

have an extensive new quadrangle east of Spangler Center—and the makings of a new roadway along the southern edge of its campus. Its extension west will accommodate the sites for future HBS academic buildings, according to its campus plan.

Nor do those projects exhaust sidewalk superintendents' opportunities in Allston. Scaffolding is going up for the beginning of the four-year renovation of the Soldiers Field Park graduate-student housing complex at the eastern edge of HBS's campus. And work was well under way this spring to install the "life lab," a temporary, modular facility, complementing the iLab complex on Western Avenue, where entrepreneurs will have access to wet labs and related biology facilities. The Klarman, housing, and lab projects together represent another \$370 million of anticipated construction investments. ~J.S.R.

The Art and Science of Class Scheduling

ORGANIZING the science complex has been protracted, but scheduling undergraduate classes on both sides of the Charles once the SEAS complex opens may prove harder. The shortest pedestrian route runs 1.5 miles from the science facilities in the North Yard to the future Allston classrooms and labs. Given the logistical difficulties of crossing Soldiers Field Road on the lone footbridge (which is *not* accessible to people with disabilities), and the traffic-choked vehicular link from John F. Kennedy Street to North Harvard Street (which lies between Harvard Business School and the athletic facilities), it is no surprise that the Allston planners' Class Scheduling Task Force has been at work since 2012. Its co-chair, dean of undergraduate education Jay M. Harris, reported to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) in April.

He outlined solutions that would *standardize class lengths* in 75-minute chunks (which could be combined for seminars, studios, labs, and so on); *expand the pass time* between classes from five minutes to 15; and *stagger starting times* for the first class each day, so that Cambridge courses might begin 30 or 45 minutes earlier than those in Allston—creating, with the pass times, 45- to 75-minute transit times between the classes on the other side of the river.

As the faculty mulls these possibilities, Harris also raised multiple other schedul-

HARVARD PORTRAIT



Dustin Tingley

Dustin Tingley is less interested in political personalities than in the mechanisms that animate politics. His new book, *Sailing the Water's Edge*, is a deep, quantitative dive into how the structure of American government influences U.S. relationships with other countries. That isn't to say he's uninterested in the here-and-now impact of his work: "There are presidential candidates who imply they're willing to carpet-bomb vast portions of the world," he says gravely. He sees engaging with the public as a mandate of his role. Tingley has studied everything from climate change to olfactory cues in mating to negotiations between young children, his disparate interests unified by his "obsession" with data, statistics, and disentangling cause and effect. "There are politics on the playground," he says, "and there are politics in the forums of the United Nations." Named a professor of government last fall, he contributes his empirical instincts elsewhere, too, leading the University's outcomes-based research for HarvardX on the science of learning. Between college at the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. from Princeton, Tingley taught high-school math and history, unsure if he would become a career academic. There were times when he wanted to be an environmental advocate, he remembers, or a music producer. But did he have any doubts about his path while in graduate school? "Very few," he answers. These days, between his work and family (he has a two-year-old son), Tingley has less time for the guitar, an old passion. He's played in a mix of bands—rock, jazz, experimental—but has never taken to formal lessons. "They always wanted me to read music," he jokes, "and I didn't really want to."

~MARINA BOLOTNIKOVA



College classes will cross the Charles.

ing issues. Most formal instruction has been jammed into the prime hours from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and largely from Monday to Thursday, imposing conflicts that limit many students' course options. Standardizing class lengths and starting times, building in periods for seminars and other extended instruction, and decompressing the midday clustering of courses—perhaps even truncating the beloved three-day weekend—hold the promise of maximizing students' educational choices; accommo-

dating professors' needs; and relieving conflicts over access to suitable teaching spaces.

Whether the faculty as a whole will accept the changes necessary to effect such improvements is uncertain (as is students' willingness to acknowledge, as Harris put it, that "the adult day doesn't begin at noon"). But Harris said FAS would ideally consider a formal legislative proposal and accompanying rules this fall—along with airing of norms, culture, and other issues important for effective implementation. If enacted during the 2016-2017 academic year, the registrar's office could begin reprogramming its information systems, redrafting the faculty and student handbooks, making room assignments, and so on. Then, during the 2018 spring semester, professors would schedule their 2018-2019 classes, effective with that year's fall term (when the new under-

graduate General Education requirements are also likely to take effect—yet another significant challenge). That would be a sufficient runway, Harris thought, to test and adjust the system before engineering and applied sciences classes begin in Allston in 2020.

Amusing though all this may sound, it is educationally consequential. More rational scheduling enables students to assemble desired courses of study. And making the trans-Charles logistics work as SEAS brings 17 classrooms on line, and accommodates burgeoning cohorts of concentrators, is essential if the College—in keeping with its fundamental value of providing an undergraduate education in the liberal arts—is not to separate engineers from other students.

For a full discussion of these issues, including the minute, but meaningful, details of the scheduling proposals, see harvardmag.com/allstonclasses-16. ~J.S.R.

University People

Honored Professors

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences has conferred Harvard College Professorships, its highest honor for teaching excellence (a five-year honorary title, accompanied by supplementary research funding), on David Charbonneau, professor of astronomy; Marla Frederick, professor of African and African American studies and of religion; Shigehisa Kuriyama, Reischauer Institute professor of cultural history (chair of East Asian languages and civilizations, and a faculty sponsor of the Early Sciences Working Group in the



David Charbonneau

history of science department); Ann Pearson, Ross professor of environmental sciences; and Salil P. Vadhan, Joseph professor of computer science and applied mathematics. The Roslyn Abramson Award for outstanding undergraduate teaching was conferred on Kirsten Weld, assistant professor of history, and Leah Whittington, assistant professor of English.



Salil P. Vadhan

Students' Choice

The Undergraduate Council selected the following to receive its Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize for excellence in teaching College students: Joseph Blitzstein, professor of the practice in statistics; Roger Porter, faculty dean of Dunster House and IBM professor of business and government; and Tess Wise, teaching fellow in government. The Council's John R. Marquand Prize for exceptional advising and counseling was awarded to James Biblarz, tutor in Eliot House; Judith Flynn, Allston



Roger Porter



CURRIER HOUSE CHIEFS: Latanya Sweeney, professor of government and technology in residence, and attorney Sylvia Barrett, A.L.B. '95, have been appointed faculty deans of Currier House (the first leaders appointed to that post since the title was changed from House master). The couple, who met at MIT as undergraduates and subsequently founded a computer company together, have a son, Leonard, who is eight years old. They succeed Moore professor of biological anthropology Richard W. Wrangham and Elizabeth Ross, who stepped down after eight years of service at Currier.