In the halls of Hunter College, there is no more beloved presence than Peggy Tirschwell. She started here in 2002 after a distinguished CUNY career, and retired in 2013 as assistant provost (although we are fortunate that she still comes in on a part-time basis).

To honor her stellar service to Hunter and celebrate her love of dance, Tirschwell’s brother, Richard Gilder, donated $500,000 to renovate The Peggy, the newly dedicated state-of-the-art dance studio on the sixth floor of Thomas Hunter Hall. Gilder is one of Hunter’s most generous supporters, most recently donating $400,000 to support the public policy programs at Roosevelt House.

The Peggy is just the latest jewel in Hunter’s world-class Dance Department, CUNY’s only free-standing dance department. Under the leadership of acting chair Carol Walker, former dean of dance at SUNY Purchase, the department offers a BA in dance and, starting this fall, an MFA. The department also houses the Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program, which offers a BA/MA in dance education, funded by Hunter Foundation Trustee Jody Arnhold, chair of the Dance Advisory Board.

The Peggy sports a professional sprung floor, a cyclorama curtain, performance

*continued on page 2*
FROM THE 17TH FLOOR:
A Message From President Jennifer J. Raab

We ended an already stellar year at Hunter with our first Rhodes Scholar, Thamarra Jean ’18, who will be off to Oxford to study for her master’s in political theory.

Much of the credit for Hunter’s record-breaking year of student awards and scholarships goes to the Harold and Ruth Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships (see story on page 3), which allows us to talent-spot, mentor, and develop the Thamarra Jeans of the future.

Another highlight of 2017 was the opening of our state-of-the-art library facilities on the sixth and seventh floors of the East Building and the spring and summer were marked by ribbon-cuttings and celebrations. Our students now have two new floors for studying, reflecting, or hanging out, as well as joining tutoring groups in the state-of-the-art Learning Centers.

And we had the opening of The Peggy, our beautiful new dance studio named for our beloved Peggy Tirschwell.

Amid all those reasons to celebrate, though, there’s the sad news that we lost Joan Tisch, a great friend to Hunter College. When she died on November 2 at age 90, Joan left an extraordinary legacy of philanthropy. Her enthusiastic involvement benefited a wide range of New York City institutions, from the Museum of Modern Art to the 92nd Street Y to Citymeals on Wheels.

At Hunter, her name will live on in the Joan H. Tisch Community Health Prize, funded by the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund and presented annually to recognize grassroots efforts in urban public health. To Laurie Tisch and to the rest of Joan Tisch’s family, the Hunter community extends its condolences. She was a woman of kindliness, courage, and vision. She was, in short, a great New Yorker.

We are proud to maintain her legacy.

Jennifer J. Raab

The Peggy Honors Our Peggy continued from cover

HUNTER’S GOT TALENT
A $1 Million Gift Helps Find the Best and Brightest

Determined to give Hunter students the access to top-flight scholarships enjoyed by Ivy League students, Harold (Hal) and Ruth Newman ‘54 donated $1 million to the College in 2016 to fund a director for the newly established Ruth and Harold Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships.

The results have been spectacular: since the arrival of director Dr. Stephen Lassonde, Hunter students have won a record number of academic awards, bookended by the Marshall Scholarship won by Faiza Masood ’17 and the Rhodes Scholarship won by Thamarra Jean ’18. Masood and Jean are the first Hunter students ever to win the Marshall and Rhodes, and Matthew Locastro ’17 is the second Hunter student to win a Luce Scholarship.

The Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships is modeled after advising services at elite private universities. Potential academic stars are spotted by faculty, then nurtured, mentored, and given help writing application essays and preparing for interviews. Mentoring students is very important to Ruth Newman, a member of the Hunter College Foundation Board since 2008. She has worked to expand Hunter’s mentoring program, and she herself mentors a student every academic year, taking her mentee to restaurants, museums, and theatres, all to immerse the student in the world of New York City. She and Hal also fund a postgraduate fellowship in the President’s Office and endowed the Ruth and Harold Newman Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Lassonde has brought a wealth of experience in supporting students from his previous positions as dean of student life at Harvard, deputy dean at Brown and assistant dean at Yale. As Lassonde explains, “The pool of talent at Hunter is very deep and this new office provides resources to focus on identifying that talent.”

KEEPING THEIR DREAM ALIVE
Helping Hunter’s DACA students stay in the land they call home

Hunter’s DACA students, brought to the U.S. as undocumented children, have a special place in our hearts.

