. Such drivers experience, in medical parlance, “microsleep episodes.”

Policymakers in some realms have already confronted the potentially fatal consequences of mixing sleeplessness with critical work. Regulations or standards are in place for astronauts, truckers, medical residents, and pilots (though not for airline maintenance crews). Meanwhile, more than half of all drivers admit they have occasionally nodded off at the wheel, said Czeisler. Most such drivers also admit they are unlikely to take any action other than to keep going. That attitude stems from a lack of public education, he said. About $300 million a year goes to educating the public about drunk driving, but less than 1 percent of that amount is used to wake people up to the hazards of drowsy driving. If you have not slept in 24 hours, said Czeisler, “you’re just as impaired as if you were legally drunk.”

Those most at risk for drowsy driving are males aged 16 to 29, drivers with undiagnosed sleep disorders, commercial drivers, and people working long shifts or night shifts. “Unfortunately,” Klerman said, “people don’t know how tired they are.”

Another problem is that driving itself is a “routine, highly overlearned task,” said Czeisler. You can be practically asleep, but “automatic behavior syndrome” takes over and makes it appear, for a time, as if you were driving competently. He cited the case of a woman in the netherworld between wakefulness and sleep who for 30 minutes drifted into other lanes of traffic and nearly ran several trucks off the road along I-25 in Denver before she was stopped by the police. When you are drowsy, said Czeisler, “your judgment is impaired.”

Meaningful enforcement of laws against drowsy driving will need the equivalent of a Breathalyzer, said Moore; although, he added, it’s getting better with the advent of devices that warn drivers when a vehicle crosses the center line. Klerman agreed that for now, scientists have no Breathalyzer equivalent, or even a biomarker that signifies sleepiness. In the meantime, she said, more education is the key.

Adults need eight hours of sleep a night but often get less, Klerman said. (It should take 10 or 15 minutes to fall asleep at night, she said—and if you fall asleep right away, especially during the daytime, you’re not getting enough.) Getting enough sleep does more than allay drowsy driving: It’s tied to good hormone function, a healthy immune system, and learning acuity. It also reduces the risk of obesity. “People need to recognize the importance of sleep,” said Klerman. “It’s not a waste of time.”

In the meantime, the most dramatic and public consequences of drowsiness take place on the road. Klerman recalled a woman who told her, “I fall asleep at red lights. Is that OK?” Another woman thought she had found the answer to staying awake on the road: clamping her ponytail in the sunroof so that every nod at the wheel of a car, be awake. *
Where “the Good and the Bad Are All Mixed Up”

†At the end of World War II, the United States recruited Wernher von Braun and more than a hundred other Germans who had worked on the V-2 missile, which the Third Reich used against London and Antwerp.

by Pat Harrison
Diane McWhorter, the Mildred Londa Weisman Fellow at Radcliffe, investigates the military-industrial complex in Huntsville, Alabama, where the rocket that took the United States to the moon was built.
Diane McWhorter RI ’12 is renowned for her first book, the Pulitzer Prize–winning Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama, the Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution. Focused on her hometown of Birmingham during the crisis year of 1963, the book is about history, class, race, the steel industry, and the McWhorter family itself. But its scope is narrow, McWhorter says, when compared with her new project.

In “Moon of Alabama: From Nazi Germany to Tranquility Base, via the Segregated American South,” McWhorter will describe how three 20th-century events—World War II, the Cold War, and the civil rights revolution—converged on Huntsville, Alabama. There, beginning in the 1950s, Wernher von Braun, who had been Hitler’s top rocket expert (and a former SS officer), led the team that built the Saturn V rocket and took Neil Armstrong to the moon.

At the end of World War II, the United States recruited von Braun and more than a hundred other Germans who had worked on the “Vengeance” missile, the V-2, which the Third Reich used primarily against London and Antwerp in the final months of the war. A concentration camp called Dora had been established specifically to provide labor for the mass production of the V-2. The horrific conditions there led to the deaths of more than 10,000 men—twice the number, McWhorter says, that were killed in V-2 bombings.

McWhorter first became interested in Huntsville and von Braun even before she started Carry Me Home. She was living in Cambridge, working as a journalist at Boston magazine after graduating from Wellesley, when a friend told her about the German rocket engineers in Huntsville, just 90 miles up the road from Birmingham. During her childhood, McWhorter had visited Huntsville only once, for a swim meet at which she won her first and only gold medal. When the friend told her about the rocket community, she conjured a storybook image.

“I pictured this little German enclave with statues of gnomes around a lake, where everybody would get together and sing German lieder every night,” McWhorter says. What she would eventually discover was a high-tech mecca—not only NASA’s largest center at the time but also a leading laboratory of missile development. First, however, she had to write Carry Me Home. “To her surprise (and frustration), that project took 19 years to complete, during which time she got married, moved to New York City, and raised two daughters.

In August of 2001, while her daughters were at camp, McWhorter went to Alabama to interview some of the aging Germans who had worked under von Braun. Only about 15 were
left. When she asked one of the scientists if he had had any qualms about working on weapons of mass destruction, he told her they didn’t build weapons of mass destruction, merely the delivery system. “That kind of sums up the scientists’ quandary,” McWhorter says. “Do they bear moral responsibility for the uses to which their technology is put?”

Von Braun, who died in 1977, was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Ford in 1975, “for his work in making the liquid-fuel rocket a practical launch vehicle and for individual contributions to a series of advanced space vehicles, culminating in the Saturn series that made the Apollo program possible.”

McWhorter says she understands the phenomenon of the “good German” after growing up in the segregated South. “Something similar happened in the South,” she says. “All these ‘good’ people went along with this system that was patently immoral. It violated their Christian beliefs. I know how something that’s really wrong can come to seem normal. I understand how that happened.”

Von Braun is the center of her story, McWhorter says, “his Nazi background trumped by the national interest.” After touching on milestones of the Cold War—the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam War—she’ll cover the moon landing of 1969. She believes that the United States would never have made it to the moon when it did without von Braun. “No way,” she says.

Another strand of the book will be civil rights. “Part of the space-race story that hasn’t been told is that all of this Cold War, beat-the-Soviets narrative was going on at the same time that Alabama was host to the civil rights struggle,” McWhorter says. “The ironies abound. Old paradigms of the ‘master race’ regularly integrated black tennis courts and black jazz clubs. And at the encouragement of his Washington bosses, von Braun urged racial tolerance on the locals.”

In addition to Huntsville, McWhorter has traveled to Berlin and Washington to conduct interviews and archival research. She has also interviewed the singer-songwriter Tom Lehrer (see sidebar). And it was the folksinger Pete Seeger (he enlisted in the army at Huntsville during the war) who said, when she told him what she was working on, “Oh, yeah, the good and the bad are all mixed up.”

