Familiar Paths Trod
The Harvard Crimson’s senior survey (to which 790 students, about half the class, responded) reveals that among graduates heading for a paycheck, “In keeping with past classes, most working graduates will join the consulting, finance, or technology industries, which have drawn 18, 18, and 16 percent,” respectively: 52 percent of those about to begin employment. That brings to mind the meme (described by The Undergraduate, on page 29) of the Harvard-bound baby’s first word: “M-m-m... McKinsey and Company.” Separately, among survey respondents “23 percent reported having cheated in an academic context at Harvard” (up from 17 percent, 19.5 percent, and 21 percent in the prior three classes)—a depressing tally that provided some context for the Crimson’s reports about a large Honor Council investigation into alleged academic misconduct among students enrolled last fall in the popular Computer Science 50 course.

Family Ties I
President Faust having conferred M.B.A.s on the Business School candidates, their dean, Nitin Nohria, added a shout-out from the Commencement platform to his daughter, Reva, minutes from receiving her bachelor’s. Provost Alan Garber, who leads the degree-conferring continuity, refrained from similarly embarrassing/delightful his son, Ben. Other parents with College class of 2017 progeny included dean of science Jeremy Bloxham (son William) and senior associate vice president Robert Cashion, effectively the chief fundraiser for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (son Nicholas).

Family Ties II
Lissa Muscatine ’76, a 1977 Rhodes Scholar (the first cohort to include women), and now co-owner of Washington’s Politics & Prose Bookstore with her husband, Bradley Graham, saw daughter Wynne Muscatine Graham, of Currier House, get her A.B.—in philosophy, and summa cum laude, no less. A big week for the family: Wynne’s twin brother, Cole, graduated from Swarthmore. (Lissa’s former employer—senator, secretary of state, and U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton—was the commencement speaker at her alma mater, Wellesley, on Friday.)

The Wired Yard
Among the innovations this year were brighter, higher-resolution video screens for the throng seated farther back during the Morning Exercises (Harvard retained a new audio-video vendor), and a question-provoking device attached to one of the video-camera stands in Tercentenary Theatre: a security cam? a Facebook Live device? Nothing so exotic: merely a new robotic camera for Harvard’s AV/news team, capturing panoramic images. Next year, e-tickets, anyone?

STALWARTS: The fiftieth-reunion class of 1967 is, characteristically, studded with successful leaders, some of them importantly involved with alma mater, including two Corporation members: Joseph J. O’Donnell and Jessica Tuchman Mathews. Also attending the festival rites were Harvey V. Fineberg (and M.D. ’71, M.P.P. ’72, Ph.D. ’80) past dean of public health and Harvard provost, and actor John A. Lithgow, Ar.D. ’05, honored this year for founding and leading Arts First. But it is a safe bet that none of them can match the long Harvard service of Bill (okay, William R.) Fitzsimmons ’67, Ed.D. ’71, dean of admissions and financial aid since 1986 (left), who has known thousands of undergraduates from before they were undergraduates; and Thomas A. Dingman ’67, Ed.M. ’73, who as dean of freshmen has settled the newbies since 2005—the latest post in 44 years of study and administration here during the past half-century.

TRADITIONS NEW AND OLD: In its tenth year of elevation from a division of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the cutting-edge School of Engineering and Applied Sciences got its own, very traditional, orange/gold crow’s-foot device for master’s degree students’ gowns this year. And honorary-degree recipients’ triple crow’s feet were restored after an inexplicable three-decade-plus omission. Commencement aficionados can learn more at harvardmag.com/regalia-17. Departing from tradition, all Harvard Law graduates won a one-year dispensation to wear puffy tams rather than mortarboards, to mark the school’s bicentennial; that headgear is typically the prerogative of Ph.D.s and equivalent degrees like the S.J.D. (law), D.B.A. (business), and Ed.D. (education).
in public health. The bicentennial divinity candidates earned 106 degrees, and the sesquicentennial dentists totaled five dozen plus one.

The Power of Connections
Harvard boasts of the human connections it enables. Despite their combined 12 decades or so of acting, honorands Dame Judi Dench and James Earl Jones reportedly met for the first time at Commencement.

Victors and Vanquished
To Latin Salutatorian Jessica (Jes- si) Rachael Glueck ’17 fell the happy and sad obligation of reminding her classmates of their triumphs and tragedies: Arma virosque canimus, qui primi longas per noctes cum Scientia Computatoris Quinquaginta vel Scriben- do Expositoris vel Oeconomicis Decem certaverunt; qui postea, iactati maximis labori- bus, theses difficillimas superaverunt…Sunt etiam illi in corpore validi, lusores nostri pedifollis. Ut in Troia olim Achaici, sic in hoc anno Elienses indigne illos vicerunt…. [*We sing of arms and he- roes, who first fought through long nights against Computer Science 50 or Exposi- tory Writing or Econo- mics 10; who after- wards, tossed about by the greatest labors, defeated formidable theses…There are also those who are strong in body, our football players. The Yalies unjustly conquered them this year, as the Greeks conquered un- fairly at Troy long ago…*]

Zapping Zuck
On Thursday, when it came time to con- fer degrees, Graduate School dean Xiao- Li Meng, the rare statistician known for his humor, de- parted considerably from the script. Having paused to elicit Ph.D. candi- dates’ cheers and applause, then thank them for their efforts, he said, “To return the favor, I want to dou- ble-check with each of you whether you really want this degree, because many of you realize this is your last chance to be a Harvard dropout”—a sly reference for- ward to Mark Zuckerberg, one among many zingers directed at the honorand and afternoon speaker (who made sev- eral sharp jokes at his own expense, too).

BUNDLED AND UN-:
During the afternoon exercises, Wellesley and Duke president emerita Nannerl O. Keohane, LL. D. ’93, demonstrates proper late-May attire; she is concluding a dozen years of service on the Corporation—24 years after the conferral of her own Harvard honorary doctorate. Provost Alan Garber employs a little body language to diminish the wind’s chilly, wet impact. Former vice president for policy Clayton Spencer, now president of Bates College, standing to receive her Harvard Medal, braves the elements. Was this a sign of her Down East cred? she was asked later. Not at all: “I was freezing, but I didn’t have a coat.”