What Is a Fellowship?

FELLOWSHIP IS MUTUAL TRUST, EXPERIENCES, INTERACTION, AND ACTIVITIES. WE WORK ALONE AND TOGETHER.

—Poet Henri Cole
The winner of the second Radcliffe Institute Public Arts Competition is now installed in the Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Garden in Radcliffe Yard. *Latent (e)Scapes* was conceived by Christina Geros MAUD, MLA ’15, then a student at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. To watch a video about the work’s installation, visit our website.
The Remarkable Radcliffe Community

WE CAPPED OFF THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR with an extraordinary event, when more than 1,300 alumnae/i and friends gathered in Cambridge as we awarded the Radcliffe Medal to US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It was thrilling to see so many women and men under one tent on such a wonderful occasion and to be able to webcast it live for viewers around the world. You can watch the morning panel and lunch remarks online and read about the event in this magazine and in the New York Times, the Boston Globe, Harvard Magazine, and elsewhere.

The 2014–2015 year was filled with compelling thinkers and events, some of which we report on in this issue. But of course our community stretches far beyond any one program or year. Radcliffe affiliates—from the College, the Bunting Institute, and the Radcliffe Institute—make an important impact on the world during the days they are here and for decades thereafter. We have therefore expanded our coverage of alumnae/i achievements by adding pages to the Newsmakers section so that we can share their impressive range of accomplishments.

One member of our Radcliffe community who is making history is Louise Richardson AM ’84, PhD ’89. A former executive dean of the Radcliffe Institute, now principal and vice-chancellor of the University of St Andrews in Scotland, Richardson has been named vice-chancellor of the University of Oxford— the first woman to lead Oxford in its 800 years of recorded history.

We’re delighted to celebrate another appointment closer to home. Jane Kamensky BI ’97, RI ’08 will soon join us as the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library and as a member of Harvard’s History Department (see page 4). I look forward to the energy and ideas that Jane will bring to shaping our library and its important work of documenting the lives of women in the past and present to tell a richer history in the future.

When we welcome our 2015–2016 fellows (see page 6), they will arrive as our most competitive class yet, with an acceptance rate of just 3 percent. They are coming here from schools across Harvard, from all over the United States, and from countries around the globe to grapple with big data, create new performances, analyze the evolution of laws, and examine the genetics of aggression, among other topics.

While summer is often a time for reflection and rejuvenation, at Radcliffe we are also eagerly preparing to start a new academic year and build on the Institute’s momentum, energy, and recognition. Thank you all for your interest and support.

LIZABETH COHEN
Dean, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
A new partnership with Harvard’s Native American Program

RADCLIFFE MOMENT

IRMTRUD WOJAK
In her work, Wojak—who was the 2014–2015 Frieda L. Miller Fellow—studies German citizens who resisted the Nazi regime. For more, see page 28.

JOHN TSAIOULAS
The 2014–2015 Lisa Goldberg Fellow and a professor of politics, philosophy, and law at King’s College London, Tasioulas is writing a philosophical inquiry on the nature of and challenges to human rights. Video of his fellow’s presentation is available on our website.

TYRRELL HABERKORN
A fellow in political and social change at the Australian National University, Haberkorn is writing a history of modern Thailand, a country in which state perpetrators of human rights violations have not been brought to justice.

KATHRYN SIKKINK
Sikkink is the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at Radcliffe and the Ryan Family Professor of Human Rights Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. She’s studying Latin American contributions to the international practice and protection of human rights.
On the first day of the past academic year, several fellows, all from disparate disciplines, discovered that some aspect of their work was concerned with human rights. They decided to gather regularly to intensively workshop their projects. At their last meeting—in a classic Radcliffe Moment—they discussed writing for a general audience.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSE BURKE

V.V. GANESHANANTHAN '02

Ganeshananthan is a fiction writer and journalist. At Radcliffe she completed her second novel, titled *Hippocrates*, in which Sri Lankan politics play a major role.

CAROL S. STEIKER JD ’86

Steiker, the 2014–2015 Rita E. Hauser Fellow and the Henry J. Friendly Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, is coauthoring a book about capital punishment in America over the past half-century. To watch a lecture she delivered about the topic, visit our website.
JANE KAMENSKY, THE NEWLY appointed Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library and a member of the Harvard History Department, describes her academic beginnings as meandering. She attended what she calls “a pretty middling public high school in the Jersey suburbs”; went to Yale, where she began as a music performance major and wound up studying 20th-century German history; headed to Wall Street, along with about a quarter of her classmates, but didn’t love the work; left that job and took a new one in the typing pool at Columbia University, which offered free tuition to employees; enrolled in Rosalind Rosenberg’s class on American women’s history, and BOOM. “I found my life in the books we read,” Kamensky says. “It was a life-changing epiphany.” Rosenberg’s was the first history class about women that Kamensky had ever taken and also the first history class she’d been in that was taught by a woman.

Kamensky and her husband, Dennis J. Scannell Jr., whom she had met during her brief time on Wall Street (“the one good thing about that job,” she says), began graduate school at Yale in the fall of 1987—she in history and he in management.

Since earning her doctorate in 1993, Kamensky has had a distinguished academic career, serving on the history faculty at Brandeis University for more than 20 years, 6 of them as chair of the department. She held the Harry S. Truman Professorship of American Civilization at Brandeis and was subsequently...
appointed to the faculty at Brown University as the Mary Ann Lippitt Professor of American History.

Kamensky has lived in Cambridge for 22 years and has been in residence at Radcliffe twice before: as a Bunting fellow in 1996–1997 and a Radcliffe fellow in 2007–2008. During her second stint at Radcliffe, she put the finishing touches on her award-winning book The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High-Flying Speculation and America’s First Banking Collapse (Viking, 2008) and started a new project.

Her tale of the banking collapse centered on Boston’s Exchange Coffee House, a seven-story building constructed in 1809 on Congress Street, which Kamensky describes in her prologue as “one of the tallest, strangest, most talked about buildings in the English-speaking world.”

Designed as a center of commerce, the building imitated grand exchange edifices in London, Paris, and other world capitals. But the man who built it, Andrew Dexter Jr., financed it with worthless currency printed by banks that he secretly controlled. When the bubble collapsed, the Exchange brought financial ruin to almost everyone involved, from financiers to bricklayers. The building burned to the ground in 1818 in a spectacular fire that served for decades as a metaphor for the dangers of finance capitalism.

Kamensky’s current project, the first scholarly biography of the artist John Singleton Copley, took root in her work on The Exchange Artist. She first became interested in one of Copley’s cohorts, Gilbert Stuart, when she saw the portrait Stuart painted of Dexter, the entrepreneur who built the Exchange Coffee House. But Stuart—whom she calls “a notorious character”—turned out to be an impossible subject for a biography.

“Stuart painted a lot,” she says, “including scores of portraits of George Washington. It is no exaggeration to say that he put a face on the new United States. When we think of the early American republic, it’s his portraits we see in our mind’s eye.” But Stuart wrote very little. “He can only be seen from the outside in,” Kamensky says. “He was a character—people wrote about him. But we only get the surfaces, not the depths.”

So she changed gears. Copley, whom Stuart knew in London, kept surfacing in her research. Unlike Stuart, he wrote a lot. “Hundreds of family letters survive,” Kamensky says. “He’s very present as a visual intellectual, not only through his paintings but also through his voice, which is filled with a kind of aching ambition we have come to label American. I think he’s a great historical figure, of a kind we don’t often reckon with.” She describes Copley as “in many ways a man in between: neither elite nor impoverished, neither fully English nor comfortably American. He’s a shape-shifter in an era when we tend to assume that people’s identities were fixed.” W. W. Norton will publish Copley: A Life in Color in 2016.

That subtitle, A Life in Color, is meant to convey two ideas: the nature of a painter’s work and also a different way of thinking about the era of the American revolution, which has too often been seen as a two-sided story, more like a black and white engraving than an oil painting. Copley’s revolution was a messy civil war, not a moralistic tale “of white-hatted patriot heroes and black-hatted Tory villains,” as Kamensky calls them, but a story about those American-born Britons who were reluctant to join the conflict. “We really don’t know the story of the sideliners,” she says. And Copley is a good figure to tell this story, since he wanted to escape the politics of the revolutionary era.

It’s not surprising that a history scholar with Kamensky’s broad interests would be drawn to the position of Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library. “It’s an astonishing archive,” she says. “As a historian, I love living in archives. They’re magic to me.” She also likes the idea of maintaining her scholarly and teaching life. She plans to immerse herself in the library during the fall semester and begin teaching in the spring, when she’ll teach a sophomore course for history concentrators called “What Is Family History?” The course, like many of Kamensky’s, will expose students to the rich collections of the Schlesinger Library.

Kamensky is convinced that there’s a lot of potential for the library to reach beyond Harvard’s walls even more than it already has. “Now that the study of women and gender and the household is important to so many different areas of inquiry—from politics to military history—almost every historian and social scientist in the United States has reason to use this library,” she says.

“The library has a great impact on the Harvard campus and is a treasured resource for historians of American women,” she says, “but a much broader range of scholars needs to draw on these collections. Nancy Cott [former Pforzheimer Foundation Director] and Marilyn Dunn [executive director and Radcliffe Institute librarian] and their predecessors accomplished hugely important things, acquiring major new collections and making great strides in digital and on-site access. Now there’s a chance to trumpet the message even more broadly.”

Public events during 2015–2016—including an exhibition of Corita Kent’s artwork and a lecture by Pulitzer Prize–winning biographer Megan Marshall ’77, RI ’07—should help begin that trumpeting.

“AS A HISTORIAN, I LOVE LIVING IN ARCHIVES. THEY’RE MAGIC TO ME.”
BIG THINKERS, BIG PROJECTS:
Radcliffe Institute Fellows 2015–2016

Writing books, creating art, pioneering research

Where does a brain surgeon examine neurobiology and psychiatry for new approaches to achieving environmental sustainability?

Where does a magistrate critically probe the state of the judicial and electoral systems in Guatemala after resigning her post and denouncing the election process?

Where does an influential journalist go after writing *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* to investigate how psychoactive molecules alter human consciousness?

Where does a Harvard anthropologist turn his research about witnessing death in Chicago into a book about living and dying in urban America?

Where does a “punk ballerina” create immersive public performance pieces inspired by the ways in which indigenous peoples inhabit their natural and built surroundings?

The answer to all of these questions is the Radcliffe Institute.

The Harvard Medical School professor Ann-Christine Duhaime, the judge Claudia Escobar Mejía, the author Michael Pollan (Suzanne Young Murray Fellow), the associate professor Laurence Ralph (Joy Foundation Fellow), and the choreographer Karole Armitage (Mildred Londa Weisman Fellow)—respectively—will begin one-year fellowships here in September 2015.

They are among the more than 50 scholars, scientists, and artists who will be Radcliffe fellows during the 2015–2016 year, each one pursuing an ambitious individual project within the Institute’s multidisciplinary community, with access to resources across Harvard. In a sign of how highly desirable the fellowship opportunity is, only 3 percent of applicants were accepted.

“It is an honor to provide these innovative thinkers with time, space, and intellectual stimulation to do their best work in ways that often defy expectations and disciplinary boundaries,” said Radcliffe Institute Dean Lizabeth Cohen RI ’02. “As Radcliffe fellows, they are sure to develop unusual collaborations, take unexpected risks, and generate new ideas.”

At right is the full list of fellows and their projects.
AROUND THE INSTITUTE

ideas Biblical stories through a scientific lens

DAVID R. MONTGOMERY: Excavating between Disciplines

by Jennifer Weeks

David R. Montgomery is a geomorphologist at the University of Washington and a recipient of a MacArthur “genius” grant for his research examining how landscapes change through time. So it may seem strange that he has written books about dirt, fish, and religion. But Montgomery uses geology as a base to explore topics that branch much more widely. “I try to wade into fields related to geology and use my knowledge to learn from them,” he says.

His wide-ranging explorations made him an excellent visitor to the Radcliffe Institute, where he first met with students from Harvard’s biology, geology, and history departments to talk about pursuing ideas across academic boundaries. “Students are very interested in doing interdisciplinary research, but we academics tend to focus narrowly on very particular things because that’s how you make progress,” he says. “It’s good for students to see that they can reach outside their own disciplines.”

