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**FRESHMAN TRADITIONS AND HISTORICAL NOTES**

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~ Harvardiana, Vol. III

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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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**CLASS OF 2013**

**HARVARD COLLEGE**

843 women and 829 men

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

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 9%
- Sciences
- Undecided 1%
- Computer Science 2%

~

**FRESHMAN CONVOCATION CLASS OF 2013**

Tercentenary Theatre
September 1, 2009
4:30 p.m.
HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE OF HARVARD COLLEGE


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 lapsels 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 Marshal, 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 Honowitz
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
Pomeroy 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
Barnard Goldsmith Reubenbush 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 Undergraduate Council President and Vice President to the steps of Widener Library for a class photo.
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### FALLS HARVARD COLLEGE

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<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<td>Physical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
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