At Yale, a faculty committee appointed by the Dean selects the very best students from among those who have been nominated by their departments to be Whiting Fellows. This year’s Whiting Fellows are Mattia Acetoso (Italian Language and Literature), Eric Bianchi (Music), Haydon Cherry (History), David Currell (English Language and Literature), Dan Gustafson (English Language and Literature), David Huyssen (History), Sebastian Lecourt (English Language and Literature), and Richard Suchenski (History of Art, Film Studies).

They were honored at a dinner hosted by the Dean in October and will meet several times during the spring semester to explore intellectual and professional issues that go beyond their specific dissertation topics. Robert Nelson, dgs

"It will be a pleasure to work with this year’s Whiting Fellows," Nelson says. "We had excellent applications from which to choose last spring, and I am well aware of how special and deserving are these scholars. We will first meet and get to know each other and explore common interests. These will be thematic, not disciplinary, such as cultural memory, the sacred and the secular, literary and artistic genres, wealth and poverty, and performance. Next we will invite others to discuss some of these issues with us. My goal is to provide a stimulating intellectual environment for some of our finest graduate students as they move forward to the beginning of their professional careers."

The Whiting Foundation seeks to encourage students to address their role as humanists, not merely as practitioners of specific disciplines. The Graduate School strongly endorses that approach," says

Honoring Humanities Scholars

Whiting Fellowships are among the most prestigious student honors awarded in the United States. Funded by the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, these fellowships are given to a small number of students at seven universities that have outstanding graduate programs in the humanities. At Yale, a faculty committee appointed by the Dean selects the very best students from among those who have been nominated by their departments to be Whiting Fellows. This year’s Whiting Fellows are Mattia Acetoso (Italian Language and Literature), Eric Bianchi (Music), Haydon Cherry (History), David Currell (English Language and Literature), Dan Gustafson (English Language and Literature), David Huyssen (History), Sebastian Lecourt (English Language and Literature), and Richard Suchenski (History of Art, Film Studies). They were honored at a dinner hosted by the Dean in October and will meet several times during the spring semester to explore intellectual and professional issues that go beyond their specific dissertation topics. Robert Nelson, dgs

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Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Steitz is the Sterling professor of molecular biophysics and biochemistry, a professor of chemistry, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. He won the award for his work describing the structure and function of the ribosome, the protein-making factory that is key to the function of all life.

Steitz shares the $1.4 million award with Venkatraman Ramakrishnan of the mrc Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, United Kingdom, and Ada E. Yonath, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel. All three used a
My goal is to provide a stimulating intellectual environment for some of our finest graduate students as they move forward to the beginning of their professional careers." — ROBERT NELSON

The Whiting Foundation seeks to encourage students to address their role as humanists, not merely as practitioners of specific disciplines.

The Graduate School strongly endorses that approach." — EDWARD BARNABY

In my dissertation as an opportunity to bring together two important traditions of Italian culture — opera and poetry — allowing each to shed light on the other, and to confirm the importance of Italian culture in the humanities.

Mattia was born and raised in Pesaro, Italy, which he describes as "a lovely city on the Adriatic Sea, otherwise famous for being the birthplace of the composer Gioachino Rossini." He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Bologna, where his undergraduate research focused on the relationship between Russian and Italian poetry of the early 20th century. At Yale, he has been a member of the organizing committee for the annual Italian Film Festival, which brings the best of the most recent Italian films to campus. He has also presented papers at academic conferences around the U.S.

ERIC BIANCHI

Eric Bianchi is writing "Prodigious Sounds: Music and Learning in the World of Athanasius Kircher," a 17th-century German Jesuit priest who lived in Rome and "wrote massive tracts on music and acoustics, magnetism, secret codes, volcanoes, China, Egyptian hieroglyphics, and the Tower of Babel, among other things. Most of what he wrote was wrong — spectacularly wrong," says Eric.