In his public lecture at Radcliffe’s Knafel Center, Montgomery displayed the degree to which he has expanded beyond his own disciplines. He spoke extensively about his book The Rocks Don’t Lie: A Geologist Investigates Noah’s Flood (W. W. Norton, 2012), which was inspired by a research expedition to Tibet’s Tsangpo River valley. There Montgomery and his

Illustration by Simone Massoni
colleagues found evidence that a huge glacial ice dam had broken sometime in the eighth century—and also discovered that local farmers told a story of just such an event, handed down orally over more than a thousand years. He started to wonder whether flood stories in other cultures had similar geological bases. This led him to early geologists’ efforts in the 17th and 18th centuries to explain Noah’s flood, and to the response from 19th-century theologians.

“There has been a long-running argument within Christianity about how to interpret stories in the Bible,” Montgomery says. He was intrigued by this engagement between faith and reason. By the mid-19th century, early scientists—many of whom were also clergymen—had shown conclusively that geological records did not offer evidence that a flood had once covered the earth. Rather, it was clear that life on earth had been created and destroyed many times over a span too long to fit into a biblical narrative. Instead of rejecting this evidence, Montgomery found, many “Christian men of science” in the 1850s supported a view framed centuries earlier by Saint Thomas Aquinas that nature was “God’s other book” and could be used to interpret biblical stories.

Why, then, do 46 percent of Americans now believe that the Earth is less than 10,000 years old, when scientists estimate that it was created 4.6 billion years ago? Why do they rely on a literal interpretation of the Book of Genesis?

Montgomery concludes that “modern creationists have turned their backs on objectively studying nature.” The key text of these “young Earth creationists” is The Genesis Flood: The Biblical Record and Its Scientific Implications (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1961), coauthored by an Old Testament scholar and a hydraulic engineer. (Young Earth creationism is the religious belief that the universe, Earth, and all life on Earth were created by direct acts of God during a relatively short period between 5,700 and 10,000 years ago.) Montgomery calls the book “a very good critique of 1950s geology.” It raised many questions scientists could not fully answer at that time, such as why dinosaurs had died off and how mountains were formed.

Shortly afterward, however, geologists formulated the theory of plate tectonics, which stated that Earth’s outermost shell had been broken into large pieces that moved around on the planet’s surface. Plate tectonics explained much of Earth’s history, including the formation of mountain ranges and ocean basins. But it came after young Earth creationists had already laid out their own quasi-geological ideas supporting the Bible as truth. Instead of trying to reconcile new scientific insights with the Bible, they “have been using and interpreting geological data selectively ever since,” Montgomery says.

Although debates over creationism are often cast as a war between science and religion, Montgomery sees them as conflicts between religious believers about how to view science. “One thing I learned in writing The Rocks Don’t Lie was how diverse Christian perspectives are on the relationship between ‘God’s two books,’” he says. “And religious ideas, such as our responsibility to care for creation, can positively influence how we use and apply science.”

His extended trip through several centuries of Christian thought in The Rocks Don’t Lie illustrates Montgomery’s strong commitment to interdisciplinary research. He has also traced the impact of human actions on soils worldwide in Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations (University of California Press, 2007) and chronicled the evolution and near-extinction of salmon in King of Fish: The Thousand-Year Run of Salmon (Westview Press, 2009). His latest book, The Hidden Half of Nature: The Microbial Roots of Life and Health (W. W. Norton), is scheduled for release this fall. Coauthored with his wife, the biologist Anne Biklé, it describes what Montgomery calls “astounding parallels” between the critical roles that microbes play in human and plant health.

“The spaces between disciplines are very fruitful areas for research,” Montgomery says. “There’s a tension between the need to specialize in order to make progress and the desire to think broadly and synthesize. It’s a big issue across all academic fields. Yes, you should learn a discipline, but you don’t have to come from a discipline to synthesize it. You just have to be willing to enter as an intellectual observer and figure out what people in that field agree on.”

Jennifer Weeks is a freelance journalist who specializes in the environment, science, and health. She has written for Audubon, Boston Globe Magazine, the Washington Post, and many other publications.
Investigating False Memories

by Susan Seligson

ELIZABETH LOFTUS can make people “remember” that eggs once made them sick or that as children they were briefly lost in a mall, though both “memories” are false.

A high-profile forensic psychologist and memory researcher, Loftus does this not as a parlor trick, although she’s witty and entertaining—and clearly savors toppling the assumptions of TED audiences and, once, 60 Minutes correspondent Leslie Stahl. For decades, Loftus has led one of the sides in what has been dubbed “the memory wars.”

“I wanted to make a difference in people’s lives,” says the Los Angeles native, now a distinguished professor of social ecology and a professor of law and cognitive science at the University of California, Irvine. Her UC website playfully describes Loftus as “an expert on nothing.” That’s because her groundbreaking studies of false memories, involving thousands of subjects, drive home the point that human memory is unreliable at best, and malleable enough to wreck the lives of the unjustly accused.

“Memory actually works more like a Wikipedia page. You can go into your page and change things. But so can other people.”
Loftus visited the Radcliffe Institute at the end of April to speak about her 40 years of work in the memory field, which have won her the 2010 American Association for the Advancement of Science's Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award. Loftus, who has a PhD from Stanford, has testified in more than 250 legal cases and consulted on many others, including those of Michael Jackson, Oliver North, O.J. Simpson, and Martha Stewart. Despite often unsparing attacks from the defense (“I often joke that I deserve combat pay,” she says), Loftus can shatter, with sound science, the record/playback notion of how we remember and how memories become narratives. “Memory actually works more like a Wikipedia page,” says Loftus. “You can go into your page and change things. But so can other people.”

Loftus is best known for debunking the widespread acceptance of repressed memory. In her book The Myth of Repressed Memory: False Memories and Allegations of Sexual Abuse (with Katherine Ketcham, St. Martin’s Press, 1994), most of the chapter epigraphs come from Arthur Miller’s The Crucible.

Indeed, to Loftus, the early ‘90s surge of false memory–based accusations of child sexual abuse was nothing less than a latter-day witchhunt. Though no one was burned at the stake, the rash of accusations, criminal trials, and civil suits tore apart families and consigned a string of men and women—some exonerated, some not—to long prison terms for crimes ranging from incest to unprovable ritualized child abuse involving bestiality and human sacrifice. Juries relied on victims’ and therapists’ testimonies of unearthed memories, even images in dreams.

In her ongoing investigations of false memories, Loftus and her colleagues are responding to what she sees not just as a grave injustice but also as a slippery slope of a movement in which a group of neo-Freudians appeared to have taken leave of their ethics.

The rewards of celebrity status aside (“Being an expert witness is like getting paid a lot of money to watch Lifetime movies,” she says), Loftus has been the target of hostile scrutiny, personal slander, and even death threats.

In a decade during which former Miss America Marilynn Van Derbur and Roseanne BarrArnold were featured on national magazine covers sharing revelations of their recently unearthed child sexual abuse memories, Loftus was among the few to raise an alarm about the pressures on vulnerable patients to ascribe a cause to their pain. While helpful to survivors who carry continuous memories of child sexual abuse since it occurred, best sellers such as Ellen Bass and Laura Davis’s The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (William Morrow, 1988; 20th anniversary edition, 2008) also spawned claims of recovered memories.

As many of these cases found their way to Loftus, a pattern emerged: therapists drawing conclusions from generally discredited “memory work”—such as guided regression, hypnosis, and dream work—compounded by group therapy sessions that functioned more as fiction workshops.

“In fact, all therapists “rely on the malleability of memory to help their patients re-create their life histories,” Loftus writes in The Myth of Repressed Memory. But, she adds, quoting a colleague, the therapist is not meant to be a detective but a compassionate witness.

Loftus, whose own compassion far outweighs the weary cynicism one might expect from her, has a colleague who likes to point out that these accusations are often recanted once the alleged survivor’s health insurance runs out. But repressed-memory therapists’ insatiable appetite for victims Saddens her. “There are plenty of actual abuse cases,” says Loftus. These men and women don’t repress their memories; they just try to banish them or keep them private out of fear or shame.

Of all the cases Loftus was involved in, one standout was the rape accusations against Gary Ramona, a wealthy California vintner who was the first in a recovered-memory case to sue the therapist of the accuser, his daughter Holly. In 1994 Gary Ramona was awarded $500,000 in a suit against an Anaheim, California, therapist for implanting false memories in Holly. Then in her early 20s, she had accused her father of raping her repeatedly between the ages of five and eight.

Although “the whole concept is so under assault,” says Loftus, such therapy continues, with very few admissions of wrongdoing.

Years later Loftus got a frantic call from an accused mother, who wanted help with her predicament. Loftus asked who her daughter’s therapist was. The mother didn’t know but said she’d find out. A week later, she contacted Loftus with the answer: Holly Ramona.

SUSAN SELIGSON is a freelance writer and the senior editor of Bostonia, the alumni magazine of Boston University.
IS Violence INESCAPABLE?

**by Deborah Blagg**

As lead attorney on a legal team devoted to the cause of human rights for women in Nigeria, Hauwa Ibrahim RI ’09 has won a number of precedent-setting cases in Sharia law courts. But some of her most successful victories have been won in the court of public opinion. In her presentation at Radcliffe’s “Confronting Violence” conference this spring, which explored the power of activism to affect public policy and reduce violence, Ibrahim related the disposition of a wife-beating case she once brought to the attention of a respected village elder. Publicly disgraced by just one word of derision from the elder, Ibrahim said, “the husband never beat his wife again.”

**Speaking Out**

The need to increase the extent to which communities define, identify, and address acts of violence was a common theme during the two-day conference, which featured perspectives from international panelists on the front lines of changing how society thinks about and acts toward violence. Organized around the themes of activism, policy, and culture, the conference examined what Harvard professor Jacqueline Bhabha termed “the multiple layers of violence embedded in racial, sexual, economic, and social inequality.”

Opening remarks by the Harvard professor and conference organizer Janet Rich-Edwards ’84, SD ’95 stressed the difficulty of addressing sexual violence, a topic that has been “shrouded in silence and shame.” Rich-Edwards is a faculty codirector of the science program at the Radcliffe Institute and an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. An epidemiologist who studies links between early-life abuse and the risk of developing chronic adult diseases, she said it took nearly a decade to persuade the leaders of a national women’s health study to add questions about physical and sexual violence to a periodic questionnaire. When they finally did, she reported, the survey’s response rate soared. “Women wanted us to listen; they wanted us to speak out.”

Introducing a panel on “The Power of Activism,” Harvard Law School lecturer Diane L. Rosenfeld LLM ’96 suggested that society may have reached a tipping point regarding at least some aspects of violence, such as campus sexual assault. Startling many in the audience with the statistic that 20 percent of women students are raped while in college, Rosenfeld introduced the panelist Alexandra Brodsky, cofounder of Know Your IX, a survivor-run, student-driven campaign that seeks to end sexual violence by educating students.
about their civil rights.

In 2011 Brodsky was among 16 Yale undergraduates who filed a Title IX complaint alleging a “hostile sexual environment.” Now a student at Yale Law School, Brodsky spoke about “new energy surrounding a push for change,” as evidenced by student-led anti-violence strategies taking hold on many campuses. As part of that change, she said, conversations about violence need to acknowledge “the ways sexual abuse has been used to preserve a culture of misogyny. . . . We need to remember why this is a civil rights issue to begin with.”

Sharing her experience confronting violence on the world stage, the peace and women’s rights activist Irene Santiago spoke about her role in negotiations that resolved a conflict between the Philippine government and Muslim separatists a decade ago. One of the few women in the world to participate in formal peace talks,
she realized early on that pressing women’s rights issues would leave her marginalized. “Peace talks don’t involve women because women don’t have a role in war,” explained Santiago, who gained influence instead by developing expertise in cease-fire strategies.

**Policies and Procedures**

The conversation shifted from women as peacemakers to women in the US military, who too often encounter violence inside their own ranks. Gina M. Grosso, a US Air Force major general, noted that with the implementation of roughly 100 new Department of Defense policies addressing sexual assault against women and men, there has been a 25 percent decrease in this kind of crime since 2012. Highlighting increased emphasis on “victim care” in responding to these incidents, Grosso, who directs the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program, said more women are now stepping forward to report attacks. Key factors in this progress, she said, are assessing commanders on the basis of incidents and a new stipulation that provides dedicated military attorneys who support sexual assault victims throughout the military justice process.

In India, where brutal rapes have attracted international attention, the distinguished legal scholar and longtime women’s rights advocate Flavia Agnes cares for victims of gender-based violence by ensuring the enforcement of policies meant to protect them. The Majlis Legal Center, cofounded by Agnes in 1991, provides legal aid for women and conducts training to ensure that Mumbai police know about and adhere to existing statutes. “As recently as 2011, a young girl reporting a rape in Mumbai might be held for hours, subjected to a physical exam at the police station, or even beaten,” said Agnes, herself a survivor of domestic abuse. “Our organization stands with victims to be sure they get support.”

