

Harvard-Cambridge

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Scholarships

2018-2019 H-C Scholars Report from Cambridge

The Perfect Way To Spend "A Year of Grace"

One of the first things **Tez Clark**, Lt. Charles H. Fiske III Scholar, noticed about Cambridge was its *holism*. This is bound to happen when your school is your home, and is also a town with approximately 123,900 people (by the last census count). The ugly way to say this is that work bleeds into life. The better, truer thing to say is that one can find inspiration in a coffee shop along King's Parade, or during a casual brunch in Hall with a medic or literature student one has just met.



Christian Schatz,
Farris Peale,
Tez Clark, and Ellie
Lasater-Guttmann

Tez's MPhil research in the History and Philosophy of Science has so far focused on the use of idealized models in science (a topic she is fairly familiar with, as it closely relates to her undergraduate thesis) and on the ethical obligations of scientists researching controversial topics, such as the biological bases of sexual orientation and gender identity (a topic she, until recently, knew almost nothing about). Her department is an exciting, interdisciplinary place where one can attend a reading group on the philosophy of medicine in the morning, and then hear a talk about the literary history of science fiction in the afternoon. The MPhil is truly the perfect way to

spend a "year of grace," not only allowing Tez to develop her interests in philosophy but also pushing her to explore strange and exciting topics.

Outside her department, Tez spends most of her time in Trinity – walking arounds the courts, hearing the choir at Compline, or checking out A.A. Milne's original *Winnie-the-Pooh* drafts in the Wren Library. The centre of graduate life at Trinity is the College's BA Society, in which Tez has been busying herself. Highlights from Michaelmas include co-organizing a workshop on navigating graduate school as a woman (particularly in a college like Trinity, where the vast majority of students and fellows are male) with the BA Society's Women's Officer and BA formal dinners with generous amounts of port every Friday night, followed

(much less regularly) by Parkruns on Saturday morning with other members of Trinity. Most worth writing home about: Tez's team's first-place win at the Trinity College pub quiz, which netted her a giant box of chocolates. In fact, perhaps the biggest Trinity-related blunder Tez made last term was bringing back a caseload of port as gifts for friends and family over the holidays – a mistake, as the port was so well-received that she's been enlisted to bring back more at her earliest opportunity.

While the paths (and cows!) of Cambridgeshire have managed to charm even this die-hard city kid, Tez has still managed to explore the non-Cambridge bits of the world. Most frequently, this has meant day trips to London: attending talks, visiting art galleries and bookshops in the East End, and eating plenty of Szechuan food. Tez and her boyfriend recently returned from a trip to southern Spain, where they visited Seville, Cordoba, and Granada. As Cordoba is the birthplace of Maimonides, who provided the epigraph for Tez's thesis, her visit to the city included an obligatory stop (and photo-op) at Plaza Maimonides. Later trips planned for this year include a short jaunt to Scotland (once the sun starts coming out for more than four hours a day), and to Rome, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest – all cities that should provide good opportunities for expanding Tez's collection of transit maps.

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In Motion At Once Familiar and Foreign

Christian Schatz, Governor William Shirley Scholar, sends this report from Pembroke: “A blurred intrusion draws me out of sleep, and I silence the buzzing alarm. I shiver and question why I’m up, dark seeping through the old panes in droplets pooling on the window sill. A dread of the tired cold sits heavy in my stomach, but I know not to examine my thoughts too closely and instead begin the routine of drawing layers of warmth over me. The steps are vaguely familiar and yet novel, but I don’t pause to think. Bike ride, unlatch the lock, hands on, the shuffle of oars, tighten the gates, push off, arms away, body over, through the legs. Somewhere in the back of my mind I recognize the memory engrained in my muscles by Harvard’s coaches, absently echoing their voices to myself, *relax the shoulders, quicker catches, accelerate to the finish*. The night refuses to yield to any dawn weaker than turpentine, its dark pools of pitch stuck to the clouds. This is the quintessential gloomy English morning, but I drown any thoughts of it in familiar motion and unfamiliar water. The river bends and a blast of pink and orange light splits the dawn sky from beyond the cow fields, refracting in the rhythmic puddles left by my oar strokes. For the first time I think, a revelation of why I live that moment.