Her goal with “Moon of Alabama,” she says, is “for people to look at this well-known turning point in history—the first man on the moon—in a completely new way.”

Asked when she thinks she might finish, McWhorter wisely replies. “I just want it to be good.”
The improbably cold weather had made things tense at NASA’s “forgotten” principality in the lush Tennessee River Valley of North Alabama. The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville made possible the rest of the space program, but it was NASA’s least exciting division, the way the foundation is the least exciting part of a house. Marshall lacked the cowboy bumptiousness of Houston, where the astronauts roamed, or the fireworks of Cape Canaveral in Florida, where the rockets blasted off. As the maker of those rockets, Marshall simply stole fire from the gods, harnessing the energy that launched the spacecrafts, such as the one about to be sent to heaven on the frigid morning of January 28, 1986: Challenger.

The dull personality of the Marshall Space Flight Center had been sealed from the start by its German origins. After World War II, Huntsville had become the home base of Wernher von Braun, the wunderkind in charge of developing the deadly missiles with which Adolf Hitler once hoped to achieve his takeover of the world. The United States government had acquired von Braun and the 120 German scientists and technicians known as his “rocket team” to build weapons of mass destruction for the US Army. As the Cold War with the Soviet Union escalated, mutually assured destruction found a sublime adjunct: the space race. The von Braun team moved to the civilian side of rocketry, at the new National Aeronautics and Space Administration. But the army stayed in Huntsville too, and the city remained one of the world’s biggest missile research and development centers. In that frail moral ecosystem in the Heart of Dixie, aspiration shared office space with nihilism. Former Nazis gave literal flight to the American Dream, while their military counterparts dreamed up the machines that could wipe out masses of humanity at the push of a button. It was no wonder that the city didn’t advertise its existence. Local legend had it that the reason there were no highway signs directing Alabama motorists to Huntsville was that the government didn’t want to make it easy for the Russians to find the country’s high-tech weaponry brain trust. But there was also the sense that Huntsville’s history of getting no credit was because so much of the credit belonged to Hitler’s former protégés.

Even now, 16 years after Wernher von Braun was removed from that kingdom he had built, the Marshall Space Flight Center had something of the “good German” in its temperament. Not exactly that Huntsville followed orders. But neither did it share Houston’s naughty glee in ignoring the directives out of Washington. The Germans had had an arrogance that translated into stubbornness rather than rebelliousness—a sort of “my way or the Autobahn” insistence on their own engineering style. Though usually that style prevailed, even triumphed, their blunt-instrument tradition also accounted for the Germans’ vulnerability. Four decades after World War II ended, they remained shadowed by their elite role in a Wehrmacht bent on wiping out civilization. Von Braun had been an officer in the SS, albeit an honorary one. And the state-of-the-art “vengeance weapon” he had created for Hitler—the V-2 rocket—was the prototype for all the ballistic missiles developed by the major powers after the war. It was also the forerunner of the masterpiece of technological genius the Germans had given America: the Saturn V rocket. At 364 feet tall (the length of a football field including the end zones), it generated 7.5 million pounds of thrust, enough to get a man to the moon. Its combination of engineering elegance with massiveness had required an effort that was often likened to the building of the Pyramids.

Although he dealt in phallic symbols and male fantasy (albeit of the science fiction variety), von Braun liked to say that compared with Houston...
and the Cape, “Huntsville is about as sexy as Lady Godiva’s horse.” Von Braun himself was the striking exception to that claim: He was the only man in the space program to match the movie star dazzle of the president who had given him his mission, John F. Kennedy. Von Braun was both a pop icon, showcased by Walt Disney in a 1950s prime-time TV show on science, and the sole philosopher that the NASA bureaucracy had produced, as eloquent about the metaphysics of space exploration as about the really cool equipment. “A space scientist,” he liked to say, “is an engineer who loves poetry.”

The natives at the helm of NASA were, to put it mildly, ambivalent about him, probably more out of jealousy than out of qualms about his Nazi past.

Von Braun had, in 1969, fulfilled his late president’s dream to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. The commitment of resources to this end had been matched only by the construction of the Panama Canal and the Manhattan Project. But soon after the Huntsville team’s Saturn V rocket propelled Neil Armstrong and the rest of the Apollo 11 crew into history, von Braun had been shoved aside, removed from what was known as the “dirty hands” milieu of actual rocket-making and reassigned to the bureaucratic world of clean fingernails in Washington, DC. NASA either fired or demoted most of the remaining Germans in Huntsville.

The decommissioning of the Germans—they themselves referred to it as a purge—had arguably set the space program on the trajectory toward this day in January some fifteen years later. So muted did the voice of the Marshall Space Flight Center become within the NASA hierarchy that twice in those ensuing years Washington had considered shutting its Huntsville division down. From his exile in Washington, as NASA’s fourth-ranking officer, in charge of planning, von Braun had been assigned to figure out how to put a man on Mars. Instead he found himself walking up and down the corridors of headquarters looking in vain for someone to share his vision with. NASA had replaced von Braun’s romance of building human colonies in space with the relatively banal space shuttle, the type of the vehicle about to lift off on January 28, 1986.

If the moon mission had been about God and country and the triumph of freedom, the shuttle was about ... transportation. The nomenclature said it all. The moon project had been called Apollo after the god of light (and the human values of striving and justice). The shuttle was named after a bus—literally. As the Apollo program was winding down in 1969, NASA’s manned space flight administrator had proclaimed that what they needed was “a vehicle that’s like a shuttle bus!” Though the idea of a reusable spacecraft—sort of a rocket airplane—dated back to the earliest sci-fi theories of space travel advanced in Germany and America, NASA’s shuttle was a reflection of good old American commerce. The hope was that the shuttle could be flown for profit.

This represented a revolution, or perhaps a devolution, in space culture. Huntsville’s brave new capitalist enterprise, like the vanishing German way of rocketry it replaced, was a stark example of the tension between ends and means—how good produced bad and vice versa. The excellence of the von Braun team, for example, was commonly attributed to the vaunted “arsenal system” under which it operated, retaining soup-to-nuts control over every aspect of rocket-making—from research and development to production. Von Braun preferred to fashion and test his own rocket and missile prototypes rather than turn that responsibility over to contractors from private industry—in the American way. Despite its undeniably fine results, the Germans’ so-called under-one-roof system had made NASA uneasy since its founding in 1958. As one of NASA’s early administrators said of the Germans’ unilateral management principles: “It seems difficult to get them adopted in a democracy.”

