

Harvard-Cambridge

Spring 2017
hcscholarships@gmail.com

Scholarships

2016-2017 H-C Scholars Report from Cambridge



H-C Scholars Alona Bach, Tamara Fernando, Ramya Rangan, and Vivek Banerjee

Speechless

Alona Bach, Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar, was crowned King of England in February. Luckily for the British people, this coronation took place onstage and will definitely have no measurable effect on British governance, something which would be especially unfortunate given this young (female) Edward III's American accent and tendency to speak only in Marlovian verse. Alona's unexpected regnal promotion followed an eventful Michaelmas term, in which the defiant act of burying her brother Polyneices resulted in her being imprisoned and sentenced to death in the basement of Pembroke College/Thebes. (Thankfully, she made it out of the theatre unscathed and was even able to complete her coursework.) She has also accumulated ticket stubs from a range of shows, including a site-specific performance in a biology lab, two different versions of *King Lear*, *Ivanov* at the National Theatre (with Ramya and Tamara!), and an opera in Cambridge's Round Church.

Outside of theatres, Alona has spotted living Fly Agarics on the History and Philosophy of Science Department's annual Fungus Hunt in Bradfield Woods, lit Chanuka candles in York, roamed around Bath, Sabbath-ed in Sheffield, gone undercover in Bletchley Park, admired the architecture in Bristol, stood in the middle of massive stone circles in Avesbury, and paid homage to the Brontës in Haworth. She has also hopped north to hear Bruno Latour speak in Edinburgh, embarrassed herself in a contact improv class in Amsterdam, and still never visited Girton.

After poring over a beautifully decorated 1868 edition of *British Mosses* (not British Moses, a typo which featured prominently in early drafts of an essay about said book), Alona has a newfound appreciation for the varieties of moss that can be found on Cambridge's pavements, walls, and fences. Surprisingly, on the other hand, a workshop on book production at the Whipple Library (featuring such treasures as first editions of Hooke's *Micrographia* and Newton's *Principia*) has made Alona remarkably level-headed about handling 17th century manuscripts. (This is a sentence she never thought she'd write.)

Sometimes Alona is overwhelmed by the wonder of her surroundings and forgets how to speak, bringing the number of people to seriously ask her if she understood English to a healthy two.

A Tale of Two Eras

After accidentally shattering the spanking new basin in his room just two weeks into his Michaelmas term, Governor William Shirley Scholar **Vivek Banerjee** splits his time at Cambridge into two eras – BS (Before Sink) and AS (After Sink).

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From midnight Christmas mass at St. Paul's Cathedral in London to tri-weekly trips to the Fitzwilliam Museum, the rest of his adventures have been just as memorable, yet – thankfully – a tad less dramatic.

When Vivek is not hunched over seventeenth century texts or texts about seventeenth century texts, he is often looking up. He thinks Cambridge is a town whose ceilings are unparalleled and whose impressive vaulting more than makes up for its cloudy days.

At Pembroke Vivek has tried his foot at football, successfully introduced a few Brits to the American totem of the red plastic cup, strengthened his love of libraries, and developed a taste for port and Latin benedictions.

Over the Christmas holiday Vivek was lucky enough to visit Sicily, Paris, and London. His favorite moments included visits to several sites where the literal layering of history was visible – a church-mosque-cathedral in Palermo, a temple-church-mosque-church-cathedral in Siracusa – as well as an unexpected performance from an American high school marching band on the Champs-Élysées on New Year's Day. Vivek has collectively spent over a month in England's capital, as he requires the occasional jolt of the tube alongside the serenity of Cambridge to function.

Vivek hopes to go down as one of the great walkers of Cambridge. He spends a good deal of his down time ambling about the colleges, occasionally in search of VHS tapes for the Samsung Combi-Vision left in his Pembroke room. After a fortuitous discussion at the third charity shop he visited on his quest, Vivek was pleasantly surprised to find that the Salvation Army on Mill Road is a treasure trove for 50p Disney films.

This year has been one of contemplation and true freedom above all else for Vivek. And though he does not always find self-reflection relaxing, he wouldn't have it any other way.

Real History

John Eliot Scholar **Tamara Fernando** enjoys feeling like a real historian at Cambridge, poring over dusty old books at the British Library or in the old college libraries. She enjoys seeing the physical remnants of 17th century religious history all around her (ask her how the interiors of the college chapels have changed over the centuries) and consulting primary sources first-hand rather than relying on scanned copies (as she did at undergrad).