Added Agnes, “Not all victims become survivors. Moving from victim to survivor is a complicated process.”

**Cultural Messages**

Documentary filmmaker Byron Hurt argued that the misogyny, homophobia, and hyperaggression sometimes perceived as originating in hip-hop culture should instead be viewed as manifestations of the “violence at the heart of American society.” (He participated in the arts oriented evening session—see sidebar.)

The cultural entrenchment of violence was further explored by Richard Weissbourd, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, who said parents and educators should be addressing issues such as misogyny while young people are developing an awareness of societal norms. Noting what he called “a paradoxical shift,” Weissbourd observed that “even as girls are ascending, outnumbering men in college and graduate schools, their sexual relationships are becoming more organized around servicing men.” As girls grow up, he urged, “we need to convey better messages about agency, taking charge, and being in control of sexual and romantic relationships.”

As boys grow up, asserted panelist Jackson Katz, cofounder of the Mentors in Violence Prevention program, they need to hear adult role models address sexism and violence against women as “men’s issues.” “The responsibility of initiating the conversation that young men need to have is not on
Normally raised. In 2014 she launched a discussion on Twitter, at #RapeCultureIsWhen, that went viral. “Instead of teaching women to avoid rape,” she said at Radcliffe, “we need to teach men not to rape.”

Near the end of the day, Jackson Katz emphasized that “conversations about violence are conversations about power and control.” Media reports that say “a woman was raped” rather than “a man raped a woman,” for example, downplay the accountability of the perpetrator. An advocate of “shifting the paradigm” to shine light on the ways that individuals, institutions, and governments use violence to wield influence, Katz said, “We need to make visible what has been rendered invisible by unaccountable power.”

Powerful Language
Laura Bates, a British social media antiviolence activist and founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, was one of a number of conference participants who talked about the relationship between the culture of violence and the language of violence. “When I talk with young women, they often find it difficult to believe that under UK law, being groped—touched sexually without consent—is sexual assault,” Bates reported. “Groping” has become a euphemism for a crime that happens so frequently, she said, that “it’s become a normal part of life.”

Zerlina Maxwell, a writer and political analyst, is trying to change the way children are normally raised. In 2014 she launched a discussion on Twitter, at #RapeCultureIsWhen, that went viral. “Instead of teaching women to avoid rape,” she said at Radcliffe, “we need to teach men not to rape.”

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Deborah Blagg is a freelance writer.
Digitized antislavery petitions are a boon to scholars

THE RULE-BREAKING Sisters Grimké

by Corydon Ireland

THE GRIMKÉ SISTERS—ANGELINA and Sarah—were famous for breaking rules. As antislavery advocates canvassing for the cause, they addressed large mixed-gender audiences in public venues, a reversal of custom. And in prescient essays and speeches, they delivered a message that combined distress at slavery (widespread and legal) with distress over the status of American women (homebound and unable to vote).

As for slavery, the sisters knew it close up. They were members of a wealthy slave holding family in South Carolina, but they made a cultural escape north to embrace Quaker pacifism. Born in 1792 (Sarah) and 1805 (Angelina), by 1829 they were both living in Philadelphia. By 1835 they were writing essays and, later, making speeches on behalf of abolitionist causes that helped start the Civil War.

In 1838 Angelina Grimké went to the State House in Boston to deliver antislavery petitions signed by 20,000 Massachusetts women. It was the first time in US history that a woman had addressed a legislative body. She told her audience of 3,000 that she had been “exiled from the land of my birth by the sound of the lash, and the piteous cry of the slave.” She asked, “Are we aliens because we are women? . . . Have women no country?”

The Grimké sisters represent a breakthrough 19th-century moment in which American women became political. “The 1837-to-1839 period was the peak,” said historian Louise Knight in her spring lecture at the Radcliffe Institute. She is writing a biography of the sisters.

Shut out of the voting arena, women in that era turned increasingly to the art of the petition. Often called “prayers,” these were earnest arguments against slavery (or the death penalty or alcohol), most often appended by collected signatures. These documents—a traditional way of prompting new laws—were sent to Congress or state legislatures.

A recent study coauthored by Daniel Carpenter—faculty director of the social sciences at the Radcliffe Institute and the Allie S. Freed Professor of Government at Harvard—backed up the notion that antebellum petitioning represented a landmark moment in which women learned lessons about political organization that they later applied to the suffrage movement.

The study also underscored what is now a historian’s commonplace: that women were far better at petitioning and at gathering signatures than their male counterparts. (“Forget fatigue,” one pamphlet urged women canvassers.) During one 1836 antislavery campaign in Massachusetts, women’s groups sent 3,100 petitions to Congress—twice the number sent by men.

That fervor in 1836 was inspired, in part, by a gag rule on antislavery petitions passed by the 25th Congress the year before under pressure from proslavery southern Democrats. During this time, former president John Quincy Adams, then a congressman representing the Quincy-Braintree district of Massachusetts, would rise from his seat to offer an antislavery petition, only to be shouted down.

The gag rule, Pinckney Resolution 3, was repealed in 1844. But in its day, the rule led—ironically—to an upsurge in such petitions to Congress; inspired more such pleas going to state legislatures; and—above all, said Carpenter—lit a fire under women incensed that their freedom of speech was being even further curtailed.

Among those incensed, and empowered, by the gag rule were the Grimké sisters. Their skill as petitioners—and that of hundreds
of other men and women—is now memorialized in a new database.

The Digital Archive of Massachusetts Anti-Slavery and Anti-Segregation Petitions is the first of its kind, said Carpenter, who is the project’s principal investigator. It represents a largely untapped source of insight and information for scholars: thousands of voices and ideas that were once lost and now—based on the Harvard model—might be found again. (Carpenter has a book under way on the potential of petition archives for scholars, and even for citizens doing genealogical research.)

The Massachusetts iteration includes 3,487 digitized petitions from 1649 to 1870, said Nicole Topich, an archivist at the Center for American Political Studies at Harvard and Carpenter’s collaborator on the new digital archive.

Work on the archive, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, began in 2013 in cooperation with the Massachusetts Archives of the Commonwealth, where Topich set up a small office. The mission: identify, catalog, and then digitize the thousands of antislavery and antisegregation petitions that had lain largely untouched for decades, or even centuries.

Now that the petitions are digitized, said Carpenter, historians and social scientists can do more than read them. Using metadata, they can compare the documents across locations and time periods. Signatories can be analyzed, he said, to reveal treelike social networks. Such aggregating, comparative techniques for digital humanities scholarship will provide perspectives not possible by working only with the physical documents.

The database, distributed by the Harvard Dataverse Network, is now available. The prospect of such searchable digital documents, along with images and metadata, excites scholars like Knight, whose previous work includes two books on pioneering social activist Jane Addams. “They discovered petitions,” she said of Carpenter and Topich, “that everyone thought—that I thought—were lost.”

It was these petitions that opened new worlds to 19th-century women to whom the civic arena was otherwise closed, said Knight. “Petitioning returned their political voices. It was the one legal means they had” for expressing their views and desires and demands.

That legal means, Knight told her audience, was in full flower during the summer and fall of 1837, when the Grimké sisters were hired as agents in a Massachusetts antislavery campaign. The number of petitions signed that year more than doubled compared with 1836; the number of antislavery societies in the state nearly doubled, to 47.

The Grimké sisters whirled through the state like dervishes, filling churches and halls with record audiences during days that sometimes included three events. And they spoke to mixed-gender audiences in public.

In all, Massachusetts in 1837 represented that moment in American history that “made women political,” said Knight. “Something historic happened.”

Corydon Ireland is a staff writer for the Harvard Gazette. This article is adapted from one that originally appeared in the Gazette.
Drugs use is on the rise and treatment lags

Searching for More Effective Drug Policies

by Danielle Griggs

Faced with rising recreational drug use at home and an epidemic of heroin addiction among American soldiers returning from Vietnam, President Richard Nixon declared war on drugs. The anti-drug campaign has cost the United States more than $2.5 trillion in just over 40 years, and yet the White House reports that illicit drug use is on the rise and that treatment is available for only one-tenth of the addicts who need it.

When the drug war began, Mathea Falco ’65 was the new chief counsel and staff director of the US Senate Judiciary Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee, which had jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency, gun control, and the nation’s drug laws. When she took the job in 1971, Falco sent a staffer to the Library of Congress. “Bring me every book about heroin,” she said. “I don’t know anything about it.”

Falco went on to become assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters under President Jimmy Carter, traveling the globe to meet with other governments about curtailing illicit drug production and trafficking—on the theory that reducing foreign supplies would shrink drug use at home. Now president of Drug Strategies, a nonprofit research institute in Washington, DC, Falco calls this approach “the supply-side seduction,” relying on foreign crop eradication and interdiction as well as domestic enforcement to drive up drug prices in the United States. For four decades, both Republican and Democratic administrations have directed more than two-thirds of total drug spending toward supply-side strategies, while the remainder has gone to prevention and treatment. This approach has failed to reduce US drug abuse, resulted in mass incarceration of drug offenders, and created unanticipated problems with other countries and at home.

For example, herbicidal marijuana eradication in Mexico funded by the United States in the 1970s to stop Mexican marijuana from coming into the United States alienated farmers in key growing areas, exacerbating political tensions and violence. Meanwhile illegal production of much higher quality marijuana in the United States rapidly accelerated to meet domestic demand. By 2000 experts estimated that after corn and soybeans, marijuana was the largest agricultural crop in the United States despite its illegal status.

Clearly a new strategy is needed. Working with former US deputy attorney general Philip Heymann, now the James Barr Ames Professor of Law and Director of the International Center for Criminal Justice at Harvard Law School, Falco co-organized a January Exploratory Seminar with an interdisciplinary approach at the Radcliffe Institute. Falco and Heymann brought together 18 experts in diverse fields, including Patti B. Saris ’73, a federal judge and chair of the US Sentencing Commission; Peter Reuter, professor of public policy at the University of Maryland; John Knight, director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research and assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School; and Hubert Williams, past president of the Police Foundation.

“The Radcliffe Institute was an ideal venue for this exploration,” Falco says, “because of its commitment to developing new approaches that are beyond ideology. They may be radical in their novelty, but that’s what we think is required.”

Philip Heymann
Harvard Law School
The resulting summary will be sent to legislative and executive leaders. Falco and Heymann hope it will provide a more solid framework for recommendations about future policy and push forward research that can open new horizons in thinking about how to reduce drug abuse and its related problems.

“We focused on identifying new approaches that are beyond ideology,” Heymann says. “They may be radical in their novelty, but that’s what we think is required.”

Although Falco, who celebrated her 50th reunion this year, has stayed connected to Radcliffe in the years since graduation—first as a Radcliffe trustee and later as a Harvard overseer—the Exploratory Seminar was a homecoming of sorts.

“Radcliffe was a haven for my classmates within the larger University,” Falco says. “And it continues to be a haven for excellence today. The seminar embodies the best of Radcliffe—it was an opportunity to participate in transformative discussions that can shape the world going forward.”

About the future of drug policy, Falco remains optimistic. In another decade, when she celebrates her 60th reunion, she would like to be able to talk about new, more effective strategies—which may very well have begun at Radcliffe.

Danielle Griggs is development communications manager at the Radcliffe Institute.
WHEN RUTH BADER GINSBURG was appointed to the US Supreme Court in 1993 by President Bill Clinton, she was only the second woman—after Sandra Day O’Connor—to serve in a storied institution so male that a popular book about it was titled The Brethren. ❧ At the time, Associate Justices Antonin Scalia JD ’60 and David Souter ’61, JD ’66, known for actively questioning lawyers who argued before them, weren’t expecting any serious competition from the newcomer. “But we were in for a big surprise,” Souter told a rapt crowd at Radcliffe Day 2015 on May 29, where Ginsburg was honored with the Radcliffe Medal for her extraordinary legal career and transformative impact on society. ❧ “Justice Ginsburg was off the mark with the first question before Justice Scalia and I had our mouths open,” Souter recalled. Indeed, he said, as Ginsburg continued to pepper the lawyers, “Justice Scalia leaned over to me and whispered, ‘You and I may have asked our last questions in this courtroom.’”

Radcliffe Medalist
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

There isn’t a glass ceiling she hasn’t broken.

