doubt, and to make a full record so that all can judge both the judgment and the process, and even re-evaluate both as new information comes to light over time.” Legitimacy, he adds, “cannot be taken for granted by any court. In this light, we do not yet have an adequate terror court. Making a terror case in U.S. federal court promotes fairness and legitimacy on one level, but risks exposure of counterterror secrets and harm to trial participants while posing other serious risks to the legal system—such as expansion of conspiracy doctrines—and to society.”

Is there a better solution? Martins believes “military commissions can eventually pass constitutional muster [as legitimate courts] and have potential to develop into prudent and effective counterterror institutions.” He’s well aware that such commissions remain subject to reasonable concerns about independence and fairness. “The only thing I am sure of,” he adds, “is that a terror court consistent with our values will be one in which, to paraphrase Justice Jackson at Nuremberg, ‘Power pays tribute to Reason.’

Martins defers when asked what role, if any, he had in shaping Petraeus’s counter-insurgency strategy. The general’s thinking, he says, “is highly individual, sophisticated, and pragmatic. Sometimes he says things that seem to echo points I’ve emphasized, but I can’t really know if I’ve accelerated his arrival at something I regard as an insight, or if he reached the insight on his own.”

Petraeus, he says, is “very, very tough and disciplined but also aware of the power of ideas and emotion in human endeavors, particularly war. He’s also completely secure intellectually, an attribute that I believe makes him open to advice and information from every source.”

The same could be said of Martins himself. At West Point, he excelled both in the classroom and at sports. After graduating and completing U.S. Army Ranger training, the Rhodes took him to England to study politics, philosophy, and economics. “Oxford compelled me to stand in the shoes of those who disagreed with my most basic assumptions and to seek to understand and even master their arguments before surmounting them,” he recalls. “That process, if undertaken honestly, changes you, so that when you get around to the surmounting part, you’ve grown. This is valuable, and not only for soldiers.” Once back in the United States, he served for two years as an infantry platoon leader with the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg before attending law school.

Drawn to the law by his study at Oxford of H.L.A. Hart, an influential, twentieth-century British legal scholar, and his own observations on the role of dissent in military organizations, Martins says his favorite Harvard professors were the late Frankfurter professor of law Abram Chayes, Story professor of law Daniel Meltzer, and Walmsley University Professor Frank Michelman. “Those,” he says, “were three tremendous years of sampling widely from course and lecture offerings across the law school and University, of late-night discussions at Gan nett House and elsewhere on the major issues of the day,” and “of weekend dashes with Kate [his wife, an army helicopter pilot, whom he met at West Point] to our favorite spots in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.” He also ran four marathons, including Boston’s.

Martins has since dedicated his professional life to the military—despite the modest pay, inherent dangers, and long absences from family. He is painfully aware that when his son and daughter graduate from high school, he will have been absent for four years of their childhoods. But the soldier’s life has its advantages, he says, and he has no plans to leave it anytime soon. “The life is very familiar.” He grew up in a close-knit family in the Bronx, with a father who was also a career officer, a physician who rose to become chief of the army’s neurosurgery service.

Back in Iraq, following his workout with Petraeus, Martins heads for breakfast in his sweaty running gear. Leaning up against the wall in the hunting-lodge kitchen, he talks about his days at West Point and Harvard. West Point, he says, “wasn’t a place that cultivated appearances of effortless superiority. At Harvard, sweating and repeated tries were certainly nothing to be ashamed of, but neither were they [activities] sought for themselves. A smarter approach was just smarter, regardless of how it was conceived.

“Iraq is the toughest challenge I have encountered from both perspectives,” he adds. “We’ll continue to need persistence here, but we’ll also continue to need smart approaches that take account of new developments. And even then, there will be no guarantees of victory in the conventional military sense.”

Vote Now

This spring, alumni will choose five new Harvard Overseers and six new elected directors for the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) board.

Ballots should arrive in the mail by April 15 and must be received back in Cambridge by noon on May 30 to be counted. The results will be announced at the HAA’s annual meeting on June 5, on the afternoon of Commencement day. All Harvard degree holders, except Corporation members and officers of instruction and governance, are entitled to vote for Overseer candidates. The election for HAA directors is open to all alumni.

The Candidates, listed here in alphabetical order, are:

For Overseer (six-year term, five to be elected):

Lynn Chang ’75, Newton, Massachusetts. Concert violinst; violin professor.

Anne Fadiman ’74, Whately, Massachusetts. Author; Francis writer-in-residence, Yale.


Robert Freedman ’62, Philadelphia. Partner, Dechert LLP. (Nominated by petition.)

Eve Higginbotham, M.D. ’79. Atlanta. Dean and senior vice president for academic affairs, Morehouse School of Medicine; surgery professor.

Michael Holland ’66, New York City. Chairman, Holland and Company LLC.


Regina Montoya, J.D. ’79 Dallas. CEO, New America Alliance.

