



KEYSTONE

The Crimson Key Society | Spring 2015

A Message from the President

Catarina Martinez '16

Dear Members of the
Crimson Key Community,

Hello from Cambridge!
Harvard Yard is looking so
beautiful these days, marking
the beginning of summer and
the end of a wonderful
academic year. It is with great
excitement that I write to you
about Crimson Key's spring
accomplishments!

CKS and the Executive Board
have worked hard this
semester to coordinate new
projects in addition to the
longstanding Key traditions.
Crimson Key members are
known firstly for their
incredible tours, even on the
coldest winter days. This
season, thanks to treasurer
Nick Bookout '17, we were
able to give tours in winter
hats, our latest additions in
Key Swag. We gave a record

number of tours, coordinated
by Gaby Czarniak '17, who
also kept members updated
with monthly historical facts
and clips of Harvard in the
news. Jimmy Kelleher '17
organized Friday TEACH
visits, at which over 400 local
middle schoolers learned
about college life from Key
members.

Deniz Cataltepe '17 and
Bennett Capozzi '17 are
currently planning for
Freshman Week 2015, after
coordinating Junior Parents
Weekend, Arts First and
Visitas. I am especially proud
of the work we provided for
Visitas Weekend, since we
staffed two new, large events.
Tim Smith from the Office of
Admissions thanked us for
bringing the, "Crimson Key
spark!"

With the help of Guidebook
enthusiasts, Charles Scherr '17
was able to complete the 3rd
edition of Inside Harvard. Our
Guidebook will launch in the
fall, to be distributed
nationwide in both print and
e-book form! He also
continued CKS's partnership
with the Harvard Crimson to
distribute free maps
throughout campus and
Harvard Square.

After a ten-week comp
process, we accepted 32 new
members as the 67th class of
Crimson Key on April 23rd.
Vice President and Comp
Director Andrew Raftery '16
led us through another
record-breaking year. Key has
had an amazing time getting
to know these talented, smart,
and enthusiastic new
members! Lauren Volpert '17
and Nick Bookout '17 played

2015 Comp Class

Emeline Atwood '18
Solange Azor '18
Adrianna Bergstein '18
Jacques Berguig '18
Tim Cavanaro '18
Shub Chokra '18
Adam Chiavacci '18
Josiah Corbus '18
Matthew Crowley '18
Haley Daniels '18
Chase Davis '18
Marcus Dennis '18
Elizabeth Elmgren '18
Julia Ernst '18
Caroline Goldfarb '18
Josh Goldstein '17
Thomas Kelley '18
Sophia Kiam '18
Austin King '18
Sophie Kissinger '18
Eloise Lynton '17
Curtis McLeod '18
Bruno Moguel Gallegos '18
Benjamin Molin '18
Alexander Moore '18
Kaveh Motamedy '18
Jessika Nebrat '18
Peryn Reeves-Darby '18
Yasmin Sachee '18
Camille Schmidt '18
Gal Wachtel '17
Stephanie Ying '18

an instrumental role in welcoming the new members, organizing wine and cheese get-togethers, nights out to performances like Eleganza, and our annual banquet.

Daniela Feingold '16 kept us all in constant communication. She established a GroupMe which led to a stronger Key community, and prompted more Key events, like picnics by the Charles River and a cheering squad at the Boston Marathon finish line. Congrats to Shub Chhokra '18, Charles Scherr '17, Margot Solmssen '16, Andrew Crown '15 and Caroline Leahy '15 for running the marathon!

Class of 2015, it is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye and good luck. I think this year's Key community is the closest I have experienced, and I cannot imagine Freshman Week without your hilarious Love Story costumes and welcoming smiles. Thank you for the love and dedication you have given to this organization. You are important role models for us all and I look forward to reunions in the fall, hopefully at Harvard-Yale.

Finally, we would like to thank our off-campus community of alumni, friends, and family. Your love, support, donations, and even kind posts to our Facebook page, truly helped make this semester a success. Hope you all continue to have a wonderful summer, and keep in touch!



Comp Update

Andrew Raftery '16 Vice President and Comp Director

This year's comp was a huge success. It started in February with personalized emails, information sessions, and over a thousand red posters. A huge thank you to our awesome membership who reached out to friends, classmates, and teammates to bring another record-breaking number of compers! We received 294 applications in February. After conducting 26 hours of interviews, we selected 94 compers to present two full tours in the second round. Our second round compers did a fantastic job, and the decisions were very tough. After 46 total hours of deliberations, we chose 29 freshmen and 3 sophomores— 16 men and 16 women —to join Crimson Key.

Our new class is charismatic, diverse, and talented. They're some of the best tour guides we've seen, and watching them throughout the process has reminded us why we love Crimson Key. We can't wait to see how they contribute this fall and beyond!



