

down a federal law that had entitled widows, but not widowers, to child-in-care benefits after a spouse's death.

And it was also important to recognize that full equality of citizenship carried responsibilities as well as rights, Ginsburg said, citing *Duren v. Missouri*, a Supreme Court case she won in 1979. In what would be the last case she argued before the Court (she was appointed a federal judge in 1980, and served until her 1993 appointment as a justice), she maintained that a Missouri law making jury duty optional for women should be struck down because it treated women's service on juries as less valuable than men's.

Panelist Sandra Lynch—who last year became the first female chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit—recalled attending Boston University Law School (from which she graduated in 1971) when it was considered radical for admitting enough women to constitute 10 percent of each incoming law class. Lynch described the open hostility that some of her law professors directed toward female students; U.S. district judge Nancy Gertner, who graduated from Yale Law School the same year, recalled interviewing for a prestigious clerkship and being asked whether she ever planned to marry and have children. “I told him, ‘Of course not,’” she recalled. (She now has two.)

Because discrimination today is subtle rather than explicit, Lynch and Gertner said they worry that young women will fail to see threats to their equality and lose ground inadvertently.

As President Drew Faust—the former Radcliffe Institute dean who has broken a major gender barrier herself—listened in the first row, Ginsburg admitted that her zeal for gender equality explained, at least in part, her quick recovery from surgery for pancreatic cancer earlier this year. She returned to work less than three weeks after the surgery, and the same week attended a major public address by President Barack Obama. When asked by *USA Today* why she insisted on attending, she answered, “I wanted people to see that the Supreme Court isn't all male.” (She is the second female justice; Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed in 1981 and retired in 2006.)

But Ginsburg voiced less concern about backsliding than her fellow panelists. She closed by saying that given

how much has changed in a single generation, “I remain optimistic about the potential of the United States.”

Humanities Rebooted

TWO OF Harvard's most venerable humanities disciplines have slashed decades-old concentration requirements in recent months, marking 2008-09 as a year of considerable curricular change in the foundational literary fields. Both English and the classics have voted to move to far more elective-based programs that department leaders have hailed by turns for their relevance, flexibility, and accessibility.

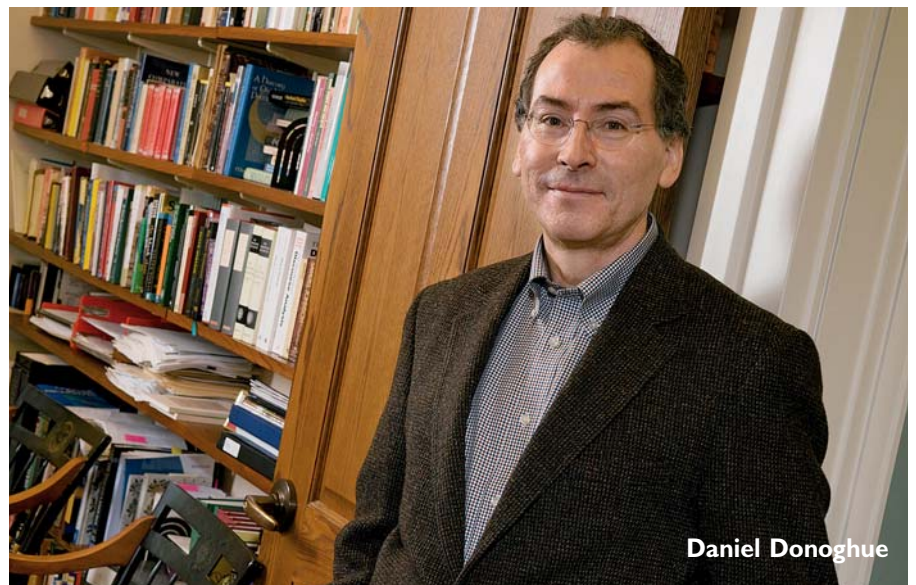
For all their apparent novelty, the revised degree requirements have won general support within the two departments: faculty members insist that the changes represent not modern concessions in a world less receptive to Western heritage, but refinements that will make transmission of that heritage more effective.

“A lot of people, when they first hear about this program, say, ‘Here's the Western literary canon being eviscerated,’ and that's not what we're doing at all,” says Marquand professor of English Daniel Donoghue, the department's director of undergraduate studies. “The people who are saying that haven't read the program. We're selecting works of canonical literature and asking, ‘How are we going to

teach this? How are we going to get this information to the students?’”

The new English configuration replaces a previous requirement for a year-long survey of British literature that drew consistently poor reviews from concentrators, as well as other degree prerequisites, including a sophomore seminar and courses in American and pre-1800 literature. Incoming concentrators will now be expected to fulfill a single requirement in each of four “common ground” areas: Arrivals (focusing on how British literature, from its beginnings in the seventh century, is a product of cultural importation); Diffusions (dealing with the dispersion of “British” literature across the globe, beginning with England's seventeenth-century expansion and imperialism); Poets (emphasizing non-dramatic poetry); and Shakespeares (treating the Bard and his heirs in a cultural context).