BY ELAINE MCARDLE

Illustration by ELEANOR DAVIS
 Ginsburg—who engaged in a lively discussion of her career and drew several standing ovations—was never one to be intimidated, said Lizabeth Cohen, dean of the Radcliffe Institute, who thanked her for “a lifetime of brilliant service” as a Supreme Court justice and trailblazing litigator for gender equality. “She is a passionate advocate for equality and a dispassionate jurist for justice,” Cohen said. “Whether in the majority or the minority, she illuminates a path toward a society of greater fairness and dignity. She elevates the work of the court by respecting her opponents while holding steadfast to her convictions.”

From her majority decision eliminating the ban on women at the Virginia Military Institute to her dissent in a case on equal pay for women, which led Congress just 18 months later to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, Ginsburg has had a profound effect on the law, especially in the area of gender equality, Cohen said. As a litigator and cofounder of the Women’s Rights Project at the ACLU in 1972, Ginsburg won five of the six cases she argued before the Supreme Court, leading to important improvements in the lives of women, men, and their families, including obtaining Social Security benefits for fathers and eliminating gender-based jury service exemptions.

As President Clinton stated when he appointed her to the high court, many feel Ginsburg is to the women’s movement what Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was to the civil rights movement, said Michael Klarman, Kirkland and Ellis Professor at Harvard Law School, who clerked for Ginsburg and spoke on the morning panel discussion about the current Supreme Court.

Ginsburg is also a cultural icon, hero to the millennial generation and others, with devoted followers on Twitter and Tumblr. She has a hip nickname, The Notorious RBG, a reference to the late rapper and fellow Brooklynite The Notorious BIG, and her likeness—bespectacled, in her black robes with the lace jabots she favors—is emblazoned on T-shirts and other paraphernalia. She’s even the subject of an opera, “Scalia/Ginsburg,” which premiered in July and celebrates her famous friendship—and constitutional battles—with her conservative colleague. In one of the most important scenes, Ginsburg told the Radcliffe Day audience, Scalia is locked up in a dark room for excessive dissenting. “I come to his rescue—entering through a glass ceiling,” she said, as the crowd laughed and applauded.

Her own path wasn’t easy. When she matriculated at Harvard Law School in 1956, she was one of nine women in a class of more than 500. She transferred to

THE ROBERTS COURT, FROM 2005 TO TODAY

A PANEL DISCUSSION IS TRADITIONAL at Radcliffe Day. In honor of Ginsburg, this year’s panel included legal scholars addressing major trends in the Supreme Court under Chief Justice John Roberts ’76, JD ’79.

The examination of decisions and dissents was moderated by Margaret H. Marshall EdM ’69, the former chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts who wrote the majority decision in the landmark 2003 Goodridge case, which held that same-sex couples had the right to marry. She received the Radcliffe Medal in 2013.

The four panelists included Linda Greenhouse ’68, a former Supreme Court correspondent for the New York Times, the Knight Distinguished Journalist-in-Residence and Joseph Goldstein Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School, and a 2006 Radcliffe medalist; Michael Klarman, the Kirkland and Ellis Professor at Harvard Law School and a former law clerk of Ginsburg’s; Lauren Sudeall Lucas JD ’05, an assistant professor of law at Georgia State University College of Law; and John Manning ’82, JD ’85, the Bruce Bromley Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

The cases the panelists focused on involved the “individual mandate” in the Affordable Care Act, the use of racial classification in school assignments, and the changing requirements for bringing lawsuits in federal courts.

Subsequently, questions from the audience led to a lively discussion of Citizens United v. FEC, the 2010 case in which the Supreme Court struck down restrictions on political advertisement spending by corporations.

Marshall, who devoted much of her Radcliffe Medal speech in 2012 to the issue of money in politics, was a passionate participant in that conversation. Her remarks from Radcliffe Day 2012 are posted on the Radcliffe website, as are the complete videos of Radcliffe Day 2015 with the panel discussion and its concluding remarks from Klarman sharing why “Justice Ginsburg is one of the few justices in history who would be a deservedly famous American had they never served on the Supreme Court.”
Columbia Law School to join her husband, Martin D. Ginsburg, a tax lawyer, in New York City. She graduated first in her class, as she had in high school and as an undergraduate at Cornell. She also served on the law reviews at both Harvard and Columbia. Yet she was turned down for a Supreme Court clerkship by Justice Felix Frankfurter and landed an appeals court clerkship only after a professor gave a personal guarantee that he’d find a male replacement if Ginsburg didn’t work out. She did so well that the next clerk hired by Judge Edmund Palmieri of the Southern District of New York was also a woman, Cohen noted.

At Columbia Law School, Ginsburg was the first tenured woman on the faculty, and she coauthored the first law school casebook on sex discrimination. She also cofounded the Women’s Rights Law Reporter, the first journal to focus on women’s rights. As the leading women’s rights lawyer of the ’70s, she faced a tough road convincing male judges that sex classifications—even those that ostensibly helped women—perpetuated stereotypes that harmed everyone. She frequently endured condescension from men on the bench and criticism that her legal briefs were “emotional,” Klarman noted, and battled stereotypes even as a mother. While a tenured law professor at Columbia and Supreme Court litigator, she repeatedly received phone calls about her young son James acting up at school. Exasperated, she finally told a teacher, “This child has two parents. I suggest from now on you alternate between them when you need to speak to someone about James,” according to Klarman. James’s behavior didn’t improve, Klarman said, but “the phone calls ceased because they wouldn’t dream of phoning a busy tax lawyer at his office.”

Radcliffe Day drew 1,300 people to Radcliffe Yard, with a live webcast drawing viewers from as far away as China and Finland. A highlight of the day was a conversation between Ginsburg and Kathleen Sullivan JD ’81, former dean of Stanford Law School and a former Harvard Law School professor, who said, “There isn’t a glass ceiling you haven’t broken.” Ginsburg said that, whether litigating on behalf of men or women, her objective was to get rid of laws based on gender stereotypes “so that everyone could—in the words of a song popular in the early ’70s—be free to be you and me.” She also noted that changes in public opinion about women’s roles led to successes in the ’70s that would have been impossible a decade earlier. The faculty at the Virginia Military Institute “was very much in favor” of admitting women, Ginsburg said, with a wry smile, “because if they could include women in the applicant pool they’d upgrade the quality of students.”

In closing, Sullivan asked Ginsburg for her advice to young women. “Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you,” Ginsburg said. One important asset, she added, is a sense of humor. In thanking Souter for introducing her, she noted that they served together for 16 years on the Supreme Court. To audience laughter, she added, “Justice Souter and I voted alike more than any other two justices—even more than Justices Scalia and [Clarence] Thomas.”

ELAINE MCARDLE is an attorney and a freelance writer.
On Fellowship

BY HENRI COLE

The literary critic Harold Bloom has called Henri Cole RI ’15 “the central poet of his generation.” Others have compared him to Walt Whitman and Elizabeth Bishop. In addition to his nine books of poetry, Cole has won a raft of awards—including the Jackson Poetry Prize from Poets & Writers, the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets, the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award from the Claremont Graduate University, and a fellowship from the American Academy in Rome. He has taught at many universities, most recently as a tenured professor of English at Ohio State University. In the fall of 2015, he will begin teaching at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California. The Boston Globe called Cole’s most recent book, Nothing to Declare, excerpted on page 27, “stunning in its clarity, control, and bottomless depth of field.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN ALONZO HARRIS
fellowship? my barber asks. I am
sitting in his shop with a purple
sheet around me. It’s the end of the
snowiest winter in Boston’s history.
There are dirty drifts on the street.
When I was a boy, I sat on a kitchen
stool out on the back porch, with a
towel around my neck, as my father
gave me a military crew cut. I had
thick curly brown hair then and
squeezed my eyes shut at the sound
of the clippers, but now, in middle
age, I look in the mirror with wide-
open eyes at my changing face.

Fellowship is like pot roast, I say,
with mashed potatoes and peas on
the side. I have my own office and
receive a wage to write there. There
are other fellows with offices, too.
It’s like a beehive, and we’re drones
turning something raw into gold.
For a year, I don’t have to teach. My
barber is from Virginia, like me, and
he calls me Henry, as if I were still
a schoolboy. What do you write? he
asks. I like his curiosity, though I’m
embarrassed to tell him it’s poetry.
Tapping his black comb against pol-
ished scissors to get the loose hairs
out, he asks, Why do you write?
How do you write?

Each day, I wake up and look
at the travel clock next to the
dusty lamp and the pile of books
on my night table. I want to go to
the toilet but stay in bed a little
longer. I don’t hear tennis being
played yet in the nearby park, but
dogs are barking, happy to see one
another. Without sleep, I find it
impossible to concentrate, so when
I sit down at my desk there are no
little supernova explosions of the
imagination resulting in poetry.
Barefoot in the kitchen, I stare at
the teapot. The little red bird on
the spout has become a melted nub
and doesn’t sing anymore. Did I
forget to buy skim milk? Isn’t today
Seamus Heaney’s birthday? I am
reading his poems again, trying to
write something intelligent, but
feel sadness in the finality of this
act. He was kind. He was not a
follower. Now nature’s undertakers
have carried him toward the sun.

I ride along the Charles River,
and there are geese alighting on
the bike trail, so I brake for them.
The river is gunmetal gray with
little white caps, and is very pretty.
Bicycling helps me clear out the
cobwebs of the long night. Did I
forget to turn off the stove? Did
I pay the bill for the new water
heater? Today, an astrophysicist,
or a stellar mortician, as he calls
himself, is presenting a talk on
gas clouds that form small stars,
planetary nebulae, black holes,
and, ultimately, gold. I love the
language of science. Even when I
don’t understand it, I am drawn
out of my comfort zone. I wonder
if writing poems is like gas clouds
becoming small stars. I wonder if

Talismans from
Henri Cole’s desk
include a dream
catcher that the
writer Natalie Kusz
Bi’00 gave him;
a horseshoe from
the artist Jenny
Holzer, with whom
he has collaborat-
ed; and a wooden
letter opener that
the poet Elizabeth
Bishop sent from
Brazil to the poet
May Swenson.

What is
I can bring the language of science into my poems, refreshing them, like a spring feeding a lake. I wonder if I can be refreshed.

Look, a cormorant has caught a fish in the river. Long ago, in Japan, I took a boat to watch fishermen with cormorants. A snare was tied around the base of each bird’s throat, and when the cormorant’s throat was filled up with fish to its beak, a fisherman brought the bird back to the boat, where it spit them up. Isn’t this swallowing and spitting up like writing poetry, as bees must regurgitate nectar again and again to transform it into honey? Listen, a cardinal is singing. He has been silent all winter. This is my territory, he asserts to other nearby males. Soon he will mate. Again, a family of geese is blocking the bike trail, and I brake for them. A sign has been posted: DO NOT FEED THE GEESE. CREATES AN AGGRESSIVE FLOCK. CREATES HUMAN/BIRD CONFLICTS.

At Radcliffe, other fellows emerge from their offices to meet in the kitchen and converse, like bees trying to stay warm during the terrible winter. Since I am a solitary person, I feel most alive when I am alone, but I enjoy observing this togetherness. I think I am more like a flower awaiting cross-pollination. Though I am older than the others, I am open to change, and try to cultivate hope as a virtue. I like gentleness. I am writing a poem about a big party tent that appeared on the lawn one day last fall and then disappeared the next. I have only written two lines: “The tent men arrived bearing sledgehammers/ and were young enough to be my sons.” When the tent’s center pole went up, it made my heart accelerate. The following day, the lawn was damaged, but a crew restored it beautifully. I know the ending of this poem. It will describe the sod being aerated and new soil being spread out on top. It’s late afternoon, and I’m riding my bike along the river again. I think that all of life is like a river. We yield to it or struggle against a current. It doesn’t matter which. Or maybe it does. Swiftly, I am home and turning on the news as the telephone rings. But instead of answering it, I sit at my library desk and write down a sentence, then another that occurs to me out of nowhere, like musical notes floating up from somewhere deep in the self.

**ENLIGHTENMENT MEANS LIVING**

**Writing this absorbed, I realize that the words are spilling all over my legs, and I ask, “Hey, what’s this?”**

**When I go to the window, the words come too and are just all over the place.**

**It’s as if my whole body ceased to exist, and I experience the end of Henri in an infinitude of words.**
Irmtrud Wojak with student Research Partners Adela Heera Kim (center) and Eunice Park Lee (at right).
the preservation of history

FROM FAILED DENAZIFICATION TO SAVING SURVIVORS’ STORIES

BY PAT HARRISON
In other words, she believes that contemporary Germany continues to face challenges from its Nazi past.

