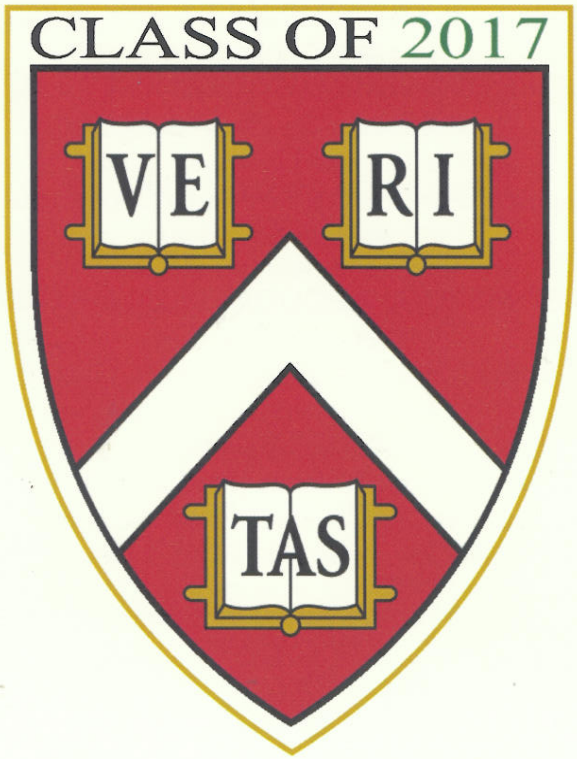
HARVARD COLLEGE



FRESHMAN CONVOCATION

TERCENTENARY THEATRE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2013
4:00 PM

Order of Exercises

PROCESSIONAL

The Memorial Church bell rings to begin student procession.
Student Procession: Class of 2017, 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 2017
The Harvard University Band
Composed and Conducted by Louis Coppersmith '14
Student Conductor

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

Choral Dances from "Gloriana" by Benjamin Britten
1. Time
2. Concord

The Holden Choruses: Harvard Glee Club, Radcliffe Choral Society, and Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum
Andrew G. Clark
Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Choral Activities

COLLEGE ADDRESS

Donald Pfister
Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany
Interim Dean of Harvard College

STUDENT SALUTATION

Erin D. Drake '14

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

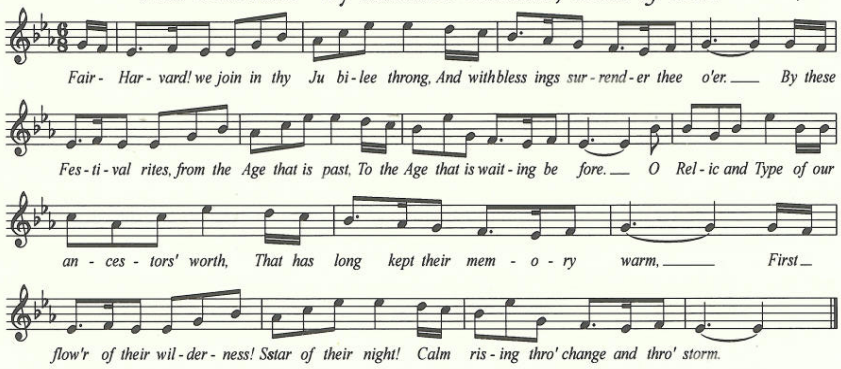
Drew Gilpin Faust
Lincoln Professor of History
President of Harvard University

GREETINGS AND PRESENTATION OF CLASS BANNER

Catherine Gellert, *A.B.'93*
President, Harvard Alumni Association, 2013-2014

ALMA MATER

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



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 2017 should follow the Undergraduate Council leaders and Class Banner to the steps of Widener Library for a class photo.

Mission Statement of Harvard College

Harvard College adheres to the purposes for which the Charter of 1650 was granted: "The advancement of all good literature, arts, and sciences; the advancement and education of youth in all manner of good literature, arts, and sciences; and all other necessary provisions that may conduce to the education of the ... youth of this country...." In brief: 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 may 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.

