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Extracurriculars

Events on and off campus during July and August

SEASONAL

The Farmers’ Market at Harvard
www.dining.harvard.edu/food-literacy-project/farmers-market-harvard

Established in 2005, the market offers fish, meats, produce, breads and pastries, herbs, pasta, chocolates, and cheeses—along with guest chefs and cooking demonstrations. Science Center Plaza. (Tuesdays, through November 21)

From left: Frank Stella’s Star of Persia II (1967), at the Addison Gallery of American Art; from “(It’s) All About the Atmosphere Invitational Exhibition,” Harvard Ceramics Program; a Japanese Noh theater costume (1800-1850), at RISD

Ceramics Program
www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu

The “(It’s) All About the Atmosphere Invitational Exhibition,” curated by instructor Crystal Ribich, features a range of objects and celebrates a long tradition of ceramicists gathering to fire their works together. (June 17-August 19)

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ity can swing ’til 11 P.M. Community Boating Inc., Boston’s Esplanade. (August 19)

MUSIC
Harvard Summer School Chorus
www.boxoffice.harvard.edu
The ensemble performs Mozart’s Requiem. Sanders Theatre. (July 28)

FILM
Harvard Film Archive
www.hcl.harvard.edu/hfa
In response to uncertain political times, Summer Cinema of Resistance aims to spark discussion with guest speakers and screenings that include Luis Valdez’s Zoot Suit, Jean Renoir’s Life Is Ours, and Spike Lee’s Do the Right Thing. (July 28-9)

Saturday Matinee offers a wonderful set of family-friendly films, like Hayao Miyazaki’s Howl’s Moving Castle, the environmental tragi-comedy WALL-E, and The Little Fugitive—the classic 1953 American tale of a seven-year-old Brooklyn boy who reacts to a prank played by his brother by fleeing to Coney Island. (Through August 19)

STAFF PICK: Capturing New England
From skyscrapers to stormy seas, “New England on Paper,” at the Boston Athenaeum, offers 56 contemporary works. They reflect “responses to the region’s built, natural, and cultural environment,” says Catharina Slautterback, curator of the library’s 100,000 prints and photographs. Using the Japanese hanga technique, New Hampshire wood-block artist Matt Brown ‘81 created Moon Over Mt. Desert Island (2010, at right). Three impressions of the image hang as a triptych because Slautterback loves how, in “relating to one another, they show the passage of time.” All of the works were bought with help from a print fund for regional artists that honors Francis Hovey Howe ’52, Ed.M. ’73. (The art collector and Athenaeum member was also an early-childhood educator instrumental in forming Harvard’s first daycare centers.) Slautterback clearly seeks a diversity of styles. Eric Goldberg’s poignant etching Deep in the Valley (2006), pairs expansive Connecticut River valley farmlands with an intimate view of a woman reading a letter. Realist painter Kate Sullivan used pastel and watercolor in End of the Line, Cleveland Circle (2012, at left). “It all results in a loud cheerfulness,” the artist wrote in the wall label, “and a distinctive sense of place.” ~N.P.B.

Nature and Science
Tower Hill Botanic Garden
www.towerhillbg.org
Live music and tattoo demonstrations, food trucks, artisans, drawing activities, and garden tours abound at the inaugural Botanical Tattoo Weekend. (July 8-9)

Arnold Arboretum
www.arboretum.harvard.edu
Weekend walking tours with, or without, themes, like From Seed to Tree (August 5), along with family-focused events, such as Let’s Get Buggy! Exploration of Insect Pollinators. (July 8).

Exhibitions & Events
Cooper Gallery of African and African American Art
www.coopergalleryhc.org
Anchored by photographer Dawoud Bey’s series “Harlem, USA” (1975-1979) and “Harlem, Redux” (2015-2016), Harlem: Found Ways also includes mixed media and installation art that explore one of New York City’s most dynamic and historically influential neighborhoods. (Through July 15)

Harvard Museum of Natural History
www.hmnh.harvard.edu
World in a Drop: Photographic Explorations of Microbial Life features granular and instructive images by photographer, writer, and biologist Scott Chimileski, a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School. (Opens August 26)

Harvard Art Museums
www.harvardartmuseums.org
The Philosophy Chamber: Art and Science in the Teaching Cabinet, 1766-1820. Artifacts, artworks, and specimens that have played a crucial role in research and teaching at Harvard, and beyond. (See “The Lost Museum,” May-June 2016, page 42.)

