

giving at HUNTER

WINTER 2010

HC Foundation Board Member Susie Peterson Case (l.) joins Leon Cooperman, President Jennifer Raab (c.), Ankur Mangalagiri Nanda '07 (seated), and Hunter economics students.



Leon Cooperman '64 Pledges \$1M to Hunter During Speech to Students

As a student at Hunter in the '60s, Leon Cooperman studied chemistry in preparation for a career in dentistry. Despite his acceptance to dental school, not to mention the dental drill he received etched with his initials, Cooperman soon realized he was better suited for a career in business. (A French class he took proved to have a longer-lasting influence, for it was there that he met and fell in love with his classmate, Toby Alowitz '64, to whom he has been happily married for 46 years.) He returned to Hunter to take courses in economics, which allowed him to go on to Columbia Business School, where he earned his MBA.

This was just one of the stories that Cooperman — the founder, CEO and president of the hedge fund Omega Advisors, Inc. — shared with a standing-room-only crowd at Hunter on October 22.

I am happy to be in a position to give back.

— Leon Cooperman '64

He spoke about his career on Wall Street, where he spent 25 years at Goldman Sachs as a general partner and as chairman and CEO of Goldman's Asset Management Division. He also offered his opinions on the current financial environment and the importance of philanthropy. Cooperman, who was inducted into the Hunter College Hall of Fame in 1997, then surprised the audience with the announcement that he and his wife would donate \$1 million to Hunter.

"After being an investor the past 40 years, I am happy to be in a position to give back," he said.

From the President

The articles in Giving at Hunter highlight examples of donors who have made significant contributions to Hunter College. Our gratitude reaches beyond what we can say here.

But these donors are only part of the story. The widespread generosity of Hunter's alumni and friends is represented by the growing number of contributions at every level. In the last year, despite the current economy, more than 20% of our alumni donated to the College — the highest rate of giving in Hunter's history. That is the most remarkable story of all.

On a personal note, and on behalf of my sister and brother, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Lillian Raab Scholarship Fund in memory of my mother. The outpouring of sympathy since her recent passing has been matched only by the community's generosity. I am happy to report that \$30,000 has already been donated and will go toward enabling Hunter students to fulfill their dreams of a college education. I know my mother would be tremendously moved by the support.

Jennifer J. Raab

Three Hunter College Sophomores Benefit from Anonymous \$5 Million Gift

A \$5 million gift from a donor who insists on remaining anonymous is changing the lives of a number of Hunter students, including three exceptional sophomores. This gift, one of the largest in Hunter's history, arrived from an unknown benefactor, along with instructions to use \$4 million to fund scholarships for underrepresented minority students and women. The remaining \$1 million was designated for President Raab's discretionary fund. According to national news reports, 14 U.S. colleges and universities, all led by women presidents, have received a total of more than \$70 million from the same anonymous donor.



Mehida Alexandre

Among those benefiting from this gift are sophomores Mehida Alexandre, Kelvin Marquez and Maggie Riche, who are able to attend Hunter tuition-free. They also received free laptop computers and \$2,500 stipends for study abroad. Alexandre, who came to the United States just three years ago from Haiti, is a Presidential Leadership Scholar and a Thomas Hunter Scholar who has declared biology as her major and intends to go to medical school to become a neurosurgeon. She is a member of the cross-country team and volunteers as a health educator at Manhattan Hunter Science High School. "Volunteering is a way for me to give back to Hunter," said Alexandre. "Without my scholarship, I wouldn't have the opportunity to

participate in this program or others that will enhance my undergraduate experience."

Riche is an English major who expects to carry a double major in gender studies. She has already made her mark as a campus activist by establishing the Hunter Animal Rights Team and campaigning for the College food service to provide vegan choices and labeled foods.

Marquez, the son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, plans to go to medical or dental school. Or, he may study music — he plays the guitar — or philosophy, a new-found interest since arriving at Hunter. His busy life includes working 20 hours a week in data entry. Next year, he plans to train as a boxer with the Golden Gloves.



Kelvin Marquez



Maggie Riche

All are Hunter College Preceptors, students selected and trained as peer mentors for incoming freshmen. Each preceptor answers questions and provides an introduction to Hunter for up to 20 students. "We're close in age and experience, so they can be more open with us," said Marquez. That's what makes it such a great program." Riche adds, "This relationship helps to build a sense of community."

Public Health Gets a Lift from Tisch Family

A five-year, \$1 million-plus grant to Hunter honoring New York humanitarian/healthcare activist Joan Hyman Tisch will significantly enhance the College's ability to address urgent public health issues.