That’s why the Eva Kastan Grove Campaign to Advance Dreamer Legislation sponsored a conversation at Roosevelt House on November 17 featuring Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL). Before a packed house of Hunter’s DACA students, Durbin, a sponsor of the Dream Act of 2017, walked his audience through the recent perils—and possibilities—of their path toward becoming Americans. “After years of hiding in the dark,” he said, “our Dreamers stood out in the sunlight.”

The Grove campaign, part of the Eva Kastan Grove Scholarship and Internship Endowment Fund, supports student engagement in legislative solutions for Dreamers.

Eva Kastan Grove’s affinity for immigrants comes from her own family’s history. She arrived in New York City in 1954 from Bolivia, where her Viennese family had found refuge from the Nazis. Her husband, the late Intel CEO Andy Grove, escaped Communist-ruled Hungary. For both, the United States represented a safe haven, a place to make a life. Eva Kastan Grove wants Americans. “After years of hiding in the dark,” he said, “our Dreamers stood out in the sunlight.”

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Seizing the original document of the First Amendment in the National Archives, renowned American artist Robert Longo was struck by the realization that our most deeply held beliefs about free expression are ultimately just words written by hand. "The humanity of it got to me," he says. And so, starting September 1, passersby could look up from the sidewalk outside Hunter and see those words installed on floor-to-ceiling glass panels on the sky bridges over Lexington Avenue. Longo’s American Bridge Project was the most public aspect of his tenure as 2017 Judith Zabar Visiting Artist.

This visiting artist program, launched in 2007 with a generous donation from Judith Zabar ’54 and her husband, Stanley, has allowed Hunter to host—and give students firsthand access to—acclaimed creative luminaries. Over the last ten years, 30 artists have come to Hunter and seen those words installed on floor-to-ceiling glass panels on the sky bridges over Lexington Avenue. Longo’s American Bridge Project was the most public aspect of his tenure as 2017 Judith Zabar Visiting Artist.

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

with students, participating in seminars, giving lectures, and engaging in conversations about their creative processes. Some, like Longo, made Hunter a part of their work.

Jill Brienza, who serves on Hunter’s Arts Advisory Board, initiated and curated the American Bridge Project, funded by Artnet, with additional funding by Metro Pictures; Jules Demchick and Barbara Nessim; Carol Goldberg ’56 and her husband, Arthur; and the Landy Family Foundation. Brienza saw the bridges as a perfect canvas to promote Arts Across the Curriculum, the initiative that integrates the arts into students’ everyday academic and social experiences.

Hunter's Spring 2018 Zabar Visiting Artist is Tania Bruguera, whose work was recently exhibited at MoMA. The Zabar Visiting Artist program is described by Howard Singerman, chair of Hunter’s Department of Art and Art History, as having been transformative for the MFA program. The visiting artists, says Singerman, “bring a wealth of experience and knowledge, and a keen critical eye, into our students’ studios. These interactions have been exceptionally important, often life changing.”

What kind of language is permissible? What’s offensive? Where do we draw the line? Should we draw a line? These issues lie at the heart of a robust evening of debate held at the Kaye Playhouse to support Hunter’s Pre-Law Program. The evening started with a screening of the documentary Can We Take a Joke? When Outrage and Comedy Collide, followed by commentary by three legal and media heavyweights: scholar and literary theorist Stanley Fish; First Amendment stalwart Floyd Abrams, and media critic and activist Soraya Chemaly.

The screening and discussion, which raised $100,000, were organized by the Pre-Law Advisory Board. (See names at right).

The Pre-Law Program, directed by Elise Jaffe, offers students and alumni:

• Paid internships at law firms and funding for unpaid internships with public offices and nonprofit agencies;
• A subsidized LSAT preparatory program, sponsored by Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, that provides an affordable, extended classroom course;
• A moot court program that culminates in arguments in the courtroom at Cravath, Swaine & Moore;
• Financial support to defray the costs of applying to law school, such as application fees and campus visits;
• Frequent visits to Hunter by attorneys who share their insights into various areas of legal practice, serve as mentors, and share professional tips.

With this support, Hunter grads have gone on to such top-tier law schools as Harvard, Yale, and Stanford. In recent years, four Hunter graduates have obtained U.S. Circuit Court clerkships, dozens have landed jobs at big law firms, and many others are pursuing careers in public service.
A PLace To Mix, MingLe, And Even Nap
In the New Bloch Commons, Students Can Study. Or Not.

