

VPA Connections

Office of the Vice President for Administration
Harvard University



Connecting to Harvard, to work, to colleagues

Fall 2007

Arnold Arboretum • Faculty Club • Harvard Magazine • Harvard Real Estate Services • Harvard University Dining Services • Harvard University Press • Office of the Vice President for Administration • University Operations Services • University Planning Office

Connecting to Colleagues: Diversity Matters

Religious at Work: Creating an Inclusive Workplace

Presenter: Joyce S. Dubensky and Rachel Ehlich,
Tannenbaum Center for Interreligious
Understanding

Date: Tuesday, November 13, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Place: Harvard Faculty Club



This session is designed to increase recognition of religious diversity as a significant (and growing) workplace issue and to enable participants to contribute to an inclusive office culture through respectful and sensitive behavior that avoids harassing others.

Through an examination of the trends driving religious diversity, a review of the basic beliefs and practices of some of the largest religious traditions in the United States and some of the common (and not so common) ways religious tensions pop up in the workplace, participants will leave the session with concrete and creative strategies for dealing with religious tensions and enhancing inclusivity. The session will also help participants build cross-cultural communication skills for respectful conversation around religious issues.

This program will combine small group exercises, large group discussion and presentation of compelling didactic material, allowing for peer learning, in-depth discussion and skill building. Participants will gain not only data and knowledge, but also the ability to apply that knowledge to their particular situation and implement what they learn.

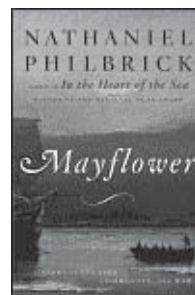
Book Group

Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War

By Nathaniel Philbrick

Date: Monday, November 19, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Place: Holyoke 571



In *Mayflower*, National Book Award–winner Philbrick examines the history of Plymouth Colony and the intermingling of several very different cultures. In the early 17th century, a small group of devout English Puritans fled their villages to escape persecution, ultimately making the now infamous 10-week voyage to the New World. Rather than arriving in the summer months as planned,

they landed in November, low on supplies. With great luck, but with wisdom and magnanimity on both sides as well, the settlers were accepted by the Wampanoag Indians and their wizened chief, Massasoit. Philbrick recounts the desperate circumstances of both the settlers and their would-be hosts, the Wampanoags' efforts to save the colony from certain destruction, and the ensuing 50 years of peace and growing interdependence. The situation changed drastically in 1675, 56 years after the colonists' landing, when a growing influx of English settlers and shifting priorities unraveled the peace that had been so carefully nurtured. Massasoit's heir, Philip, launched a terrifying war on the English that claimed 5,000 lives, a huge percentage of the colonies' population. Impeccably researched and expertly rendered, Philbrick's account brings the Plymouth Colony and its leaders, including William Bradford, Benjamin Church and the bellicose Miles Standish, vividly to life. (adapted from *Publishers Weekly*).

Book Group *Suite Francaise*

by Irene Némirovsky

Date: Wednesday, December 12, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Place: Holyoke Center 571



Celebrated in pre-WWII France for her bestselling fiction, the Jewish Russian-born Némirovsky was sent to Auschwitz in the summer of 1942, months after this long-lost masterwork was composed.

Némirovsky, a convert to Catholicism, began a planned five-novel cycle as Nazi forces overran northern France in 1940. This gripping “suite,” collecting the first two unpolished sections of a work cut

short, surfaced more than six decades after her death. The first, “Storm in June,” chronicles the connecting lives of a disparate clutch of Parisians all fleeing city comforts for the chaotic countryside, mere hours ahead of the advancing Germans. The second, “Dolce,” set in 1941 in a farming village under German occupation, tells how peasant farmers, their families and petit bourgeois collaborationists coexisted with their Nazi rulers. In a workbook entry penned just weeks before her arrest, Némirovsky noted that her goal was to describe “daily life, the emotional life and especially the comedy it provides.” This heroic work does just that, by focusing—with compassion and clarity—on individual humans and their reactions to crisis and chaos. (adapted from *Publishers Weekly*).

Connecting to Work

Creating a Service Based Workplace

Presenter: Andrew Cohn, Lighthouse Consulting, LLC

Date: Thursday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. to noon

Place: Harvard Faculty Club

Imagine a workplace where colleagues truly supported one another, where there was a high level of caring and trust, and where productivity benefited from an enriching and engaging environment. This innovative program explores what it means to be of service to people with whom we work, aligning our interpersonal actions with our values. We will reflect upon our own experiences and discuss how we can create a workplace culture based upon the service ethic, and the positive impact such a culture would have on our relationships and our effectiveness. We will also use group exercises to identify specific ways each of us can bring this idea back to our teams—and be of service to one another at work. Come and join us for an engaging workshop about values, meaningful communication and business results.

Connecting to Harvard

A Walking Tour of Historic Harvard Yard

Presenter: Charles Sullivan, Executive Director, Cambridge Historical Commission

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Place: Meet inside Johnson Gate by Harvard Hall

If the walls inside Harvard Yard could talk, what might they say? The University has a three hundred year history of trying to strike a workable balance between preservation and growth – between revering its past and looking ahead to future opportunities and needs. Not surprisingly, Harvard University and historic preservation advocates have a long and complex relationship. Tour director Charles Sullivan will recount the history of key buildings, cover historic preservation issues in and near the Yard and discuss city, state, and Federal jurisdiction issues that apply to Harvard properties.

Harvard’s Biggest Project: New Developments in Allston

Presenter: Harris Band, Allston Development Group

Date: Thursday, November 1, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Place: Allston Room, Holyoke Center Arcade Level

It may be a while since you’ve attended an information session about Harvard’s new campus in Allston, or your information may be limited to just what you’ve read in the *Crimson* or the *Globe*. Do you know what is in the Allston Master Plan? What is happening with the proposed science building? Which schools will move across the river – and when? The University is working to develop an urban community in Allston that integrates academic development with a range of civic, neighborhood and public functions – how is the planning progressing? Harris Band, Director of Master Planning for the Allston Development Group, will give you the insider’s view of the Allston Initiative, a project that will redefine that Harvard campus and community.