The grant, establishing the Joan H. Tisch Legacy Project, comes from her children: philanthropist/activist Laurie M. Tisch, Academy Award-winning producer and community leader Steven Tisch, and New York civic leader Jonathan M. Tisch, Loews Corporation Chairman and CEO. The project will focus on major public health challenges, from diseases like HIV/AIDS, obesity, and diabetes to health disparities caused by economic and environmental factors.

In thanking the Tisch family, President Jennifer J. Raab said, "Joan Tisch is already a deeply admired champion in the fight against

HIV/AIDS, here in New York and globally.

"We are deeply honored that Steve, Laurie, and Jon have chosen Hunter to expand their mother's unparalleled legacy. Especially now, as we prepare to open the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College, their magnificent generosity will have a transformative impact."

"Health care in this country, and particularly in the inner cities, is at the crisis stage," Laurie Tisch said. "We need to address this issue with a comprehensive strategy. That is the overarching mission of the project at Hunter that my brothers and I are proud to create in honor of our mother."



Joan Tisch

Zabar Gifts Enrich the Arts at Hunter



(l. to r.) Artist Paul Pfeiffer '94 with Judith and Stanley Zabar at the Zabar Visiting Artist Lecture on November 18

Hunter's arts programs have grown measurably through the generosity of Judith and Stanley Zabar, who have given the College two gifts totaling \$750,000.

The Judith and Stanley Zabar Art Library, made possible by a \$500,000 contribution, fills several pressing needs, notably the need for space to house Hunter's growing collection of art history books, slides, and digital media.

Located on the 16th floor of the North Building and designed by architect Calvert Wright, the

I believe deeply in the school's mission of educating aspiring young people and opening new doors of opportunity for them. — Judith Zabar '54

Zabar Library is equipped with wireless networks and contains flexible spaces for student uses, including a seminar room and a study lounge.

Thanking the Zabars at the library's opening reception, President Jennifer J. Raab said, "Your generosity will have a huge impact on Hunter for generations to come."

The Judith Zabar Visiting Artist Program is funded by a five-year, \$250,000 gift. Launched in the spring of 2008, the program brings local, national, and international artists and curators to Hunter each semester to deliver lectures, teach classes, present their work and critique student works.

The spring 2009 program brought film artist Alfredo Jaar and painter Fred Tomaselli to the campus. In fall 2009, photographer Sharon Lockhart and multimedia artist Paul Pfeiffer (MFA '94) presented their works. Previous artists have included Tracey Moffatt, Carrie Mae Weems, William Pope L., Shahzia Sikander, Christian Marclay, and Kerry James Marshall.

Judith Zabar, a former Hunter Foundation Board member, said her support of the College is rooted "in my gratitude to Hunter for the wonderful education that it gave me and the love of the arts that it inspired in me. I also believe deeply in the school's mission of educating aspiring young people and opening new doors of opportunity for them."

Mother's Day Fund Makes Financial and Literary History

A New Record is Set for Number of Donors, and the Model for a Literary Character with a Hunter Connection is Revealed



Celebrating at the Mother's Day Scholarship reception are (l. to r.) Henry Weber and Lola Siegel Weber '46, with daughters Amy and Marcia.

The Hunter College Mother's Day Scholarship Fund continues to grow impressively in both popularity and size. The number of contributors for the 2009 campaign hit a new high of 153, an increase of more than 50% over the previous year's total of 97. Contributions for the year reached \$414,780, the second largest total in the campaign's five-year history, thus bringing the grand total for the fund to \$2,095,000.

As has been the tradition since the fund was launched in 2005, the College took out a full-page ad in *The New York Times* on Mother's Day, listing the names of the major contributors — and the alumnae they were honoring — to thank them for giving “the gift of education to the next generation.”

In keeping with another tradition, a reception was held in October to bring donors together with the Hunter students whose education they are helping to advance.

This year, one name on that list caught the eye of Eli Schwartz '59, an expert on Hunter's archives. Schwartz recognized Irene Wouk Green as one of only about a hundred graduates in the history of the College who never collected their diplomas. Her name also led Schwartz to wonder whether she was the sister of Herman Wouk, author of *Marjorie Morningstar*, the best-selling novel about an adventurous Hunter graduate that was made into a 1958 movie starring Natalie Wood.

Some sleuthing confirmed not only that Irene Wouk Green was the novelist's sister, but also that *Marjorie Morningstar* was based on her life, a previously undisclosed piece of literary history.

When the College called Irene Wouk Green's son, Dr. Mark Green, to tell him that the diploma had been released from storage, his wife, Judith, answered the phone. She was thrilled with the news and corroborated Schwartz's theory that her late mother-in-law was the model for the novel's title character. There was, she said, “scarcely a word of fiction” in the book.

Judith Green kept the news of the unclaimed diploma quiet until the following Father's Day, when she presented it to her surprised and delighted husband. The Hunter College Mother's Day Scholarship Fund, it turns out, has more than one way of giving.



