FROM THE DIRECTOR

During 1999-2000, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs completed a three-year cycle of reassessment and renewal sparked by Al and Celia Weatherhead’s magnificent gift. The Weatherhead endowment pledge provided the Center with a splendid opportunity, but also with a challenge, to rethink its purposes and design. In retrospect, I confess that I had never imagined that there would be so much work to do. I have been writing about aspects of these changes in my column in recent issues of Centerpiece but thought it helpful now to reflect back on the process.

We did have three good ideas to guide us through this work. The first was that we wanted to invest in very bright, hard-working people. The second was that we would look for such people regardless of rank, age, or status. And the third, as we proposed to the Weatherhead Foundation in July 1997, was that the Center’s mission, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, remains “the development and dissemination of fundamental research, pertinent to the tasks that citizens and decision-makers face everywhere.” Such simple ideas had practical consequences, but it took us three full academic years to make these notions a reality.

The first practical consequence stemmed from the word “we.” Ours is a collegial institution governed above all by its faculty, not just by the director. Faculty task forces were created to think about the various dimensions of the Center’s work, and they came up with constructive and effective suggestions. But the “we” also expanded. The number of Center Faculty Associates has doubled in a short span of time, as social anthropologists (I still vividly remember the initial skeptical looks of social anthropologists: why would you want to help us?), sociologists, economists, and historians, among others, joined the Center as Faculty Associates and have been supported by its resources. A second practical consequence was the commitment to fundamental research, which is at the very heart of this institution. This enabled us to focus Center attention and resources on core endeavors. (This Center is not in search of clients.) A third consequence was the realization that the researchers whom we wished to support were found in many departments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and in the various schools of the University, not just in the Government Department. And a fourth effect was the vast expansion of the Center’s support for graduate and undergraduate student research and their related work on international affairs, because these are the idea leaders of tomorrow. Students came to participate in the Center’s life only a dozen years after its founding; now they are central to the Center’s research mission.
Of NOTE:

2000-01 Sidney R. Knafel Dissertation Completion Fellow. This newly established grant is named for Sidney R. Knafel, the chairman of the Center’s Visiting Committee from 1991-2000. The Center’s first Knafel Fellow is Richard Benjamin Penglase, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, whose project is entitled, “From Favela to Bairro: Urban Space and Local Politics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.”

2000-01 MacArthur Transnational Security Program Scholars. The MacArthur Program awards two predoctoral fellowships to students pursuing research in the realm of transnational security. This year’s recipients are Christina Davis, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Government, Harvard University, whose project is entitled, “Reluctant Liberalization: Trade Rules and the Politics of Agriculture Reform in Japan and the European Union” and Min Shi, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Economics, Harvard University, whose project is entitled, “Political Business Cycles in Developing and Developed Countries.”

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There was one consistent procedure. The faculty task forces attempted to look at the questions they were asked from the perspective of the researcher. What would be a set of programs that would most effectively support the work of a professor or a graduate student, for example? We heard from professors with near unanimity that what they most lacked was time. So, our new research-semester leaves provide substantial time for professors to think, research, and write. We accord preference in these grants to junior faculty. We heard from professors that they are not hermits but do find it time-consuming to organize activities for sustained intellectual exchange. So, we have created “push button conferences.” A professor comes up with an idea and the participants for the conference; push a button — the Center (well, really Ros deButts) does the rest. We heard from professors that they rarely get good feedback on their work. So, we have implemented the concept of author’s conferences, designed specifically to provide focused and sustained commentary on one author’s writings in progress. We heard from professors that they benefit from, and enjoy, working with graduate student research assistants. And so, we have greatly expanded the means to support such collaboration.

We asked ourselves the same question from the perspective of a graduate student researcher. Many told us that they lacked sufficient time to write up their work. As a result, the Center has created dissertation completion fellowships to provide graduate students with concentrated and unfettered time to write up and conclude a multiyear dissertation project. Others noted that, with the decline in external sources of funding, the only way to win competitive field-research grants was to have a first-rate proposal; these, in turn, could often be drafted only after some preliminary reconnaiting. Thus, we are expanding our support for exploratory graduate student summer-research travel. Many noted the lack of opportunities to receive feedback, or to obtain advice about key professional issues beyond one’s research. Thanks to Prof. Marc Busch’s leadership and Clare Putnam’s professionalism, the Center’s Graduate Student Associate Program blossomed.

The Center’s task force on the Weatherhead Initiative, chaired by Prof. Anne-Marie Slaughter of the Harvard Law School, had perhaps the most exciting but also the most difficult job. She and her task force colleagues were asked to imagine a set of standards and a process to launch a new program of single, quite large annual grants to sets of researchers engaged in path-breaking work. In March 2000, the first Weatherhead Initiative grant was awarded to support research on war and public health, bringing together scholars of international security and public health along with other scholars interested in statistical methods to shed light on one of the central problems of our time.