While I refrain from calling myself a ‘rower’ – I only rowed for a year and a half at Harvard and similarly haven’t found the time to commit to the ‘first’ men’s boat at Pembroke – this vignette of a morning scull is an allegory of my time in Cambridge. I arrived after a hectic and personally challenging summer, tired and wary of the energy required to pave my way into a new place. With my wife at Oxford, I faced the constant journeying between Cambridge and Oxford on the less than picturesque backroads of British villages. Forging new friendships came slowly, and my studies came slower.

I wanted a way out, to a place where things might be easier, but there was only a way through – and so I found myself in this motion at once familiar and foreign. I read from curiosity in Pembroke Library and Fitzbillies. I created friendships over pizza and found community in Holy Trinity church. I perused the Fitzwilliam museum. And yes, I began to row again, even feeling the adrenaline of winning races. These experiences were vaguely familiar, reminiscent of my rhythms at Harvard, but they were indiscriminately mixed with something altogether new and distinctively Cambridge. I sat for hours in a pub with my advising professor and fellow advisees, discussing interdisciplinarity, the culture of nature, and the constructions of science. I attended candlelight evensongs followed by mulled wine and sat by the Pembroke master at high table chatting about politics and Wordsworth. I joined the scriptorium at the Round Church, engaging in a blend of liturgy and study developed by scholarly monks.

I walked medieval roads and observed cathedral skylines, and a light dawned in me in the dark of winter: why I was in this place and this moment. I had, without realizing, come into my own as a scholar. The fertile and flexible ground of geography has opened new intellectual paths for engaging climate and culture, science and politics, technology and landscape – journeys I will pursue in a PhD program and beyond. With that has come a growing urgency to create beauty in the face of injustice, in the experience of the American immigration system with my wife, in the ignorance of partisan politics, in the death of species, in the threats of technology, and in the warming globe.”

A Whirlwind of Activity, Friendship, and Travel

From their first moments crossing through the Porter’s lodge and into the gorgeous, pond-filled grounds of Emmanuel College, Cambridge has been a whirlwind of excitement, travel, and friendship for **Farris Peale** (they/them/theirs), the Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar.

Farris quickly dove into a multitude of activities outside of school, finding new friends and interests. They are serving in Emma’s MCR as the LGBT+ representative and working with several student campaigns. Farris also came to Cambridge excited to devote more time to sports and expected to join Emma’s running club. However, one sunny October afternoon on Jesus green Farris encountered tryouts for the Strange Blues, the university’s varsity Ultimate Frisbee team. Farris had not played Ultimate since middle school, but with a toss of the disc fate was sealed. As both an older member of the team and an inexperienced one, their time playing has been outrageously humbling and incredibly joyous. Farris will be heading to the indoor nationals tournament with the team shortly, where they hope to avoid getting hit in the face by a disc, a not infrequent occurrence in practice.

Beyond Cambridge, Farris has already managed to visit Barcelona, southern Spain, Lisbon, Paris, and Patras, Greece thanks to Ryanair, the fellowship’s generous stipend, and friends with couches to crash on. Of these trips, the highlight was Farris’s visit to Greece, where they stayed with a friend who has lived her whole life in Patras. She brought Farris all over the city – including to her family’s house for home-cooked meals, a not entirely unwelcome break from British food. They also explored Athens by metro, visited an aging cliff-side vineyard, and (of course) went to the beach in November, when Cambridge’s weather had grown dismal and a massive spider had set up quarters just beyond the only open-able window in Farris’s bedroom. Farris also visited friends at Oxford for Halloween and has started exploring London, putting their student rail card to good use.

Outside of sports and travel, Farris spends the majority of their time in the Political Thought and Intellectual History (PTIH) department. Although initially wary of PTIH members’ shared ability to connect any conversation back to Hobbes, Farris has made great new friends in the department. Farris is particularly excited about their Lent term course, which focuses on crime and punishment, providing a venue to explore theoretical themes that are sure to be useful when Farris goes on to study law.