That was undoubtedly a dry reference to the origins of the Germans’ arsenal system in the Third Reich. In 1933, Adolf Hitler had hijacked the young von Braun’s pie-in-the-sky dreams of space travel and diverted them to the frontier of mass destruction: The first rockets von Braun made were bomb-toting missiles that the Nazis would within a decade unleash on the free world. Von Braun’s missile work had to be consolidated “under one roof” and covered in secrecy, since this ambitious rearmament project violated the terms of the Versailles Treaty concluding World War I, which forbade Germany to rebuild its military. That secrecy, in turn, bound its participants into a sense of mission that followed them to the Deep South of America. In Huntsville, they essentially re-created the workplace protocols that had been in place at Peenemünde, the remote, top-secret outpost on the Baltic coast where von Braun’s team had designed the V-2 rocket—the first to pierce the rim of space. Thus had the inexorable technological drive behind the giant leap for mankind, in the moon landing of 1969, initially been a hallmark of the Nazi Wehrmacht. ✯
Michael P. Brenner loves a good mathematical equation, like the algorithms he uses to accelerate simulations of global pollution. He also loves a good chocolate brownie.

But it’s not just the taste of the scrumptious treat that gets his mouth watering. Exploring its ingredients, how it comes together, and what exactly happens to it in the oven make him just as excited. “It’s about the material property of brownies,” said an energetic Brenner, who displayed a numeric graph involving the sugar-to-flour ratio in brownies to a crowd at the Radcliffe Gymnasium during an hour-long presentation in September.

While, by his own admission, not a foodie, Brenner is curious about the scientific principles of food. His inquisitive scientific and mathematical mind, combined with a dynamic teaching style, made him ideally suited to help develop Harvard’s megahit class Science and Cooking: From Haute Cuisine to the Science of Soft Matter. Brenner is the Suzanne Young Murray Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute and the Glover Professor of Applied Mathematics and Applied Physics. By Colleen Walsh

We realized “we could actually teach science” with food, said Michael P. Brenner RI ’12 of the megahit Harvard class he helped develop, Science and Cooking: From Haute Cuisine to the Science of Soft Matter. Brenner is the Suzanne Young Murray Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute and the Glover Professor of Applied Mathematics and Applied Physics.

TEACHING SCIENCE

But it’s not just the taste of the scrumptious treat that gets his mouth watering. Exploring its ingredients, how it comes together, and what exactly happens to it in the oven make him just as excited. “It’s about the material property of brownies,” said an energetic Brenner, who displayed a numeric graph involving the sugar-to-flour ratio in brownies to a crowd at the Radcliffe Gymnasium during an hour-long presentation in September.

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TEACHING SCIENCE

...and baked chocolate molten cakes to explore the physical principles of heating and cooling, calculating aspects such as how long it takes for heat to diffuse into the center of the cake. They made cheese to help understand the properties behind protein folding and unfolding. Hollandaise sauce and mayonnaise helped them to investigate the science of emulsion. Students would perform real science experiments, said Brenner, “and then they would eat them.”

He walked the audience through an experiment he conducted with his students involving the dissolution properties of salt and sugar. With the ingredients at room temperature, you can completely dissolve two pounds of sugar in one pound of water, he said. And when the water is heated, “the solubility goes through the roof.” To illustrate his point to his class, he would also circulate a bottle of Coca-Cola. The audience groaned at the implication.

The engagement with students was thrilling, said Brenner, who was overwhelmed by the undergraduates’ response. Students,
he said, “were really listening.” And they were learning, too. The mean on the course’s final exam was 90 percent. Last spring, the course culminated in a science fair that included wild creations such as hot ice cream, solid soup, and glow-in-the-dark gummy bears.

One of the biggest, most surprising things that Brenner learned from the course, which is being offered again this year, is the notion of the critical synergy that exists between scientists and chefs. Science is “really about taking risks,” he said. “It’s really a subject in which failure is very important. In fact, if you are not failing enough, then you are not succeeding.”

The chefs, added Brenner, had very much the same mind-set. They were “always inventing crazy ideas that didn’t work, [but cooking is] an experimental science. … For them … failure was the most important thing.”

Colleen Walsh is a staff writer for the Harvard Gazette. This article is adapted from one that originally appeared in the Gazette.
Reeling from the effects of the recent recession, with Congress unable to agree on a path to recovery, the US economy closed the first decade of the 21st century with historic levels of unemployment and poverty. Figures released by the Census Bureau early last fall indicate that in 2010, 46.2 million Americans were living at or below the poverty threshold ($22,050 for a family of four), a number that had grown by 2.6 million from the previous year to the highest level in the 52 years for which US poverty rates have been published. US Bureau of Labor statistics show that unemployment has been at 9 percent or higher since mid-2009; last summer, Gallup released the results of a survey on underemployment showing that 19 percent of those working part-time in 2010 had tried in vain to find full-time jobs.

Many observers would agree with Lawrence F. Katz RI ’06, the Elisabeth Allison Professor of Economics at Harvard, that prospects for a quick fix are bleak. “Even if, magically, we put in place the right policies to launch a robust recovery today, the four years of decline since 2007 would leave scars that wouldn’t heal,” notes Katz. As the Occupy Wall Street Movement emerged last fall, the global press widely quoted Katz’s characterization of the past 10 years as a “lost decade,” when middle-class families lost economic ground and opportunities for young job seekers dwindled. But Katz is careful to point out that the erosion of our economic well-being took much longer than a decade. “Shrinking job opportunities in traditional middle-class jobs and rising economic inequality have been factors since the early 1980s,” he stresses. “The recent crisis exacerbated pre-existing trends, but none of this happened overnight. There have been some broad changes—most notably technological change and globalization—that have shifted labor demand away from middle-management, clerical, and high-wage production jobs (the middle-class jobs of the mid-20th century). The bargaining power of many middle-class workers has been undercut by the weakening of private-sector unions and, at the same time, families have been squeezed by rising health-care and higher-education costs.”

This year at the Radcliffe Institute, three scholars are using their time as fellows to look more closely at some of the trends, policies, attitudes, and circumstances associated with the country’s financial condition. Their research shines light on how the economic times we are living through are changing us, sometimes in unexpected ways.
Out of a “lost decade” and straight into economic malaise—how is the country’s financial condition affecting Americans’ mobility?

A NEW PATTERN OF POVERTY  The seeds of journalist Amy Goldstein’s fellowship project grew out of her two-decade career at the Washington Post. A staff writer and part of a team of Post reporters who earned a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of the aftermath of 9/11, Goldstein most recently has been assigned to the paper’s national social-policy beat. That experience has brought her face-to-face with Americans struggling to adjust to unexpected downward mobility.