“...I didn’t want a room where people had to just keep quiet,” says Linda Bloch. “I wanted something where students could get together to discuss, to argue, to be kids.”

The result is the 2,500-square-foot Hannelore and Robert Bloch Commons, named for Bloch’s parents, on the sixth floor of Hunter’s Leon and Toby Cooperman Library.

The space is everything Bloch envisioned. A walk through the Commons, which abuts the Bobbie and Lew Frankfort Education Library, reveals students relaxing, chatting, and studying; some even nap. Alcoves accommodate four or five students; there are ottomans, and outlets for recharging laptops and phones. And there is a large well-lit table where students who want to study, can.

For the past eight years, Linda, her father, and her sister Sandra have funded two Mother’s Day Scholarships in honor of Hannelore Bloch ’41. This year’s scholars are seniors Melina Guerrero and N’Dack Fleming.

Guerrero is majoring in English with a concentration in linguistics and has a minor in human rights. Her goal after graduation next year: law school.

Fleming is a theatre major who plans to pursue a career in acting and stage management. Her Mother’s Day Scholarship enabled her to stay enrolled in classes.

The Bloch Commons is designed for them—and for all Hunter students. “Most colleges have a commons,” Bloch points out. “Hunter, being a commuter school, didn’t. So that’s what we decided to do. My parents were part of the City University story. They would have appreciated the idea of creating something like this in their name—a vibrant, creative space for today’s generation of students.”

ALl In The Family
Three Siblings Make a Gift to Honor Their Mother.

Mother’s Day was coming up, and Diane Levitt couldn’t think of a gift. Then, she says, “I got an email from Hunter College about the Mother’s Day Scholarship Program. I called my brother and sister and said, ‘This is amazing!’ And we were really very happy to do this.”

The result: the three siblings—Diane, Rabbi Joy Levitt, and Marc Levitt—honored their mother, Shirley Barer Levitt HCHS ‘44, HC ‘48, with a Mother’s Day Scholarship.

That scholarship is helping Hunter junior Jessica Gutierrez ’19 achieve her dream of a career in computer science. Jessica came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic as a young child speaking no English. She quickly mastered the language and discovered a talent for math and science. Encouraged by a community college professor, she learned to code and was accepted at Hunter.

No wonder Diane Levitt, senior director of K-12 education for Cornell Tech, describes her as “a really, really remarkable young woman.”

And she’s the perfect recipient of a scholarship in Shirley Levitt’s name. “My mother was the first in the family to go to college,” says Diane Levitt. “This is a great way to honor her and an institution we have grown up believing in.”

AN AMBITION TO SERVE
JFEW Scholarships Help Those Who Want to Help Others

We have joined forces with a stellar institution,” says Reeva Mager, president of the Jewish Foundation for Education of Women, which funds Hunter’s Eleanor Roosevelt Scholars Program. “Together we invest in women who show promise and enthusiasm for pursuing careers in public policy and public service.”

The program, which began in 2013 and was renewed for another two years in 2017, includes a competitively based two-year scholarship that supports its recipients with tuition assistance (up to $3,500 per academic year), mentorship, a paid summer internship in New York, a three-day seminar in Washington, special workshops, and invitations to special events at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute.

One of the first Hunter students to benefit from JFEW’s generosity was Mitsue Iwata ’14, who majored in sociology with a minor in public policy. Being a JFEW scholar, she says, “provided me with the company of like-minded students as well as a network of mentors, and gave me the financial support to pursue my interests.”

 Says program director Shyama Venkateswar, “Our students benefit from the power of a vibrant JFEW network and the important mentoring component of the program.”

Iwata, now a project manager for the New York City Mayor’s Office of Data Analytics, agrees. “I am so grateful for the lifelong friends and mentors I made through the program,” she says.

A MATTER OF DEGREES
A $300,000 Petrie Foundation Grant Helps RNs Leap to the Next Level

Profound changes in science, technology, and the healthcare market continue to radically transform the practice of nursing—and the training of nurses.

To prepare new nurses for the environment they will face, Hunter’s School of Nursing has entered into a partnership with Queensborough Community College to enable that school’s associate RN graduates to move up to the next level—a prestigious Hunter College BS in nursing, making them highly sought after by hospitals throughout the city.

The RN-to-BS program is funded by a $300,000 grant from the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation which provides financial support and advising, allowing recipients to complete their studies within two years.

“Our foundation,” says Petrie executive director Beth Lief, “is completely committed to helping community college students prepare for good careers. Making this grant for RN students to acquire baccalaureate degrees from Hunter is a perfect fit for us.”

