To the Bone

How a 3D-printed artificial material can mimic bone's porosity and strength to help mend severe fractures
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SPECIAL COMMENTARY

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The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University is dedicated to creating and sharing transformative ideas across the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences. The Fellowship Program annually supports the work of 50 leading artists and scholars. Academic Ventures fosters collaborative research projects and sponsors lectures and conferences that engage scholars with the public. The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America documents the lives of American women of the past and present for the future, furthering the Institute’s commitment to women, gender, and society.
In the Pursuit of Knowledge

On Radcliffe Day, as more than 1,300 alumnae/i, fellows, faculty members, university leaders, and friends of the Institute gathered in Radcliffe Yard to honor the exemplary journalists Judy Woodruff and the late Gwen Ifill, rain may have fallen on our big tent, but nothing could dampen the spirit of rigorous inquiry we celebrated that day—and celebrate every day—at the Radcliffe Institute. Viewers from as far afield as Germany, Japan, and Malaysia tuned in to watch the live webcast. Videos of the day’s events are posted on our website.

A morning panel on the necessity and the challenges of safeguarding a free press, and a luncheon and medal ceremony honoring the intelligence, integrity, and dedication of Judy and Gwen (both individually and as coanchors of PBS NewsHour), testified to the Institute’s conviction that a robust democracy depends on a well-informed citizenry with a genuine understanding of the complex issues at stake.

That same conviction animates much of the programming we did on the theme of urbanism this past year, which you can read about on page 12, and also our multidisciplinary initiative on citizenship, planned for the next two years.

Across the Institute—through the work of our fellows, at the Schlesinger Library, and in an array of stimulating public events, exhibitions, and performances sponsored by our Academic Ventures program—we will address topics such as the rights and duties of citizens and the denial of citizenship on the basis of displacement, refugee status, or identity.

Please be sure to visit our website to read about the more than 50 women and men who will make up the 2017–2018 fellowship class. Several of them will be exploring aspects of citizenship alongside other fellows working on a broad range of cutting-edge topics.

While you’re on the website, check out the Schlesinger Library’s efforts to digitize posters from the Boston Women’s March for America, held on January 21, 2017, and the 44th annual March for Life, on January 27, 2017—two events at which citizens of divergent views exercised the rights of active citizenship.

Most of all, I hope you will come to campus for one of the upcoming year’s many events, including those exploring citizenship from varied perspectives and angles.

The Institute is not only a place where artists, scholars, and scientists have an opportunity to actively engage with new ideas, but it is also a place where we welcome you to join us, in person or online, to be part of an exciting, ongoing search for new knowledge and insight.

Lizabeth Cohen
Dean
Around the Institute

Bound by History: Universities and Slavery
By Renee Graham

Renty. Say his name. • In all likelihood that wasn’t his true name, not the one he was given at birth and may have whispered to himself each night to keep it alive. If not for Louis Agassiz, a renowned Harvard professor and scientist, no one would know what little is known about this man who was kidnapped from Africa and sold into slavery in the first half of the 19th century. • Yet Harvard takes no pride in Agassiz’s association with Renty. Once hailed, it is now a source of shame for the University that speaks to the unholy alliance that thrived for centuries between two distinct and disparate American institutions—higher education and slavery.

Right: This daguerreotype—taken in March 1850 by J.T. Zealy for Louis Agassiz’s study of races—is a rare portrait of a slave before emancipation. It shows Renty, a Congo-born man who was enslaved at a plantation in Columbia, South Carolina.
AROUND THE INSTITUTE

It was appropriate, then, that Renty’s stark daguerreotype was projected on a screen above the stage for “Universities and Slavery: Bound by History,” a daylong conference hosted in March by the Radcliffe Institute. Ta-Nehisi Coates, award-winning author and national correspondent for the Atlantic, delivered the keynote address.

Sparked more than a decade ago at Brown University, this long-overdue conversation now encompasses many of the world’s most prominent schools, including Harvard, forcing these institutions to acknowledge the darkest corners of their history in hopes of forging an inclusive and honest path forward.

“Harvard was directly complicit in slavery from the College’s earliest days, in the 17th century, until the system of bondage ended in Massachusetts, in 1783,” Harvard’s President Drew Gilpin Faust said. At the University were slave-owning presidents, professors, and graduates, including Cotton Mather and John Hancock. Last April, a plaque was placed at Wadsworth House in memory of four enslaved persons—Titus, Venus, Juba, and Bilhah—who worked there, in the households of two Harvard presidents, in the 18th century. Faust called it “one milestone in a broader exploration of an aspect of Harvard’s past that’s been rarely acknowledged and poorly understood.”

Even after Massachusetts abolished slavery, “through financial and other ties with the slave South, Harvard continued to be involved with slavery up until the time of Emancipation,” Faust said. The University received donations from men who made their fortunes in the slave-based economies of cotton and sugar.

Examining such thorny questions fits the Radcliffe Institute’s mission to “foster interdisciplinary inquiry into important
subjects,” said Lizabeth Cohen, the Institute’s dean, in her opening remarks at the conference. “No one academic field can answer such complex and troubling questions, which is why we felt that the Radcliffe Institute would provide an ideal venue for historians, civic leaders, artists, and many others to delve together into the fraught relationship between universities and slavery.

Ivy League schools connected to slavery have garnered the most headlines. Yet as Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard, who moderated the panel “Slavery and Universities Nationally,” pointed out, “Research has revealed many universities, southern and northern, private and public, to have histories tied to slavery.” Slaves worked on campuses and were owned by universities, which bought and sold them and collected profits from their labor and the Atlantic slave trade. For more than 200 years, colleges and universities were active participants in the business of slavery.

“This history, and its legacy,” Faust said, “has shaped our institution in ways we have yet to fully understand.”

• • •

Worldwide, institutions have generally avoided even recognizing their culpability, much less understanding its present-day repercussions. We have long accepted a kind of national amnesia regarding all but the most basic facts about slavery, consigning it to southern states and ignoring the fact that it was the financial engine that made this nation the richest in the world. Our most honored and revered organizations prospered because of it.

“When you begin to understand this as a business, when you begin to put numbers on it, the United States was not a country with a little bit of slavery, but actually a slave society,” Coates said. “When you wrap your head around that and what that meant, that begins to make connections to where you are now, especially when you can analyze all the attendant effects. I tell people all the time that we talk about enslavement as though it was a bump in the road, and I tell people it’s the road—it’s the actual road.”

For some, it is a road best left untraveled.

During her rousing speech at last summer’s Democratic National Convention, First Lady Michelle Obama JD ’88 saluted “the generations of people who felt the lash of bondage, the shame of servitude, the sting of segregation, but who kept on striving and hoping and doing what needed to be done so that today I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves.” The next day, some on social media and in conservative circles expressed their anger at that reference; yet it apparently arose less because the White House was built by people forced into dire lives of subjugation than because Obama had the audacity to mention it at all.

James Baldwin, who always recognized this nation’s reluctance to shoulder the terrible weight of its history, said, “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

Change began in earnest at Brown when Ruth J. Simmons AM ’71, PhD ’73 became the first African American president of an Ivy League university. The Rhode Island campus was thrown into turmoil after a provocative paid advertisement from the conservative columnist David Horowitz, headed “Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery is [sic] a Bad Idea and Racist Too,” ran in the campus newspaper. In 2003, Simmons announced the Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice to investigate the school’s historical relationship to slavery and the transatlantic slave trade and to publish its findings.

Now a Stanford history professor, James T. Campbell was teaching at Brown when Simmons sought to excavate the school’s involvement with slavery. He called it an “act of transcendent courage,” adding that “when she did this, she was all alone. And with respect to all the other institutions engaged in this work now, there wasn’t a single peep from another university even suggesting this was an act worthy of the university. People just kind of waited to see.”

Craig Steven Wilder, an MIT history professor and the author of Ebony & Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America’s Universities (Bloomsbury Press, 2013), confirmed that other schools were initially reluctant to follow Simmons’s lead.

“One of the things that I suspect a lot of people were worried about when these conversations started was that the studying of and publishing of the history of these institutions’ relationship to slavery would somehow tarnish our gates,” he said. “In fact, what happened is it opened them.”

“Harvard was directly complicit in slavery from the College’s earliest days, in the 17th century, until the system of bondage ended in Massachusetts, in 1783.”

HARVARD PRESIDENT DREW GILPIN FAUST
In 2006, Brown issued the steering committee’s report. Two of its recommendations led to the school’s Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and to a campus memorial recognizing the university’s connection to the transatlantic slave trade and remembering those in forced servitude who helped build Brown, Rhode Island, and this nation. Other institutions also scrutinized their pasts and sought to make amends. In 2007, Sven Beckert, the Laird Bell Professor of History at Harvard, launched a student research seminar on the University’s history of slavery. At the University of Missouri, a descendant of James Rollins, the school’s slave-owning founding father, established the James S. Rollins Slavery Atonement Endowment in support of that university’s Black Studies Department.

After a long silence, universities were slowly and painfully exposing their difficult histories—which brings us back to Renty.

Agassiz was a proponent of polygenesis, the now-debunked idea that the races were separate, unequal species. In 1850, he traveled to a South Carolina plantation to collect evidence to support his theory and commissioned portraits of slaves that would later be shared and studied at Harvard. Renty’s was one of those portraits. To Agassiz, Renty was nothing more than a specimen to prop up his racist pseudoscientific theories.

“Agassiz classified and cataloged those men and women by their physical characteristics in much the same way that he classified and cataloged species of animals early in his career,” Cohen said at the Radcliffe conference. Yet Renty, a member of the Congo tribe and the father of a woman named Delia who was enslaved on the same plantation, “was surely much more than either Agassiz’s list of characteristics or the bare facts revealed in the conventional written record,” she added. “Much of his personal story remains unknown or pieced together by conjecture, because so much has been erased from the written record. But that does not mean we should stop trying to know more.”

After decades in an attic, the portraits were discovered at Harvard’s Peabody Museum in 1976. In recent years, the Radcliffe Institute has hosted two seminars on what are now known as the Agassiz images.

Of course, the relationship between universities and slavery cuts far deeper than controversial daguerreotypes and junk science. “Slavery was big business. It was huge, so huge that it’s literally impossible to imagine the United States without it,” Coates said. “That sounds rhetorical, but if you talk about 4 million enslaved African Americans in this country in 1860, those 4 million African Americans, collectively, were worth $3 billion at that period of time. They were, by far, the greatest asset in this country.”

They were also the greatest asset at some universities. In 1838, two Jesuit priests, early presidents at Georgetown University, sold 272 slaves for $115,000. The sale saved the university from financial disaster, but left it with a tainted legacy that school officials still wrestle with today. (Recently, Jeremy Alexander, a current Georgetown employee, discovered that one of his ancestors was among those the university had sold.)

“I’m a historian of slavery at an institution that owes its existence to slavery, and I just think about all the time,” said Adam Rothman, a Georgetown history professor and speaker on Higginbotham’s panel. He is also a member of that university’s Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation. Last year, Georgetown announced that it would give descendants of those sold by the university preferential status in the school’s admissions process. “We recognize the need to reconcile a painful part of our history,” said the university’s president, John J. DeGioia, during his announcement. So far, this is the most wide-ranging effort of any university to address its complicity in slavery.

Wilder credited students with “helping to keep the conversation alive—very often with black students on our campuses, but not only with black students. Student protests and student struggles have helped keep us honest.”