During two memorable reporting trips—one to southwest Florida and the other to Columbia, South Carolina—Goldstein met people who were “shell-shocked” to find themselves falling out of the middle class. “These were people who’d had economically stable lives and suddenly found themselves applying for welfare or lining up at food banks,” says Goldstein. “What emerged in 2008 and 2009 was nothing like the structural poverty we’ve traditionally had. It’s a new pattern of decline, with the potential to reshape our national identity.”

In her work as the Katherine Hampson Bessell Fellow at Radcliffe, Goldstein is getting beyond the headlines and writing about the deeper impact of the economic crisis on realms such as family relationships, mental health, political alignment, and state fiscal policies. “We read, for example, that Americans are losing their homes,” she observes. “But what happens then? I’m interested in exploring the things that follow when people become unemployed.”

Her first line of inquiry is job retraining. “I want to see if the model of dislocated workers going back to school to reroute their careers still works in an economy in which there aren’t many jobs at the other end,” she says. After researching past eras of heightened unemployment, Goldstein has begun her “shoe-leather reporting” by interviewing students and administrators at a two-year college in a midwestern community “with relatively fresh economic bruises.” She says, “I wanted a place that wasn’t part of the long-term Rust Belt. No one city is a perfect metaphor for everywhere, but you want to pick someplace that represents recent trends.”

When it comes to our national self-image, Goldstein believes that two factors are particularly powerful: the large number of long-term (longer than six months, by the federal definition) unemployed and the fact that job losses have occurred across such a broad swath of the economy. “There’s a growing phenomenon of people who are not where they expected to be in their lives,” she observes. “How much of that has to happen before it fundamentally changes how we think about ourselves as Americans?”

Opportunities for young job seekers have dwindled, and people in traditional middle-class jobs have lost economic ground.
Are we creating suburban spaces of poverty that are in some ways worse than inner-city poverty?

Poverty has spiked for a variety of reasons. gentrification has driven low-income people out of some urban neighborhoods in search of cheaper housing. Families have moved to the suburbs in search of better schools and to be closer to jobs. Approximately 20 percent of the suburban poor are immigrants, many of whom moved directly to US suburbs to fill low-skill jobs. “Another piece is that more people who have always lived in the suburbs have slipped into poverty because of the recession and wages not keeping up with the cost of living,” she explains.

In her Radcliffe research, Weir is looking at the gaps between the existing urban social service infrastructure and the needs of those living near or below the poverty level in the suburbs. “Inner-city poverty hasn’t gone away,” she stresses, “but one of the questions I have is: Are we creating subur-

ban spaces of poverty that are in some ways even worse?”

Along with limited access to public transportation, affordable housing, bilingual programs, homeless shelters, food pantries, job training, and social service agencies, the suburban poor—many of whom are women and children—face a less obvious challenge. “Suburban poverty is often invisible,” explains Weir, whose current study focuses on suburban neighborhoods outside Chicago and Atlanta. “The poor are spread out more, so the problems that go along with poverty, such as homelessness, tend to look different.”

One recurring theme Weir has encountered in her interviews to date is denial. “Just getting officials to admit that poverty exists is a challenge,” she reveals. “A mother with children working a minimum-wage job and living in an extended-stay hotel because her husband left and she couldn’t pay her mortgage doesn’t fit the stereotype most people have of a poor person,” Weir says. “When municipal budgets are already stretched thin, there is little resolve to expand services for people who are struggling under the radar. They are getting left behind.”

While acknowledging the difficulty of developing a new infrastructure to meet the needs of the poor in suburbia, Weir has been encouraged to see some innovative collaborations. “When connections can be built between local service organizations and regional networks of advocacy and philanthropy, local groups are more likely to build the organizational and political resources needed to address poverty,” says Weir. She hopes that one outcome of her fellowship year will be identifying the political coalitions and organizational best practices that are beginning to make a difference in the lives of the suburban poor.

BECOMING POOR ENOUGH TO GET BETTER

When Martin Andersen '12 was working as an investment banker in the health-care sector, from 2001 to 2004, it became clear to him that there was something “messy, unusual, and frustrating” about the health-care market. “I had to decide whether I would not let that bother me, or step off track and study it.”

Choosing the latter, Andersen earned an MPH at Yale and is now pursuing a PhD in health policy at Harvard, concentrating in health economics. As a graduate fellow at Radcliffe, he is studying state-run health-care safety net programs that extend benefits to people who have extraordinary health-care expenses but too much income to qualify for Medicaid. "Thirty-two states currently have such programs," he explains, “and each is different.”

Most of these "medically needy" programs require participants—often elderly people who need extended nursing care or younger patients with chronic ailments or disabilities—to spend out-of-pocket on medical expenses until their assets fall below a state-established level. "The financial impact on families who generally are not that wealthy to begin with is significant," he notes. Andersen hopes his research will shed light on the costs and benefits of these state-subsidized programs, particularly as we approach the projected expansion of Medicaid in 2014, when new national health-care reforms will take effect.
LESSONS FROM THE PAST

Taking the long view, Lawrence Katz believes the country’s economic past may offer a measure of hope for the future. “The United States has lost traditional middle-class jobs in response to changing markets many times before,” he points out. “Otherwise we’d still be a nation of farmers and coach builders.”

Building a 21st century middle class “doesn’t mean recreating the same jobs that powered the economy 50 years ago,” emphasizes Katz, an advocate of universal access to college education as well as innovation and investment in growth fields. “We have choices,” he says. “For example, do we want long-term care for the elderly to be provided by minimum-wage workers or by highly educated professionals who understand the psychology and biology of aging?” In the past, he says, “our leaders have repeatedly educated the next generation to move into expanding markets. We should do that again.”
A Sense of Being There

Walking in the footsteps of history isn’t the same as being there,” Tony Horwitz writes in the opening pages of Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War. It’s a surprising statement from Horwitz, who has succeeded in making himself the most innovative popularizer of American history since David McCullough dared to stand in front of a TV camera. Horwitz has practiced a unique brand of participatory journalism: suiting up as a Civil War re-enactor, trekking much of the perimeter of the Continental United States to retrace the routes of the North American explorers, and then writing up his adventures. But in Midnight Rising, after a short paragraph detailing a 150th-anniversary nocturnal pilgrimage in commemoration of Brown’s historic march into Harper’s Ferry, Horwitz withdraws from the scene and gives us a straight narrative of the quixotic military action that galvanized both North and South the year before war broke out. His sixth book, which provides his readers with a sense of “being there” even more effectively than his previous first-person historical travelogues, may be his best so far.