The Nuremberg trials, held in 1945 and 1946 and formally known as the International Military Tribunal, were the highest-profile manifestation of denazification, the first step in addressing large-scale genocide carried out by the Nazis. The Allies tried 22 major war criminals at Nuremberg—the city where the most elaborate rallies of Hitler’s regime had been staged—and 12 of those criminals were sentenced to death.

But denazification was intended to reach Germans at all levels of power, and thousands of citizens were required to complete detailed questionnaires about their activities during the Third Reich. After a year of the program, more than 40 percent of public officials had been dismissed for Nazi involvement. It was widely known, however, that most major offenders lied about their participation in Nazi activities.

In March 1946, the Allies turned the denazification program over to the Germans, for a variety of reasons, including Germany’s need to find citizens to run the country. After that, only major offenders faced serious sanctions, and more than 90 percent of cases were judged not to be serious. The program lost credibility, and it officially ended in 1951.

Many former Nazis held public office in the new postwar government and leadership positions in German industry. “At the swift end of denazification, Nazis returned to their former offices and positions—even to higher posts,” says Wojak, the 2014–2015 Frieda L. Miller Fellow at Radcliffe. “It is as if in 1945 millions of loyal Nazis became millions of democrats overnight.” She is dismayed that the end of denazification is “no longer seen as a troublesome development in Germany.”

When Wojak discusses denazification, she talks about the staggering failure of the criminal justice system to address wartime crimes. “All trials for Nazi crimes inevitably provoke the question of why more people didn’t fight the Nazis and help the persecuted,” she says. Most important of all, she adds, is understanding “the sources of strength that enabled some people to help, to not cower and conform.”

In her work as an author and historian, Wojak has focused on Fritz Bauer (1903–1968), a Jewish social democrat who was born in Stuttgart and became the youngest person in Germany to be appointed a district judge. “If anyone worked for denazification, it was Fritz Bauer,” she says, referring to his time as the prosecutor who initiated the Frankfurt Auschwitz trials of the 1960s.

As a young man, Bauer was sent to a concentration camp in 1933 for his resistance against the Nazis. Released after some months, he fled to Denmark and then to Sweden, where he lived in exile until 1949, when he returned to West Germany to help establish the new postwar government and a
humane legal system. After assisting with the apprehension of Adolf Eichmann in Argentina in 1957, Bauer led the Frankfurt Auschwitz trials, from 1963 until 1965, where 20 defendants were tried for their crimes under German criminal law. Six received life sentences, and several others received shorter prison sentences. More than half were charged only with aiding and abetting crimes committed at the concentration camp.

The Frankfurt Auschwitz trials are widely recognized as marking a turning point in Nazi trials. “It was not the first criminal procedure against Nazi criminals in Germany,” writes historian Rebecca Wittman in Beyond Justice: The Auschwitz Trial (Harvard University Press, 2005), “but it was by far the largest, most public, and most important ever to take place in West Germany using West German judges and West German law.”

Following a decade of research, Wojak wrote Bauer’s biography, which was published in Germany in 2009 and widely reviewed there but has yet to be translated into English. She quotes him saying, “Human beings are always able to change their behavior. We should be our brother’s keeper.”

Wojak continued her dedication to preserving and sharing historical truths by initiating the non-profit Buxus Foundation in 2013 to keep the voices of survivors alive. “Museums and memorial sites to preserving and sharing historical truths by initiating the non-profit Buxus Foundation in 2013 to keep the voices of survivors alive. The more convinced I am about Iris,” Goodlin says, “the more convinced I became that her courage and dedication should be seen as an example to be followed rather than an anomaly to be admired. Sharing her story through the House of Humanity is one step in an important mission to preserve the courage and perseverance of those who shone in one of our darkest moments.”

STUDENTS FIND SURVIVORS AND RESISTERS
In conjunction with her work on denazification, Wojak collaborated with three Radcliffe Research Partners to write stories about survivors and resisters in a variety of geographical and historical contexts. The stories will be featured on a new interactive website called House of Humanity, funded by the Buxus Foundation.

EUNICE PARK LEE ’17, a history concentrator, depicted Gustav Schroeder, who sailed the ocean liner MS St. Louis in 1939, trying to find homes for more than 900 Jewish refugees. The ship was denied entry to Canada, Cuba, and the United States. Schroeder, a German, refused to return the ship to Germany until all the passengers had been given entry to another country. The United Kingdom accepted almost 300 refugees, and the rest were allowed to enter Belgium, France, and the Netherlands. The ship returned to Hamburg with no passengers. “Over the course of the project,” Lee says, “I was constantly pushed to reconsider many of my preconceived notions about justice and social responsibility. This was a transformative challenge that renewed my fascination with the intersection of history and human rights, and will no doubt continue to shape the future of my academic pursuits.”

BRIANA ELISE GOODLIN ’15, a social studies concentrator with a focus on genocide and ethnic conflict in the 20th century, portrayed another resister. The historian Iris Origo lived with her mother at the Villa Medici, a spectacular villa in Fiesole, above Florence. During the war, Origo and her husband lived in a new estate at La Foces, in the province of Siena, where they cared for refugee children who were housed there. Following Italy’s surrender, Origo assisted many escaped Allied prisoners of war. “The more I learned about Iris,” Goodlin says, “the more convinced I became that her courage and dedication should be seen as an example to be followed rather than an anomaly to be admired. Sharing her story through the House of Humanity is one step in an important mission to preserve the courage and perseverance of those who shone in one of our darkest moments.”

ADELA HEERA KIM ’16, a history of art and architecture concentrator with a secondary field in Germanic languages and literatures, conducted research on Franz L. Neumann, a German-Jewish political activist and labor lawyer. Neumann fled Germany’s National Socialists in 1933 and eventually immigrated to the United States. He is renowned for his book Behemoth: The Structure and Practice of National Socialism (Oxford University Press, 1944), and for his work for the Office of Strategic Services on denazification.

“Working on this project has given me a renewed understanding of resilience,” says Kim. “Studying the many historical forms of resistance has helped me realize that a certain universality exists in the innate desire to persist, even after a traumatic event.”

ble to change their behavior. We should be our brother’s keeper.”
writing from her vantage point

as the author of Young Romantics: The Shelleys, Byron, and Other Tangled Lives (Bloomsbury, 2010), Daisy Hay has excellent purchase on Benjamin Disraeli, a writer and politician of the next generation who modeled himself on Byron. Her instinct to broaden her story to include women of only tangential relation to Mary Anne Disraeli, née Evans—a woman of lesser learning and greater age but well matched in ambition with her husband—allows for poignant reflections on woman’s lot in 19th-century England: the consequences of making or not making a marriage, the chances of being unmade or remade by one. The result is an extraordinary portrait of a couple and their times as compelling as any account of Queen Victoria and Prince Consort Albert, whom the Disraelis served as prime minister and peeress.

Mary Anne and Dizzy, as Benjamin was known to intimates, led surprisingly open lives, expressive in the manner of the Romantics, in terms of both feeling and matters of finance. Love affairs in and out of marriage abound in this tale, as do accusations of matches made for material advantage. The story begins in Regency England, not still-puritanical America, and such goings-on would have astounded the Disraelis’ counterparts across the Atlantic. But even in England there was no couple like this one.

Hay begins with Benjamin Disraeli’s oft-cited dictum, “Read no history; nothing but biography, for that is life without theory.” More strategist than idealist, Disraeli himself could be said to have led a life without theory. His marriage to the widow of his former fellow in Parliament, the only woman who could relieve a massive campaign debt and ensure his continuance in politics, was surely strategic. Yet handsome—Byronically so—Dizzy might have had a richer woman or lived content as the “dandy” author of the “silver fork” novels he turned out so easily. “When I want to read a novel, I write one,” he was reported to have said.

Mary Anne chose deliberately, too. As the younger widow of a wealthy man, she had her 5,000 pounds a year, a house in London, and no children to tie her down. Marriage had not stopped her from carrying on affairs of the heart, and widowhood would not, either. Yet her allowance would not end with remarriage, and there were legal provisions by which she could maintain financial independence. Benjamin paid persistent suit. The rest, in Daisy Hay’s hands, is far-from-theoretical history. Both Disraelis could confidently say, as Dizzy concluded one of many odes to Mary Anne, “I love my choice.”

Lacy Eye: A Novel
BY JESSICA TREADWAY BI ’94

Jessica Treadway’s second novel, which follows two significant story collections, weds high-style domestic fiction to psychological thriller with remarkable ease. A bravura opening lays out the details of a horrific crime—one that leaves heroine Hanna Schutt’s husband dead, and her own face disfigured. What, when, and how are all delivered to the reader with chilling grace. But who and why? Hanna’s recall of the late-night attack in the couple’s suburban bedroom is fragmentary, and she’d prefer it to stay that way. Her college-age daughter’s boyfriend may have been involved, and hence the daughter, the younger of two, potentially implicated. Treadway’s novel explores the tragic event and the family history that preceded it, developing a quietly compelling portrait of Hanna and her marriage. How clearly can we see ourselves and our children? this novel asks. The question is underscored by the book’s title, a reference to Hanna’s euphemistic phrase for her daughter’s amblyopia, or lazy eye, which left the girl feeling like an outsider through childhood and created tension between her parents, who differed on the best means of remediation. Treadway’s writerly eye is anything but lazy in this thoughtfully rendered tale of self-deception leading to revelation.
**If we aim to disarm the religious zealots who are today’s terrorists, we should be fighting corruption, Sarah Chayes argues.**

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**Roll Deep: Poems**  
**BY MAJOR JACKSON RI ’07**  

The long lines of many of the poems in Major Jackson’s fourth collection roll out and on in satisfying if often unsettling rivers of sound, as if to underscore the possible meanings of the vernacular phrase he takes for his book’s title, *Roll Deep*. Whitmanesque, this volume takes in multitudes: the human consequences of Florida’s stand-your-ground law, a child soldier, refugees encamped in east Kenya. A poem in one long sentence describes a childhood schoolmate, a chess prodigy growing up in Section 8 housing. Memorable litanies explore computer dating and “Why I Write Poetry”: “Because punctuation is my jury and the moon is my judge.”

The issue of marital fidelity surfaces repeatedly, a confrontation with self (“I want to kill the polygamist in me”) that sometimes brings tears, “turning his eyes to pebbles / splashed by briny waves.” An ode to Vermont’s Mt. Philo suggests reconciliation:

> We marvel at how far  
> we traveled through  
> emerald, glitter, and beam.

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**Honeydew**  
**BY EDITH PEARLMAN ’57**  
Little, Brown, 275 pp.

Edith Pearlman’s virtuosity as a storyteller is no surprise to the Radcliffe community, but her breakout volume, *Binocular Vision*, which won the 2012 National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction, brought her tales to a wider public and provoked an insistent demand for more. The fortunate result is *Honeydew*, her fifth book, a collection of 20 lustrous gems.

Several of Pearlman’s characters in this new volume share a quality that makes others want to confide in them. A manicurist in “Tenderfoot” is a magnet for her clients’ woes; in “Castle,” an anesthesiologist takes in his patients’ psychic pain as he eases the physical. This generosity of spirit is Pearlman’s own gift to her readers, and it infuses all of *Honeydew’s* stories, many of which are set in fictional Godolphin, Pearlman’s version of her hometown, Brookline, Massachusetts. Pearlman is also generous with her wisdom, as in this rumination by the title character’s wife in “Blessed Harry”: “Life and death? They were incidental, in her opinion, though of course she deplored suffering. But what counted was how you behaved while death let you live, and how you met death when life released you. That was the long and short of it.”

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**The Light of the World: A Memoir**  
**BY ELIZABETH ALEXANDER RI ’08**  

Edgar Allan Poe famously argued that the ideal subject for a poem is the death of a beautiful young woman. Elizabeth Alexander, a poet, has made elegant, elegiac prose of a similar subject—the sudden loss of her beautiful and beloved artist husband to a heart attack at age 50, the year both had planned to celebrate their combined century on earth. Instead, Alexander was bereft on her May birthday, seeing her husband’s presence everywhere: in the peonies he had planted and tended, knowing they would bloom for her birthday; in the hundreds of painted canvases in his studio; in the faces of their two young sons.