At some universities, students have agitated for the elimination of names or symbols that honor slave owners or segregationists. Yale, after escalating protests, announced this year that it would remove the name of John C. Calhoun—a Yale graduate, South Carolina statesman, and 19th-century white supremacist—from a residential college. After a spirited debate, Harvard Law School (HLS) retired its shield, which had been inspired by the coat of arms belonging to the slave-owning family of Isaac Royall Jr. His patronage allowed the University to establish the Royall Professorship of Law in 1815; two

"Slavery was big business. It’s literally impossible to imagine the United States without it . . . . Those 4 million African Americans, collectively, were worth $3 billion at that period of time. They were, by far, the greatest asset in this country."

TA-NEHISI COATES, AUTHOR AND NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ATLANTIC

This detail (left) of a daguerreotype of Delia, the American-born daughter of the slave Renty, is part of the Agassiz race series. The full image—also taken in Columbia, South Carolina, in March 1850—shows Delia stripped to the waist.
ties and colleges, when compared with 250 years of slavery, is still in its infancy. It may not be moving fast enough for some, but others would prefer that these investigations didn’t move at all. On the day of the conference, people spewing racist invective temporarily hijacked its social-media hashtag. Of course, whenever discussions of racism inflame racists, it only serves to underline the need not just for conversation but for action.

“Don’t tell universities that they can’t investigate their own histories, that they don’t have a linkage to their pasts,” said Stanford’s Campbell.

To identify, own, and joust with the ghosts of our history is to attempt to make whole, to the degree possible, what has been broken. This is part of our debt to Renty, to the millions whose names we’ll never know, and to all who still suffer for the unpaid debts of this nation’s greatest crime.

Said Faust: “We look at both past and present today in the firm belief that only by coming to terms with history can we free ourselves to create a more just world.”

Renee Graham is an opinion columnist for the Boston Globe.
The Radcliffe Professorships program continues to help bring outstanding faculty members to Harvard. Four new assistant professors and a tenured professor joined the Harvard community as Radcliffe Professors on July 1, 2017, drawn to the University in part by the opportunity to spend time as fellows at the Radcliffe Institute during their first years at Harvard.

Susan A. Murphy joins the Harvard statistics department as a professor of statistics and the Radcliffe Alumnae Professor at the Radcliffe Institute. A 2013 recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, Murphy was previously the H. E. Robbins Distinguished University Professor of Statistics, a research professor at the Institute for Social Research, and a professor of psychiatry, all at the University of Michigan.

Murphy earned her BS from Louisiana State University and her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on analytic methods to design and evaluate medical treatments that adapt to individuals, including some that use mobile devices to deliver tailored interventions for drug addicts, smokers, and heart disease patients, among others. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and of the National Academy of Sciences.

Sawako Kaijima, who has been an assistant professor in architecture and sustainable design at the Singapore University of Technology and Design since 2012, joins Harvard’s Graduate School of Design as an assistant professor. She is also a Shutzer Assistant Professor at the Radcliffe Institute.

Kaijima earned her BA in environmental information from Keio University, in Japan, and her master’s in architecture from the Massa-
DURBA MITRA

Durba Mitra was appointed the first full-time faculty member to join Harvard’s Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. She is an assistant professor of studies of women, gender, and sexuality and the Carol K. Pforzheimer Assistant Professor at Radcliffe. Before she came to Harvard, Mitra was an assistant professor at Fordham University.

Mitra earned her BA from Washington University in St. Louis and her PhD in history from Emory University. She is a historian of modern South Asia and specializes in the history of sexuality, the history of social sciences, and gender and queer studies.

BRAXTON D. SHELLEY

Braxton D. Shelley joins Harvard as an assistant professor in the music department and the Stanley A. Marks and William H. Marks Assistant Professor at the Radcliffe Institute. He was the 2016 recipient of the Paul A. Pisk Prize from the American Musicological Society.

Shelley completed a PhD in the history and theory of music and a master of divinity at the University of Chicago. He earned a BA in music and history from Duke University. In his doctoral dissertation, “Sermons in Song: Richard Smallwood, the Vamp, and the Gospel Imagination,” Shelley’s analysis of gospel music braids cognitive theory, ritual theory, and preaching with studies of repetition, form, rhythm, and meter.

Todne Thomas, an anthropologist who specializes in religion, race, and kinship,
Jennifer L. Roberts Named Arts Advisor

Jennifer L. Roberts is the most recently appointed faculty member at the Radcliffe Institute. She will act as the Institute’s arts advisor during the 2017–2018 academic year and, beginning in 2018–2019, will serve as the Johnson-Kulukundis Family Faculty Director of the Arts, working with other faculty members within the Academic Ventures program to plan cross-disciplinary arts events.

Roberts is the Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Professor of the Humanities and a Harvard College Professor. An art historian specializing in British and American art, she is particularly focused on print culture, landscape, material culture, and the history of scientific imagery. She earned her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her master’s and doctorate from Yale University.

In her most recent book, Transporting Visions: The Movement of Images in Early America (University of California Press, 2014), Roberts traces the movement of paintings and prints by John Singleton Copley, John James Audubon, and Asher B. Durand through British America and the United States from 1760 to 1860. Choice called the book “seamlessly written, well illustrated, and a model for scholarly inquiry in other periods of history.”

was named an assistant professor of African American religions at Harvard Divinity School and a Suzanne Young Murray Assistant Professor at Radcliffe. She comes to Harvard after serving as an assistant professor of religion at the University of Vermont, a position she held from 2013 to 2017. Thomas earned her bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and her master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Virginia. Her current book project—based on extensive ethnographic work in Atlanta, Georgia—aims to show how traditionally African American and more recent Afro-Caribbean immigrant churches appeal to or obscure the interwoven nature of race and kinship to navigate racial discrimination.

With this distinguished group, the number of Radcliffe Professors on the Harvard faculty climbs to 21.
Anatomy of an Initiative: Exploring the Urban

RADCLIFFE’S 2016–2017 THEMATIC YEAR ON URBANISM TAKES A MULTIDISCIPLINARY, INTERNATIONAL APPROACH TO CONSIDERING URBAN CENTERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Urbanism is a global phenomenon, presenting us with a range of pressing issues to consider—economic, political, and material, but most of all human. Our thematic year was designed to stimulate a broad-based discussion about “the urban” in the 21st century, a much more complicated concept than 19th- and 20th-century cities. The initiative centered on a partnership between the Radcliffe Institute and the Harvard-Mellon Urban Initiative. The joint effort culminated in the 2016–2017 academic year, although additional programming across the University began earlier, supported by a four-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Through lectures, conferences, exhibitions, performances, fellowships, seminars, and archival research, the initiative took a multidisciplinary and international approach to explore the challenges and tensions that people in urban communities face today.

Events Expand on Urbanism Themes

For a more comprehensive list of events—and links to videos of the ones below—visit www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/academic-ventures/research-initiatives/urbanism.

READING March 9, 2017
Urban Renewal: A Poetry Reading and Discussion with Major Jackson
Major Jackson RI ’07, poet; Richard A. Dennis University Distinguished Professor, University of Vermont; poetry editor, Harvard Review
► We asked Jackson to share with us a poem related to “the urban.” Read his contribution above.

EXHIBITION April 26–July 1, 2017
Overlay: Xaviera Simmons, multimedia artist
► Gallery talks and tours took place in May and June.

CONFERENCE April 28, 2017
Intersections: Understanding Urbanism in the Global Age
► This daylong event was the capstone of the urbanism initiative.

The Flâneur Tends a Well-Liked Summer Cocktail
A POEM BY MAJOR JACKSON

curbside on an Arp-like table. He’s alone of course, in the arts district as it were, legs folded, swaying a foot so that his body seems to summon some deep immensity from all that surrounds: dusk shadows inching near a late-thirtyish couple debating the post-galactic abyss of sex with strangers, tourists ambling by only to disappear into the street’s gloomy mouth, a young Italian woman bending to retrieve a dropped MetroCard, its black magnetic strip facing up, a lone speckled brown pigeon breaking from a flock of rock doves, then landing near a crushed fast-food wrapper newly tossed by a bike messenger, the man chortling after a sip of flaxen-colored beer, remembering that, in the Gospel of John the body and glory converge linked to incarnation and so, perhaps, we manifest each other, a tiny shower of sparks erupting from the knife sharpener’s truck who daily leans a blade into stone, a cloudscape reflected in the rear windshield of a halted taxi where inside a trans woman applies auburn lipstick, the warlike insignia on the lapel jacket of a white-gloved doorman who opening a glass door gets a whiff of a dowager’s thick perfume and recalls baling timothy hay as a boy in Albania, the woman distractedly watching a mother debate Robert Colescott’s lurid appropriations of modernist art over niçoise salad, suddenly frees her left breast from its cup where awaits the blossoming mouth of an infant wildly reaching for a galaxy of milk behind her dark areola, the sharp coughs of a student carrying a yoga mat, the day’s last light edging high-rises on the west side so that they seem rimmed by fire just when the man says, And yet, immense the wages we pay boarding the great carousel of flesh.
Xaviera Simmons’s Overlay was an immersive installation that layered sound, text, language, image, and texture.
Game Changers: Exploring Sports and Gender

In opening remarks at the Radcliffe Institute conference titled “Game Changers: Sports, Gender, and Society,” Dean Lizabeth Cohen drew spontaneous applause when she mentioned the 2017 world champion US women’s national hockey team’s other hard-fought, headline-worthy victory this year: the fight to gain unprecedented pay and benefit concessions in a new four-year contract with USA Hockey. “All it took,” deadpanned Cohen, “was the threat of a boycott, 15 months of tense negotiations, and an open letter from 16 US senators.”

Cohen’s introduction set the stage for Radcliffe’s annual conference on gender, which this year offered a dynamic exchange of ideas among athletes, coaches, physicians, policymakers, and scholars. Using sports as a lens, they examined a range of contemporary issues, from access and inclusion to health and medical research to media and popular culture.

Who Gets to Play?
Forty-five years ago, the landmark US legislation known as Title IX made it illegal for schools to discriminate on the basis of gender in any program or activity that receives federal funding. The law opened opportunities for women that would have been inconceivable to generations of past female athletes, observed the historian Susan Ware AM ’73, PhD ’78, moderator of a session that looked at the rights female athletes have won and the structural and societal barriers that still exclude many.

Donna Lopiano, former CEO of the Women’s Sports Foundation, noted that despite significant gains, female high school athletics in 2014 still had not achieved the participation rates that male student athletics enjoyed in 1971. “The story is similar in college,” she said, adding that the gender gap in many university sports programs has begun to widen over the past decade, in part owing to what Lopiano termed “the arms race” to fund revenue-producing men’s football and basketball programs. “Title IX does not require giving equal dollars to men’s and women’s sports,” she explained.

The need for more female leaders in sports—especially in the ranks of coaches, commissioners, administrators, and board members—was a common theme at the conference.

One young leader who is making her voice heard is the Paralympic gold medalist Stephanie Wheeler, who overcame the “double whammy” of gender- and ability-based barriers to become the head coach of women’s wheelchair basketball at the University of Illinois. “We need to redefine what bodies that can compete look like,” Wheeler stated, adding that while sports participation has become a “right” for able-bodied athletes, it is still widely viewed as a “privilege” for the disabled. “Old myths and perceptions create attitudinal barriers that are often more difficult to transcend than physical ones,” she observed.

Health and Wellness
Differences in how males and females experience and recover from sports injuries was a central concern voiced by Cheri Blauwet, a physician, researcher, assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Harvard, and a Paralympic athlete who has twice won both the New York and the Boston marathons. “With over 3 million girls participating in sports in the post–Title IX era,” Blauwet observed, “how we address treatment and issues related to sports injury according to gender will be ever more important over time.”

The panelist Brian Hain-
Videos from the conference are available at www.radcliffe.harvard.edu.

