Anyone who has spent time in a hospital, as a patient or at a loved one’s bedside, arrives at an inevitable insight: Nurses—skilled, tireless, and empathetic—are indispensable. For Leonard A. Lauder, that realization came over the years he supported his wife, Evelyn ’58. Originally diagnosed with breast cancer, Mrs. Lauder succumbed to nongenetic ovarian cancer in 2011. Through it all, says Lauder, “I was so impressed with the nursing care.”

To show his appreciation, Lauder, chairman emeritus of The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. and one of New York City’s most generous philanthropists, donated $10 million to Hunter’s Nursing School. The gift, from the Lauder Foundation, creates the Evelyn H. Lauder Nursing Fund to support Evelyn H. Lauder Faculty Scholars and Evelyn H. Lauder Scholarships. It will fund salaries and research to attract faculty, provide scholarships for students, and purchase and maintain rapidly changing nursing technology, making a great school even better—and is being put to use already. “Two students were in jeopardy of having to leave the nursing program,” says Gail C. McCain, the school’s Joan Hansen Grabe Dean. “The Lauder gift provided them the necessary scholarships to remain in school.”

And those nurses, when they graduate, will be needed. Healthcare reform is bringing medical care to millions of people who didn’t
Evelyn and I—I was Joan Burga then—were majors in Hunter’s Department of Anthropology. In addition, Evelyn took the teaching courses for which Hunter was famous. As our group was small, we were much closer than would have been the case in a large program, and we shared a wonderful camaraderie that continued after graduation. Evelyn and I became lifelong friends.

I remember how excited we all were when Evelyn met and married Leonard.

When George, my future husband, moved to New York in 1960, one of the first people he went to see was Leonard, his Penn classmate and friend from their days running the campus radio station. After a brief exchange of updates, Leonard announced that he was now married, and the two men marched down the office hall to meet his new wife. Leonard said: “Evelyn, this is my friend from Penn, George Schiele.”

Leonard A. Lauder’s Gift of Gratitude  
continued from cover

Leonard Lauder’s gift is a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman who lived a remarkable life. Evelyn—her family name was Hauser—was a native of Vienna who was still a baby when her parents fled the Nazis, first to Belgium, then to England, then to New York City, losing all their possessions in the process. She graduated from Hunter College High School and was a freshman at the college when she went on a blind date with a dashing U.S. Navy officer trainee named Leonard Lauder. “He was the first person who took me out to dinner in a restaurant,” she recalled years later.

After she and Leonard married, Evelyn became a public school teacher before joining the cosmetics company that Estée Lauder, her formidable mother-in-law, had founded. “It wasn’t an empire then,” Evelyn recalled. “My husband didn’t have an office. I didn’t have an office.” But she did have the insights gained though her Hunter anthropology studies, which helped her excel at early behind-the-counter jobs. In time she became one of Estée Lauder’s top executives.

Evelyn Lauder, founder of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF), one of the largest nongovernmental funders of breast cancer research in the world, also launched the distribution of the now-famous pink ribbon.

The Estée Lauder Companies fund a BCRF research grant to support the research of Hunter biology professor Jill Bargonetti.

Thanks to Leonard Lauder’s gift, Evelyn’s generous spirit lives on. “Decades from now,” says President Jennifer J. Raab, “when a Hunter-trained nurse helps a child somewhere fight a terrible illness, that will be Leonard Lauder’s gift in action, still rippling out across the world, touching lives—and saving them.”

Evelyn’s great heart and generous spirit will live on, thanks to Leonard’s gift to the School of Nursing.
Thanks to Rita Goldberg’s generosity, young playwrights find their voice at Hunter—and beyond

Take a bow, Rita Goldberg!

At the end of June, Goldberg ’46 pledged a very generous $1 million to ensure the continued success of Hunter’s MFA in Playwriting Program, named for her and her late husband, Burton.

