Inaugural Ray Goldberg Fellowship in Global Food Systems Awarded

The Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government has named students Alicia Harley and Jessica Newman as the inaugural Ray Goldberg Fellows in Global Food Systems.

“The Goldberg Fellowship recognizes the growing interest in agriculture and food systems at Harvard, and the importance of linking scholarship to practice in ways that improve the world,” said William Clark, Brooks Professor of International Science, Public Policy and Human Development.

The Ray Goldberg Fellowship in Global Food Systems supports Harvard students working in the context of global food systems. This may include work related to agricultural systems, food supply chains, farmer and farmworker well-being and equity, agricultural economics, food justice and sovereignty, agricultural processing and industry, food science and nutrition, or food policy.

“We are beginning to witness innovative cross-sector collaborations to address food-related problems. Such partnerships between sectors are the only way forward. I hope this Fellowship will encourage collaborative research by the recipients who take advantage of the interrelated sources of food system research taking place at Harvard,” said Professor Ray Goldberg.

Harley is a doctoral candidate in Public Policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government who studies innovation in agricultural systems. Her research is developing insights into the mechanisms through which innovation policy differentially impacts farmers across socioeconomic and caste spectrums in Bihar, India. Newman is pursuing a joint degree as a Master in Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and an MBA from MIT’s Sloan School of Business and has been active in bringing together faculty and students from across the university, organizing the first Harvard Research Symposium on the Nexus of Food, Agriculture, Environment, Health, and Society earlier this year.

Ray Goldberg is George M. Moffett Professor of Agriculture and Business, Emeritus at the Harvard Business School (HBS) where he founded the Agribusiness Senior Management Seminars. The fellowship was inaugurated by an anonymous gift from an HBS alumnus.

Goldberg Fellowship recipients Alicia Harley (left) and Jessica Newman (right) with Professor Ray Goldberg (center).
**HEEP Faculty Fellow appointed new editor of the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity**

The Brookings Institution has appointed Harvard economist James Stock as one of two co-editors of the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity. Professor Stock, along with Janice Eberly from Northwestern University, will be co-editors for the flagship economic journal of the Institution. Their first volume will appear in 2016, and both will become Brookings non-resident senior fellows.

James H. Stock is the Harold Hitchings Burbank Professor of Political Economy, Faculty of Arts and Sciences and member of the faculty at Harvard Kennedy School. His research areas are macroeconomic forecasting, monetary policy, econometric methods, and environmental policy.

**Liu co-writes an article in Nature on climate change**

Sustainability Science Program Fellow Zhu Liu has co-written an article in Nature on the targeted opportunities to address the climate-trade dilemma in China. International trade has become the fastest growing driver of global carbon emissions, with large quantities of emissions embodied in exports from emerging economies. This type of trade poses a dilemma for climate and trade policy: to the extent emerging markets have comparative advantages in manufacturing, such trade is economically efficient and desirable. To read the article, visit www.nature.com and search “climate-trade”.

**Nelson moderates panel on UN sustainable development goals**

CSRI Director Jane Nelson moderated a panel on extractive industries on September 27 at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in New York City. The panel discussed preparing an atlas of how the UN’s sustainable development goals (SDGs) will affect corporations in the mining sector. Organizers also charted out opportunities for the mining sector to contribute to the SDGs, resulting in a draft atlas launch at the event, which was available for public consultation.

**Financial Sector Program co-hosts Thailand@Harvard Lecture Series**

On September 9, the Ash Center hosted Dr. Veerathai Santiprabhob as part of the annual Thailand@Harvard Lecture series in partnership with the Harvard University Thai Studies program and the M-RCBG Financial Sector Program. Addressing a packed audience in Bell Hall, Veerathai offered reflections on what the global community can expect and learn from the country’s reform efforts in the wake of Thailand’s ongoing political upheavals.

Michael Herzfeld, the Director of Thai Studies Program at the Harvard Asia Center and Jay Rosengard, the Academic Director of the Rajawali Foundation Institute for Asia at the Ash Center and M-RCBG faculty affiliate, provided opening remarks and introduced Veerathai, a Harvard University alum with a PhD in Economics and a career spanning the public and private sectors. When Veerathai assumes the post of Governor of the Bank of Thailand in October 2015, he will become the Central Bank’s youngest leader in four decades. Previously, he served as the executive vice president of the Stock Exchange of Thailand and an economist for the International Monetary Fund.

Veerathai first described the need for multidimensional reform, and then presented an overview of reform initiatives now being designed and implemented in Thailand in the areas of macroeconomic management, infrastructure development, state-owned enterprise governance and operations, corruption, human trafficking, and the political system.

After explaining the objectives and nature of these reform initiatives, he also highlighted challenges in moving from the design to the implementation stage, especially in the current non-democratic environment and amidst slow economic growth. He also noted the need to increase engagement of all stakeholders in the current reform process, and identified key issues not addressed in the government’s reform program, particularly civil service and education reform, as well as decentralization.

Veerathai’s talk was the fifth event in the Thailand@Harvard Lecture Series, which addresses a range of topics as Thailand becomes increasingly important in both Asian and global affairs.
Lux and Greene present on Dodd-Frank unintended consequences

For the past year, M-RCBG senior fellow Marshall Lux and HKS student Robert Greene (MPP16) have been collaborating on a study of the unintended consequences of The Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. On September 30 they presented the first of several papers they have written, on The State and Fate of Community Banking, at a conference organized by the Federal Reserve and the Conference of State Bank Supervisors.