His dissertation, advised by Ellen Rosand, explores Kircher's fascination with "celestial music, improbable echoes, contrap- tions for making music automatically — in short, all manner of rare and prodigious sounds." He argues that while "these matters are of little concern to modern music scholarship, they were of vital importance in Kircher's day. In fact, they are a more accurate guide to Baroque musical taste and connoisseurship, since they reflect the social and intellectual preoccupations of the age."

The origin of his project was "an image from one of Kircher's music treatises [that] grabbed my attention: a singing sloth from South America, ringed about with scholarly Latin prose. Once had I stopped laughing, it got me thinking about how the study of music has changed since Kircher's day, when 'music' didn't even exist as a separate academic discipline. I use Kircher to assess the state of musical knowledge in Baroque Italy: not only what people 'knew' in 1650, but why they studied and heard music so differently than we do today."

As part of his research, Eric spent a year in Italy, following Father Kircher's path through the streets and archives of Rome. A native of Hagaman, New York, Eric earned his undergraduate degree in philosophy from Villanova University before coming to Yale.

HAYDON CHERRY

Haydon Cherry comes from a small town in New Zealand. He enrolled at the National University of Singapore intending to study physics and math, but the experience of living in Southeast Asia prompted him to learn more about the history of the region. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Southeast Asian Studies and a master's degree in history, and came to Yale in 2004. He is currently working on a dissertation titled "Down and Out in Saigon: The Social History of the Urban Poor, 1858–1939," advised by Benedict Kiernan.

"Over the past two years, my research has taken me to France and Vietnam to gather documents for my dissertation on the social history of the urban poor in colonial Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City). The first part of my study focuses on the economic and demographic changes in colonial Vietnam that produced the urban poor. The second part charts the careers of several exemplary individuals, a prostitute, an orphan, a rickshaw puller, a poor Frenchman, who lived through, and contributed to, those changes."

Haydon, who was married to Megan Lindsay (History) on October 16, says that when he tears himself away from his work, he enjoys "reading detective novels, listening to music before Brahms, and following one-day international cricket."
between rich and poor New Yorkers from
David Huyssen is working on "Terrible
day: Intersections of Wealth and Poverty
in Progressive Era New York, " with David
Town: Intersections of Wealth and Poverty
in Progressive Era New York, " with David

"It is often noted that students in the Humanities are vulnerable to feeling
isolated because of the solitary nature of their research. The Whiting
Foundation’s program counters this tendency and provides a rare and
invigorating opportunity for students to reflect and articulate what
has shaped their own intellectual direction as humanists. " (HBR)
technology called x-ray crystallography to map the position for each and every one of the hundreds of thousands of atoms that make up the ribosome. Steitz’s recent work has focused on a subunit of the ribosome, which has been recognized at the highest level.

“For those of us who work in the lab, Tom is a collegial advisor. Despite the fact that we lack equivalent experience and prestige, he still treats us all as colleagues, each with an equal, individual responsibility to conduct excellent scientific research.”

The students were eager to praise their advisor for his mentorship, as well as his research. “For those of us who work in the lab, Tom is a collegial advisor. Despite the fact that we lack equivalent experience and prestige, he still treats us all as colleagues, each with an equal, individual responsibility to conduct excellent scientific research. He is also a personable mentor, who is easily approachable and extremely sharp. Graduate students in his lab are always encouraged to strive to answer the most interesting and complex questions. Tom often says that, ‘Just because a problem is interesting doesn’t make it difficult.’ His extraordinary knowledge and ability in the field of macromolecular crystallography is matched only by the support system of his lab in the form of post-doctoral fellows and laboratory technicians.”

And summing up, they added, “We are all extremely proud to work with him, excited for our collective futures, and anxiously awaiting the crystal structures yet to come.”

