nair ’25, 103, of Cambridge; Halford J. Pope ’25, M.B.A. ’27, 102, of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina; Edward Gipstein ’27, 101, of New London, Connecticut; Marjorie B. Walden ’26, 100, of Needham, Massachusetts; and Rose Depoyan ’26, Ed.M. ’38, 100, of Brockton, Massachusetts.

Class Gifts
The university had received $506 million in gifts through May 31 of the fiscal year, $13 million ahead of donation totals at the same time a year ago, according to University Treasurer James F. Rothenberg ’68, M.B.A. ’70, who gave an accounting of class gifts at the HAA’s annual meeting on the afternoon of Commencement day.

The biggest news came from the class of 1951, which set a new record for the second-highest reunion total in Harvard history with $40.2 million. The class also recorded the highest number of donors—nearly 1,100 people—ever to participate in the class gift. The class of 1971 donated $17.4 million; and the class of 1956 came in with $17.7 million. Rothenberg also announced the largest single gift ever received by the University Art Museums: $12 million from the bequest of Horace Chapin, class of 1871. “This planned gift provided for nine beneficiaries throughout their lifetimes and has now created an enduring legacy for the Museums,” he noted.

In closing, Rothenberg recognized “one of our community’s most influential citizens”—the late Robert G. Stone Jr. ’45, L.H.D. ’03 (see page 76), longtime chairman of the Committee on University Resources, and added, “It seems fitting that I end with a phrase that Bob used so often from this podium: ‘Thank you for all you do for this great University.’”

A Fiftieth First
Ten years ago, when Kenneth R. Ros- sano, secretary for the class of 1956, was chairing the HAA’s Radcliffe-Harvard Relations Committee, a utopian picture came into his head: a joint Harvard and Radcliffe fiftieth reunion, with Harvard men and Radcliffe women celebrating side by side their half-century since graduation and their shared lives and experiences. He decided to make it happen.

This June, 456 alumni and 99 alumnae from the classes of 1956 traveled to the Yard for the first-ever combined fiftieth. The reunion committee, guided by Robert Benson and Margaret (Moore) Benson, A.L.B. ’66, Paula Budlong Cronin, Joan Harvey Burns, and Ann Myers Hershfang, comprised more than 200 members, male and female. The joint Fiftieth Anniversary Report, a 1,200-page behemoth—with the Radcliffe “Records of the Class” positioned symbolically at the center, rather than the end—reflected a high degree of participation among both men and women, thanks to the efforts of class-report cochairs Cronin and Stephen A. Greyser. In fact, a larger percentage of Radcliffe classmates contributed to the joint report than had ever contributed to a separate Radcliffe ’56 report, and a larger percentage of the women planned to attend the joint reunion than had ever come to a separate reunion. Rossano surveyed the fruits of his decade-long effort with pride. “Classes before us, and several after us, said that such a combined fiftieth reunion and fiftieth class report could not be done,” he noted. “The class of 1956 has proven it can be accomplished.”

Underscoring the milestone is the fact that such a combined reunion and report will remain unique, at least for a while. The Harvard and Radcliffe classes of ’57 and ’58 intend to resume the practice of separate celebrations.

Harvard Medalists
The Harvard Alumni Association surprised President Lawrence H. Summers during its annual meeting on June 8 by awarding him a Harvard Medal for outstanding service. Three other medalists were also publicly thanked and cited, by Summers, at the meeting.

Sidney R. Knafl ’52, M.B.A. ’54, of New York City—As a loyal alumni leader and philanthropist, your enduring commitment to education and to Harvard has built a lasting legacy for our scholars and students, enabling them to make a difference in the world and a world of difference.

Chase Peterson ’52, M.D. ’56, of Park City, Utah—From your medical practice in Salt Lake City, you were called back to your alma mater as dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard College, and later the first vice president for alumni affairs and development. We thank you for making Harvard a better place by advocating change, affirming diversity, and standing up for excellence.

Chester “Chet” Stone III, of Scituate, Massachusetts—As Lord Mayor of Dillon Field House, you were the man behind the mortar for countless Harvard athletes, equipping our students for play and for life through your encouragement, hard work, and bedrock devotion.

Lawrence H. Summers, Ph.D. ’82, of Cambridge—As University President and professor, your passionate pursuit of excellence has left an indelible mark on Harvard, demanding and supplying a bold vision of the future while challenging Harvard to maximize the use of all its resources for the greater good.