



Parents Connection

Message from the Dean of Freshmen



Dear Harvard College Parents and Guardians,

Not a day goes by when we don't hear from faculty, staff, or upperclassmen about the special energy and enthusiasm brought to the college by members of the Class of 2018.

As some of you have commented, the start-up of the year is slow. Over nine hundred freshmen were here for the better part of a week for a pre-orientation program, then all the class arrived and had a week of orientation, culminating in Convocation on Labor Day. Finally, classes began the day after Labor Day and freshmen had the opportunity to sample different disciplines and different levels of instruction to determine a final course-load a week later. With Study Cards now submitted, the routines become more regular and predictable, and, as a freshman remarked, "the real work begins."

As you parents of upperclassmen now know, the pacing is intentional. We want freshmen to get their feet on the ground and to benefit from all the advising resources before they make firm commitments. Their choices seem grounded in better information, and by the looks on their faces, they are feeling direction and excitement. We will, of course, stand by to help them and encourage them, and we look forward to a great year ahead.

Sincerely,

Tom Dingman *Dean of Freshmen*



Plan Ahead!

Freshman Parents Weekend

November 7-8

If you are planning to attend Freshman Parents Weekend it's a good idea to make preparations now if you haven't already. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the campus better and engage with Harvard faculty, staff and fellow parents. Registration is now open.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

In Case You Missed It ...

The Harvard Gazette is the official news source of Harvard University. [Subscribe to the Daily Gazette.](#)

[A freshman arrives at Harvard](#)

Read a first-person account of what one freshman was thinking and feeling on move-in day. This is the first in a series of occasional columns by Matthew DeShaw '18, a freshman from New Jersey living in Hurlbut Hall. [Read more](#)

[Shopping Week](#)

If you were surprised to hear your son or daughter talk a lot about shopping during the past week, don't be. "Shopping Week" is a longstanding and distinctly Harvard tradition. For the first several days of each semester, undergraduates are given an opportunity to sit in on any class, check out the syllabus, and listen to a professor discuss what the course will be like before they commit to an entire semester of studies. Have a look for yourself. [Read more](#)

Get Involved

Parent Programs »

You are all an important part of the Harvard community, so keep up to date on programs and events, resources and news by visiting the [Parent Programs website](#).

The Game »

The 131st installment of the Harvard-Yale football game will be played (November 22) at historic Harvard Stadium this year. Come [be a part](#) of this great tradition.

A Reminder »

If you have not already done so, please remind your student to register for [MessageMe](#). This is the most effective way for your student to receive up-to-date emergency information, and we urge all members of the Harvard community to register.

Did You Know?

The iconic statue of John Harvard in front of University Hall in Harvard Yard is also referred to as the "statue of three lies." On the base of the statue reads "John Harvard, Founder 1638." First, the statue's likeness is not that of John Harvard. Instead a stand-in was used as no likeness of John Harvard exists. Second, he was not the founder, but rather the first major benefactor of the College. The third "lie" is Harvard was founded in 1636, not 1638.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Experience Move-in Day

Freshmen move-in day is always an exciting time as the Yard comes alive again after its lazy, summer slumber. Boxes, bags and bins were hauled up stairwells in dorms in and around the Yard by students and their families. Words of advice from members of the Harvard community and photographs documenting the excitement provide a glimpse into the week.

[VIEW MOVE-IN DAY POSTS](#)

Resources

Financial Aid: (617) 495-1551

Harvard University Health Services (24 hour): (617) 495-5711

HUHS Counseling and Mental Health Services: (617) 495-2042

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Registrar: (617) 495-1543

Housing and Residential Life: (617) 496-2774

Harvard College Parents Fund: (617) 496-3819

Additional Resources

Harvard College
University Hall, First Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138

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