for a year”—I wanted to divorce my agents that very day—and see if you feel the same way.’ I did, and I did.” Zachos stopped acting in 1998.

She did and she didn’t. “I do a lot of lecturing, and it’s clear to me that the skills I developed as a performer make me a much better lecturer.” She is recently back from Sweden, where she addressed a Hoya conference. Hoyas are evergreen, shrublike, mostly epiphytic, usually climbing, plants of the milkweed family, from Southeast Asia through Australia, and they comprise her favorite genus. She has a hoya tattooed on her right calf that is meant to be the orange-flowered *Hoya tsangii*. One of her goals is “to get everyone hooked on hoyas.” A possibly more attainable goal is “to have a gardening television show, which would combine the two things I like most, performance skills and horticulture.” Many of the gardening shows that she sees feature people who are comfortable in front of the camera, but lack strong horticultural knowledge, or people who know their plants but look like deer caught in the headlights.

Meantime, along with her other work, she is writing the text and taking the photographs for a book about 200 tropical plants for Timber Press, a big job. It has the working title “Tempting TropicaUs: Houseplants for the Connoisseur.” Zachos promises that well over half her subjects will be perfectly easy to grow without a greenhouse. She is growing them herself in her cramped Manhattan quarters and in her airy, spacious, light-filled house on two woodland acres in rural Pennsylvania, where she and Michael live on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

In case she was missing the roar of the greasepaint, she had a brief reprise in May when *Les Misérables* finally closed after its run of 16 years. Management, says Zachos, “invited all the Broadway alums to come back to see the show, participate in a post-show performance, and attend a party at Rockefeller Center. I bet I was the only horticulturist on stage!”

—Christopher Reed

Harvard Medalists

Three alumni received the Harvard Medal and were publicly honored for their extraordinary service by President Lawrence H. Summers at the Harvard Alumni Association’s annual meeting on June 5.

For Robert J. Glaser, S.B. ’40, M.D. ’43, a former professor at Harvard Medical School, former dean of the Stanford and University of Colorado medical schools, and since then a foundation executive active in medical philanthropy—Loyal son of Harvard and visionary scientist, your learned leadership has greatly strengthened the health and life of this University, ensuring a firm foundation for future generations.


For Franklin D. Raines, A.B. ’71, J.D. ’76, chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae, the world’s largest nonbank financial services company—Past president of the Board of Overseers, elected director of the Harvard Alumni Association, and chief marshal of the class of 1971, you serve with energetic commitment and conviction in pursuit of the public interest, keeping Harvard’s promise alive in our community and in our world.
Alumnae Transition at Radcliffe

June 4 marked what its president, Raine Figueroa '84, M.B.A. '91, said was the last formal annual meeting of the Radcliffe Association (RA). “This is, as far as I know, the last meeting. I am the last president.” The organization, founded as the Harvard Annex Alumnae Association in 1887, was later renamed the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association. As of July 1, the RA will no longer be funded by the University, and most of its reunion activities and programs will shift to a new Office of Alumnae Services, under the auspices of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (RI).

At the meeting in Agassiz Theatre, RA executive director Judith Stanton told alumnae that the new office would oversee all reunion-related events for Radcliffe classes prior to 1963, as well as Radcliffe Day and the Radcliffe clubs, and would continue the RA’s externships and the mentoring program, which has tripled in size during the last three years. Members of the RA’s board of management have been invited to join committees of the Harvard Alumni Association and also an advisory committee set up to “advise the RI on outreach strategies.” Alumnae were also encouraged to join HAA committees and activities. “It is primarily a structural change in the [way] alumni services will be delivered,” says Stanton, who will direct the new office. “They are essentially the same services, and they are delivered by the same staff in the same location, 79 Brattle Street, with the same phone number.”

Figueroa told the audience of mostly older Radcliffe alumnae, “In an ideal world we’d like things to go on just as they have because that is comfortable,” but the merger with Harvard, and the more recent reality of losing funding, raised questions about the future role of the RA, which has always been its own 501(c)(3) entity. “As things evolve,” Figueroa added, “we all will be about keeping alive at the RI and the HAA a community of women who support other women and who support each other.” The board extended the current officers’ terms and plans to continue the RA’s corporate status “during a transition period.” The RI has vowed to keep pre-1963 reunion services intact as long as they are wanted; it has not described its new location, 79 Brattle Street, with the same phone number.

After talking with dozens of alumnae, Stanton reports that most seem to see the new office as a positive step—“a powerful message to Radcliffe women who have seen so much change, that they matter so much that an office is being created to serve them.”

Election Results

The members of the Harvard Board of Overseers have elected C. Dixon (“Dick”) Spangler Jr., M.B.A. ’56, of Charlotte, North Carolina, their new president. He succeeds Thomas S. Williamson Jr. ’68. This year, 31,875 alumni, a 15.1 turnout, voted in the annual election of Overseers and elected directors of the Harvard Alumni Association. The results were announced at the HAA’s annual meeting in Tercentenary Theatre on June 5.