Gender, Media, and Popular Culture

It’s no accident, said the University of Minnesota professor Mary Jo Kane, that media so often portray female athletes “off the court, out of uniform, and in highly sexualized poses.” Images celebrating the reality that women are powerful athletes threaten entrenched beliefs, Kane said.

Michael Messner, a sociologist at the University of Southern California, views women’s advances in sports and society over the past few decades “not as a revolution or stalled revolution,” he said, but, rather, as “social change that is incomplete.” Decisions that are being made today in print and electronic newsrooms and boardrooms will influence the future path of that change, said Messner.

Deborah Blagg is a freelance writer.

Lessons from the Ring

The keynote event of the “Game Changers” conference was a conversation with the four-time world champion middleweight boxer Laila Ali, a fitness and wellness expert, past president of the nonprofit Women’s Sports Foundation, and outspoken advocate for women in professional sports.

“Today more than ever,” Ali told the Knafel Center audience, “women need to be inspired to find the greatness within themselves. We’re warriors, we’re champions, and we’re definitely athletes.”

Ask the award-winning sports journalist Christine Brennan how Ali’s late father—the boxing legend Muhammad Ali—had influenced her career, Ali said he had initially resisted the idea that she, or any woman, should be in the ring. But she changed his mind when she started winning fights. “In fact,” Ali said, “after he got so sick with Parkinson’s, I often felt like I was fighting for both of us.”

Serving as a role model for strong women and girls is something Ali takes very seriously. “My message is to focus on being strong and healthy, rather than a certain size,” she stressed. “For instance, I have big hands. That’s bad for finding jewelry that fits, but it was great when I started knocking people out!”

Ali said the grueling hours she devoted to roadwork, sit-ups, footwork drills, and sparring in the ring taught her “how to dig deep.” Sports teaches women the confidence “to know you can keep going even when you get beat up,” she said. “That’s a lesson you can apply to everything else in your life.”
Light Years Ahead

STAR ANALYSTS OF HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY STRUCK DAVA SOBEL AS BOOK-WORTHY HISTORY

In her latest book, *The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars* (Viking, 2016), Dava Sobel tells the story of the female “computers” who worked at the Harvard College Observatory from the late 19th through the mid-20th century, analyzing stellar data captured on a growing collection of photographic plates. Using complicated calculations, the women classified the stars, determined their brightness, and even discovered new stars, nebulae, and novae. Many of their findings led to important discoveries about the universe, and their work helped clear obstacles for women in science. We spoke with Sobel when she came to the Radcliffe Institute to discuss her book at an event sponsored by the Institute’s Schlesinger Library.

How did you first hear this story?
I was interviewing the astronomer Wendy Freedman to discuss the photographing of the Milky Way and the Andromeda galaxy with the Hubble telescope project when I found out that Henrietta Leavitt had discovered that the period of time it took for a Cepheid variable star to go from brightest to dimmest point and back to brightest again was related to its intrinsic brightness. That struck me as really important. Why was the observatory’s relationship with Radcliffe so important?

How did the photographic plates collection at the Harvard College Observatory factor into the work the women were doing?
The glass plates were about 20 years old as she began working on a Hubble telescope project involving the expansion rate of the universe. She mentioned the work of Henrietta Swan Leavitt as being fundamental to her work in the present. I had never heard of Leavitt. When I looked into her, I found out that Leavitt had been working with literally a room full of women at Harvard, which was a big surprise because Harvard in the 1890s was not really a place one thinks of as being especially welcoming to women. But the observatory was a separate institution, with its own director and its own financial responsibility. It already had a history of women working there. That struck me as powerfully interesting, along with the notion that the work these women were doing was really important.

Can you describe their work?
A number of them were working on establishing a classification system—a taxonomy—for the stars, just the way animals and plants are classified to get a grip on the natural world’s range of diversity. They had been given freedom in that assignment: “Here is the problem, you solve it.” Leavitt in particular was looking to make discoveries of variable stars, and in the course of doing that, she noticed a relationship between the brightness of a particular kind of variable star and the length of time it took to cycle through its variation—go from brightest point to dimmest point and back to brightest again. That observation remains the basis of the scale that was first used to figure out the distance to the very stars she was looking at and then to determine the size of the Milky Way. Eventually the American astronomer Edwin P. Hubble used Leavitt’s stars to show that the Milky Way was not the sum total of the universe—that there were other galaxies beyond it.

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The glass plates were about 20 years old as she began working on a Hubble telescope project involving the expansion rate of the universe. She mentioned the work of Henrietta Swan Leavitt as being fundamental to her work in the present. I had never heard of Leavitt. When I looked into her, I found out that Leavitt had been working with literally a room full of women at Harvard, which was a big surprise because Harvard in the 1890s was not really a place one thinks of as being especially welcoming to women. But the observatory was a separate institution, with its own director and its own financial responsibility. It already had a history of women working there. That struck me as powerfully interesting, along with the notion that the work these women were doing was really important.

Can you describe their work?
A number of them were working on establishing a classification system—a taxonomy—for the stars, just the way animals and plants are classified to get a grip on the natural world’s range of diversity. They had been given freedom in that assignment: “Here is the problem, you solve it.” Leavitt in particular was looking to make discoveries of variable stars, and in the course of doing that, she noticed a relationship between the brightness of a particular kind of variable star and the length of time it took to cycle through its variation—go from brightest point to dimmest point and back to brightest again. That observation remains the basis of the scale that was first used to figure out the distance to the very stars she was looking at and then to determine the size of the Milky Way. Eventually the American astronomer Edwin P. Hubble used Leavitt’s stars to show that the Milky Way was not the sum total of the universe—that there were other galaxies beyond it.

So her work really helped establish some fundamental understandings of the universe?
Absolutely. Just a few years later, Hubble showed that the Andromeda galaxy was a separate galaxy. And then he showed that of these distant galaxies, the ones that seemed to be the farthest away from us were receding from us at the greatest rates. That, too, depended on Leavitt’s discovery. Her work had tremendous reach, and it’s still used now.

Did she get the credit at the time?
She absolutely did. Pickering wrote an announcement in an observatory circular that reached a much wider audience than just the observatory community. So he gave her credit there; that was 1908. In 1912, she published the work herself in the annals of the observatory, which was the official publication. So she got credit for making that discovery, and in fact, now many astronomers have started calling her discovery, which for years was known as the period-luminosity relation, the Leavitt Law.

Ideas
Radcliffe students got instruction from some of the astronomers at the observatory. Students were also recruited to work there. Some of the most prominent, productive women on the observatory staff over a period of many years were Radcliffe alumnae: Margaret Harwood (Class of 1907), Henrietta Leavitt (Class of 1892), and Arville Walker (Class of 1906).

You mentioned Mrs. Draper. What I found equally fascinating—in addition to the women computers doing the work and making these important discoveries—was the story of the women who financed their efforts. Not only were women doing the work, but the money supporting them was coming from interested women. Mrs. Draper had been her husband’s assistant/partner. He trained her, and she was really knowledgeable. She was determined just out of love to see his work done after he died. And she was independently wealthy, so she made that possible. She carried on a correspondence with Pickering for about 30 years while the work was going on. And you can see how much she understood. They have a technical discussion in their letters in addition to their ongoing friendship and general enthusiasm for the work.

The other deep donor to the project was Catherine Wolf Bruce, who really didn’t have the sophisticated knowledge of astronomy that Mrs. Draper had, but she was sincerely interested and generous and gave money to build the big telescope for Harvard’s satellite observatory in the Southern Hemisphere. She also wanted Pickering to help her identify astronomers all over the world whom she might help, which was an amazing concept and very much to Pickering’s liking, as well. He had a generous spirit, gave a lot of his own money to the observatory, helped Bruce set up that fund, and reached out to astronomers, encouraging them to apply for grants and aid from her. Then he read through all those proposals and advised her about which ones were worthy.

Do you have a favorite character from the book?
It’s easy to fall in love with Annie Jump Cannon. And that has happened to many people before me. She is just so available because of her diaries. Here’s somebody who was a lifelong diarist, and her diaries are all there in the archives (Harvard University Archives).

What do you hope people reading your book will take away?
I hope they get a true story about science in an age of alternative facts and terrifying anti-science sentiment in this political climate.

This article originally appeared in the Harvard Gazette and has been edited for Radcliffe Magazine.
Zreiqat in the Rosen laboratory, at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, where methods of enhancing tissue repair and regeneration are researched.
To the Bone

The biomedical engineer Hala Zreiqat uses 3D-printed implants to help mend severe fractures.

By Deborah Halber
Photographs by Tim Llewellyn
It had been four weeks since a veterinary orthopedist had surgically implanted a tiny scaffold in a rabbit’s forelimb. Developed by Zreiqat’s research team, the implant looked like a rough-surfaced twig of white coral. It was intended to help mend a break too severe to heal on its own.

Earlier, Zreiqat (pronounced “zree-kat”) had been thrilled to see that human bone cells in petri dishes thrived on the ceramic-based material. She didn’t have funding for an animal study, but she had to see how the material—intended to foster bone growth and break down harmlessly as the body’s own bone replaced it—would react in a living system. Using precious research funds, she sent off samples to a veterinary facility in southern Australia. “I was very anxious to see the results,” she recalled.

That morning, coffee in hand, she clicked on an e-mail with the subject line “This should put a smile on your face.” The attached X-rays showed something remarkable: a gaping defect in the rabbit’s ulna—once a gray shadow on the X-ray—had completely closed, replaced by new white bone.

Zreiqat, a professor of biomedical engineering, the founder and head of the University of Sydney’s Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Research Unit, and a 2016–2017 Radcliffe fellow, was first drawn to medical research in her native Jordan during her 20s. She now hopes to provide better treatment options for the millions of people worldwide who suffer bone loss owing to injury, infection, disease, or abnormal skeletal development. “There is a huge critical unmet need,” she says, for substitute bone that can seamlessly incorporate itself into the body.

It took a year to fine-tune the trace elements—too much of them provoked inflammation; too little failed to promote bone growth. “The bone substitute my team and I developed is similar in structure and composition to actual bone; mimics the way real bone withstands loads and deflects impacts; and, like real bone, contains pores that allow blood and nutrients to penetrate it,” Zreiqat says in mildly accented English that evokes her Middle Eastern roots.

“Each patient has only a limited amount of bone available for grafting, so the demand for synthetic bone substi-
These bone substitutes, 3D-printed in a ceramic-based material, are stable, strong, and nontoxic and encourage bone growth. They have orthopedic, dental, and maxillofacial applications.
tutes is high.” Zreiqat holds one patent and has six more in the works. The ceramic is a candidate for spinal fusion surgery that bridges damaged vertebrae, and her team is also exploring materials for substitute tendons and cartilage.

Soon after Zreiqat was born, in Amman, her father’s career took the family 45 miles east to Bethlehem, where she and her brother grew up attending German and French schools. Zreiqat recalls spending lunch breaks mingling with tourists and pilgrims in the ornate grotto of Church of the Nativity, Jesus’s birthplace.

“You’d see troops, but you grew up with that,” she says. Military checkpoints were—and are—a fact of life on the West Bank. When Zreiqat, her parents, and her brother visited Jewish family friends in Jerusalem, Israeli security forces would comb their public bus. It amused Zreiqat that they ignored her blond, blue-eyed father because he did not look Arabic. “I would not change it for the world,” Zreiqat said of her childhood in Palestine. “That made me who I am.”

