

of Burden Hall (designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson '27, B.Arch. '43), will now run to 140,000 square feet. The "gateway" administrative office building closest to Barry's Corner, nearest the intersection of Western Avenue and North Harvard Street, has expanded from 200,000 to 300,000 square feet. And a slightly larger renovation of and addition to Harvard Stadium, it is now reported, will result in a net reduction of approximately 8,000 seats. These projects, together with Allston campus work already underway or approved (including a science complex now designated as a new home for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; a campus-services facility at 28 Travis Street; and the Barry's Corner housing and retail development slated for groundbreaking later this year) will result in the creation of 2,350 construction jobs, according to Harvard's estimates.

The IMP also sketches Harvard's long-term vision for its Allston campus, which—while in no way binding—would in future decades transform the area from paved, vehicular-oriented, industrial and commercial uses to others that promote the typologies of Harvard Square and its environs, with walkable green spaces, numerous transit options, retail districts centered on road intersections—and, of course, permeable, shady quadrangles with many substantial academic buildings.

"This comprehensive plan will expand Harvard's academic presence in Allston and build upon the shared goal of extending community programming, improving infrastructure and the public realm, and creating a new nexus where campus and community meet," said a news release from the office of executive vice president Katie Lapp, who oversees Allston work. "The plan includes... projects that support academics, research, executive education, assembly, office, hospitality, retail, culture, and housing." University officials hope to gain BRA approval for the projects sometime this fall.

Some Harvard-Allston Task Force members have expressed concern about Harvard's plans: they worry that the Barry's Corner project will not become the community hub the University is promising; that the new development will increase traffic in the area; and that the new parking lots, particularly on North Harvard Street behind the proposed "gateway" administrative office building, will be unsightly. "For

15 years this has been held out by Harvard and the city as being this wonderful, thriving town center of our community which has never had such a town center," said Task Force member and longtime Allston resident Harry Mattison in a recent interview. "Harvard's idea of Barry's Corner is a basketball arena, some sort of office building, a giant parking lot....None of those things are going to make this area great. None of them will make this area even good." Residents have asked Harvard, before construction, to address questions about retail and cultural amenities, transportation (including residents' use of the Harvard shuttle service), parking, housing affordability, and public-space planning, as well as about promised "transformative community projects," slated for discussion in August meetings as this magazine went to press.

As Mayor Thomas Menino prepares to leave office, developers rushing to take advantage of the improved economic environment and strong local demand for housing are "lining up to seek key approvals for billions of dollars of mega projects before the election of a new mayor who could upend or delay their plans," according to a July *Boston Globe* report. Boston's

mayor and the BRA exercise significant control over development approvals. Harvard's Allston plans have been prepared and reviewed by the community for several years, and are following a long-established timetable; even so, the IMP review will take place in the context of this development boom and the first change in the mayor's office in two decades. (Menino was awarded an honorary degree at Commencement this past May.)

Harvard officials have previously stressed that the IMP projects would be complementary to the University's aspirations for Barry's Corner. "We will be working very hard in our planning to make sure the ground plan, pathways, and streets work to connect these projects effectively to Barry's Corner so that it is an intuitive connection," Harvard's director of physical planning, Harris Band, said in October 2012, adding: "This is a very diverse variety of projects in terms of use, including executive education, classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, a hotel and conference center, housing, retail, and other ground-floor uses and open space. That variety is very important because it combines to make for a very dynamic area."

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## THE UNDERGRADUATE

# Dear Younger Self

by CHERONE DUGGAN '14

SINCE I WAS very young, I've routinely wished that my future self could give me advice. Despite having some doubts about how stable selves are over time, it's something that I still wish for, from time to time—mostly when I'm anxious, upset, bored, or overly philosophical. And as of this column's writing I'm simmering in pre-senior-year, pre-"real-life" thoughts and plans that have put me in a particularly time-travel and advicey mood. So, though my time-travel advice can only be given fictively to myself in the past, these are the thoughts I wish I had been able to share with my 18-year-old off-to-college self:

1. **Learning:** Realize what kind of learn-

ing you like. For me, at least, the *kind* determined the *topic*. I'm bad at doing problem sets, I don't like exams, and I feel no personal obligation to, or connection with, my professor or teaching fellow when I'm in large classes—and therefore don't do my work (see upcoming: Statistics 104, sophomore spring). So I take small, writing-heavy classes (see: two-person freshman seminar). The sooner you realize that this is how you and I work, the better.

