

SPRING
2023

A HUNTER



**LEONARD A.
LAUDER'S
HISTORIC NURSING
SCHOOL GIFT HONORS
LATE WIFE, EVELYN**

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**LIN-MANUEL
MIRANDA
WOWS GRADUATES
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THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

It has been a privilege beyond measure to lead this exceptional institution for the past 22 years, in effect, through the entire 21st century. My decision to leave our beloved Hunter College at the end of June 2023 is a bittersweet one, made easier by my complete confidence that Hunter is securely set to remain what the Princeton Review calls the crown jewel of CUNY.

Since 2001 — a period that coincides with the tenures of five governors and four mayors — we have accomplished so much together that it poses a challenge merely to list the many high points. Surely among them are the new schools and spaces we have built for our extraordinary students: the Silberman School of Social Work on a new East Harlem campus, and the creation of transformative new main campus spaces like the Leon & Toby Cooperman Library and the Klara and Larry Silverstein Student Success Center. We moved closer to our vision of making Hunter the public school of the arts by acquiring the Baker Theatre Building on 67th Street and the Tribeca art studios and galleries. This physical growth came as we added MFAs in Film, Dance, and Theatre and burnished our storied Creative Writing, Art, and Music Master's degrees.

I am so proud that we invested in our outstanding scientists by purchasing a research floor in the Weill Cornell Belfer Research Center and partnering with the East Side medical institutions on translational science grants.

I point with particular pride to the remarkable restoration and transformation of the landmark Roosevelt House into a Public Policy Institute offering certificates in public policy and human rights that, together with outstanding community programs, reflect Hunter's strong commitment to civic engagement.

Most recently, we have celebrated the record-shattering \$52 million gift from Leonard A. Lauder, whose extraordinary generosity establishes an endowment to train future health-care professionals at our acclaimed nursing school.

Together, utilizing the more than \$530 million raised from donors since 2001, we have created or modernized many other facilities and programs that will continue to serve our Hunter community well into the future, and invested millions in scholarships and internship support to level the playing field for our extraordinary immigrant and first-generation college students.

We have proudly nurtured emerging college students at our Manhattan Hunter Science High School, a nationally ranked early college high school we created in 2003, and at my beloved Hunter College Elementary School and High School, of which I am a proud alumna.

For me, it has always been about all things Hunter.

It has been one of my life's great joys to build on its glorious past and create an even more remarkable future.

Anyone who knows me, knows I bleed Hunter purple. For 22 years, my daily focus has been on supporting our talented professors and industrious students. What a delight it has been to help build a faculty of top-notch researchers, educators, and artists. I revel in their accomplishments as winners of MacArthur, Guggenheim, and Carnegie fellowships; the \$1 billion they secured during my tenure in research support; and the impact their scholarship and mentorship have had on our students.



▲ President Raab with the Hunter Hawk.



▲ President Raab with the Dalai Lama in 2012.



Schumer Cheers President Raab

Sen. Charles Schumer elicited a standing ovation for Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab at the college's winter commencement on January 19.

Schumer, who addressed the graduates with stories of his own college career, first asked President Raab to stay for a minute after she had introduced him so that he could mark her last winter commencement before she stepped down as Hunter president on June 30.

"She took over Hunter when it was a really good school 22 years ago," Schumer said. "But with her brilliance, with her enormous energy, with her complete dedication to this school, and her big heart, she has made this one of the finest schools of higher education not just in New York, but in America. Let's have a standing ovation for your great president!"

But above all, it is hard to find words to describe my passion and love for our Hunter students. With our incredible Student Services team, we have invested in their success both in the classroom and in extracurricular programs. It is moving — but not surprising, given the talent and tenacity of these future leaders — that this investment has yielded spectacular results including two Rhodes Scholars, a Marshall, five Schwarzmans, and many Luce, Fulbright, Truman, and Soros fellowships, and large numbers of acceptances at the nation's leading graduate, medical, and law schools.

Given the popularity and success of our oversubscribed Macaulay Honors College, we created six additional freshman merit scholarship programs in the humanities and sciences.

Each and every day, we demonstrate it is indeed possible to work, teach, and study in an environment that stimulates inquiry, cherishes diversity, and respects the rights of all. Our students come from 100 countries and speak 150 languages but share a commitment to learning and growing together at Hunter.

It has been thrilling to watch class after graduating class emerge as success stories in their own right, then give back to Hunter as board members and mentors, and contribute to the city as civic and business leaders, public officials, and philanthropists. Hunter alumni have made me proud and grateful for their devotion to the College's motto of caring for the future. And I have loved being invited to their weddings and hugging their babies!

Hunter's enrollment is gratifyingly high, and our graduation rates are strong, with academic standards that set us apart among public colleges. It was the indomitable spirit of our community that kept us connected and directed toward keeping our commitment to our students during the challenging online pandemic years. I will forever cherish what we accomplished under the most demanding circumstances, and I am delighted that we have emerged, back in person, a bustling campus with our students as hungry as ever to learn and grow. Let us never forget how we overcame this adversity together and thrived in its wake!

Clearly, these accomplishments would not have been possible without the phenomenal Hunter team, and I want to express my profound thanks to everyone with whom I have had the honor to work over the past two decades. Together, we have made a difference in the lives of each other and, most importantly, in the lives of our students. We helped them pursue and achieve the American dream that Hunter College has made attainable for so many generations of students.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the faculty, students, professional and support staff, donors, board members, and alumni who join me in bleeding Hunter purple. And I want to express my gratitude to Chancellor Felix V. Matos Rodríguez, the Central Office team, and the CUNY Trustees for their support.

As I embark on my next professional adventure, I will always keep Hunter in my heart and continue to live and breathe the college motto — *mihi cura futuri*: The care of the future is mine.

With gratitude for the opportunity to serve the extraordinary Hunter community,

Jennifer J. Raab



▲ President Raab with philanthropist Leon Cooperman '64.



▲ Leonard A. Lauder with Hunter nurses Joanna Law, Monique Brady, Ayesha Jones, Shena Joseph, and Chheten Gurung.

Leonard A. Lauder's Historic \$52M Gift to Hunter

It is one man's stirring tribute to his late wife — and a lasting legacy for Hunter College and New York City.

A \$52 million gift from Leonard A. Lauder in honor of Evelyn H. Lauder HCHS '54, HC '58, who died in 2011, has established the Evelyn Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program at the Hunter College School of Nursing.

The game-changing donation — the largest-ever philanthropic gift to a single CUNY school — creates a partnership between Hunter's School of Nursing and New York City Health + Hospitals, the primary health care provider in the city's underserved communities.

The gift allows Hunter's Nursing School to move past the constraints of its publicly funded budget to provide for more faculty, state-of-the-art technology and equipment, and an expanded curriculum for the 650 nurse practitioner master's students now enrolled — while creating a curriculum that will attract even more students.

"This transformational program will secure our place as one of the best training grounds in America," said Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab. "Our partnership with H+H will provide students with the in-hospital, hands-on training they desperately need. Leonard Lauder has our deepest thanks for his groundbreaking gift to a public institution and his trusted counsel through the years."

