

The Harvard Club of the United Kingdom



◆ **News & Notices** ◆ **September/October 2007**

Upcoming Events

◆ **22 September**

Meet John Lithgow '67 at the RSC Stratford-on-Avon after the matinee performance of Twelfth Night. Contact: paul.nielsen@post.harvard.edu

◆ **26 September 6.30 pm**

Independent Education in the UK - Edward Gould, Chairman of the Independent Schools Council. The Lecture Room, Westminster School, Little Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PF Contact: Evi Kaplanis (evi@kaplanis.com)

◆ ***6 October 11.00 am**

Constable Country Walk starting from Manningtree Station
Contact: Jane Baird (janebaird@yahoo.com) or 0207 771 1385

◆ **15 October 6.30-8.00 pm**

more details on back page of this newsletter
HCUK Annual Interviewers' and Update Evening at McKinsey & Co, 1 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 4UH Contact: Verity Langley (verity@mailbox.co.uk)

◆ ***16 November**

Harvard University Art Museums in London
8.45 am Renaissance Siena: Art for a City
The National Gallery.
6.00 pm Cocktail reception and special viewing of prints by artist Ben Nicholson.
Alan Cristea Gallery in Mayfair
Contact: ann_starnbach@harvard.edu or (617) 495-0350

◆ ***17 November 4.30 pm**

THE Game Live! Freshfields, 65 Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 1HS Contact: HCUK_recentgrads@yahoo.co.uk

◆ ***25 November 11.00 am**

Choral Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral in celebration of 400th anniversary of baptism of John Harvard in Southwark. Revd. Professor Peter Gomes (Minister of Memorial Church at Harvard) with Dean of Southwark.

** details enclosed*

See also events listing on www.hcuk.org

Letter from the President

The autumn terms starts a year of many new beginnings at Harvard - a new class matriculates. We have a new President and new Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The Core Curriculum is being replaced by a new set of distribution requirements with revamped courses. The schools agreed to coordinate calendars such that undergrads no longer will have exams after Christmas. A British pub opened for undergraduates, and the students from the UK vainly are trying to instruct their classmates in the finer points in darts.

A fresh group of graduates have travelled to the UK to work and study. As a club, we particularly celebrate the four Cambridge Scholars:

Alexander Bevilacqua, a History concentrator from Milan is the Fiske scholar at Trinity College;

Matthew Smith, an applied maths concentrator from Pasadena, California, is the Shirley scholar at Pembroke College;

Moira Weigel, a Germanic/English and American Language and Lit concentrator from Brooklyn is the de Jersey scholar at Emmanuel College;

Nathan Dern, a social anthropology and religion concentrator from Evergreen, Colorado is the Eliot scholar at Jesus College.

Every June we honor these scholars and their predecessors at a dinner hosted by the Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, John Harvard's Alma Mater. This year we have the additional celebration of the 400th anniversary of John Harvard's baptism which will take place under the direction of Revd. Professor Peter Gomes and Dean Colin Slee at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday 25 November. I hope to see you at both of these.

Harvard eliminated Early Action, and we wait with great anticipation as to how it will impact the applicant pool. The UK school system is also going through great changes as it grapples with the increasing occurrence of A grades at A level, as well as reforming its own curriculum. As this is a subject of great interest to our members both in their roles as interviewers and as parents, we have arranged for the Chairman of the Independent Schools Council to navigate us through the structure and discuss where secondary education may be heading as well as what we should consider in planning what is most appropriate for our children. A flyer was enclosed with our last newsletter mailing - if you haven't yet signed up for this event on 26 September contact **Evi Kaplanis** (evi@kaplanis.com).

The membership renewal information is enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete this soon. Most of our funding is based on membership dues, and, historically, it has taken nearly the entire year for people to pay their dues.

Every year members become more involved with the work of the club - events, outreach, or admin and more. If you have an interest in doing so, please let me know as we welcome new blood and enthusiasm (and understand varying levels of time commitment).

