

# Harvard College Class Day Exercises



## Class of 2024

The 2024 Harvard College Class Day Exercises on Wednesday, May 22 (at 2:00 p.m. in Tercentenary Theatre), will feature speeches from two members of the Class, the performance of the Class Ode, and the presentation of the Ames Award to two members of the Class.

The 2024 Class Committee will soon be seeking submissions for the Harvard Oration, Ivy Oration, and Class Ode, as well as nominations for the Ames Award from members of the Harvard College Class of 2024. Please see the descriptions of each below. Note that you can apply for more than one.

Those selected to give the Orations and perform the Ode will sit on stage during the Class Day Exercises and will be invited to an earlier private event where they will meet the featured guest speaker. More information will be shared with those who are selected. The winners of the Ames Award will remain a secret until announced during the Class Day Exercises, and the winners will be asked to briefly come to the stage for a photo.

Note that there are opportunities to speak during the University Commencement Exercises in addition to these opportunities; look for more information about that process, managed by the Commencement Office, in the spring.

### The Harvard Oration

The Harvard Oration is a formal, reflective speech that speaks to the journey of the Class of 2024. This speech is intended to be a chance to commemorate your experience with a few words and stories that will resonate with the Class. This is also an opportunity to look forward as a Class and ponder how your journey will continue.

**Please plan to submit your Harvard Oration by Monday, March 4.** An application form will be available in the spring semester. As part of the application, you will be asked to submit the full text of your speech, as well as a video recording of you performing part of your speech, no longer than one minute in length. The speech should be no longer than seven minutes. One student will be selected to give the Harvard Oration.

### The Ivy Oration

The Ivy Oration is a light-hearted, comedic speech that allows your classmates to laugh and smile about your journey. This speech is intended to weave humor into a reflection of your college experience. It is an opportunity to share memories and inside jokes with the Class, many of which you will fondly take with you.

**Please plan to submit your Ivy Oration by Monday, March 4.** An application form will be available in the spring semester. As part of the application, you will be asked to submit the full text of your speech, as well as a video recording of you performing part of your speech, no longer than one minute in length. The speech should be no longer than seven minutes. One student will be selected to give the Ivy Oration.

## The Class Ode

The Class Ode is an original composition of two verses set to the tune of "Fair Harvard." The Ode can be composed and performed by a group of people in the Class and can cover a wide range of topics and ideas. The lyrics should be reflective in some way of your college experience but need not choose between a reflective or a humorous tone. The Odists are responsible for arranging any musical accompaniment for the Class Day performance, though this is not required.

**Please plan to submit your Class Ode by Monday, March 4.** An application form will be available in the spring semester. As part of the application, you will be asked to submit the lyrics as well as an audio or video recording of you or your group performing it.

## The Richard Glover Ames and Henry Russell Ames Award

The Ames Award is given to seniors who have shown heroic character and energy in helping others and whose substantial contributions may not have been acknowledged. This prestigious honor is granted to two members of the senior class during the Class Day Exercises. The goal of this award is to honor two unsung heroes of the Class.

On June 19, 1935, Richard Glover Ames and Henry Russell Ames, brothers and Harvard students, gave their lives to save their father, who was washed overboard during a storm off the coast of Newfoundland. Every year since, the Ames Award has been given in their memory to recognize two seniors who have shown energy in helping others and who exhibit the same heroic character and inspiring leadership of the Ames brothers.

All members of the Harvard community are welcome to nominate individuals. Nominations should take the form of a letter of roughly one to three paragraphs in length. The 2024 Class Committee will review all nominations and select two winners. The nomination letters will be the sole basis of their decision. **Send nomination emails or attached letters to the HAA College Alumni Programs Office at [haa\\_collegealumniprograms@harvard.edu](mailto:haa_collegealumniprograms@harvard.edu) by Monday, March 4.**