



FRESHMAN CONVOCATION

TERCENTENARY THEATRE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2014
3:00 PM

ORDER OF EXERCISES

PROCESSIONAL

The Memorial Church bell rings to begin student procession.

Student Procession: Class of 2018, Alumni Marshals, and Proctors.

Academic Procession: Student Leaders, House Masters, Faculty, University Officers, Deans, Vice Presidents, and President.

OPENING OF CEREMONY

"Fanfare for the Class of 2018" composed and conducted by Annie Rak '16
The Harvard University Band

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Thomas A. Dingman
Dean of Freshmen

INVOCATION

The Reverend Professor Jonathan L. Walton
*Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and
Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church*

CHORAL INTERLUDE

"Felices Ter" by Randall Thompson
"Walk Together, Children" - Traditional Spiritual, arr. by Moses Hogan
The Holden Choruses: Harvard Glee Club, Radcliffe Choral Society,
and Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum
Harris Ipock
Resident Conductor, Harvard Glee Club

COLLEGE ADDRESS

Rakesh Khurana
*Marvin Bower Professor of Leadership Development,
Professor of Sociology and Master of Cabot House,
Dean of Harvard College*

STUDENT SALUTATION

Eva Guidarini '15
President of the Institute of Politics

CHORAL INTERLUDE

"Kuumba Standard"
The Kuumba Singers
Sheldon K.X. Reid
Director

FACULTY ADDRESS

Michael D. Smith

*John H. Finley, Jr. Professor of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences*

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Drew Gilpin Faust

*Lincoln Professor of History
President of Harvard University*

GREETINGS AND PRESENTATION OF CLASS BANNER

Cynthia Torres, A.B. '80, M.B.A. '84

President, Harvard Alumni Association, 2014-2015

ALMA MATER

"Fair Harvard" by Samuel Gilman, *Class of 1811*

Fair - Har - vard! we join in thy Ju bi - lee throng, And with bless ings sur - rend - er thee o'er. By these
Fes - ti - val rites, from the Age that is past, To the Age that is wait - ing be fore. O Rel - ic and Type of our
an - ces - tors' worth, That has long kept their mem - o - ry warm, First.
flow'r of their wil - der - ness! Star of their night! Calm ris - ing thro' change and thro' storm.

[Revised 1998]

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND RECOGNITION OF DORMS

Thomas A. Dingman

Dean of Freshmen

RECESSIONAL

The Harvard University Band

Mark Olson

Interim Director of Bands

*The Class of 2018 should follow the Undergraduate Council leaders
and Class Banner to the steps of Widener Library for a class photo.*

CHARTER OF 1650

The Charter of Harvard College was granted in 1650 for the purpose of "the advancement of all good literature, arts, and sciences... [for] the education of the English and Indian youth of this country, in knowledge and godliness..."

MISSION OF HARVARD COLLEGE

Harvard strives to create knowledge, to open the minds of students to that knowledge, and to enable students to take best advantage of their educational opportunities. To these ends, the College encourages students to respect ideas and their free expression, and to rejoice in discovery and in critical thought, to pursue excellence in a spirit of productive cooperation, and to assume responsibility for the consequences of personal actions. Harvard seeks to identify and to remove restraints on students' full participation, so that individuals may explore their capabilities and interests and develop their full intellectual and human potential. Education at Harvard should liberate students to explore, to create, to challenge, and to lead. The support the College provides to students is a foundation upon which self-reliance and habits of lifelong learning are built: Harvard expects that the scholarship and collegiality it fosters in its students will lead them in their later lives to advance knowledge, to promote understanding, and to serve society.

Harry Lewis, February 23, 1997

HARVARD TRADITIONS

The Harvard-Yale Football Game ("The Game") is one of the University's most anticipated yearly traditions. Since the inaugural game in 1875, it has been played every year, with nine (typically wartime) exceptions. The game brings both schools together, alternating between campuses, for American football's oldest rivalry, and attracts large portions of alumni and undergraduates, football fans and non-fans alike. This year "The Game" will be played at Harvard.

Since 1996, when House assignments were first randomized, Housing Day has become one of the College's dearest traditions. Members of each House storm Harvard Yard by the hundreds early in the morning during the week preceding spring break, to deliver housing assignments and welcome the freshmen to the House community.

The Freshman Formal is held each year at a venue chosen by the First-Year Social Committee. The Houses then carry on the tradition of formal social soirées, thereby making Freshman Formal the first of many such events the class will experience.

Legend has it that should an undergraduate dare to walk through Johnston Gate, located on Massachusetts Avenue between Massachusetts and Harvard Halls, before Commencement Day, the student risks the bad luck of not graduating.

It is estimated that there have been 378 opening days since the founding of Harvard College. While most of them have been marked with a ceremony, the Class of 2018 is participating in the College's sixth annual Freshman Convocation.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