Brandon Bradkin AB '89, JD '92

**The Seven College Book Club 14th year
of reading begins soon!
Details on enclosed flyer.**

Venus in transit at Chelsea

Our May newsletter had a feature about London's Chelsea Flower Show and the role of Margaret Reynolds '75 in the "Transit of Venus" garden entry by New Hall, the first Cambridge college to exhibit in the show.



New Hall's Transit of Venus garden at the Chelsea Flower Show 2007 (photo: Margaret Reynolds RIBA).

Margaret reports that the New Hall garden was a tremendous success, with throngs of people lining up all week to have a closer look, extensive media coverage for this under-rated college and the award of a bronze medal for a Chic Garden in the Flora range.

While Chelsea is famous for gorgeous blooms and landscaping, it was the rich symbolism and movement of the Transit of Venus that particularly attracted the crowds. The design embodied the college's vibrant "spirit of enquiry." Rare plants collected on Captain Cook's 1781 voyage to view the Transit of Venus from Tahiti were sourced from botanical engravings in the Cambridge University Library. The curved white stone, evoking the college's striking modern architecture, sets off the luminous timeline of Transits in years past. Designer Sue Goss's mirrors reflect hidden plants and a ghostly Venus in transit across the face of the sun, as one would view a solar eclipse.

For the whole story, visit the Daily Telegraph blog (<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/ukcorrespondents/chelseafloowershow>) (by New Hall graduate Ursula Buchan) or the BBC site www.bbc.co.uk/chelsea. Elements of the garden are being installed this summer at New Hall in honor of the first president, Dame Rosemary Murray. New Hall's colorful gardens are extensive and visitors are welcome, just introduce yourself at the curved white Porters' Lodge. (www.newhall.cam.ac.uk)

Please let the newsletter editor know of any topics of interest to the membership that might be included in future newsletters. Please email Cindy_Levy@McKinsey.com

'Justice online' and the HCUK

Term time is heating up - forty club members have signed up for the HCUK Group discussions as of the beginning of September. Check out the club website if you wish to participate and join us in this exciting new HAA initiative!

For those who are unable to attend discussion groups or who wish to pursue this intellectual challenge on their own - you must sign up for the course on Post. Harvard - www.post.harvard.edu/sandel - BEFORE September 19th. The club discussion groups are already being put together. Please sign up with the HAA and on the club's website. (www.hcuk.org) as soon as possible and Joan MacIver will get back to you with details of the sessions. At the moment we have five groups lined up with four sessions each (Sept/Oct, Nov, Dec and Jan). In London there are two evening sessions on Tuesday (7 pm) and Thursdays (6.30 pm) and one on Wednesday at lunch (1 pm); Saturday at 11 am (limited numbers) in the Notting Hill area and there will be a session in Cambridge, which requires a discussion group leader.

You MUST already be registered for post.harvard to participate and to view the video of the lectures. I believe high speed connection will be needed to listen to the course (do the test on the Harvard website to see if you might have difficulties). If you do not have a post.harvard registration, I suggest you do so sooner rather than later as I am sure it will be very busy right before the course start date.

There is a course reader, 'Justice, a reader', which you can order from the COOP or the AMAZON store. Each participant will need to obtain their own copy.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me. This is a new initiative and we all need to make it work. HCUK Club Coordinator for the Justice online course: Joan Porter MacIver tel. 01440 785 244 e-mail: jpmaciver@post.harvard.edu

Joan Porter MacIver AB'75

The feature film CASHBACK, associate produced by Winnie Li AB '00 and based on the 2006 Oscar-nominated short film, was released in US theatres on July 20th. Reviews from Variety, The LA Times, The Seattle Times, and The Chicago Tribune were great! Starring British actors Sean Biggerstaff, Emilia Fox, Shaun Evans, and Michelle Ryan, the comedy-drama explores the lives of students who work the overnight shift at Sainsbury's. CASHBACK will be released in the UK in early 2008.