From biking through cow fields to hunting for books in the UL stacks, Cambridge has been a so much more culturally immersive and transformative adventure than Farris could have anticipated. They are grateful not only for the year of grace that this fellowship has allowed, but also for the challenges and accompanying growth it will leave behind.

Expanding Beyond Bounds

Her time in Cambridge has already stretched **Ellie Lasater-Guttmann**, John Eliot Scholar, farther than she could have ever expected. When she interviewed for the H-C scholarship, she had trouble understanding the “transformative” aspect of the scholarship year. Could it be that different? She’d spent a summer in England before, so could she really get herself to expand that much in one year?

The answer is a resounding yes, and it’s only been three months. From seeing her long-time favorite band in concert to failing a course for the first time, Ellie has had one surprising and enriching experience after another. After waking up absolutely blissful from the Mumford & Sons show the night before, a concert she has dreamt of attending for nearly ten years, Ellie learned that she had received a failing grade on her first master’s essay, on the topic of dissociative identity disorder. Paradoxically, this is the grade she is most proud of in her entire academic career. She earned a “clear fail” because she wrote on a topic so outside the traditional boundaries of analytic philosophy that her commenters did not know how to grade her. Her supervisor, a stellar advocate whose work lies on the fringes, confided that her commenters simply did not understand her contribution because it was so novel, and her soon-to-be PhD advisor back at Harvard explained that her work, in fact, sits exactly where the currents of philosophical inquiry are moving.

From this first essay and the comments it elicited, Ellie has now learned that her interests lie on the border between academic disciplines, and that these types of questions will earn near-derision from many traditional philosophers. But you know what... she’s okay with that! She’s excited to continue pushing the boundaries of philosophy, while also learning the traditional philosophical methodologies that underpin current work.

Looking forward, Ellie is writing her next paper on whether we are ever justified in making generic social assertions such as: “Women are submissive.” She will end her year with a dissertation on brain death.

Beyond her department, Ellie has recently been selected to present her undergraduate thesis at a conference on scientific approaches to consciousness in Japan. She has also begun learning healthy habits for her mind and body. During college, she felt a pang of guilt anytime she did something outside her coursework. For the first time, she is slowly learning how to prioritize herself and not just her work. She is lifting weights at the gym nearly every day, walking about six miles a day accompanied by podcasts that brighten her mood, and meeting new friends from around the world for coffee and for no reason other than to get to know each other. While these may seem like small steps, they have actually been mountainous for Ellie’s mental health.

In all, Ellie simply does not understand how so little time has passed. While it sounded cheesy to her at first, she now feels “transformed.” She is forever grateful for this extraordinary opportunity and is working every day to be worthy of it. ■

Bookshelf Items:



Recent books by former H-C Scholars include a new novel by **Dara Horn** (Jesus, 1999-00) and a memoir by **Ilana Kurshan** (Emmanuel, 2000-01).



Horn’s novel, *Eternal Life*, was published by W.W. Norton in 2018. Through the predicament of Rachel, a woman who cycles through many lifetimes over the course of 2,000-plus years, Horn explores the emotional and

philosophical implications of immortality. According to a review in the *New York Times* (3/9/18), “the question at the heart of this wise and appealing novel is finally not how Rachel finds meaning in her eternal life. It is how we, despite our portions of sorrow, tedium and disaster, persist in finding meaning in ours.”



Ilana Kurshan’s memoir, *If All the Seas Were Ink*, is a page-by-page and day-by-day account of Kurshan’s life in Israel during the seven-and-a-half years it took her to read all 2,711 pages of the Babylonian Talmud or *daf yomi*. As part of a group of women scholars who are reading and teaching Talmud in new ways, Kurshan has been praised for bringing this ancient, sacred text to life by making its traditions “relevant to modern times.”

4 Community: *A Note from the Chair*

Years of Grace

When you have the privilege of reading the scholarship applications of dozens of College seniors over many years, as our Selection Committee members do each winter, you get an interesting perspective on the changing interests, fields of concentration and prospective career paths of Harvard’s undergraduates. In recent years we have seen more applicants who are fluent or proficient in several languages; more applicants who have already traveled to far-flung places; more applicants who want to pursue academic careers; more applicants who have done a substantial amount of charitable work outside of Harvard; more applicants who want to study environmental science and computer science; and more applicants who have spent a considerable part of their undergraduate years studying gender-related or race-related issues and themes in many different concentrations.

