Congratulations Are in Order

Six alumni received the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) Awards—for their outstanding service to alumni activities for the University—during the fall meeting of the HAA’s board of directors.

Thomas E. “Ted” Blamey, M.B.A. ’70, of Sydney, Australia, is a “life member” of the Harvard Club of Australia and received its Legends Award in 2011 for contributions that include chairing its nonprofits program from 2001 to 2015 and helping establish fellowships for the Harvard Business School (HBS) course “Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management.” Blamey also initiated the

Seniors Help Houses Thrive

Recognizing the importance of House life, the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) honored seniors Gabriela D. M. “Gaby” Ruiz-Colón ’16, of Quincy House, and Jordan Weiers ’16, of Winthrop House, as the 2015 David and Mimi Aloian Memorial Scholars during the fall meeting of its board of directors.

Ruiz-Colón, of Woodbury, Minnesota, the current co-chair of the Quincy House Committee, previously served as operations chair, with responsibility for Quincy’s annual Winter Feast and its Cinema Josiah series. She also worked with the Office of Undergraduate Education to create the Transitions Program, which supports undergraduates moving into sophomore year.

As the Resource Efficiency Program representative for Winthrop, Weiers, of Savage, Minnesota, led the House to second place in the annual intramural Recycling Quiz Challenge and founded the Worms of Winthrop composting project, which included both a blog and a music video (“Talk Wormy to Me”), to raise awareness among housemates. And as a House representative on the Harvard Undergraduate Council, he helped organize the gender-neutral housing campaign.

Nigerian Chigozie Obioma, whose The Fishermen was long-listed for the 2015 Man Booker Prize.

The children’s books have also earned critical praise—and, like The Letter for the King, have sold unusually well. The U.K. bookstore chain Waterstones chose the first volume of the Oksa Pollock trilogy for its children’s book club and The Story of Antigone has done well enough to go into paperback. Freudenheim attributes some of the imprint’s success to the lack of any real wall between the editing of the adult and children’s books: the same editors read the same books in the same room. Pushkin Children’s plans to continue releasing about eight new titles a year—among the newest is the hilariously illustrated Meet at the Ark at Eight! by Ulrich Hub, about spirited penguins rushing to claim their spots on Noah’s Ark. Some of the imprint’s books are distributed to booksellers in North America, and all are available at Pushkin’s website (www.pushkinpress.com); the rights to other books have been purchased by American publishers (as often happens): The Letter for the King, for instance, is printed by Scholar-
revitalization of the nearby Harvard Club of Victoria in 1998, and has been instrumental in coordinating the annual Krokidioles tour in Sydney for over 20 years.

Peter A. Carfagna ’75, J.D. ’79, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, has been a member of the Harvard Club of Cleveland’s schools and scholarships committee since 1979, served as a senior class marshal, been active in the quinquennial reunion-gift committees through the Harvard College Fund, and in 2002 became an elected director of the HAA. The former president of the Harvard Law School Association of Cleveland has also been a visiting lecturer in sports law at the school and faculty adviser to the Sports Law Clinical Placement Program since 2006.

Robert P. Fox Jr. ’86, of Cambridge, has held numerous roles in the HAA, including vice president for College affairs, chair of the classes and reunions committee, and appointed director. He has also chaired four reunions and serves as class secretary. Fox is active with The Holden Choruses: he recently chaired its long-range planning committee, is the Harvard Glee Club’s graduate adviser, and became vice president of the glee club’s foundation in October. In September, he chaired the Harvard Gender & Sexuality Caucus’s Cambridge conference, “What Should We Do After ‘I Do’?”

Joan Keenan ’45, HRP ’47, of Lexington, Massachusetts, worked on behalf of Radcliffe for decades, including as a trustee from 1974 to 1980, a class and reunion chair (most recently for her seventieth), and as an officer of the Alumnae and Friends of Radcliffe College. Her contributions, benefitting both the College and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, earned her the Radcliffe Distinguished Service Award in 1995 and the Radcliffe Institute Apple Tree Award in 2005. Keenan is also a 50-year member and former vice president of the Harvard Club of Boston and a past officer and member of the HBS Club of Boston.

Robert M. Kraft ’76, of Encino, California, has co-chaired the Harvard Office for the Arts’ advisory committee and been a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Arts Resource Council, the Harvard clubs of New York and Southern California, and Harvardwood. A panelist for the “Harvard in Hollywood” Alumni College in 2005, he has also lectured on film music and participated in workshops with student composers. In 2008 he became an HAA elected director.

Nancy Sinsabaugh ’76, M.B.A. ’78, of Cambridge, serves as class treasurer (she has been an executive committee member of the Association of Harvard College Class Secretaries and Treasurers) and has chaired several reunions (including those of her HBS class). A member or former member of Harvard and HBS clubs in France, Luxembourg, Minnesota, New York, and Boston, Sinsabaugh was also an alumni interviewer from 1994 to 2005. As a veteran of the HAA’s Happy Observance of Commencement Committee, she designed the hats now worn by its women members and provides televised commentary for the Annual Meeting of the HAA. Her roles on the HAA’s board of directors have included treasurer and chair of the classes and reunion committee.

Hiram Hunn Awards

Seven alumni received Hiram S. Hunn Memorial Schools and Scholarships Awards from the Harvard College Office of Admissions and Financial Aid on October 2 for their volunteer work: recruiting and interviewing prospective undergraduates.

William L. (“Ike”) Eisenhart ’74, of Seattle, has co-chaired the Harvard Club of Seattle’s schools and scholarships committee since 2002, following several years of interviewing candidates.

Tanya Ryk Friedman ’94, of New York City, is a vice president of the Harvard Club of New York City. A recent past president of the Harvard Club of New York Foundation, she has also served as the club’s schools and scholarships committee co-chair.

Anita Warren Fritze ’64, of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, has interviewed students for more than 25 years for the Harvard Club of Boston.

Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, Ed.D. ’81, of Los Angeles, is executive vice president of the Harvard Club of Southern California. She also recently served as the interim vice president for the schools and scholarships committee.

Meg Streeter Lauck ’79, of Sugar Land, Texas, was the interview coordinator for the Harvard University Club of Houston from 2009 to 2014.

Garrett Scott Olmsted ’68, Ph.D. ’76, of Tazewell, Virginia, is a long-time admissions interviewer, most recently in western Virginia.

David F. Pinto ’82, Ext ’88, of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, was an alumni interviewer for several years and has chaired the Harvard Club of Western Massachusetts’s schools and scholarships committee since 2005.