Elected to the Board of Overseers for six-year terms were:
- Joan Argetsinger Steitz, Ph.D ’67, Branford, Conn. Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Sterling professor of molecular biophysics and biochemistry, Yale.
- Pauline R. Yu ’70, Pacific Palisades, Calif. Dean of humanities and professor of East Asia languages and cultures, UCLA.
- The newest HAA Directors, elected for three-year terms, were:
  - Thomas H. Castro ’76 Houston. President, El Dorado Communications Inc.
  - Susan Fales-Hill ’84, New York City. Writer, television producer.
  - Marilyn J. Holifield, J.D. ’72, Miami. Attorney and partner, Holland & Knight LLP.
  - Alan A. Khazei ’83, J.D. ’87, Boston. CEO, City Year Inc.

Giving, Harvard-wide

He may have retired from the Harvard Corporation, but Robert G. Stone Jr. ’45, L.H.D. ’03, remains chairman of the Committee on University Resources and again reported on annual contributions at the HAA’s yearly meeting. Despite difficult economic times, he said, donations to Harvard were running nearly 15 percent ahead of last year—a gratifying vote of confidence—and nearly 29,000 alumni had participated.

Stone emphasized the new policy granting class credit for gifts across the University—“helping the president make the University work as a whole”—by highlighting the gifts of Katharine Merck and Albert Merck ’43 to the School of Education (GSE) and Faculty of Arts and Sciences; of Denise Sandison Weil ’54 and Frank...
Weil ’53, J.D. ’56, to the Kennedy School; and of the Harvard Business School class of 1963 to a joint HBS-GSE initiative. The Mercks’ gift, he noted, helped propel the College’s sixtieth-reunion class to the largest reunion donation of the year: $20.6 million, surpassing the twenty-fifth reunioners’ $13.8 million and the fiftieth reunioners’ $18 million plus.

Stone thanked the Harvard College Parents Fund for setting a record with a $2.6 million gift. And he praised this year’s impressive participation rates: the graduating seniors set a record of 72 percent, raising $32,319; the class of 1938 set a sixty-fifth-reunion record of 88.2 percent, raising $2.1 million; and the class of 1968, with 852 individual donors—the largest number this year—raised $13.8 million. “Harvard cannot make needed changes and take advantage of critical opportunities without you,” Stone told his audience. “We will always need your support, we do not take it for granted, and we deeply appreciate it.”

At the Forefront
Marion Coppelman Epstein ’24, of Boston, and Philip Keene ’25, of Middletown, Connecticut, who will turn 101 within a week of each other in October, led the alumni parade and took seats by the stage in Tercentenary Theatre for the HAA’s annual meeting on June 5. The oldest alumnus present was Albert Hamilton Gordon ’23, M.B.A. ’25, L.L.D. ’77, of New York City, who turns 102 in July (see page 61). According to the University’s records, the 10 oldest alumni, apart from these three, include James George Jameson ’22, 103, of Orlando, Florida; Charles Henry Warner ’21, 103, of Berkeley, California; Evelyn Gerstein Garfield ’22, 103, of Huntington, N.Y.; Sheridan Ashton Logan ’23, 102, of Saint Joseph, Missouri; Thomas W. Norris ’24, 101, of Pewaukee, Wisconsin; M. Louise Macnair ’25, 100, of Cambridge; and Eliot K. Bartholomew ’25, 100, of Laguna Hills, California.

Cambridge Bound
Chosen from a pool of 114 applicants, four seniors won Harvard-Cambridge Scholarships to study at Cambridge University for one year.

Sophia K. Domokos, of Baltimore and Winthrop House, will be the Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar at Emmanuel College; Sachin M. Shivaram, of Mequon, Wisconsin, and Lowell House, will matriculate as the Harvard-Pembroke Scholar at Pembroke College; Matthew B. Sussman, of Toronto and Pforzheimer House, will enroll at Trinity College as the Fiske Scholar; and Emily E. Wilcox, of Ann Arbor and Leverett House, will be the John Eliot Scholar at Jesus College.

Texas Waves Hello

Harvardians journeying to the north side of San Antonio—the “Texas Hill Country”—may need only look skyward for a familiar sign. Crimson often flies atop a 25-foot pole at the home of John F. Kirk, the new HAA regional director for Texas and former president of the Harvard Club of San Antonio.

Harvard’s flag is not the only one flown on a rotation. Kirk’s collection includes the Union Jack and Dixie flags, as well as those of the U.S. Marines, Ireland, Massachusetts (his home state), and Taiwan (in honor of visits by his sister-in-law). “I was in the Boy Scouts, and always enjoyed flags,” explains Kirk, who earned a certificate of special studies in administration and management from the Extension School in 1990. “I fly the Texas flag to commemorate the siege of the Alamo, and put my flags at half-mast when you’re supposed to and, in general, try to be a good patriot.”

Harvard’s colors fly whenever alumni friends drop in for a visit, and at Kirk’s annual barbecue bash for club members and Harvard-bound students from the San Antonio area. Directions to the party are easy, he says: “Look for the Harvard flag, and you will know you are home.”