The Cambridge colleges and graduate programs change too: more programs on topical global subjects; more emphasis on minimum GPAs; more Cambridge scholarships and fellowships awarded to graduating seniors at Harvard than ever, making it a little tougher for the scholars who win our one of our scholarships to stand out. Change at the top, too, not only of senior tutors but also of masters: in October Dame Sally Davies will become not only the new Master of Trinity but also the first female to assume that position (after 473 years), and with Professor Ian White stepping down as Master of Jesus this spring, Jesus College should be appointing a new master soon too.

Each year the Governance Committee that oversees our scholarship administration has to respond to change. In recent years, we have had to deal with numerous first-time situations: a scholar-elect who is a citizen of the EU, not the US, requiring different fees and immigration standards; a scholar whose program extends into the early part of the summer, requiring additional funds we have not in the past offered; a brilliant math scholar-elect who is not accepted into any of the graduate programs she wants

and cannot take up residence in the College rooms reserved for our scholar; a scholar-elect who marries after receiving our scholarship but before arriving in Cambridge, and is then faced with a College restriction on married students living in College housing; a scholar whose preferred personal pronoun is “they” who wants to withdraw from their graduate program midway through the year but learns that it will mean having to leave the College. Our Selection Committee advised us that we had an applicant this year who, if selected, would have required wheelchair-accessible housing so would not be able to reside in any of the rooms currently designated for our scholars in Trinity, Emmanuel, Pembroke, or Jesus. All minor issues in the scheme of things, all dealt with

thoughtfully and successfully, but a reminder that we who administer the scholarships in coordination with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships have to be very good at dealing with new issues and challenges.

The composition of the Governance Committee also changes. Based on a multi-year plan recommended last year by our Nominating Committee, several of our longest-serving Governance Committee members will be stepping down this year and next. This June, Rob Shapiro (Trinity, 1972-73) and Jackie Osherow (Trinity, 1978-79) will step down; both have served over many years both as Selection Committee chairs and Governance Committee members with extraordinary dedication, wisdom and thoughtfulness. We have a new Selection Committee chair, Abigail Modaff (Emmanuel, 2012-13), who has taken over from Josh Goodman (Jesus, 2000-01), who served in that role with distinction for five years. We will now have a new Governance Committee chair as well; Josh will take over from me at the end of this academic year. I have had the honor of serving as chair of the Governance Committee for seven years – a period during which the financial challenges faced by the Harvard Endowment caused us to run significant deficits but through which we managed without having to make any meaningful changes to our programs, in small part due to our prudence but in large part based on financial contributions made to the scholarship funds many years ago by Bob Scrivener, Bob Monks, Mark Hoffmann, Lew Kaden, Mike Christian, and others. I am happy to report that the scholarship funds are in a robust state of financial health, supporting not only four full-year scholarships but eight to ten summer fellows as well. For anyone interested in organizational governance, rest assured we believe in it and we practice it. With enough continuity to assure consistency, the benefits of experience, and a sense of tradition, change is good for organizations, and leadership change is especially good.

In 2021 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first scholarship we awarded – the Fiske. As we celebrated the 90th, the century mark will likely once again be celebrated with an event in May at the Century Club in Manhattan. You will be receiving a “Save the Date” before too long. Change is constant. Tradition endures. The community of former Harvard-Cambridge scholars, now numbering around 175, marches on.

Marc Granetz
March 2019

Summer Scholars Summary

Brian Cami ’19 calls his summer at Trinity College the “most rewarding” of his time as a Harvard student. With a supportive but relatively hands-off advisor, he was free to explore new topics in his research on conspiracy theories, such as the role of populism and propaganda. He returned with greater clarity about his central argument and well set up to complete his senior thesis. Trinity College itself was “the best,” as was conversing with the locals, watching England’s World Cup run at the pub, and making the most of cheap and convenient opportunities to travel all over Europe.

