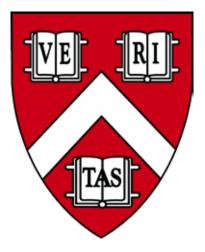
HARVARD COLLEGE



FRESHMAN CONVOCATION CLASS OF 2013

Tercentenary Theatre September 1, 2009 4:30 p.m.

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.

Since the seventeenth century, Harvard has been governed by the Board of Overseers (1637) and the President and Fellows (1650), also known as the Harvard Corporation-the oldest such body in North America. The latter is made up of the president and treasurer and five fellows; it is responsible for the day-to-day oversight of University business, with final executive authority within the University for decisions on major academic, financial, and policy matters. The Overseers (thirty in number) have responsibility for providing counsel to the Corporation through regular visits and granting consent on major policy decisions by the Corporation. (Harvard University: Records of the Governing Boards of Harvard: A Guide, 2006).

The first Commencement was in the fall of 1642, with nine graduates. Commencement continued to be at the beginning of the academic year throughout the seventeenth century. Now at the end of the year, Commencement is the culmination of a scholar's work at Harvard.

It has been estimated that there have been 372 opening days since the founding of Harvard College. While most of these have been marked with a ceremony, it is the Class of 2013 that establishes an official Convocation. The next time the class will be together will be at Commencement in four years' time.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

At many formal university ceremonies, professors, institutional leaders, and graduates typically wear what is known as academic regalia. The color, length, and shape of each academic hood represent a particular institution and the subject in which the degree was awarded. Harvard's practice is unique, in that just two types of gowns are used: black for both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree recipients, and crimson for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and other advanced degrees. Hoods signifying Harvard degrees are black with crimson silk linings, differing only in length for master's and doctoral recipients. Embroidered crow's feet on the lapels of their gowns are colored according to the faculties they represent, with white for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, including Engineering and Applied Science, and the Extension School; dark blue for Doctor of Philosophy; medium grey for Business; lilac for Dental Medicine; yellow for Design; scarlet for Divinity; light blue for Education; peacock blue for Government; purple for Law; green for Medicine; and salmon for Public Health. Crow's feet are double for earned degrees, triple for honorary.

PROCESSION

Student Procession

Class of 2013, Alumni Marshals, and Proctors The Memorial Church Bell ring to begin procession.

Academic Procession

Student Leaders, House Masters, Faculty Council, the Reverend Professor, Deans, Provost, Vice Presidents, and President. If you are able, please stand for the Academic Procession and Fanfare.

PROGRAM

Fanfare for the Class of 2013

An original composition by Hannah Horowitz Harvard College Class of 2011 Harvard University Band Thomas G. Everett Director of Bands

Welcome

Recognition of Faculty, Freshman Advisers, Alumni Marshals, College Officers, Proctors, and Student Leaders Thomas A. Dingman Dean of Freshmen, Harvard College

Invocation

Peter J. Gomes Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church and Member of the Faculty of Divinity

Musical Interlude

Be Like Him by Kirk Franklin The Kuumba Singers Sheldon K.X. Reid Director

Introductory Remarks Evelynn M. Hammonds Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and of African and African American Studies Dean of Harvard College

Greetings

Walter B. Klyce III Harvard College Class of 2010

Musical Interlude

Bogoróditse Dévo Ráduysya From All-Night Vigil, Op. 37 by Sergei Rachmaninoff The Holden Choruses: Harvard Glee Club, Radcliffe Choral Society, Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum Jameson N. Marvin Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Choral Activities

Remarks

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

Presentation of Class Banner

Andrea R. Flores and Kia J. McLeod President and Vice President of the Undergraduate Council Harvard College Class of 2010

Closing Remarks and Recognition of Freshman Dorms

Thomas A. Dingman Dean of Freshmen, Harvard College

Recessional

Music by the Harvard University Band

At this time, the Class of 2013 should follow the Undergradute Council President and Vice President 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; 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.

CLASS OF 2013 HARVARD COLLEGE

843 women and 829 men

Representing all fifty states in the United States, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico

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Representing fifty-eight countries

Areas of Academic Interest, by percentage of the class

Social Sciences	26%	Biological Sciences	26%
Humanities	22%	Physical Sciences	7%
Math	8%	Engineering Sciences	9%
Undecided	1%	Computer Science	2%

FRESHMAN TRADITIONS AND HISTORICAL NOTES

"But yearneth not thy laboring heart, O Tom, For those dear hours of simple freshmanhood?" ~*Harvardiana, Vol. III*

The "Lawes, Liberties and Orders of Harvard College," published in the mid-1640s, stated the earliest entrance requirements: When any scholar is able to read Tully [Cicero] or such like classical Latine Authour ex tempore, and make and speake true Latin in verse and prose...and decline perfectly the paradigmes of Nounes and verbes in the Greeke toungue, then may hee bee admitted into the Colledge, nor shall any claime admission before such qualification.

The freshman rules, according to the Ancient Customs of Harvard College (1790) included, among others:

"No Freshman shall talk saucily to his Senior, or speak to him with his hat on." "No Freshman shall call or throw anything across the College Yard."

In the late 1880s, each Harvard class had its own class color. The colors were based on rival Ivy League schools' colors—green and white for Dartmouth, orange and black for Princeton, and blue and white for Yale. The class would not receive its color until the end of their freshman year, when the graduating seniors bequeathed their own colors to the new class. The freshman class therefore always had the Harvard crimson and white colors. If this tradition continued today, the Class of 2013 would be orange and black.

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. Starting with the Class of 2013, the tradition has been revived by a gift of a class pin from the Harvard Alumni Association.

In the early twentieth century, when Harvard was all-male, the freshmen lived in dorms along the Charles River, while seniors were encouraged to live 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. Starting in 1972, women took up residence in the Yard.

In 1931, the Harvard College Admissions Office handled 1,217 applications and offered admission to 964 students (all, of course, were male). In 2009, there were 29,114 applicants and 2,175 were admitted (1,093 male and 1,082 female). The percentage admitted from the candidate pool over this 78 year period dropped from 79 percent to 7.5 percent.

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