Addison Gallery of American Art
www.andover.edu
Frank Stella Prints: From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation. The retrospective offers more than a hundred works by the meticulous abstract artist. (Through July 30)

RISD Museum
www.risdmuseum.org
Designing Traditions Biennial V: Student Explorations in the Asian Textile Collection reflects both new pieces by emerging artists and traditional woven, knitted, printed, and other handmade objects. (Opens August 11)

New Britain Museum of American Art
www.nbmaa.org
Cubism and abstract expressionism collide with “sun-drenched, laid back, fetishistic Southern California” car, surfer, and drug cultures in the alluring exhibit California Dreaming: Ed Moses, Billy Al Bengston, & Ed Ruscha. (June 23-October 15)

Peabody Essex Museum
www.pem.org
Nearly 200 works, from paintings and models to furniture and textiles, explore Ocean Liners: Glamour, Speed, Style. Co-curated with London’s Victoria and Albert Museum. (Through October 9)

Events listings are also accessible at www.harvardmagazine.com.

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Reflections on a River

Paddling the Merrimack in Lowell and Lawrence

by NELL PORTER BROWN

In May, 15 UMass Lowell seniors, graduation day in sight, push off from the city’s Bellegarde Boathouse for an afternoon of kayaking on the Merrimack River. Here the waterway, first harnessed to power textile mills in the 1800s, is about a thousand feet wide and smooth, thanks to the Pawtucket Dam. Paddling upstream, toward New Hampshire, the group soon turns off to duck, single-file, under the granite arches of the historic Stony Brook Railroad Bridge, in North Chelmsford.

They enter a calm section at the confluence of river and brook, surrounded by reedy banks and sun-dappled trees. A great blue heron perches on telephone wires. Bird songs fill the air. Everyone stops to listen. “This is a great time to be here,” says trip leader Kevin Soleil, assistant director of outdoor and bicycle programs at the university’s recreation department. “The water is really high because of all the rain, and the birds are migrating through. It’s also a great time to find a piece of trash and pick it up—like those cans and plastic bottles floating over there.”

There are wilder sections of the Merrimack. At 125 miles, it snakes through 30 cities and towns: from rural Franklin, New Hampshire, down into the former industrial hubs of Manchester and Nashua, then swings east into Massachusetts through Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill to Newburyport and the Atlantic Ocean. (To the north, the Contoocook River Canoe Company offers scenic river outings from the town of Boscawen, New Hampshire.)

Two urban stretches in Massachusetts hold a different sort of fascination: in Lowell, it’s the six miles from the boathouse to Tyngsborough; in Lawrence, it’s a paddle that begins near the Great Stone Dam. There the Merrimack is “beautiful river meets urban development.” A real mixed bag,” says Soleil, who grew up in Nashua, another former mill city. His Irish and French-Canadian ancestors were among the thousands of immigrants who flocked to the Merrimack...
Valley for work, first in the water-powered factories, then in those fueled by steam. “My grandmother grew up in Lowell and worked as a teen in the mills of Manchester,” he says. “And yet you go up hiking in the White Mountains in the Pemigewasset Wilderness, and you drink from Pemigewasset River headwaters—and that’s this water,” he says, gesturing out over the Merrimack. “It’s an urban waterway, but it’s connected to these places we think of as pure wilderness. And then you’ve got the history. This was the birthplace or cradle of the American industrial revolution.”

In Lowell and Lawrence that legacy still dominates the downtown landscapes. For paddlers on the river, architectural artifacts—smokestacks, railroad crossings, and dams—can loom large. At the same time, rowing the river’s creeks and crannies reveals a “vibrant ecosystem,” Soleil reports. Hawks and eagles, beavers, turtles, woodchucks, deer, and foxes live here, too, despite the array of pollutants—industrial and household waste, raw sewage, cars, tires, TVs, and furniture—that have continuously endangered the river for more than two centuries.

Nevertheless, many people increasingly seem to view the river as an asset, as something to be enjoyed—and protected. The few urban parks are well used. More public access points and trails are planned, and houses and condominiums along the river are coveted, many marketed as “riverside.” A rising number of visitors (last year more than 2,000) are taking trips on boats from the UMass Lowell Kayak Center at the Bellegarde Boathouse, which rents kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards through September 5. Soleil and his staff also give boating lessons and run guided paddling tours for families, along with outings at sunset or by moonlight. A Saturday 11 a.m. shuttle carries paddlers and their gear from the Lowell boathouse to a launch in Tyngsborough: the trip back downstream takes between two and four hours. “People are often surprised when they get out on the water that the river’s as beautiful as it is,” says Soleil. “They’re expecting all the bad things an urban waterway can have, but it can be very peaceful, serene.”