In this twined narrative, she gives her history and that of her husband, Ficre Ghebreyesus, the brave Eritrean immigrant whose life bursts from the pages. She wants us to know him, to ask us, “Do you see why I miss him?” And to confide her fresh pain and bewildergment: “I call out, to no one. Will I remember everything? What am I meant to keep?” Like Joan Didion’s *Year of Magical Thinking*, Alexander’s spellbinding memoir gives comfort where none might have seemed possible.

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**Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security**  
**BY SARAH CHAYES ’84, AM ’10**  

We tend to think of corruption in government as a relatively contained if intractable problem, unfortunate and even frightening to citizens, but ancillary to the power struggles so visibly and often violently waged over issues of religion or politics. In this wide-ranging and deeply researched account, the former NPR correspondent and veteran reporter in Afghanistan Sarah Chayes shows how the “kleptocrats” that pull strings behind the scenes can incite desperation in whole populations, leading to the rise of militant religious sects and the new despots of our times. Corruption is the demon we should be fighting, Chayes argues, if we aim to disarm the religious zealots who are today’s terrorists.

Alarmingly, Chayes finds, the great enlightenment thinkers who provided the intellectual scaffolding for democratic government foresaw just such a disaster scenario, with John Locke citing a vulnerability in legal systems to those who can “circumvent law by law”—leaving suffering populations with “no appeal on earth to right them.” Inevitably, Locke wrote, such exploited peoples will “appeal to heaven.” Chayes’s remarkable account, filled with heartbreaking war stories, nevertheless offers a new pragmatism and hope for new solutions.
Radcliffe Day 2015

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015
HARVARD ALUMNAE/I FROM THE CLASSES OF 1940 TO 2015 ATTENDED

MORE THAN 1,300 ALUMNAE/I, faculty, fellows, students, and friends of Radcliffe gathered under the tent to celebrate Radcliffe Day 2015 and the life and work of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The crowd included Radcliffe and Harvard alumnae/i in classes ranging from 1940 to 2015, with nearly every class year in between represented.

Many more audience members tuned in online, with viewers watching from across the country and around the globe, in locations as distant as China, Finland, and the United Kingdom.


The Globe said that Ginsburg “is having a cultural moment. A rather elongated one, actually.”

In her remarks, Radcliffe Dean Lizabeth Cohen announced that The Radcliffe Campaign continues to build momentum, with 63 percent of the $70 million goal raised, for a total of $44 million.

“So far 6,000 households have given to The Radcliffe Campaign,” she said. “I am particularly proud of this widespread participation.”

Cohen congratulated those celebrating reunions and noted

The Radcliffe Day audience included former Radcliffe leaders, such as Deans Barbara J. Grosz and Mary Maples Dunn, as well as Harvard President Drew Faust, founding dean of the Radcliffe Institute and the 2014 Radcliffe medalist. Two other recipients of the Radcliffe Medal attended: Margaret H. Marshall EdM ’69, former chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, and legal journalist Linda Greenhouse ’68.

Alumnae/i and Friends Gathered to Hear Ginsburg

Michael Klarman, Kirkland & Ellis Professor, Harvard Law School

John F. Manning ’82, JD ’85, Bruce Bromley Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
the parallels between Ginsburg’s lifelong friendships made during her undergraduate years at Cornell and those made by Radcliffe and Harvard College students.

She highlighted the progress that has been made by women since Ginsburg’s college days, including three women serving on the Supreme Court, four women attaining a four-star rank in the United States armed forces, and growing numbers of women leading major organizations, such as General Motors, IBM, and PepsiCo—not to mention Harvard University.

“These developments might not have been easily foreseen,” Cohen said, “but many of you here today, in different ways and in different moments, helped make them happen.”

In her own comments, Ginsburg recalled the climate in which she began arguing cases in the Supreme Court in the 1970s.

“The notion was that there were separate spheres for the sexes,” she said. “Men were the doers in the world, and women were the stay-at-home types.”

Ginsburg also offered advice to the young women in the multigenerational audience. “Young women today have a great advantage,” she said, “and it is that there are no more closed doors.”

“Fight for the things that you care about,” she said, “but do it in a way that will lead others to join you; that is, one vital asset is a sense of humor.”

—Danielle Griggs
Alumnae/i of Radcliffe and Harvard gathered for lunch in the Sheerr Room, in Fay House, on April 10 during the Institute’s conference “Confronting Violence.” Nancy-Beth Gordon Sheerr ’71 (pictured above), for whom the Sheerr Room was named by her fellow Radcliffe College trustees in 1999, spoke about the realization of the trustees’ vision for the Institute.

“Radcliffe, in all its incarnations, has always stood for quality, innovation, and pathbreaking experimentation,” she said. “I can assure you that the Radcliffe College trustees had lofty dreams when the Institute was created, and that its development has exceeded in all dimensions what we envisioned at that time.”

Sheerr, who is a member of the Institute’s Dean’s Advisory Council, also invited attendees to become more involved with Radcliffe. “For me, engagement with the Institute has represented an incomparable adventure in lifelong learning,” she said. “It’s been a rewarding personal priority for my time and energy, as well as my financial support.”
Announcing the Steiner Garden
Radcliffe Yard

MAY 2015
A GIFT HONORS PARENTS AND SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

THE RADCLIFFE INSTITUTE recently unveiled the Daniel and Prudence L. Steiner Garden in Radcliffe Yard.

Prudence Steiner ’58, AM ’76, PhD ’80 is a longtime Harvard faculty member and friend of Harvard and Radcliffe who is also a dedicated member of the Dean’s Advisory Council at the Radcliffe Institute.

Daniel Steiner ’54, LLB ’58 had a distinguished career as a vice president and general counsel of Harvard University and was a faculty member at the Harvard Kennedy School.

A gift from their son and daughter-in-law established the Steiner Fund, which will support faculty-led programs at the Radcliffe Institute.

These include collaborative seminars and workshops that kick-start new research, along with provocative lectures and multidisciplinary conferences that bring innovative ideas to the public.

The Steiner Garden, located near Putnam House in Radcliffe Yard, provides a contemplative spot for members of the Radcliffe community to write, study, and talk with one another. It’s a welcome respite from the hubbub of Harvard Square.
Catch Up on Institute Happenings

All videos are online at www.radcliffe.harvard.edu.

Navigation Lecture Series

The Institute’s Academic Ventures program organized a series of lectures that built on the larger, one-day public symposium “Lost and Found: A Science Symposium about Navigation.” Some are available for viewing.

“Good Vibrations: How Tactile Cues Can Assist Navigation”
The MIT research scientist Lynette A. Jones explores how tactile communication systems that can use small motors to vibrate against the skin can assist in navigation and help maintain spatial orientation.

“The World Is Not the Screen: How Computers Shape Our Sense of Place”
We have all become more reliant on GPS for digital maps and directions. Nicholas Carr, a technology and science writer, considers this automation of navigation and its personal consequences, asking, “What do we lose when we allow our navigational acumen to wither?”

“Cultural Navigation: Finding One’s Way Across Traditions”
Making music goes beyond simply reading and playing the notes. In this panel discussion, members of the Silk Road Ensemble share the challenges and rewards of maintaining engagement with a musical piece through the learning process, all while negotiating with other musicians of different instruments and traditions.

“University As Collector”
Speakers from across Harvard reflect on the significance of the university as a collecting institution—not just of manuscripts and artworks but also of artifacts, buildings, trees, and digital resources.
“Sentiment and Politics in 1865: Personal Responses to Lincoln’s Assassination”

Drawing from personal diaries and correspondence from the period, Martha Hodes MA ’84 looks at the human scale of the nation’s first presidential assassination.

“For the past 10 years, Bruce Western RI ’15—the Evelyn Green Davis Fellow—has studied the scope and consequences of mass incarceration in the United States. In this lecture, he shares the impact of this system on American poverty and considers possible reforms.

“The Thousands”

The novelist ZZ Packer RI ’15, the Lillian Gollay Knafel Fellow, reads from her novel-in-progress, “The Thousands,” for the Julia S. Phelps Lecture. She then sits down with Walter Johnson RI ’11, the Winthrop Professor of History and professor of African and African American studies at Harvard, to discuss her methods for writing and research.

“The Thousands”
Although better-known for her poetry, **Fanny Howe Bi ’75** was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize 2015, which recognizes writers for their achievement in fiction. She is the author of 20 books of fiction, some of which were republished in one volume as *Radical Love: 5 Novels* (Nightboat Books, 2006). In an interview with the *Boston Globe*, Howe confessed to being surprised: “I heard from this wonderful writer named Gish Jen [’77, Bi ’87, RI ’02]... She e-mailed me at 9:30 this morning to congratulate me. I thought, ‘This must be wrong.’” The prize went to László Krasznahorkai in May.

On the topic of Gish Jen ’77, Bi ’87, RI ’02, Williams College awarded one of its five 2015 honorary degrees to the writer at its 225th commencement exercise in June. She also participated in a conversation on campus.

The historian **Jill Lepore Bi ’00** received New-York Historical Society’s annual American History Book Prize for *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* (Knopf, 2014). The book was selected from a field of 132 submissions. In April Lepore was presented with a cash award, an engraved medal, and the title of American historian laureate. She is the David Woods Kemper ’41 Professor of American History at Harvard and a staff writer at the *New Yorker*. A video of her illustrated talk “How Wonder Woman Got into Harvard” is online at www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video.

“Birdsong From the Radio,” a short story by **Elizabeth McCracken RI ’09** that originally appeared in *Zoetrope: All-Story*, is a winner of the 2015 O. Henry Prize. It will appear alongside 19 other O. Henry Prize Stories in the eponymous anthology, out in September. O. Henry Prize jurors choose the winning entries from blind manuscripts.

In May **Mary Karr Bi ’91** received an honorary award, a doctor of humane letters, from Syracuse University. She also delivered the commencement address at the joint ceremony for Syracuse and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Karr is an award-winning poet and a best-selling memoirist.

**Barbara Bestor ’87** won a 2015 Institute Honor Award for Interior Architecture for her new Beats by Dre headquarters, which was featured in *Azure, Domus*, and *Fast Company*. Her firm, Bestor Architecture, also recently completed an experimental housing project in Los Angeles called Blackbirds and has been selected to design the new home for the Silverlake Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles and the headquarters for Magic Leap in Florida.

Two Radcliffe fellows were among the 84 newly elected members to the National Academy of Sciences: **Tomasz Mrowka RI ’14** and **Bruce Western RI ’15**. Mrowka is the Singer Professor of Mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, while Western is a professor of sociology and the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Professor of Criminal Justice at the Harvard Kennedy School.

**Ana Mariella Bacigalupo RI ’13** was named a recipient of the 2015 President Emeritus and Mrs. Martin Meyerson Award for Distinguished...
Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring from the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York. Bacigalupo is an associate professor of anthropology.

Sarah S. Richardson RI ’13, the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences, was one of two 2015 recipients of the Roslyn Abramson Award, given annually to assistant or associate professors for excellence in undergraduate teaching in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard.


The New York State Writers Hall of Fame inducted Francine Prose ’68, AM ’69 into its ranks. She is the author of more than 20 works of fiction, a regular contributor to the New York Times, a National Book Award finalist, and a former president of PEN American Center. There were seven members of the class of 2015, including Isaac Asimov, Allen Ginsberg, and David Remnick, representing a variety of writers who reflect the state’s rich literary history.

The Austrian Ministry of Science, Research, and Economy awarded its Victor Adler State Prize (Victor Adler-Staatspreis für Geschichte sozialer Bewegungen 2015) to Eve Blau BI ’92. The prize is awarded for widely published scholarship that is distinguished by its interdisciplinary breadth, use of innovative methods, and contemporary historical questions. To mark the award and the publication of her book Rotes Wien: Architektur 1919–1934: Stadt–Raum–Politik (Ambra, 2014), Blau also delivered a lecture at the Architekturzentrum Wien.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation announced its 2015 fellows in April. Among the recipients were Martha Buskirk RI ’01, a professor of art history and criticism at Montserrat College of Art; Susan Eva Eckstein BI ’76, RI ’04, a professor of international relations and sociology at Boston University; Carmela Vircillo Franklin ’71, PhD ’77, a professor of classics at Columbia University; Maria Gough PhD ’97, RI ’12, the Joseph Pulitzer Jr. Professor of Modern Art and interim chair of the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University; Niiloofar Haeri BI ’00, a professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University; Patricia Marx ’75, an independent writer in New York City; Sheila Patek ’94, RI ’09, an associate professor of biology at Duke University; Tatiana Toro RI ’02, the Robert R. and Elaine F. Phelps Professor in Mathematics at the University of Washington; and Michael Willrich RI ’05, the Leff Families Professor of History at Brandeis University.