When Zreiqat finished high school, at 16, her family returned to Jordan, where she found the culture was restrictive compared to how she was raised in occupied Palestine. When her father set out for an early-morning run wearing shorts, the police shadowed him. One couldn’t bike freely on the streets, and women were subject to male harassment, Zreiqat recalls. Access to beaches and swimming pools was limited to those who could afford exclusive hotels and country clubs. Her homeland had become a source of culture shock.

Her father’s lifetime career as an accountant for the Jordanian Armed Forces made her eligible for a scholarship and a coveted slot at the University of Jordan. As long as she could remember, she’d wanted to be an interior designer. She loved the elegance and beauty of fine furnishings and exquisite antiques. But the University of Jordan didn’t then offer a program in interior design, and she understood that it wasn’t practical for her parents to send her to study the subject in the UK.

“You had to be realistic,” she said. “So the next option was medical sciences. Science is a bit of art, I think.”

For much of the 1980s, after graduating with a degree in biology, Zreiqat dressed in the regulation forest-green Jordanian Armed Forces uniform as a first lieutenant at the prestigious King Hussein Medical Centre, where she was working as a scientific officer to pay off a commission tied to the army scholarship. Eventually heading up a cardiac diagnostic lab there, she decided she wanted to pursue her own medical research—a path not readily available to her in Amman.

“I can’t stay here,” she told her parents. Her father sold property to pay off her army commission, and she moved to Australia, where two of her uncles lived.

“One of the reasons I left the Middle East is because I don’t like to live in a place with restrictions. I am the kind of person who likes to see five years ahead, and I couldn’t see that in the Middle East. And I wasn’t wrong, was I?”
Knocking on a random office door at the University of New South Wales Medical School led her, indirectly, to a mentor—Rolfe Howlett, a professor and pathologist who studied skeletal disease. Under Howlett, Zreiqat focused her PhD thesis on making the titanium alloy widely used in hip replacements more biologically compatible by bombarding it with magnesium and zinc ions. As she waited impatiently for a physicist to provide the modified titanium materials, she vowed that her own future laboratory would include a range of specialists under one roof.

On a personal level, Zreiqat found Australia freeing. “Anybody can go anywhere!” she says, still delighted with her adopted country two decades later. “One of the reasons I left the Middle East is because I don’t like to live in a place with restrictions. I am the kind of person who likes to see five years ahead, and I couldn’t see that in the Middle East.” She pauses, looking at me meaningfully, her dark eyes framed by a mass of curls. “And I wasn’t wrong, was I?”

In 2006, the University of Sydney, the oldest university in Australia, not far from the harbor and the iconic opera house, asked Zreiqat to establish its first tissue-engineering lab. True to her vow, she assembled a team of engineers, cell and molecular biologists, and material scientists. She built an international network of scientists, clinicians, and engineers to facilitate collaborations in the United States, Europe, China, and Australia. “I’m always one who wanted everything done yesterday,” she says. “It stems from perhaps selfish thinking. But it was what we needed to do to get the field to where it is today.”

Zreiqat’s work has progressed steadily since the rabbit study. Now funded by a $1.6 million grant, she has completed a study on sheep, a precursor to clinical trials in humans. Preliminary results show that the implant is stable, strong, and nontoxic and encourages new bone growth. Zreiqat is working on determining how long the material takes to degrade and exactly how the degradation occurs.

“A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” she says of the Radcliffe fellowship. The multidisciplinary focus of the program meshes perfectly with Zreiqat’s longtime goal of immersing herself in a far-ranging intellectual community where no idea is too far-fetched. She seeks out experts in fields such as health economics in the hope of better understanding how to fund her inventions. She plans to tour Harvard’s cross-disciplinary Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, which develops bio-inspired materials and devices for health care, manufacturing, robotics, energy, and sustainable architecture. She hopes to emulate in Sydney a Harvard educational model that cross-pollinates ideas among architects, scientists, medical experts, and engineers in the hope of generating novel solutions to problems such as cleaning polluted oceans in the same way that kidneys clean the blood.

“This is the way of the future; Harvard started it two years ago,” she says of the program. “Why shouldn’t I be able to start it in Sydney? I should be able to, and I will.” Her resolve is infectious; she makes every ambition seem within reach.

In her bare-walled office in Byerly Hall, furnished with only utilitarian, standard-issue aluminum desks and a single upholstered chair, Zreiqat muses that she might one day revisit her old passion for interior design. “If time allows, and I have all the money in the world, I would probably do that,” she says. Meanwhile, in her minimal free time between meetings and flying back to Australia to teach classes, she’s pursuing her latest interest: ballroom and Latin dancing. Zreiqat claims she can’t fathom where these infatuations originated. She only knows she’s compelled to pursue them with almost the same fervor that she brings to medical research.

“I’m very lucky,” Zreiqat says about earning a competitive grant soon after completing her PhD, about the accomplished students in her classes, about having unfettered access to the University of Sydney’s medical institutes, even about her proximity to Sydney’s spectacular beaches. But most of what she describes as luck stems from a razor-sharp intellect, a huge dose of determination, and a relentless work ethic.

Our meeting over, Zreiqat insists on walking me out of Byerly Hall, even though it’s a chilly spring day, not like temperate Sydney or subtropical Amman, and she isn’t wearing a coat. “Oh,” she says, wrapping her arms around herself as frigid air hits us like a wall. “It’s so cold!” A second later, her face brightens. “But it’s a beautiful sunny day,” she declares, rushing down the granite walk and back to her office. Zreiqat would say she’s just lucky that way.

Deborah Halber, a freelance journalist, is the author of The Skeleton Crew: How Amateur Sleuths Are Solving America’s Coldest Cases (Simon & Schuster, 2014).
A Family with a Past

In writing the story of his own family, Edward Ball examines America’s racial history.

By Pat Harrison
Photographs by Tony Luong
In his 20s, Edward Ball was living in New York City and working as a freelance writer for the *Village Voice* when he decided to attend a family reunion in Charleston, South Carolina, where he had lived as a child but hadn’t visited in several years. Once there, he mingled with relatives (some 150 of them); toured his family’s former rice plantations, which now had other owners; went to dinners and cocktail parties; and listened to lectures by local historians. “During the whole weekend,” Ball says, “we told stories about our ancestors, but said nothing about the 4,000 black people that we had enslaved. Nothing. I thought it was a little late in the day for a white-only memory of slavery.”

Ball returned to New York determined to tell the story of his family’s past from both perspectives, black and white. He quit his job at the *Village Voice* and moved to Charleston, where he dove into the 10,000 or so pages of Ball family records. Thus began the book that would set him on the path to writing family histories and define his career.

Today, still known for that first book, the best-selling *Slaves in the Family* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1998), Ball is working on a project that he has provisionally titled “Life of a Klansman.” At the Radcliffe Institute, he was the 2016–2017 Beatrice Shepherd Blane Fellow. As a child of two Deep South cities—Charleston and New Orleans—Ball has intimate knowledge of the topics he writes about. His first book is about his father’s family, and the one he’s writing now is about a member of his mother’s family; in between, he wrote four other nonfiction books. “What holds my stuff together,” Ball says, “is this idea that family history is a way to access history with a capital H.”

As Ball was growing up, his father, an Episcopal clergyman, and his mother, a bookkeeper, kept quiet about slavery. “I knew that there was something about our own family history that was significant in the development of the race history of this country,” Ball says, “but I couldn’t name it. Although I knew very well that our family were major slaveholders, I internalized the taboo around that subject”—the taboo that dictated silence.

When he went north to attend Brown University and subsequently studied film at the University of Iowa, the taboo still held. Then came the years in New York City, followed by the family reunion and his move back to Charleston.

Combing through records, Ball soon learned that his family had operated 25 rice farms over a period of two centuries—plantations named Comimgtee, Hyde Park, Kensington, and Limerick. “I did not know,” Ball writes, “that the descendants of the ‘Ball slaves’ numbered perhaps 100,000, people who lived all across the United States.” Of these people, he needed to find some who would tell him their family stories. He found 10 black families who agreed to participate.

Among the 10 is one Ball thought he might be related to—the family of Carolyn Goodson, whom he visited in Philadelphia. One of Goodson’s sons asked Ball what it was like to be surrounded by black people while conducting this research. “Maybe it’s like being black and going through life surrounded by white people,” Ball answered. *Slaves in the Family* was published in 1998.
Ball conducted research for his next book in Harvard's Houghton Library, where he read 19th-century papers related to white supremacy and the development of theories about race.
A Crime Against Humanity

Living generations have come around to the consensus that slavery was a crime against humanity, and so it was. The families of former slaveholders are not responsible for the past in the way a criminal is culpable for a crime. We cannot have influenced the dead, our ancestors, who enslaved black adults and children. However, the descendants of slaveholders are accountable for exploitive acts done in our name, for the reason that we have inherited advantages from them. We can acknowledge and speak about the difficult acts in which our families took part, rather than hide or distort them—we can retell those stories and try to make sense of them. Added to this, I think that white people as a wide group are also accountable for the slave past, for the reason that all whites extensively benefit from the legacy of slavery.

One sometimes hears declarations like this: Our family were immigrants, and we came to America after the Civil War. We had nothing to do with slavery, which had already been abolished. We were poor, and we worked and climbed up into the middle class. So don’t talk to me about slaves, because we’re not liable for all that.

To which there is an answer, something like this: Your people might have been Irish potato farmers—or Italian peasants, Russian Jews, German craftsmen, or others escaping poverty and persecution in Europe. Yes, they struggled, and their suffering should be honored. But when they arrived in America—in 1870 or 1890, in 1910, or 1940—your family set foot on the top tier of a two-tier caste society, and they got work or land, housing and education, all things that, thanks to slavery, were withheld from black people by custom and by law. And these gifts helped poor white immigrants who came from Europe after the Civil War to take benefit from the legacy of slavery, and to move up into the propertied class.

While writing Slaves in the Family, I came to the conclusion that it would be appropriate to offer an apology, perhaps merely to one African American family whom we had enslaved. An apology would be a gesture—inadequate, maybe even self-serving—but it might have symbolic strength beyond the personal event. In the end, I apologized to two families whom I had come to know closely for what my family had done to their people, a long time ago.

The idea that one might answer in the present for a crime against humanity in the past carries little weight with most people. Many of us regard U.S. history as a triumphant pageant crowded with heroes. But slavery was the rock on which the founding fathers built the nation. American history is a tragic history as well as a heroic one.

Edward Ball

From the 2014 preface to Slaves in the Family. Reprinted by arrangement with Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Copyright © 2014 by Edward Ball.
to wide acclaim—including from the historian Drew Gilpin Faust, now Harvard’s president, who wrote in the New York Times Book Review, “[Ball] reminds us that slavery was not just about economics or politics or even abstract questions of morality, but most essentially about the millions of human beings imprisoned within its chains.” The book won the National Book Award, unusual for a debut.

Ball’s family did not greet the book with comparable enthusiasm. He had broken the taboo. “I was a radioactive member of the family for many years,” he says. “[The book] was very divisive. It pitted wives against husbands, old people against young people.” He believes he had about 20 allies in the family of 150.


But Ball is still best known as a commentator on race, which he continues to write about. This past fall, he wrote a review of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, in Washington, DC, for the New York Review of Books. He likes this new Smithsonian museum, the 19th, though he ends with mild criticism of its “four winds of feel-good creativity,” referring to the Culture Galleries, “a festival of black dance, spoken word, song, and clothes.” Then the broader conclusion: “The nation does not have a museum of slavery. But I suspect that many black people do not want a museum of slavery. (Whites really do not want one.) What we apparently do want, and now have, is a place where the tragic story of black America is folded into a happy coda.”