On their spring outing, the UMass Lowell students paddle farther up Stony Brook, then squeal and holler as they pass through a nearly pitch-black tunnel that runs under congested Middlesex Road and below a red-brick building. Built in 1897, it was once the storehouse for a mill complex that produced thousands of pounds of worsted yarn per week (for which the brook produced power via a canal). Turning around and traveling back to the pond-like section, everyone looks up and watches a Pan Am Railways...
There are many different reasons to join the Harvard Club of Boston. Kay Foley, 28, is a Harvard alum and former co-captain of the Harvard varsity women’s swimming and diving team. Here’s why she joined:

“My time spent at Harvard was the best 4 years of my life so far. When I graduated, I wanted to maintain a connection to the tremendous people I had met and a connection to the College. I joined the Harvard Club of Boston to do just that. The Harvard Club has become my go-to spot in Boston. I go to the club for social events, to meet with people, and now to work out as well. It’s a great feeling to have a place in the heart of the city to connect with existing friends and to make new ones along the way.” - Kay Foley ’10

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can't handle [the volume],” he says. To avoid flooding the treatment plant or nearby pipes, safety valves exist that divert overflow—essentially raw sewage and whatever else gets washed into street drains—directly into the river.

More than 600,000 valley residents drink Merrimack River water. That number is rising with housing and commercial development, especially in southern New Hampshire, Russell notes. Many people don't realize, he adds, with different expectations,” says Russell. “Quabbin must remain pristine; not so the Merrimack. And therein lies the problem”: every developed surface—paved roads and driveways, building foundations, even lawns with packed soil—prevents natural filtration of precipitation. The Environmental Protection Agency cites polluted storm-water runoff as the primary threat facing the Merrimack over the long term.

As it pushes for increased land protection and consistent, coordinated water testing, the MRWC also reaches out to valley residents and visitors, offering more than 15 paddling adventures this year throughout the watershed. A “Trash Patrol” gathers in Nashua on September 2, and there’s an easy-to-moderate river trip in and around Lawrence on September 16 (see the website for other trips, details, and registration.) Also of interest: the National Park Service runs a 90-minute “Working the Water” boat tour of the Pawtucket Canal that formed part of the mill complex in Lowell.

Other small groups are also working to improve the river and protect dozens of endangered fish, birds, and other wildlife species across the watershed. New Hampshire contractor Rocky Morrison founded the all-volunteer Clean River Project because he was fed up with seeing the Merrimack trashed. “People just pull over by the side of the river and throw out their TVs and tires because they don’t want to pay the recycling fee,” he says. “In Haverhill, we have a place we call Tire Cove because we found more than 4,000 there alone.”

So far, Morrison’s effort has relied on Dennis Houlihan’s narrated river tours benefit the Clean River Project.

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grants and donations, and people like Dennis Houlihan. He lives on the river in Methuen and runs pontoon-boat tours: each passenger’s $20 goes directly to the project. He takes passengers toward Lawrence, and explains the valley’s industrial history this way: Francis Cabot Lowell, A.B. 1793, “learned about the mills from England, came back to America, and built and opened one in Waltham.” Other entrepreneurial businessmen followed suit, building a mill complex in Lowell, and then more in New Hampshire. Lawrence developed later, in the 1840s, as a more comprehensive planned metropolis, with canals running along both sides of the river to maximize the water power.

The Clean River Project covers only the 15 Massachusetts river communities—about 44 river miles—and has requested municipal funding to hire staff and expand operations. Out on a spring boat tour, Jed Koehler, executive director of the Greater Lawrence Community Boating Program, points out Clean River’s yellow booms bobbing near the shore after his boat clears the foundations and steel girders of the Interstate 93 bridge. “Trash floats down the river like tumbleweeds in the old frontier towns,” he says, applauding the group’s efforts.

A cleaner river is important to his program’s success. It’s the largest public boating program in the Merrimack River Valley, and serves about 2,200 kids a week in the summer. They learn about water safety and how to row, sail, and paddle, and do other day-camp activities; the majority of them are on full scholarships, and 42 percent live in single-female households. “The parent is often working one to three jobs,” says Koehler. “The boathouse is a safe place for their kids to be.”

