

overall, though “when you spend eight to 10 hours a day at this for 20 or 30 years, it works out to minimum wage, or less,” he says with a guffaw. One reason there are only a couple hundred professional horseplayers in the country is the “takeout”: the racetrack skims off 20 percent of every dollar wagered before paying off the winning bettors. The takeout goes toward operating racetracks and paying purses for owners, breeders, trainers, and jockeys, as well as paying the slice for state governments. (Betting sports in Las Vegas involves a takeout of 4.5 percent, roulette takes 5.25 percent, slots, 10 percent, and lotteries 40 percent to 50 percent. Two or three times a year, Crist, an excellent poker player, goes to Vegas to play cards, which he finds “relaxing.”)

Gambling on Wall Street, or at games of pure chance like roulette, holds no interest for Crist. People sometimes remark that the one thing he hasn't done in the sport is own a racehorse, but “I own the horse I'm betting on for one minute and 12 seconds, and that's good enough for me,” he says. “There is a strong feeling of success for your ego when you make a winning bet. When their horse crosses the finish line in front, horseplayers never say, ‘What a good horse!’ They go, ‘That was me—me, me, me!’ That's part of the pleasure of horse racing, and why it's so much more fun to pick your own horses than to bet somebody else's picks. With a Wall Street stock, I can't imagine the same feeling of satisfaction.”

He believes that jockeys are “hugely overrated” as a factor in racing; without minimizing the skill or danger involved in riding, he says, “You could take the top 20 jockeys in America, switch them on all their mounts, and the races would come out the same.” That's an example of his contrarian thinking. In fact, he says, “That's what you have to do to succeed in a marketplace of opinions.” He notes that at the track, for example, if you always bet the favorite, you'll win one-third of the time, but predictably lose at least 10 percent of your stake in the long run.

Over the years, Crist has heard every theory under the sun on how to bet horses, but has seen no secret formula for success. “There are a hundred little things going on,” he says. “But the most important single piece of information is how fast a horse can run from point A to point B.”

~CRAIG LAMBERT

Vote Now

THIS SPRING, alumni can choose five new Harvard Overseers and six new directors for the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) board. Ballots will be mailed out by April 1 and are due back in Cambridge by noon on May 21 to be counted. Election results will be announced at the HAA's annual meeting on May 27, on the afternoon of Commencement day. All holders of Harvard degrees, except Corporation members and officers of instruction and government, are entitled to vote for Overseer candidates. The election for HAA directors is open to all Harvard degree-holders.

For Overseer (six-year term), the candidates are:

Cheryl Dorsey '85, M.D. '91, M.P.P. '92, New York City. President, Echoing Green.

Joseph Fuller '79, M.B.A. '81, Cambridge. Cofounder, vice chairman, and CEO, Monitor Group.

David Heyman '83, London, film producer.

Walter Isaacson '74, Washington, D.C. CEO, The Aspen Institute.

Nicholas Kristof '82, New York City. Columnist, the *New York Times*.

Karen Nelson Moore '70, J.D. '73, Cleveland. U.S. Circuit judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Diana Nelson '84, San Francisco. Director, Carlson Companies, Inc.

David Tang '75, Seattle. Managing Partner, Asia K&L Gates.

For Elected Director (three-year term), the candidates are:

Kenneth Bartels '73, M.B.A. '76, New York City. President and CEO, Paxton Properties, Inc.

Roger Fairfax Jr. '94, J.D. '98, Washington, D.C. Law professor, George Washington University Law School.

Mark Fusco '83, M.B.A. '90, Westwood, Massachusetts. CEO, Aspen Tech.

Lindsay Hyde '04, Boston. Founder and president, Strong Women, Strong Girls.

M. Margaret Kemeny '68, New York City. Professor of surgery, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, chief of surgical oncology, and director of the Queens Cancer Center.

George Newhouse Jr. '76, Los Angeles. Partner, Brown, White & Newhouse, LLP.

Reynaldo Valencia, J.D. '90, San Antonio. Associate dean for administration and

finance; professor of corporate and securities law, St. Mary's University School of Law.

Victoria Wells Wulsin '75, M.P.H. '82, D.P.H. '85, Cincinnati. Physician, Mid-City Pediatrics.

Irene Wu '91, Washington, D.C. Director of international research, U.S. Federal Communications Commission; adjunct professor, Georgetown University.

Harvard Serves

DURING APRIL, the University community—in Greater Boston and around the globe alike—are invited to participate in the Harvard Alumni Association's public service initiative, “Harvard Serves.” Inspired by President Drew Faust's exhortation to apply “our knowledge to help advance the well-being of people in the world beyond our walls,” the HAA hopes to mobilize all 300,000 alumni worldwide, and the extended Harvard family, to volunteer our time and efforts in our own communities.

Events will be organized through local Harvard Clubs, Shared Interest Groups (SIGs), and individual classes; organizers will choose one or more dates during the month of April for their service opportunity. If you would like to get involved, e-mail harvardserver@post.harvard.edu. A full list of service opportunities and specific dates of projects in your area will be available at alumni.harvard.edu on March 1.

Alumni Awards

THE HAA CLUBS and SIGs Committee Awards honor individuals who provide exemplary service to a Harvard Club or Shared Interest Group, as well as to clubs and SIGs that have organized exceptional programming. Awards were presented to the following recipients at the HAA Board of Directors winter meeting on February 4.