Everything finally clicked for me when I realized that professors are really more important than the subject matter. I read some great books, and looked up the authors. A lot of the time, those authors are

Harvard professors. Take their classes (see: historian of science Steven Shapin, with whom I took a class junior spring). If the authors of the thoughts or books you love aren't currently living, or aren't currently living Harvard professors, take classes in which they are read. Or make up an independent study and create your own syllabus that includes them. Better yet, just read them when you should be doing other, less interesting things.

Talk to your professors, teaching fellows, and fellow students not just as a *student*, but as the *person* you are. They really are quite personable. Go to office hours with life-questions, not just course-related questions. The relationships you have with people will be more important to you, and to me, than any relationship we have with a grade or a prize. That means learning isn't academic. It's summers. It's jobs. It's awkward situations. But mostly, it's people. For thoughts and people are the stuff time and life are made of, at least for me. Intertwine them.

**2. Living situations:** Don't, however, get too emotionally intertwined in these. They can be fun, and they can be flops. If you temper your expectations, though, they can be perfectly comfortable. Whatever it is that you want in a roommate at any particular time will change. I've found that it's almost better to room with people you're not completely emotionally invested in as friends. Try to be the type of roommate you would like to have (see: mirror). If your definition of that matches your roommates' definitions, stay with them and be happy. If not, it's better to change your behavior, your thoughts, or your rooming situation if something really isn't working out.

Time away, both from solitude and from company, is good. Talking, instead of internal-mulling, is also good.

Not taking yourself too seriously is even better. So is giving people the benefit of the doubt, as well as benefiting from your own (see: "A Perforating Doubt," January-February, page 56).

**3. Money:** Try to have some. Also, try to make some. It's generally useful—but shouldn't be the main criterion for anything. You really don't need much. Library desk-jobs are great (see: unwittingly shrewd job decision, freshman spring). My job makes me go to the library at certain times during the week, and makes me stay there. This has done wonders for my personal, academic, and fiscal productivity. Try always to have enough money in our account for a last-minute return ticket home, or a medical emergency—just in case (see: the bad-tooth crisis, freshman fall). Fellowships are also great. Apply for them. Also, please, I beg of you—buy a good coat, good shoes, and at least one great dress—you will need them. You should also try not to drink up or eat up too much of our money. Instead, save it for me!

**4. Friends:** People are, simultaneously, the best and worst parts of life. Much like roommateships, the best friendships develop between people who have symmetrical feelings and connections in one, or many, moments. These symmetries can overlap for minutes, for months, or for what-seem-like-forevers. Each type of overlap is valuable. And sometimes, these symmetries take round or pointy shapes. You'll decide which shapes are the most enduring and beautiful, though—and they can and will change, as you (and times) do. Also, the pop-culture definition of friends being plentiful, steadfast, and of-the-same-age-group as you isn't necessarily true. My host parents have been some of the best friends I've ever found (see: "My Families," May-June, page 52). I've also been surprised by which people I've stayed close to from high school, and through college—sometimes, they've been the people I've least expected.

Your best friends are ones you can be silent with and still feel comfortable (see: siblings). Make sure you can be silent with

yourself, too. But not always: Asking things of yourself, and others, is the best skill you can cultivate. People can't read minds (and you certainly can't read mine). So, when something goes wrong, or when you'd like something to go right—ask your friends for help. Much of the time they can, will, and love to give it.

**5. Love:** (See: above comments about roommates and friends, amplified.) Love is not just a quality that naturally springs from romantic or semi-romantic situations. It's what you and I feel for our family and the people, activities, and thoughts in our lives that make us feel honest. When I realized this, I began to think differently about what I did with my time and the people I was surrounding myself



Illustration by Dan Page



with. Deciding to be around people who love something—*anything*—passionately, makes caring for them and their cares a contagion. In terms of the physical and the purely whimsical, have fun, but make sure to cover your drinks at parties (see: sophomore summer). And, not being in any romantic relationship is better than being in a bad or draining one (see: well—she'll know it when she sees it). Remember that crushes flatten, and that most of the time, there's no predicting what will happen. So don't take things too seriously. You're young—and anyway, you know very little about how I will feel about things. Try to take an educated guess. But don't be certain—because you aren't. Then again, if you think you really love something, or like someone, just go for it. See what happens.