But anyone can join the program for the season and take out boats, or purchase a day pass. Launching from the Lawrence dock, paddlers can travel about an eighth of a mile downstream, toward the Great Stone Dam, on Bodwell’s Falls, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. When completed in 1848, it was the largest in the world, and is so solidly constructed that it’s never required significant repairs, and is still used for hydroelectric power.

Beyond the dam, and visible from a boat, stands one of the city’s still-ubiquitous red-brick smokestacks. It’s part of the Pacific Mills power plant, according to Jim Beauchesne, the Lawrence Heritage State Park visitor-services supervisor—one of

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- Barbara Best, Director of Student and Fellows Program, Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership

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the factories that manufactured fabric for military uniforms for the Civil War through World War II. And there’s the Ayer Clock Tower. Built in 1910, it’s still one of the world’s largest; its four glass faces are only slightly smaller than those on Big Ben. The heritage park’s museum, located in a restored 1840s mill-workers’ boarding house, lays out the city’s history and is well worth a visit.

Yet industry came at a stiff price. Koehler, whose father ran the boathouse during the 1980s and 1990s, says his older board members tell stories of how the river used to “run in colors”—most often vivid green—from vats of dyes dumped by textile firms. “In the 1950s and 60s, the parents would check behind their kids’ ears to see if they’d been swimming in the river,” he explains, “because the kids would wash themselves off in front of a mirror, and never remember to get out the ink or dye behind their ears.”

Today, “the river is cleaner than it used to be,” he says. Steering away from the dam, up the river, he turns into a creek and touts the wildlife: American bald eagles, deer, nesting Canadian geese, dam-building beavers. Turtles lay eggs in the boathouse’s yard. Once the hatchlings have emerged and “are trying to make their way to the water, across the backyard where a hundred kids are about to run around,” he, the staff, and the children gently move them to the shore of the creek. For city kids, Koehler notes, the riv-

ALL IN A DAY: A Rural Retreat

Just 19 miles from hot and congested downtown Boston lies the bucolic town of Lincoln. Even before postwar suburbia arose, Lincoln’s leaders and residents eschewed sprawl. As a result, more than 38 percent of the community is protected land. Eighty public trails, some of which begin at the MBTA commuter-rail station, skirt Walden Pond and wind through farmland, woods, and meadows.

The star cultural destination is the 30-acre deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, dotted with 49 works. Jonathan Gitelson’s existential billboard asks: Are You Here? (2016). Visitors walk right into Dan Graham’s Crazy Spheroid—Two Entrances (2009), a half-circle of two-way mirrored glass, and they play The Musical Fence (1980), a vertical aluminum xylophone by Paul Matisse ’54. Easy walking paths lead to a café, picnic spots, and shady lawns; the museum’s stone terrace overlooks Flints Pond. On exhibit inside, through September 17, is “Expanding Abstraction: New England Women Painters, 1950 to Now,” celebrating contributions by Natalie Alper, Reese Inman ’92, Katherine Porter, and Barbara Takenaga, among others.

Not far away is a modernist enclave anchored by the Gropius House, the former family home of Bauhaus architect and influential Harvard Graduate School of Design professor Walter Gropius. It’s now owned by Historic New England, and open for tours, as is the Codman Estate nearer to the town center. Beautiful gardens surround a Georgian mansion built by judge and politician Chambers Russell, A.B. 1731, A.M. ’66 (who left it to a Codman relative). Russell also was instrumental in the founding of Lincoln in 1754; it’s named for his ancestral home in Lincolnshire, England—not for the American president.

A short trail walk leads to the town-owned Codman Community Farms. Visit the barnyard, take classes, volunteer to work, or buy eggs, meats, produce, and flowers. Nearby, on a larger scale, Mass Audubon’s Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary runs an animal farm and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, along with year-round events and workshops. For food and drinks, head to Lincoln’s only commercial cluster, next to the train station. Dip into Donelan’s Market or the Trail’s End Café for picnic fare, or sit down for a meal at Lincoln Kitchen.
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Harvard Squared

Harvard Squared

er is often their primary contact with nature—and plenty of adults, he adds, don’t realize what a respite it offers. “Every evening, the orange sun sets—right there!” he says, pointing upstream from the boathouse. “Right down the center of the river, every night. It’s like Aruba!”

