

Commencement Confetti

Musical Notes

Joshuah Brian Campbell '16 did double duty—nailing his Senior English Address during the Morning Exercises but also, literally, singing for his dinner the night before. At the honorees' banquet in Annenberg Hall, accompanied by guitarist Alex Graff '17, he sang "Desafinado," by Brazilian songwriter Antônio Carlos Jobim (a treat for Fernando Henrique Cardoso, in lieu of the usual classical selection). During the Phi Beta Kappa Literary Exercises Tuesday morning, the Radcliffe Choral Society, somewhat surprisingly, sang "We Are..." by Ysaye Barnwell (of Sweet Honey in the Rock); its charming refrain is well suited for graduates with attending elders: "We are our grandmothers' prayers./ We are our grandfathers' dreamings./ We are the breath of our ancestors./ We are the spirit of God." Josh Bean '16 did the fresh arrangement of "Simple Gifts" for the Commencement Choir's Thursday performance.

Zingers

Commencement-goers may have noticed that the United States is conducting a presidential election. It turns out that academics and their guests are fully capa-

ble of delivering political one-liners as punchy as those deployed on the hustings. Some samples: "We cannot



will away or wall away the world" (former secretary of state Madeleine Albright, LL.D. '97, at Harvard Kennedy School's Class Day). "The ability to know, as former dean Jeremy Knowles used to put it, 'when someone is talking rot'" (President Drew Faust, Commencement afternoon address, on the role of education in informing

Joshuah Brian Campbell

discourse). "We are a nation of immigrants, at least for now" (Steven Spielberg, Ar.D. '16, in his afternoon address—before referring to his attending family member, his 99-year-old father).

Gendered (Club) Jokes

As debate roiled after the College's decision to pressure members of final clubs, fraternities, and sororities (see page 27), Dean Rakesh Khurana came in for some ribbing. Tuesday morning, Phi Beta Kappa president Robin Kelsey said, "Unlike some other societies bearing ancient Greek initials, Phi Beta Kappa is not embroiled in any campus controversy—of which I am aware," giving the dean a significant look. Kelsey went on to note the election of academic achievers to PBK, "whatever your sex, gender, or sexual orientation." In her Baccalaureate ad-



END OF AN ERA. This year's festival rites are the last for Grace Scheibner, Harvard's first formal Commencement director, who retires after 24 such extravaganzas. Scheibner's successor faces a job that combines logistics mastery with penetrating psychology (tending to visiting heads of state and entertainers) and exquisite diplomacy (weighing last-minute ticket requests). President Drew Faust gave her a richly deserved shout-out after conferring the honorary degrees.

dress, President Faust teased about discussing with parents what is known as a "final club." Without an 's.'"

Leading Lecturers

The studious Phi Beta Kappans annually recognize teaching excellence. This year, they honored Kiran Gajwani, lecturer and concentration adviser in economics, who runs the senior-thesis research seminar; Charles S. Hallisey, Numata senior lecturer in Buddhist literatures; and Brigitte A.B. Libby, lecturer on the classics and Allston Burr assistant dean of Pforzheimer House (who had an excellent excuse for being absent: she delivered a daughter on Saturday, May 21). It is a small sample, but all three are lecturers, not ladder faculty members on



FULL-SERVICE. In a big year for ROTC, Ensign Adam Gracia '16 was joined at Wednesday's commissioning ceremony by his U.S. Navy family: Captains Jorge Gracia and Nancy Gracia, and (right) Lieutenant (j.g.) Alexandra Gracia, his sister. President Drew Faust's gift to the officers was *Leadership*, an anthology edited by Elizabeth D. Samet '91, professor of English at the U.S. Military Academy, who came to campus the next day for her twenty-fifth reunion.

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the tenure track—perhaps a subtle comment on teaching.

Counting Who Counts

Harvard awarded 7,727 degrees and 11 certificates on May 26. Collegians garnered 1,661 degrees. Those entering “the ancient and universal company of scholars” (Ph.D.s) and those who “have surmounted with distinction the first stage of graduate study” (a master’s in arts or sciences) received 988 degrees from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, led by 538 doctorates. Other notable totals: business (934), extension (783), law (769), education (746), Kennedy School (584), and public health (546). The world is also the richer to the tune of 61 Harvard-trained dental specialists.