Jake Arbes '73, of Atlanta. As president of the Harvard Club of Georgia, Arbes has helped the club grow substantially, both financially and socially. Club events, ranging from public-service projects to recent graduate dinners, have attracted more than 100 local alumni. Arbes has also bolstered the club's relationship with the HAA, partnering on programs such as the HAA Global Networking Night, the HAA Global Day of Service, and Early College Awareness.

Anne M. Dewez, M.B.A. '81, of Monaco. Since she assumed the presidency of the Harvard Club of Monaco in 2005, Dewez has demonstrated leadership by maintaining high-level programs while working with other regional university clubs to create joint activities that benefit all area alumni. In 2008, she also developed and organized an event that brought together 175 local high-school students with representatives from Harvard, Amherst, and the University of Pennsylvania to learn about attending college in the United States.

See-Yan Lin, M.P.A. '70, Ph.D. '77, of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As HAA regional director for Asia for 12 years, Lin has helped create a strong network of Harvard clubs. He is the founding deputy president for the Association of Harvard University Alumni Clubs of Asia (AHUACA), and he has played a pivotal role in organizing several Asian club conferences. He has also served as president of the Harvard Club of Malaysia since 2002, and was deputy president from 1983 to 2002. In addition, Lin has been a leader within the Harvard Graduate School Alumni Council, serving as the chair, 2002-2005.

The Harvard Arab Alumni Associa-

tion, founded in 2001, has more than 500 members who span five decades and represent nearly every school at the University. HAAA's goal is one of inclusiveness and cooperation; it seeks to build bridges by bringing together the intellectual capability, innovation, and creativity from the University with the richness and diversity of the Arab world. The organization holds annual conferences, in both Cambridge and the Middle East, which unite students and alumni with world-renowned experts in a unique forum focusing on a wide range of topics. The 2009 conference in Cairo, entitled "The Arab World: Shaping the Future" (see "Cairo Conference," September-October

2009, page 63), drew more than 200 people.

The Harvard Club of Phoenix serves 2,000 alumni in metropolitan and rural areas. During the last four years, the club has reinvigorated itself, holding 22 events last year, including a day of public-service work at a local food bank, and evenings with guests ranging from Bass professor of government Michael Sandel to Arizona state legislators. Its schools and scholarships committee conducted 325 interviews for applicants to the College class of 2013 and, as a way to bolster membership, the club has instituted a "one thing" policy through which each board member makes one significant contribution to the organization every year.

A Special Notice Regarding Commencement Exercises

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Morning Exercises

To accommodate the increasing number of those wishing to attend Harvard's Commencement Exercises, the following guidelines are proposed to facilitate admission into Tercentenary Theatre on Commencement Morning:

- Degree candidates will receive a limited number of tickets to Commencement. Parents and guests of degree candidates must have tickets, which they will be required to show at the gates in order to enter Tercentenary Theatre. Seating capacity is limited, however there is standing room on the Widener steps and at the rear and sides of the Theatre for viewing the exercises.

Note: A ticket allows admission into the Theatre, but does not guarantee a seat. Seats can not be reserved. The sale of Commencement tickets is prohibited.

- Alumni/ae attending their reunions (25th, 35th, 50th) will receive tickets at their reunions. Alumni/ae in classes beyond the 50th may obtain tickets from the College Alumni Programs Office of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA), 124 Mount Auburn Street, sixth floor, Cambridge 02138; 617-495-2555; or through the annual Tree Spread mailing sent out in March.

- Alumni/ae from non-major reunion years and their spouses are requested to view the Morning Exercises over large-screen televisions in the Science Center, and at designated locations in most of the undergraduate Houses and graduate and professional schools. These locations provide ample seating, and tickets are not required.

Afternoon Exercises

The Annual Business Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association convenes in Tercentenary Theatre on Commencement afternoon. All alumni and alumnae, faculty, students, parents, and guests are invited to attend and hear Harvard's president and featured Commencement speaker deliver their addresses. Tickets for the afternoon ceremony will be available through the HAA, 124 Mount Auburn Street, sixth floor, Cambridge 02138.

~Jacqueline A. O'Neill, University Marshal

Comings and Goings

Harvard clubs offer a variety of social and intellectual events around the country. For information on upcoming programs, contact your local club directly; call the HAA at 617-495-3070; or visit www.alumni.harvard.edu. Below is a partial list of early spring happenings.

On March 12, the **Harvard Club of Sarasota** offers "Did the Reset Button Work?" with Carol Saivetz, associate of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. On March 25, Shattuck professor of government Paul Peterson discusses "Saving Schools: From Horace Mann to Virtual Learning" with members of the **Harvard Club of Seattle**. On March 28, the **Harvard Club of Broward County** explores the question, "Was the Obama Campaign a Social Movement?" with Timothy McCarthy, lecturer on history and literature and public policy director of the Hu-

man Rights and Social Movements Program at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. McCarthy also visits with members of the **Harvard Club of Long Island** to explore "Teaching History and Changing Society" on April 18.

On April 21, Marshall Goldman, senior scholar at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, talks about "Putin, Petroleum, Power, and Patronage" at the **Harvard Club of Minnesota**. "Coping Strategies for Optimal Aging" is the topic led by clinical instructor in psychology Douglas Powell on April 21 at the **Harvard Club of Southern California**. The following night, at the **Harvard Club of Georgia**, former Starr professor of Hebrew literature James Kugal talks about "The Bible and Its Interpreters." On April 28, the **Harvard Club of Northeast Ohio** considers "The Biology of Circadian Rhythms: Sleep, Jet Lag, and Resetting Your Clock" with J. Woodland Hastings, Mangelsdorf professor of natural sciences.