Irene Wouk Green served as the inspiration for Marjorie Morningstar, the protagonist in her brother's novel.



(l. to r.) Mother's Day Scholar Khabiba Abduganieva meets her sponsors, Patricia Smith Demisch '66 and Wolfgang Demisch.

Named Alumnae Scholarships Provide Rewarding Opportunities

Carol Goldberg Scholarship Aids Student from War-Torn Nation

Growing up in the Republic of Georgia, Meri Carman never dreamed she would have the chance to get a formal education, as educational opportunities were extremely rare. Nevertheless, she managed to study on her own, taking advantage of local libraries and an Internet center.

Now, through the generosity of Carol Goldberg '56, who has endowed the Carol Goldberg Scholarship Fund, Carman will graduate from Hunter in January 2010 with a degree in political science and economics. Goldberg established the fund to support young leaders in need of financial help. Carman, who plans to pursue a graduate degree in international relations, speaks three languages fluently and has received accolades as an outstanding member of Hunter's Model U.N. team.

Goldberg and her husband, Arthur, have been generous Hunter supporters for years, and Goldberg was recently nominated to serve on the Board of the Hunter College Foundation.



Carol Goldberg (r.) meets with her student Meri Carman (l.) and President Raab.

Classroom Named for Parents of Alumna Esther Dubowick Glener



President Raab and Ira Glener, widower of Esther Dubowick Glener, in front of the plaque honoring the Dubowicks

Glener was inspired by her mother, Bessie Dubowick, a Russian immigrant who taught herself English by studiously reading *The New York Times*. At Hunter, Glener kept up her mother's tradition and bought a copy of *The Times* each day, a significant expense for a Depression-era student. Indeed, going to

Family Scholarship Fund Honors Judith Vladeck

One of Hunter's most illustrious alumni, Judith Pomarlen Vladeck '45, graduated from Columbia Law School and became a legendary figure in the legal community, famous for her spirited defense of women, workers, and unions.

Thanks to a \$100,000 contribution from her three children, Anne, Bruce, and David Vladeck, a scholarship fund for disadvantaged students has been created in her memory.

Vladeck worked at the law firm Cary Kane LLP, until her death in January 2007. During her career, she handled benchmark cases dealing with sex, race, and age discrimination. Her colleagues described her as “brilliant, charming, and determined.” Among the marquee-name targets of her litigation were Chase Manhattan, Union Carbide, and Shearson Lehman Brothers.

Vladeck's efforts, note her law partners, did much to shape the nation's labor laws and improve the treatment of employees. Establishing a scholarship in her name for students from just the sort of working families she once represented honors both her and her alma mater.

college was a significant effort in those years, but Glener's parents were adamant that their daughter continue her education.

After she graduated from Hunter, Glener worked as an accountant, but in the early 1960s left the accounting field to pursue a new challenge as a teacher in the New York City public schools. Years later, she returned to Hunter to get her master's in education and her certification in teaching.

The year of her 65th class reunion, Esther Glener donated shares of stock that she had bought decades earlier and that had appreciated greatly. Her husband, Ira, said that her gift to the College was a way to honor her parents for instilling in her a love of learning that led to successful careers in business and in teaching.

Lauder's Set of "The Four Freedoms" To Go on Display in Roosevelt House

Leonard Lauder, husband of alumna Evelyn Lauder, has given Hunter College an American treasure — an original set of Norman Rockwell's "Four Freedoms" posters. The posters, which were inspired by President Franklin Roosevelt, will be on display in Roosevelt House when it opens in February.

Rockwell based the posters on FDR's speech before Congress on Jan. 6, 1941, when Europe was already engulfed in World War II. The president spoke of a future in which people around the world would enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

The illustrations achieved iconic status after *The*

Saturday Evening Post published them and the U.S. government produced them for a war bond drive.

Lauder vividly remembers receiving the posters when he was 11, and they have remained a beloved possession. He decided to donate them to Hunter after concluding that they deserved a wider audience in a historic setting.

Lauder is chairman of the board of Estée Lauder Companies and one of New York's most admired patrons of the arts.



Leonard Lauder with Mimi Braun, distinguished professor of art at Hunter

Grant from Rita and Burton Goldberg Raises Playwriting to New Level



The Goldbergs read on stage at the inaugural celebration for the MFA in Playwriting Program and the Playwriting Prize — both in their name.

Hunter's already strong national reputation in creative writing has received a powerful boost, thanks to Rita and Burton Goldberg, who have made a \$1 million pledge to the College to create a new graduate program in playwriting.

