Harvard Community Connections

Programs say ‘Welcome to Harvard!’

Harvard supports Cambridge education

Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers joined Cambridge Mayor Michael Sullivan at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School on Aug. 1 to celebrate Harvard’s contribution of more than $500,000 to a variety of agencies and organizations that are helping advance the common goal of learning in Cambridge.

The event was centered around the Cambridge-Harvard Summer Academy, a five-year educational enrichment partnership between Harvard and the City of Cambridge that has linked Cambridge teachers and Harvard Graduate School of Education students with more than 400 local teenagers.

The event highlighted Harvard’s contribution of $500,000 to a variety of programs, and organizations that are helping advance the common goal of learning in Cambridge.

Harvard’s teaching mission does not stop at the gates of Harvard Yard.

In fact, a wide variety of educational programs and events organized or supported by the University connect thousands of Cambridge and Boston residents with activities each year.

This summer was no different. Whether it was tennis camps for Boston and Cambridge youth, a picnic in Harvard Yard for Cambridge seniors, concerts on the Charles or summer school for Cambridge high schoolers, summer learning and fun was a focus in the neighborhoods surrounding campus.

Continued on next page

Free open house, Sunday, Sept. 28

Harvard’s six museums welcome the community

The treasures of Harvard University’s six museums — from fine art to flowers of glass, tarantulas to dinosaur eggs, prehistoric pottery to 20th century masterpieces — are priceless.

But on Sunday, Sept. 28, they’ll be free, at the first-ever Harvard University Museums Community Day, an open house from 1 to 5 p.m.

The University’s three art museums — the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Busch-Reisinger Museum, and Fogg Art Museum — plus the Harvard Museum of Natural History, the Peabody Museum, and the Semitic Museum will throw open the doors to ongoing exhibitions and special events.

“Harvard’s museums are rich cultural and historical resources for the local community as well as for our students and the world-wide community of scholars. We look forward to welcoming our neighbors, young and old, to reacquaint themselves with the museums or to discover them for the first time,” says Alan Stone, vice president of public affairs for Harvard University.

Visitors can hear recitals by members of the Harvard Organ Society on the famous D. A. Flentrop Organ in Adolphus Busch Hall, take a sneak peek at an upcoming exhibit on ancient Israel at the Semitic Museum, or get to know a hedgehog or a snake at the Museum of Natural History’s “Creature Features.”

In addition, the museums will offer complimentary trial memberships at any or all of the Harvard's six museums offer a whole world of treasures within a few feet of each other. The museums truly have brought the world to Cambridge for residents to enjoy.

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**Microscopes help CRLS students discover new worlds**

The room held all the elements of a typical high school biology lab — students perched around lab tables in front of microscopes, teachers circulating, a presentation about what to look for, and chatter as the exercise proceeded. But after the students chopped up lily anthers, stained them, and observed, it was clear that they were seeing something special.

“I have little dots ... they are ... like ... splitting,” one teenage boy exclaimed through a tangle of curls as he peered intently into his new white microscope at the rapidly dividing cell. “Woah, this is pretty neat,” said another.

The students were the first at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) to use their new research-grade microscopes, part of a microscopy suite donation that marks the beginning of a four-year partnership between Harvard and the school science curricula. The project, guided by Robert Lue, director of undergraduate studies in the biological sciences, is part of a broader effort to bridge the gap between cutting-edge science and undergraduate and high school science curricula. “When high school curricula switched its focus to math and basic literacy, the biological sciences were somewhat de-emphasized,” said Lue.

“We are working to fight the tide, to make sure high school students have a 21st century understanding of science. It is important that research departments give back to this process.”

In a field that has ushered in such recent breakthroughs as the human genome project and new fields of inquiry like proteomics, there has been a widespread concern that the teaching of biology needs to keep pace. “The gift from Harvard is not only good for our students, but for the entire community,” said Sybil Knight, CRLS principal.

“Our mission is to train the scientists of tomorrow. The best way to do that is with strong, effective teachers. We already have that, and the latest technology gives us the opportunity to do more. There is no question that this equipment and the supporting services will help make us even better teachers and our students better scientists.”

**Programs say ‘Welcome to Harvard!’**

Cambridge youth took advantage of a range of summer activities offered by local non-profits, with some financial help from Harvard. Also, more than 800 Cambridge and Boston youth learned while having fun at 12 summer camps organized by Harvard’s Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), an undergraduate group devoted to public service activities in nearby neighborhoods.

For some local teens, their first-ever job was at Harvard. The Cambridge Harvard Summer Academy, held annually at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, brought together more than 400 Cambridge high school students and Harvard Graduate School of Education (GSE) students for a leg-up on the upcoming academic year.

At a visit of the school, Interim Cambridge Schools Superintendent Carolyn Turk praised Harvard’s involvement in Cambridge schools: “We hear a lot of talk about ‘partnerships’ but what I see is a local university doing its part for the community, with a sincere interest in supporting young people and adults,” said Turk. “Education is everybody’s business.”