Mark Hatzenbuehler
Psychology

Mark Hatzenbuehler has won two awards from the American Public Health Association: the Walter J. Lear Award for his paper titled “State-level discrimination policies: Environmental risk factors for psychosocial morbidity in LGB populations” and the Kenneth Cotten Award for another paper titled “Impact of discriminatory laws on psychological and mental health.” The paper, which analyzes how corporate managers exploit the psychological biases of investors by manipulating earnings reports, contributes to the theory of accounting choices in the presence of information asymmetry and investor irrationality. Kai was one of 12 graduate students invited to participate in the international conference. His advisors are Michael Kaiser and Shyam Sunder, and Frank Zhang. Before coming to Yale, he earned a B.A. in finance from Peking University and an M.A. in economics from Georgetown.

On a recent Tuesday evening, a few graduate students gathered in a wood-paneled room in the Hall of Graduate Studies to talk about the next steps they would need to take after their academic achievements are laureled with Ph.D. degrees.

Instead of pursuing traditional assistant professorships or postdoctoral positions, these students shared an interest in finding careers outside the academic track.

The reasons they gave were varied.

One student wants to trade the long hours spent working alone in a lab for interactions with people and having a real-world impact. Another is simultaneously considering both the academic and non-academic job markets because she knows that her chances of landing one of the few academic positions in her field are exceedingly small. For many in the room, financial, geographical, or family considerations make the academic job search a difficult option to pursue. Others say that the academic job market has not kept up with the number of doctorates produced by graduate schools and partly because other rewarding opportunities abound, according to Victoria Blodgett, director of the Graduate Career Services.

Many graduate students who decide that they do not want to stay on the academic track are not aware of other career paths available to them or that they have acquired transferable skills that employers value. In addition, looking for a non-academic job can be baffling, because the process differs from the academic job search, with which students and their advisors are more familiar. The Job Search Club gives students a safe setting to talk about leaving the known world of academe and encourages them to explore alternative careers, learn about networking, get feedback on resumes, practice interview questions, and share tips and suggestions.

The club has a website with resources, some of which will be discussed at future meetings. Guest speakers will be invited to give expert advice on business etiquette and how to perform well at informational interviews. In combination with a series of workshops offered by Blodgett on the nuts and bolts of the non-academic job search, the Job Search Club aims to assist students in identifying a career that is right for them and to give them the tools they need to land their dream jobs.

The Job Search Club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m in 1054. For more information, please contact Victoria.Blodgett@yale.edu.

By Maria Lebedeva and Agata Gluszek

Nobel Prize, continued...
Graduate Teaching Center Offers Certificate Program

In recent years, participation has increased in all the programs and services offered by the Graduate Teaching Center (GTC). This increase aligns with a greater emphasis on excellent teaching, observed both here at Yale and across the academic landscape.

To help Yale students pursue a more comprehensive approach to teaching training and give formal recognition to those efforts, the GTC has initiated a Certificate in College Teaching Preparation (CTP).

Graduate students will continue to draw upon existing programs offered by the GTC and other offices on campus. The new certificate guidelines will help students organize their efforts and receive official documentation of those efforts that can be used in job applications. Since other university teaching centers offer similar certificate programs, the CTP will help Yale graduate students compete successfully in the academic job market.

“We believe that graduate students who complete the certificate program will be better able to teach undergraduates at Yale and beyond and be more attractive candidates for colleges and universities that are recruiting skillful teachers,” says Bill Rando, director of the GTC. “The program will encourage students to use the teaching-training resources at Yale most advantageously and efficiently.”

The CTP program supports teaching fellows throughout their years at Yale, but is primarily designed for those who are just starting their teaching or who have recently completed a Fundamentals of Teaching course. To earn the certificate, graduate students must document their completion of six requirements. These include teaching at Yale, observing other teachers and being observed, and participating in pedagogy workshops from introductory to advanced levels. Each student is also required to develop a teaching portfolio and complete an exit interview.

“We designed the CTP program to be as flexible as possible to allow individuals to pursue teaching topics they find most interesting and relevant.”