The Goldbergs established the program in 2009. Started under the tutelage of the distinguished playwright in residence Tina Howe—whose works include Painting Houses and Coastal Disturbances—it combines rigorous academic theatre courses with intensive writing workshops. Students develop voice, vision, and craft by working with a remarkable faculty that includes Howe’s successor, Annie Baker, a Pulitzer winner for her play The Flick, and Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, an Obie winner who drew raves for his satire Gloria. And every year, one of the program’s new graduates is awarded the $2,500 Rita and Burton Goldberg Playwrighting Prize, with Rita herself serving as one of the esteemed judges on the selection committee.

One beneficiary of the program: Lindsey Ferrentino MFA ’13, whose play Ugly Lies the Bone, recipient of the 2015 Laurens/Hatcher Citation of Excellence, just opened at the Roundabout Theatre Company’s Black Box Theatre. And the class of 2016 is rich with talent, including Sari Caine, co-artistic director of the nonprofit theatre company Slightly Altered States, and Lindsay Joelle, whose play A Small History of Amaul by Amaul, Age 7 was a 2014 National Playwrights Conference finalist.

It’s easy to see why Rita Goldberg gets such joy from nurturing America’s next generation of playwrights. Her happiest memories of Hunter, she wrote in her autobiography, Oh, You Beautiful Doll, were of times spent in English and comparative literature classes. “There,” she wrote, “life sparkled and I read more novels, short stories, and the works of dramatists in America, England, and the Continent.” And she remembers being stunned by the first Broadway production of Tennessee Williams’s A Streetcar Named Desire, which ran from 1947 to 1949. “Brando,” she says, still star-struck, “was overwhelming.”

After retirement—Burton was in real estate, Rita was a special education counselor—the Goldbergs became devoted patrons of the arts. After Burton died in 2010, Rita continued their great work. In addition to endowing Hunter’s MFA program, their gifts have supported the Lark Theatre, which also nurtures young playwrights as they explore new material without commercial pressures.

“When I was a young woman, Hunter nurtured my lifelong love of theatre,” says Rita. “I’m thrilled to give back to my alma mater—and to future generations of theatregoers.”

Remembering a Hunter Pioneer

I
sabel Meyer May ’32 was 103 when she passed away at the end of June. Born when Taft was president and Alexander’s Ragtime Band was all the rage, she was a woman ahead of her time, a college graduate and a career woman when both were rare. She was a founder of the Five Towns Welfare League, the first woman president of Temple Israel of Lawrence, L.I., and was active in the Anti-Defamation League. May was also a consistent donor to her alma mater; the list of her many gifts dates back to at least 1965.

Isabel’s son and daughter, Peter May and Linda Sklar, are carrying her spirit forward. Just before their mother passed, they made a donation in her name to support student development at Hunter’s Silberman School of Social Work. A bright, sunlit study area was named for May, in English with a minor in theatre, an international studies major and French/Italian/Russian studies minor, and a certificate in political science. After graduating, she spent a year in England and France before completing her master’s degree in international law at New York University.

A Night at the Theatre

Th

Thanks to Mary Cirillo-Goldberg ’68, the honors students in Hunter’s Muse Scholar Program will spend the evening of Oct. 27 enjoying Lindsey Ferrentino’s Ugly Lies the Bone [see story above]. Cirillo-Goldberg, left, who serves on the boards of the Hunter College Foundation and the Roundabout Theatre, has bought up every seat, and she has arranged a post-show Q&A with the playwright, and a reception.

“I am thrilled,” says Cirillo-Goldberg, “that our students will have a great theatre experience—and one that showcases a Hunter alumna.”

Mother’s Day Munificence

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owing as she does what it’s like to be transported as a child to the drama, excitement, and often-shocking cost of living in New York City, Nellie Gipson ’83 has a special empathy for those Hunter students, some of them first-generation Americans and the first in their families to go to college, who need financial help to continue their education.

That’s why she and her family are frequent and generous donors to Hunter’s Mother’s Day Scholarship Fund and the Muse Scholar Program. She, her husband, Robert, and her daughter, Milla, have given close to $200,000 so far, including $30,000 to the 2015 Mother’s Day Fund.

Nellie Gipson came to New York City in 1973, when her father was assigned by his native Bulgaria—then a Soviet satellite—to its UN mission. At Hunter, she majored in English with a minor in theatre, an education that turned out to be a handicap when she tried to get theatre work back in Sofia. “They treated me like a walking model of capitalism,” she said.

