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 Ivy Yard, which is made up of Apley Court, Hollis, Holworthy, Lionel, Massachusetts Hall, Mower, Stoughton, and Straus 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, etc.) 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.

My residence is in Apley Court where I live with my wife Ellen and our two young children.

We are very much looking forward to your arrival. This event 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 residential community. You will also be responsible for your own choices and actions in a way most of you have never been before. To help you make that transition, you have been assigned to one of the resident proctors in the Yard. Harvard proctors are graduate students and University administrators who live in the dorms with you and assist you with all academic, personal, and residential matters. Essentially, they are friendly and resourceful adults whom you will get to know and respect over the course of your 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 the other Resident Deans of Freshmen and I have spent the summer carefully building suites and entryways that will reflect the remarkable diversity and strengths of the Class of 2019. Please recognize the importance of arriving with an open mind, and a willingness to cooperate with the people you will meet. They, like you, are talented and remarkable, and will contribute greatly to the quality of your experience at Harvard.

Thank you for keeping all of this in mind as you complete your plans for the coming year. You should have received your room assignment and, if applicable, the names of your roommates. Enjoy getting to know them.

Once again, welcome, and best wishes for a rewarding and productive year. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Michael Ranen
Resident Dean of Freshmen
Ivy Yard
Harvard College