Like most Radcliffe fellows, Ball was extremely busy during his year at the Institute. In addition to conducting research for his next book, he wrote a two-part article about the Dylann Roof trial in Charleston, also published by the New York Review of Books. Ball believes that Roof, who killed nine black people in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2015, was not mentally ill when he committed these crimes but under the influence of white supremacy. The article is a powerful evocation of what white supremacy looks like around Charleston: the selfies that Roof took on a beach known to be a slave depot, where he etched in the sand the number 1488—supremacist code for the “14 Words” slogan and “Heil Hitler”; a gun warehouse that displays “racks and racks of rifles, shotguns, and assault weapons, propped like rakes, by the hundreds.”

But Ball doesn’t let any white people off. “My view of white supremacy is somewhat uncomfortable,” he tells me. “And that is that it’s the water in which we swim, and that unconsciously or inadvertently, all of us white folks participate in many forms of supremacist thought and activity.”
Making Janesville Great Again

IF STUDS TERKEL HAD SET OUT to write his landmark *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do* (Pantheon Books, 1974) at the dawn of the 21st century, he’d have been forced to confront issues that drive Amy Goldstein’s spellbinding narrative of a Wisconsin community challenged by the closing of the GM plant that had been the city’s mainstay for generations. The dignity of labor—so evident in Terkel’s profiles of steelworker, plant manager, shop foreman, and others—remains foremost in Goldstein’s account, yet it is under attack from all quarters as Janesville residents endure layoffs in numerous occupations, from the GM’ers at the auto assembly plant to the Lear Corp. workers who constructed seats for GM and the day-care providers who tended the town’s youngest until their parents lost jobs and took them home.

A 30-year veteran *Washington Post* reporter and *Pulitzer Prize* winner for coverage of immigration detention centers, Goldstein makes a smooth transition from news feature to book-length narrative in *Janesville: An American Story*. Returning repeatedly to Janesville to interview a wide cast of characters over five years, Goldstein writes with fine-tuned attention and sympathy for a full spectrum of townspeople, most of whom manage to cling to hope in the toughest of times. There is Bob Borremans, director of the Rock County Job Center, who rustles up funds to support attendance at Blackhawk Community College so that “job-losing auto workers [may] discover their latent dreams.” There are the Whiteaker twins, high school freshmen when their father is laid off, who take on one, two, three part-time jobs and end up buying the family’s groceries; they reluctantly accept the generosity of a teacher who stocks a high school storeroom with donated clothes, food, and other necessities for students she quietly identifies as needy. And there are power brokers—Janesville-bred Representative Paul Ryan, Governor Scott Walker, Janesville bank president Mary Willmer—who attempt their own fixes.

This is a story with more losers than winners, yet *Janesville* adds complexity to the narrative we have come to accept of disaffected middle Americans fueling the rise of a pseudo-populist provocateur as president. Janesville voted Democratic in a state that helped clinch Trump’s victory over Clinton in 2016. Although we read it as a story, *Janesville* emerges from verifiable, not wishful, facts—the kind that ought to guide governmental policy and presidential politics in the near and the long term.

What She Ate: Six Remarkable Women and the Food That Tells Their Stories

by Laura Shapiro ‘68

Viking, 320 pp.

Laura Shapiro’s *Julia Child: A Life* (Viking, 2007) remains the premier biography of Child and one of the sharpest narratives of a life devoted to culinary art. Now Shapiro has tried something different, shifting her focus from a woman recognized primarily for her cooking to women best known for other achievements yet whose lives can be defined, or at least delineated, by the food they ate (or, in some cases, didn’t).

Eva Braun, Helen Gurley Brown, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dorothy Wordsworth—these are four of the half-dozen lives under examination, all subjects of previous biographies. But no one has read their lives as Shapiro does, mining diaries and private correspondence for evidence of food choices from youth to age, yielding fresh insights on character and ambition. Each chapter begins with a menu typical of its subject and then proceeds to explain why, for example, whole-wheat bread and prune pudding were served up by Eleanor Roosevelt at a White House lunch in 1933. How Roosevelt became the woman who would order so plain a menu over her husband’s objections is one of many delicious mysteries Shapiro serves up and solves.
The Love Life of an Assistant Animator & Other Stories
by Katherine Vaz RI '07
Tidwinds Press, 238 pp.

Comprising an even dozen stories exploring the nature of desire in its many forms, Katherine Vaz’s new collection mesmerizes and enlightens—and always surprises. But then, perhaps it should come as no surprise that tales of desire often center on loss and longing. As Vaz writes in “Blue Flamingo Looks at Red Water,” in which a couple mourn their only child’s death at the age of five, “memory seems to run backward to disguise its yearning to stream forward.”

In the title story, Nathan, a Vietnam vet who takes refuge in his work drawing and coloring animation cells—“replicating life at its slowest speed,” “honing every nuance of motion”—falls in love with his boss’s wife, a not-quite-ready-for-prime-time actress who voices the studio’s hit cartoons. Their meetings are few but intense, their relations beloved: “It tastes for the first time in the richest part cooked out of the marrow.” Will their love find consummation? It scarcely happened the dull pencil of its own heart. “You died too,” the ghost-brother tells his sister on one of his visitations. “You just don’t know it.”

How to make one’s way when nearly all is lost? Children grow up mourning ways of life they scarcely remember or never knew but hear about from relatives—“Let me tell you a story,” the grieving mother repeatedly starts in. Parents try to forget professions and ancestral homes but can’t. In unified Vietnam, the young narrator of “Fatherland” meets for the first time her older half-sister, returned from America after nearly two decades, and longs to confess that “one day she, too, would leave, for Saigon was boring and the country itself not big enough for the desires in her heart.” The half-sister’s arrival sharpened the dull pencil of Phuong’s perceptions, just as the half and double lives of refugees at home and abroad awaken Nguyen’s precise and probing fictions.

The Refugees
by Viet Thanh Nguyen RI ’09
Grove Atlantic, 224 pp.

Eight stories of forced ejection, narrow escape, and deliberate departure find common ground in Viet Thanh Nguyen’s first story collection. In “Black-Eyed Women,” a mother and daughter, once among the “boat people” fleeing South Vietnam in the late 1970s, are haunted by an older son, drowned because there were too many. “You died too,” the ghost-brother tells his sister on one of his visitations. “You just don’t know it.”

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Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women’s Rights and Family Values That Polarized American Politics
by Marjorie J. Spruill RI ’07
Bloomsbury, 448 pp.

Anyone wishing to understand the riptide of resentment that ended Hillary Clinton’s presidential bid in 2016 should read Marjorie Spruill’s vibrant account of the cresting of second-wave feminism 40 years ago. That’s when a band of conservative “family values” activists emerged to form “the other women’s movement,” disrupting the 1977 National Women’s Conference in Houston, and went on to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment in 1982.

Strikingly, much that conservatives then decried—“If your husband is in the armed forces . . . [he] will be sharing sleeping quarters, restrooms, showers, and/or foxholes with women”—has come to pass. Women’s entry into the workforce is rarely disputed anymore; it simply can’t be. But “the petty argument” won’t go away, and “values” ideology stands in the way of much that would ease the burdens of working parents and women generally. Still, Spruill counsels, “Looking back over the history of the American women’s movement . . . provides many lessons, one of which is that progress is not linear, but continues as long as women remain determined to bring about change.”

The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America
by Frances FitzGerald ’62

Frances FitzGerald has written the bible on American born-again Christianity. The subject has fascinated the Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and historian at least since her first visit, around 1980, to Jerry Falwell’s Thomas Road Baptist Church, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Then, the sanctuary could seat 4,000. Now the mega-church boasts a membership six times that.

FitzGerald’s history begins well before 1980, however, with the waves of Protestant fervor known as the First and Second Great Awakenings in the 18th and 19th centuries, after which evangelical Christianity claimed a majority of Americans as adherents. Waning again in the first half of the 20th century, fundamentalism was reborn after World War II in the churches of James Dobson, Falwell, and Pat Robertson, whose new missions carried them from the pulpit into politics. FitzGerald observes that 2016’s election of “the thrice-married libertine” Donald Trump “confounded most evangelical leaders” and unsettled the Christian right in ways that, she believes, portend its loosening grip on the hearts and minds of American voters.
Looking at Racial Progress—and Setbacks

PROBING CIVIL RIGHTS THROUGH AFRICAN AMERICAN LIVES AND THE CARCERAL STATE

On April 18, in a large ballroom in a Manhattan hotel overlooking Union Square, nearly 200 affiliates from across the University gathered to mingle and to listen to a trio of scholars of civil rights, broadly defined. In her opening remarks, Dean Elizabeth Cohen explained the title of the program, “Writing a New Era”: “‘New era’ in the history of civil rights may be told through biography.” The speakers who followed—all Radcliffe fellows and Harvard professors—presented the work they had pursued at the Institute.

For two of the speakers, the history of civil rights may be told through biography. Carol J. Oja, the 2016–2017 Frieda L. Miller Fellow and the William Powell Mason Professor of Music at Harvard, is considering a life that exemplifies the segregation and desegregation of classical music. Oja spoke about Marian Anderson, a black contralto once famous for her 1939 concert at the Lincoln Memorial, a performance staged because she’d been barred from performing in Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Two other significant accomplishments bookended this defining moment in her career, however: In 1925, Anderson won a contest for the New York Philharmonic—300 singers entered, and she was the only African American. She became the first person of color to ever perform with that orchestra. Later, in 1955, she premiered at the Metropolitan Opera, the first African American to sing on that stage.

As Oja pointed out during her presentation, the Metropolitan Opera had essentially operated as a whites-only institution since its founding, in 1880. Anderson secured access to that stage. “Within the world of classical music, there’s been very little discussion of figures who crossed race lines,” said Oja. “It’s really important to reconstruct that multiracial history and find out some of the ways in which the borders were transgressed and reveal the systemic racism that was behind all of it.”

Tomiko Brown-Nagin—the 2016–2017 Joy Foundation Fellow, the Daniel P.S. Paul Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard Law School, and a professor of history on Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences—is writing a biography of Constance Baker Motley, hailed during her time as “the civil rights queen.” Motley was the first woman lawyer at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and worked on some of the most important cases of the era, including Brown v. Board of Education. Her contributions would have been substantial had she only helped create the field of civil rights law, but Motley didn’t stop there: she went on to become the first woman ever elected Manhattan borough president, in 1955. Eleven years later, in 1966, she was the first African American woman (and only the fifth woman) appointed to the federal bench.

“She had this remarkable career, and yet it’s a puzzle as to why she is not as well-known today as one might expect,” said Brown-Nagin. The scholar is also considering the issue of gender from an intersectional perspective: Motley symbolized the opening up of the workplace to both women and people of color. But, Brown-Nagin pointed out, “she was actually boxed in by her identity: from the moment she was nominated to the bench, and throughout her career, questions were raised about whether she could be fair because she had worked as a civil rights lawyer.”

Sharing the oft-cited statistics that the United States is home to 5 percent of the world’s population but 25 percent of its prisoners, Khalil Gibran Muhammad—the Suzanne Young Murray Professor at Radcliffe and a professor of history, race, and public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School—referenced Brown-Nagin’s presentation, saying, “The very struggles that Judge Motley fought and sacrificed for led to what many scholars, activists, and reformers call the crisis of mass incarceration.”

The historian reviewed...
Inside an Artistic Mind

MEETING AN AWARD-WINNING SCULPTOR IN AN INTIMATE SETTING

FEBRUARY 2017

An art-filled home sets the tone for an art-filled conversation

Known for installations and sculptures made from domestic detritus and office supplies, the MacArthur-winning artist Sarah Sze RI ’06 appeared in New York to spread word about the importance of the visual arts to Radcliffe’s Fellowship Program.