While her dissertation pertains to English history, Tamara's been (anecdotally) focusing on Sri Lankan history as well. For example, because she grew up in a former tea-growing colony, she expected that parts of English culture would be familiar to her. Instead, it turns out that drinking "loose leaf tea" is a cardinal sin, more so if you drink it black (which seems even more egregious to her than the prolific use of the word "faff").

Additionally, continuing her colonial (culinary?) explorations, a serendipitous foray into a cafe in Lisbon ("Pasteis de Belem" – highly recommended!) revealed to her the origin of all her favourite Sri Lankan baked goods.

December gave Tamara a change to travel to Spain and Portugal, and lose herself in all things Andalusian – wine, dance and architecture, anyone? Spending Christmas in Bath meant that she could explore "West Country" England. This mostly consisted of Banksy in Bristol, and charming English towns with delicious sounding names (See: Devizes, Wells and Lacock in Wiltshire and Somerset county).

When she isn't losing herself in the extensive library left in her room by former scholars (she is currently reading one of several Isaac Newton biographies), Tamara ventures out on weekend trips to Belfast, Ireland, and Calais with a refugee volunteer group. She enjoys rowing with the Jesus Boatclub and exploiting every available student deal to see shows in London. She continues to toil away at the task of visiting every museum in London.

Breathing Room

Lt. Charles H. Fiske III Scholar **Ramya Rangan** has encountered a bit of a problem: She never wants to leave Cambridge. It might have been reasonable to ask her to leave if there were somewhere else like Cambridge, but that's not looking likely. Where else in the world could you attend a wine tasting where you learn about how fine wines are like a firm couch rather than a beanbag chair, hearing from a fellow whose sole job it is to curate the college's wine collection? Where else in the world would you ride a bike with heels, a black cape of a gown, and an overfull backpack as you rush your way to a formal dinner (as a tip – if you do this, the gown gets stuck in the bike, and you fall not-so-gracefully in front of a mass of tourists)? Where else would you see a room featuring furniture that really only could ever be in a dorm room, juxtaposed with Harvard plaques and prints that could only be in a museum?

For all of its absurdity, one thing about Cambridge has become clear: It is always presenting you with something new to try to learn from, while giving you the breathing room to soak it all in. Ramya's studies with the MPhil in Computational Biology have introduced her to subfields she had never heard about before, like population genetics and computational neuroscience, and to classmates whose expertise ranges from theoretical physics to evolutionary biology. The talks have left her feeling like a kid in a candy store – on a single day last term, she heard about the design of new flu vaccines, recent research on police body cameras, and lessons from the economic crisis of 2008.

Cambridge has given Ramya the freedom to try things she hadn't imagined herself doing even a couple months ago. Inexplicably, she has become more involved with American

politics across the pond than she ever was at home (though, perhaps this really isn't surprising at all given what we've witnessed over the past couple months...). Ramya has started being more active (to the shock of everyone who knows her) by rock climbing, running, and of course, biking. She has acquainted herself with British humor through first-time viewings of Monty Python films and Hot Fuzz, and she is now trying to embody this humor by embarrassing herself at improv workshops.

If Ramya really does have to leave next year, there are a few redeeming factors. She will be well rested after a year that was filled with friends, travel, and learning. She will return to the US with vibrant memories of her year abroad – that one time she sat next to Master Gregory Winter for formal dinner, the sea-side cliff walk in Howthe by Dublin, the drive back home from Calais with a smashed car window. And with the new friends she's made, she'll always have a friendly firm couch (as in – the makeshift bed and the fine wine) waiting for her in countries around the world. ■

A Former H-C Scholar Gives Back: The John Harvard Visiting Professorship

In 2016, Harvard welcomed Simon Goldhill, Professor of Greek Literature and Culture and first holder of the John Harvard Visiting Professorship. The professorship, established in 2013, was made possible by the generosity of Robert C. 'Peter' Milton, Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar at Emmanuel in 1956. It builds on the strong longstanding relationship between the Universities of Cambridge and Harvard and is intended to support interdisciplinary research into problems of pressing modern relevance. According to Peter Milton, "Among other things I wanted to celebrate the recent Harvard graduates who go to Cambridge each year on the Harvard-Cambridge Scholarships."