INKLINGS

In the wake of allegations about the widespread exploitation of manicurists in New York City, the sociologist Juliet Schor RI ’15 was one of six participants who contributed to a debate in the New York Times that...
asked, “Should Americans, despite their stagnant wages, pay the true cost of their goods and services, or should they benefit from free markets’ cost reductions?” Her op-ed, “Put the Onus on the Free Market Architects,” urged consumers to examine the fallacy of the “free” market.

Lewis Hyde RI ’14 published a feature, “Forgetting Mississippi,” in the summer reading issue of Tin House. In it, Hyde revisits the summer of 1964—during which he was a civil rights activist—and the murders of two young black men by the Ku Klux Klan.

The New Yorker recently published new short fiction by Zadie Smith RI ’03, a story titled “Escape from New York.”

The New Yorker published a poem by Major Jackson RI ’07, “Aubade,” in May. The magazine also recorded Jackson reading the poem, available on its website.

Francesca Rossi RI ’15 joined a panel of experts assembled by the Wall Street Journal to address concerns that artificial intelligence could make human existence irrelevant. The resulting article, titled “Does Artificial Intelligence Pose a Threat?” appeared in May. In January, Rossi appeared on euronews to discuss what, exactly, computers and robots are capable of. She is a professor of computer science at the University of Padova and an expert in artificial intelligence.

T magazine published a personal essay by Benjamin Markovits RI ’09, “Under the Waves,” in which he explores an accident from his teen years—his sailboat capsized in the Baltic—and what it reveals about his character.

In late April, the New Yorker’s Page-Turner featured “Orphic Paris, Part XIV,” by Henri Cole RI ’15, part of the poet’s ongoing Paris diary. For more about Cole, turn to page 24.

In an opinion piece that appeared in the Washington Post in April, titled “Owning a Bookstore Means You Always Get to Tell People What to Read,” Ann Patchett RI ’94 discusses her “desire to press a good book into someone’s hands.” She is a co-owner of Parnassus Books in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Argus Leader published an article, “Translating Poem, Weaving Rug Unites Sioux Falls,” about a special multicity event to raise awareness of the ongoing Mural Speaks! project led by Ben Miller RI ’15. Supporters gathered in both Van Eps Park in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Harvard’s Science Center Plaza for a day of community, song, and consciousness raising. Mural Speaks! aims to translate William Carlos Williams’s poem “The Red Wheelbarrow” into all of the 140 languages spoken in Sioux Falls.

Shelf Life

Benjamin Markovits RI ’09 has published You Don’t Have to Live Like This: A Novel (Harper, 2015), his seventh book of fiction. The blog Deadspin published an excerpt that recounts a fictional game of pickup basketball with President Barack Obama.

The Cherokee Rose: A Novel of Gardens and Ghosts (John F. Blair Publisher, 2015) is the debut novel of Tiya Miles ’92, an award-winning historian. “This well-researched, intriguing historical novel from MacArthur fellow Miles . . . delves into the little-known story of the prosperous Cherokee slaveholders in the antebellum South,” said Publishers Weekly in a February review. “[A] wrenching yet enlightening saga. Readers will be taken with the way this novel blends past and present.”

Hayden Herrera ’62, an art historian and Pulitzer Prize–nominated biographer, has published Listening to Stone: The Art and Life of Isamu Noguchi (Far-
In a starred review, Booklist said, “Herrera tells Noguchi’s astounding, many-chaptered story of ‘unstoppable creative energy,’ fame, and perpetual alienation with thrilling narrative drive and deep perception and reinvigorates appreciation for Noguchi’s searching and evocative art.”

The Sympathizer (Grove Press, 2015) is the debut novel from Viet Thanh Nguyen ’09. Kirkus Reviews called the effort “both chilling and funny, and a worthy addition to the library of first-rate novels about the Vietnam War.” In April Nguyen stopped by NPR’s All Things Considered to discuss the novel, which also garnered a front-page story in the New York Times’ Sunday Book Review.

Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Her Daughter Mary Shelley (Random House, 2015), by Charlotte Gordon ’84, is the first dual biography of the influential and often shocking writers. A review in the Independent, “Paying a High Price for Principles,” said, “Gordon’s greatest achievement is to breathe fresh life into Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley.” Additionally, Daisy Hay RI ’13 reviewed the book for the Guardian in an article titled “Hail Marys.”

Sarah Manguso ’96 has published On-goingness: The End of a Diary (Graywolf Press, 2015). Manguso started a diary 25 years ago, and by her count at the time of this memoir, it had grown to be 800,000 words long. “In her almost psychedelic musings on time and what it means to preserve one’s own life, she has managed to transcribe an entirely interior world,” said an April review in the New Yorker. “She has written the memoir we didn’t realize we needed.”

George Balanchine’s little-known childhood and early adulthood in Russia are the subject of a new book by Elizabeth Kendall ’69, MAT ’71, Balanchine and the Lost Muse: Revolution and the Making of a Choreographer (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Emily Bingham ’87 has published a biography of her great-aunt, Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2015). The book, said the New York Times, “resurrects the life and legend of her ancestor, a woman who was too hot to handle not only in her own times, but for a half-century after.”

Shirt in Heaven (Copper Canyon, 2015) is the latest poetry collection from Jean Valentine ’56, B’68—a poet who, said Publishers Weekly, “folds time, summons lost friends in dreams, and conjures lines that are slippery, airy, and thoroughly heartrending.”


Inspired in part by her work as an animal behavior observer at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Diane Lefer ’72 has published a novel titled Confessions of a Carnivore (Fomite, 2015), described by the publisher as an “antic romp through the darkest days of our recent history.” Such institutions as the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and PEN American Center have supported Lefer’s past fiction.

Lost among the Baining: Adventure, Marriage, and Other Fieldwork (University of Missouri Press, 2015), a memoir, portrays the time when Gail Pool ’67 and her husband set off for an anthropological field trip in New Guinea in their early marriage.

Vivian Gornick RI ’08 has published The Odd Woman and the City: A Memoir (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015). Publishers Weekly gave the book a starred review, calling Gornick “a discerning and sharp-tongued literary critic” who “delights above all in reporting snatches of dialogue and startling encounters that reveal a human expressiveness.”

The Exiles’ Gallery (House of Anansi Press, 2015) is the third poetry collection from Elise Partridge ’80, MA ’89. Partridge’s Fielder’s Choice (Signal Editions, 2002) was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Award for best first book of poems in Canada; her Chameleon Hours (University of Chicago Press, 2008) was a finalist for the BC Book Prize and won the Canadian Authors Association Poetry Award. Her work has been anthologized in Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and has appeared in Arc, the Fiddlehead, the New Republic, the New Yorker, PN Review, Poetry, Poetry Ireland Review, Slate, Southwest Review, the Walrus, and the Yale Review. Partridge died in January at the age of 56.

Freya Manfred B’66 has two new books out this year. Speak, Mother (Dragonfly Press, 2015) is her eighth book of published poetry and her first full book of poetry in seven years. Raising Twins: A True Life Adventure (Nodin Press, 2015), about her two sons, is her second memoir.

The Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Tracy K. Smith ’94 has published Ordinary Light: A Memoir (Knopf, 2015). The New York Times Sunday Book Review said, “Her inclusive lists of influences—Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Frost, Philip Larkin, Yusef Komunyakaa—testify that black identity these days is way past black and white.”

Barbara McCaskill RI ’05, an associate professor of English and the codirector of the Civil Rights Digital Library at the University of Georgia, has published Love, Liberation, and Escaping Slavery: William and Ellen Craft in Cultural Memory (University of Georgia Press, 2015). The book recounts the dramatic escape of William and Ellen Craft from slavery—Ellen disguised herself as a gentleman slave-
holder, and William as “his” faithful manservant—and the relationships they made through their activism in the 30 years that followed.

**Valerie Gilbert ’85** has published her third book, *Swami Soup* (Black Opal Books, 2014). She also spent last year narrating 67 titles for Audible.com, the world’s largest provider of audiobooks and spoken word content.

**Lenora Ucko BI ’72** has published *Dr. Sam Sverdlik’s Uncommon Stories* (CreateSpace, 2015). A rehabilitation pioneer in the latter half of the 20th century, Sam Sverdlik developed groundbreaking approaches to medical care, including pain and its management, and he was the director of rehabilitation medicine at St. Vincent’s Hospital in New York City for 40 years (1949–1989). Ucko’s 62-page book contains stories from Sverdlik’s unique career in his own words.

*Why We Dance: A Philosophy of Bodily Becoming* (Columbia University Press, 2015) is the fifth book from the award-winning author **Kimerer L. LaMothe MTS ’89, PhD ’96, RI ’01**, a dancer, philosopher, and scholar of religion who lives in Upstate New York. Weaving theoretical reflection with accounts of lived experience, this book positions dance as a catalyst in the development of human consciousness, compassion, and adaptability.

**Emir Kusturica** (University of Illinois Press, 2015) is the latest book from **Giorgio Bertellini RI ’08**, an associate professor in the Department of Screen Arts and Cultures and Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan. The monograph focuses on the Sarajevo-born director, considered one of Eastern Europe’s most celebrated and influential filmmakers. Bertellini’s latest anthology, *Italian Silent Cinema: A Reader* (John Libbey Publishing, 2013), has just received the 2015 Peter C. Rollins Book Award for best publication in the category of film and television.

With Sarah Shannon and Kathleen Vickery, **Melissa Smith ’80** has published *Health Actions for Women: Practical Strategies to Mobilize for Change* (Hesperian Health Guides, 2015), a hands-on resource that promotes the health and rights of women. The authors field-tested the material with community groups in 23 countries, and translations in Bangla, Chinese, Khmer, Lao, Nepalese, and Spanish are already under way. A global steering group of women oversaw the book’s development, including the award-winning documentary filmmaker **Mirai Chatterjee ’82** and the Academy Award–winning producer and director **Peggy Stern ’80**. Smith—a physician based in Austin, Texas, who previously served as the medical editor of *Where Women Have No Doctor: A Health Guide for Women* (Hesperian Foundation, 1997)—took part in a panel titled “Health Equity and Actions for Women: Global Grassroots Strategies” at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in April.

**City of Marvel and Transformation: Chang’an and Narratives of Experience in Tang Dynasty China** (University of Hawaii Press, 2015), by **Linda Rui Feng ’97**, examines the cityscape of an ancient capital (modern-day Xi’an) along with the mindscape of its sojourner-writers. Feng is an associate professor of premodern Chinese cultural studies at the University of Toronto.

**Wendy Lesser ’73** coedited the new anthology *Table Talk: From the Threepenny Review* (Counterpoint, 2015). The book comprises 99 short pieces, all published in the magazine between 1990 and 2013. Lesser cofounded the Threepenny Review 35 years ago, and Table Talk celebrates that anniversary. A review in the *Boston Globe* said, “For anyone hungering after the trials of aesthetic striving, it will prove impossible to resist.”

The latest collection from **Linda Pastan ’54** is *Insomnia: Poems* (W. W. Norton, 2015), out in October. From this collection, “Consider the Space between the Stars” previously appeared in the fall 2014 issue of the *Paris Review*.

OUT IN OCTOBER IS THESE UNITED STATES: A NATION IN THE MAKING, 1890 TO THE PRESENT (W. W. Norton, 2015), by GLENDA ELIZABETH GILMORE RI ’01 and Thomas J. Sugrue. Interestingly, as the publisher points out, “The story begins and ends in periods of concentrated wealth, with immigration roiling politics and racial divisions flaring.”

LISA MCGIRR RI ’13 has brought her fellowship project to a close, and the resulting book, THE WAR ON ALCOHOL: PROHIBITION AND THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN STATE (W. W. Norton, 2015), will be out in November.

KIRSTINA BICHER ’85 has published JUST NOW ALIVE (Finishing Line Press, 2014), a book of poems in the New Women’s Voices Series. The poet Kathleen Ossip said, “This collection disquiets and comforts with its spare apprehensions and its solid grounding in the lived life of small intimacies.”

The final, posthumous volume of poems from ADRIENNE RICH ’51 will appear on bookstands in November:


ON STAGE AND SCREEN

The artist ABIGAIL DEVILLE RI ’15 earned an Obie Award for set and costume design for the La MaMa production of PROPHETIKA: AN ORATORIO, which ran in New York City from March 20 to April 5. The Obie Awards, copresented by the American Theatre Wing and the Village Voice, are Off-Broadway’s highest honor. Prophetika was entirely conceived during DeVille’s time at Radcliffe, and its design was inspired by her fellowship exhibition, THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, in January. Additionally, Abigail DeVille’s Harlem Stories (2014), a documentary short film by Nick Ravich in which she stars, enjoyed its East Coast premiere at the Brooklyn Film Festival in late May.