The new scheme, professors say, represents a course of study that separates Harvard from its peers by expanding upon the traditional, chronological progression that traced a line from *Beowulf* to Chaucer to Spenser, and straight onward. “Is that linear model sufficient to describe what's happening? Because it's just a tem-



Daniel Donoghue

poral sequence, like the biblical *begats*," says professor of English Gordon Teskey, discussing the curricular reformers' thought process. "Is there some way that literature could take into account geography as well as time?"

The fresh model is more an hourglass than a line, Teskey says, allowing for the fact that English literature was not conceived in the British Isles alone, in isolation from the rest of the world, and is certainly not confined to the British Isles now—when some of the most vibrant English-language literature is being composed far from Britain. "We studied English literature or we studied American literature and the idea was that these traditions were rooted in one place and the expression of one geography," says Loker professor of English James Simpson, a member of the curriculum futures committee that drafted the new program. "The inflow course [Arrivals] and the outflow course [Diffusions] take a different tack; rather than stressing rootedness, they stress cultural mobility."

But the changes are more than a matter of curricular philosophy, Donoghue stresses, pointing to a renewed emphasis on advising that will help anchor the new program. Students will be assigned to a professor for big-picture guidance, while relying on the director of undergraduate studies for more personalized steering in a concentration that now aims to allow more room for movement by including seven free-choice electives among its 11 non-honors degree requirements. "We as a department wanted to move away from the idea that electives are somehow a sign of weakness in the program, that there's chaos attached to them," he says.

With Donoghue already pushing ahead to implement the new program for the fall term, his colleagues across Quincy Street, in the classics, unanimously approved their own curricular revisions at a meeting in early March, capping the department's most detailed look at its concentration requirements in more than 30 years. Gone are the comprehensive general examinations previously required for graduation—and with them the decades-old reading list from which the examination material was drawn. The concentration's seven potential tracks—on whose

University People

Administrator-in-Chief

Sally Zeckhauser, the University's vice president for administration since 1988, will retire effective June 30, concluding a 35-year Harvard career. Working in Massachusetts Hall during five Harvard presidencies, she has provided senior-level continuity while overseeing the principal staff operations responsible for everything from buildings and grounds, real-estate planning and management, and dining services to oversight of affiliated institutions including the Arnold



Sally Zeckhauser

Arboretum, Harvard University Press, and the financial affairs of this magazine. Significant renovations carried out on her watch included the renewal of the Harvard Yard residences, Barker Center, Widener Library, and Memorial Hall, and Zeckhauser played a leading role in acquiring the land for future academic development in Allston. She is known across campus for the annual "Harvard Heroes" recognition for high-performing staff members, and for the Bridge to Learning and Literacy Program, which offers skills and language training to hundreds of service and clerical/technical workers and has helped many attain citizenship. Zeckhauser also chairs the board of trustees at Bryn Mawr College, her alma mater.

Headed for Hanover



Jim Yong Kim

François-Xavier Bag-noud professor of health and human rights Jim Yong Kim, chair of Harvard Medical School's department of global health and social medicine, has been named

president of Dartmouth College. Kim helped found and lead Partners in Health with Presley professor of social medicine Paul Farmer, and has overseen AIDS programs for the World Health Organization. Kim's work on tuberculosis is described in "A Plague Reborn" (July-August 2008, page 38). With his new appointment, he will become the first Asian-American president of an Ivy League institution.

House Heads

Clinical professor of law Ronald S. Sullivan Jr., J.D. '93, and Stephanie Robinson, J.D. '94, a lecturer at the law school, have been appointed master and co-master of Winthrop House. The couple, who also operate Robinson Sullivan Group, a consulting firm, succeed

Kaneb professor of national security and military affairs Stephen Rosen and Mandana Sassanfar, tutor in biochemical sciences, who have served for six years. At Pforzheimer House, Nicholas Christakis, M.D. '88, M.P.H. '89, professor of medical sociology and professor of sociology, and Erika Christakis '86, director of a cooperative preschool, have been appointed master and co-master. They succeed James J. McCarthy,



Ronald S. Sullivan Jr.