Many Hunter College students hold down jobs while taking classes, but the 25 Evelyn Lauder Nurse Practitioner Fellows will receive \$30,000 stipends to cover tuition and housing costs, freeing them up to focus strictly on their education, and fast-tracking the two-year program. On top of that, they will work alongside preceptors who will train them in one of the toughest health care environments in the country.

Game-changing learning techniques are also on deck: Hunter's nurse practitioner students will simulate patient-nurse interactions with trained actors as their instructors look on from behind one-way mirrors.

Ultimately, the program will create a pipeline of health equity warriors who will seamlessly move from Hunter to institutions such as H+H that serve disadvantaged communities, improving the quality of life of those that need it the most.

And it couldn't have come at a more pressing moment — the United States is suffering from an acute primary-care shortage after the COVID-19 pandemic, with nurse practitioners widely recognized as the key to helping Americans get needed care.

"This program will ensure our talented H+H staff can train Hunter's dedicated nurse practitioner students, and together, we will further health equity in New York," said H+H President and CEO Dr. Mitchell Katz. "The Hunter College School of Nursing — the city's largest public

nursing school — has for years produced some of the city's best health care workers. Now, thanks to this tremendous investment by Leonard Lauder, it will accomplish so much more, for many years to come."

Lauder realized the indispensability of nurses as his wife battled cancer. Throughout her illness, Lauder said, "I was so impressed with the nursing care she received." Mr. Lauder added, "I believe highly skilled nurse practitioners are key to improving access to quality care for all Americans, and I am proud to work with Hunter on this critical program."

Lauder's latest gift builds on the \$10 million he gave to the Hunter's School of Nursing in 2015, which created the Evelyn H. Lauder Nursing Fund, to support and enhance faculty, recruiting, research, and technology.



▲ Leonard A. Lauder with Joanna Law '16.



▲ (Left) President Raab with Evelyn H. Lauder when she received her honorary degree in 2004. (Right) Evelyn H. Lauder frequently visited the labs at Hunter, where she met with faculty such as cancer researcher Dr. Jill Bargonetti (center), as well as students.

It is fitting that Leonard A. Lauder honored his late wife, Evelyn H. Lauder HCHS '54, HC '58, with a \$52 million gift to Hunter's School of Nursing. Evelyn, who died in 2011 at 75, was a generous and engaged alumna, a savvy business executive, and a humanitarian whose health-related philanthropy is world-renowned.

A childhood refugee from Nazi Europe, she championed Hunter as the engine of the American Dream for immigrants. Evelyn, who met her husband as a Hunter freshman, said the college provided her with the tools she needed to succeed at Estée Lauder Companies.

In 1993, she founded the Breast Cancer Research



Foundation, which has become the largest national organization dedicated to funding research relating to the causes, treatment and possible prevention of breast cancer. She also co-founded the Pink Ribbon campaign, now the worldwide symbol of breast health.

Evelyn supported one of Hunter's top researchers in the search for a cancer cure, funding the work of Professor Jill Bargonetti — making Hunter the only public school without a hospital attached to it to receive such funding. Proud of the work being done at Hunter, she often visited the Bargonetti lab, bringing gift bags to the delight of the scientists.

Hunter inducted Evelyn into its Hall of Fame in 2002, awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2004, and honored her as a Distinguished Alumna of Hunter College High School in 2010. She also served on the College's Visioning Board and the Leadership Committee of Hunter College High School's endowment campaign.

"Evelyn Lauder was an extraordinary person who lived the Hunter motto, *mihi cura futuri* — the care of the future is mine. I was proud to have called her a dear friend," said Jennifer J. Raab, president of Hunter College. "She epitomized generations of hardworking Hunter students who used their gifts to help others."

New Evelyn Lauder Nurse Practitioner Program Off to a Flying Start

For Evelyn Lauder Nurse Practitioner Fellow Sarah Jordan — one of 25 scholars in the Hunter School of Nursing's new Evelyn Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program — studying at Hunter is an honor and a dream.

Jordan, who works with inpatient hematology, bone-marrow transplant, and pulmonary patients — and for two years was a front line COVID nurse — said she is excited to be part of the inaugural class, predicting it will make a profound difference for New York City's neediest by promoting equity, access, and preventive care.

"I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact that disease can have on our community and what it takes to navigate health care and life in our darkest hours," she said at the program's official opening. "From these dark times, it is evident that we have a lot of work



▲ (Left) Faculty members role-play for training purposes in the new exam rooms. (Right) Inaugural Lauder Nurse Practitioner Fellow Sarah Jordan worked on the front lines during the COVID outbreak.

to do, and this is the place to start getting it done."

Joining Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab were philanthropist Leonard A. Lauder, his son, William Lauder, dozens of members of the Hunter Nursing faculty, and friends such as Bellevue Hospital's Dr. Yinan Lan, the recipient of Hunter's Joan H. Tisch Community Health Prize.

Attendees toured the refurbished 8th floor, where there were newly renovated examination rooms, offices, and a conference room.



They also saw a simulation by a faculty member, DNP Joseph Colagreco, who modeled the facilities and technology on which program participants will train. Colagreco "examined" an actor — recruited from Hunter's Theatre Department — who complained of elevated liver enzymes and fatigue.

"As the 25 Evelyn Lauder Fellows go out each year, we will see health outcomes transformed for generations of New Yorkers as the Fellows take on some of our toughest health challenges," said President Raab.



HUNTER'S SPRING COMMENCEMENT



▲ Playwright-actor-director Lin-Manuel Miranda advised graduates to “do what you have to do that allows the most space for what you want to do.”

Hunter College’s 226th Commencement at the Barclays Center was truly the room where it happened — thanks to a rousing address by Broadway superstar Lin-Manuel Miranda.

The award-winning songwriter, actor, director — and member of the Hunter College High School Class of 1998 who created the culture-changing musicals *In the Heights* and *Hamilton* — told graduates what it was like to start out as an

unknown in a tough field in New York City.

“I graduated in May 2002 with a degree in Theatre — which, in New York’s job market, is like showing up to a gunfight with ... a degree in Theatre,” Miranda said to laughter, before describing his days of eating baked beans and pizza bagels in a leaky-roofed apartment next to the 1 train in upper Manhattan.

He spoke of honing his craft while teaching seventh grade at Hunter College High School — and making ends meet by moving furniture and dancing at bar and bat mitzvahs.

He and his friends couldn’t afford cable television — so they’d head to his parents’ house for a hot meal and to watch *The Sopranos*. He didn’t have dental insurance, so he volunteered at a downtown dental school where he could get his teeth cleaned at a discounted rate.

He said he drew lessons from the late composer Jonathan Larson’s musical *Rent* — about young characters struggling to live and make art in 1990s New York City even as friends and lovers died of AIDS — and urged grads to “do what you have to do that allows the most space for what you want to do. What do you have to do? What do you want to do? Tomorrow is not promised.”