Ana Georgescu ’20 worked at the Institute of Astronomy with Drs. Simon Hodgkin and Ed Gillen to find new transiting

extrasolar planets and eclipsing binary star systems. With their mentorship she gained database management and coding skills, enjoyed lively debates about the future of astronomy, and was encouraged to pursue an academic career. Other summer highlights: the Harvard Club of United Kingdom Annual Dinner, experiencing the art scene through Kettle House and numerous galleries and museums, and trips

to London and Brighton.

Hannah Hess ’19 used her time at Trinity to research the evolution of marriage norms in Saudi Arabia over the last half century. Working with Dr. Sriya Iyer of the Economics Department, Hess drew on the abundant resources of the Cambridge library system, while sometimes returning to her room to collect oral histories through phone interviews with Saudi women. Interactions with other Harvard fellows and Trinity undergrads were enlivening and led to new friendships, while “reflective evenings” in the peaceful surroundings of Burrows Field produced a deeper understanding of how Hess’s research and Arab language skills might help her use a law degree to continue working on issues relating to women, religion, and marriage in the Middle East.

At Cambridge, **Nathaniel Hiatt ’19** found some of the best academics in political philosophy. With his advisor, Dr. Duncan Kelly, Hiatt explored the emergence of the politician in political theory, a subject that entailed extensive research into Max Weber and grappling with fundamental questions about political action and politics. Other summer highlights: punting after dark – highly recommended! – and the Trinity staff and students, who were unfailingly “warm, welcoming, and helpful.” All in all, Hiatt calls his experience “transformative”: it confirmed his interest in pursuing academia and put Cambridge at the top of the list of grad programs he hopes to attend.

Alexander Ren ’20 describes his summer as “revelatory” – personally, academically, and culturally. Working with Dr. Susanna Mierau in the Neuronal Oscillations Group, his work involved culturing neuronal networks derived from the cortices of mice and recording their electrical activity. Beyond learning to operate highly specialized lab equipment, Ren gained experience in electrophysiological procedures and a new interest in the possibilities of computational neuroscience.

He especially appreciated the relaxed atmosphere and pace of life in Cambridge, the scenic walk from Burrell Field, and the friendship of his mentor, who included him in several memorable outings, among them an evening bat-listening excursion along the river.

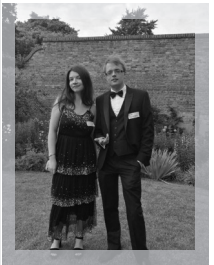
Rebecca Sadock ’19 tackled three projects in philosophy at Cambridge. The first was to start her thesis research on the subject of individuals’ civic obligations in states where some citizens are unjustly advantaged whereas others are unjustly disadvantaged. Her second and third projects were to identify fellowship and graduate programs to explore in the future. Sadock benefited from the “invaluable” expertise of her mentor, Dr. Tom Dougherty, who helped convince her to seek a masters at Cambridge or Oxford before pursuing a JD-PhD in the U.S.; from the amazing academic and scholarly resources of Cambridge more generally; and from the opportunity to travel to Spain, Italy, and Israel.

Lauren Spohn ’20 found “real magic” in paradigmatically Cambridge experiences: from punting and footgolf to *Macbeth* in the Trinity Fellows Garden, raucous runs with the Cantabrigensis Hash House Harriers, and summer pubmoots with the Cambridge Tolkien Society. Further afield, she traveled to Budapest for a night half-marathon and, by bicycle, to Stonehenge. Her academic journey – which began with the poetic prophecies of William Blake and soon led to the discovery of an intense, years-long friendship between American poet Walt Whitman and an Englishwoman, Anne Gilchrist – was also memorable. Spohn plans to write up her findings as a narrative history and may use Gilchrist as a launching point for her senior English thesis.

Michael Turkiewicz ’20 worked in the lab of Dr. Tuomas Knowles to pursue biological studies using microfluidics, a rapidly growing research method that could advance understanding of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimers and Huntingdons. Turkiewicz’s group was focused on developing new, more efficient and less costly ways to sequence single-cell RNA. Outside the lab, Turkiewicz spent much of his free time biking around Cambridge. A favorite destination was Wimpole Estate, with its wide, rolling grounds and many cows. Other favorite spots included King’s College Chapel and the Downing College lawn.