- 1916** — Harvard has had a long history with the U.S. military that extends from the colonial wars of the 17th century. In 1916, Harvard opened its doors to the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), establishing one of the oldest programs in U.S. history. This link to the military was disrupted when ROTC offices on campus were closed as a result of protests against the Vietnam War. The year 2011 brought about a formal revival of the ROTC program at Harvard, following Congress's 2010 repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, a practice that had barred homosexuals from serving openly in the military.
- 1933** — Under the guidance of James Bryant Conant, 23rd president of Harvard University, the concept of selection by ability became the standard for admission. Conant's objective was to eliminate "artificial barriers - geographical or financial - in our educational system." In September 1933, he spearheaded a major fundraising effort to support the creation of national scholarships to ensure that admittance was based on excellence and not on social standing. Such efforts paved the way for a more socioeconomically diverse student body.
- 1944** — After the closing of universities in Europe and Asia during WWII, the Harvard International Office (HIO) was established in 1944 to meet the needs of the rapid influx of international students. At the time of its establishment, the HIO provided transitional assistance to 250 international students; although the mission of the office remains unchanged, it now serves the needs of over 9000 international students and scholars.
- 1975** — In 1975, the Harvard Faculty voted in favor of adopting a sex-blind admissions policy, a milestone that was finalized with the official 1999 merger of Radcliffe and Harvard Colleges. This non-discrimination policy was furthered by the Harvard Gay and Lesbian Caucus (now the Harvard Gender and Sexuality Caucus) in 1985, when Caucus members worked with the President and Fellows of Harvard College to add sexual orientation to the University's non-discrimination policy. To promote greater awareness of women's and gender issues on campus, the Harvard College Women's Center was established in 2006, building upon the legacy of Women's Centers that had existed at Radcliffe since 1971. Likewise, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life was founded in 2011 to support BGLTQ students and educate the community about the multiplicity of sexual and gender identities.
- 1981** — To help foster an inclusive community, the President and Deans of Harvard University established the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations in 1981. When it was founded, the Harvard Foundation included five minority student groups: the Black Students Association, Harvard Radcliffe Asian American Association, Harvard Radcliffe RAZA (the Mexican-American student organization), La Organización de Puertorriqueños (the Puerto Rican student organization), and Native Americans of Harvard College. Today, the Foundation provides support to over 80 ethnic and cultural student organizations, reflecting advances in our society and Harvard's student body.
- 2004** — Under the direction of former president Lawrence H. Summers, the Harvard Financial Aid Initiative (HFAI) was launched in 2004. Current President Drew Gilpin Faust and Dean of the Faculty Michael Smith enhanced HFAI in 2007, now providing financial assistance to nearly 60% of Harvard's undergraduates and continuing Harvard's tradition of leadership in college access for low and middle-income students. Most recently, in 2013, financial aid was announced as the single largest priority for Harvard's capital campaign; ensuring that the diversity of the College will continue to be strengthened for future generations.
- 2005** — As stated in the Charter of 1650, the education of Native Americans was part of Harvard's original mission. The first Native American to graduate from Harvard College was Caleb Cheeshahteumuck, a member of both the Wampanoag Tribe and Class of 1665. From 1655 to 1698, the Harvard Indian College was located where Matthews Hall now stands. To commemorate its 350th anniversary, the Harvard University Native American Program, the Department of Anthropology, and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology unveiled the Harvard Yard Archeology Project, a collaborative excavation intended to unearth the history of the Harvard Indian College.

WHY CRIMSON?

Members of the crew team, including Charles W. Eliot, future president of the University, selected China-silk crimson handkerchiefs as distinguishing elements for their rowing uniforms. The color crimson became a favorite among athletic teams. However, as it was hard to replicate the color, athletic teams often featured a magenta color. In 1875, the student body voted to make crimson the official Harvard athletics color. Then, the student newspaper 'The Magenta' changed its name to "The Harvard Crimson." The Corporation recognized the student initiative and decided to find a true crimson color. After having received imperfect samples from China, President Lowell went to a fabric dyeing company in Watertown, MA for the perfect mix of 'arterial red.' With the secret of the crimson color in hand, the Corporation officially adopted crimson in 1910.

CLASS COLORS AND PINS

In the late 1880s, each Harvard class had its own class color. The colors were those of rival Ivy League schools: green and white (Dartmouth), orange and black (Princeton), and blue and white (Yale). The first-years received their colors at the end of the year, when the graduating seniors bequeathed their own colors to the new class, replacing the freshman class's colors of crimson and white. Starting in 1904, classes began making their own buttons, incorporating their class colors. While this was initially a senior class tradition, the freshman class eventually made their own buttons as well. The buttons cost seventy-five cents each. The tradition ended in 1918 due to concerns about cost. The class button/pin tradition was revived in 2009 with the help of the Harvard Alumni Association. The class color for the class of 2018 is blue and white, which is represented on this year's design.

ORIGINS OF THE CLASS OF 2018

The Class of 2018 totals 1667 students, 55.3% identify as male and 44.7% identify as female. The freshmen represent all 50 of the United States of America, in addition to the commonwealths/territories of the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

The following 69 countries are represented in the class:

Afghanistan	India	Romania
Albania	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Russian Federation
Antigua and Barbuda	Ireland	Rwanda
Argentina	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Australia	Italy	Singapore
Bahrain	Japan	South Africa
Bangladesh	Kenya	Spain
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Korea, Republic of	Sri Lanka
Brazil	Kosovo	Sudan
Bulgaria	Lebanon	Swaziland
Canada	Lesotho	Switzerland
Chile	Lithuania	Syrian Arab Republic
China	Macedonia, The Former	Taiwan
Costa Rica	Yugoslav, Republic of	Tanzania, United Republic of
Curacao	Malaysia	Thailand
Cyprus	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago
Czech Republic	Monaco	Tunisia
Egypt	Nepal	Turkey
Estonia	New Zealand	United Kingdom
France	Nicaragua	United States of America
Germany	Pakistan	Venezuela
Greece	Philippines	Viet Nam
Hong Kong	Poland	Zambia
		Zimbabwe