Miranda also sang an autobiographical song about youth, “Opening Doors,” by the legendary composer Stephen Sondheim:

*“We’re opening doors, shouting here we are.
We’re filling up days on a dime.
That faraway shore’s looking not too far.
We’re following every star, we haven’t got time...”*

“Look around at your fellow graduates,” Miranda said. “Who is your ride-or-die as you burst into the world, opening doors? Did you meet

them here at Hunter, or are they sitting behind you or around you, loving you enough to brave the MTA in Brooklyn rush hour on a Tuesday afternoon? Name them, treasure them, hold on to them. Because when you’re chasing what you love, there’s never enough time.”

Miranda, who noted that Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab grew up in Washington Heights and attended Hunter High School, as he did, praised her extraordinary tenure and legacy, joking that they both “know the exquisite pain of the crosstown bus schedule” and thanking her for her devotion and service.

President Raab, who awarded Miranda an honorary doctorate of humane letters, packed her 44th Commencement speech with stories of

“I graduated in May 2002 with a degree in Theatre, which, in New York’s job market, is like showing up to a gunfight with ... a degree in Theatre.”

— Lin-Manuel Miranda



▲ President Raab (left) poses at Hunter’s Spring Commencement with Broadway sensation Lin-Manuel Miranda, an alumnus and supporter of the Hunter College Campus Schools.



▲ (From left) Luis Miranda (father of Lin-Manuel), Eleanor Roosevelt Distinguished Leader in Residence Carolyn Maloney, President Raab, Hunter College Foundation Chair Cathy Weinroth ’74, CUNY Trustee Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez ’75, and Lin-Manuel Miranda HCES ’92, HCHS ’98.

how Hunter students had triumphed over incredible odds — not the least being the pandemic. She mentioned a number of extraordinary students, including Marc Gross, who as a Hunter student wrote, produced, and performed the autobiographical “The Journey of a Lifetime With Autism” before graduating with a degree in music; Stephanie Juarez, a daughter of Mexican immigrants who earned a bachelor’s in nursing after a driver ran her over with a car; and budding immigration advocate Juan Carlos Santiagué, who lived for years in a dangerous Philippine shantytown before getting an American visa.

Miranda summed up the promise of Hunter’s Class of 2023 in his closing:

“Dear brilliant, exhausted Hunter Class of 2023, your story is just beginning,” he said. “You’re going to figure out how you want to spend your time, and if the world changes on a Tuesday, then you’ll recalibrate and figure it out again.”

“Keep choosing life, and keep choosing connection. It will feel like you’re running out of time. But in all likelihood, you’ve got plenty of time. It is among the great honors of my life that I get to spend this time with you on this most special of days. Congratulations to you, the Hunter Class of 2023, and I wish you all the luck today, tomorrow, and all the precious days of your life.”

“Keep choosing life, and keep choosing connection. It will feel like you are running out of time. But in all likelihood, you’ve got plenty of time.”

— Lin-Manuel Miranda



▲ (Left) Graduates Dilara Portelli, Bernadette Courtines, Emily Springer, Monika Ojawoski, and Ian Robles present Lin-Manuel Miranda with his honorary Hunter doctorate of humane letters. (Right) Portelli and Courtines place an academic hood on Miranda.



HUNTER'S SPRING COMMENCEMENT continued

She's a Real-Life Indiana Jones



▲ **Sasha Thompson**

In the movie "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," Harrison Ford plays a Hunter Archaeology professor who is ready to hang up his famous hat and whip. Fortunately, Hunter just graduated a real archaeologist who could fill his shoes.

Sasha Thompson '23 has led an adventurous life. Growing up in a family that was evicted from its home, she buried herself in myths,

anime, and video games — sparking an interest in the ancient world.

Dropping out of college because of severe depression, Thompson worked as a model, bartender, video-game reviewer, and superhero cosplayer, dressing up as Mortal Kombat characters at conventions. Eventually, she took a trip to Italy, where, seeing the ancient monuments, she vowed to become an archaeologist.

Hunter made it possible. As a Solomon Bluhm Scholar, Sasha visited sites in Greece and participated in a dig in Spain — becoming an expert in ancient burial practices and earning her BA in Classical Archaeology. Now she is applying to British Ph.D. programs in osteoarchaeology — the study of ancient bones — and will help supervise a dig in Spain!

Her Dream Came True at Hunter



▲ **Abigail Human**

Budding primatologist Abigail Human (MHC '23) overcame extraordinary adversity to get her Hunter degree — and fulfilled a childhood dream.

When Abigail was 3, her dad died of a drug overdose, leaving her and her mom in a difficult situation.

Because Abigail loved animals, her mom scraped together enough money to buy a membership at the

Bronx Zoo. Abigail especially loved the Madagascar exhibit.

At Hunter, Abigail remembered how much she had loved the lemurs at that exhibit, and took a Primatology course available at Hunter.

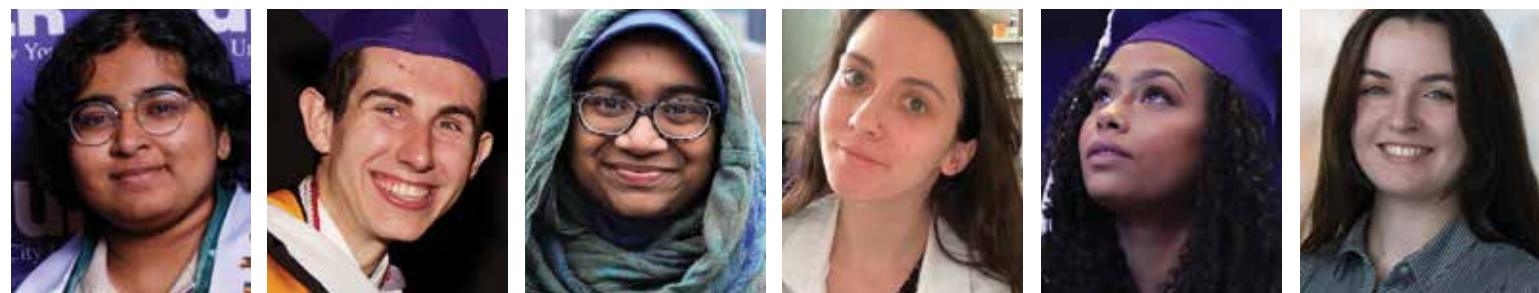
Soon, she was studying primate nutrition, biology, and evolution at Hunter's Primate Molecular Ecology Lab.

It seemed as if Abigail was unstoppable, but then she got hit with COVID — twice.

Still, she persevered, continuing her education after a stay in the hospital, and graduated with a 3.94 GPA in Human Biology.

This fall, she will start a Ph.D. program in Evolutionary Anthropology at Duke University, and go on to study lemurs — in Madagascar.

Hunter's Graduates Are Going Places!



Oh, oh, the places they'll go! Hunter College's Class of 2023 featured a panoply of graduates who will go on to jobs at notable firms or continue their studies at top universities.