Over his five-year term as John Harvard Professor, Dr. Goldhill hopes to create "a fresh sort of debate" about the Middle East. Convening small groups of academics and policy makers for focused, two-day meetings on issues of major importance to the region – such as civic infrastructure, water resources, and democracy – the goal is to promote a dialogue that transcends the usual politics of this famously conflicted part of the world. Ideally, such exchanges "will eventually produce material that will change other people's minds too."

Profile: Lincoln Caplan, 1972 Lionel de Jersey Scholar

As Harvard-Cambridge scholar at Emmanuel College in 1972-1973, Lincoln Caplan counted his accomplishments modest: He got a telephone installed in the Harvard rooms and convinced Emma's senior tutor to let him hold the first all-night, co-ed party at Cambridge so that the Americans in town could watch Nixon beat McGovern in that year's presidential election. Otherwise, he often shut the outer door to his rooms and tapped away on his Olivetti typewriter, working to improve his prose.

At the time, the idea of writing for a living was "a dream" for him. He didn't realize how strong it was until he graduated from law school, clerked for a judge, and did "a few other things." Today, Caplan is a Senior Research Scholar and the Truman Capote Visiting Lecturer in Law at Yale Law

School where he teaches a writing seminar called "The Art of Argument." He has published six books about the Supreme Court and legal affairs in general, is a regular contributor to the *New Yorker* website, and has been on the editorial board of or contributed to numerous other publications, including the *American Scholar*, *Harvard Magazine*, and the *New York Times*.

Caplan's latest book, *American Justice 2016: The Political Supreme Court*, which is dedicated to Rob Shapiro, the other Harvard-Cambridge scholar in '72-'73, came out at the height of last year's tumultuous election season. It describes a Court that has become "a product of politics and a vital forum for resolving major political issues, with justices regularly casting votes that are best explained by their political beliefs." Caplan warns that

the growing politicization of the Court represents an "ominous failure" for an institution than is at the pinnacle of our constitutional system – one that further erodes Americans' trust in their government and that only the justices themselves can rectify.

Caplan has also written presciently about the potential consequences of an increasing concentration of power in the American presidency. In a book-review published on the *New Yorker* website in May 2016, months before election day, Caplan notes the steady expansion of executive authority through consecutive administrations since the time of FDR: "In theory, Congress and the courts check and balance the President's exercise of power. In practice, there is strikingly little checking and balancing." This breakdown in the "essential mechanism"

of our system of separated powers, Caplan argues, has "resulted in executive supremacy and set the stage for the extremist Presidency."

Forty-five years ago, as a young student rambling around Cambridge, Caplan could not have predicted that he would be writing about American law, politics, and democracy at a time when all three are embattled and, because of the acute conflict in each of those realms, "fiction must hustle to keep up with reality" in describing them. But one thing is clear to Caplan in retrospect: Without that "year of grace" at Emma, when he didn't have to worry about accounting for himself and had time to work at honing his prose, he might not have tried it at all.



Community: *A Note from the Chair*

Harvard-Cambridge Scholarships

Every fall, approximately 5% of the Harvard College senior class applies for one of the four scholarships we award for a year of study at one of four colleges at Cambridge. Although the application itself is compact and efficient – a personal statement, a transcript, three letters of recommendation – we can glean a lot about our applicants from them. In a typical year, our applicants include athletes, musicians, debaters, scientists, dancers, historians, poets, and more, taking courses in dozens of different concentrations and secondary fields. They have spent their college summers in offices, labs, libraries, and excavation sites around the world. They came to Harvard from hometowns around the country and many foreign countries, and at Harvard they can be found in all of the undergraduate houses.

Two teams of readers, first independently and then together, compare their top choices and select approximately two dozen semi-finalists from the applicant pool. A different team conducts interviews of those semi-finalists and selects a dozen candidates for final-round interviews with our full Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is comprised of 18 former scholars, half of whom are rotated each year. The Committee spends four hours on a Saturday morning in February in groups of three interviewing the finalists. The interviews are followed by four to five hours of deliberations in the afternoon. Generally by 5 pm the scholarship winners have been chosen, and the Selection Committee members, eager to walk around campus (often in snow), trek to each house where the four winners live to announce the award and congratulate our scholars-elect in person.