A Successful Year for Interns' Program

The last of this summer's Harvard interns have returned to campus and it is immensely satisfying to reflect upon our third year of the HCUK-CES Internship Program. Since its inception in 2005, the program has grown in numbers, scope, and renown.

Partnering with Harvard's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES), the Harvard Club of the UK has linked alumni employers and their colleagues with students from the College to create meaningful and rewarding summer experiences for both the current generation of Harvardians and the organizations that hire them.

Growing from a handful of participants three years ago, two dozen students this year were able to take part in this initiative. Because HCUK members excel in so many fields, undergraduates are offered far more interesting options than the typical program. Placements include boutique finance firms, new media, clean energy consulting, film production, scientific research, philanthropy and the House of Commons, plus many others.

In its early days, the program was supported and nurtured by former HCUK presidents **Bob Gould** and **Joan Porter MacIver**. It was enthusiastically embraced by **Jan Bunstead**, the club's most recent president (2004–06), who now chairs the program and is responsible for its current success. We hope to grow the program even more, and therefore members are encouraged to be in touch with Jan or CES about creating new internship opportunities.

The rewards go far beyond the knowledge that you are helping to further Harvard's goal of internationalizing education; you will benefit at least as much as the students, if not more. HCUK member **Uzma Hasan** at Slingshot Studios says, "Slingshot's first experience with a CES intern was immensely enriching. Within just a few days our intern really became part of the team and a valued resource. Her enthusiasm, intelligence and willingness to learn were

*Past-president **Bob Gould** with intern **Mandy Xu ('09)** at Freshfields' summer reception, hosted by HCUK member **Don Guiney**, for interns and their employers.*



a breath of fresh air. We will certainly take part in the program again next year". The value an intern brings to your company could even extend beyond the summer: HCUK member **Michael Liebrich**, Founder and CEO of New Energy Finance, says, "A number of former interns are now in key positions in the company. If you don't have an internship program, you are watching your best recruits walk straight through your competitors' doors".

We are eager to discuss what you might be able to offer Harvard undergraduates for the summer of 2008. The enclosed form describes the process and timeline for the program. If you are ready to offer an internship, please fill out the form and email it to **Christy Colburn**, who administers the program at CES. She is happy to answer any questions (ccolburn@fas.harvard.edu) and 001 617 495 4303 ext. 231. You may also contact **Janice Bunstead** (jan.bunstead@post.harvard.edu).

**Dr Patricia Craig, Executive Director,
Harvard University Center for European Studies**

New Program in General Education to Replace Core

On May 15th, The Faculty of Arts and Sciences approved a new program in General Education. The motion stated as context a changing world and an aspiration for students to be more self reflective, to question assumptions, think critically and analytically, and engage effectively with historical moments and cultural formations.

The new program will replace the Core Program, and consists of one letter-graded half-course from each of eight subject areas: 1) Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding, 2) Culture and Belief, 3) Empirical and Mathematical Reasoning, 4) Ethical Reasoning, 5) Science of Living Systems, 6) Science of the Physical Universe, 7) Societies of the World, and 8) The United States and the World.

Courses in the new program will present a wide range of material, rather than focus in depth on single topics. The aim is to equip students to use abstract conceptual knowledge to address concrete issues and problems. The intent is also to ensure that all coursework makes a difference to the people they will become and to their lives after college.

President Drew Gilpin Faust came out with strong support, committing to work closely with the Dean and Faculty of Arts and Sciences to secure resources and to ensure successful implementation.

The above summary was drawn from the website. For more detail, please see www.harvardmagazine.com/go/gen-ed.