About three-and-a-half miles upriver from the Lawrence boathouse are places to pull in and explore. People walk and picnic on a finger of land called Pine Island, owned by the MRWC. Koehler says the island was once home to a hermit who had a “little shack and a rowboat he used to get back and forth from the shore.” Long before, archaeological evidence shows, the island hosted a Penacook Indian settlement.

The Penacooks once moved freely along the Merrimack River, hunting and fishing. “During the last quarter of the seventeenth century, the Penacook Indians were feared by the residents of Andover,” according to the Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS) website. “In 1675, the Indians attacked from the north, crossing the river, killing some settlers, and taking others hostage.”

Adjacent to Pine Island is the 131-acre Deer Jump Reservation, owned by AVIS. Its banks run about four feet high, but paddlers can travel up side streams, tie boats to a tree, and scramble ashore. A riverside trail offers easy hiking, and the land is home to hemlock groves and a meadow, an AVIS warden reports, along with fisher cats, otters, wild turkeys, foxes, coyotes, and skunks.

Back in Lowell, Soleil agrees the river offers “a real connection to nature that people are not expecting.” At the end of their trip, the celebrating seniors pull up to the docks and pull out their kayaks. It’s 5:30 p.m. Everyone is a bit wet and wind-blown. The mood is convivial as they thank Soleil for a fun time before bounding away to other evening activities.

“It is what it is,” he says, almost shrugging when pressed to say more about the Merrimack’s “mixed bag.” “My position is that the more people we can get out to experience the river, the more people would care about it, and the better off it would be.”
Summer in New England is a time to relax, eat well, and have some fun. Restaurants, from the eccentric to the refined, offer the chance to do just that, while showcasing local produce and products in verdant settings.

Cantina 229, on five pastoral acres in New Marlboro, is a beautiful post-and-beam barn-style space with glass walls. Eat inside or out. Picnic tables sit on the grass, where “kids run around and visit the pigs, and free-range chickens come right up,” says Emily Irwin, who opened the restaurant last year with her chef-husband Josh Irwin. Lawn toys—Frisbees, horseshoes, and “corn hole” gear (a.k.a. bean-bag toss)—help foster schmoozing within a gustatory crowd that often includes the Irwins’ parents and friends. The menu has an Asian twist, thanks to Josh Irwin’s year of traveling in India, Thailand, and China. Korean bibimbap and pa jun, a pancake filled with leeks, scallion, and chives, are mainstays, along with a hefty cheeseburger topped with grilled onions and turmeric pickles. Tuesdays are Taco Night. (Entrées $15-$28; www.cantina229.com)

To the west, past Great Barrington, is the lovely John Andrews Farmhouse Restaurant, set on a homestead site dating to the late 1700s. There are three small dining rooms, a tight-knit bar, and a simple terrace with views of woodlands, perennial gardens, and old stone walls. Chef/owner Dan Smith follows a locavore ethic, cooking whatever’s freshest, with no showboating about it. One night that was Wolfe Spring Farm’s asparagus (grown in nearby Sheffield). Crisp and tasting of minerals, it was tossed with organic greens, tart chèvre, and toasted pistachio nuts. The roast chicken breast entrée, faintly sweet with a perfect garlic confit, came with fennel and a handful of polenta fries. The restaurant sits just four miles from Mount Washington State Forest: go for a hike there, or a trip to Bash Bish Falls, before tucking in for drinks and dinner. (Entrées $28-$38; bar menu, $13-$25; www.johnandrewsrestaurant.com)

Back toward Boston, in the town of Becket, is the un-pigeonhole-able Dream Away Lodge. For 90 years, this magical spot on the edge of the October Mountain State Forest...
The oft-changing menu, devised by veteran Berkshires baker and chef Amy Loveless, is a tasty mix of basic, affordable fare (burgers, mac and cheese, spinach salad) and more elevated entrees (tarragon chicken, seared scallops, rack of lamb). It tends to fill up, especially on weekends, so call for a table. “My thought is that when driving into the middle of the forest for dinner, you should always make reservations,” Osman says, with a good laugh. And avoid using GPS to find this gem: real directions are on the website. (Entrées $12-$28; www.thedreamawaylodge.com)

Perhaps even more casual are the wood-fired BBQ stand and new Stone Cow Kitchen and its brewery, at the Carter and Stevens Farm in Barre. “It’s nontraditional because the menu is always changing,” says Molly DuBois, part of the fourth generation to run this spectacular 1,000-acre hilltop farm. “Last week we did tacos with our own micro greens, and at the brewery we grow our own ingredients for the beer as well.”

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