Reprinted from Harvard Magazine. For more information, contact Harvard Magazine, Inc. at 617-495-5746.
David Oxtoby ’72, Claremont, California. President and professor of chemistry, Pomona College.

For Elected Director (three-year term, six to be elected):

Joseph Bae ’94, Hong Kong. Member and managing partner, KKR Asia.

Rodney Hardy ’60, Minneapolis. Vice president/owner, Sienna Corporation.

Carolyn Hughes ’54, Oceanside, New York. Retired; former project manager, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Kevin Jennings ’85, New York City. Founder and executive director, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

Robert Kraft ’76, Los Angeles. President, Fox Music.

Elizabeth Reilly ’91, Boston. Attorney, WilmerHale.

Alejandro Santo Domingo ’99, New York City. Managing director, Quadrant Capital Advisors Inc.

Rosa Wu ’03, San Francisco. Associate product manager, Google.

Andrea Zopp ’78, J.D. ’81, Chicago. Senior vice president and chief human resources officer, Exelon Corporation.

GSAS Alumni Day

On April 5, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences alumni and their guests are invited to a day-long celebration featuring afternoon symposiums on a variety of topics, and a keynote address, “Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet,” by economist Jeffrey Sachs ’76, Ph.D. ’81, chair and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University (and 2007 GSAS Centennial Medalist). For details, or to register, contact the Harvard Graduate School Alumni Association at 617-495-5591 or visit www.gsas.harvard.edu.

HAA Clubs Committee Awards

The haa clubs committee Awards honor individuals who provide exemplary service to a Harvard club or shared interest group (SIG), as well as clubs and SIGs that have organized exceptional programming. They were presented to the 2008 recipients (listed below) at the HAA Board of Directors and Alumni Leadership Conference dinner on February 1.

Modesta Garcia, Ed.M. ’79, of Daly City, California. Garcia has been president of both the Harvard Club of Silicon Valley and the Harvard Club of San Francisco. At the latter, she broke new ground by initiating club awards for human-rights leadership, co-founding a Latino Committee, and co-chairing a college mentorship program. (She was also the first person of color, and only the third woman, to serve as club president.) As a professor and counselor in the department of career and life planning at the College of San Mateo, she has also been instrumental in helping students achieve their highest educational aspirations.

Mia Riverton ’99, of Venice, California. In 1999, Riverton cofounded Harvardwood, a SIG focused on the arts, media, and entertainment that now has about 800 members. An actress, Riverton has also spearheaded educational events such as Harvardwood 101 (a career-exploration program for undergraduates) and a summer-internship program, along with networking opportunities, seminar series, programs for writers, career-counseling partnerships, and an annual holiday gala.

The Harvard Club of Boston

As part of its sesquicentennial celebration, the Harvard Club of Chicago has published 150 Years of the Harvard Club of Chicago: 1857-2007, a handsome history that includes more than 110 photographs. The 198-page book was edited by club director Walter Keats ’67; he and fellow members spent months on research in the club’s own archive, besides locating hundreds of articles in the Chicago Tribune archives and much more material from the Crimson, the University Archives, and other Harvard and Chicago sources. Volume are available for $40 each from the club: by mail (P.O. Box 350, Kenilworth, Illinois 60043); phone (847-256-1211); fax (847-256-5601); or e-mail (harvardclub@aol.com).

Harvard in Chicago

On April 6, all College alumni and their spouses/partners and high-school-age offspring can visit the College, attend classes, and meet faculty members. The HAA sends brochures promoting the event to alumni in New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. If you do not receive a brochure and want to attend, contact the HAA at 124 Mount Auburn Street, sixth floor, Cambridge 02138; 617-495-2555; or send your request by e-mail to alexandra_monti@harvard.edu.

Return to Harvard Day

On April 16, all College alumni and their spouses/partners and high-school-age offspring can visit the College, attend classes, and meet faculty members. The HAA sends brochures promoting the event to alumni in New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. If you do not receive a brochure and want to attend, contact the HAA at 124 Mount Auburn Street, sixth floor, Cambridge 02138; 617-495-2555; or send your request by e-mail to alexandra_monti@harvard.edu.

David Oxtoby ’72, Claremont, California. President and professor of chemistry, Pomona College.

For Elected Director (three-year term, six to be elected):

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Carolyn Hughes ’54, Oceanside, New York. Retired; former project manager, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Kevin Jennings ’85, New York City. Founder and executive director, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

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The Harvard Club of Boston

The harvard club of Boston, founded “to give effective expression to the Harvard spirit,” kicked off its centennial celebration with a rousing New Year’s Day brunch. A year-long roster of other activities is planned, including a March 12 dinner with University president Drew Faust, who will give a keynote address following a short annual meeting. To learn more about future events, or to attend the reception and dinner, contact the club at 617-536-1260 or visit www.harvardclub.com.