We have no set criteria for selection: no minimum GPA, no favored concentrations, no specific academic requirements, and no requirements for extracurricular activities or work experience. Members of the ever-changing Selection Committee bring their ever-changing views to the selection process; what some former scholars think makes a candidate special and worthy of one of our scholarships might be disfavored or deemed unworthy by other former scholars. The process is truly a small-scale version of the ‘wisdom of crowds.’ I’m pretty sure that no member of the Selection Committee would independently chose the same four scholarship winners the Committee ultimately chooses each year.

Harvard and Cambridge are extraordinarily diverse communities. A graduating senior has generally had four years of exposure to foreign students and cultures.

But there are, not surprisingly, a number of things our scholarship winners have in common. Among other things, they are all superb students. They are all active and engaged members of the Harvard community. They have all impressed the Selection Committee with their resolve to pursue their interests and their passions after graduation, starting first with what we often refer to as a “year of grace” in Cambridge before their planned path narrows. And they are all interested in spending a year immersed in another culture.

Harvard and Cambridge are extraordinarily diverse communities. A graduating senior has generally had four years of exposure to foreign students and cultures. Many of our applicants are well-traveled, and many of them are themselves part of Harvard’s diversity. Yet the applications we read are filled with wishes to punt on the Cam, to hear evensong at a college chapel, to enjoy the company of friends at a pub, to explore the museums and theaters and monuments of London – in short, to experience another people, another culture, on foreign soil.

Our scholars-elect join dozens of other graduating Harvard seniors who will do the same thing – in England, or Europe, or Asia, or Latin America, or Africa. From wherever they hail, undergraduates at Harvard learn to become citizens of the world, and in awarding four of them our scholarships we allow them to build on that foundation. To read the applications, to interview the candidates, to discuss again some of the experiences we had during our own year in Cambridge, is to be reminded of the vital bridges our scholarships build not only between the two Cambridges but between the United States and the United Kingdom. Amid a lot of dispiriting current news and events concerning immigrants in the West, our four scholars-elect this year – US citizens, all – also happen to be the children or grandchildren of immigrants. The ‘wisdom of crowds’ indeed. Our scholarships support the building of both personal and institutional cultural bridges. This has been true, of course, for many years, but at a time when multiculturalism itself appears to be under attack in both the US and the UK, how welcome it is to be reminded. How fortunate we are to be able to continue to be part of that tradition.

Marc Granetz
March 2017

Summer Scholars Summary

Arriving in Cambridge just two weeks before the referendum on EU membership, **Perry Abdulkadir '18** worked with Professors Catherine Barnard and Amy Ludlow to explore a core issue in the Brexit debate – the concern that large numbers of Eastern European immigrants were taking advantage of Britain's generous welfare system. Abdulkadir's research cast doubt on this narrative: EU immigrants accounted for only a small fraction of claims, and those who did make claims were as likely to be Italian, French, or Dutch as they were to be Lithuanian, Polish, or Romanian. Moreover, there were many cases of British emigrants claiming benefits in other EU countries. After the referendum, Abdulkadir continued this research, but also studied alternative models of association between the UK and EU. A visit to a British prison with Dr. Ludlow, who studies criminology in addition to EU law, was eye opening in terms of reform possibilities in the American criminal justice system. Aside from work, Abdulkadir's adventures as a summer fellow included making friends with other Harvard and Trinity College students, exploring Cambridge, watching the UEFA Euros soccer tournament, and traveling to other parts of England and Europe, including memorable trips to Dublin, Ireland and the southern coast of England.

Annie Dai '17 spent her summer working in the Paulsen Neuronal Oscillations Lab in the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience. Her project involved studying the intricacies of Rett syndrome, a neurodevelopmental disorder in girls that leads to severe impairments similar to autism. By working with mouse models of Rett syndrome, Dai sought to identify the differences between normal and Rett syndrome mice in terms of their spontaneous brain activity. She also practiced essential lab skills and gained valuable

experience in electrophysiology and neurobiology that she hopes to apply to her future career as a physician-scientist. The lab was as diverse as it was welcoming – providing home and family, as well as inspiration and excitement. Other highlights of the summer: the superb accommodations at Park Terrace,

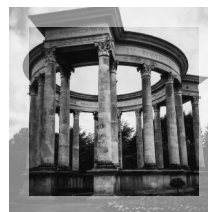
with its beautiful view of Parker's Piece; the companionship of other summer fellows; the fantastic food at Emmanuel; the fairy tale surroundings of Cambridge itself; travels in Europe and England, including two trips to Paris; and a chance to learn more about England's national healthcare system.