And the connection continues at summer’s end. This fall, hundreds of Harvard students will mentor youth at Cambridge public schools, and events like Cambridge football day, Community Museum Day and public lectures will offer a variety of reasons for neighbors to come visit campus.

**Harvard STEP provides summer jobs for teens**

This year, the Harvard Summer Teen Employment Program (STEP) provided summer jobs for 36 Cambridge teens-agers. STEP is an eight-week summer program. STEP jobs include work in financial, payroll and budget support; data entry and database maintenance; filing and system implementation; messenger and delivery services; and landscaping, painting, and facilities maintenance.

Julie Brown from the Peabody Museum received the Warren MacEachern award for being an outstanding supervisor at the annual Teenwork luncheon earlier this month.

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The Harvard community connection has begun a new cycle. Stay tuned.
Harvard brings folk arts to four Cambridge elementary schools

During the Spring 2003 semester, a series of workshops by folk and traditional artists engaged children at four Cambridge elementary schools.

The workshops were produced by the Cambridge Arts Council in partnership with the Cambridge Public Schools with funding from Harvard.

Designed to integrate into the curriculum and tailored to each school, the workshops taught students the artistic heritage of a range of cultures.

The students from each school were invited to share what they learned with the community at the 25th annual Cambridge River Festival.

Participating schools were:

- **Amigos School**: Fifth-graders worked with artists from the Chinese Culture Connection, studying Chinese opera and learning about mask making.
- **Fletcher-Maynard Academy**: K-2 students welcomed their parents to a breakfast celebrating Central American cultures and painted traditional vejegante masks, lead by artist Rosalba Solis. Fifth-grade students learned techniques of Chinese brush painting from the Chinese Culture Connection. Second-graders participated in a Tai Chi demonstration by world renowned master Bow Sim Mark.
- **Haggerty School**: Students from grades 3-5 heard the creation story of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Nation as told by Tribal Council Leader Tobias Vanderhoop. Students selected their favorite images from the story to create an illustration which they then painted onto an 18-foot canoe.
- **Longfellow School**: The Chinese Culture Connection taught the ancient arts of paper folding and knots to fourth-grade students. The students’ paper creations were used to adorn a “Tree of Life.”

Cambridge families ‘Make Way for Ducklings’ at two free concerts

Harvard University sponsored the 12th annual Summer in the City performance series at Riverside Press Park, as part of the 25th Annual Cambridge River Festival.

On July 14, the the Boston Landmarks Orchestra presented two performances of “Make Way for Ducks,” the favorite children’s story by local author Robert McCloskey, set to music for the first time by Daniel Pinkham, a Cambridge resident.

Young and old alike enjoyed the orchestral performances of the ducks’ tale, but children Pinkham noted, the story’s “message of compassion is universal.”

Music in the park.

Cambridge Day for football fun

Cambridge residents are invited to Cambridge Day at Harvard Stadium to see the Harvard Crimson take on the Brown University Bears in Harvard’s home opener this Saturday, Sept. 27. Festivities start with a tailgate party at 11 a.m. with kickoff at noon. Complimentary tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis; call 617-495-4955. The Crimson, which finished second in the Ivy League last year, is looking for the championship in 2003.
Harvard’s six museums welcome community

Continued from Page 1

museums, good for free admission and other discounts and special events until Dec. 31.

Free maps will be available at all six museums.

Highlights of the day include:

- A welcome tent on Divinity Avenue will begin giving away maps, brochures, cold drinks and other items at 1 p.m.

- Organ recitals by student members of the Harvard Organ Society and Harvard University staff members on the D.A. Flentrop Organ every half-hour beginning at 1:30 p.m. in Adolphus Busch Hall, 29 Kirkland St.

- “Creature Features,” hands-on participation with live animals such as snakes, tarantulas, hedgehogs, and frogs, at 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St. The Museum of Natural History presents the collections and research of the Harvard University Herbaria, Mineralogical Museum, and Museum of Comparative Zoology and is home to the renowned Glass Flowers, a 42-foot-long prehistoric Kronosaurus, and a fascinating hall of mammals.

- Preview tour of the upcoming exhibit “Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest,” an installation of the work of Gunter Uecker, Raimund Girke, Gerhard Richter, Pollock. Founded in 1895, houses masterpieces by Rembrandt, Ingres, Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh, Picasso, and other world-famous artists; an outstanding collection of drawings and prints; and a vast collection of 20th-century photographs.

- “Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest,” an exhibition of more than 100 prehistoric painted bowls created by the Mimbres, a pre-Pueblo farming people who lived in what is now the American Southwest from A.D. 200 until the 1100s, at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, 11 Divinity Ave. The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world, with one of the world’s finest collections of cultural history, particularly from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America.

To find out more about events at Harvard, visit us online at http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar/

The Harvard Welcome Guide also contains program information. For a copy, stop by the Harvard Events & Information Center, Holyoke Center Arcade, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue.