July 2015

Dear Members of the Class of 2019:

Welcome to Harvard College!

Let me introduce myself: I am the Resident Dean of Freshmen responsible for Elm Yard, which comprises Grays, Matthews, and Weld dormitories. I will serve as your academic and residential dean this year. This means that I am on hand to help you and your immediate advisers (proctors, academic advisers, coaches, peer advising fellows, professors, and others) sort out any academic or residential questions that may arise during your first year at Harvard. You can reach me at the Freshman Dean's Office, where I am available to meet with you throughout the academic year.

The rest of the staff here at the College and I are very much looking forward to your arrival. This moment marks an important transition for you and all of your classmates. In addition to embarking on an interesting and challenging course of study, you will be living in a unique and exciting residential community. You will also be responsible for your own choices and actions in a way many of you have never been before. To help you make that transition, you have been assigned to one of the resident proctors in Elm Yard. Harvard proctors are graduate students and University administrators who live in the dorms with you and conduct advising sessions on academic, personal, and residential matters. Essentially, they are friendly and resourceful adults whom I trust you will get to know and respect over the course of our year together. Their primary role, along with your academic and peer advisers, is to help create a warm and welcoming home for you this upcoming year.

Of course, your classmates and roommates will likely play an even more significant part in your freshman experience. Harvard College believes strongly in the educational impact of our residential community, which is largely why I and the other Resident Deans of Freshmen have spent the summer carefully building suites and entryways that will reflect the remarkable diversity and strengths of the Class of 2019. You should have received your room assignment and the names of your roommates. Please recognize the importance of arriving with an open mind and a willingness to work collaboratively with the new people you will meet. They, like you, are talented and remarkable and will contribute greatly to the quality of your experience at Harvard. Do enjoy getting to know them.

Thank you for keeping all of this in mind as you complete your plans for arrival in the fall.

Once again, welcome, and best wishes for a rewarding and productive year.

Sincerely,

Jasmine M. Waddell, D.Phil Oxon
Resident Dean of Freshmen
Elm Yard