Fortunately, the Weatherhead Center’s renewal was evident as well in the active and creative work of the various programs. Two of them, the Fellows Program, led by Steve Bloomfield, and the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, founded by Prof. Henry Rosovsky and currently led by Prof. Samuel Huntington, also received endowment support from the Weatherhead gift. But the Fellows Program is generally self-supporting, and the Harvard Academy owes its existence to Ira Kukin’s generosity. Much splendid work continued in the Olin Institute, now led by Prof. Stephen Rosen, who has succeeded the founding director, Prof. Samuel Huntington, and in the U.S.-Japan Program, in the Program for International Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and in the Program on Non-Violent Sanctions and Cultural Survival, led respectively by Profs. Susan Pharr, Herbert Kelman, and David Maybury-Lewis. Although not formally organized as a Center program, there has also been outstanding scholarly work in the area of political economy, led by Prof. Jeffry Frieden.

The hope for further renovation still lies ahead, of course, through the plans for the much-needed construction of the Knafel Center for Government and International Studies, which owes so much to the vision and munificence of Sidney R. Knafel. Sid chaired the Center’s Visiting Committee for nine years. His thoughtful leadership, his probing questions, his constructive advice, and his friendship were all immensely valuable during these recent years.

For the first time in seven years, I start a one-year leave on July 1, 2000, to return to complete my term as director in the years that follow the leave. It has been a privilege and a thrill to serve the Center during these years of renewal and transformation. I am grateful to Prof. Jeffry Frieden for having agreed to serve as acting director for the coming academic year. And I am grateful especially to all my colleagues — professors, students, Fellows, staff — in the Center community for making my work as director so rewarding.

Jorge I. Domínguez
Center Director
The Weatherhead Center is pleased to announce the Graduate Student Associates (GSAs) for 2000-2001. The GSA Program facilitates and supplements a student’s independent research toward a Ph.D. or similar advanced professional degree. The Program members come from many of Harvard’s academic departments or professional schools and work on projects related to the core research interests of the Center. These interests are broadly defined to include research on international, transnational, and comparative topics (both contemporary and historical) including rigorous policy analysis, as well as the study of countries and regions other than the United States. The following is the new roster of Graduate Student Associates, their Harvard departmental affiliations, and dissertation topics.

Gabriel AGUILERA, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Government. The political economy of foreign direct investment policy-making in Latin America since 1982.

Alexis ALBION, Ph.D. candidate, Department of History. The interface between fact and fiction in the transatlantic depiction of espionage during the 1960s.

Cemil AYDIN, Ph.D. candidate, Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Department of History. Japanese Pan-Asianism in light of Japan’s unexplored Asianist interest in the Muslim world, through analyzing the intellectual and political biography of Okawa Shumei (1886-1957).

Narquis BARAK, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology. An ethnographic and historical analysis of madness and mental illness in rural northern Vietnam that explores the ways in which state psychiatry constructs farmers’ mental illness.

Irene BLOEMRAAD, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Sociology. A comparative analysis of immigrant political incorporation in Canada and the United States.

Christina DAVIS, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Government. Domestic politics and international trade negotiations; agriculture trade policy reform; Japanese politics and foreign policy.

Bret GUSTAFSON, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology. Linkages between international aid, state bilingual-intercultural education, and the cultural and political mobilization of indigenous Guarani of Bolivia; social movements and states, language politics, and ethnic mobilization in Latin America.

Lawrence HAMLET, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Government. How and when states use international secretariats to address transnational problems.

Judith KELLEY, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government. Ethnic conflict; human rights; European integration; international institutions. The role of European institutions in minority policies in candidate countries.


Joel NGUGI, S.J.D. candidate, Law School. A critique of the idea of transferability of the market to demonstrate that the market is not a socially neutral institution and to critique an excessive use of formal legal rules as a means of establishing viable market institutions.

Tianshu PAN, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology. Historical and ethnographic account of food rationing and consumption practices in urban China.

Ben PENGGLASE, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology. Local reactions to a development project in a favela (or squatter community) in Rio de Janiero.

Jinbao QIAN, Ph.D. candidate, Department of History and East Asian Languages. Peace work during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-45): a reinterpretation of politics in a divided China.

Erica RAZAFIMBAHINY, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology. Analysis of the socio-political responses to the recent history of political violence in Haiti.
Graduate Student Associate Program...

Oxana SHEVEL, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Government. Impact of international institutions on domestic politics in post-communist countries; refugee and citizenship policies in East-Central Europe; human rights and democratization; the eastward expansion of European institutions.

Min SHI, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Economics. Political business cycles in developing and developed countries.

Lucia VOLK, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Social Anthropology and Committee on Middle Eastern Studies. Middle Eastern history, current politics, food and culture; national reconstruction of Lebanon; post-civil war culture/societies in transition.

American Psychological Society to Honor Kelman

Herbert C. Kelman, the Richard Clarke Cabot Research Professor of Social Ethics, Director of the Program on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and member of the Weatherhead Center’s Executive Committee, will receive the James McKeen Cattell Award from the American Psychological Society during its annual convention in Florida in June. The award, one of the highest honors conferred by the Society, “recognizes a career of significant intellectual contributions to the science of psychology.”