Those days are over. Now, Gipson, a frequent guest with her family at Hunter functions, is welcomed as the model of generosity she is.
For Hunter Juniors, a Media Role Model—and a Helping Hand

By the time she retired in February, Abbe Raven MA ’77 had become one of the most powerful executives in the TV industry. After receiving her master’s degree in theatre from Hunter, she took a job as a production assistant, then climbed the ranks to become president and CEO, and, ultimately, chairman of A+E Networks, which owns 10 channels, including A&E, History, and Lifetime, and expects to generate $3.2 billion this year.

As a going-away surprise, A+E established the Abbe Raven Scholarship at Hunter, the first time in the College’s history a corporation has named a scholarship for a departing executive. A+E chairman of A+E Networks, which owns 10 channels, including A&E, History, and Lifetime, and expects to generate $3.2 billion this year.

Does Raven, chairman emeritus of A+E Networks, like her going-away present? “I am so thrilled,” she says. “I wanted to create a program that would lead to progress in important areas and philanthropy—and her way of saying thanks to someone who’s interesting,” she says, “even if they’re controversial.”

When choosing a speaker for the annual endowed Roosevelt House lecture that bears her name, Phyllis Kossoff has one simple rule: “I like someone who’s interesting,” she says, “even if they’re controversial.”

For Kossoff, a member of Hunter’s Hall of Fame, the lecture series is a natural outgrowth of her work for people in need. My mother has long dedicated herself to improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers, and they embody her values, dedication, and passion.”

Evelyn Kossak, Patron of Painters

Art flourishes where artists are supported. This was true in Florence during the Renaissance, and it’s true in 21st century New York City. At Hunter, some of the most heroic support has come from Evelyn Kossak ’42, for decades a pillar of our art and art history programs. Since 1994, she has donated almost $4 million to Hunter, most of it in support of the Art Department, including naming a seminar room, endowing the Kossak Chair in Art History, and, most recently, funding the Evelyn Kranes Kossak Painting Program.

Born in Russia, Kossak, president of the Jolen Inc. cosmetics company (and a member of Hunter’s Hall of Fame) was herself an art major, and her generosity now subsidizes the cost of materials for every student taking painting courses at Hunter. Kossak Painting Fellows receive a stipend for supplies, plus the chance to discuss their work in weekly sessions with renowned artists.

For Professor Drew Beattie, the Evelyn Kranes Kossak Distinguished Lecturer, who directs the Kossak programs at Hunter, the effect of Kossak’s generosity is obvious: “For the undergraduate students who have most benefited from Kossak support,” he says, “the name signifies the best experience of their time at Hunter. If I could summon a ‘thank you’ to Evelyn Kossak from all those grateful for what this fund has come to mean, the sound would be deafening.”

Phyllis Kossoff: Opening Minds

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Joan H. Tisch: To Our Health

Philanthropy is never more powerful than when it creates prizes that honor the unsung heroes of public service and inspire others to follow their example. One of the most impressive examples is the Joan H. Tisch Community Health Prize, which each year presents two $10,000 awards to individuals and organizations that advance urban public health.

The Tisch Prize was established in honor of one of New York’s most admired philanthropists, Joan H. Tisch, through a grant from her children, Laurie, Steven and Jonathan, and Jonathan’s wife, Lizzie. It is a fitting tribute to one of the great pioneers in urban public health.

Joan Tisch’s legacy is both honored and perpetuated by the prize that bears her name, as this year’s awards ceremony at Roosevelt House confirmed. The individual prizewinner was Ann-Marie Louison, who works with mentally ill ex-convicts. The organization award-winner, the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, works in Chinatown with thousands of people suffering from Hepatitis B infection.

The center’s work with infected pregnant women and the Joan Tisch Prize were the subject of a recent article in the New York Daily News.

Laurie Tisch—who has emerged in her own right as a leading public health benefactor—captured the power and spirit of the prize when she said, “The prize winners do amazing work for people in need. My mother has long dedicated herself to improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers, and they embody her values, dedication, and passion.”