Jenny Frederick

“We designed the CTP program to be as flexible as possible to allow individuals to pursue teaching topics they find most interesting and relevant,” says Jenny Frederick, associate director of the GTC and science education specialist. “Some might focus on diversity in the classroom or instructional technology, while others might seek advanced training in teaching students to write good papers.”

Strong interest in the program is reflected in the large number of registrants who have enrolled in the first semester the CTP is being offered. Rando and Frederick both applaud the efforts of the CTP fellows, a team of graduate students who play key roles in support of their peers who are seeking to complete the certificate.

Rahul, who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, represented the GSAA as well as the Yale Club of San Francisco. He and Dean Butler were both asked by the family to say a few words at the reception after the service, and Rahul reports that the family seemed to be extremely grateful and moved to have them there. Three members of the Association of Asian American Yale Alumni also attended.

The Graduate School supports its larger community of alumni in many ways. When the Dean hosts receptions and faculty talks throughout the country—and abroad—the GSAA steps in to help. Last year, one of the newest board members, Dina Consolini Donnomet (Ph.D. 1999, Italian), helped the GSAA organize a successful gathering for more than 140 alumni and guests in London. The event was held at the Army & Navy Club on St. James’s Square. Dean Butler gave a spirited talk on the topic “Religion and Modern America,” preceded by a conversation and drinks. Dina, our GSAA member on the ground, lives in Buckinghamshire and works as program director for the Department of Management at the London School of Economics and Political Science and its US partner institution, Duke Corporate Education. The success of the evening in London speaks volumes about how much Yale alumni connect to Yale, no matter where they earned their degrees or where they live.

This year, the Graduate School will be hosting Dean’s receptions in New York City on February 23 and in Washington, D.C., on May 17, both with Yale faculty member Elizbeth Alexander as the featured speaker. Professor Alexander is chair of the Department of African American Studies and is perhaps best known as the inaugural poet for President Barack Obama. She gave a spell-binding talk and poetry-reading in San Francisco last May at another Graduate School event hosted by Dean Butler, attracting 243 alumni and guests from across the Bay Area. Local GSAA members and leaders of the local Yale clubs will be on hand in New York and Washington, to greet alumni at the upcoming events.

By Jo Ann Caplin and Maria Kontaridis

EDITORS NOTE

Maria Kontaridis (Ph.D. 2002, Pharmacology), currently an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, has just been elected to the AYA Board of Governors for a three-year appointment, 2009–2012. Jo Ann Caplin (May English), an Emmy-award-winning former network news producer and senior fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, is working on a limited series for PBS on the relationships between science and art. She has just filmed the authentication of a little “lost and found” work by Leonardo da Vinci, to be seen soon on the air.
Acadian → Cajun → American
Ryan André Brasseaux (American Studies) is on track to complete his Ph.D. within the next three years, but his first scholarly book has already been published and has received high praise.

Cajun Breakdown: The Emergence of an American-Made Music (Oxford University Press 2009) is a social and cultural history of Cajun music, placing this little-studied style within the context of American popular music. Cajuns are the descendants of Acadian French Catholic settlers who were deported from Canada during the Seven Years’ War between the French and the British in the 1750s and 60s and who now live, primarily, in southern Louisiana.

“Brasseaux’s Cajun Breakdown is a lucid and compelling account of the survival of a people and their music against all odds. “Cajun music changed over time and with the times. Its trans-Atlantic, French, Canadian, and southern roots lapped and twined into an American art form. The music becomes all the more original, adaptive, and brilliant when heard through his riveting depiction.” — BERTHA ELLIOTT BEBBITY

It’s hard to imagine there being a better book on the history of Cajun music,” says John Suwol, the John M. Musser Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and professor emeritus of African American Studies at Yale.