For **Elizabeth Keto '18**, the summer fellowship offered the chance to serve as a research assistant to Dr. Michael Banner, Dean of Studies in Theology and Religious Studies at Trinity College, on an interdisciplinary project delving into the function of images in society. Each week, Keto and Dr. Banner discussed a general question or time period to explore, such as

the development of Madonna and Child images during the Renaissance or the relationship between changes in infant mortality and images of children. Through independent study of these questions, Keto gained an education in the deepest sense of the word – one that deepened her investment in art history, confirmed her passion for the visual arts, and gave her new ways to think about images and their diverse purposes and audiences. Dr. Banner himself was a wonderful mentor, and Keto's fellow students provided new perspectives from different disciplines, many tips for making the most of college life in any country, and countless happy memories. Hours spent in museums around Europe offered firsthand knowledge of art history that would not have been accessible without the fellowship, and the experience of living abroad sparked greater independence and a strong desire to explore the world.

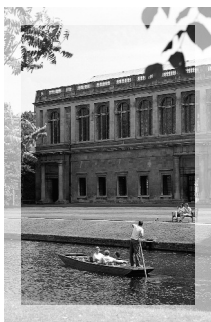
The chance to work with Simon Baron-Cohen, one of the biggest names in autism research, is what prompted **Joseph Palana '17** to apply for a H-C summer fellowship. The other draw was Cambridge itself and the chance to live someplace really new. On both counts, Palana's summer "did not disappoint." The research – involving implicit learning (i.e., learning that occurs without conscious awareness or effort) in individuals with autism spectrum condition – was very exciting and the lab environment was "beyond excellent." By the end of the summer, Palana felt completely comfortable using an EEG machine and had learned how to administer and score the WASI, a very commonly used IQ test in psychology research. Outside the lab, Palana enjoyed discovering the local charm of different book stores and coffee shops, making friends with other H-C fellows, and traveling to other places in the UK and Europe. His advice to future fellows: "Write down what you want to do with your time in Cambridge within a week or two of arriving. Your options are so vast, and the summer is so short..." That being said, "leave yourself open to spontaneity, use your list as a guideline more than something set in stone, and without any doubt you'll have a once in a lifetime experience."

Aditya Raguram '18 couldn't have predicted how much she'd love her time in England and the opportunity to study mechanisms of RNA self-polymerization at MRC Laboratory, the birthplace of modern molecular biology. Long hours carrying out various biochemical assays and lots of gel electrophoresis were made fun by her amazing labmates, who hailed from nine different countries and who together created a "super-friendly and



Memories of Cambridge

By Eleanor Parker



Governance Committee 2017

John Gilmore
Trinity '71

Robert Shapiro
Trinity '73

Scott Mead
Emmanuel '77

Marc Granetz
Emmanuel '79

Jacqueline Osherow
Trinity '79

Elisabeth Reynolds
Trinity '90

Clarence Mah
Emmanuel '93

Amanda Pustilnik
Emmanuel '00

Sarah Russell
Trinity '00

Joshua Goodman
Jesus '01

Ryan Ripple
Pembroke '06

Moir Weigel
Emmanuel '08

Jonathan Weigel
Pembroke '10

I had never heard of Oh Hell. Nor have the English, because they call it “Contract Whist.” It’s Bill Clinton’s favorite card game, and for six months in Cambridge, it was ours too.

Kevin taught me how to play, and then Theo, and I invited Frank from Pembroke. The four of us had a few raucous games at The Elm Tree before deciding it would be more economical to play in college rooms. Theo invited his friends Miriam, a singer in Trinity Choir, and Sam, who worked at The Anchor. We were three Harvard alums and three Brits, and Frank was a Brexit supporter.

We played mostly in my rooms in Pembroke. When I was asked to pack up that room before its renovation this summer, I filled two boxes with books; every other box contained “miscellany.” I found six hats in that sitting room alone, all of which were worn during one five-hour cards meeting in April.

The idea of Oh Hell is to assess how many “tricks” (British “contracts”) you can win with the hand of cards you have. The hand goes up by one until you hit seven cards, and then you go back down. It’s a slippery game to master but an easy one to learn, and Rachel was folded into the gang when she visited from Boston; likewise Isaac, who managed to make a “business trip” from San Francisco; and Lily, over from Madrid.

