ing, fossil fuels, commodity agriculture—on the “long-term health of society.” Ethical considerations aside, he adds, the inefficiencies and environmental degradation wrought by industrial-meat production don’t make sense, and the shitake alternative does: “We’re not buying grain and growing pigs on it. We’re taking waste products and producing protein.”

He and Pforzheimer have mulled replicating scalable models of their operations elsewhere in New England—among other ideas. After six years of hard work, they both still appreciate the creative autonomy their business provides over that giddy flush of excitement over starting an uncharted venture has waned. Entrepreneurship is like a dream that “becomes a nightmare pretty quickly—and then it becomes a dream again,” French says, laughing. “There are many iterations.”

What is continually gratifying, however, is seeing evidence of all that a handful of brown fungus can achieve: “When people start to have the epiphany that their choices can drive a market—that their consumption patterns can actually cause change.”

New Harvard Overseers and HAA Elected Directors

The names of the new members of the Board of Overseers and elected directors of the HAA were announced during the HAA’s annual meeting on the afternoon of Commencement Day.

Five of the new Overseers were elected for the standard six-year terms. Janet Echelman will complete the remaining four years of the term of Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar ’93, who will complete the remaining four years of the standard six-year terms. Janet Echelman of Commencement Day.

The Senior Alumni

Evelyn Richmond ’41, of Nashville, Tennessee, and Arsen Charles ’42, of Westwood, Massachusetts, were the oldest Radcliffe and Harvard alumni present on Commencement day. HAA president Margaret M. Wang ’09 publicly honored the pair at the association’s annual meeting.

For Richmond, who turned 98 in June, it was a distinction she also enjoyed last year (see July-August 2018, page 75). “There are so many people here,” she said, gesturing from her seat near the dais in Tercentenary Theatre, as crowds of alumni, graduates, guests, and others were funneling in to hear the Commencement address by German chancellor Angela Merkel, LL.D. ’19. “But I’m pleased to at least shake hands with the new president of Harvard.” She was again accompanied by her son, Clifford Richmond ’75, who explained, “Every time we come here, when we leave, Mom says, ‘Let’s do it again next year!’ It’s all the pageantry, the people, it’s wonderful—and she’s an honored guest, which she loves.”

Charles, 99, was flanked by his wife, Marie Charles, a Vassar graduate, who said that she and her husband both felt dually celebrated. “We just love coming here,” she added. “Everyone has just been so nice.”

Corporation. (His service begins on July 1).

Ryan Wise will complete the remaining year of the term of James Hildreth ’79, who resigned from the board in view of other personal obligations.

This year marked the debut of online-voting for both elections. Harvard degree-holders cast 36,735 ballots in the Overseers election, a roughly 37 percent increase over 2018’s turnout.

For Overseer:

Alice Hm Chen, M.P.H. ’01, Berkeley. Chief medical officer and deputy director, San Francisco Health Network

Janet Echelman ’87, Brookline, Massachusetts. Visual artist, Studio Echelman


Tyler Jacks ’83, Cambridge. Director, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

John B. King Jr. ’96 (’95), Washington, D.C. President and CEO, The Education Trust


Ryan Wise, Ed.L.D. ’13, Des Moines. Director, Iowa Department of Education

For elected director (three-year term)

Bryan C. Barnhill II ’08, Detroit. City manager, City Solutions, Ford Smart Mobility

Ethel Billie Branch ’01, J.D.-M.P.P. ’08, Flagstaff, Arizona. Former attorney general, The Navajo Nation

Salomé Cisnal de Ugarte, L.L.M. ’94, Brussels. Managing partner, Hogan Lovells

Adrienne E. Dominguez ’00, Dallas. Partner, intellectual property, Thompson & Knight LLP

Christina Lewis ’02, New York City. Founder and CEO, All Star Code

Zandile H. Moyo ’00, Los Angeles. Business development and social impact manager, Califa Farms

Cambridge Scholars

Four seniors have won Harvard Cambridge Scholarships to study at Cambridge University during the 2019-2020 academic year. Madeleine Woods, of Colorado and Winthrop House, an English and folklore and mythology concentrator, will be the Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar at Emmanuel College; Mahnoor Ali, of California and Adams House, a comparative literature concentrator, will be the William Shirley Scholar at Pembroke College; Elba Alonso Monsalve, of Spain and Currier House, a physics and mathematics concentrator, will be the Charles Henry Fiske III Scholar at Trinity College; and Jared Perlo, of Massachusetts and Dunster House, a history and science concentrator, will be the John Eliot Scholar at Jesus College.