The book examines the social and cultural roots of Cajun music through 1950, raising broad questions about the ethnic experience in America and the nature of American music itself. Despite the pressures of marginalization, denigration, and poverty, Ryan argues, the Cajun community created a thoroughly American genre, blending European and North American French songs, minstrel tunes, blues, jazz, hillbilly, Tin Pan Alley melodies, and western swing.

“The folkloric myth of purity and isolation dissolves before Ryan’s historical contextualization of the synchrony of Cajun life and art with national and global trends,” notes Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore, the Peter V. and C. Vann Woodward Professor of History at Yale. “Cajun music changed over time and with the times. Its trans-Atlantic, French, Canadian, and southern roots lapped and twined into an American art form. The music becomes all the more original, adaptive, and brilliant when heard through his riveting depiction.”

Research for the book “began as an attempt to re-connect with the soundtrack of my youth,” Ryan says. “My mind’s ear can still hear the thin, processed sound of Cajun music broadcast by a local French-Language AM station in my maternal grandfather’s Chevrolet pickup truck as we traversed the gravel byways surrounding his home in rural south Louisiana.

He annotated the broadcast with tales of dancing to Lawrence Walker, Harry Choates, and Irv LeJeune, yarns that both captured my imagination as a youth and sustained my interest throughout this project. Like my grandmother, I came of age sweating and dancing all night to the latest Cajun music in poorly ventilated south Louisiana dance halls. Indeed, my fascination with Cajun music stems directly from a personal crusade to better understand the world from whence I came.”

American Studies, and English professor of African American Studies, and professor emeritus of Anthropology and professor emeritus of American Studies at Yale. He drafted a preliminary version of the manuscript as part of his master’s degree in Anthropology.

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Ryan has served as a Cajun cultural expert for the National Council for the Traditional Arts, Associated Press, National Public Radio, Public Radio International, Canadian Broadcast Cooperation, National Film Board of Canada, and the Food Network. He drafted a preliminary version of the manuscript among several American Studies faculty members and two history graduate students, Katherine Mooney and Joseph Frenozczak, who generously gave insightful comments and critiques.

“Cajun Breakdown is a much better book because of the tremendous support and engagement I received from family, peers, and Yale’s faculty. To be sure, the book would not have been possible if it were not for my strongest support — my wife Jessika and our two children, Anne Elise (5) and Joseph Emile (3) — to whom the book is dedicated. “The transformation from Master’s thesis to manuscript took place during my first two years of course work here at Yale. Meanwhile, I began to approach publishers. Oxford, Penn, and University of Illinoispresses all courted the project.” — STEPHEN REMBAH

Ryan’s dissertation will focus on a related, but much broader topic: the politics of culture in French North America, with an emphasis on the interactions between Quebec, Acadian New Brunswick, Franco-American New England, and French Louisiana between 1885 and 1995.

“I argue that speaking French is a political act in North America. I focus on the ways in which international relationships between these disparate groups stimulate Francophone conceptualizations of democracy and resistance in the face of Anglophone hegemony.” His dissertation advisor is John Mack Faragher. Other committee members are Gilmore, Matthew Jacobson, and Jay Gitlin.

In the Company of Scholars

Lectures

Tuesday, November 17
JEFFREY ALEXANDER
Laird C. Buis Professor of Anthropology, Barnard College (New York: Performing the Democratic Struggle for Power in 1880)

Tuesday, December 1
PIETER VAN DOKKUM
Professor of Astronomy and Physics, “This Evolving Universe”

Tuesday, March 30
ELIZABETH ALEXANDER
Professor of African American Studies, American Studies, and English

Tentative Talk

Monday, April 12
JAMES HEPKINSON
Professor of Music History, “Art Music Technicians: Music and the Earliest Orchestral Recordings”
Wilbur Cross Medals

Four alumni were awarded Wilbur Lucius Cross Medals, the Graduate School’s highest honor, on October 6 at a festive dinner hosted by President Richard C. Levin (Ph.D. 1974, Economics), Dean Jon Butler, and Carlos Riboó (Ph.D. 1998, Spanish & Portuguese), chair of the Graduate School Alumni Association Executive Committee.

