Comings and Goings

University clubs offer a variety of social and intellectual events, including Harvard-affiliated speakers (please see the partial list below). For further information, contact the club directly, call the HAA at 617-495-3070, or visit www.haa.harvard.edu.

On May 2, executive dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and law lecturer Louise Richardson talks at the Harvard Club of the West Coast of Florida about “What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat.” On May 6, the Harvard Club of Santa Barbara gathers to learn about “Petroleum, Putin, Power, and the Rise of the New Russia” from Marshall Goldman, Davis professor of Soviet economics emeritus at Wellesley College and former associate director of the Davis Center for Russian Studies at Harvard. (He speaks to the Harvard Club of Northeast Ohio on May 28, and to the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Rhode Island on June 11, where he will lecture on “Vast Changes in Russia—What It Means for the U.S. and the World.”) The Triad Harvard–Radcliffe Club hosts the Kennedy School’s Shattuck professor of government Paul Peterson for a discussion of “What Can Be Done about the Current Crisis in American Education?” on May 8. That same day, the Harvard Club of Montana (Billings) offers “Alexander the Great: A Man for All Seasons” by Loeb professor of classical art and archaeology David Mitten. Mitten also speaks to members of the Harvard Club of Montana (Missoula) on May 9. Also on May 9, the Harvard Club of Western North Carolina hosts Plummer professor of Christian morals and Pusey minister of Memorial Church Peter Gomes, who discusses “Nearly 40 Years On: A View from The Memorial Church.” On May 15, the Harvard Club of Cincinnati hosts a dinner to celebrate the 2007 Ivy League Championship Harvard football team with guest Tim Murphy, Stephenson family head football coach, who talks about “Harvard Athletics Today.” Also on May 15, the Harvard Alumni Club of Oregon and Southwest Washington offers a lecture on “The Imagined Earth: Reflections on the Human Place in Nature” by the Kennedy School’s Pforzheimer professor of science and technology studies Sheila Jasanoff. Xenia Dormandy, director of the Project on India and the Subcontinent at the Kennedy School’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, talks about “Understanding India and Pakistan: Harvard Kennedy School’s Role in the Policy Process” for the Rocky Mountain Harvard University Club on May 18. On May 21, the Harvard Club of New York City hosts Loeb professor of Germanic languages and literatures Maria Tatar, who explores “Touching Magic: The Power of Stories in Childhood” (members only).

On June 18, the Harvard Club in Concord (Massachusetts) learns about “The Aging Mind” from Douglas H. Powell, clinical instructor in psychology at the Medical School. On June 19, Berkman visiting professor of entrepreneurial legal studies Jonathan Zittrain, of the Law School, examines “The Future of the Internet—And How to Stop It” at the Harvard Club of Western Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh).

Above and Beyond

Beyondorders.org helps U.S. service members “rise above the call of duty” to aid Iraqi civilians. Tin-Yun Ho ’07 (’08) thought up and helped create the website last year, after reading about a civil-affairs officer who had organized a school-supplies drive for Iraqi children among her friends and family back home. “She was able to channel so much good will into an Iraqi neighborhood,” he says. “I wanted a way to link more soldiers in Iraq with Americans who want to help.”

The project is a kind of “Craigslist for soldiers and marines in Iraq,” explains cofounder Katherine Buzicky, J.D. ’07, now a military lawyer. The group aims to make it “easy, secure, and efficient” for military personnel to request items needed by ordinary Iraqis—eyeglasses, shoes, bandages, soccer balls, mechanics’ coveralls, sewing machines—from anyone in America “willing and able to assist,” and for donors to offer supplies that may be useful. Beyondorders facilitates matches, provides donors with APO addresses for the military recipients, keeps tabs on shipments, and posts on its website the recipients’ accounts, and often their photographs, of how the donations have been used in Iraq.

“Small things can have a big impact,” says cofounder Matthew Scherrer, M.B.A. ’07, who spent four years in the army in Afghanistan and Iraq before attending the Business School. He and Ho, who was busy trying to put his idea into practice, were introduced by a House tutor and began organizing a network of fellow students, including Buzicky, who helped with such legal details as incorporation. (“Beyond Orders is a great model for how [Harvard] schools that tend to be fairly segregated can work together,” says Scherrer.) They approached alumni, and Scherrer contacted and rallied military units behind the exchange program: to date, Beyondorders has registered more than 30 service members and completed more than 100 donations—one with 750 packages of school supplies.

Board members Buzicky, Ho, Scherrer, and West Pointer Rajiv Srinivasan continue working to get more military and civilian volunteers involved. When Ho, who took a semester off to set up the site (tutoring to raise money to keep it going), was interviewed by a local TV station, he told viewers, “I need you to get on the site, register, and tell the troops in Iraq what you can do.” That’s still true.