It has been said that without John Brown there would have been no Civil War. One recent biographer, David Reynolds, called the Harper’s Ferry raid a microcosm of the war, involving many of the era’s key players—from Robert E. Lee, the supervisor at Brown’s capture, to John Wilkes Booth, a witness to Brown’s hanging who took inspiration from the moment. But Horwitz leaves such speculation behind and gives us instead a novel of fact, a work that demonstrates how, in Herman Melville’s poetic summation, John Brown’s “streaming beard” became the “meteor of the war.”

Horwitz recounts not just John Brown’s rise from obscure rural origins to become the man who even his opponents admired as possessing “the most complete fearlessness of & insensibility to danger and death” in seeking to advance his cause—the liberation of all the slaves of the South in one bold strike. He also recounts the diverse stories of Brown’s comrades in the action, including two sons who died at Harper’s Ferry and six men, among them two African Americans, who survived, only to be tried, found guilty, and “publicly murdered,” in Brown’s phrase. Especially intriguing is the charismatic 26-year-old Aaron Stevens, whose good looks and eloquent words helped stir abolitionist fervor in the North as he, too, calmly faced what he termed “one of the best of deaths.”

State of Wonder: A Novel
by Ann Patchett
BI ’94

Some novelists achieve high art by delivering up a set of characters so multidimensional or involved that none of them, in the end, is appealing. Ann Patchett takes the opposite tack, creating with each new novel an ensemble cast for whom our sympathy is aroused from the opening scenes. In State of Wonder, everyone, even the monomaniacal scientist around whom the plot swirls, Dr. Annick Swenson—a female Mr. Kurtz with an endocrinology lab deep in the jungles of Brazil—turns out to be worthy of our compassionate interest.

The premise may seem improbable: Marina Singh, researcher for a midwestern pharmaceutical company called Vogel, is dispatched to retrieve the body of her former lab partner, Anders Eckman, whose death in the Amazon while tracking the elusive Dr. Swenson has traumatized both Marina and Anders’s widow, Karen, and threatens the financial well-being of Marina’s employer. Vogel has been counting on Dr. Swenson to derive a fertility-extending drug from the hormones of the women of a hidden tribe, the Lakashi, who are capable of bearing children into old age. Patchett’s narrative powers make the improbable seem not just likely but rich with human truth; we receive this finely wrought tale as Marina does the unbidden memories that drive her forward in her task, “with no small amount of wonder.”

Caleb’s Crossing: A Novel
by Geraldine Brooks RI ’06

Caleb’s Crossing is really the story of Bethia Mayfield, a girl growing up on Martha’s Vineyard “a person of the first light,” as she thinks of herself, a member of the first generation of Puritan colonists born in New England. With her restless spirit and
inquisitive mind, Bethia is drawn to the native residents of the island, the Wampanoags, whose tribal name she learns to translate as “People of the First Light,” those who dwell farthest to the east. Bethia is equally attracted to the higher learning in Latin and Greek that, as a female, she is forbidden to acquire—even though she is the brightest child of her minister father, the only man on the island capable of preparing students for admission to the newly founded college on the mainland.

A chance encounter brings Bethia together with her Wampanoag counterpart, a boy named Cheeshateaumuck, a wise-man-in-training whose enforced solitude allows the two to form a friendship in stolen moments. The boy becomes “Caleb” to Bethia, she “Storm Eyes” to her new confidant, as they gain fluency in each other’s language. With this skillfully imagined tale, which follows Bethia and Caleb on a tortuous path to Harvard and beyond, Brooks proves once again that she is among contemporary fiction’s most brilliant resurrectionists.

But Lula, “our little Albanian pessimist,” knows this can’t last, and sure enough, her past catches up with her as a trio of Albanian black marketeers turn to her to stash a hot gun—she does, in her underwear drawer. No good can come of this, except in a novel by Francine Prose. Prose is in top form with Lula’s satiric patter: “America was like Communism and post-Communism combined. You weren’t supposed to be materialistic until you got successful, after which it was practically your duty to flaunt it in everyone’s face.”

Although much of the best journalism relies on fictional techniques—scene setting, character development, even conflict—surprisingly few journalists make credible novelists. The truths of fiction are rooted in emotion rather than fact; journalism’s capacity to stir emotion depends on our knowing that this really happened.

But a few writers—Tom Wolfe comes to mind—manage to do both equally well, and with The Submission, Amy Waldman has proved herself one of them, employing her journalist’s knack for verisimilitude to devise a fictional premise that feels like it really happened. In what will surely be one of the post-9/11 novels to become required reading in lit classes on the topic, Waldman imagines a competition for the design of a memorial at Ground Zero. It sets the winning architect, Mohammed Khan, at odds with the selection committee, city officials, and residents and, as controversy rages, enables Waldman to probe the meaning for all her skillfully limned characters of Khan’s repeated defense of his right to see his design realized: “I am an American.”

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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Radcliffe on the Road and in the Yard

Marilyn Dunn, executive director of the Schlesinger Library, spoke in early December at the Chicago Club about the library’s collections and the program to digitize them. The event drew alumnae/i from a span of six decades.

The Radcliffe Institute took its programs on the road this fall, celebrating a past fellow’s achievements in New York City and showcasing the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at a gathering in Chicago.

Alumnae/i and friends gathered in New York City in November to see John Tiffany’s production of Once. At the reception, Judith Vichniac PhD ’81, associate dean of the Fellowship Program, introduced Tiffany, who spoke about the impact of his year as a Radcliffe Institute fellow.

At the dean’s Advisory Council meeting in October, attendees toured Fay House to see the progress of renovations. Fay House is scheduled to reopen in May.

Carey Adina Karmel ’79 and John Tiffany RI ’11

Hee Ja P. Lee, Leslie Coolidge ’81, and Joan Moynagh

Alicia Sams ’86, Anne Troy ’82, Carla Friedman Berry ’52, EdM ’53, EdD ’63, and Jacquelyn Sanders ’52

Cyril Levin Friend ’39, Marilyn Dunn, and Hanna Stotland ’99, JD ’03

Ellen Gordon Reeves ’81, EdM ’86, Priscilla Kauff ’62, Judith Vichniac PhD ’81, Hope Brook Winthrop ’71

Melanie Mason Niemiec ’71, MBA ’75 and Perrin Grayson ’72

Prudence Steiner ’58, AM ’76, PhD ’80 and Sid Knafel ’52, MBA ’54

BETH PERKINS

AMY ROTHBLATT

HEATHER LATHAM
**Radcliffe Affiliates Making their Mark**

**HONOR ROLL**

ANNETTE GORDON-REED JD ’84, R1 ’12—the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, a professor of history at Harvard University, and a professor of law at Harvard Law School—was among 179 of the nation’s most influential artists, scientists, scholars, authors, and institutional leaders who were inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on October 1, 2011.

