

VPA Connections

Office of the Vice President for Administration
Harvard University



Connecting to Harvard, to work, to colleagues

Spring 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

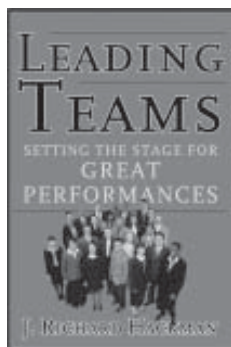
Connecting to Work

What Makes A Great Team?

Presenter: J. Richard Hackman, Harvard University Department of Psychology

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Harvard Faculty Club



Sometimes magic happens in a team - the orchestra that turns in a transcendental performance, the customer service team that comes up with an original idea that is both workable and valued by customers, the cockpit crew that somehow manages to save a flight that should have been doomed. Magic is rare in teams and cannot be preprogrammed.

But sometimes it does happen -

even in work groups at Harvard. This workshop identifies the factors that differentiate great from ineffectual teams and suggests a new concept of leadership that can reframe how leaders design, support, and coach their teams. Professor Hackman will draw from his book *Leading Teams: Setting the Stage for Great Performances* (Harvard Business School Press).

How the Four Communication Styles Organize for Work

Presenters: Deb Jackson, Intentional Outcomes, Inc., and Hilary O'Donnell, Cambio International

Date: Thursday, May 24, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Place: Harvard Faculty Club

Does the way you organize your work 'work for you?' What impact does your style of organizing have on your colleagues? Do subtle, unspoken dynamics in meetings

zap your effectiveness? In this workshop, participants will use the "I Speak" Styles Inventory and apply it to teamwork, meeting behavior and office environment/organization. Using a mix of role-playing and vignettes, participants will learn more about their own personal "style," how it relates to the organization of their work, and how to modify it in order to be more effective in different situations.

Connecting to Colleagues: Diversity Matters

Immigration and the Transformation of American Society

Presenter: Mary C. Waters, Harvard University Department of Sociology

Date: Monday, April 30, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Harvard Faculty Club

How are immigrants and their children doing in the United States? Are they integrating into American society? The United States has historically been very successful in assimilating immigrants over time. Are those patterns holding among the immigrants who have come in the last forty years? What are the challenges facing immigrants — and the challenges facing American society — as we absorb new immigrants? What implications do today's patterns have for our society? For work? Professor Waters will examine these and other issues addressed in *The New Americans: A Guide to Immigration since 1965* (edited by Mary C. Waters and Reed Ueda, published by Harvard University Press, 2007).



Programs are free - To register for a program:

Phone: 617/496-1072 • Fax: 617/496-1296 • Email: vpa_connections@harvard.edu

Book Group***Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits***

by Laila Lalami

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.**Place:** Holyoke Center Room 1006

In the overture to this compelling collection of linked short stories, Moroccans desperate for better lives take the risk of trusting a smuggler to carry them across the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain. First-time author Lalami then circles back to tell the stories of what led up to their attempted escapes and reveals what follows their harrowing journeys, offering telling glimpses into contemporary Morocco and perceptive renderings of the troubles that force people to leave the world they know for a strange and hostile place (from *Booklist*)

For additional information on this topic, participants will also be given readings from and about *Enrique's Journey*, a book based on Sonia Nazario's Pulitzer Prize winning articles for the *Los Angeles Times*, tracing the path of illegal immigrants into the United States. Both Lalami's and Nazario's books show the challenges of illegal immigration, and we will use both the book and readings to guide our discussion.

Book Group***The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl***

by Timothy Egan

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.**Place:** Holyoke Center Room 1006

In *The Worst Hard Time*, winner of the 2006 National Book Award for nonfiction, Timothy Egan explores the factors that led to the Dust Bowl and the cataclysmic effects on the people who experienced it. By the 1930s, due largely to government policies that promoted increased settlement, the southern Great Plains were overpopulated with family farms - "sodbusters" who plowed up the grasslands to plant wheat, thus removing the natural grasses. An eight-year drought, high temperatures, and devastating wind storms succeeded in blowing away tons of soil built up over millennia, resulting in widespread death and destruction. Timothy Egan combines a history of the disaster and the policies that caused it with heart-wrenching stories of human suffering across all socio-economic and ethnic lines.

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

Connecting to Harvard**A Visit to the Fogg Art Museum****Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.**Place:** Meet at the entrance to the Fogg, 32 Quincy Street

The Fogg Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1895, is Harvard's oldest art museum. Around its Italian Renaissance courtyard are galleries illustrating the history of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present. The Wertheim Collection, one of America's finest collections of Impressionist and post-Impressionist work, contains many famous masterworks. The Boston area's most important collection of Picasso's work is found at the Fogg, as well as outstanding collections of photographs, prints, and drawings. Join us for a tour of the museum and hear about the Fogg's upcoming move to Allston and what it means for both the collections and for visitors.

How Things Work at Harvard**Presenter:** Susan Shefte, Office of the Vice President for Administration**Date:** Thursday, April 12, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.**Place:** Holyoke Center Room 571

What is the Corporation, and what does the Board of Overseers do? How is the endowment managed, and who decides how to spend it? How are budgets set? This program will unravel many of Harvard's mysteries in an hour. Learn about the relationships between the schools, Central Administration and Mass Hall, about how big decisions are made, and about how Harvard's finances work. Feel free to bring your lunch; drinks and dessert will be provided.

From Soup to Nuts**Guide:** Martin Breslin, Harvard University Dining Services**Date:** Thursday, May 10, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.**Place:** Meet at the loading dock at 80 JFK Street, across from the Kennedy School of Government

Consider the organization and work it takes to produce 25,000 meals a day. How do sacks of potatoes become mashed and fried and beans become burritos? From planning specialized menus to measuring nutritional information to distributing the right amount of food to each dining facility, it all starts at the Culinary Support Group. Join us for a tour of the CSG and hear the fascinating story of one of the most complex organizations on campus. After the tour, participants are invited to enjoy lunch at Leverett Dining Hall.

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