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Phyllis Kossoff with former Rep. Barney Frank... and longtime Hunter friends and Class of ’46 Delta Phi Epsilon sisters (from left) Lila Weber, Charlotte Schwartz, and Elaine Frey.
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How Alumni, Parents, and Friends Can Support Hunter

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For more information, please contact The Hunter College Foundation at 212.396.6606, or visit our website at www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni/giving-to-hunter
Welcome to the future: How the 6th and 7th floors of Hunter’s new library will look.

Donations received from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015

Each year the Hunter College Foundation receives thousands of contributions from alumni and friends. The following list reflects donations that were earmarked for a particular program, department, or project; for the Annual Fund; or for the Hunter College Campus Schools.

We regret that space limitations constrain us from listing contributions below $100, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors for their support. The list reflects donations received between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided. We very much regret any errors or omissions which may nevertheless have occurred. Please call 212.650.3607 with any corrections.

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We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their generous gifts of $1 million and above to the Hunter College Foundation during the past 10 fiscal years (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2015).

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I t is my distinct honor to have completed my first year as chair of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees, helping to steer the College through new challenges—and, I’m happy to say—significant accomplishments. These accomplishments would have been impossible without the generosity of the good people mentioned in these pages.

One of my biggest sources of pride is Hunter’s $45 million library campaign, the largest and most important change to Hunter’s main campus in years. If you’ve been on campus recently, you know that we’re building a library for the 21st century—and the 21st century student—which will help us maintain our place as one of the finest public education institutions in the country.

So put on your hard hat and let’s take a look at the progress. Phase One, the renovation of the Third Floor, and Phase Two, which includes installation of shelving on the B-2 level to store the books from Floors Six and Seven, are already complete. Now, Phase Three, the renovation of Floors Six and Seven, is in full swing.

When finished, those two floors will be very impressive indeed. The Jonas Center for Writers, located on Fourth Floor, will house our state-of-the-art collection of teaching videos. The Library, supported by Lewis Frankfort ’67, on Floor Six, which will house our state-of-the-art collection of teaching videos. The Sixth Floor will also be the new home of the Dorothy Kryger Macaulay Honors Center, housing an expanded study and advising center for our growing Macaulay Honors Program.

The Klara and Larry Silverstein Student Success Center will occupy the entire seventh floor, allowing us to have our preprofessional center for our growing Macaulay Honors Program.

The Klara and Larry Silverstein Student Success Center will occupy the entire seventh floor, allowing us to have our preprofessional programs and our tutoring centers for writing, science, and math in one place.

The work toward our library of the future is just one example of the transformational impact that all gifts, large or small, can have. On behalf of the entire Hunter community, we thank all of you—whether alumni or friends—whose names appear in our Donor Roll. Your support makes Hunter’s continued progress possible, and we could not do it without you.

Joan Hansen Grabe
Chair, Hunter College Foundation

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Arthur Browne (seated) autographs One Righteous Man, his biography of Samuel Battle, the NYPD’s first African-American officer, at Roosevelt House. Battle’s daughter Charline (inset) was a 1934 Hunter graduate. In choosing a college for her, Battle sought the advice of James Weldon Johnson, a prominent novelist and poet of the Harlem Renaissance and a leader of the NAACP, and Eunice Carter, one of New York’s first African-American women lawyers. Their unanimous verdict: Hunter. The Wistarians Alumni Chapter (represented by Georgetta Gitten, left, with President Rasb and professors Joanne Edey-Rhodes and Anthony Browne of the Department of Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies) has been a supporter of African-American students at Hunter since the chapter’s establishment in 1996.
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We would like to express our gratitude to the following organizations for their generosity in supporting their employees who are Hunter alumni, parents, faculty, and friends and whose initial support made these matching gifts possible.

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Scholarship & Welfare Fund

When Scholarship and Welfare was established in 1949, there was no tuition and no charge for textbooks at Hunter, yet there were students who needed assistance to attend the College. Today, the financial pressures are even greater. Many students are heads of households. The majority hold at least one job; some hold two or more. Yet they are determined to graduate. Commencement rolls are filled with those who are the first in their family to finish college—a Hunter tradition familiar to many of us.