The Rita and Burton Goldberg MFA in Playwriting Program is one of the most innovative of its kind in the U.S., owing to a unique set of graduation requirements that will include staged readings and full productions of every student's work. Award-winning playwright Tina Howe and Theatre Department chair Barbara Bosch, the Hunter professors in charge of curriculum development for the program, both believe that readings and stage productions are essential ingredients in the development of playwriting skills.

The program will bring a distinguished playwright to the campus each semester to teach two courses. Professor Howe and other faculty members will provide classes in play analysis, theatre history, and playwriting. At the culmination of each academic year, students in the program will be considered for the Rita and Burton Goldberg Prize for Playwriting.

Rita Goldberg '46 majored in social work and went on to successful careers in special education counseling and real estate. But the electives she took as an undergraduate in the theatre and literature departments proved just as influential, and theatre-going became the Goldbergs' lifetime passion.

"Theatre has a lot of poetry in it," said Burton Goldberg. "It's the best possible way to understand the human condition."

Bosch said that the Theatre Department faculty has long dreamed of an MFA program in playwriting. "After all," she explained, "here we are, an eminent public institution smack in the middle of the most vital theatre town in the country."

"When Rita and Burton joined us in this dream," added Howe, "we were off and running. Sustained by their faith and enthusiasm, we're offering the next generation of playwrights an unheard of opportunity — an affordable MFA under the guidance of the most exciting artists working in the theatre today."

Hauser Gift Will Advance Human Rights Program at Hunter



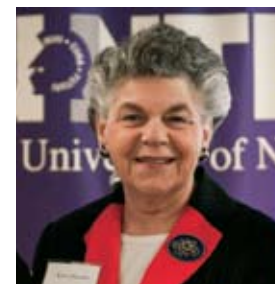
A \$250,000 gift from Rita Hauser '54 will establish a fellowship named in her honor in Hunter's Human Rights Program at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute. The Rita Hauser Fellow will teach and help direct the new human rights curriculum at Hunter and also mentor students who are interested in pursuing careers in the field.

Dr. Hauser, a prominent international lawyer and the president of the Hauser Foundation, is known for her public service and philanthropic work. She has served as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and on commissions affiliated with the U.S. Department of State, the Brookings Institution, and the International Center for Peace in the Middle East.

Thomas Hunter Society Attracts New Members

Planned giving to Hunter College has grown exponentially in the past year, with membership in the Thomas Hunter Society doubling in 2009. Established in 1994, the society recognizes the charitable intent and vision of Hunter alumni and friends.

Estate planning is a powerful way to make a difference at Hunter. Heirs benefit from tax savings, while Hunter benefits from the full amount of the bequest.



Klara Silverstein, chair of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees, at the Hunter Society luncheon in October

Planned giving can take many forms. For example, Florence Belsky '42, an attorney who was the first female hearing officer of the N.Y. Supreme Court, designated Hunter College as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy, leaving Hunter \$230,000 at the time of her death in 2007. As a retired public servant, Belsky was also eligible for an employee death benefit, and she designated Hunter as the beneficiary. During her lifetime, she received tax-advantaged quarterly payments from a charitable gift annuity worth \$180,000, and upon her death, Hunter received the remainder of the principal.

Mildred Boyce '51 used a more traditional form of planned giving. A Long Island schoolteacher, Boyce gave to Hunter annually, and, as part of her will, left the College \$50,000.

In October, Helene D. Goldfarb, chair of the Thomas Hunter Society, welcomed guests to the society's annual luncheon. Klara Silverstein, chair of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees, addressed the audience. "It is with the contributions of our donors that our students and future generations of students are able to take their hopes and aspirations and make them a reality," Silverstein said. "We are here today to honor those of you who had the vision to make that possible."

How To Give

For 140 years, Hunter has benefited from the generosity of alumni and friends who have invested in the future of the College. When you give to Hunter, you help keep the American Dream alive.

There are many ways to give. Outright gifts provide immediate resources for the College to support its programs and services, and are tax-deductible.

Additional options include gifts of stock and securities, life insurance, retirement assets such as IRAs and 401(k) plans, pension plans, real estate, bequests, and other planned gifts.

Charitable gifts can be made by phone, online, or by mail to:

The Hunter College Foundation, Inc.
695 Park Avenue, 1313 East
New York, NY 10065
Tel: 212.650.3190

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni/giving.shtml>

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695 Park Avenue, Room E1313, New York, NY 10065

Donors Get Sneak Preview of Roosevelt House at Gala



Laurie Tisch and Larry Silverstein join President Raab (center) on November 22 to honor Roosevelt House at the second annual Bridge to Achievement Award Gala. Closed since 1992, the newly renovated house will reopen in February as Hunter's public policy institute. Roosevelt House has been an integral part of the College since 1943, when the Roosevelts arranged for Hunter to purchase the building. The gala's distinguished guest and speaker was Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor.

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