We brought ritual to our Cardsharkz gatherings. The host would provide a themed drink – “wine” could be a theme, but so could “The Guillotine,” if, say, a Frenchwoman had broken your heart – and Kevin, who lived by Poundland, would provide a selection of snacks. Our routine was devastated in May by news that Poundland would soon discontinue The Tasty Snack Co. line. Kevin bought all eight remaining bags of Beefy Balls, and we made it through the spring.

Frank laughed through the entirety of *Love and Friendship*, which we went to see in April to hear our classmate Peter’s voiceover. Dubbing Jane Austen takes a particular talent. Peter, who had an impossibly posh accent and spoke like an old play, told us he would try to meet us at the Arts Picturehouse and cheered us for our support: “How gorgeous – like summer rain dispersed.”

I ultimately chose to study three humor writers of American extraction, but I lived in this British comedy. I will never forget my host in Scotland cocking her head at me and declaring that I looked like Rosalind. Rosalind? “From *As You Like It*.” Aha. I must not have read illustrated Shakespeare, not that I necessarily disagree.

I had drinks with a friend in Shoreditch one day in May and missed the last train home from Liverpool Street Station. I slept on a friend’s floor in a Lutheran dormitory near Kings Cross.

Ten minutes after I handed in my dissertation on June 9, two nights of sleep behind, I arrived at The Granta. I joined the cluster of English MPhils on the terrace by the Cam, where I ate without appetite and held a sort of conversation with Holly.

“Oh look, the sun’s come out!” she exclaimed. I looked up into the glorious sheen of sunlight and was asleep within a second. I awoke to Kevin and Frank yelling my name from the other end of the terrace. They were laughing, but I had managed to keep the pint in my hand upright.

Two weeks later, I flew home on the morning of Brexit. Friends have told me that the Pembroke Hall was fully populated at breakfast the next day (a first) and completely silent.

At home in Somerville now, my phone lights up. “Can everyone do Sunday at 8:30?” Kevin teaches in Jamaica Plain, and Lily and Rachel and Ben live by Porter Square. “Yup,” I reply.

In other news, **Nathaniel Foote** (Trinity ‘78) decided to step down from the Governance Committee this year, after 25 years of service. He will be missed for his good judgment and statistical abilities, which first served the H-C program at a pivotal moment all the way back in 1979. That was the year the British government stopped subsidizing fees for overseas students, a change in policy that might have had serious repercussions for the H-C scholarships. Nathaniel produced the full analysis showing that the program needed to raise more endowment – which we did. Thanks to Nathaniel’s compelling report, the H-C program

not only continued, it grew stronger – expanding from two scholarships to four plus the summer program. In 1988, Nathaniel became chair of the Selection Committee and joined the Governance Committee, demonstrating his ongoing dedication on innumerable occasions but perhaps most dramatically on interview day in 2013, when Nathaniel cross-country skied to the Charles Hotel from his home in Newton to make sure we had enough interviewers. We are also pleased to announce that **Ryan Ripple** (Pembroke ‘06) and **Moir Weigel** (Emmanuel ‘08) have joined the Governance Committee this year.

Summer Scholars Summary

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collaborative environment.” The accommodations at Emmanuel College were amazing, but Raguram made a point of leaving Cambridge almost every weekend to explore other parts of the UK. Since most train journeys involved a transfer through

London, she spent a lot of time there and London definitely became one of her favorite cities in the world. Being there for Brexit was “a huge deal,” while the Harvard-Cambridge Dinner

at the beginning of the summer was like nothing Raguram had experienced before – comparable only to a scene straight out of a Jane Austen novel. She recommends that future fellows plan some travel even before they arrive in England and buy a 16-25 Railcard first thing, because the train is such a convenient way to travel through England, Scotland, and Wales.