From left, **Ariana Ahmed**, who was Hunter's Undergraduate Student Government president as well as president of the Mock Trial Society and co-president of the Queer Student Union, will become

a business insights fellow at McKinsey & Company.

Hunter Moran, a Macaulay Honors student who is an outstanding scholar-athlete, will head to Copenhagen on a Fulbright Fellowship. The budding physician scientist, who participated in an advanced science research program at Hunter, will serve in Denmark as an epidemiology researcher.

Afsana Rahman, with a 3.9 GPA

in Computer Science, will get her Ph.D. from the highly ranked tri-institutional Computational Biology program — a partnership between Memorial Sloan Kettering, Rockefeller University, and Weill Cornell Medical College.

Nancy Collie-Beard received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for a Ph.D. program in neuroscience at Rutgers University.

Ariana Silva, a Political Science major with a minor in Human Rights, will go to American University for her master's in International Development and hopes to work at the United Nations.

Casey Walsh, a Macaulay Honors and McNulty Scholar who majored in Physics, will move to England to begin her Ph.D. in Materials Science at Sheffield Hallam University.



▲ **Jannathul Chowdhury '23 with President Raab.**

In a First, a Hunter Student Is Awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship

For the first time ever, a Hunter College student has won a highly competitive Gates Cambridge Scholarship for study at the University of Cambridge in England.

Jannathul Chowdhury '23 will head to the famed British university this fall to begin work on a two-year Master of Philosophy in Education. Chowdhury, a Roosevelt Scholar with a 3.9 GPA, majored in History and Adolescent Social Studies at Hunter and one day wants to become the first chancellor of the New York City Department of Education to come from Bangladesh.

Established by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000, the Gates Cambridge Trust is the University of Cambridge's flagship international postgraduate scholarship program; about 80 Gates Scholarships are awarded each year.



▲ **Ndeye Ndione, Nicole Gonik, and Maisha Uddin.**

In other scholarship news, alumna **Ndeye Ndione '22** has won a prestigious Luce Scholarship and will work in Asia next year, where she will study the interplay of religion and democracy.

Nicole Gonik MHC '23 has been named a James C. Gaither Junior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace — the first Hunter student ever chosen for the honor and one of only 14 students selected nationwide.

Maisha Uddin '22, a Biology major with a concentration in Women and Gender Studies, won a coveted Barry Goldwater Scholarship. A McNulty Scholar, Uddin has conducted clinical, social psychology, and neuroscience research, and intends to pursue medicine.

Secret Sauce: Inside Hunter's Fellowship Office



Helping Hunter College students win fellowships and scholarships takes a lot more than just hitting the books. It requires a team effort.

No one knows that better than Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab, who looked to the Ivies to build a program to turn Hunter into the fellowship-producing factory it has become.

"We always knew Hunter had the talent to win these awards, and we just needed to put a team in place to make that happen," Raab said. "Harvard and Yale do that, and we needed to do it, too."

To build that team, she went straight to the source, plucking Stephen Lassonde — who had more than 20 years of Ivy League experience — from Harvard in 2016 and making him the director of the Ruth and Harold Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships.

And results quickly followed: After interviewing 80 students during his first two months on the job, Lassonde found Faiza Masood, a junior whom he saw as a great candidate for a coveted Marshall Scholarship.

Even though she had less than a week to submit her application, the two pushed the envelope and applied.

"The odds were long, but she got an interview, and she won it," he said. "That confirmed President Raab's instinct that if you give students the right direction, they will be competitive."

Lassonde has since built a multi-pronged system that includes information sessions for students, reaching out to faculty and the Pre-Professional Advising Center to find

candidates, and a course on writing a personal statement to get potential fellowship winners on track.

The results speak for themselves: 85% of students who take the class win a fellowship, and since the office was created, Hunter students have won 314 awards valued at \$5.5 million.

In fact, each year since the Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships' inception in 2017, applicants have surpassed the accomplishments of the previous year, either by being the first to win an especially prestigious fellowship or by posting more award winners.

Clearly, that was enough for the Newman Family to nearly double its initial \$1 million gift that funds the office — with a \$900,000 gift this spring.

"The latest gift will help us expand our reach and identify more students who will be eligible for scholarships and fellowships," Lassonde said. "It truly is the gift that keeps on giving."

Lassonde, meanwhile, has written the book on earning scholarships: *Helping Your Students Write Their Personal Statement: Framing the Narrative for Fellowships and Other Opportunities* (Routledge) will be out next year!



▲ **Ruth '54 and the late Harold Newman have funded the Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships.**

Hunter Establishes a BA in Japanese Studies

Hunter College's strong program in Japanese Language and Culture now offers a Bachelor of Arts — the first such degree program at any CUNY campus.

The curriculum builds on Hunter's rigorous Japanese Language and Culture program and the college's strong ties to the Japanese community.

"With Hunter's incredible diversity and proximity to so many international institutions, including those of the Japanese community, it's only natural that it become a center of Japanese scholarship," said Dean of Arts and Sciences Andrew J. Polsky. "We're so pleased to be the first CUNY campus to offer such a bachelor's."

The program connects students to Japanese dignitaries — such as First Lady Yuko Kishida, pictured above with President Raab on a visit to Hunter — traditional culture practitioners, scholars, and professionals.

Students also participate in extracurricular events — such as the annual Japan Day parade — and take advantage of study-abroad opportunities through two academic exchange programs.

"We are excited to offer a new Japanese Language and Culture Major at Hunter," said Japanese Program Director Maayan Barkan. "This milestone culminates many years of hard work from our faculty and the Hunter administration, and reflects the passionate support of our students and friends in the Japanese and Japanese-studies communities, especially the Consulate General of Japan and the Japan Foundation. We couldn't have done it without them."

During the past five years, Hunter has seen significant growth in enrollment in Japanese Studies, with the highest number of students in the 2022-'23 academic year (1,267) — mirroring a nationwide



▲ President Raab and the spouse of the Japanese Prime Minister, Yuko Kishida (far right), and diplomat Kaoru Ishikane (center) at a tea ceremony honoring Kishida's visit to Hunter last fall.



▲ Hunter students march in New York's Japan Day parade this year. Japanese Studies undergrads participate in many cultural activities.

expansion of interest in the subject and making Japanese the second-most popular language at Hunter. Since 2016, Hunter has offered two

minors in Japanese — an offering so popular, it has the largest enrollment in the Hunter College School of Arts and Sciences.

Graduate's Nobel Prize Donated to Hunter College

The honor is ours! The 1988 Nobel Prize in medicine won by biochemist, pharmacologist, and Hunter alumna Gertrude Elion '37 has been entrusted to Hunter College and will be displayed in the school's library to inspire and motivate our next generation of students pursuing careers in science.

The laureate's nephew, Dr. Jonathan Elion, presented the gold medal along with papers and other memorabilia from his aunt's long scientific career — including the bright-blue chiffon dress she wore to the Nobel ceremony — to Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab, who noted that Elion always evoked the spirit of the school.