With your support, we will continue to help worthy students for years to come; they will always be here and so will we. On behalf of the hundreds of students who have benefited from your generosity and concern, we thank you.

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- $2,000-$2,500
  - Long Island Chapter AA of HC
- $2,000-$2,499
  - Queens Chapter AA of HC
- $1,000-$1,000
  - Wistarians Chapter AA of HC
  - Rockland County Chapter AA of HC

Corporations

- $5,000.00
  - AXA Foundation
- $2,000-$2,500
  - Wistarians Chapter AA of HC

The list above reflects gifts received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. If you believe any errors have been made, please let us know by calling the Scholarship & Welfare Fund Office at 212.772.4093, or by writing to us at 695 Park Avenue, Room 131-4E, New York, NY 10065.
In 1994, Hunter College established the Thomas Hunter Society to honor, memorialize and thank those alumni and friends of Hunter who have included the College in their estate planning. If you have already named the Hunter College Foundation (the legal entity that should receive the bequest) in your will, please let us know so we may have the opportunity to thank you personally. It will be our privilege to add your name to the growing list of members whose support, dedication, and foresight are helping ensure Hunter College’s standards of excellence for generations to come. For more information and assistance in planning a bequest to the Hunter College Foundation, please contact Institutional Advancement at 212.772.4085.

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A Lasting Legacy for the Thomas Hunter Society

The Hunter College Foundation gratefully acknowledges these bequests totaling $2,321,678, received from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, from alumni and friends who named Hunter in their wills. Their foresight and generosity will provide future students with the opportunity for a world-class education.

Marilyn Abrams Reversible Trust
The Estate of Zelda Ackerman
Jean Carrera Memorial Scholarship Trust
Estate of Marie T. Filbin
The Estate of Shirley Friedlander
Estate of John Klebanoff
Estate of Hilda E. Larrier
James Leonard and Estelle S. Leonard Trust
Estate of Louise E. O’Neill
The Esther K. Peterson Trust
Estate of Helen Rehr
Norma Stillman Reversible Trust

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List as of September 1, 2015

Hunter College Foundation trustee Sheila Birnbaum ’60 (center), one of the country’s top product liability litigators (and former special master of the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund), meets students Kristy Medina ’16, Andres Legramandi ’15, Simon Azymian ’15, Ashley Wong ’16, and Danielle Haley ’16 as part of Hunter’s “Lunch With A Lawyer” series for pre-law students.
Ruth Newman is one of Hunter’s most generous and engaged alumnae. A member of the board of the Hunter College Foundation since 2008, she has sponsored programs at Roosevelt House, funded a postgraduate fellowship in the President’s Office, and endowed the Ruth and Harold Newman Dean of Arts and Sciences.

But ask Newman what gives her the greatest satisfaction, and the answer is always the same: Hunter’s mentoring program. Her involvement, she says, was inspired by the changes she has seen in Hunter since her student days. “Then, of course,” she says, “it was all girls, and everyone was expected to graduate in four years. Nowadays not everyone can, because so many have to work. These students have to be very committed and be willing to work very hard.”

As a member of the Foundation board, Newman has worked to expand the program, now up to 26 mentors and 26 mentees. And she herself is an enthusiastic and caring mentor, working with a different student each academic year. “Everybody is different,” she says, “but basically it comes down to something akin to life coaching. Sometimes you have to advise your student how to act, or how to dress, or how to speak in an interview. You can help her write a résumé. Often I’ll find that a student, despite having grown up in New York City, is unaware of the city’s many treasures. So I’ll take her—so far, I have only mentored young women—out to restaurants, to museums, to the theatre, or to an auction house.

“A student may have parents who are working too hard just to make ends meet or are from a very different culture, so I talk to her about the things she can’t talk about at home.”

In addition to continuing her service in the mentoring program, Newman will spearhead Hunter’s efforts to encourage its many alumni to re-engage with their alma mater—and discover, as she did, how rewarding that can be.