Among the 50 finest artists in the United States in 2011? KARA OEHLER ’12, who works in radio interactive media, and LEE BREUER RI ’06, cofounder of the experimental theater company Mabou Mines. Both were named USA Fellows by United States Artists, which awards $50,000 to each recipient. Oehler shares her grant with collaborator Ann Hepperman.

BARBARA SAVAGE RI ’05, a professor of history and American social thought at the University of Pennsylvania, has won the 2012 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion for her book *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion* (Harvard University Press, 2008)—a book, said the award committee, “filled with fresh insights on the relationship between black politics and religion.” The award, given by the University of Louisville, carries a $100,000 prize.

For her accomplishments, achievements, and contributions to the visual arts, art historian WHITNEY CHADWICK R1 ’12—a professor emerita at San Francisco State University—has earned a 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women’s Caucus for Art.

Public historian TIYA A. MILES ’92, a “scholar of range and promise,” was among the winners of the 2011 MacArthur Fellowships. A professor at the University of Michigan, she explores the complex interrelationships between African and Cherokee people living and working in colonial America.


**INKLINGS**

LAURA SHAPIRO ’68 wrote an essay about the Americanization of Elizabeth David’s classic 1954 cookbook, *Italian Food.* “Culinary Alliance” ran in the *New Yorker* on October 24, 2011, of the New Yorker included a portrait of JILL ABRAMSON ’76, titled “Changing Times.” Abramson became the first woman executive editor of the *New York Times* on September 6.


The Massachusetts Center for the Book announced its Must-Read Books for 2011, from which the 11th Annual Massachusetts Book Awards were chosen. Among the contenders in the fiction category were *The Widow’s Tale* (Pantheon, 2010), by JULIA GLASS R1 ’05; *36 Arguments for the Existence of God* (Random House, 2010), by REBECCA NEUBERGER GOLDSMITH R1 ’07; and *World and Town* (Knopf, 2010), by GISH JEN ’77, R1 ’87, R1 ’02, which won.

Southwest Florida resident DAWN-MARIE DRISCOLL R1 ’91 has been named by Strategic Insight as one of the 60 most influential visionaries of the US mutual fund industry in 25 years. Driscoll serves as an independent director of both DWS Investments and Sun Capital Advisors Trust mutual funds. She is a past member of the board of governors of the national mutual fund association and a nationally recognized business ethics leader.

AMAL GUILLERMOPRIETO RI ’07 reported on El Salvador’s “warring maras” in a *New York Review of Books* article titled “In the New Gangland of El Salvador,” published on November 10. She also wrote a lengthy post, “Day of the 40,000 Dead,” for the NYRBlog on November 2. It examines the impact of narco-war violence on Mexico’s Dia de los Muertos.

Deep history, an intellectual approach proposed by DANIEL LORD SMAIL AM ’06, R1 ’12 and others who took part in a 2008 Exploratory Seminar, may be the beginnings of an intellectual coup. The *New York Times* explored the possibilities in an article, “History That’s Written in Beads as Well as in Words,” published on September 26.

CAROL MOLDAW ’78 published a poem, “Of an Age,” in the October 3 issue of the *New Yorker.* Her most recent book of poetry, *So Late, So Soon,* was published in 2010 by Etruscan Press.

MARIA TATAR AM ’79, R1 ’78, R1 ’07, the John L. Loeb Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and chair of the Program in Folklore and Mythology at Harvard University, published an op-ed, “No More Adventures in Wonderland,” in which she compared classic children’s literature with more recent young adult popular fiction. It ran in the *New York Times* on October 9.

SIDDHARTHA DEB RI ’10 published an op-ed in the *New York Times* that considered the cars of aspirational India: “Behind the Wheel, Moving Up” ran on September 29.

An oral history of Ms., titled “How Do You Spell Ms.,” ran in the October 30 issue of *New York Magazine.* The article included the perspectives of Radcliffe Institute medalist GLORIA STEINEM, College alum JANE O’REILLY ’58, and past fellow VIVIAN GORNICK RI ’08. It also quoted the work of Ellen Willis, whose papers are at the Schlesinger Library.

In the August 19 issue of the *New York Times*, CLAIRE MESSUD RI ’05 reviewed *The Submission,* a recently published novel by AMY WALDMAN RI ’07. Messud praises Waldman, saying, “With the keen and expert eye of an excellent journalist, Waldman provides telling portraits of all the drama’s major players, deftly exposing their foibles and their mutual manipulations.”

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Fred L. Shuttlesworth died of cancer on October 5, 2011, the same day as Steve Jobs. In her October 6 New York Times op-ed, “Marching in King’s Shadow,” DIANE MCWHORTER RI ’12 gives this civil rights champion his due.

In her article “Ban Birth Control? They Wouldn’t Dare ...”—published in the October 5 issue of The Nation—KATHA POLLITT ’71 offers some strong words about how opposition to abortion could lead to diminished access to birth control.

Poetry magazine published a logophilic poem by REGINALD DOWNEY BETTS RI ’12, “For you: anthophilous, lover of flowers,” in its September 2011 issue.

On September 1, the New York Times published “Helping the Modern Get Over Itself,” relating how ANN TEMKIN ’81, chief curator of painting and sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, and her team are shaking up this New York institution.

SHELE LIFE

In Unpacking My Library: Writers and Their Books (Yale University Press, 2011), LEAH PRICE ’91, RI ’07—the director of the humanities program in Academic Ventures at the Radcliffe Institute and a professor of English in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences—visits the homes of 13 novelists to bring us a look at their personal libraries. Among those featured are JUNOT DÍAZ RI ’04, REBECCA NEWBERGER GOLDSMITH RI ’07, and CLAIRE MESSUD RI ’05.

LISA RANDALL ’84, PHD ’87, RI ’03 recently published Knocking on Heaven’s Door: How Physics and Scientific Thinking Illuminate the Universe and the Modern World (Ecco, 2011). In a New York Times review, Jim Holt calls Randall, who is a professor of physics at Harvard, “one of the more original theorists at work in the profession today.”

ESMERALDA SANTIAGO ’76 has published an epic novel set in the colonial era of her native Puerto Rico, titled Conquistadora (Knopf, 2011), which the Washington Post deemed “a triumph.” Santiago suffered a stroke while finishing the book and had to relearn reading and writing in English in order to complete it. She has not yet remastered Spanish, her first language.