Miyoung Lee ’87, MBA ’92 and Neil Simpkins MBA ’92 hosted the reception in their home, bringing together Radcliffe alumnae, former Radcliffe fellows, and alumnae/i from Harvard College and other Harvard schools.

Sze—whose installations and sculptures have been shown at such venues as the Museum of Modern Art; the Walker Art Center, in Minneapolis; and the Venice Biennale—presented her work to the nearly 40 guests. Lee and Simpkins themselves own a sculpture by Sze, which was on display during the event.

FACING PAGE: (L to R) Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Tomiko Brown-Nagin, and Carol J. Oja at “Writing the History of Civil Rights for a New Era.” ABOVE: Alicia W. Stewart, a former editor at CNN.com and a 2015 Nieman Fellow at Harvard, asks a question during the April event in New York City. AT RIGHT: Dean Cohen with the artist Sarah Sze and Miyoung Lee, who hosted the February event in New York City.
Radcliffe Day 2017

The day’s program united voices from the right and the left, the newsroom and the classroom, to explore the role of a free press in a democracy.

More than 1,300 guests—and hundreds of others online—gathered to honor the lives and historic work of Judy Woodruff and the late Gwen Ifill, two stellar journalists who reported the world’s most important events with unparalleled persistence, distinction, and personal and professional integrity.
WITH ITS CONTINUOUS drizzle and chilly temperatures, Radcliffe Day 2017 was more like March than May, but that did not deter the registered audience from showing up for a spirited conversation about the current state of journalism in the United States.

After framing remarks by Dean Lizabeth Cohen—during which she highlighted the proliferation of new media sources and decried the divide-and-conquer tactics of television news programs that seek to confirm biases rather than to inform consumers—the New York Times columnist, author, and commentator David Brooks warmed up the crowd with humorous remarks about his chosen line of work. He also gave his personal perspective on Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff—honored later, at the lunch, with Radcliffe Medals—whom he praised for their consistency over time.

Ann Marie Lipinski, a Pulitzer Prize winner and the curator of the Nieman Foundation at Harvard, paraphrased Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust, pointing out that the issues currently faced by the media are the same currently faced by academia, “certainly here at Harvard, where the motto is Veritas.” Jonah Goldberg—a senior editor at National Review, a nationally syndicated columnist, a best-selling author, and a fellow of the National Review Institute—made the point that ideas matter and stressed the importance of argument, reason, and “marshaling facts and logic to make an argument—because that’s what democracy is about.”

Lest we think that the current mistrust of the media is unique to the Trump era, Danielle Allen PhD ’01 gave the historical perspective. The James Bryant Conant University Professor and the director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard, Allen looked back at the late 1930s, when Father Coughlin’s radio show was stirring up anti-Semitic sentiment.

E. J. Dionne ’73, who frequently comments on politics in the media, is a columnist for the Washington Post, a senior fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution, and a professor at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy. He defended the role of responsible opinion journalism in today’s media environment: “Opinion journalism that is not based on fact is not journalism.” Of course, he pointed out, “technology makes everything more efficient, which includes both the spreading of truth and the spreading of lies.”

A’Lelia Bundles ’74, a writer who worked as a television news executive for 30 years, offered a glimmer of hope: “Liars get cocky. Liars miscalculate. Lies backfire.” For this reason, she said, “When we hear a lie, we must challenge it.”

Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff: Coanchors for the Ages
Both members of the well-known duo—who moderated presidential debates, interviewed world leaders, and reported the most important stories of the day—had
bumpy starts to their careers.

Dean Cohen told the story of Ifill’s finding a racist, threatening note on her desk when she was interning at the Boston Herald at the height of the Boston busing crisis of the 1970s. But after Ifill graduated from Simmons College, she was undeterred from taking a job at the Herald. Cohen quoted Ifill, “‘I knew if I got my foot in the door, I could do it.’”

Woodruff began her career in local television in Georgia, where she was told by one station, “We already have a woman reporter.” Like Ifill, she persisted.

Before presenting Radcliffe Medals to Woodruff and the late Ifill, whose medal was accepted by her friend Michele Norris, Cohen welcomed the acclaimed biographer Walter Isaacson ’74, who interviewed Woodruff.

The two women were named coanchors of PBS NewsHour in 2013. Woodruff said that she and Ifill viewed their role there as “the custodians of something that had been handed to us—what Robin MacNeil and Jim Lehrer started in 1975 after the Watergate hearings, [when] they came together to start the MacNeil Lehrer Report. The kind of journalism they believed in is the kind of journalism we believed in . . . bringing light and not heat.”

Woodruff emphasized that journalism needs young people with a diversity of backgrounds. “Jump in,” she said. “The water’s great. We need you.”

To watch videos of the morning panel and the award lunch, visit www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video-and-audio.
Ann Marie Lipinski, Danielle Allen, A'Lelia Bundles, Jonah Goldberg, and E. J. Dionne—all panel participants—with Dean Cohen

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey '92 with Radcliffe Medalist Judy Woodruff

Michael D. Patterson '97 and Olivia (Nina) Patterson enjoying the festivities under the tent
Title IX over Time

To celebrate the 45th anniversary of Title IX, the Institute teamed up with WBUR, Boston’s NPR news station, to host an event about the impact of Title IX and the work that remains to be done when it comes to equality and sports. The conversation—introduced by Robin Young and moderated by Shira Springer ’97—features Swin Cash, Maura Healey ’92, and Gevvie Stone talking about their playing days.

More Ocean, Less Plastic

Plastic pollution in the oceans is now a recognized threat to the health of our global marine ecosystems, but a solution to this plague eludes us. In this lecture, Anna Cummins, executive director and cofounder of the 5 Gyres Institute, which has spent the past seven years surveying plastic pollution across the world’s subtropical gyres—oceanic systems that concentrate floating debris—describes recent science on microplastics and shares some of the current solutions in policy, innovation, and citizen engagement.

War and the Soundscapes of Memory

By exploring how wartime has been captured in music, Jeremy Eichler RI ’17 makes the case for hearing history and for reclaiming the power of sound as a unique carrier of meaning about the past.
Videos of these and other events are available at www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video-and-audio.

Next in Science: Epidemiology

In this half-day symposium, four early-career epidemiologists gather to share exciting developments in their field.

Rediscovering Pauli Murray

Scholars of history, women’s and gender studies, law, and Africana studies join for a panel discussion about Pauli Murray’s ground-breaking work, her tumultuous times, and today’s Murray moment, which includes Yale’s naming a new residential college in her honor and the publication of landmark books.

Gender, Politics, and Imagination: An Afternoon with Jennifer Finney Boylan

Jennifer Finney Boylan—the inaugural Anna Quindlen Writer in Residence at Barnard College of Columbia University and the author of the first best-selling work by a transgender American—speaks about privilege, politics, and poetics.

▲ Save the date for the Institute’s next science symposium, which will look at new ways of tracking epidemics using big data and social networks to predict and stem the rise of emergent diseases. It will take place on Friday, October 27.
Newsmakers

Honor Roll

The Library of Congress has named Tracy K. Smith ’94 its latest poet laureate. Most recently the author of Ordinary Light: A Memoir (Vintage, 2016), Smith is also a Pulitzer Prize winner.

Claudia Escobar RI ’16 was honored in June with a 2017 Democracy Award from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Escobar, a Guatemalan judge and whistleblower, was singled out along with four other activists for their “courageous efforts . . . battling the scourge of official corruption,” said NED in its announcement. The other honorees hailed from Afghanistan, Angola, Malaysia, and Ukraine. Escobar was also a spring 2017 Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at NED.

When the American Academy in Berlin awarded its Berlin Prizes, V.V. Ganeshananthan ’02, RI ’15; Kristen Renwick Monroe RI ’13; and Amy Remensnyder ’83 were among the 21 scholars, writers, and artists to receive the semester-long fellowships. Ganeshananthan heads to Berlin this fall; Monroe and Remensnyder will have their residencies in spring 2018.

Judith G. Cohen ’67; Noam D. Elkies AM ’86, PhD ’87, RI ’15; Barbara B. Kahn AM ’00, RI ’11; Madhu Sudan RI ’04; and Rachel I. Wilson ’96 were among the newly elected members of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) this year. Elected “in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research,” said the NAS, the five represent a spectrum of disciplines: astronomy, mathematics, biology, computer science, and neurobiology, respectively.

Among the 2017 fellows and foreign honorary members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences were several Radcliffe alumnae and fellows, including Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie RI ’12; Richard D. Alba RI ’04; Cheryl L. Dorsey ’81, RI ’09, and Wally Lamb. The evening featured a keynote speech by the past Radcliffe Medalist Margaret H. Marshall EdM ’69, a former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

In late May, Kamensky delivered the lecture “The Hungry Eye: Art and Ambition in Copley’s Boston” at the Harvard Art Museums. Offered in conjunction with the special exhibition The Philosophy Chamber: Art and Science in Harvard’s Teaching Cabinet, 1766–1820 (on view through December 31, 2017), the lecture explored Boston’s provincialism just before the American Revolution.

Earlier this year, she appeared on WGBH’s Open Studio with Jared Bowen to discuss her award-winning book. In the segment, Kamensky—a professor of history at Harvard and the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America—posited that Copley would be astonished at his association today with the Patriot side of the revolution.

Kamensky Becomes “American History Laureate”

In late April, the New-York Historical Society presented Jane Kamensky BI ’97, RI ’07 with its Barbara and David Zalaznick Book Prize in American History for A Revolution in Color: The World of John Singleton Copley (W. W. Norton, 2016). The New York Times reported that the prize comes with the unofficial title “American history laureate.”

Kamensky was also one of the authors honored by the Boston Public Library’s 29th Annual Literary Lights, along with Kwame Anthony Appiah AM ’91, Susan Faludi ’81, RI ’09, and Wally Lamb. The evening featured a keynote speech by the past Radcliffe Medalist Margaret H. Marshall EdM ’69, a former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

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Fourteen new members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters were announced earlier this year, and among them, we counted both alumnae and fellows: Henri Cole RI ’15, Junot Diaz RI ’04, Ursula K. Le Guin ’51, and Ann Patchett BI ’94—along with the foreign honorary members Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie RI ’12 and Zadie Smith RI ’03.

Diaz and Smith were two of five novelists invited to the White House by Barack Obama just a week before his departure—along with Dave Eggers, Barbara Kingsolver, and Colson Whitehead. “[Obama] not only talked with them about the political and media landscape, but also talked shop, asking how their book tours were going and remarking that he likes to write first drafts, longhand, on yellow legal pads,” said the New York Times.

Inklings

Before returning to the Institute as a summer fellow, Ben Miller RI ’15 had several pieces accepted and/or published by various literary outlets: The spring 2017 issue of Antioch Review published a short story, “Dunasaygrlomiplin.” In their summer 2017 issues, the New England Review and the St. Petersberg Review published “A Banquet of Lilacs: An Essay Enacted” (the first installment of the Lilac Project, which Miller launched at the Institute) and “August Bloom Log, Entry 1: Emergence” (a novel excerpt), respectively. In the fall, Miller will make his Harvard Review debut with the essay “The Secret of Jefferson Market Garden.”


