

The Pforzheimer Newsletter

April 17, 2017

"All The News That Pfits We Print"

Tutor on call, 4/17-4/24/17

Bolaji Ogunsola

617-651-1636 (tutor-on-call cell)

Beginning at 5:00 p.m. Monday and ending at 9:00 a.m. the following Monday, a resident tutor or tutors will be on call to assist Pforzheimer House residents with any emergencies that arise. The name and phone number of the tutor(s) on call is listed in each week's Newsletter and will also be posted outside the House Offices and throughout the Pfoho buildings.

THIS WEEK IN PFOHO:

Monday, April 17



Seedling Planting + Pf-Garden Club info/sign-up Dinnertime Dhall

Tuesday, April 18

Staff House Appreciation Day 5:00-7:30pm DHall
Sponsored by PfoHoCo

Thursday, April 20

S'mores Stein Club, PfoHoCo 9:00pm Jordans Courtyard

Friday, April 21

NO Pfoho Pfriday this week due to
Yardfest Neighborhood Party 3:30-5:30pm Quad Lawn
YARDFEST 5:00-9:00pm Harvard Yard

Saturday, April 22

Film Screening: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks 8:00pm Pfoho DHall
followed by discussion with Prof. Evelyn Hammonds (more info below)

Sunday, April 23

Bubble Soccer! 11:00-2:00pm Quad Lawn
2017 Senior Theses Pforum 7:00-9:00pm Hastings LR & SCR
Pfaculty Dean Open House 9:00-10:00pm Pfac Dean Res
HoCo Meeting 10:00pm Hastings Room

NEXT WEEK IN PFOHO:

Wednesday, April 26

Pforum w/Parker Quartet 6:00pm Hastings/Balcony/Holmes

Thursday, April 27

Reading Period begins

Friday, April 28

Pfoho Pfriday, the Pfinal One 5:00-6:00pm JCR
Quad Spring Pformal 9:00p-1:00a Quad Lawn Tent

Sunday, April 30

HoCo Meeting 10:00pm Hastings Room

Notes from the Allston Burr Assistant Dean, Brigitte Libby,

pforzheimerhousedean@fas.harvard.edu:

If you have questions about any of this or encounter any problems, please feel free to email Abby at pforz@fas.harvard.edu or me at pforzheimerhousedean@fas.harvard.edu.

PFOHO DOSSIER SERVICE: If you would like to start collecting letters of recommendation for summer programs, fellowships, or grad school, you can use Pfoho's Dossier Service to keep letters on file for future use. Information on the service, as well as the required waiver form, is available at <http://pfoho.harvard.edu/Dossier>. Stop by Abby's office if you have any further questions.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

Instructions for many my.harvard processes can be found here: <http://about.my.harvard.edu/students>

Abby has created an update “key processes” page that answers many frequently asked questions— so please take a look! <http://pfoho.harvard.edu/Processes>

WANT TO MEET WITH BRIGITTE?

You can check my office hours and sign up for an appointment on my google calendar at <http://bit.ly/Pflibby> If these times don't work for you, just email me and we will set something else up outside those times. Abby is ordinarily in from 9-5 Mon-Fri, and she **always** knows how to reach me.

best,
Brigitte

Inside-Pfoho Announcements:

Film Screening: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, based on the book by Rebecca Skloot, and starring Oprah Winfrey.

Saturday, April 22, 8:00pm, Pfoho Dining Hall

Moderated by Prof. Evelyn Hammonds, and Prof. Susan Reverby from Wellesley

The book is about [Henrietta Lacks](#) and the [immortal cell line](#), known as [HeLa](#), that came from Lacks's [cervical cancer](#) cells in 1951. The book is notable for its [science writing](#) and dealing with [ethical issues](#) of race and class in [medical research](#).

Movie snacks provided. Don't miss this special showing!

2017 Pfoho Senior Theses Pforum – Sunday, April 24th – 7:00-9:00pm - Hastings & SCR

5:30p: Dinner with Presenters in the Dining Hall

7:00-9:00p: Coffee & Presentations in the Hastings Room and Senior Common Room

9:00-10:00: Celebration and Conversation at the pFaculty Deans' Open House

Pfoho Senior Thesis writers will showcase the “Big Idea” of their research with brief 5-minute TED-Talk style presentations, followed by a group Q&A. To close the evening, the pFaculty Deans will raise a glass with all in attendance and give a special Champaign/Cider Toast honoring all of our Pfabulous senior thesis writers and presenters. We will then move to the pFaculty Deans' residence for celebration and conversation with presenters.

Coming Next Week:

Pfoho Pforum – Wednesday, April 26th – with the Parker String Quartet

Rescheduled from prior snow-day date! We're once again fortunate to have **The Parker String Quartet, Blodgett Artists-in-Residence at Harvard**, perform a brief in-House Pforum concert for us, with commentary by the Quartet members, featuring music of Shostakovich, Britten, and Schubert.

Reception in the Hastings Living Room at 6:00pm; dinner on the balcony at 6:30pm; followed by dessert and performance in the Holmes Heritage Room at 7:15pm. All welcome.

Pfoho Upperclass Housing Lottery Results are UP!!!

Please take a minute to check the list posted online at <http://pfoho.harvard.edu/housing>, click on “Jr/Sr Rooms Chosen” (underneath “Available Rooms for 2017 Lottery”). A hard copy is also posted on the House Office windows. If you need to change room assignments within blocks, or if you see any errors, please let me know asap. Thanks, Pfoho!

