sexual” remarks; unwanted phone calls or other communications; various stalking behaviors; physical abuse; nonconsensual or unwanted sexual penetration or oral sex; and so on. Students were also asked about their awareness and use of various sources of help, and their reporting behavior. President Drew Faust e-mailed students to encourage their participation—an outreach effort buttressed on April 30, after some 45 percent of them had completed the instrument, with a somewhat jocular video clip featuring Conan O’Brien ’85 urging the rest to complete the survey (and urging them not to Google his real age). Harvard and AAU aggregated data are to be reported at some future date.

Big Steps, Online

edX, the Harvard-MIT online learning partnership, announced in April a momentous agreement with Arizona State University, addressing head-on the issues of college costs, nonresidential learners, and credit for online courses. The ASU/edX Global Freshman Academy will offer anyone first-year university credit for completing a series of massive online open courses (MOOCs): a lower-cost, digital entry toward a college degree without residential-learning requirements, standardized admissions tests or transcripts, or formal applications. Completion of eight general-education courses taught by ASU faculty members will be deemed equivalent to a full freshman year on campus, “at about half the cost of the national average for a year of in-state tuition at public universities,” according to the announcement. Students who complete the requirements will be provided with transcripts for use in applying to two- or four-year institutions as sophomores; ASU will make no distinction between classroom and online courses.

Separately, in late April, Harvard Business School’s (HBS) HBX announced an agreement with Amherst College, the first in a series of such ties, to admit its students into the fee-based, 11-week, 150-hour online Credential of Readiness (CORe) program in basic business skills, and to coordinate applications with Amherst’s financial-aid office so students in need can qualify for more aid. In early May, similar agreements were announced with Carleton, Grinnell, Hamilton, Wellesley, and Williams: all pools of strong students who might be interested in CORe—and who might, in the future, want to pursue a full-fledged M.B.A. Harvard Law School will also offer the CORe sequence to its incoming students, and some current students, with the law school providing a subsidy to reduce the cost from $1,800 to $250.

The Extension School reported that half its 694 courses during the 2014-2015 academic year were online; 26 courses piloted a hybrid model of online learning supplemented by intensive weekend sessions on campus. Eight HarvardX courses were offered for credit.

Underscoring the rapid advance of online-learning options, on the same day HBS unveiled its expanded ties with elite colleges, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offered a fully online iMBA degree, produced in partnership with Coursera, a for-profit competitor to edX. The total cost of a degree is about $20,000; full-time resident tuition is $22,000 per year, bringing the cost of a comparable two-year campus degree to nearly $100,000, including living expenses.

And in early May, four colleges that have joined edX—Colgate, Davidson, Hamilton, and Wellesley—formed a coalition of such institutions to collaborate on online learning. Their aims include sharpening their focus on the kind of liberal-arts (as opposed to research-university) teaching they prefer, in both online and hybrid formats, and sharing pedagogical resources among institutions. Other, similar schools may join, too.

### On Your Summer Vacation...

**Would-be learners seeking to keep mentally buff this summer, indoors or out, may enjoy sampling online courses and other University resources.**

HarvardX courses open for summer enrollment include “Science and Cooking” (a popular School of Engineering and Applied Sciences offering—enroll by June 17); “Tangible Things” (history based on material objects and evidence—begins in August); and “Introduction to Computer Science” (anytime). The courses, along with other virtual resources, are accessible via [http://online-learning.harvard.edu](http://online-learning.harvard.edu). Coming this fall is an original course, starring many faculty members, on the history of the book. Accompanying it are repeat versions of courses on neuroscience, moral philosophy, and global health, and a new offering on American government.

Meanwhile, the Harvard Gazette “Experience” series features extended interviews with intellectual luminaries in diverse disciplines. Most contain charming anecdotes about how scholars found their particular passions. For example:

At 15, I became intensely engaged with Dylan Thomas’s poetry and found out that his manuscripts were in Buffalo [in the Lockwood Library, the University of Buffalo]. I asked for the loan of their microfilms and read them all with enormous profit…I was set up at the microfilm reader [at the Boston Public Library], I sat at the screen for hours and hours, week after week. The librarian in Buffalo began sending me books and journal articles on Thomas as well, on his own initiative.

Thus did one sainted librarian promote the early development of the teenager who became Porter University Professor Helen Vendler, America’s preeminent poetry critic. The interviews limn entire fields succinctly. Subjects range from sociobiologist E.O. Wilson and Business School dean Nitin Nohria to physicist and historian of science Gerald Holton. Each briskly introduces an interesting subject, as pursued by someone who has an interesting life exploring it—and is masterly about explaining where it has all led. Available at [http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/topic/experience](http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/topic/experience).