



KEYSTONE

The Crimson Key Society | Spring 2014

A Message from the President

Caroline Leahy '15, President

Dear Members of the Crimson Key Community,

I hope this letter finds you well! The trees are in full bloom and it is finally starting to look like summer here in Cambridge. CKS and the Executive Board have been working hard to maintain a vibrant presence on campus, and it is with great pride that I write to you about Crimson Key's spring accomplishments.

Tour coordinators Margot Solmssen '16 and Philip Musey '16 have done an amazing job organizing tours and Friday TEACH visits with local Cambridge middle schools. Crimson Key also helped staff Junior Parents Weekend, Visitas, and Arts First, and we're looking forward to leading tours for reunions and Commencement at the end of May. Catarina Martinez '16 and Laura Ottinger '16 have been working hard to plan Freshmen Week 2014 and new events for

CKS to host for incoming freshmen. Andrew Raftery '16 has kept CKS in constant communication and recently introduced a new tour sign-up website of his own creation that has proven to be instrumental in keeping track of tours and member requirements. In addition to working with the Harvard Crimson to distribute free maps throughout campus and Harvard Square, Jake Silberg '15 has been working with a group of CKS Guidebook enthusiasts to develop the 3rd edition of Inside Harvard.

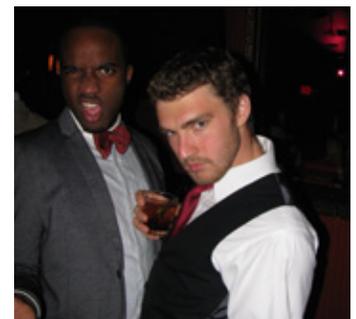
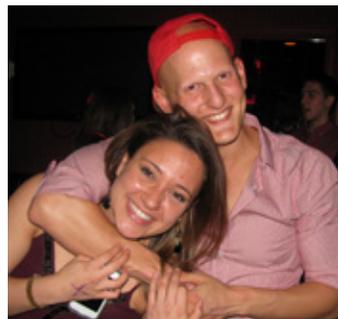
After a ten-week comp process, we accepted 31 new members this spring as the 66th class of Crimson Key! Vice President and Comp Director Joanie Kim '15 led CKS through another record-breaking year, culminating in a class that can be described as no less than phenomenal. Since Welcoming, Key has had an amazing time getting to know

these talented, smart, and enthusiastic new members! Daniela Feingold '16 and Ryan Ouillette '16 played an instrumental role in welcoming the new members, organizing wine and cheese get-togethers, Key dinners, and of course our annual banquet. We hope that you will all get a chance to meet them at Harvard-Yale in the fall!

As the summer begins, it is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye and good luck to the most seasoned members of Crimson Key. Seniors, thank you for the love and dedication you have given to this organization. You are truly important role models for all of us and will be missed sorely in the fall. Finally, we would also like to thank our off-campus community of alumni, family, and friends. Your love, support, and donations truly helped us make this semester a success. Have a wonderful summer, and keep in touch!

2014 Comp Class

Giora Ashkenazi '17
Joel Bateman '17
Claire Benoit '17
Nick Bookout '17
Bennett Capozzi '17
Deniz Cataltepe '17
Gabriella Czarniak '17
Cole Edick '17
Kennedy Edmonds '17
Emily Gaudiani '17
Will Jaroszewicz '17
Tafari John-King '17
Jimmy Kelleher '17
Fri Lavey '17
Osaremen Okolo '17
Abigail Orlando '17
Eni Popoola '17
Andrew Roney '17
Skip Rosamilia '17
Charles Scherr '17
Gwen Thomas '17
Natalie Torres '17
Lauren Volpert '17
Abby Westover '17
Molly Wharton '17
Angela Wu '17
Katherine Wu '17
Molly Alter '16
Lucas Cofer '16
Vibav Mouli '16
Amber Wade '16



Comp Update

Joanie Kim '15, Vice President & Comp Director

This year's comp more than met our highest hopes. It started with red posters around the yard, information sessions, and personalized emails. Not surprisingly, our biggest assets for comp publicity were the inspirational members of Key—a survey showed that over 200 compers heard about comp directly from a Key member! Go Keysters! We started with a record-break-

ing number of 265 compers in February (despite a lengthened application) and selected 82 compers who stood out during the 25 hours of interviews to move onto the second round. As always, the second round of comp featured Comp Social filled with chatters and ice cream and tour evaluations filled with tough questions and wow-you-need-to-be-in-Key moments. In total,

the Board spent 45 hours carefully considering each compers, and we ultimately selected 27 freshmen and 4 sophomores for our New Key class. The semester-long comp process ended on a high note with an exciting Welcoming event at the end of April.