"Gertrude Elion lived Hunter's motto *mihi cura futuri*, the care of the future is mine. She created drugs that saved countless lives," President Raab said. "We are so grateful for Jonathan Elion's

generosity in giving Hunter these treasures from his aunt's extraordinary career."

Elion, who died in 1999 at 81, shared the Nobel Prize with two male scientists for their work on rational drug design, a method that led to game-changing medicines such as the AIDS drug AZT, the organ-transplant drug azathioprine, and the herpes drug ACV. She also helped develop cancer drugs, and her work on anti-virals blazed a path that led to treatments for many illnesses, including COVID-19.

Elion credited Hunter, which was tuition-free when she attended, for her rise as a scientist. The daughter of Eastern European Jewish immigrants, she grew up in the Bronx in strapped circumstances after her family lost its money in the 1929 stock market crash.

"Had it not been that Hunter College was a free college, and that my grades were good enough for me to

enter it, I suspect I might never have received a higher education," she said after receiving the Nobel Prize.

Elion, who conducted most of her research as the leader of a major research group at Burroughs Wellcome, never completed her doctorate and had a tough time finding work after graduation because of the many roadblocks she encountered as a woman in science.

"I hadn't been aware that any doors were closed to me ... until I started knocking on them," she famously said.

Ultimately, she earned 25 honorary degrees for her work and, in 1968 was awarded the American Chemical Society's Garvan-Olin Medal, which was also donated to the school.

The event underscored that Hunter — which for most of its history was an all-female school — is the only college in the world to graduate two women winners of the Nobel Prize in medicine, Elion and Rosalyn Yalow '41, who won the 1977 prize for her role in developing the process for screening blood for diseases such as hepatitis.

Elion was only the fifth female



▶ Gertrude Elion '37 (right) in an undated photo and at the 1988 Nobel Prize ceremony (above).



Nobel laureate in medicine, and the ninth in science in general. Both Elion and Yalow were Jewish and studied at Hunter during a time when Ivy League schools discriminated against Jewish students.

"Hunter was known as the 'Jewish girls' Radcliffe,' said Hunter College Jewish Studies Center Director Leah Garrett, referring to Harvard University's former college of women.



ALUMNA IS FACE OF U.S. QUARTERS

She's the coin of the realm! The late Pauli Murray — a 1933 Hunter College graduate who was the first African-American woman ordained as an Episcopal priest, a noted civil-, women's-, and gender-rights activist, and longtime friend of Eleanor Roosevelt — is being honored by the U.S. Mint as part of its 2024 American Women Quarters Program.

"Pauli Murray was one of the most important social-justice activists of the 20th century, and she richly deserves the honor of being a face of

our currency," said Hunter College Dean for Diversity and Compliance John Rose. "She also symbolized the opportunities that Hunter long offered students questing for a share of the American dream."

Murray, who died in 1985, had a hardscrabble childhood in the South before coming to New York and enrolling at Hunter. Struggling with her racial and gender identity, she found a haven at the college, which she described as "a diminutive society whose citizens had equal chance to rise to the top" and a "natural train-

ing ground for feminism."

Denied educational opportunities both for being black and being female — she called such discrimination "Jane Crow" — she graduated first in her law-school class and wrote a trailblazing 1951 book on segregation that helped shape the Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

She also helped found the National Organization for Women with Betty Friedan and others in 1966, a decade before her Episcopal ordination in 1977.



Who'll Get Hunter's Next Nobel?

"In this room, we have our next Nobel Prize winner!" declared Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab at the luncheon where the college accepted the Nobel Prize of Gertrude Elion '37. It wasn't an idle boast: There were many potential candidates among the outstanding young scientists in the room, including:

◀ Dr. Jonathan Elion, who donated his Aunt Gertrude's Nobel Prize in medicine to Hunter College, with students, one (or more) of whom could become Hunter's next laureate.

- **Sangita Chakraborty '24**, a John P. McNulty and Yalow Scholar focusing on molecular and cell biology. She is working in the Finley Lab at Sloan Kettering Institute, studying how metabolism influences stem cells.
- **Zara Nadeem '23** a Yalow Scholar and peer leader who will attend Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in the fall. She founded the first American Heart Association collegiate club, Heart at Hunter.
- **Swara Patel '24**, a Barry M. Goldwater and McNulty Scholar who envisions a career in biomedical research and global health. She conducted CAR-T cell research at the Center for Stem Cell and Translational Immunotherapy at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital as a 2022 Harvard-Amgen Scholar.
- **Afsana Rahman '23**, a McNulty, Yalow, and Cooperman Scholar who seeks to use computer modeling to address epidemiological questions. Her current research focuses on the non-coding genome and its effect on cancer.

HAPPENINGS at HUNTER



▲ (From left) Jonathan F. Fanton Director of The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute Harold Holzer, *60 Minutes* anchor Lesley Stahl, and author Chris Whipple before a talk on Whipple's *The Fight of His Life: Inside Joe Biden's White House* in February.



▲ President Raab (center) displays her Gold Honor Medal from the National Institute of Social Sciences with fellow awardees astronomer Neil deGrasse Tyson (second from right) and Mount Sinai epidemiologist Dr. Philip J. Landrigan (left) as NISS President Frederick R. Larsen looks on.



▲ Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jennifer Egan reads from her novel *The Candy House* during Hunter's Distinguished Writers Series in April.



▲ Supermodel and best-selling author Emily Ratajkowski, in her address at the Winter Commencement, told graduates to "prioritize joy."



▲ President Raab (center) with Brooklyn Museum Director Anne Pasternak (left) and her daughter, online sensation Paris Starn MA '23.



▲ Hunter Theatre Professor Asher Grodman (left), who famously plays a pantsless character on *Ghosts*, gives flowers to his student Kalissa Persaud — after she gifted him a pair of Hunter sweatpants.



▲ Kermit Roosevelt, author of *The Nation That Never Was: Reconstructing America's Story*, at Roosevelt House in front of a portrait of cousin Eleanor.



▲ Reporters Maggie Haberman (right) and Bob Hardt discuss her book *Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America* at the annual Jack Newfield Lecture at Hunter's Kaye Playhouse.



▲ (From left) Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Congressman Jerry Nadler, Assemblymember Alex Bores (HCHS '09), President Raab, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, and Assemblymember Eddie Gibbs at Bores's swearing-in at Hunter in February.

JEWISH STUDIES



▲ (From left) Silverstein Chair and Director of Jewish Studies Leah Garrett, Council Members Eric Dinowitz MSE '09 and Keith Powers, President Raab, students Leah Rubin and Eliza Ynoa, and Hillel Director Merav Fine Braun.

Council Awards \$50,000 to Hunter College to Continue Fighting Anti-Semitism

City Council members presented Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab with a \$50,000 check to expand an innovative campaign fighting anti-Semitism on college campuses.

Hunter has been leading the charge against such hatred since 2018, when President Raab created Hunter's Jewish Studies Center in response to the rise of anti-Jewish attacks. The college engages students through its Multi-Faith Center and its Cooper Fellows—a cohort of Jewish and non-Jewish students studying ways to prevent anti-Semitism.