Stavins on China and U.S. climate change cooperation

On September 25, 2015, Presidents Xi Jinping of China and Barack Obama of the United States reaffirmed their "shared conviction that climate change is one of the greatest threats facing humanity and that their two countries have a critical role to play in addressing it." The Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change built upon that of November 12, 2014 and contains pledges to cooperate: 1) To produce an ambitious multilateral agreement at the Twenty-First Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris in December 2015; 2) To advance respective domestic actions (detailed in the announcement) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and 3) To enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation through forums other than the UNFCCC.

Robert Stavins, Director of the Harvard Project on Climate Agreements, said that the announcement "...builds upon the very important – indeed historic – statement of goals in November 2014 and presents in considerable detail what China and the United States intend to do both together and separately to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. In particular, China commits to implementing a nationwide emissions-trading program by 2017 – building upon the seven cap-and-trade pilot programs in Chinese provinces and cities that have been operating for 2-3 years. This is an ambitious timetable and indicates the seriousness with which China approaches this issue. China has also committed to providing considerable financial support to developing countries to help them address climate change."

The Harvard Project conducted a workshop in June 2015 to examine China-U.S. cooperation on climate change, collaborating with the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation.

Harvard Project and collaborators publish Science article on future of IPCC

Robert Stavins and Robert Stowe, respectively the Director and the Manager of the Harvard Project on Climate Agreements, have co-authored, with colleagues, an article in the "Policy Forum" section of the journal Science on the future of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The article appeared online on October 2 and is based on research and analysis conducted in collaboration with Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM; Italy), the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC; Germany), and the Stanford Environmental and Energy Policy Analysis Center (SEEPAC; USA).

The other co-authors are: Carlo Carraro, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Programme Coordinator, FEEM; Ottmar Edenhofer, Director, MCC; Christian Flachsland, Head of the Governance Working Group, MCC; and Charles Kolstad, Senior Fellow, SEEPAC and Professor of Economics, Stanford University.

The collaborators conducted a research workshop in February 2015, hosted by the Mercator Institute in Berlin, on approaches to improving the process by which research on climate change is assessed — with a focus on the social sciences (economics, political science, policy studies). The Science article captures some of the more important conclusions of this workshop. The workshop was sponsored in part by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The article in Science is timely, given that the IPCC elected a new Chair at its plenary session in Dubrovnik, Croatia on October 6 — Hoesung Lee, a South Korean economist.
I spent my summer at Tumml, a San Francisco-based urban ventures accelerator whose mission is to empower entrepreneurs to solve city challenges – from drought conservation to traffic congestion to intergenerational poverty.

Tumml invites early-stage companies into its office space to receive seed funding and hands-on support to help grow their businesses and impact their communities. For nine weeks, I served as Tumml’s Resident Advisor. I had the chance to lead a variety of projects and manage many moving pieces and parties. My responsibilities fell into three main buckets. One of the most fulfilling aspects of my internship was providing startup support for the ten companies in Tumml’s summer 2015 cohort. This aspect of the internship complemented my understanding of legal and policy processes with an appreciation of how to design scalable and sustainable enterprises to solve the challenges of city living. I had the opportunity to regularly interact with our companies, advising them on a range of issues including financial modelling, product development, user testing, messaging, and fundraising.

My second responsibility involved contributing to thought leadership on a range of topics including urban innovation, impacting investing, and startup policy. The research and writing I undertook gave airtime to cutting-edge approaches to tackling city challenges and innovative models for achieving impact.

Third, I was also responsible for assisting Tumml with curriculum, programming and events. I designed a new rolling application system for entrepreneurs interested in applying to Tumml’s accelerator program. I particularly enjoyed interviewing startup founders and learning more about their vision for improving city living.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work at Tumml over the summer, and I thank the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government for its generous financial support. I endeavor to take my learnings from my internship and explore them further at HKS in the Fall through further involvement with the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, the Entrepreneurship PIC and Tech4Change. Ultimately, I am dedicated to nurturing, inspiring and empowering the entrepreneurial community to solve today’s most pressing social and economic challenges.

In recent years, Poland’s regulatory system has changed significantly. A decade ago Poland’s regulatory system was largely pro forma; today it is informed by evidence-based instruments such as cost-benefit analysis, and it plays a central role in policymaking. And when it comes to regulatory enforcement, Poland now ranks above many highly developed countries such as Sweden and the United Kingdom.

On September 24, Maciej Drozd, Director of Regulatory Planning and Impact Assessment at the Polish Prime Minister’s Office, shared this story of transformation. His talk was part of M-RCBG’s Regulatory Policy Program seminar series run by HKS Associate Professor Joseph Aldy.

Drozd explained that in the past, ministries drafted a very large number of rules, but many rules were never actually implemented. Central review of proposed rules was weak, so the process often dragged on for months or years. Today, virtually all regulatory proposals run through a central authority. As a result of these changes “regulation is less frequent and less burdensome,” said Drozd.

A key reform was the requirement that regulations undergo review much earlier in the rulemaking process. Now an impact assessment is the basis for deciding whether to proceed with regulation. According to Drozd, this reform sends the message to ministries: “The stronger your cost-benefit analysis, the more likely your rule will be enacted.” Many proposals did not meet new standards and were filtered out before legal drafting began.

Drozd illustrated this change with the example of the time required to obtain a construction permit, which used to require on average 300 days. Today, the process has been reduced by 50-120 days for different buildings. Four regulations have been eliminated altogether. This improvement would not have been possible without rigorous review of regulatory impacts.

This fall, Drozd is a Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government studying the application of behavioral insights to regulations in Poland and the EU.

— Jennifer Nash