Among the 200 poets who contributed to an ongoing poetry feature in Harvard Review curated by Major Jackson RI ’07 (see page 12) were Elizabeth Alexander; Pamela Alexander BI ’86; Reginald Dwayne Betts RI ’12; Sophie Cabot Black BI ’95; Jericho Brown RI ’10; Marilyn Chin RI ’04; Henri Cole RI ’15; Martha Collins BI ’83; Jorie Graham BI ’83; Matthia Harvey ’95, PC ’95; Fanny Howe BI ’75; Marie Howe BI ’90; Mary Karr BI ’91; Florence Ladd BI ’71; Gail Mazur BI ’97; RI ’09; Sarah Messer RI ’09; Meghan O’Rourke RI ’15; Kathleen Ossip RI ’17; Linda Pastan ’54; and Katrina Roberts ’87. In “Renga for Obama,” the poets worked in pairs to produce a tan-renga—a traditional form of poetry that consists of two stanzas: the first a traditional haiku, and the second a wabi (two lines of seven syllables each). Starting on January 21, Jackson added a new tan-renga to the celebratory collaborative ode in each of the first 100 days of the new presidency, “creating a dynamic chain of poetry,” said the Washington Post. The full renga may be read at www.harvardreview.org/?q=features/poetry/rennga-obama.

Francine Prose ’68, AM ’69 published a lengthy piece, “The Bloomsbury Bohemians in the English Countryside,” in New York Times Travel. She traveled to Kent and Sussex, visiting the gardens planted and nurtured by various artists and writers associated with the Bloomsbury Group, of which Virginia Woolf was a member. Prose also wrote an in-depth review of the Kenneth Lonergan film Manchester by the Sea, “The Limits of Forgiveness,” which appeared in the New York Review of Books. “Lonergan gets it right about small and large class distinctions,” Prose wrote. “But ultimately what’s most striking is the tenderness that the script and the direction display for all these characters: men and women, middle class and working class, old and young.” Her analysis proved prescient when the film won an Academy Award for best original screenplay.

In “Your Writing Tools Aren’t Mine,” a critic’s take that appeared in the New York Times Book Review, Viet Thanh Nguyen RI ’08 commented on the power
“Keep the Damned Women Out”
Nancy Weiss Malkiel

In the New York Review of Books article “How Smart Women Got the Chance,” Linda Greenhouse ’68 reviewed “Keep the Damned Women Out”: The Struggle for Coeducation (Princeton University Press, 2016), by Nancy Weiss Malkiel AM ’66, PhD ’70, who is speaking at a Schlesinger Library event this fall. “A painstakingly detailed account of how coeducation came to Harvard, Yale, and Princeton,” said Greenhouse, the book is “an invaluable antidote to the amnesia that has come to envelop the subject.” Greenhouse also continues to write opinion pieces for the New York Times. In “Who Will Watch the Agents Watching Our Borders?,” she recalled the words of the Roman poet Juvenal: *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* (Who will guard the guardians?). In another, “The Supreme Court’s Next Gun Battle,” she speculated on the future of the Second Amendment in light of *Peruta v. California*, a case that was scheduled to appear before the Supreme Court.

Mary Maples Dunn: Scholar, Administrator

Many in higher education banded together to mourn the death of Mary Maples Dunn RI ’02 in March. She was 85 years old. A scholar of colonial American history and women's history and a college administrator, Dunn was the president of Smith College for a decade before arriving at Radcliffe to direct the Schlesinger Library. She then led Radcliffe at the time of its merger with Harvard—as both acting president and acting dean before Drew Gilpin Faust’s arrival. Dunn led with “a spartan personality and sparkling eye,” Dean Lizabeth Cohen told the Schlesinger Library. “She was a rare treasure.”

In addition to her help with our transition from College to Institute, she will be remembered for her commitment to diversity: At Smith, “Dunn instituted a program to encourage inclusiveness and institutional diversity and increased the hiring and enrollment of minority students,” reported an obituary in the New York Times. “By the time she stepped down in 1995, minority enrollment had risen to 571 from 342, out of a student body of about 2,800. And minority representation on the faculty had increased by about six teaching positions.”

Memorials for Dunn were organized at both the Smith campus and the Knafl Center in Radcliffe Yard.


Miguel Syjuco RI ’14 introduced readers to the concept of Manila’s “night crawlers” in the New York Times opinion piece “Death on the Night Shift in Duterte’s Manila.”

The writer Edward Ball RI ’17 (see page 26) traveled to South Carolina to report on the federal trial of the young man who killed nine black people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, in Charleston, South Carolina. “United States v. Dylann Roof” appeared in two parts in the New York Review of Books.

A group of local scholars of women’s history—including Joyce Antler BI ’78, Frances Malino BI ’80, and Megan Marshall ’77, RI ’07—joined together to consider the potential power of a woman’s voice for the Boston Globe editorial “When Women Speak Out for All.”

Daniel Carpenter AM ’02, RI ’08—our faculty director of social sciences and a Harvard professor of government—talked about the unique power of the petition in his Washington Post editorial “Yes, Signing Those Petitions Makes a Difference—Even If They Don’t Change Trump’s Mind.” In it, he said, “Perhaps the main effect of a petition is not persuading its target, but recruiting new people to a cause.”

ScienceDaily published an article about Robert Huber RI ’16, a professor at Bowling Green State University. “Neuro-
in Nanoscience and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The first woman to win the National Medal of Science and Engineering, she starred earlier this year in a viral General Electric advertisement titled “What If Scientists Were Treated Like Celebrities?” Known as the Queen of Carbon, Dresselhaus died on February 20 at age 86.

Nacre, the iridescent material that appears in mollusk shells, is more than just decorative, pointed out a *Scientific American* article about the work of Pupa Gilbert RI ’15. The article, “Mother-of-Pearl Holds the Key to Historical Ocean Temperatures,” stressed that the methodology devised by Gilbert’s team “is also a lot simpler, less expensive and less equipment-intensive than trying to track the chemical composition of deep-sea sediments.”

A profile of Susan Faludi ’81, RI ’09 appeared in the *New York Times* Sunday Styles section. “Her Father, Herself” discussed the memoir she wrote about scientist Probes Tiny World of the Fruit Fly to Discover Sleep/Eating/Activity Connection” showed how Huber’s work is illuminating the workings behind the infamous “food coma.”

In the *New York Review of Books*, Annette Gordon-Reed JD ’84, RI ’16 reviewed Robert Parkinson’s *The Common Cause: Creating Race and Nation in the American Revolution* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016), of which she wrote, “Robert Parkinson, in his brilliant, timely, and indispensable book . . . offers a provocative alternative to the conventional views that blacks’ perpetual alien status in the United States is simply a natural outgrowth of having been enslaved, and that making them—and Native Americans—outsiders in the United States was a post-Revolutionary, early-nineteenth-century project.”

Both the *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times* published tributes to the late Mildred Dresselhaus AM ’53, SD ’95, an MIT physicist and winner of such prestigious awards as the Kavli Prize.
With Do Not Become Alarmed (Riverhead Books, 2017), Maile Meloy ‘94 has published an “ominous, addictive novel,” said Publishers Weekly. The story follows two families as their tropical getaway goes horribly wrong. The review continued, “In crafting this high-stakes page-turner, Meloy excels as a master of suspense.”


The best-selling writer Margot Livesey RI ’13 has published The Hidden Machinery: Essays on Writing (Tin House Books, 2017), a collection about what she calls “novel making.” A Publishers Weekly review said, “She offers helpful strategies for thinking about the elusive art of fiction,” and in advance praise, Francine Prose ’68, AM ’69 said, “If only I’d been able to read The Hidden Machinery before I began my first novel. It would have saved me so much trouble!”

The book on which Daniel Ziblatt AM ’10, RI ’16 worked during his fellowship year, Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy (Cambridge University Press, 2017), was recently published. In it, he charts the democratization of Britain and Germany and applies his conclusion to Western Europe as a whole. A Harvard Magazine review said, “Ziblatt marshals an impressive set of evidence to argue his point, tallying statistical analyses, sorting through the ancient Tory political memos—even using bond rates to discern the attitude of old-regime elites.”

A professor of government at Harvard University, Ziblatt launched the book with a discussion at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies.

Julia Glass RI ’05 has published her sixth novel, A House among the Trees (Panthéon, 2017). It chronicles the relationship between a renowned children’s book author and his assistant. “A fascinating look at a world in which a creative artist becomes a hot property to be both honored and exploited,” said a Booklist starred review. “A compelling story with fully realized characters.”

The Weight of Ink (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017), a third novel by Rachel Kadish B1 ’95, is the debut novel of Elif Batuman ’99, a staff writer at the New Yorker. “At once a cutting satire of academia, a fresh take on the epistolary novel, a poignant bildungsroman, and compelling travel literature,” said a Boston Globe review, “The Idiot is also a touching and spirited portrait of the artist as a hugely appealing young woman.” Batuman’s first book, The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them (Granta Books, 2011), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.
and celebrating the life of the mind.”

In the picture book Where Is God? (Saturn’s Moon Press, 2017), Bracha Goetz ’77 tells the story of a young boy who goes in search of God. Goetz is the author of more than 30 picture books that aim to help children grow spiritually.

Cynthia Zarin ’81 has published Orbit: Poems (Knopf, 2017), her fifth collection of poetry. “Essential reading for those seeking magic on the page,” said Library Journal in a starred review. “J.M.W. Turner comes to mind. In particular Turner’s late-stage work, when issues of craft have long been resolved and what we see is pure feeling, sublime and urgent.”

Relating an American woman’s experience during the Spanish Civil War, There Your Heart Lies: A Novel (Pantheon, 2017) is the latest book by Mary Gordon RI ’04. “Shifting points in time and points of view reveal a young woman shaped by the zealotry that can emanate from family, faith, or war,” said Kirkus Reviews in a starred blurb. “An emotionally and historically rich work with a strong character portrait holding together its disparate parts.”

Bound in Wedlock: Slave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century (Harvard University Press, 2017) is the latest book by Tera W. Hunter RI ’06, a professor of history and African American studies at Princeton University. She worked on the book during her fellowship year. In a starred review, Library Journal called it “an important and comprehensive work that is worth reading by all, especially those interested in the effects of slavery on society today.”

One Book, One New York, the largest community reading program in the country, launched in February with a contest to find one book that would be read across the five boroughs. Among the five award-winning books in the running were entries by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie RI ’12 and Junot Díaz RI ’04. Ultimatey, after much voting online and in digital kiosks that appeared in subway stations, Adichie’s Americanah (Knopf, 2013) was selected for the citywide book club.

Barbara McManus AM ’65, PhD ’76 has published The Drunken Duchess of Vassar: Grace Harriet Macurdy, Pioneering Feminist Classical Scholar (Ohio State University Press, 2017), a biography of the first classicist to focus her scholarship on the lives of ancient Greco-Roman women. McManus is a professor emerita at the College of New Rochelle, where she taught modern and classical languages. The book has a foreword by Judith P. Hallett AM ’67, PhD ’71, who is a professor of classics at the University of Maryland.

The Hampshire Project (Plain View Press, 2017) is the final novel in the series Resilience: A Trilogy of Climate Chaos, by Kitty Beer ’59. It follows the adventures of a young heroine named Terra as she battles the evils of climate change, from mass migration to autocracy, in the year 2082. Kirkus Reviews called it “a view of the possible results of unbridled corporatism that is both unsettling and empowering.”

Researchers in part at the Schlesinger Library and written mostly at Radcliffe, Open to Debate: How William F. Buckley Put Liberal America on the Firing Line (Broadside, 2016) is the latest book from Heather Hendershot RI ’15, a professor of film and media at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the National Review, Neal B. Freeman—a founding producer of Firing Line—praised Hendershot’s thoroughness, saying, “She has the front story, the back story, and even the story that was never meant to be told.”