Cindy Phillips Levy AB'88

HCUK Annual Interviewers' and Update Evening

**October 15th 2007 6.30-8pm at
McKinsey & Co.,
No.1 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y**

The 2007-2008 academic year is Harvard's first without Early Action, and with a woman President. **Janet Irons**, Senior Admissions Officer with responsibility for the UK, will lead an information session and reception on **Monday, 15th October**, addressing general Harvard College topics as well as:

- What's new at Harvard?
- Changes in the admissions process and financial aid
- Tips and hints for interviewers

We will also be airing new 'recruiting' film clips featuring British-educated current students at Harvard, recorded this past spring for use as part of the Outreach programme. In addition, there will be an update on our Outreach Programme strategy across the UK, information about recent presentations and marketing efforts, some practical information about this year's alumni interviewing, and new information concerning the Harvard Book Prize.

Please bring your questions and comments to the session. If you cannot make the session and live outside London, we may be able to arrange to have the evening recorded. Please let us know if you are interested.

The evening will be hosted at the offices of McKinsey & Co., No.1 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 4UH. Light refreshments will be available.

Please RSVP by 11 October, at the latest, to **Verity Langley, Interview and Membership Co-ordinator**, at verity@mailbox.co.uk

Tax Effective Giving to Harvard

If you give to Harvard and pay income taxes in both the UK and US, you may want to make your gift through the Anglo-American Charity Limited.

If you currently make your gift through the Friends of Harvard University (UK), you obtain the charitable tax benefits in the UK, which consist of a 22% boost in the value of your gift through Gift Aid Reclaim and an 18% tax credit for higher income tax payers. Unfortunately, you do not qualify for a US tax deduction for such gifts.

If you give to Harvard directly, you may obtain a charitable tax deduction on your US return, but are ineligible for any of the UK tax benefits.

If you use the Anglo-American Charity Limited, you can obtain tax benefits in both jurisdictions. The Charity was established in 2003 as a dual qualified US/UK charity to foster transatlantic philanthropy. Since its inception, the Charity has made over \$3 million in donations.

For more information, visit the website, email info@anglo-americancharity.org or call **Jeff Hedges** on **0870 777 0933**.

Goldsmith

Tammy Smulders, an HCUK member, is bringing a special opportunity for all HCUK members to join **Goldsmith**, a new and exclusive luxury travel club and concierge service which offers a booking and concierge service designed to give clients the ultimate luxury holiday with no amount of effort or hassle on their part.

The club is the latest idea from Mr & Mrs Smith, the luxury boutique travel company known for their guidebooks and travel website. Goldsmith is set to cause quite a stir amongst high-end travellers and is by invitation-only, but all HCUK members have been pre-approved to join.

The services provided by this exclusive club include finding everything that clients want, whether it is the most luxurious bed or a secret island getaway. In addition to this, members also get access to time-specific flight offers, including free flights and free upgrades, VIP airport lounge access, exclusive first class deals on Eurostar and car hire, and upgrades at most of the fabulous boutique hotels in the Mr & Mrs Smith collection and of course champagne or other treats on arrival at the hotel.

This new travel club is very concerned with tailor-making trips for individual clients. They handle all aspects of planning the trip - from researching and planning to booking and managing. The associated Goldsmith Lifestyle Concierge service means that there is always someone available to make bespoke plans for your trip such as private tours of the Sistine Chapel, private shopping trips in Europe, a Porsche 911 weekend in Bavaria, Harbour Club access at the Americas Cup in Valencia, tickets for the Oscars in LA, hand-delivered picnics for two in Central Park and silver service candlelit dinners for two in any remote romantic spot of your choice. They can even arrange for someone to water your plants or be at the end of a phone to tackle a plumbing emergency, while you relax on a beach.

This seems like the ideal way to have a fantastic luxurious holiday without all the usual hassles that go along with travelling. Membership costs £250 a year and all Goldsmith members receive a welcome pack containing membership card, all of the Mr & Mrs Smith hotel guide books, one of their compilation CDs and leather Bill Amberg for Mr & Mrs Smith luggage tag and passport holders, plus a monthly newsletter with special exclusive offers and exceptional hotel offers before anyone else, and ideas on how to customize your trip.

To become a Goldsmith member visit <http://www.mrandmrsmith.com/scb/goldsmith-application>