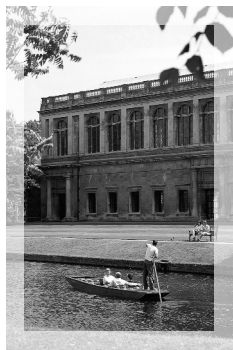
Justin Walthier ’19 found Cambridge to be a “phenomenal place” to conduct his senior thesis research in the Classics. Beyond the grandeur and beauty of the surroundings, Walthier appreciated the “flexibility and self-determination” of working with his mentor, Dr. Stephen Oakley, and the vast resources of the Classics and University libraries. Walthier recommends that future H-C fellows engage with British pub culture “early and often” and take advantage of the region’s myriad travel opportunities. He particularly enjoyed a trip to York, which featured a ghost tour and some very unique accents, as well as excursions to London, Dublin, and Amsterdam.

*A report from summer scholar Mitchell Polonsky ’19 was not available at press time.



Memories of Cambridge

A Line of Symmetry by Kevin Xiong (Jesus 2017)



"Sending love from Cambridge," I wrote in every email home when I moved to Jesus College in October 2017. A resident of Cambridge, MA for 22 years, I found a simple, beautiful symmetry in never needing to edit the subject line. My friends and family, on the other hand, found ironic humor in my leaving my Chinese-Cantabrigian home – only to move to another Cambridge, for a degree in Contemporary Chinese Studies.

Michaelmas was off to a great start. I loved my home atop Little Trinity, filling it with Maoams and supposedly imperishable succulents to lure my housemates up for afternoon tea. I made wonderful friends, developed championship-winning/trouser-tearing rower's glutes, and found a kind and generative thought partner in my supervisor. Looking back, I might only change two things: I biked on the right (or wrong, rather) side of the road for weeks and consistently failed to separate my laundry whites (a colorful mistake my nearby mother had always shielded me from in undergrad).

By the end of the term, however, I realized I was falling into old routines and a familiar Harvardian mindset: signing up for every extracurricular, over-structuring my time, and anticipating next steps without savoring the present. Rowing, rumba, and readings – not quite the R&Rs I'd planned on. As 2018 rolled around, I realized the rest of my time could easily slip away in the same fashion. A weeklong adventure through Marrakech and the Atlas Mountains reminded me of the merits of escaping this new (or old, rather) Cambridge "bubble."

In the remaining eight months, I quit (gasp!) several extracurricular activities. I released an original pop/R&B album and immersed myself in term papers and my dissertation on Beijing's 798 Art Zone (which I submitted with pride in August), but did not let these projects get in the way of travel and other learnings.

Reflecting on my H-C year, I am filled with gratitude for several lifelong lessons. Two of the most important, I might distill as follows: Learning is portable. I did not need to be within view of the River Cam to get the educational year I wanted. With only seven hours of class per week, I booked cheap flights and train rides to London, Paris, Porto, Barcelona, Tenerife, Prague, Budapest, and more. With a bit of planning, I borrowed the books I needed and completed my coursework on friends' futons and hostel bunk beds abroad – or neglected my work when play called. Learning on my own terms, in a way that fit naturally into my daily thinking and wandering, away from day-to-day distractions, resulted in better and deeper thinking.

The second lesson is more personal. I discovered that time away could actually make me feel closer to home, deepening familial bonds and my own cultural understanding. I had an inkling that switching from problem sets (as a recovering Ed/Applied Math concentrator) to studying Chinese contemporary history and art would help me better understand my heritage. But I had no idea of the extent to which I'd employ resources beyond my readings.

As I bounced through the modern Chinese literature canon, contemporary political history, and China's post-Mao art scene, my calls home grew longer. My parents' stories of displacement, of working in communes, living on centrally administered rations, and being forced to stop school at eighth grade became primary sources that concretized the secondary literature. Analyzing Maxine Hong Kingston's account of her "chopped and screwed" construction of Chinese-American identity, I partook of my own.

When my family visited Cambridge, we lunched with my supervisor at Stephen Hawking's favorite Sichuan restaurant and my parents shared a heartwarming (and heartbreaking) revelation: "We'd never been able to participate in Kevin's education, until now." This was the first time they'd communicated with a teacher of mine in their native language. In other words, I left home to learn from Cambridge's experts in Chinese Studies – only to find that the true experts were back home.