6. **The Future:** For a period, I was pretty worried about what the future held for us, and how badly I was directing myself toward it. But then I figured: the future is not something that will happen to me, helplessly. It's something I'll live—not as another, better person who does all the things I'd like to be able to do, like getting up early, or being an extrovert—but as myself. Realizing which parts of you, and me, I can and cannot change has been important in terms of guessing what will make our future whole and better (at least, the part of your future I've lived so far). I'm still learning those things.

In the meantime, just do things you like, and do them well, according to your own standards. Then, you'll get to where I am and realize that the present doesn't have to come from the past or the fu-

## Fresh Fellows

**Harvard Magazine's** Berta Greenwald Ledecy Undergraduate Fellows for the 2013-2014 academic year will be Noah Pisner '14 and Jessica C. Salley '14—selected from among nearly two dozen applicants. The fellows join the editorial staff and contribute to the magazine during the year, writing the "Undergraduate" column and reporting for both the print publication and [harvardmagazine.com](http://harvardmagazine.com), among other responsibilities.

Pisner, of Fairfax, Virginia, and Winthrop House, transferred to the College following a year at the University of Southern California, where he studied cinema and television production. In Cambridge, he is concentrating in social studies, with a focus in international law and development, and pursuing a secondary field in English. He serves as a features writer for *The Harvard Advocate* and as an executive editor of *The Harvard Crimson's* magazine *Fifteen Minutes*. He spent the summer working as an editorial intern at *McSweeney's* in San Francisco and doing thesis research in southern India.

Salley, of Covington, Louisiana, and Dunster House, is concentrating in Near Eastern languages and civilizations and history, and expects to earn a language citation in Turkish. Outside the classroom, she is the multimedia chair of the *Crimson* and writes for *Fifteen Minutes*. During the summer, she conducted archival research for her senior thesis in Turkey before traveling to Armenia and Georgia to work on an archaeological field project.

The fellowships are supported by Jonathan J. Ledecy '79, M.B.A. '83, and named in honor of his mother. For updates on past Ledecy Fellows and links to their work, see <http://harvardmagazine.com/donate/ledecy-fellowships>.



Noah Pisner and Jessica C. Salley

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ture—but from an intertwining of both. Make yourself that intertwine. Don't get caught up in the mistakes or pressures of the past or the present, or the invisible, looming future ones I'll surely make. Even the darkest of them fade. Let them. Then, you can just be happy with

yourself, and you and I will reunite again. Then, we'll conquer time. ♡

*Cherone Duggan '14 is a rising senior and former Berta Greenwald Ledecy Undergraduate Fellow at the magazine. She would like to thank Cameron Rejali '82 for sharing his kind words of advice.*

### SPORTS

# Scrum, Rucks, Mauls

*Varsity rugby for women begins a new era in Crimson sports.*

**R**UGBY HAS its own language. Even if you haven't watched a full match (80 minutes, in two 40-minute halves), you may be familiar with the *scrum*, a fun word to say, and, for the uninitiated, a bizarre phenomenon to watch: players link arms, bow their heads,

and push forward against a likewise engaged opposing team, all the while attempting to gain control of the ball (a chunkier, more ovoid version of a football) with their feet. It looks like a mindless people pile-up. But it's not, as Sue Parker, Harvard's first coach of varsity women's rugby, can explain.

"There is an element of brute force," concedes Parker, who most recently coached the women's rugby team at the U.S. Naval Academy. "But you'd be surprised—there's also tremendous technique involved. At Navy, we were a smaller team than a lot of those we played against. But if you have strong fundamentals, a less powerful scrum can still win the ball."

That's rugby in a nutshell—a contact sport played without padding that rewards sheer strength while demanding the technical skills of passing, kicking, carrying, and tackling in pursuit of a *try*, the five-point equivalent of football's six-point touchdown. (Kicking the ball through the goalposts will earn two more points for a