Treasurer's Update

Nick Bookout '17 Treasurer

CKS is especially grateful for the alumni donations it received this year. As a result of these generous donations, our superb work for the Marshall's Office and Information Center as tour guides, and the increasing success of both the map and the guidebook, CKS will be able to reduce its membership dues this coming year. Additionally, we were able to fund some great social events for our membership this year. From Crimson Key kayaking 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 appreciative 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. Also feel free to donate online through the Harvard University Alumni Affairs and Development website (https://secure.post.harvard.edu/olc/pub/HAA/onlinegiving/showGivingForm.jsp?form_id=124865).

Upon reaching the website, donors should choose "FAS/Harvard College/GSAS" under school/affiliate, and "Harvard College Fund: Unrestricted" under "fund". In the "comments/other designation" box, donors should include "Crimson Key Society" and our gift account number (310-330294).

Key Member Spotlight: Abby Westover

Abby is a rising junior in Pfoho, concentrating in History and Literature. This summer she is proctoring for Harvard Summer School.



Studying abroad term-time is definitely not a norm at Harvard, and I can see why. We are at such an amazing, consuming college environment and thinking about leaving for an entire semester is difficult. I almost decided not to, especially after getting back to campus last fall. Experiencing freshman week as a key member and generally having so much fun at Harvard made leaving not seem worth it. From the other side of things, I'm so incredibly thankful that I decided to push through and do it anyway. Living in a different city/country, even one so relatively easy to adjust to as Edinburgh, and experiencing a

completely different university system and way of life, has been so valuable to me. As a history nerd, having my flat be a five minute walk from an ancient castle on an extinct volcano was mind-blowing. As a nature fanatic, getting to hike and climb mountains in the Highlands on the weekends was awe-inspiring. And as just a person who loves other people, getting to meet locals and be welcomed and made to feel at home despite my impermanence was humbling. I've lived an entirely different life here and have learned so much about myself and how going outside my comfort zone and challenging myself is always

the best decision. Although I'll be going back to Harvard so excited about my last two years, my friends there, and of course all the times to be had with key members, I can't deny that a huge part of my heart will be staying in this place that now feels like home. I really hope that study abroad becomes an increasingly common option for Harvard students because it lends such a valuable perspective on college life, time priorities, and how incredibly lucky we are to be at a university that people even here hold so much respect for.

Key Member Spotlight: Erin Corcoran

Erin is a rising senior in Kirkland House, concentrating in Psychology. This summer she is working at Kekst and Company, a strategic communications company in New York City.



Someone once told me that I would never regret missing a semester at Harvard, but that I would always regret not studying abroad if I didn't go. They were totally right, and I cannot even begin to express

how thankful I am for my semester abroad. I have learned much more than I ever could have in a semester at Harvard, and have grown in almost every sense of the word (for example, scones in

the UK are delicious). But in all seriousness, I have become much more independent, curious, and appreciative during my time in Scotland.

Over the semester, I was not only able to immerse myself in the lovely Scottish culture, but I was also able to travel to many different European countries. Although I had travelled before my semester abroad, this experience allowed me to truly understand foreign cultures, and appreciate them for more than just an interesting escape from my every day life. I know that there probably won't be another time in my life that I can just decide to go to Budapest for a weekend, or on a whim go see Stonehenge because all my friends were busy. While people at Harvard were cramming for finals, I was hiking, exploring Edinburgh, traveling, and basically doing everything but studying. Although it sounds like I basically just had an extended vacation, this semester gave me some much-needed perspective on what's important in college (and life).

One of my favorite parts was learning about all the small fascinating bits of culture and belief that I never would have learned if I didn't visit these places. For instance, I did a homestay in a town on the Scottish/English border called Berwick-upon-Tweed. My host-dad told us that the town, which only has a

population of 12,000, was technically at war with Russia for a period of time because, although it was included in the declaration of the Crimean War, it wasn't included in the armistice. Another example was when I went to the Isle of Skye and dunked my head in the pool of eternal youth and beauty in honor of local folklore. I also went on a very in-depth historical tour of Loch Ness and learned how basically every single picture of the monster has been debunked. These experiences were so enlightening and special, and the things I learned were made much more real by being in the places themselves.

My experiences abroad have made me appreciate much more about America and my Harvard education, but also helped me to think about certain things more critically. Just sitting down and talking to people of different cultures, learning about their lives and experiences, taught me a lot about the world and myself. I used to think I was a fairly enlightened person, but every time I met someone from another place and background I learned so much that I didn't realize I didn't know. Things that are so commonplace to us, such

as potable tap water, are not quite as widespread as I thought. I didn't realize how many countries require you to enter the military after graduation, or don't charge for university. I also didn't realize how different the learning styles were in every country. With all these things in mind, I'm really looking forward to coming back to Harvard and engaging with international students on campus as well as international visitors through key tours. The experience has given me a unique outlook on Harvard and I'm excited to share that.

Overall, while I feel like I have learned an immense amount in my time at Harvard, no classroom would've taught me the perspective I gained from being abroad. I also know that I am going to come back to school much more eager to learn and grateful for the education I have, because I didn't realize just how special it was until this semester. I am really looking forward to my final year at Harvard with this gained perspective, because I know it's going to be the best one yet.