Here, too, I found beautiful symmetry. I am deeply thankful to the Harvard-Cambridge Scholarships for a year that transformed how I think about education, travel, home, and heritage. If you find yourself in San Francisco, where I now live, please reach out: kevinxiong@alumni.harvard.edu.

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Governance Committee 2018-2019

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

Moiria Weigel
Emmanuel '08

Jonathan Weigel
Pembroke '10

James Pelletier
Pembroke '12

In Memoriam:

In 2018, we lost two members of the H-C family, the **Honorable John C. Culver** (Emmanuel, 1954-55) and **Mr. Charles W. Ufford, Jr.** (Emmanuel, 1953-54). Described as an "influential liberal" who "won praise across the political spectrum for his independence," Culver, a Democrat from Iowa, served five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and one term in the U.S. Senate during the Vietnam Era. After leaving office, he practiced law in Washington and maintained ties with the Harvard Institute of Politics, as its interim director in 2010 and a member of its advisory board. Mr. Ufford, a lawyer and talented athlete, had served as Chairman of the New York State Bar Association Trusts Estates Law Section in 1984 and was a Fellow of the American College of Trusts & Estates Counsel.

Distinguished H-C Alums

"You were not put on Earth to be a spectator"

Robert A.G. Monks ('54, LLB '56)



From the time he arrived at Trinity in 1954, Bob Monks stood out. Not only because he was six-and-a-half feet tall and already – at the mere age of 20! – a Harvard graduate and married man. And not only because he was an accomplished rower, helping Cambridge post its second-largest-ever margin of victory over Oxford in the 101st staging of The Boat Race. Monks made an impression above all for his bounding verve and irrepressible energy, so much so that when his scholarship year was almost up, the Trinity don offered some parting career advice: "You won't find fulfillment as a professional historian," he told Monks. "You're too lively – do something else!"

Those words, as much as anything else from his time as an H-C scholar, stuck with Monks. And in the end they helped him decide for a different path from academia – a path that has led, over the course of a long and dizzyingly varied career, to stints as a lawyer, businessman, regulator, politician, venture capitalist, and entrepreneur. Along the way Monks has held several high-level posts in the federal government, authored or co-authored dozens of articles and ten books (including a novel), and won an array of awards and accolades. But the vocation that has made him famous (and perhaps, in some quarters, infamous) is better captured by words like "missionary" or "crusader." Today Monks is best

known for his pioneering work on the subject of corporate governance and for his tireless efforts over more than three decades to press for corporate change through informed shareholder activism.

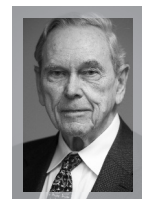
The problem Monks identified is rooted in the immense power of large corporations and in the fact that this power – which increasingly rivals or even exceeds that of governments – is generally untethered from accountability to broader considerations of public or social good. In theory, oversight by shareholders and independent boards of directors ought to act as a check on corporate behavior. But these levers aren't enough or they're not working. From excessive CEO pay to corporate decision-making that prioritizes short-run profits over long-term stewardship, it's clear that corporations often take actions or use their influence in ways that many of their own shareholders wouldn't condone. Monks has led the fight to empower shareholders, particularly large institutional ones, and founded a company, Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc., for this purpose. ISS, a leader in corporate governance consulting, now advises shareholders with assets in excess of \$1 trillion worldwide.

At 86, Monks sees progress in many areas but he's also frustrated by all the ways in which progress has stalled. "I need another 35 years," he jokes. Much may have changed since he left Cambridge in 1955. Clearly his energy hasn't.

Student, Soldier, Diplomat: A Life Abroad

Ambassador Richard W. Murphy ('51)

Richard Murphy had never been overseas before when he crossed the Pond to study



anthropology at Emmanuel in 1951. His family, with its deep roots in suburban Boston, had never seen much reason to venture beyond the civilized confines of New England. But two years in Cambridge would prove just the first stop on a life's journey that has taken Murphy all over the world and involved him in some of the most important geopolitical events of the last six decades.