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HARVARD MAGAZINE/UC

SIGNS OF THE TIMES. The Law School, having abandoned its shield, associated with a slave-owning family (see the decorated mortarboard, page 15), and absent a successor, hoisted plain banners on Langdell and in Tercentenary Theatre; stay tuned for the new design. In their anniversary years, the Harvard Alumni Association (175th) and Harvard College Fund (90th) hailed alumni community and philanthropy on the Yard’s light standards.

to finance positions; a higher proportion of respondents will be in finance and consulting than any class since 2007.) More than half of those entering the workforce expect starting salaries in excess of \$70,000. Panelists at Radcliffe’s Friday conversation on “Building an

Economy for Prosperity and Equality” lamented the small fraction of College graduates (4 percent in 2016) entering public or nonprofit service.

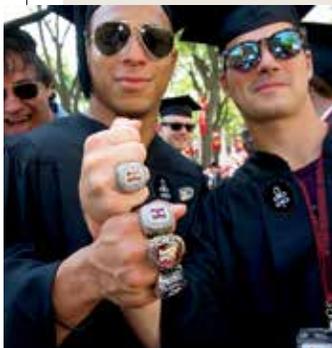
Freshman Ties

First-year roommates Penny S. Pritzker ’81 and Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall

the first African American to earn a Harvard doctorate, and Ralph Ellison, Litt.D. ’74, author of *Invisible Man*, who was that year’s afternoon guest speaker. (In that dreary year, *Harvard Magazine* reported in its news headlines, “This year’s graduates: More interested in money” and “ROTC on the wane.”)

Whose Ox Gets Gored?

Radcliffe “Economy and Prosperity” panelist Douglas W. Elmendorf, dean of Harvard Kennedy School, proposed addressing federal deficits by cutting benefits and raising Medicare premiums from those who have done better in society—a suggestion greeted, to his amusement, by applause. “I don’t mean just Bill Gates [’77, LL.D. ’07],” he continued, and suggested extracting resources from the top third to half of the economic order—a suggestion, he joked, that elicited “slightly less applause.”



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IVY BLING. Eliot Housemates Andrew Fischer ’16, of (well-named) Diamond Bar, California, a receiver, sports 2013-2015 football championship rings (next up: a job with Bank of America Merrill Lynch), as William Walker ’15, of Hingham, Massachusetts, shows his 2014 lacrosse championship hardware. After summer travel, he joins Fidelity Investments.

Senior Survey

“This is the best time to enter the job market in close to a decade.” FiveThirtyEight’s Ben Casselman informed fortunate graduates in early May. *The Harvard Crimson*’s senior survey (906 responses) offers confirming evidence, with 21 percent headed to consulting jobs, 18 percent to finance, and 14 percent to technology. (The subsets are amusing: 43 percent of male final-club members reporting are heading

’81 cross paths in Washington, D.C., where the former is secretary of commerce and the latter deputy secretary of energy. They were joined on a reunion panel by none other than Loretta E. Lynch ’81, J.D. ’84, whose day job is attorney general.

Echoes

Honorand Arnold Rampersad, Ph.D. ’73, LL.D. ’16, has written acclaimed books about W.E.B. Du Bois, A.B. 1890, Ph.D. ’95,



STU ROSNER

EXTRA! EXTRA! In a classic print-era hack, the Lampoon hoisted *Harvard Crimson* display racks and deployed them at the entry gates for the Morning Exercises—fully stocked with back issues of the humor magazine.



SUSAN YOUNG/HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

SOMBER SPEECHES. Canned oratory about life lessons congeals much graduation rhetoric. But sometimes, the talk becomes painfully real. “I am here today to thank you—for saving my life,” class day speaker Marcelle de Souza Gonçalves Meira, M.B.A. ’16, shown here, told her Harvard Business School peers. Her husband and classmate, Pedro Meira, died last September from stomach cancer, and her remarks addressed this ultimate challenge. The College class of 1991 elected as its Chief Marshal Sheryl Sandberg, who shares with Meira an HBS M.B.A. (’95), and the loss of her husband, Dave Goldberg ’89, little more than a year ago—the subject of her moving commencement address at the University of California, Berkeley, earlier in May.