Priscilla Long RI ’86 has published both Fire and Stone: Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going? (University of Georgia Press, 2016), a collection of linked creative nonfictions, and Minding the Muse: A Handbook for Painters, Composers, Writers, and Other Creators (Coffeetown Press, 2016), in which she shares tips for leading an artist’s life. “Long’s slim handbook for artists suggests ways to reflect on one’s creativity and so become a more effective creator,” said the Seattle Star about the latter book. “It is pithier and more intellectually respectful than recent creativity how-tos.”

Long is also the author of Crossing Over: Poems (University of New Mexico Press, 2015).

On Stage and Screen

John Tiffany RI ’11 won an Olivier Award for best director for his work on Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. His West End production won a record nine prizes at the United Kingdom’s most prestigious theater awards. Tiffany previously picked up an Olivier in 2009 for his work on Black Watch.

Smart People, the play on which Lydia R. Diamond RI ’13 worked during her fellowship year, enjoyed a run at the Arena Stage in Washington, DC, this spring. The playwright talked with NPR’s All Things Considered about the work for a segment titled “Smart People Asks Hard Questions about Racism in America.”

Art Aware

The PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction winner Ann Patchett BI ’94 is one of 15 American writers who collaborate with the painter Linden Frederick on a multidisciplinary exhibition that showed at New York City’s Forum Gallery before heading to the Center for Maine Contemporary Art’s Bruce Brown Gallery.
for a mid-August opening, For Linden Frederick: Night Stories, the artist invited the writers to contribute a work of short fiction inspired by one of the paintings in the show, which depict rural and small-town America by night. The short story “Constellation” is Patchett’s response to the 2016 painting Vacant. A book based on the exhibition, Night Stories (Glitterati Arts, 2017) is forthcoming in October, and the exhibition in Rockland, Maine, will be up through November 5.

The exhibition ICA Collection: New Acquisitions—on view through February 25, 2018—includes Hidden Relief (2001), a mixed-media sculpture by Sarah Sze RI ’06 acquired by the museum in 2016.

Abigail DeVille RI ’15 created a site-specific installation for the exhibition Urban Planning: Art and the City 1967–2017, at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. For it, she scavenged debris from around the city, transforming it into a room-sized environment. The exhibition opened in May and will be up through August 13.

The cultural historian Wanda M. Corn RI ’04 organized the exhibition Georgia O’Keeffe: Living Modern, which was on view at the Brooklyn Museum through July 23. Favorably reviewed in a New York Times article titled “Georgia O’Keeffe, Stylist and Curator of Her Own Myth,” the exhibition combined O’Keeffe’s art with items from her wardrobe and photographic portraits.

In late April, the politically motivated performance artist Tania Bruguera RI ’17 appeared at the ICA Boston for an event titled “The Artist’s Voice: Nari Ward and Tania Bruguera.” During the talk, which was held in conjunction with Ward’s exhibition Sun Splashed, Bruguera addressed her dual role as artist and citizen.

Janet Echelman ’87 coteachd the course Soft Structure Meets the Glass House at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this past spring. The interdisciplinary architecture design studio and workshop focused on the form, meaning, and construction of large-scale soft tensile structures, especially the temporary installation that Echelman’s studio will soon build on the grounds of the Glass House, a National Trust site in Connecticut. Echelman’s aerial sculptures continue to hang over cities around the globe, including London; Paris; Como, Italy; and Santiago, Chile.

A.K. Burns RI ’17 premiered a new two-channel video, Living Room, at the New Museum exhibition titled A.K. Burns: Shabby but Thriving. As part of the exhibition, Burns also organized “Body Politic: From Rights to Resistance,” a day of informational sessions on such subjects as civil disobedience and indigenous rights. The daylong event was covered in the New Yorker article “New York Museums Signal Their Resistance to Trump.” Nearly simultaneously, Burns was preparing for an exhibition at Callicoon Fine Arts, titled Fault Lines. The Boston online arts magazine Big Red & Shiny spoke with her about all her current projects for a lengthy interview, “She Was Warned: An Interview with A.K. Burns.”

Judith Seligson ’72 appeared with her abstract paintings at the Architectural Digest Design Show earlier this spring. The online magazine Design Milk singled out her work for the roundup “The Architectural Digest Design Show Celebrates
African American Art.

In May, the Cecilia Chorus of New York Grace Notes through history,” said for an afterlife and sounds that guide us Nefertiti’s tomb, with offerings and images feels like you are walking through halls of and Landscape. “Entering the exhibition, it

I once knew a girl . . . organized in three parts: Beauty, Legacies, and Landscape. “Entering the exhibition, it feels like you are walking through halls of Nefertiti’s tomb, with offerings and images for an afterlife and sounds that guide us through history,” said Big Red & Shiny of the photography and video installation. “Weems disrupts the divisions caused by being ignored, acknowledged, and being the frontrunner in her tableaus exploring black womanhood and femininity.” In conjunction with the exhibition, the gallery hosted two events with the artist: an artist tour and reception and a lecture.

Grace Notes

In May, the Cecilia Chorus of New York

performed the world premiere of a commissioned work by Zaid Jabri RI ’17, A Garden among the Flames, at Carnegie Hall’s Stern Auditorium. Jabri based the piece on Sufi text by Ibn-Arabi, with additional text by Yvette Christiansë. It was conducted by Mark Shapiro and featured the soprano Chelsea Morris, the baritone Sidney Outlaw, and the Every Voice Children’s Choir.

This spring, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project performed the world premiere of Black Noise, a piece by the composer David W. Sanford RI ’14. A talk with the composer took place before the concert, which was conducted by Gil Rose.

The composer and sound artist Reiko Yamada RI ’16 and the biologist and fruit fly–behavior specialist Robert Huber RI ’16 collaborated on an interdisciplinary performance that took place at the Institute for Electronic Music and Acoustics (IEM). Small Small Things: Music and Installation for Humans and Drosophila combined site-specific acousmatic compositions, a digital slide presentation, and a series of sound experimentations with fruit flies. Yamada was an artist in residence at IEM this past academic year, and Huber teaches at Bowing Green State University.

In the New Yorker, the critic Alex Ross ’90 praised Ipsa Dixit, a work written and performed by the soprano Kate Soper RI ’13 and presented by New York’s Wet Ink Ensemble. “The work could easily collapse under the weight of its intellectual cargo, but Soper maintains a light touch even as she delves into epistemological complexities,” wrote Ross in “Kate Soper’s Philosophy-Opera.” She “is both brilliant and funny—a combination that is always in short supply.”

Public Life

In May, NovaVeil, a fashion line that incorporates nanotechnology to protect from Zika and other mosquito-borne viruses, sent its first crowdfunded items for manufacture. Meg Wirth ’91, the founder and CEO of Maternova (NovaVeil’s parent company), first sought funding last summer on Republic, surpassing the company’s initial goal. The project was included in a Forbes article about crowd investing and woman-led companies. The Alessandra Gold–designed garments—which include a cardigan, leggings, a maternity dress, and a scarf—will be sold in Europe, Brazil, and the United States. All of them incorporate an EPA-approved chemical repellent. They’re available for pre-order at http://maternova.net.

The science power couple Amala Mahadevan RI ’15 and L. Mahadevan AM ’03, RI ’15 is headed to Mather House this fall, where they will be faculty deans. L. 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, all at Harvard University. He is also the area dean for applied mathematics at the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Amala Mahadevan, an oceanographer, is a senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and a faculty member in the Joint Program in Oceanography between MIT and Woods Hole.


The author Peter Behrens RI ’16 presented a commentary about President Donald Trump’s wall plans for All Things Considered, NPR’s daily news program. In “If Trump Builds His Wall, We’ll Be ‘Trapped Inside with Him,’” Behrens relayed how an observation by his son made him think about the state of our nation.
Mary Prendergast PhD ’08, RI ’17—who teaches in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at St. Louis University, in Madrid, Spain—uses zooarchaeology to challenge traditional notions about the spread of food production in East Africa, particularly in the past 5,000 years. At Radcliffe, she worked on four peer-reviewed papers, each relying on a decade of archaeological fieldwork and animal bone analyses, through which she hopes to highlight the great variation of past East African foragers and food producers. Here she gives us a glimpse at her life and passions.

**Energized by Positivity and Collaboration**

Mary Prendergast’s research is inspired by the energy of positive, collaborative people, who are numerous in her field.

**Who are your heroes?**

My parents. My academic mentors. And the many female pioneers in archaeology who made the field what it is today.

**Which trait do you most admire in yourself?**

I may be a planner, but I’m also adaptable. Flexibility is handy when you get five flat tires en route to your field site, you must suddenly negotiate in a rusty foreign language, or you move abroad with no job in sight.

**Tell us your favorite memory.**

I have visceral memories of the sounds, smells, and movement of riding horses in my youth. I learned that you don’t have to be good at something in order to love it.

**Describe yourself in six words or fewer.**

Enthusiastically extroverted yet craving outdoor solitude.

**What is your fantasy career?**

Large-animal veterinarian.

**What is your greatest triumph so far?**

Becoming a Radcliffe fellow, the most fortunate and productive year I’ve had. I also triumphed over the challenge of life abroad, which was initially difficult with no job and no social network.

**What is the most challenging aspect of being a Radcliffe fellow?**

Staying focused when an intellectual buffet is on offer at Harvard every day.

**What aspect of your work do you most enjoy?**

Communicative aspects and fieldwork. I love talking about research—in the classroom, at conferences, and with site visitors, who are usually kids. Fieldwork is both essential and tremendous fun, although with age, I increasingly miss a bed and hot shower.

**Where has your research taken you?**

Specializing in animal bone identification means I get to travel—literally or intellectually—across space and time. I’ve worked at sites in East Africa, Western Europe, and China, and these collectively span 2 million years ago to the medieval era.

**What can the bones of dead animals tell us?**

Bones are like a partially undeciphered script: offering tantalizing hints, vulnerable to misinterpretation. We can examine people’s responses to climate change; we can deepen our understanding of religious practices; we can reconstruct whole economies.

**Why is it important to understand the dietary choices of past humans?**

When all we are left with is the garbage of people who seem distant and abstract, it’s easy to talk about dietary choices as simple cost-benefit calculations shaped by environmental constraints. But people are complicated and not always rational. Rather than being marionettes pushed and pulled by environmental change, people actively coped with change and shaped environments through their choices.

The answers to this questionnaire have been edited for space. Read the unabridged version on our website.
Wonders of the Sea

Playful and agile sea lions. Translucent shrimp smaller than your thumb. Silhouettes of reef sharks. Some of the world’s most remote coral reefs. These are a few of the colorful, magnificent marine creatures that the underwater photographer Keith Ellenbogen captures on his expeditions for marine conservation.

Ellenbogen explores ocean ecosystems—from as far away as Malaysia, Madagascar, and the Phoenix Islands, in the central Pacific, to as close as the cold Atlantic waters near his Brooklyn home—to unveil and document often-unknown undersea activities. His inspiring images have helped conservation efforts and brought public awareness to issues affecting marine habitats and life.

Ellenbogen gave a public talk as part of the Oceans Lecture Series at the Radcliffe Institute. Watch it online on our website.
HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Family Secrets and American History

The theme of this panel discussion will be the not-quite-so-secret histories of American families, stories hidden in plain sight that, once revealed, require us to rethink the broader outlines of American history.

Gail Lumet Buckley, author of The Black Calhouns: From Civil War to Civil Rights with One African American Family

Susan Faludi ’81, RI ’09, author of In the Darkroom

Alex Wagner, author of Stories We Tell Ourselves

Moderator: Annette Gordon-Reed JD ’84, RI ’16, Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History, Harvard Law School, and professor of history, Harvard University

This event is free and open to the public. Please register and join us: www.radcliffe.harvard.edu