- Sue (swatts@fas.harvard.edu)

Newsletter Editor/Pforum poster designer 2017-18 Wanted:

Pfoho will need a new Newsletter editor/Pforum poster designer starting in the Fall of 2017, to take up Monica's post since she'll be graduating! Sigh. It entails completing the Newsletter each Monday afternoon (electronic and table versions), and designing 8-10 posters a year for Pforum and other special events happening in Pfoho. If interested, please contact Sue Watts (swatts@fas.harvard.edu) or Monica Marion (monicamarion@college.harvard.edu).

Pfoho IMs:

Spring IMs: We have a jam-packed season full of fun sports coming up, with pfootball, soccer, and ultimate tournaments, along with volleyball and softball seasons, IM Crew, and Harvard on the Move! So let's get on out there and enjoy the beginning of spring! Thanks, and GO PFOHO!!!

Games this week:

Monday, April 17: Sopftball vs. Cabot, 9:00pm at New Jordan Field/Soldier's Field

Thursday, April 20: B Volleyball vs. Adams, 9:00pm at QRAC

Playoff Soccer, 8:15 at Cumnock Field

If you have any questions, contact Pfoho IM Coordinator Jeremy Dietrich, jdietrich@college.harvard.edu

Outside-Pfoho Announcements

Writing & Risk, Six Writers in Conversation

Wednesday, April 19th, 5:00pm, Forum Room, Lamont Library

Speakers will include Harvard's Scholars at Risk program scholars: Beekan Guluma Erena, Sreang Heng, Amanda Hopkinson, Jorge Olivera Castillo, Mahmoud Nowara, and Kanchana Ugbabe (current Pfoho Faculty Row resident).

Moderated by Jane Unrue, Scholars at Risk Program coordinator

Saturday, April 22, 8PM – "THUD Middle School" Concert in Lowell Lecture Hall:



Remember your middle school glory days? Yeah, we don't remember ours, either. But that never stopped us from trying! Come see The Harvard Undergraduate Drummers (THUD), Harvard's "Stomp" inspired percussion ensemble, present their middle school themed spring concert in all its voice-cracking, acne-wearing, "your-body-is-changing" wonder! Tickets \$5 in advance from the Harvard Box Office, any THUD member, or Venmo (@THUD-1). \$7 at the door. FREE for pre-frosh! For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/HarvardTHUD>.

THIS WEEK AT The Bureau of Study Course

See here for full list of events: <http://bsc.harvard.edu/>

THIS WEEK AT THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

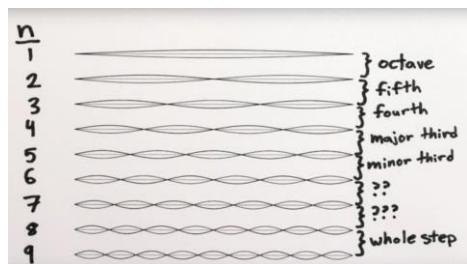
See here for full list of events: <http://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/college-advising>

Pfood for Pf-thought:

Have a pfun pfact? Email submissions to monicamarion@college.harvard.edu

This Week: Why a piano can never be in tune

Bear with me on this one, the reasoning is very interesting but involves a bit of math. (Physics and music majors feel free to write in with corrections).



A piano uses strings to make sound, and the strings vibrate in certain waves. Think of swinging a rope with someone holding the other end—the faster you swing the more "bumps" you see (as in the picture). More bumps in a instrument string produces higher pitched sounds: two bumps (twice as fast) would be an octave above and 3 bumps makes a perfect fifth. These different vibration frequencies give what we call notes and intervals! The problem comes when you try to tune an instrument using these different intervals. Keyboard instruments have 12 notes in an octave. To give an example, if you

tried tuning these 12 notes by making each whole step a "whole step" interval above the previous one, you'd make the ratio of the frequencies 8 to 9. Unfortunately, when you do this 6 times and reach the note that should be an octave above, the frequency will be too high! (try doing the math: $(8/9)^6$ won't be exactly 2). One method for tuning, invented by Pythagoras, calculates all the notes by using perfect 5th intervals. This keeps the octave and the 5th perfectly tuned, but as soon as you want to play in a different key, the relationships fall apart.

So modern Western music uses a system of tuning called "equal temperament" which divides the octave into 12 equal parts (each frequency is the previous frequency times the 12th root of 2). This means all the intervals are pretty close to what they should be, just a tiny bit off. This is why certain chords on piano make a sort of "wa wa" sound that, say, a violin tuned by ear would not. But this way a piano can be more versatile. Any key you want to play in will be equally and just slightly out of tune.

Watch/hear more:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=139&v=1Hqm0dYKUx4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUBkbrvCmGA>



Thanks for the pfun pfact this week goes to Shai Szulanski and honorary Pfohoser Jesse Thue! Come see them (and me!) sing Broadway songs accompanied by a very slightly out of tune piano this Saturday in the **Noteables Spring Concert: 8pm in Leverett Library Theater!**

The Pfoho Newsletter comes out every Monday afternoon (or a day or two later if there's a holiday) It's a good resource of all things Pfoho, including events, deadlines, etc., so please take a minute each week to read it over. If you'd like to include an announcement, just send it to Sue Watts (swatts@fas) by Monday at noon, or Monica Marion (monicamarion@college). Calendar events and lots of other helpful info are also online at <http://pfoho.harvard.edu/>.