In April the Harvard Film Archive presented The Road to Macao: The Floating Worlds of João Pedro Rodrigues (RI ’15) and João Rui Guerra da Mata. The series included one feature-length film and eight shorts, most of them—such as their best-known The Last Time I Saw Macao (A Última Vez Que Vi Macau) (2012)—collaborations between the two filmmakers.

Building on the success of 2013’s PIRATES OF PENZANCE, SEAN GRANEY RI ’14 once again took on Gilbert and Sullivan for the American Repertory Theater. This time he adapted the operetta The Mikado, and his theater troupe, The Hypocrites, staged it at Oberon in the spring. A feature on Graney and this production, “In This Mikado, No Such Thing as Too Absurd,” ran in the Boston Globe.

With his film THINGS (2015), which screened at the 44th International Film Festival Rotterdam, BEN RIVERS RI ’15 secured a Canon Tiger Award for Short Films 2015. Said the jury, “We chose this film for its exquisite crafting and ambitious approach to the personal and the diaristic. For its toilet humour and the way in which the filmmaker successfully collapses style and rhythm.”

The Harvard Film Archive featured the films of MATI DIOP RI ’15 in February, including her recent A THOUSAND SUNS (Mille soleils) (2013). Diop, a filmmaker-actress who works in both France and Senegal, was the recipient of the Harvard Film Study Center’s 2015 Creative Capital Artists. DeVille was awarded each year to a Francophone filmmaker from Africa or of African descent.

In late spring, the Museum of Modern Art screened the New York premiere of WELCOME TO THIS HOUSE, A FILM ON ELIZABETH BISHOP (2015), the latest from the filmmaker BARBARA HAMMER RI ’02. The documentary film explores the loves and homes of the Pulitzer Prize–winning poet. The run included a director’s appearance.

ART AWARE

Memory: Witness of the Unimaginable—an exhibition at Le Laboratoire in Cambridge that explores the “powerful sensory connection between memory, scent, and sound”—combines soundscapes by composer DÁNIEL PÉTER BIRÓ RI ’15, scents by master perfumer Christophe Laudamiel, and emerging technology from oMedia and studio Millimètre. The exhibition, which opened in April, is up through August 16.

DAVID LEVINE RI ’13 contributed one of eight site-specific artworks to DRIFTING IN DAYLIGHT, a collaboration between Creative Time and the Central Park Conservancy. The immersive pathway of performative, participatory, and perceptual works through the park’s north end included Levine’s piece PRIVATE MOMENT. The free public exhibition, conceived as the centerpiece for the conservancy’s 35th-anniversary celebration, was on view on Fridays and Saturdays from mid-May to mid-June. Earlier, in April, Levine delivered a lecture about the work of Bruce Nauman for Dia: Chelsea’s Artists on Artists Lecture Series.

ABIGAIL DEVILLE RI ’15 and LORRAINE O’GRADY RI ’96 were among the 2015 Creative Capital Artists. DeVille was funded for her project THE BRONX: HISTORY OF NOW, a series of 100 site-specific sculptural installations constructed from found objects, fragments of histories, and community narratives to tell the
story of the present moment in DeVille’s home borough; O’Grady for MBN—30
Years Later, which involves the artist’s performance persona, Mlle Bourgeoise Noire, and her protests of a money-driven art world.

To honor the artistic interests of their son James (1987–2010), Sallie McCon nell Bernard ’78 and Thomas E. Bernard ’78 reached out to Jennifer Susan Cohen ’78 and tapped her firm Songmasters to develop an initiative for their nonprofit, The James Kirk Bernard Foundation. In July 2014, Cohen and Songmasters developed, designed, and launched POBA | Where the Arts Live, an online platform that provides the first and most comprehensive resource for preserving, showcasing, and promoting the work of exceptional artists—both known and unknown—in all areas of creative expression whose talents were under-recognized during their lives. Since its launch, POBA has received wide media acclaim, including a full-page story in the New York Times, “The Weighty Responsibility of Inheriting a Collection.” To learn more, visit poba.org.

As If It Were Already Here is a massive aerial sculpture by Janet Echelman ’87 installed over Boston’s Rose Kennedy Greenway. Constructed out of more than 100 miles of colored twine and with more than half a million knots, the sculpture is anchored to three skyscrapers more than 300 feet in the air. At night, the sculpture incorporates state-of-the-art lighting elements. The public art piece will be up through October.

GRACE NOTES

“Artist’s Benediction,” a piece for unaccompanied choir by Noam D. Elkies AM ’86, PhD ’87, RI ’15, was one of two anthems performed at the baccalaureate service for the Harvard Class of 2015. Elkies, a professor of math at Harvard, is also the composer of the only piece of music kept by John Nash on his webpage at the time of his death—Brandenburg Concerto #7. Nash, the 86-year-old Princeton University mathematician whose life inspired the book and Oscar-winning film A Beautiful Mind, died in a car crash in May along with his wife.

In May Kate Soper RI ’13 closed out the 2014–2015 season of the Music Mondays series at Advent Lutheran Church on New York’s Upper West Side. “Hearing Voices: The Music of Kate Soper” was reviewed by Zachary Wolf for the New York Times. In an article titled “Songs of Sirens and Identity Asserted,” Wolf wrote, “As a performer Ms. Soper was, as ever, a powerful advocate for her music.”

Mauricio Pauly RI ’15 was busy this past spring bringing his amplified chamber music to locales in Central America, Europe, and North America. His piece for solo electric guitar “Sky Destroys Dog” had its UK premiere in Manchester, England, in March. “Its fleece electrostatic,” for amplified violin and guitar pedals, was performed in Paris; San José, Costa Rica (at TEDx Pura Vida); and Poznan, Poland. The video version of that piece was a finalist in the Engine Room International...
On July 1, Claudio Gay PhD ’97, RI ’14, a professor of government and African and African American studies at Harvard, became the divisional dean of social science for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She is the first woman to lead the division since it was established in 2003.

In June Gina Raimondo ’93, who became Rhode Island’s first woman governor in November 2014, signed into law a new minimum wage for her state. Workers, who previously earned $9 an hour, will now earn $9.60.

The novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie RI ’13 addressed the Wellesley College Class of 2015 as their commencement speaker. Students at Wellesley drive the speaker selection process.

L. Mahadevan AM ’03, RI ’15 took part in the ArtScience @Le Lab Seminar Series in Cambridge this past spring. His “Shapes and Flows in Nature” touched on the role of shape in art, science, and technology—with examples drawn from origami, morphogenesis, and smart materials. At Harvard Mahadevan is the Lola England de Valpine Professor of Applied Mathematics, a professor of physics and of organismic and evolutionary biology, and a core member of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering.

In April several fellows participated in Harvard LITfest—in fact, one whole panel was devoted to the experience of being a Radcliffe fellow. Geraldine Brooks RI ’06, V.V. Ganeshananthan ’02, RI ’15, and Justin Torres RI ’13 took part in a conversation titled “Writing (at) Radcliffe,” and Meghan O’Rourke RI ’15 appeared on the panel “Patients, Doctors, and Stories: Intersections of Literature and Medicine.”

Jill Abramson ’76—the first woman to hold the title of executive editor at the New York Times before being dismissed in 2014—is now a visiting lecturer in the Department of English at Harvard, where she teaches Introduction to Journalism. She has also sold a book to Simon & Schuster about the future of the media industry. In a statement released by the publisher, Abramson said, “I’m going to wear my reporter’s hat again to tell the full drama of that story in a book, focusing on both traditional and new media players in the digital age.”

*Loretta Lynch ’81, JD ’84 made history in late April when she became the 83rd attorney general of the United States. She is the first African American woman to serve in that office. Lynch was previously the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, an office she served from 1991 to 2001 and again from 2010 to 2015. In between, she was a partner at the multinational law firm Hogan Lovells, which operates more than 40 offices on five continents. In its spring 2015 issue, the Harvard Law Bulletin published a lengthy profile of Lynch, titled “Prosecutor with a Calling.”

Anna Deavere Smith RI ’92, a playwright and actress, delivered the 2015 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities in April. The lecture, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is among the federal government’s highest honors for intellectual achievement in the humanities. Smith was a 2012 National Humanities Medal winner.

The poet, essayist, and scholar Elizabeth Alexander RI ’08 was named the inaugural Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry at Yale University. The professorship is the first endowed chair at Yale dedicated solely to the field of poetry. Alexander is a 1984 graduate of Yale and has been a member of the Yale faculty since 2000. She composed the poem “Praise Song for the Day” and delivered it at the inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009. See a review of her latest book on page 33.

In January Jennifer Lerner AM ’07, RI ’13 appeared on the public radio program The Takeaway to explain how our feelings can undermine the decisions we make. Lerner is a professor of public policy and management at the Harvard Kennedy School, the first psychologist to receive tenure there, and the cofounder of the Harvard Decision Science Laboratory.
Itai Yanai

An associate professor of biology at the Technion–Israel Institute of Technology, Itai Yanai RI ’15 specializes in systems biology—in particular, gene expression and the evolutionary processes that govern it. This year, as the Grass Fellow in Honor of Professor W. B. Cannon and Cornelia Cannon, he has cowritten a general audience book about how genes “cooperate” and “compete,” titled The Society of Genes (Harvard University Press, 2016). In addition, he conducted research at the Broad Institute in an attempt to decipher the evolutionary history of cancer cells.

Who are your heroes?
Besides my mom and my dad, of course, I’d have to say Charles Darwin, because he was the first to discover that all life on this planet evolved by natural selection. Richard Dawkins—another hero of mine—has written that if aliens ever wanted to know whether there was intelligent life here, they could just ask humans if we know yet that we evolved. Natural selection has been said to be the greatest idea to date, and I wholeheartedly agree.

Which trait do you most admire in yourself?
That I haven’t sold out yet. When I was growing up, a “sellout” was someone who abandons their dreams and conforms to what everyone else is doing. I hope I never do sell out.

Tell us your favorite memory.
At our wedding ceremony, I surprised my wife by singing the song “Grow Old Along with Me” by John Lennon.

What is your most treasured possession?
My diaries. I have this weird constant need to document.

What inspires you?
First of all, it’s seeing our three boys play nicely together. After that it’s that moment where the same data you’ve stared at for months finally makes sense. It happens in a moment, but the data really does insist on the full amount of staring.

Name a pet peeve.
People cutting in line.

Where in the world would you like to spend a month?
I would love to take a US cross-country trip in a caravan with my family. When I was an undergrad I read On the Road, and it still seems so exciting to talk with hitchhikers, visit the parks, and get a better sense of this great country.

What is your fantasy career?
It seems that life is too short for sheer fantasies. I love knowing that I’m doing what I find to be the most exciting thing for me. If I ever think of something more exciting, then I’ll do that.

What is the most challenging aspect of being a Radcliffe fellow?
Knowing that it ends! If I had it my way, our time here would continue just as Florentino Ariza plans in Marquez’s Love in the Time of Cholera: forever.

What is your greatest triumph so far?
That is always the latest paper that I’m working on. Right now my group and I are working on the deceptively simple question What is an animal? To answer it, we are studying what is molecularly common to animals as different as a sponge, a nematode, a fish, a comb jelly, and six others.

Why did you decide to write a book about genomes with Martin Lercher?
It was a dream for a long time to write this book. Reading Dawkins’s The Selfish Gene changed my life when I was 22, and ever since I’ve wanted to write a book that brings Dawkins’s concepts to the modern genomic era. Our book proposes a coherent way to understand a genome through the analogy of a society of genes.
Gwill E. York: Committed to the Future of Radcliffe

Gwill E. York ’79, MBA ’84 remembers fondly the world of intellectual discovery she entered as an undergraduate. Now the managing director and cofounder of Lighthouse Capital Partners and a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers, she says, “As my relationship to Radcliffe has evolved from student to alumna to Institute supporter, I am grateful for everything Radcliffe has given me: old and new friends, an excellent education, and ongoing access to cutting-edge ideas.” York is making a planned gift to support the preservation of Radcliffe’s campus, which meant so much to her as a student and is a vital part of the broader University today.

For more information about making a planned gift, contact John Christel, Radcliffe’s liaison at the University Planned Giving Office, at 617-384-8231 or john.christel@harvard.edu.
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