So who are the lucky 31 compers who were welcomed into Key? Friendly, genuine, passionate, charismatic, and fun individuals who came together to form a diverse group of Harvard-loving, phenome-

nal tour guides! These adjectives were thoughtfully chosen by the Board as we spoke of "Comp Hopes and Dreams" early in the semester, and we believe our New Key class represents exactly what we would all hope Crimson Key would represent. As our comp gets more and more competitive every year, we are reminded of how special and truly meaningful an organization CKS continues to be, and we cannot wait to see what our newest Keysters will bring to the table!



Treasurer's Update

Ryan Ouillette '16, Treasurer

CKS is especially grateful for the continued donations from the Malkin Fund. As a result of their generosity and the increasing success of both the map and the guidebook, CKS funded many social events this past semester. From "Karao-key" to wine and cheese nights, these events have helped foster an even greater sense of community in Crimson Key. We hope to plan new events next semester as well!

CKS is always appre-

ciative of the support of our donors, whether it is \$5 or much more. Anyone can make a tax-deductible donation online or via check. Checks should be made payable to "Harvard University" or "President and Fellows of Harvard College." Donors should include "Crimson Key Society" on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to: Crimson Key Society, Student Organization Center at Hilles, 59 Shepard St. Box #34, Cambridge, MA 02138.

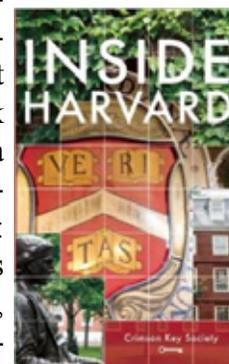
Guidebook Update

Jake Silberg '15, Guidebook and Marketing Manager

This year, CKS is hard at work updating and revising the guidebook for the Third Edition. We are editing the format so that the book flows just like a student's Harvard experience: from admissions on to housing, through academics and extra-curriculars, to give visitors the best sense of what our lives here are like. We've

also expanded our partnership to produce Harvard maps with the Crimson, so that CKS can continue to guide tourists around the Yard and the Square even after our tours are over.

The guidebook is currently available for purchase on Amazon: buy a copy for friends, family and other Harvard enthusiasts on Amazon.com.



Member Spotlight: Reylon Yount

Reylon Yount '16

I arrived at Harvard in the fall of 2012 sporting flip-flops and an idealistic smile. Throughout the previous summer, which was spent with relatives in northern China and western Pennsylvania, I had been convincing myself, as many naïve freshmen do, that I would finally be able to “take it slow.” Of course, what followed was far from slow; it was the most intense and exciting year of my life. I joined the Harvard Wushu Team (Chinese martial arts), The Harvard Undergraduate Drummers, and Harvard Student Agencies, spending my days diligently practicing jump-kicks, silverware percussion, and corporate etiquette. In my free

time, I practiced and performed on the yangqin (Chinese dulcimer) for incredibly receptive audiences at Cultural Rhythms, Yardfest, and most importantly, the Freshman Talent Show.

After a whirlwind of a year, I chose to take a semester off to spend time playing music and seeking new experiences. My HSA salary turned into plane tickets, my Charlie Card gave way to a SCUBA license, and those flip-flops took me faithfully from the beaches of Brittany to the deserts

of Nevada to the forests of Indonesia and to the coasts of Australia. In October, I had the chance to perform as a featured soloist with the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. In Ubud, Bali, I practiced gamelan music and biked through rice paddies. I spent November in Tasmania studying sustainable fisheries. The winter flew by in sunny Brisbane, where I conducted research on algae biofuels. Beyond these thrilling experiences, having time to reflect on my aspirations and learn from

travelers from around the world was probably the most valuable part of this ultimate study break.

Believe it or not, I missed Harvard deeply while I was away. I realized just how lucky we are to be here; if there is one place in the world where you can do anything, it's probably this place. There are simply too many opportunities and too few hours for us to be doing things we don't enjoy. With a preview in mind of the beautiful world that exists beyond our chilly bubble, I'm excited to continue learning, performing, and soaking in experiences on this crazy campus with the extraordinary people that run around here.



Reylon Yount is a sophomore in Crimson Key studying Environmental Science & Public Policy and East Asian Studies. He comes from San Francisco and currently lives in Lowell House. This summer, he will travel to Beijing on an Artist Development Fellowship to study yangqin performance. Reylon hopes to continue performing music professionally and eventually pursue sustainable development work in China.