For **Elaine Reichert '18**, the summer was an “extremely enriching experience” that confirmed her desire to pursue postgraduate research in synthetic chemistry. Working in the laboratory of Cambridge chemistry professor Steven Ley, Reichert’s research focused on improving a drug manufacturing technology and drew on her familiarity with experimental and analytical techniques from previous chemistry coursework at Harvard. Working 8-10 hours in the lab on weekdays, Reichert became close with many of her labmates and plans to stay in touch; she also made fast friends among the other summer fellows, bonding over their shared experiences at Harvard and as foreigners in the UK. Savoring the beauty and many attractions of Cambridge; watching the ducklings grow up at Emmanuel; taking tea at the Orchard Tea Garden in Grantchester; and striking out on weekends for destinations all over the UK, including the “classic” sites of London, the castle at Cardiff, the picturesque town of Truro in Cornwall, the chalk cliffs at Brighton, the beautiful coastal trail between Whitby and Scarborough, and the cathedral in Ely (to name just some memorable excursions).

Ava Violich '18 describes her summer at Emmanuel College with one word: eye-opening. Before arriving in England, Violich successfully reached out to a professor at Cambridge – Dr. Paul Millett, Vice Master of Classics at Downing College – who shared her



unusual combination of interest in humorous cartoons (Violich draws for the Harvard Lampoon) and love of classics. Under Dr. Millett’s “generous and wonderful” mentorship, Violich examined classically themed cartoons that appeared in the American satirical periodical *Puck* (a spinoff of the British

publication *Punch*) between 1876 and 1906. Her findings formed the basis for a 43-page, thesis-length final paper and helped Violich focus her continuing studies at Harvard: she returned with a plan to create her own personalized track within the History and Literature concentration, looking at print culture in Britain and its colonies. More broadly, Violich feels her summer of independent study at Cambridge “made me a better scholar, a better writer, a better researcher, and overall a better academic.” Violich also took advantage of the summer to travel around Britain and Europe collecting a photo-album’s worth of indelible memories: Rievaulx Abbey in North Yorkshire, the Euro Pride festival in Amsterdam, the windmills of Zaanse Schans in the Netherlands, a field of sunflowers in France – to name just a few.

“Personally and professionally,” interning at London’s Gate Theatre was the “most influential experience” **Jacob Stepansky '18** has ever had. Stepansky had not expected he’d especially enjoy the administrative side of theatre – given his previous immersion in the artistic process, the prospect of focusing on theatrical development and fundraising was “frightening and strange.” He could not have been more wrong. A small theater like the Gate depended on cultivating personal relationships and finding ways to appeal to prospective donors in a way that larger theaters could not. For Stepansky, this meant, essentially, talking to people about how much he loves theatre.

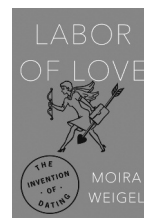
He was thrilled. And the psychology concentrator in him was thrilled too at the “fantastic exercise” of connecting with potential donors on every rung of the financial ladder. Besides gaining a new understanding and love of development, Stepansky learned “a tremendous amount about organizational management in general” working with the Gate’s tiny staff to respond to myriad challenges. Further contributing to his professional development he saw “a boatload of theater” in London – typically three to five shows each week. And on a more personal level, Stepansky reports that the summer helped him learn three things: to be an adult (as in, cook for himself); to be different (as an American abroad, he was often asked to verify or deny stereotypes about the US); and to spend time alone. ■



*Updates from and about
former H-C scholars*



Pierpaolo Barbieri (Trinity 2009) revisits the standard account of Axis intervention in the Spanish Civil War in his book, *Hitler's Shadow Empire: Nazi Economics and the Spanish Civil War*, published in April 2015 by the Harvard University Press.



Moira Weigel (Emmanuel 2007) dives into the history of sex and romance in modern America in her book, *Labor of Love: The Invention of Dating*, published in May 2016 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

*We invite you to share
your updates with the
H-C community!*

**Please e-mail
hcscholarship@gmail.com
with news for next year's
newsletter.**

And on a more personal note...

From **Cary Berkeley Kaye** (Trinity 1993): Nigel (Trinity, matric. 1994) and I are taking our girls, Louise (8) and Muriel (3), to spend the spring semester in Sydney while Nigel takes a sabbatical from his teaching at Clemson University to visit the Universities of Sydney and Wollongong. Fortunately my part-time job with an academic journal is portable. If anything brings any of you scholars down under, please do look us up.

From **Mishy Harman** (Pembroke 2008): I live in Jerusalem, recently finished my PhD, and am spending most of my time on my radio show/podcast (*Israel Story*), which is taking off! [Editor's note: *Israel Story* was one of the fastest growing podcasts in the US in 2016, has had more than 50k downloads per episode, and has been called the *This American Life* of Israel!]

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