

# VPA Connections

Office of the Vice President for Administration  
Harvard University



Connecting to Harvard, to work, to colleagues

Spring 2006

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

## Connecting to Work

### Beyond Reason: Using Emotions as You Negotiate

**Presenters:** Roger Fisher, Harvard Law School and Daniel Shapiro, Harvard Law School

**Date:** Monday, March 27, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Harvard Faculty Club



Whether negotiating with an angry employee or a spiteful colleague, emotions can derail you – or, if handled astutely, they can help you get what you want.

Roger Fisher and Daniel Shapiro will discuss ideas from their new book, *Beyond Reason: Using Emotions as You Negotiate*, offering practical ideas to help you deal with your own emotions and those of others. Their talk will explore the challenges of handling emotional interactions and will present a practical framework for simplifying the often “fuzzy” world of emotions. Armed with this knowledge, you can better gauge your colleagues’ needs, set the emotional tone of discussions, and more frequently reach mutually acceptable agreements.

Roger Fisher, co-author of the best selling *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*, is the Samuel Williston Professor Emeritus of Law at the Harvard Law School and co-founder and director of the Harvard Negotiation Project. Daniel Shapiro is the associate director of the Harvard Negotiation Project and a faculty member at both the Harvard Law School and Harvard Medical School.

The first 30 people to register and attend this event will receive complimentary copies of *Beyond Reason* (Viking, 2005).

### Kick it Up a Notch: Recharging Your Communication Skills

**Presenter:** Deb Jackson, Intentional Outcomes, Inc.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 9:00 a.m. to noon

**Place:** Harvard Faculty Club

You may have attended a communications workshop and left ready to take action and practice what you learned. Maybe that was months or even years ago. Now what? You may be looking for ways to reinforce those ideas or develop new methods. In this workshop you will recharge your communication skills and learn to use them more effectively, both in challenging situations and circumstances - and in day-to-day life. Using specific, firsthand scenarios, participants will learn how to communicate more effectively and achieve productive, creative outcomes.

## Connecting to Harvard

### VPA Night: Harvard Men’s Hockey vs. St. Lawrence

**Date:** Friday, February 24, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. game

**Place:** Dinner at Gordon Mezzanine, game at Bright Hockey Center

Invite your family and join your colleagues for a night of Crimson hockey. We will meet for dinner, compliments of Crimson Catering, and then cheer on the Crimson as they take on the Saints of St. Lawrence University.

When signing up please indicate how many tickets you will need and whether you plan on joining us for dinner. Tickets are limited and will be first come, first served.

To register for a program:

Phone: 617/496-1072 • Fax: 617/496-1296 • Email: [vpa\\_connections@harvard.edu](mailto:vpa_connections@harvard.edu)

## Connecting to Harvard

### The Collections of Houghton Library

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

**Place:** Houghton Library, meet on the main stairs by the entrance

When Harvard opened the Houghton Library in 1942, it became the first university to construct a separate research facility for the housing and study of rare books and manuscripts. Today, Houghton's focus is on the study of Western Civilization, and materials include special concentrations in printing, graphic arts, and the theatre. The collections encompass such wonderfully diverse holdings as ostraca, daguerreotypes, and the working papers of novelists and poets. Our tour will include a general introduction to the library, followed by a look at special rooms including the Amy Lowell Room, the John Keats Room, and the Emily Dickinson Room. Each room will have rare materials on display for viewing.

## Connecting to Colleagues: Diversity Matters

### Fostering Diversity in Your Workplace

**Presenter:** Barbara Holland, BreakThrough Partners

**Date:** Tuesday, April 4, 9:00 a.m. - noon

**Place:** Harvard Faculty Club

How can you help promote an inclusive and diverse work environment where employees are valued, needed, cared about as individuals, fairly compensated, and challenged to do their personal best? In this program we will learn how aspects of our organizational culture create barriers/opportunities that can limit/enhance building an inclusive and diverse workplace community. We will discuss roadblocks to inclusion and diversity that are often unknowingly embedded in existing work systems and explore how stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, bigotry and destructive "isms" interact to block the progress of inclusion and diversity. In addition, we will look at how these forces can operate undetected within our workplace, often leading to misunderstanding, low morale, lowered productivity, poor performance, and lack of creativity.

*Join the Arnold Arboretum in celebrating Lilac Sunday, May 14, from dawn to dusk. Plan a picnic and tour the lilacs. For more information [www.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu)*

### Book Group

#### *Harbor*

by Lorraine Adams

**Date:** Thursday, March 23, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

**Place:** Holyoke Center 550

*Harbor* recounts the adventures of Aziz Arkoun who, at twenty-four, makes his way to America via the hold of an Algerian tanker and the icy waters of Boston harbor. Believing himself rescued from isolation by Algerians he knew as a child, he instead finds himself in a world of disillusionment, duplicity, and stolen identities, living a raw comedy of daily survival not unlike what he fled back home. As the story of Aziz and his friends unfolds, moving from East Boston and Brooklyn to Montreal and a North African army camp, *Harbor* takes us inside the ambiguities of these men's past and present lives. When Aziz discovers that he and his circle appear to be under surveillance, all assumptions, his and ours, dissolve in urgent, mesmerizing complexity. *Harbor* is a fascinating look at the isolation and alienation of a group of recent immigrants (both legal and illegal) in Boston, their struggles to fit in, and their conflicted views of American culture (adapted from Amazon.com).

### Book Group

#### *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*

by Jonathan Kozol

**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

**Place:** Holyoke Center 550



Respected author Jonathan Kozol delivers a scathing indictment of public education and the public policy that preserves inequities along race and class lines—producing, in effect, an apartheid educational system. Drawing on his experiences as a teacher in the 1960s and his 40 years spent working with children in inner-city schools, Kozol has a masterful overview of the public school system. For this book, he visited 60 schools in 30 districts in 11 states over a five-year period, gaining access to students, teachers and parents, penetrating their thoughts, feelings, and circumstances. Kozol examines the nation's long and troubled history of relegating minority students to the worst schools and the disheartening and growing influence of American business on these schools, which slot children to training for low-status jobs and careers (from *Booklist*).

At our discussion, we will be joined by Erica Frankenberg from the Civil Rights Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She will help guide our discussion and share current research and policy issues with us.

**Complimentary copies of the books will be sent to book group participants upon registration.**

To register for a program:

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