

Keystone

The Crimson Key Society: Summer 2016



President's Update: Bennett Capozzi '17

Dear Members of the Crimson Key Community,
Greetings from beautiful Cambridge! As we have all learned from Freshman Week, there is nothing quite like being on campus in the warm summer months. I hope you are all enjoying your summers as well and are soaking up the sun! CKS is just coming off an incredible semester where our board, which was elected last November, got the opportunity to help the organization grow and develop. On that note, I wanted to share with you some of Crimson Key's most recent accomplishments.

Comp 2016 was a huge success! Our fearless Vice President Deniz Cataltepe '17 led us through the extremely tough but rewarding process and we could not be happier with the members of our new class!

Jessika Nebrat '18 and Alexander Moore '18 have been hard at work helping the University with countless events, organizing volunteers for Junior Parents Weekend, Visitas, Arts First, and more. Furthermore, they have been coordinating with the FDO to get ready for Freshman Week in coming days. Aside from doing a spectacular job with traditional events like First Chance Dance and Love Story, they are planning on introducing a new one this year!

Emmie Atwood '18 worked with the Harvard Ed Portal, to bring nearly 400 students to



Bennett Capozzi '17 speaking alongside Nick Bookout '17 during Junior Parents Weekend

campus to experience the Project TEACH programming. Not only were Key members giving tours to TEACH participants, but they also kept busy with tours through the Information Center and the Office of the University Marshal. I am glad to report that this was the busiest, but most successful semester for tours, thanks to our wonderful Tour Coordinator, Bruno Moguel Gallegos '18. Josh Goldstein '17 fielded inquiries for additional CKS tours and special requests and helped us put together an alumni mini-reunion this year. It was a great experience to meet some of the older members of the CKS community and we are working to further build the relationship between undergraduates and alumni in Crimson Key!

Charles Scherr '17 and Austin King '18 put together the first annual Crimson Key ski trip (sKEY) which was a huge success and a fun time for all! Shub Chhokra kept our finances in check and also facilitated Key members' ideas for social events by giving them access to Key funds. When he's not organizing ski trips, Charles Scherr '17 has been working tirelessly to market the 3rd edition of Inside Harvard! I'll let his update speak for itself, but I am beyond impressed with the work he put into this book and his dedication to making it available to people all over the world.



The rising Senior class of Crimson Key on the steps of Widener before Love Story

Overall, I'd like to thank my exceptional and dedicated 2016 board for their hard work this past year. They all worked tirelessly to strengthen our Key community and expand Crimson Key's role on campus. I could not have accomplished anything without the support and humor of this board.

At the end of the day, Key is a family, and I am incredibly lucky to have been given the chance to be a part of it. It makes me very happy to share with you all the wonderful accomplishments of this organization and I hope you all have had a great summer!

Best,

Bennett Capozzi

Treasurer's Update: Shubhankar Chhokra '18

CKS remains in good financial health in 2016. Despite a contract change with the Freshman Dean's Office, we saw additional revenue from the new 3rd edition of our Inside Harvard guidebook, which is now available both at the Coop in Harvard Square and the Information Center. This coupled with the revenue from our tour guides' excellent work at the Marshal's Office Information Center will allow us to maintain last year's cut in membership dues. We were also able to hold a lot of great social events for our membership so far, from wine and cheeses to Chinatown dinners. This fall, we'll also be launching a new "Family Fund" for members to sponsor events for their Key families.

All our programming is possible because of the generous support of alumni, family and friends. We are grateful for all our donations, whether it is \$5 or much more. We want to thank two alumni, Osborn Erickson and John Hazel, for their generous donations in Spring 2016.

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.

Secure on-line donations can be made via the Harvard University Alumni Affairs and Development [website](#). 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).

Thank you for your support!

Shub Chhokra



Shubhankar Chhokra '18 from the beloved Harvard Yard



Amber Wade '16 prior to cooking dinner for over 40 Key members!

Guidebook & Marketing Manager's Update: Charles Scherr '17

The 2015-2016 school year was a transformative year in the Guidebook & Marketing Manager position, as we celebrated the official publication of the Third Edition of Inside Harvard. We are wildly proud of the final product, the result of which was the coordination of hours of hard work researching and writing Harvard's history and present-day life. New to the Third Edition are revamped sections on Admissions, including five terrific "student spotlights"; Housing, including the significant changes brought by the House Renewal Project; and Arts, including sections on the completion and consolidation of the Fogg Arts Museum. It is a wonderful book, and we hope you check it out!

As we turn to marketing the book, we are excited to announce that the book will be sold in Harvard's new Information Center, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. We are hoping this arrangement will increase sales and generate more revenue for Crimson Key. Of course, the COOP and Amazon remain our largest points of sale, but we look forward to complementing our tours with the Third Edition of the book. Again, we thank everyone who put so much time and effort into the book, and look forward to ongoing projects and ideas associated with it.

Best,

Charles Scherr



Charles Scherr '17 left, with Jimmy Keller at sKEY '17

Crimson Key Welcomes Its Newest Members!