A new collection of stories, Tales of the New World (Black Cat/Grove/Atlantic, 2011), is just out from SABINA MURRAY BI ’00. The New York Times praised it, saying “Murray writes of Italian noblemen, African chiefs, Russian prisoners, Australian Aborigines, even Aztec kings; of times and places, horrors and joys; of oceans, deserts, starvation—of quite simply everything—very beautifully, bringing it all close to us, to here, to now.”

During his Radcliffe Institute fellowship, SIDDEHARTHA DEB BI ’10 worked on a nonfiction book, just published, titled The Beautiful and the Damned: A Portrait of the New India (Faber and Faber, 2011). The New York Times says, “Deb works largely within the format of the profile, which allows him to closely inspect the dents made by modern India in his characters’ lives.”

PATRICIA MARX ’75, a humorist at the New Yorker and a former Saturday Night Live writer, has published Starting from Happy (Scribner, 2011). The book includes illustrations by the author, who also makes an appearance as the narrator. In a New York Times review, Alexandra Jacobs says, “Marx doesn’t just break the fourth wall, she makes origami of it (indeed, there are instructions for making origami on Page 13).”


JANNY SCOTT ’77 has published a biography of Stanley Ann Dunham, titled A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barack Obama’s Mother (Riverhead Books, 2011). In the biography, says the Los Angeles Times, Scott portrays a woman who “was tough and unconventional, aloof and occasionally distant, not unlike her son.”


In Direct Sales and Direct Faith in Latin America (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), PETER S. CAHN ’66, RI ’09 examines the relationship between direct-sales companies like Amway and Avon and Latin American Catholicism. Cahn worked on the book during his Institute fellowship.

ARMINE KOTIN MORTIMER ’64 examines Balzac’s varied approaches to realism in For Love or for Money: Balzac’s Rhetorical Realism (Ohio State University Press, 2011). Mortimer is a professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an expert on Balzac.

In her latest book, Education Reconfigured: Culture, Encounter, and Change (Routledge, 2011), the philosopher of education JANE ROLAND MARTIN ’51, EDM ’56, PHD ’61, BI ’81 asks, “What is education?” and puts forth a new educational paradigm.

In The Prospective Spouse Checklist: Evaluating Your Potential Partner (New Horizon Press, 2011), ISABELLE FOX ’47 (a clinical psychotherapist) and her husband, Robert M. Fox (a lawyer with experience in divorce law), provide commonsense tips—and highlight possible red flags—to help couples with the decision to marry.

The Annotated Peter Pan (W. W. Norton, 2011), edited with an introduction and notes by MARIA TATAR AM ’79, BI ’78, RI ’07, was published on the centennial of J. M. Barrie’s celebrated children’s book.


ANN HODGSMAN ’78 has published a revised and updated edition of her 1993 Beat This! Cookbook: Absolutely Unbeatable Knock-’em-Dead Recipes for the Very Best Dishes (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011), which a Vanity Fair reviewer calls “the funniest, most engaging book about food I’ve ever come across.”

ANNE WHITEHOUSE ’76 recently published her fourth collection of poetry, One Sunday Morning (Finishing Line Press, 2011). The title poem previously appeared online in Poetic Medicine.

The latest book from SUZANNE BRAUN LEVINE ’63 to explore the lives of women over 50 is How We Love Now: Sex and the New Intimacy in Second Adulthood (Viking, 2012). In it, she looks at how these women in second
adulthood are finding love and redefining their relationships.

In Twelve Weeks: An Artist’s Story of Cancer, Healing, and Hope (sixteen-seven) books, 2012, KAREN LEE SOBOL ’70, MAR ’74 chronicles her struggle with—and eventual remission from—a rare, incurable blood cancer, Waldenstrom’s macroglobulinemia.

REBECCA J. SCOTT ’71 and Jean M. Hébrard relate the saga of a Caribbean slave, Rosalie, and her descendants as they work to secure their freedom through the Haitian revolution, the French Revolution, and the Civil War in their book Freedom Papers: An Atlantic Odyssey in the Age of Emancipation (Harvard University Press, 2012).

GERALDINE BROOKS RI ’06 recently edited The Best American Short Stories 2011 (Mariner Books), which includes work by CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE RI ’12, ALLEGRA GOODMAN ’89, RI ’07, and ELIZABETH MCCRACKEN RI ’09.

ART AWARE

A new exhibition of work by SARAH SZE RI ’06 opened in New York City on December 13. Sarah Sze: Infinite Line—which includes a new site-specific installation and beautifully intricate works on paper—will be up at the Asia Society Museum through March 25, 2012.

Physicist LISA RANDALL ’84, PHD ’87, RI ’03 conceived and cocrated an exhibition, Measure for Measure, which explored the concept of scale. Randall, her cocrator Lia Halloran, and Peter Mays, executive director of the Los Angeles Art Association, all participated in an opening panel discussion on November 3. The exhibition, which also included work by Susan Sironi, ran through December 22 at the Carpenter Center’s main gallery.

JESSECA FERGUSON ’71 was recently included in two group shows, Panopticon Gallery’s 40th Anniversary Exhibition, in Boston from September 8 to October 31, and More Back Forty: A Selection of Artists Who Have Shown Here over the Last Forty Years, at the Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, Massachusetts, from September 11 to January 15. The environmental sculpture of BETH GALSTON BI ’91 was recently on view at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, on Cape Cod. Suspended: Installations by Nathalie Ferrier and Beth Galston ran from October 28 to January 15.

LESLEY HEWITT RI ’10 had a solo exhibition, titled Blue Skies, Warm Sunlight, at D’Amelio Terras in New York City. Her photo sculptures were on view from October 29 to December 23.

Nine Houses (Tawahus Press, 2010), a boxed folio of prints by MAXINE YALOVITZ-BLANKENSHIP BI ’94, was recently published in an edition of 50. Included with the prints were statements about the images from MAXINE KUMIN ’46, AM ’48, BI ’63, FLORENCE LADD BI ’71, Alan Lightman, ANN PATCHETT BI ’94, Richard Wendorf, and others.

ON STAGE AND SCREEN

Once, a stage adaptation of the Oscar-winning 2006 film, directed by JOHN TIFFANY RI ’11, opened on November 6 at the off-Broadway New York Theatre Workshop. A pre-Broadway workshop presentation of the musical took place last spring at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, while Tiffany was in town for his fellowship.

Girl Model, a documentary by DAVID REDMON RI ’11 and Ashley Sabin, has been making the festival rounds since its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September. It has traveled to festivals in Abu Dhabi, Rio, Rome, Copenhagen, and Amsterdam. LA Weekly named Girl Model, completed during Redmon’s fellowship, “a must-see film.”