And there’s more to come. For the second year of the program, says Gail C. McCain, Joan Hansen Grabe Dean of Hunter’s School of Nursing, “we’re working on a second dual-degree program, with LaGuardia Community College.”
Make an Immediate Impact

Cash Gifts
can be made easily by credit card, personal check, cashier’s check or money order payable to The Hunter College Foundation. Donate today, using our online form, or mail-in envelope.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities, Stocks, or Bonds
provide considerable tax advantages for the donor when the assets are transferred to Hunter before they are sold.

Recurring Gifts
are a convenient way to sustain your support for Hunter. You can arrange for your credit card to be charged a particular amount at a chosen frequency.

Matching Gifts
from your employer can multiply your contribution. Ask your employer if it has a matching gift program.

Ensure the Future Growth and Effect of Your Gift

Gift Pledges
are formal statements of intent to make a donation. You may satisfy your pledge by making periodic payments, and use each payment to qualify for an income-tax deduction.

Endowment Gifts
Endowment fund gifts are invested by the Foundation to generate income in the future, offering you an opportunity to make a lasting impact. Pursuant to the New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (“NYPMIFA”), the Foundation will spend an amount from the endowment fund each year as the Board of Trustees deems prudent after considering the factors governing endowment appropriation decisions set forth in NYPMIFA. Endowment funds can be established with a minimum contribution of $100,000. They can be unrestricted or directed toward scholarships, professorships, or other special programs.

Create a Lasting Legacy

Naming Hunter in Your Will
is a way to support future generations at the College while remaining financially secure and able to meet your current needs.

Charitable Gift Annuities
allow you to donate to Hunter while establishing a source of guaranteed income for yourself or a loved one.

Recognize a Special Person or Event

“In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” Gifts
pay meaningful tribute to a family member, classmate, professor, or other special person in your life.

Reunion Gifts
demonstrate how much Hunter has meant to you. Your generosity may inspire your classmates to donate as well.

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
In the last issue of Giving At Hunter, I wrote about how thrilled I was as the newly elected chair of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees. Well, a year later, I’m still just as excited—and even more impressed by the work being done here at Hunter College. Each year President Raab, her dedicated staff, and our stellar Board of Trustees are charged with an ambitious task: to keep the momentum going as we seek to improve our buildings, our departments, and, most important, our students’ experience. I’m proud to report that with your generous support we have once again met this challenge—and exceeded our already lofty goals. Hunter has attained a historic level of vibrancy and strength because you, our generous donors, have embraced our mission, recognizing that your investment in our College is an investment in our city’s future.

Since we ask for your help, you are entitled to ask how we spend your generous gifts. What we accomplished in the last year is definitely worth acknowledging.

First of all, the sixth and seventh floors of the Cooperman Library are finished and open. They are beautiful, functional, and in full use every day by our very satisfied students.

We are getting ready to begin demolition on the fifth floor. When the work has been completed, we will have successfully renovated four floors of the Library.

Thanks to the generosity of Patty and Jay Baker, we are ready to begin construction on a link between the third floors of the East Building and the Patty and Jay Baker Building on East 67th Street, which houses our Theatre Department.

Our Dance Department is already enjoying its gorgeous new studio, The Peggy—named in honor of Peggy Tirschwell (see cover)—which is now joined by The Jody, named after Jody Arnhold, a board member and an inspiring advocate of dance education.

All projects require funding, planning, and hard work; some also require an extra infusion of compassion, heart, and thoughtfulness. Those attributes were in plentiful supply when the Hunter Foundation received thousands of contributions from alumni and friends. The following list reflects donations that were earmarked for a particular program, department, or project; for the Fund for Hunter; 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, 2016, and June 30, 2017.

**The Hunter College Foundation Leadership Gifts**

**$15M-$25M**
- Patty and Jay Baker
- Leon and Toby Cooperman

**$100K-$499,999**
- Anonymous
- Ann K. and Robert S. Kassner
- Maria and Robert Kessler
- Susan and Roger S. Kessler

**$5M-$14,999,999**
- The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding
- The Havens Foundation
- The Hearst Foundations
- The Kavli Foundation

**$50K-$99,999**
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Dr. and Mrs. M. C. B. Baker
- Dr. and Mrs. M. C. B. Baker

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.