Kiki Albanese '19
Lexi Allen '19
Ashri Anurudran '19
Balim Barutcu '19
Owen Borges '19
Angela Borglum '19
Carolina Brettler '18
Taylor Brunskole '19
Laura Chang '18
Scott DeAngelo '19
Laura Delany '19
Will Delaney '19
Val Elefante '19
Lyndon Hanrahan '19
Parker Hayward '19
Walker Jordan '19
Spencer Ma '19
Theo Mendez '19
Anant Pai '19
Jake Pechet '19
Hannah Posner '19
Matthew Sarpong '19
Sophie Schick '19
Emma Scornavacchi '19
Will Smiles '19
Jordan Spector '18
Rafaela Stalph '19
Leah Stewart '19
Maia Suazo-Maler '19
Caroline Teicher '19
Hunter Worland '19
Dario Zarrabian '19

Member Spotlight: Gaby Czarniak '17

Aside from taking classes in Catalan for the first time, or learning that, much to my surprise, I really do love political theory, my semester in Barcelona made me reflect on how I want to approach people and time from here on out. I'll approach this spotlight as an opportunity to share a tiny window into some additional takeaways from my six months in Europe:

1. Using desire vs. merit to justify an action
2. Opening up to new people I knew *of* but didn't *know*
3. Making the time to make my Harvard experiences feel like study abroad

After a junior fall semester full of computer science problem sets and board positions—possibly the least surprising way to describe a semester at Harvard—I arrived in Spain craving spontaneity. I decided to let life happen to me a little bit, and that's how I made my best friends. Over the course of six months, these friends taught me that I don't always need to justify doing something indulgent. For example, if I have a cupcake, it doesn't have to be because I had a hard week. I have a tendency, as many people do at places filled with the pressure to work hard, to justify things that I award myself by telling myself that I deserve them. The way in which my study abroad friends' lifestyles and mindsets differed from my own showed me that I don't have to feel ashamed of doing something just because *I want to*.



Gaby Czarniak from her semester abroad

One of the close friends that I made during my time abroad ended up being another Harvard student. We had met before very briefly, but had never had a substantive conversation. Although our on-campus interests didn't overlap, we had both made the unusual choice to leave Harvard for term-time study abroad in Barcelona, and the underlying reasons for that decision immediately gave us something to share. She quickly became one of my best friends for life. That is exactly why CKS is so awesome, too. Joining Key, we come from different backgrounds and take part in a wide variety of activities on campus. Many of us have made some of our closest friends through Key. I can't emphasize enough how incredible it is that Key gives us the opportunity to

befriend people we wouldn't otherwise meet, and I would encourage us all to continue being open to getting to know people we may think we already know or understand—the best things could come of this!

Lastly, being a tourist has helped me as a tour guide! In Barcelona, after going on a wealth of city tours and wandering around areas unfamiliar to me, I found myself jumping at the opportunity to spit out the quirkiest facts I'd heard when friends came to visit me. I had such a fresh understanding of what had grabbed my attention and of specific locations that had excited me. I cannot wait to get on campus

and give my revamped tour. The process will involve adventures for which I wouldn't normally make the time. What's a more embarrassing confession: the fact that, with one exception, the only times I've ever gone into Boston "for fun" have been for field trips? Or the fact that I still haven't been to the North End, Back Bay, the Arboretum, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, or Fenway for a Red Sox game? I think there's a lot of value in positioning ourselves on the tourist side sometimes, not only because we might get lucky and learn new facts relevant to our tours, but also because we'll better understand the



Angela Wu '17, Emma Scornavacchi '19, and Natalie Torres '17. With Key pride far beyond Cambridge!

types of facts tourists need (in order to understand the story) and want (because they're the right kind of entertaining) by experiencing it ourselves. Granted, being a tourist can be exhausting. There are times when nothing beats feeling at home, in a familiar place, or feeling no pressure to do anything. But let's not forget—because I so easily do—that we indeed have the opportunity to explore if we so choose!



Molly Alter '16, with a heart for CKS

Before I left for my semester abroad, my friend Camila, who had just returned from her own semester in Barcelona, had one piece of advice: "recognize your

moments." Whether that meant looking out over Tibidabo Mountain at the best possible view of the city; sitting cross-legged in Parc de la Ciutadella as my friends waved giant soap bubbles in the air; attempting to skateboard down cobbled streets at the crack of dawn; nestling under blankets in Amsterdam with three girls who, on that very day, became my friends for life; grooving my way down a soul train or watching the sunrise on the beach following a night of exceptional music and then dancing to Flamenco jukebox songs until 2:30PM with a bunch of Catalonians who would forever be family to me,

acknowledging moments like these came easy. I made them snapshots frozen in time—something I haven't yet done enough at Harvard.

As I enter my senior year, I can't wait to make moments with Key. Although I do love many things Harvard has to offer, I have to say that the only thing making me want to come back from Spain's glory days at all has been Freshman Week. By far the best week at Harvard every year, I am counting down the days until it begins, but also freaking out that it'll be my last. Throughout my semester in Barcelona, there were moments when I felt like I was flying and every inch of me was happy. I'll never have the same exact experience again, but there are moments that I can keep with me and a whole host of new moments to make in the future. During my first FWK, I remember thinking that it couldn't possibly get better. With each year that goes by, I realize that I was wrong. I'll never experience the same FWK twice, because they keep getting better as each year, CKS is even more of a family to me. So I'll just end by saying cheers to FWK 2016 and cheers to Key!



Lounging in Vermont at the first annual sKEY trip



Only peace signs when in Love Story attire!



Rob Ledniczky '16 and Abby Westover '17 performing together



Three of Key's newest members at the annual CKS softball game



We welcomed the Class of 2019, and can't wait for the Class of 2020!