"Our goal has always been to reach out not just to Jewish students, but to all students on campus," President Raab said. "By ensuring everyone understands the horrors of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, we can make certain that history does not repeat itself."

Council Member and Hunter alum Eric Dinowitz MSE '09 and City Council Majority Leader Keith Powers presented the check to Raab on April 17. The money is provided through Council Speaker Adrienne Adams' new Hate Crimes Prevention initiative.

"I would like to thank President Raab for her commitment to putting an end to hate and promoting truth," Dinowitz said.

Powers added that the funds will also help fulfill one of the missions of the City Council.

"We have prioritized attacking the hate happening in this city by funding those doing the work on the ground and in our institutions," he said.

The Center Director, Professor Leah Garrett, stressed the importance of President Raab's goal of engaging all students in the fight.

"Making friendships across ethnicities is the most effective tool for combating hatred and anti-Semitism," she said. "These funds support a center that is building bridges, fighting hatred, and making sure that Jewish voices remain strong and proud at Hunter and CUNY."

Larry and Klara Silverstein Give Hunter College \$2M for Jewish Studies Chair

Hunter College has received a \$2 million gift from Larry and Klara Silverstein to create the Silverstein Chair and Director of Jewish Studies, President Jennifer J. Raab announced.

Hunter named Professor Leah Garrett as the inaugural Silverstein chair of Jewish Studies.

"We are thrilled to receive this significant gift from these truly generous friends of Hunter, who have been with us every step of the way of my 22-year tenure," President Raab said.

"Under Leah Garrett's leadership, this funding will deepen the impact of our Jewish Studies Center, which has been so successful at engaging students of all faiths with vibrant courses and fascinating extracurricular programming. The more students understand the contributions of Jewish culture and the horrors of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, the more we can ensure that history does not repeat itself."



▲ Larry and Klara Silverstein.

Klara Silverstein '54, MA '56, a former Hunter College Foundation Board chair, praised President Raab's leadership.

"We've been so pleased to participate in President Raab's restoration of Hunter as the jewel in the crown of CUNY," she said. "It's our privilege to support a chair of Jewish Studies, which has flowered under her stewardship."

The Silversteins have given more than \$9 million to Hunter, including endowing the Larry and Klara Silverstein Student Success Center on the seventh floor of the Leon & Toby Cooperman Library.

Leah Garrett's Exciting Approach to Jewish Studies



Hunter College's new Silverstein Chair and Director of Jewish Studies is on a mission to fight anti-Semitism through education. Professor

Leah Garrett explains her goal is to give as many students as possible a taste of Jewish studies, with a focus on providing an immersive experience in Jewish history.

"It's crucial that we have the center not only to show our students and staff that Jewish culture is intrinsic to world culture, but also to have a strong, proud bulwark in the fight against anti-Semitism in New York City," she said.

She has already put into place a vibrant curriculum that includes a monthly lecture series bringing world-renowned scholars to Hunter; regular events at the Roosevelt House on topics such as Jewish women at Hunter; and walking tours of iconic Jewish locations around the city where students can get a taste of classic Jewish cuisine.

A native New Yorker, Garrett has a doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary, did postgraduate studies at Oxford, and received a Fulbright Fellowship to Tel Aviv University.

Her award-winning scholarship consists of five books, including her most recent, the best-seller *X-Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World War II*.



▲ Eva Brust Cooper and the Cooper Fellows displaying their certificates.

Eva Brust Cooper Fellows Receive Certificates

They're ambassadors against hatred. Fourteen Hunter College students recently completed a course that gives them the tools to fight anti-Semitism on campus and in their own lives.

The students—members of the Eva Brust Cooper Fellowship Program, a project of Hunter's Jewish Studies Center—received certificates and met with Eva Cooper HCHS '52, HC '56, MA '58.

A Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor who

funded the program in order to stop the spread of hatred here, Eva Cooper spent part of her childhood hiding on farms and moving by night to escape deportation to Hitler's death camps.

"Eva Cooper's compelling life story—and her extraordinary and timely gift—have helped so many students understand how to counter anti-Semitism and hatred more generally," said Leah Garrett, who heads the program.

The Cooper Fellows attended four seminars on anti-Semitism, learning methods to counteract

hatred and practical ways to speak up against bigotry.

The fellows visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., where they toured exhibits on the rise of Nazism and the "Final Solution" and walked through a cattle car that carried thousands of Jews to death camps.

Along the way, they discussed topics such as racial anti-Semitism, Jewish responses to persecution, America's role in World War II, and more recent genocides, such as the 2017 massacre in Burma of the Rohingya Muslims.



▲ Cooper (right) with JC Santiaguell '23, a former Cooper Fellow, who returned to share his experience with the new cohort during the ceremony.



▲ Hunter alumni Edward Friedman (left) and Isidora Echeverria flank Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and President Raab as the Congress member receives her award. Both Friedman and Echeverria graduated Hunter thanks to policies Pelosi pushed.

Hunter Honors Nancy Pelosi With Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Distinguished Leadership

Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab awarded House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi with the Eleanor Roosevelt Distinguished Leadership Award during a June 8 ceremony at the Kaye Playhouse.

Pelosi, the first female House speaker and arguably the most effective one of this century, became just the second person to receive the Eleanor Roosevelt Award — following Hillary Clinton in 2019 — which President Raab created to recognize remarkable achievements in public service.

“You have wielded the most potent gavel in the nation with authority, panache, fairness, and great consequence,” President Raab said of Pelosi. “Like Eleanor Roosevelt herself, you have championed human rights, civil rights, women’s rights, voting rights, health-choice rights, LGBTQ rights, and, of course, equal pay.”

Presenting the award to Pelosi with President

Raab were two recent Hunter graduates, Isidora Echeverria and Edward Friedman, who exemplified the promise of equal rights for all.

Echeverria, an undocumented “Dreamer” from Chile, is studying to become an advocate for immigrants and refugees at Columbia Law School. She was a Jennifer J. Raab Presidential Public Service Fellow at Hunter, working to help other Dreamers.

Friedman has been a passionate disability justice advocate since high school and earned a prestigious Soros Fellowship to attend Yale Law School. He will spend the summer as a Pauli Murray Diversity Fellow at the firm Paul, Weiss — a laurel named for another extraordinary Hunter alum.

Pelosi called the award recognizing her lifetime achievement a great honor and said that her breaking of the “marble ceiling” to become the first woman speaker was a victory for all women.



▲ Pelosi addresses the Kaye Playhouse crowd.

She thanked President Raab for her stellar leadership and her tireless concern for the well-being of Hunter students, praising the college with a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”



▲ (From far right) Carolyn Maloney, President Raab, Chuck Schumer, Gloria Steinem, Eleanor Smeal, and Jessica Neuwirth during Maloney’s Equal Rights Amendment campaign.

Carolyn Maloney Joins Hunter, Pushes Equal Rights for Women

As the Eleanor Roosevelt Distinguished Leader in Residence at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, former Congress Member Carolyn Maloney is giving her students a hands-on course on how to organize to achieve women’s equality.

