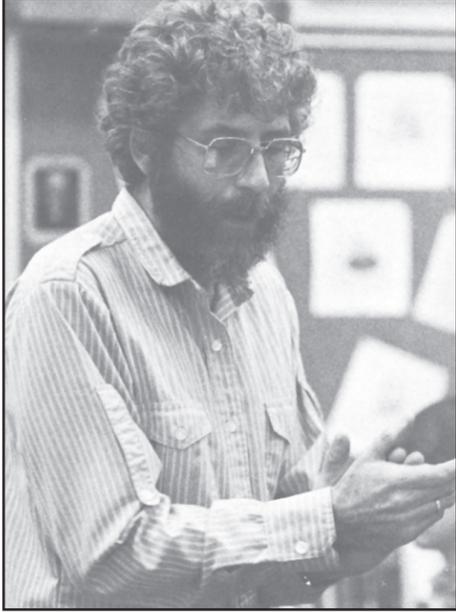


Jazz teacher to retire

Jerry Margolis will retreat to Virginia at the end of the year to be with family and focus on his music.



HARVARD SENTINEL

DOWN BEAT: Margolis leads musicians at Harvard School in 1980. He started teaching here in 1970 after moving to California.

Margolis anticipates an active retirement where he will be free to compose into the wee hours of the morning without worrying about having to teach the next day. Moving to Virginia will also bring him closer to his two children and his four granddaughters, all of whom live on the East Coast.

"I really wanted to be a teacher from the time I was 18, which is weird; most musicians don't," Margolis said.

Margolis began teaching piano and music theory at the age of 15. He went to the Philadelphia Conservatory on a full scholarship and earned a Bachelor of Music, a Bachelor of Music Ed., and a Masters degree in Music. Later, he attended

By ARIANE LANGE

Instrumental music teacher Jerry Margolis is retiring after 36 years of teaching at Harvard and Harvard-Westlake. He will move to Virginia with his wife, where he will compose and play music in his home there.

Margolis said he announced his retirement this early in the school year because he thinks it is a nice thing to do and because "it'll make sure that I leave." He calls Harvard-Westlake "paradise, because you're teaching what you love."

"This was a really big decision," he said. "My wife kept saying, 'Are you sure you want to do this now because you really love this,' and I said, 'Yeah, this is the right time to do it because I want to get to that house. I want to spread out, and I just want to do music all day.'"

After 44 years of teaching, Margolis said he will miss the job.

"I'll miss seeing that light bulb, just seeing kids just do things that mean something to them."



STEPHANIE DEUTSCH

25 YEARS LATER: Margolis directs the Jazz Band in a rendition of "Los Altibajos." He teaches the Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Band, Jazz Rhythm Section, and Synthesizer classes.

the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he attained his Ph.D.

He worked at nightclubs, led the band at the high-profile RDA Club in Philadelphia and was involved in a jazz trio and two Broadway musicals when they were in Philadelphia, including "Funny Girl."

He has worked with many of the stars in jazz and pop, such as Barbara Streisand and Frank Sinatra. Margolis feels that his background as a professional musician greatly affects his teaching, but he adds, "[Teaching] is actually more of a challenge in certain areas because there are more unknowns."

"If you love the subject a lot and you want to share it with somebody, you'll make a better teacher. It's a thrill for me to turn some kid on to music or to turn some kid on to a side of music that he doesn't do," Margolis said.

Margolis began teaching at Harvard in 1970 after he decided he wanted to move to California.

"I was teaching at a college for four years in upper New York state, and I decided I wanted to go to California. I just opened books and started looking for a place to teach, and this was the first place to respond," Margolis said. "I really want to have 20 hours a day to work on music. I'm not burnt out and I'm not leaving here because I don't like it. In fact, after two weeks my wife said I'll probably go nuts, but what I want to do is experience the beauty of not having a schedule."

'Choking game' leads to death at Viewpoint

Trying to get high through self-strangulation has killed teenagers in Idaho, Illinois, Wisconsin, Maine, Washington this year.

By LAUREN ROSE

When 14-year-old Sasha Sepasi died on Oct. 21, it wasn't drug or alcohol related.

There was no tragic auto accident, no party gone wrong.

She died playing what is commonly referred to as the "Choking Game," in which one chokes himself, or is choked by another person, until their brain is deprived of oxygen, receiving a "high" or "rush."