Cathy Weinroth
Chair, Hunter College Foundation

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The Hunter College Foundation

Donations received from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017
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Revenues

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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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Previously Received Gifts

- **$4,783,916**

Investment Income

- **$6,612,538**

**Total Available Funds**

- **$23,046,646**

Expenditures

Foundation Operational Expenses

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Support for College Activities from Restricted Funds

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<td>Scholarships</td>
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<td>Program and Teaching Support</td>
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Support for College Activities from Unrestricted Funds

- **$249,420**

Support for Major Capital Projects

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<td>Baker Theatre Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Facilities</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,694,065</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Total Expenditures**

- **$23,046,646**
Donations received from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017
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Matching Gifts

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.

American International Group, Inc.
Apple Inc.
Basic American Foods
BlackRock, Inc.
Chevron Matching Gift Program

Electronic Check Clearing House Organization
Enbridge Foundation
ExxonMobil Foundation
General Electric Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
KPMG Foundation

The Meredith Corporation Foundation
Microsoft Corp. Matching Gift Program
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Network for Good
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Sony Corporation of America
Stanley Black & Decker
UBS Matching Gift Program
UnitedHealth Group
The Vanguard Group Foundation
Verizon Foundation
Yelp Inc.

At the opening of his exhibition, G.O.A.T., again, in Long Island City’s Socrates Sculpture Park, Nari Ward, a professor of studio art, is flanked by Helen Stambler Neuberger, a member of Hunter’s Art Advisory Board, and her husband, Jim Neuberger.
The Hunter College Foundation

Scholarship & Welfare Fund

Hunter’s Scholarship and Welfare Fund, established in 1949, has helped thousands of students attend and finish college. With your continued generosity, we will continue to do that. Here are the gifts for fiscal year 2017.

Bequests

$210,556
Shirley P. Rauch

$11,230
Zelma Sherman

$6,000
Gene B. Abrams

$5,000
Barbara Cohen

$2,248
Dorothy Epstein

$2,000-$4,999
Marie Alpert

$500-$999
Arlene L. Brenzalt

$100-$249
Deborah M. Faust

Gifts

$130,000
Anonymous

$50,000-$60,000
Mildred Weissman

$40,000-$50,000
Joseph & Sophia Abeles Foundation, Inc.

$15,000
The Ethel and Joseph Spatz Foundation Inc.

$5,000-$9,999
AXA Foundation

A Lasting Legacy for the Thomas Hunter Society

The Hunter College Foundation gratefully acknowledges these bequests totaling $1,080,661.53, received from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, 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.

In June 2017, when Saudi author/activist Manal al-Sharif appeared at Roosevelt House to mark the publication of her book Daring to Drive: A Saudi Woman’s Awakening, women could not legally drive in her native country. At the event, underwritten by the Stepanski Family Trust. Al-Sharif was interviewed by Hunter adjunct Fatima Sharma, former commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs; met (top photo) with Human Rights Watch founder Robert Bernstein, who helped organize the event; and autographed copies of her book (with Hunter supporter Joyce Cowin). In September, Saudi Arabia announced that it would be lifting its ban on women driving.
Once a year, Mary Cirillo-Goldberg ’68 buys out the Black Box Theatre at the Roundabout and fills its 62 seats with MUSE Scholars. “They’ve seen some wonderful plays—for instance, Ugly Lies the Bone, by Lindsey Ferrentino, who was an MFA student at Hunter,” she says.

The night out at the Black Box, which also includes a reception hosted by Cirillo-Goldberg and a post-play Q&A with the actors, is just one way for her to repay her student debt of gratitude. “My Hunter ID let me get into theatres for way reduced prices,” she recalls. “It introduced me to a whole new side of life. I couldn’t get enough of it; I still can’t.”

A member of the Hunter College Foundation Board, Cirillo-Goldberg serves on both the Theatre Advisory Board and the Pre-Business Advisory Board. “Theatre is my passion,” she says, “but my real vocation has been business, particularly technology. So I’m very proud of the work the Pre-Business Board does, particularly giving students the opportunity to talk to people who have made their careers in business.”

And although she’s very conscious of how Hunter has changed since her student days—“There’s much more of a sense of community, so many places for students to convene”—she’s also proud of the essentials that remain the same. “Many students, like me, are the children of immigrants, although their people and mine may come from different parts of the world,” says Cirillo-Goldberg, whose parents came from Italy. “Many, like me, are the first in the family to graduate from college.”

And there’s something else that’s remained unchanged, says Cirillo-Goldberg. “We’re still making sure we graduate students who are going to be productive members of society.”