“Carolyn exemplifies the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, who shared a commitment to equality and opportunity for all,” said Jessica Neuwirth, distinguished lecturer at Roosevelt House and the Rita E. Hauser Director of its Human Rights Program. “With her unparalleled public-policy savvy, she is showing our fellows how to get things done.”

On March 14, Equal Pay Day, Maloney joined Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab, Congress Member Debbie Dingell (D-MI), a host of feminist luminaries, and Thomas Costa of the Government Accountability Office to introduce the GAO’s most recent report on the male-female pay gap.

In April, Maloney’s students — a cohort of Eva Kastan Grove Fellows — launched a national petition demanding that Congress take steps to make the Equal Rights Amendment the law of the land.

A petition kick-off event featured Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, feminist leaders Gloria Steinem and Eleanor Smeal, President Raab, and others — and brought plenty of press for the cause.

President Raab honored Maloney on June 8 with an honorary doctorate of humane letters for a 30-year congressional career that included such landmark achievements as the Second Avenue Subway, regulating the credit-card

industry, spearheading federal aid for 9/11 victims, and advocating for gun control, equal rights, and health care.

“I’m so privileged to be leading the rising generation to activism, and Hunter’s Grove Fellows are clearly the cream of the crop,” said Maloney.

Maloney also took several students to Washington, D.C., on Feb. 28 to witness the historic Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the ERA in almost 40 years. Maloney introduced a bill in the House to recognize ratification of the ERA before she exited Congress at the end of 2022.



▲ Maloney (center) receives her honorary doctorate of humane letters from her students Bella Ramirez (left) and Asia Khan.

ROOSEVELT HOUSE EXHIBIT



Sara built it



Eleanor sanctified it



Jennifer J. Raab saved it

A new exhibit, **Roosevelt House: Saving a National Treasure for a New Generation**, breaks down the history of the building from its construction, to its use as the birthplace of the New Deal, to its fall into disrepair, and finally, its rescue by Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab. It is free to the public and will be on display through the fall at Roosevelt House, at 47-49 E. 65th St. between Madison and Park Avenues.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

President Raab Presents Dance Icon Jody Gottfried Arnhold with Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters



▲ Jody Gottfried Arnhold, whose promotion of dance education for children enriched the lives of countless New York City students.

Legendary dance educator and advocate Jody Gottfried Arnhold received an honorary doctorate of humane letters June 23 at a ceremony at Roosevelt House.

The longtime chair of Hunter's Dance Advisory Board has spent more than 25 years as a dance educator in New York City public schools — where she learned firsthand that young people are best introduced to dance in elementary school.

She and her husband, John, donated more than \$4 million to Hunter's Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program (AGDEP) — including a gift of \$870,000 for the construction of The Jody, a state-of-the-art dance studio and classroom space on the

▲ Arnhold carefully designed a pin — each element of which symbolizes a central tenet of the AGDEP community — that she presents each year to the graduating class.



▲ (From left) Juilliard School President Damian Woetzel, MoMA PS1 Chair Agnes Gund, Jody Gottfried Arnhold, and President Raab at Roosevelt House.

fifth floor of Thomas Hunter Hall, which opened in 2018.

"Jody, fondly known as the doyenne of dance, is the national advocate for dance education. She shared her many visions and together we realized a big dream," said Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab. "Her leadership has truly been

key to our drive to make Hunter the public school for the arts. She created career paths for generations of dancers at Hunter by launching AGDEP, whose graduates have touched the lives of countless thousands of children in the most joyful of ways."

In the 12 years since AGDEP was launched, some 150 graduates have

brought the artistry and power of dance to city classrooms.

Arnhold's advocacy spurred Hunter to transform its Dance Program into a full-fledged Dance Department, the only one in the CUNY system. Her passion started early — she was just 15 when she stole the keys to her neighborhood dance studio to teach younger children.

Her ties to Hunter run deep: Her mother and two aunts attended. Arnhold's genius has also touched many New York institutions. She created the dance-education laboratory at the 92nd Street Y, which she now chairs, and is a former chair and a driving force of the famed Ballet Hispanico. She was also the executive producer of the Emmy-nominated PS Dance!, which features many AGDEP alums teaching public-school students.

Harper Montgomery Named Bershad Professor and Director of Hunter's Art Galleries

Harper Montgomery, a leading expert in Latin American art, is the new Bershad Professor of Art History and Director of the Hunter College Art Galleries.

In the dual post, Montgomery will lead Hunter's Certificate Program in Advanced Curatorial Studies, which provides training to students planning to work in museums and galleries.

Montgomery, formerly the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Distinguished Lecturer in Latin

American Art, succeeds the retiring Joachim Pissarro.

"Under Harper Montgomery's leadership, the mission of the Hunter galleries will flourish," Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab said. "We thank Joachim Pissarro for his inspirational teaching and the many exciting exhibitions he mounted."

At the Hunter galleries, students work with private and public collections, prominent curators, outside scholars, working artists, and in partnerships with institutions such as the Robert Rauschenberg



▲ Harper Montgomery

and Hans Hofmann foundations.

"It is an enormous honor to lead the Hunter College Art Galleries, which have a long history of training talented students from diverse backgrounds," Montgomery said.

Hunter's Department of Art and Art History recently got a boost from Leonard A. Lauder, who donated \$2 million for its Curatorial Studies Program and \$1 million for graduate Art History fellowships.



▲ Patty and Jay Baker celebrate the opening of the Baker Bridge.

Hunter College Inaugurates the Baker Bridge, Uniting the School's Main Campus

The campus is connected! Since Patty and Jay Baker's \$15 million donation enabled Hunter College to transform a landmark Upper East Side townhouse into the Baker Theatre Building, there has been one thing missing: a way to get there without going outside.

Now, that link exists: a bridge from the Baker Building to the East Building at 68th and Lexington.

"The Bakers are bridge builders in so many ways," President Jennifer J. Raab said. "They connect students to opportunity and achievement."

The Bakers — Patty '82, a Hunter College Foundation trustee and the chair of the Theatre Advisory Board; and Jay, a retail wizard — made it all possible nearly 10 years ago when their donation provided

the funds needed to buy the building, once used as a school, from the Archdiocese of New York.

The bridge leads from the East Building into the new Gruber Lounge, an inviting space for students to relax that features 19th-century columns and Guastavino tile vaults with colorful, modernist tufted furniture funded by Harriet Gruber '51.

Gruber — one of the Theatre Advisory Board's earliest members — generously supported the renovation of the lounge area.

"These incredible people helped make our Theatre Department one of the most extraordinary programs in the country," President Raab said. "They have made our vision of being the public school of the arts a reality."



▲ Harriet Gruber (second from right) and family with President Raab at the lounge opening.

▼ The Harriet Gruber Lounge sports comfortable seating.



EDUCATION AT HUNTER

Hunter Dedicates Early Childhood Classroom Named for Elise C. Tepper and Family



Hunter School of Education students have a new classroom for early childhood teaching, thanks to the generosity of Elise Tepper '56 and her family.