If blood flow is restricted for too long, they pass out, and, unable to breathe, suffocate. The practice has killed as many as 30 teenagers in the United States in the past several months.

"A lot of kids do it, not to kill themselves, but as a way to get a rush other than using drugs," Katie Shaud '09 said. Shaud attended Sierra Canyon School with Sepasi.

"She was friends with everybody. She was on all the sports teams, straight A's."

The school said in a public statement that "the girl died of accidental asphyxiation."

Sepasi was found in her room.

"She was sitting on the floor when we found her, hanging from a hook," her mother, Kamelia Sepasi, said in interview with Fox News.

"How can somebody hang themselves sitting down?"

Sepasi hung herself with a belt from a clothing hook on her wall.

"This choking game starts as a game, and then people want to do it, and their friends aren't around," Shaud said.

"It's risking your life or permanent brain damage for a five second high," school psychologist Dr. Sheila Siegel said. "There must be some component to it where, once you do it you like the high so much that you keep doing it."

An increasing number of teenagers in recent months have died or been hospitalized from the game.

"Between 400 and 500 kids a year die from this

5 Warning signs

- red eyes
- intense headaches
- unexplained marks on the neck
- locked doors
- pornographic material*

*for Autoerotic Asphyxiation

GRAPHIC BY MAX RIFKIND-BARRON AND NIKILA SRI-KUMAR

game... And that doesn't count those that just have serious injuries," said self-help TV talk show host and author Dr. Phil McGraw.

Children aged 9 to 14 play the game the most - middle school students who want to get a high without drugs.

Older teenagers use it as a method to elevate sexual pleasure known as "Autoerotic Asphyxiation."

News stations such as CNN, CBS, Fox News, and ABC have covered the Choking Game in recent months, as well as USA Today and various local newspapers, all spurred by the recent flurry of deaths.

Siegel believes the increase in popularity and publicity stems from the availability of information.

The game is achieved by putting pressure on an important artery in the neck, thus cutting off blood flow to the brain. The feeling is described as "dreaming."

"It's part of the feelings of omnipotence; 'somebody died but it won't be me,'" Siegel said.

"I just hope kids are smart enough."

Biology research makes two seniors Siemens Westinghouse semifinalists

By MARSHA LABUNSKY

Remy Greeno '06 and Edward Xu '06 were named semifinalists in the Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science & Technology, a national contest which recognizes high school research projects that demonstrate exceptional achievement. Scholarships for winning projects range from \$1,000 for regional finalists to \$100,000 for national winners.

Xu completed his project at a private company called One Lambda Inc., which specializes in transplant diagnostics. His project revolved around human leukocyte antigens molecules which are found on the surface of every cell in your body and key to the proper function of the immune system.

He tried to construct a model where he would boost the expression of HLA molecules in cancer cells by repairing genes inside the cancer cells. He would then observe how the immune system responded.

"The good part about the topic I chose was that it was in a very specialized field, so although it did take a lot of work to get caught up and be able to understand the background and mechanisms behind everything, it wasn't as if you had to go through some year-long course where you sit down and learn every single thing. You learn what you need to learn through research and then you can complete your project," he said.

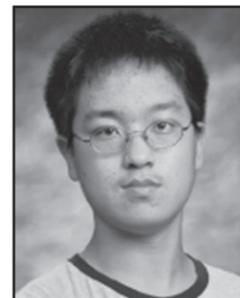
Like Xu, Greeno's project was also based in biology and she too didn't have

much background in the subject.

"I basically had to learn the science behind my project as I was doing it, which was a challenge, but also a lot of fun," Greeno said.

During the summers of her sophomore and junior years, Greeno held a student stipend position at the renowned Gene Therapeutics Research Institute at Cedars Sinai Hospital. As a research assistant, she worked on her own cloning project, an 11-step cloning strategy involving the insertion of therapeutic genes and reporter genes into vector backbones.

The main purpose of her project was to be able to insert this vector into a cancer site in the body and its goal would be to kill the cancer cells without harming the normal cells.

DON HAGOPIAN
Edward Xu '06DON HAGOPIAN
Remy Greeno '06

"Since tracking gene therapy efficacy has been a problem for researchers, this specific project is even more novel because it utilizes reporter genes to track the treatment. It also targets the cancer cell with great specificity, sparing normal cells," Greeno said.

In addition to her project, Greeno wrote a portion of a review recently published in the journal Current Topics in Medicinal Chemistry and contributed to the writing of two grants to UCLA and the NIH.