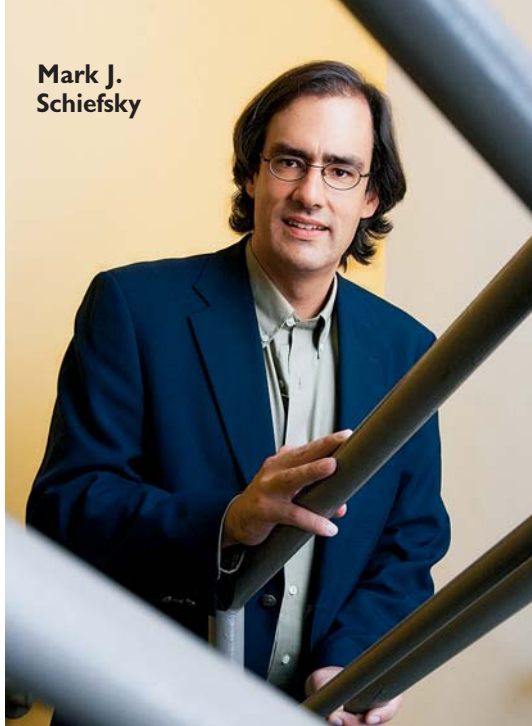
Stephanie Robinson

professor of biological oceanography, and Sue McCarthy, who are completing 12 years of service. These are the first appointments of new House masters made by Harvard College dean Evelyn Hammonds.



Nicholas and Erika Christakis

Mark J. Schiefsky



strength the classics entry monopolized a full 12 pages in this year's undergraduate *Handbook for Students*—will be reduced to two: one emphasizing a knowledge of classical history, philosophy, and archaeology; the other, proficiency in the ancient languages per se. The language requirement itself is less burdensome: the six language courses required by the new track fall short of the eight that the current sequences demand.

Department leaders, led by professor of the classics Mark J. Schiefsky, director of undergraduate studies, who initiated the curricular review in the fall, have suggested that the new formulation will make the concentration more accessible. It eliminates the obstacle that the long-standing reading list and general examination posed for those students lacking the high-school Latin and Greek training that was once a staple

of secondary-school curriculums. There is also hope that the general examination's demise will increase pedagogic creativity, liberating professors who have sometimes felt they could draw students only by offering syllabi that in-

cluded material covered by the exam.

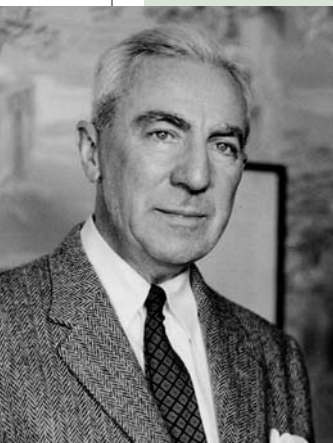
Mirabile dictu, students within the department have not rushed to embrace the generals' demise. "We wanted to make it clear from our side that many students liked the idea that there was a final milestone to hit," says Paul Mumma '09, a concentrator who serves as one of two student liaisons to the department's faculty. "That was really the only difference of opinion between faculty and students."

Students pushing for more exams? It's not for nothing that the English department's Simpson compares the construction of a curriculum to "getting a Rubik's Cube into place." But one thing seems clear: the new general-education program, scheduled for introduction this fall, won't be the only curricular novelty Harvard educators will be watching with fingers crossed.

—CHRISTIAN FLOW

A Pioneer in Family Planning

Selected items from the papers and effects of John C. Rock '15, M.D. '18, and other items related to his work.



Rock, a professor of gynecology who taught clinical obstetrics for three decades at Harvard Medical School (HMS), is remembered for two landmark professional achievements, both grounded in the notion that women should have control over their own reproductive systems.

Rock (pictured at left) pursued these two tacks with equally intense conviction, said Margaret Marsh, Distinguished Professor of history at Rutgers University and coauthor of the 2008 biography *The Fertility Doctor: John Rock and the Reproductive Revolution*, at a March 26 symposium to mark the exhibit's opening. Marsh said that Rock, a practicing Roman Catholic, believed couples should have as many children as they had means to support, but that they should also have the power to stop their families from expanding. Below are two samples of fam-

On display through September 30 at the Center for the History of Medicine (www.countway.harvard.edu/chom) are selected items from the papers and effects of John C. Rock '15, M.D. '18, and other items related to his work.

ily-planning devices from the days before the pill. Rock would have given the "scientific prediction dial" or a similar device to patients in his early days at the Rhythm Clinic, which he founded in 1936 at the Free Hospital for Women (now Brigham and Women's Hospital). The Rythmeter (circa 1944) came with a more complicated set of instructions. At the time, the rhythm method was the only legal form of contraception in Massachusetts; it was at Rock's clinic, in the early 1950s, that the first trials of hormone-based birth control took place. Rock advocated for the Food and Drug Administration to approve oral contraceptives (which it did in 1960), and for his church to change its position on birth control (which it did not).

It was also in Rock's lab that the first successful in vitro fertilization took place. At right is a photograph of the fertilized ovum from this experiment, which Rock conducted along with HMS colleague Arthur Hertig and laboratory assistant Miriam Menkin in 1944. Research in this area was later banned in the United States; the first in vitro baby, Louise Brown, was born in England in 1978. Since then, more than a million children have been born through this method.



To view larger versions of these images, as well as additional images from the exhibit, visit www.harvard-mag.com/extras.

Images courtesy of the Harvard Medical Library in the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine