Harvard Medalists

Three people received the Harvard Medal for outstanding service and were publicly thanked by President Drew Faust during the Harvard Alumni Association’s annual meeting on the afternoon of Commencement day.

John F. Cogan Jr. ’49, J.D. ’52—Consummate counselor and University citizen, you have set the pace for generous and thoughtful alumni leadership, serving as chair of two Harvard Law School Campaigns and member of Visiting Committees to the Law School, the Davis Center for Russian Studies, and Harvard’s art museums, combining your keen knowledge of the law, international business, and the arts to strengthen your Alma Mater.

Harvey V. Fineberg ’67, M.D. ’71, M.P.P. ’72, Ph.D. ’80—Loyal and illustrious alumnus, holding posts as Provost of Harvard University and Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, you have successfully brought together professors, practitioners, and the public throughout your career, helping to improve health and human rights by your commitment to science and civil discourse.

Patti B. Saris ’73, J.D. ’76—From Boston to the federal bench, you have been an inspirational and enthusiastic leader for Harvard, daring to make a difference while serving with dedicated distinction as President of the Harvard Board of Overseers, Chief Marshal of the Alumni for the Class of 1973, and Chair of the HAA Nominating Committee for Overseers and Elected Directors.

see what else falls out, and find out if the plot and characters have legs of their own.

Horrigan, haunted by a childhood mistake and an ensuing grief from which he fled, is thrown back into the scene of the crime, and forced to grapple with the ambiguous legacy of his stepfather, a Secret Service agent, within a larger political vortex. “You cannot outrun your history or your true identity. And if you are not aware of what those are yourself, then other people are going to shape them for you—and write your narrative for you,” Hurwitz concludes. “If you want that pot of gold, that love relationship, then you have to not be passive, you have to act.”

It is something akin to what Hurwitz does every day in the creative process of writing, tussling with the dragon that is the empty white page. “I don’t know if we ever know why we are doing something creative in the moment—what it means personally,” he says. “But because I was geared to do this, to write crime fiction, I do know that if I don’t get a good eight hours of sublimation in a day, I’m pretty unpleasant to be around.”

—NELL PORTER BROWN

And the Winners Are....

The names of the new members of the Board of Overseers and the new elected directors of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) were announced during the association’s annual meeting on the afternoon of Commencement day. The 30,383 alumni ballots mailed back in the

GSAS Medalists

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Centennial Medal, first awarded in 1989 on the school’s hundredth anniversary, honors alumni who have made contributions to society that emerged from their graduate study at Harvard.

This year’s honorands are (from left) Nobel Prize-winning astronomer Joseph Hooton Taylor, Ph.D. ’68, McDonnell professor of physics at Princeton; Pulitzer Prize-winning historian of slavery and abolitionism David Brion Davis, Ph.D. ’56, Sterling professor of history emeritus at Yale; noted art historian Svetlana Leontief Alpers ’57, Ph.D. ’65, professor of Northern Renaissance art emerita at the University of California, Berkeley; and Nobel laureate in economics Thomas Crombie Schelling, Ph.D. ’51, Littauer professor of political economy emeritus at Harvard and now Distinguished Professor at the Maryland School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland, College Park, an expert on national security, nuclear strategy, and arms control.
two elections represent a turnout of 12.9 percent.

Elected as Overseers for six-year terms were:

Phoebe Anagnostopoulos ’81, M.B.A. ’88, New York City. Partner, Irell and Manella LLP.

Walter Clair ’77, M.D. ’81, M.P.H. ’85, Nashville, Tennessee. Assistant professor of clinical medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; clinical director of cardiac electrophysiology, Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute.


Cristian Samper, Ph.D. ’92, Washington, D.C. Director, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

Elected as Overseer for three years, to complete the term of Arne S. Duncan ’86, who resigned upon becoming U.S. Secretary of Education, was the sixth-place finisher:

Joshua Boger, Ph.D. ’79, Concord, Massachusetts. Founder and former CEO, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Neither petition candidate who ran this year, Robert L. Freedman ’62 or Harvey A. Silverglate, LL.B. ’67, was elected.

Chosen as elected directors for three-year terms were:


Paul Choi ’86, J.D. ’89, Chicago. Partner, Sidley Austin LLP.

Carlos Cordeiro ’78, M.B.A. ’80, Hong Kong. Retired partner, Goldman Sachs.

Cindy Maxwell ’92, M.D. ’96, Toronto. Assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and staff perinatologist, Mount Sinai Hospital.

Elizabeth Ryan ’81, Los Angeles. Producer and director for film and television.

Meg Vaillancourt ’78, Boston. Vice president, corporate and community affairs, the Boston Red Sox.

Cambridge Scholars

Four seniors have won Harvard Cambridge scholarships to study at Cambridge University during the 2009-2010 academic year. History concentrator Pierpaolo Barbieri, of Buenos Aires and Eliot House, will be the Lieutenant Charles H. Fiske III Scholar at Trinity College; social studies concentrator Jonathan Weigel, of Lincoln, Massachusetts, and Lowell House, is the Governor William Shirley Scholar at Pembroke College; history concentrator Lauren Yapp, of San Mateo, California, and Winthrop House, will be the Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar at Emmanuel College; and government and economics concentrator Nadira Lalji, of London and Quincy House, is the John Eliot Scholar at Jesus College.

“Thank You, Alumni”

The university comprises many things—buildings, history, and world-renowned professors—but it is the alumni who help make Harvard what it is today,” said University Treasurer James F. Rothenberg ’68, M.B.A. ’70, on June 4. He spoke of alumni contributions at the HAA’s annual meeting, taking a moment to commend in particular long-time Harvard supporter Albert H. Gordon ’23, M.B.A. ’25, LL.D. ’77, of New York City, who died recently at the age of 107.

Rothenberg went on to report that the class of 1984 had donated nearly $31 million as their twenty-fifth reunion gift, and the class of 1959 gave almost $21 million. Though departing from past years’ practice of listing other class gifts and totals, he did note the senior class gift participation rate hit a record-breaking 74 percent, while the class of 1999 set a new tenth-reunion fundraising record.

Fiftieth reunioners David Leipziger, Kitty Beer, and Howard Kristol, J.D. ’62.