History and Governance of Harvard College

Harvard College is named for John Harvard, an early benefactor from Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, England, who in 1638 bequeathed his library to the new college in New England. The founders and first teachers of Harvard, in the early years following 1636, also came primarily from Cambridge University, and brought with them the organization of its component colleges – a president and teaching fellows. The governance of Harvard College, and now of the University, is vested principally in a body of thirteen members consisting of the president, the treasurer, and eleven fellows, known collectively as the 'Corporation' – the oldest such body in North America. The Corporation in certain matters requires the consent of the University's senior board, officially named 'The Honorable and Reverend Board of Overseers.' The Board dates from 1637, while the Corporation dates from the Charter of 1650. Together the Corporation and the Board of Overseers constitute the governing boards of the university.

The first Commencement was held in the fall of 1642, with nine graduates. Commencement continued to be at the beginning of the academic year throughout the seventeenth century. Now in the spring, at the end of the academic year, Commencement is the culmination of a scholar's work at Harvard. It has been estimated that there have been 377 opening days since the founding of Harvard College. While most of these have been marked with a ceremony, the Class of 2017 is participating in the College's fifth annual Freshman Convocation.

Historical Notes and Traditions

The freshman rules, according to the *Ancient Customs of Harvard College* (1790):
"No scholar shall play football or any other game in the College yard"
"Freshmen are to consider all the other classes as their seniors."
"No Freshman shall talk saucily to his Senior, or speak to him with his hat on."
"No Freshman shall ask his Senior an impertinent question."
"No Freshman, when sent on an errand, shall tell who he is going for, unless he be asked; nor obliged to tell what he is going for, unless asked by a Governor of the College"

In the early twentieth century, when Harvard was all male, the freshmen lived in the Houses along the Charles River, while seniors were encouraged to live in dorms in the Yard. President Lowell changed that arrangement, and since the 1930s, Harvard freshmen have lived in the Yard. The women who attended Radcliffe, including the freshmen, originally lived in the Houses in the Radcliffe Quadrangle. Since 1971, female and male undergraduates have lived in the same Houses and dorms, in the Yard, Quad, and along the river.

In 1931, the Harvard College Admissions Office handled 1,217 applications and offered admission to 964 students (all, of course, were male). In 2013, the Harvard College Admissions Office handled 35,023 applications and offered admission to 2045 students. The Class of 2017, with a yield of 81.3%, has the highest yield since the Class of 1973.

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 (usually wartime) exceptions. The game brings both schools together, alternating between campuses, for American football's oldest rivarly, and attracts large portions of alumni and undergraduates, football fans and non-fans alike. This year the football game will be played at Yale.

The Freshman Formal is held each winter in a downtown Boston ballroom by the First-Year Social Committee. The Houses carry on the tradition of formal social gatherings; the Freshman Formal is therefore the first of many such events the class will experience.

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.

Legend states that undergraduates should not walk through Johnston Gate, the gate that towers between Massachusetts and Harvard Halls, before Commencement Day, or they risk the bad luck of not graduating.

Class Colors

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, and the tradition ended in 1918. The class pin tradition was revived in 2009 with the help of the Harvard Alumni Association. The class color for the class of 2017 is green and white, which is represented on this year's pin design.

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 athletes. However, as it was a hard to replicate color, the 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 the true crimson color. After having received imperfect samples from China, President Lowell went to a cleansing and fabric dyeing company in Watertown for the perfect mix of 'arterial red.' With the secret of the crimson color in hand, the Corporation officially adopted the crimson in 1910.

Origins of the Class of 2017

The Class of 2017 totals 1667 students, 52.5% men and 47.5% women. The freshmen represent 49 out of the 50 states (WY is not represented), as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The following 65 countries are represented in the class:

Albania
Argentina
Australia
Azerbaijan
Brazil
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Hong Kong
Hrvatska
India
Indonesia
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Korea, Republic of
Lebanon
Malaysia
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Palestinian Territories
Peru
Singapore
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Tanzania, United Republic of
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States of America
Viet Nam
Zimbabwe