LEE BREUER RI ’06 brought his critically acclaimed play Mabou Mines Doll-House to ArtsEmerson at the Cutler Majestic Theatre from November 1 to 6. A Boston Herald review proclaimed, “Novelty and awe are the name of the game for Mabou Mines DollHouse, an adaptation of Ibsen’s classic by the legendary avant-garde New York troupe.”

The House of the Spirits, a play by CARIDAD SVICH RI ’03 based on the novel by Isabel Allende, was produced at Vortex Theatre in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in November and December; at Florida International University at Miami in November; and at the University of Missouri at St. Louis in October. Its Spanish-language version also played a limited engagement in November at Miami Dade North Campus Actors Arena. Her 12 Ophelias (a play with broken songs) was produced at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in November, while her In the Time of the Butterflies/En El Tiempo de Las Mariposas, based on the novel by Julia Alvarez, had a run through October and November at Repertorio Español in New York City.

MARGOT LOINES WILKIE ’34 appears in the PBS documentary Prohibition—a three-part series directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick—talking about her experience growing up during that charged and changing time.

On February 15, HBO held a screening for Raising Renee (2011), directed by STEVEN ASCHER ’82 and JEANNE JORDAN RI ’93, RI ’03. The network plans to air the film, which follows painter BEVERLY McIVER RI ’03 as she takes care of her mentally disabled sister, in late February.

SPACE NOTES

The Society for the Study of Early Modern Women chose La Donna Musicale’s Anna Bon: La virtuosa di Venezia CD as one of its 2011 award winners in the arts and media category, saying, “This array of arias, divertimenti, and sonatas reflects the ensemble’s firm grounding in the archival and scholarly world”.

LAURY GUTIERREZ RI ’09 is both a viola da gambist and the director of the early music ensemble.

PUBLIC LIFE

JANE WALDFOGEL ’76, EDM ’79, MP A ’91, PHD ’94, RI ’09, a professor of social work at Columbia University, appeared on the public radio show The Takeaway on November 7 to help explain the Census Bureau’s new metrics for measuring poverty.

In September, JUDITH S. PALFREY ’67 was named executive director of Michelle Obama’s national Let’s Move! campaign, which targets childhood obesity. Palfrey is taking a leave as director of the Children’s International Pediatric Center at Children’s Hospital Boston and master of Adams House at Harvard College to promote her view that health isn’t only about doctor’s visits and prescriptions.

HAVE YOU DONE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY?

SHARE IT: e-mail us at magazine@radcliffe.edu.

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Anne Pringle

If Anne Pringle RI ’12 has her way, fungal biology may never be the same. The mycologist, an associate professor in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, is investigating aging in lichen, which are generally thought to be immortal, perishing only from accident or disease. Over the past seven years, Pringle has collected demographic data on a population of about 1,000 lichens—symbiotic organisms made up of fungi and algae—on the tombstones of a New England cemetery. Armed with this data, she hopes to challenge scientific assumptions about the senescence of this natural population.

Finding Fungi

Which aspect of your work do you most enjoy?
I love being in the field, exploring data, and writing.

Who are your heroes?
Women biologists of decades past, who balanced science with the tangled interactions of human life. I’m thinking of Texas birdwatcher Connie Hagar (who always wore skirts to the field, not understanding why a woman would require pants), ichthyologist Eugenie Clark (who used to spearfish her lunch and eat it raw), and mycologist Barbara Mosse (who shocked my Cuban colleagues when she stripped naked at a beach—they still tell stories about her). These women have always seemed very real to me, and I’m sure we’d have a lot to talk about at a dinner party, where Connie would bring a casserole, Eugenie would bring sashimi, and Barbara would bring strong drink.

Who is your muse?
Lichens.

Tell us your favorite memory.
I used to work as a translator for CARE, an NGO focused on development and based in Bamako, Mali. My favorite memory is of walking through the backstreets of Bamako on my way home from work, at dusk, through networks of mud brick houses with mothers washing babies in plastic tubs, and men calling out invitations to have tea, have tea... My father was the ambassador to Mali, and we lived in a palace, but I walked or took local transportation to work. Evening is my favorite time of day, and something about ending work, the light of a sinking sun, and the Muslim call to prayer floating over the city while families gathered together lingers in my mind.

Describe yourself in six words or fewer.
Tough, compassionate, forgetful, grateful, resourceful, independent.

“I’ve moved a lot in my life. Fungi don’t appear to move, but in fact they do.”

What is your most treasured possession?
The data on my computer.

Name a pet peeve.
Excuses.

Were your life to become a motion picture, who would portray you?
My daughter Zoe, when she’s a famous movie star.

Where in the world would you like to spend a month?
A room high in the rainforest, with a strong Internet connection and a stronger e-mail filter.

Whose tunes do you enjoy?
Recently, I’ve been obsessed with Yo-Yo Ma, old-school country (Dolly Parton’s “Coat of Many Colors,” Waylon Jennings), and modern twists on the theme (Nancy Griffith, Mary Gauthier).

What is the most challenging aspect of being a Radcliffe fellow?
Reading all the books written by my fellows, because there are a large number of them and I want to do it before time runs out for conversations.

What do you wish everyone knew about your field of study?
Although fungi seem obscure, you interact with them regularly—when you eat bread, buy gas laced with ethanol, or cope with a yeast infection. They’re startlingly diverse, ubiquitous in the environment, and a tool to enter a different, nonhuman realm.

What sparked your passion for fungi?
I’ve moved a lot in my life. Fungi don’t appear to move, but in fact they do. That’s what I write about.
“I’m delighted that my gift supports two talented Radcliffe fellows during their year at the Institute,” says Sidney R. “Sid” Knafel ’52, MBA ’54, an investor and entrepreneur in New York City. “I also have the satisfaction of honoring two wonderful women in my family.”

Knafel has established a Radcliffe fellowship honoring his mother, Lillian Gollay Knafel, and another honoring his wife’s mother, Mildred Londa Weisman.

Diane McWhorter RI ’12, who holds the Mildred Londa Weisman Fellowship, is working on a follow-up to her Pulitzer Prize–winning book Carry Me Home (see page 18). Stephen Mann RI ’12, who holds the Lillian Gollay Knafel Fellowship and is a professor of chemistry at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom, is exploring the origins of life.
WOMEN MAKING DEMOCRACY

March 29–30, 2012

This conference—sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study—will examine the role of women and gender in movements for democratic change.

For more information, please visit www.radcliffe.edu. Registration is required and will open in February.