

Keystone

The Crimson Key Society Newsletter

Dear Keysters and friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well! It will be the first of many, distributed in hopes of staying in touch and keeping you informed of the goings on of Crimson Key. Over the past several years, Key has experienced amazing growth and opportunities. The Information Office has been experiencing floods of tourists, more than ever before, to see our student-led tours of Harvard. We are in the stages of putting our tour online on the Harvard News Office website so tourists can enjoy our tour even if unable to visit Cambridge. Last Spring, the amazing recruiting efforts of Vice President Teddy Styles '07 led to a comp of over 170 students vying to be elected to the Key (our most competitive comp in recent memory). His efforts have led to an extremely involved and enthusiastic class of new keysters.

We have continued to be active in ARTS First, Parent Weekends, and Freshman Week. Our community service project TEACH continues to grow, and has become an important and highly anticipated event for many local Cambridge middle schoolers. We are also in the process of updating Crimson Key's *Guidebook to Harvard University*, developing a more interactive and comprehensive website, and are looking forward to continuing to improve Crimson Key over the upcoming year.

If you have any updates on what you're doing now, favorite memories, or pictures from your time in CKS, please send them to us (address on back), so we can incorporate them into our next newsletter. Look out for *Keystone* in Spring 2007. We look forward to hearing from you!

Key Love from Cambridge,
Nicole Townsend '07, *President*

As we do every year, Crimson Key members return to fair Cambridge a day before the freshmen's arrival to facilitate move-in day and to prepare for Freshmen Orientation Week. To help make the first week of school as enjoyable and comfortable as possible, CKS hosts a number of events, such as the Ice Cream Bash, with ice cream from all the square's favorites, a Talent Show on the steps of Memorial Church, Freshman Olympics in the MAC quadrangle, the Freshman A Capella Jam, and the First Chance Dance. We also hosted a screening of Love Story, the traditional Harvard romance and last film to be shot on campus, accompanied by our own hilarious commentary. Crimson Key has received a great deal of positive feedback and praise from the University administration, the Freshman Dean's Office, and first-year students.

- Megan Carey '08 and Rachel Berkey '08, Freshmen Week Coordinators



Steven Volpe '07 points a first-year in the right direction.

Crimson Key in China

Last summer, I was giving tours of Harvard for the Harvard Information Office, and I got the opportunity to give a tour to a group of University presidents attending a program at the Graduate School of Education. At the conclusion of my tour, after the story of the *Veritas* shield and its symbolic meaning that not all truth can be found in books and that the people at Harvard are the greatest resource the school has, I was approached by one of the program participants. He invited me to his University in China to talk to his students about university life in America and at Harvard. So, this past October, SIAS University flew me to China for a ten-day, all expense paid trip. The first three days I spent in Beijing, seeing many of the major sights: the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Temple of Heaven. I even got to eat a meal in the Great Hall,

China's equivalent of the White House, at a banquet for the top education administrators in the country. It was amazing. I was then flown out to SIAS University where I spent another seven days touring around the Henan Province area, shopping, doing more sightseeing, and talking to university and high school students about academics and general life in America. It was an incredibly enlightening experience—talking with students about life in China, seeing and discussing the similarities and differences in even the smallest everyday matters. And all of this came about because of the Crimson Key Society, the training I received, and the tour-giving opportunities the organization provides. It has certainly been the best tip I have ever been given. So thanks, Key, for giving me the experience of a lifetime. I owe you one.

- Jason McCoy '08



Katie Goldsmith '07, Jordan Walker '07, Jess Chao '07, and Teddy Styles '07 help out during the Intramural competition Freshman Olympics.

Crimson Key in the Community

Crimson Key members are certainly a visible service group on campus, faithfully running freshmen week and volunteering at many special events like Freshmen and Junior Parents' Weekend. But in addition to serving the Harvard community, keysters also give back to the larger Cambridge community through Project TEACH, a program that strives to raise the educational aspirations of Cambridge public school students. During most Fridays of the school year, middle school students from the area enjoy a full-packed day at Harvard: they attend a college information and awareness session, tour the campus, dine in Annenberg, and participate in a science demonstration with Harvard faculty. This year, Crimson Key members will have the opportunity to meet and speak with hundreds of middle school students and share their own personal stories about college and learning. By instilling positive educational values in the groups, Crimson Key will hopefully help every child understand the importance and absolute possibility of attaining a college education.

- Allison Keavey '07, TEACH Coordinator

Excitement from New Key

As the second semester of my freshman year began, the sheen that had glossed the opening months of my Harvard life was beginning to dull. I missed the friendliness of my small town in Illinois, and I started to think I was less cut out for the Big Dig and more cut out for the Big Ten.

Now, I am embarking on my second year at Harvard even more excited than I was for my first. The main factor in changing my attitude was the opportunity I had to join the Crimson Key Society. Unlike other comps that felt like an additional class, the Key comp was a great way to meet literally a hundred other people who were as freakishly perky as I am and to really get to know my school better. I have been a part of Key for only a few months and have not yet been tipped for a tour, but already I feel like a part of a community with a truly positive message and modus operendi.

No, I tell skeptics, I am not embarrassed about dressing up like an idiot for Love Story, and Yes, you did see me lying on the floor in Lamont Library, helping to spell out the word "KEY" with my body. As many of us point out on our tours, the school shield on the side of the John Harvard statue is unique in that one of the books is face down, while the other two lie face up. With Crimson Key, the symbolic explanation for this phenomenon rings true: while classroom learning is crucial, in order to reap the full benefits of Harvard, we must put the books down and push ourselves beyond academics. I get chills every time I recount this for wide-eyed tourists. And really, I can't imagine that any tip feels better than that.

- Emma Lind '09



I love Crimson Key because...



Aidan Kelly '08

...the people are some of the finest on campus, and some of my best friends.

Colette Hinckley '09

...I have such a great time representing Harvard to visitors!



Jimmy O'Keefe '09

...of Freshman Week! Enough said.

Becky Wald '07

...telling the story of the statue of three lies never gets old!

