



## PRESS RELEASE

### Harvard's Robert D. Putnam Awarded prestigious Skytte Prize

October 1, 2006 -- Harvard professor and former Kennedy School of Government dean Robert Putnam was awarded the 2006 Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science by the Skytte Foundation at Sweden's Uppsala University. Putnam is the Peter and Isabel Malkin professor of public policy and holds a joint appointment with the Kennedy School and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The Skytte Prize, one of the world's most prestigious awards in political science, was presented to Putnam at a ceremony in Uppsala, Sweden, on Sept. 30. Her Royal Highness The Swedish Crown Princess Victoria took part in the ceremonies.

"Robert Putnam's vital insight about 'social capital' is central to all societies, and his superb scholarly work has changed the way we talk about community and inspired a whole generation of scholarship," said David T. Ellwood, Kennedy School dean and Scott M. Black professor of political economy. "Moreover, his work on [Bowling Alone](#) has been instrumental in the growing public consciousness of the value of social capital, and he is deserving of recognition for jumpstarting the conversation in America about civic engagement."

Putnam has written a dozen books, translated into 17 languages, including the best-selling "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community" and more recently "[Better Together: Restoring the American Community](#)." He founded the [Saguaro Seminar](#), bringing together leading thinkers and practitioners to develop ideas for civic renewal. Putnam was a past president of the American Political Science Association and is a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

"Robert Putnam's work touches everyone, for he not only shows us the pitfalls, the causes of faltering community life, he helps us generate solutions," said William C. Kirby, Edith and Benjamin Geisinger professor of history and former dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. "He has renewed attention to civic life and has asserted that each of us has a vital role to play. He would persist in efforts to build community, with or without recognition; that the Skytte Foundation has rewarded his work is extremely gratifying to all of us."

The Johan Skytte Prize, with its stipend of 400,000 Swedish crowns (approximately \$50,000), is one of the world's largest prizes in the social sciences.

"I am grateful and honored to receive the 2006 Skytte Prize," Putnam said. "As the roster of distinguished previous Skytte prize winners amply illustrates, there is no higher academic honor to which a political scientist might aspire. In my work on social capital I've tried to speak to the concerns of lay readers and public activists, while maintaining serious scholarly standards. I take this prize as some evidence that social scientists can pursue practical relevance and scholarly rigor simultaneously."

Robert D. Putnam is the second Harvard faculty member to win the Skytte Prize; University Professor Sidney Verba won the prize in 2002.

For more information on the Skytte Foundation, visit their web site at <http://www.statsvet.uu.se/prize/>.

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