Funding financial aid, renovating buildings, and resuming work on the Allston science center might fit the former category; ideas naturally abound for the latter. Several significant gifts already delineate some of these priorities—and the scale of philanthropy involved in a twenty-first-century campaign:

- The $40-million initiative on learning and teaching created by Rita E. Hauser, L. ’58, and Gustave M. Hauser, J.D. ’53, announced just before Harvard’s 375th-anniversary celebration in October 2011. (For background information, see http://harvardmag.com/hauser-13.)
- The $30-million gift from Joseph J. O’Donnell ’67, M.B.A. ’71, and his wife, Katherine A. O’Donnell, disclosed last March, for uses as yet unannounced. Joe O’Donnell was named a fellow of the Harvard Corporation in mid 2011, and serves as co-chair of its joint committee on alumni affairs and development. He is also one of four campaign leaders named to date. (See http://harvardmag.com/ODonnell-13.)
- The Dr. James Si-Cheng Chao and Family Foundation’s $40-million, mid-October gift to fund replacement of a building on the Harvard Business School (HBS) campus and fellowships for students of Chinese heritage. (See http://harvardmag.com/chao-13.)
- The $30-million gift to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) from the Hutchins Family Foundation, endowed by Glenn H. Hutchins ’77, J.D.-M.B.A. ’83. Part of the gift, announced in late October, initiates a matching fund to support the first steps in renewing the undergraduate Houses, FAS’s principal announced capital-campaign priority and Harvard’s largest single construction investment. Hutchins, another of the four campaign leaders, co-chairs the FAS component of the fund drive with Carl Martignetti ’81, M.B.A. ’85. (See http://harvardmag.com/hutchins-13.) House renewal, already begun at Old Quincy, advanced in early December with the release of plans for work on Leverett’s McKinlock Hall, to begin this coming June.

Yesterday’s News
From the pages of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin and Harvard Magazine

1918 To save coal for the war effort, the University closes various buildings on selected days and cuts off heat to student dormitories after 9 P.M.

1928 Harvard Medical School researchers George R. Minot and William P. Murphy prove that eating half a pound of mammal liver or kidney daily will improve and maintain the health of a patient with pernicious anemia. Though the kidney and liver may be either raw or cooked, Minot and Murphy observe that most patients prefer to ingest the substance as raw pulp or mash.

1933 The Board of Overseers approves the creation of President Lowell’s long-cherished project, the Society of Fellows.

1938 The Nieman Fellowships are created when the President and Fellows, in accordance with the provisions of a $1-million bequest from Mrs. Agnes Wahl Nieman, approve a plan “to promote and elevate the standard of journalism in the United States.”

1953 Professor Kirtley Mather, on retiring as president of the American Association for the Promotion of Science, warns that the stultifying atmosphere imposed upon scientists by political trends is hurting the field and stifling intellectual freedom.

1968 President Nathan M. Pusey speculates that undergraduate tuition will be $4,000 by 1988. (It hit $12,015.)

1973 Assistant professor Ivan Tcherepnin proposes a new course, Music 159: “Composition with the Electronic Medium.” Though he anticipates resistance from his department—which is inherently distrustful of the new technology—his course is approved for the following year. The concern is raised, however, that offering credit for “tinkering with electronics” could set the stage for credit courses in such topics as basket-weaving and woodworking.