Returning to the U.S. in 1953, Murphy knew only that the 'austere' study of anthropology, at least as practiced at Cambridge in those days, was not for him. Drafted into the Army in the waning days of the Korean War, Murphy was among the oldest with the rank of Private

First Class when a federal budget cut abruptly ended his military career after 22 months. While in the Army, Murphy had taken the Foreign Service exam, almost as a lark, since he was still uncertain of his career choice. He joined the State Department in 1955 and left for his first assignment to then tranquil Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). A year later, Murphy was fascinated by the Suez Crisis of 1956 and by Washington's display of effective leadership in this arena. Assuming that Great Power competition in the Middle East might preoccupy the U.S. for a few years he chose to pursue Arabic language study in Beirut. It was a prescient choice – one that led to a life-long engagement with the Middle East.

Over the next several decades, Murphy served as U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania (1971-74), Syria (1974-78), the Philippines (1978-81), and

Saudi Arabia (1981-83). From 1983 to 1989, he was actively involved in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations as Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs in the Reagan Administration. In 1985 he was named Career Ambassador, a rank awarded to only five officers on active duty at any one time.

Upon leaving government in 1989, Ambassador Murphy joined the Council on Foreign Relations where he directed the Middle East Roundtable from 1993 to 2004. Since retiring he has continued to speak and write on Middle Eastern affairs in various forums, including NPR, CNN, and the BBC, as well as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Financial Times*. He is a director of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) – USA and trustee emeritus of the American University of Beirut.

With his many years of experience in the Middle East, Ambassador Murphy takes a long view of the region's complex challenges. Acknowledging the difficulty of seeing a pathway out of the current landscape of conflict and turmoil, he remains confident of two things: First, that solutions to the region's problems will have to emerge from within, as its peoples and governments, lacking the strong man rulers of an earlier era, struggle toward a new sense of identity and national purpose. The second is that the U.S., though it has largely stepped away from its historic leadership role in recent years, simply *must* re-engage with the Middle East, both to honor its long-standing commitments in the region and because there is too much at stake – for America and for the world – to walk away.

*Updates from and about
former H-C scholars*



Changing Views of Africa...

Dr. Lindiwe Dovey (Trinity, 2001-02) reports that she recently received a large grant for her project *African Screen Worlds: Decolonising Film and Screen Studies*, which aims to center contemporary African filmmaking in modern film and screen studies. She will be partnering with colleagues at the University of Lagos and Addis Ababa University.

*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.

Robert N. Shapiro (Trinity, 1972-73) receives Harvard Award

On Commencement Day 2018, Robert N. Shapiro ('72, J.D. '78) was one of three distinguished alumni to receive the Harvard Alumni Association's Harvard Award for "extraordinary service" to the University. Described as "a deeply committed and loyal Harvard University citizen," Shapiro – who is also a longtime member and former chair of the Harvard-Cambridge Scholarships Committee – has served the University in numerous capacities. He was president of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) from 1991 to 1992 and president of the Harvard Law School Association from 2000 to 2002. In 1996, Shapiro received the HAA Alumni Award in recognition of his many years of leadership and service to alumni and the HAA. As a member of the Harvard Board of

Overseers from 2006 to 2012 and vice chair of the board from 2011 to 2012, Shapiro served on 12 different visiting committees. He was an Overseer member of the Harvard Corporation's governance review committee in 2010 and served on the subsequent search committee for new Corporation members. Currently, Shapiro serves on the Dean's Advisory Council for the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and on Harvard Divinity School's Leadership Council.

Shapiro's law career began at the Boston firm Ropes & Gray in 1979. A partner in the private client group from 1987 until 2016, Shapiro is now CEO of Ropes Wealth Advisors. He is also president of the trustees of the Peabody Essex Museum.

Two Big 'Firsts' for Trevor Cox (Trinity, 2002-03)

The last year has been eventful for Cox: He argued a case in the U.S. Supreme Court and became a father – both in the same 24-hour period! His new daughter is named Sarah Russell and Cox suspects he might have thought of this pairing ("Russell" is a family name) thanks to meeting former scholar Sarah Russell (Trinity, 1999-00) during the H-C interview process.

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