Spring 2008
Newsletter Issue 4

keystone

by crimson key society

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Crimson Key Community,

As another academic year draws to a close , it is with much excitement and pride that I write to you about the Crimson Key Society. This spring, Crimson Key was in charge of organizing Junior Parents' Weekend for the first time, and the weekend was quite a success! Now we are not only beginning the planning process for Freshman Orientation Week in September, but we are also getting ready to welcome parents for Freshman Parents' Weekend in October. We also just finished helping the University with its annual Arts First weekend, and we look forward to serving as ushers for Commencement Ceremonies.

As I described to you in the last edition of Keystone, we decided to increase the membership cap of the Crimson Key Society. This April we inducted 36 wonderful new members to the Crimson Key community, bringing the membership to a total of 85 people. The comp process this year was the most competitive one in recent memory as we received 166 applications. The number and quality of students interested in serving the Harvard community through Key was impressive.

In addition to spending countless hours making sure this year's class was filled with great new members, the executive board has also been working on two other important and exciting projects. With other Crimson Key members, we have been revising and updating the Crimson Key Society Guidebook to Harvard University. We have also been planning the 60th Anniversary celebration, and I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you in person and celebrate the occasion.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Keystone and look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Timur Kalimov '09

NEW INITIATIVES

The Website

In March, the Crimson Key Society launched its new website, www.crimsonkeysociety.org! The new site has been designed to better meet the needs of tourists, incoming students, students' families, and prospective CKS members. A clearer structure and simplified navigation make finding out when and where tours leave or what to expect during Freshman Week easier than ever before.

Check it out!
Matt Bresnahan '09

The Guidebook

To anyone who comes into contact with the Crimson Key Society, our organization's passion for Harvard's history is obvious. But what many may not know is that along with passionately organizing freshman week, providing free tours of Harvard, and planning major campus-wide special events, Crimson Key also publishes the official Guidebook to Harvard University. As both a service to Harvard's collective memory and a vital source of Crimson Key's revenue, the Guidebook is a crucial element of Crimson Key's role in the Harvard community.

This year—for the first time in a decade—Crimson Key is republishing the official Guidebook as a celebration of our 60th anniversary. This edition of the Guidebook will have eleven chapters focusing on Harvard history, Radcliffe history, history of the graduate schools, different areas of Harvard Yard and its environs, undergraduate living, and student life. In addition, it will include a new chapter focused entirely on Harvard's athletic program!

The revision and republication of the Guidebook is powered by an energetic team of current Key members, stretching from aspiring Harvard historians to promising editors of a diversity of publications, to talented graphic designers. By the end of 2008, we hope to have the Guidebook entirely revised, supplemented, and on the road to republication.

Of course, no project is ever successful without the generous support of its community, and we are grateful for the aid of current members and alumni with whom we have been in contact about the Guidebook process. If you have any information you think might be helpful in the editing and publication of the Guidebook, please contact Guidebook Editor Emma Lind '09 at elind@fas.harvard.edu. If you would like to offer your financial support to the Guidebook specifically, please contact Treasurer Matt Bresnahan '09 at mpbresn@fas.harvard.edu.

Thank you,
Emma Lind '09

This newsletter is named Keystone in honor of the organization's first newspaper published in 1952. Please visit us at www.crimsonkeysociety.org for more information.
If you have any photographs for the newsletter or the website, or any questions, do not hesitate to contact Secretary Lee Ann Custer '10 at lcuster@fas.harvard.edu.

New Membership

Following a thorough evaluative process, the Crimson Key Executive Board is proud to announce the 2008 member class of the Crimson Key Society. It was an unusually competitive year, and we couldn't be happier with the end result. We are certain that the new members will contribute actively to Crimson Key's increasing role in serving Harvard University.

170 compers
20 men, 16 women
5 international: Taiwan, The Netherlands, U.K., West Indies, and France

36 new members (21% acceptance rate)
27 freshmen, 9 sophomores

Current Key members M. Aidan Kelly '08, Asli Bashir '10, Logan Ury '10, and Jun Li '10 welcome new members Francesca Gilberti '10 and D. Patrick Knoth '11.

REFLECTIONS: JUNIOR PARENTS' WEEKEND

As Harvard's premiere service organization, the Crimson Key Society continuously seeks new ways to offer its services to the campus community. Recently we were asked to assume a greater role in the planning and execution of both Freshmen and Junior Parents' Weekends.

Planning for this year's Junior Parents' Weekend began in mid-January. With the administration, we considered what types of activities would be of interest to parents, and scheduled and organized the events.

Crimson Key Society played a direct role in the various events of the weekend, including a Friday-morning welcome lounge, the President's welcome address, campus tours, tours of Sanders Theater and Annenberg Dining Hall, faculty lectures, a Keynote address, an a capella jam, a snapshot show of the cultural arts on campus, and more. The weekend garnered rave reviews in The Crimson, as students, parents, faculty, and administrators lauded it a huge success.

We look forward to many more years of close collaboration with the University and cannot wait to take on even more exciting ventures in coming years.

Larry Arbuthnott '10
Special Projects Coordinator

CRIMSON KEY GIFT FUND

Patrons of CKS ($500 and above)
Thomas Mattox

Benefactors of CKS ($250-$499)
Bryant & Judith Danner
Sue & Ron Townsend

Sponsors of CKS ($100-$249)
Joan & James O'Keefe
Grier & Lorraine Raggio
Jay & Julie Stephens

Friends of CKS (up to $100)
Brandon Buteau
Warren & Jean Little
Arthur and Cathy Richards

To make a tax-deductible donation to Crimson Key, please make checks payable to Harvard University with "Crimson Key Society" in the memo line, and mail to:

Crimson Key Society
Student Organization Center at Hilles
59 Shepard St. Box# 34
Cambridge, MA 02138

All donations will go toward future issues of Keystone and the new Crimson Key website and guidebook. Donors will be recognized in the next issue of Keystone and in the new edition of the Crimson Key Guidebook.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Softball season is here again! Timur Kalimov '09, Aditi Banga '09, Jimmy O'Keefe '09, Matt Bresnahan '09, Peter Shields '09 get warmed up for the game.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Crimson Key's 60th Anniversary reunion will take place on the Friday of Harvard-Yale weekend, November 21, 2008. If you have any old photographs of Crimson Key members that we could display at the event, please send them to lcuster@fas.harvard.edu.

Lee Ann Custer '10
Secretary

This newsletter was compiled by the Crimson Key Board with the generous help of Aditi Banga '09