The 2009 honorees were geneticist Michael S. Levine (Ph.D. 1986, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry), art historian Richard J. Powell (M.A. 1982, African American Studies; Ph.D. 1988, History of Art), and physicist William J. Willis (B.S. 1958, Chemistry) and his two colleagues, he discovered the “home-box” genes, which turn certain DNA segments on and off in the fruit fly to control the development of different body segments. He joined the faculty of UC Berkeley in 1996, where he heads the Division of Genetics, Genomics, and Development and is co-director of the Center for Integrative Genomics.

Considered the nation’s foremost scholar on the history of African American art, Powell has authored books and articles that profoundly influenced the field. Black Art: A Cultural History is the standard text on the subject worldwide. He is the John Spencer Bassett Professor of Art and Art History at Duke University and editor-in-chief of Art Bulletin, published by the College Art Association.

In addition to developing some of the basic tools of high-energy elementary particle physics research – calorimetry and transition radiation – Willis has served as an outstanding scientific administrator at national and international laboratories. Since 1991, he has been the Higgins Professor of Physics at Columbia University.

Kiesling pioneered the field of carbohydrate-mediated biology. Her research involves designing and synthesizing molecules that mimic natural ones. She joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin in 1990, where she is the Hilldale Professor of Chemistry and the Laurens Anderson Professor of Biochemistry. Levine studies gene networks that control animal development and disease. With two colleagues, she discovered the “home-box” genes, which turn certain DNA segments on and off in the fruit fly to control the development of different body segments. She joined the faculty of UC Berkeley in 1996, where she heads the Division of Genetics, Genomics, and Development and is co-director of the Center for Integrative Genomics.

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DAY OF SERVICE

Teams of students, faculty, and staff volunteered at non-profit agencies across the city on the Yale Day of Service, October 3. The event was coordinated by McDougal Student Life Fellows Patricia Maloney (Sociology), Alison Laufer (EPHD), Meihua Bynoe (Microbiology), and Daniel Eller (Chemistry), with GSA Vice President Paul Pearlman (EAS) and ODEO Fellow Seyma Aslan (EAS). Sponsorizing organizations included the GSA, OPSS, ODEO, Office of New Haven and State Affairs, and the Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs. Over 250 people—most of them from the Graduate School—participated in activities that ranged from sorting books at the New Haven Reads Community Book Bank to preparing the interior of a building for Neighborhood Housing Services to working in the greenhouse at Edgerton Park.

Outstanding Alumni

ADAM K. ANDERSON

Adam K. Anderson (Ph.D. 2000, Psychology), associate professor of psychology at the University of Toronto, has won the American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Scientific Early Career Contributions to Psychology for his work in cognitive and behavioral neuroscience. Anderson’s research investigates how the human brain creates emotions and how emotions influence cog-

ALAN TANSMAN

Alan Tansman (Ph.D. 1989, East Asian Languages and Literatures), Aga Khan Professor of Japanese at the University of California—Berkeley and chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, is author of a recently published volume, *The Aesthetics of Japanese Fascism* (University of California Press, 2010), and editor of another, *The Culture of Japanese Fascism* (Duke University Press, 2009). In the Aesthetic book, Tansman presents a wide-ranging study of cultural expressions from the years leading up to World War II postwar Japan and considers fiction, essays, popular songs, film, and political writings that expressed and inspired longings that, he argues, could only be fulfilled by aggressive action. Tansman is also author of *The Writings of Koda Aya*, a Japanese Literary Daughter and editor, with photography. Send us news and notification of upcoming events. Email: gila.reinstein@yale.edu; by fax: 432–1323, or stop by the Office of Public Affairs, 205 Church Street, suite 901.

Yale