The \$250,000 gift outfitted the Elise C. Tepper and Family Early Childhood Classroom in Hunter's West Building with state-of-the-art furniture, toys, and books to teach language skills to kids in preschool through second grade.

"This is truly the gift that keeps on giving," Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab said at the ribbon-cutting in February. "Every aspect of this classroom's design allows children to explore literacy in a culturally relevant setting."

Tepper studied early childhood at Hunter, taught kindergarten after college, and volunteered for countless hours at her local library, so supporting a developmentally appropriate classroom was a natural.

"This will be a fantastic place for our students to learn the A-B-C's of becoming a teacher," said Tepper, who has two grandchildren who attended Hunter.

Interim Silverstein Dean of the School of Education Jennifer Tuten noted that Thomas Hunter started the college in 1870 to promote teacher excellence.

"Teaching is the hardest of professions and early childhood is the foundation," she said. "This classroom will support the children as they acquire this knowledge."

▲ (Top) President Raab, second from left, and Elise C. Tepper, center, outside the new Early Childhood Classroom.

◀ (Bottom) Students including Zineta Gacevic, Jade Meryll Gomez, Annjalie Chander, Judy Chen, and Ophelia Reyes at the opening.

Hunter Celebrates the Opening of Lounge in Honor of Black Studies Great John Henrik Clarke

Hunter College officially opened the John Henrik Clarke Study Lounge at the ribbon cutting at the Leon and Toby Cooperman Library on April 20.

The lounge, with spectacular views of Manhattan, honors the late Dr. John Henrik Clarke, a founder and the first chair of Hunter's Black and Puerto Rican Studies Department (now the Department of Africana & Puerto Rican/Latino Studies) who taught at the college from 1969 to 1986.

"This institution was so much a part of John Henrik Clarke's life and his legacy," said Dean John Rose '68. "Today we name this beautiful space for a man who

loved this city, its people, and especially Hunter College."

The lounge was the fruit of a years-long fund-raising campaign by Rose and the Wistarians, a group of African American alumni in the arts, education, law, business, government, and public service.

The ceremony was filled with music, as Ralph Carter, who played Michael on *Good Times*, led the gathering in the anthem *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*.

Joyce Jones followed with an inspiring drum solo before Devynity MC '07 enlivened the crowd with her beautiful spoken-word poem about Clarke.

"He was driven by his commitment ... Persistent ... His life's work



▲ Cutting the ribbon at the Clarke Lounge opening.

was dedicated to confirming our existence ... Our light — indeed our brilliance ... This pioneer in education who dug beneath to so bequeath us our reality ... Because of Dr. John Henrik Clarke, I am armed more than adequately ... Proud and I am honored to be a descendant of his legacy."

Other speakers were Professors Mark Payne '82 and Anthony Browne of the Africana & Puerto Rican/Latino Studies Department, Rose, and James E. Conyers '85.

A largely self-taught product of

the Jim Crow South, Clarke was an heir of the Harlem Renaissance who sought to correct the predominant notion in academia that the cultures and thought of people of African descent were unworthy of serious study.

A beloved mentor to generations of students, Clarke founded the African Heritage Studies Association and the Black Caucus of the African Studies Association.

He wrote or edited more than 30 books, including appreciations of Malcolm X and Marcus Garvey.

Two Hunter Professors Named to Academy of Arts and Sciences

We'd like to thank the academy! Distinguished Professor of Psychology Virginia Valian and Philosophy Professor Linda Martín Alcoff have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the academy announced recently.

The academy promotes excellence in the liberal arts, sciences, global affairs, and democracy.

"I'm absolutely thrilled that the academy has recognized the achievements of these wonderful scholars and beloved teachers," said President Jennifer J. Raab, herself a member of the academy, having



▲ Virginia Valian

been elected to it in 2016. "It's yet another sign of Hunter's prominence among academic institutions, not only in America, but across the world."



▲ Linda Martín Alcoff

Valian, an expert on gender equity and the psychology of language, directs the Language Acquisition Research Center and the Gender Equity Project at

Hunter. She also is a member of the doctoral faculties of Psychology, Linguistics, and Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Alcoff, who also teaches at the CUNY Graduate Center and writes on race and gender, is a past president of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division.

Her recent books include *Rape and Resistance: Understanding the Complexities of Sexual Violation* (Polity 2018), *The Future of Whiteness* (Wiley 2015), and *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self* (Oxford University Press 2006), which won the Frantz Fanon Award.

Peskys Fund Learning Lab Director

Thanks to a \$300,000 gift from the late Wendy '62 and Alan Pesky, the Hunter College Learning Lab has a new director, Rhonda Bondie, who will catapult the School of Education's research arm to new heights.

"We are thrilled to have Professor Bondie, a world-class educator, at the helm of the learning lab," Interim Silverstein Dean of the

◀ Rhonda Bondie

School of Education Jennifer Tuten said. "Her great reach will enable us to disseminate more broadly the many insights and data from the lab."

"It's a lasting tribute to Wendy's memory," said Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab.

Before her death last year at age 81, Pesky for years supported efforts to help children with learning

disabilities, and she was especially impressed with Hunter's approach. Bondie will study the effect of a Hunter program in which novice teachers spend a year tutoring students with learning disabilities.

An educator with long experience in urban classrooms, she comes to Hunter from Harvard, where she developed technology that helps teachers foster early literacy.



Leona Chanin, HCHS '34, HC '38

Leona Chanin HCHS '34, HC '38 — a founding Hunter College Foundation board member whose million-dollar grant funded the Leona & Marcy Chanin Language Center — died in Palm Beach, Fla., on Feb. 2, 2022 at age 103. Chanin inspired generations of

alumni through her philanthropy. She was a prominent giver not only to Hunter, but also to a variety of Jewish causes.

Hunter inducted Chanin into its Hall of Fame in 1979 and awarded her an honorary doctorate in 1994. She also was a champion and

supporter of the Hunter College High School Library and the restoration of Roosevelt House.

“Leona was always an amazing presence at events on campus,” Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab said. “Her legacy will live on in our students’ success.”



Charlotte K. Frank, MS ED '66

Charlotte K. Frank MS ED '66, who took what she learned at Hunter's School of Education and revolutionized American classroom instruction, died on May 26, 2022 in Manhattan at age 93.

The daughter of unlettered Eastern European Jewish immigrants, Frank was already a teacher when

she came to pursue her master's at Hunter. She later earned a doctorate from New York University.

Tapped in 1980 to oversee curriculum and instruction for the New York City Board of Education, Frank overhauled the schools with an eye toward increasing equity and countering racial prejudice.

The Hunter College Hall of Famer brought new thinking to reading and math instruction and modernized sex education.

In 1988, Frank brought her knowledge to the educational publishing company McGraw Hill, from which she retired as senior vice president.



Phyllis L. Kossoff '46

Phyllis L. Kossoff '46 — whose endowed lecture series at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute has drawn Supreme Court justices, a Nobel Prize laureate, and other notables — died Nov. 15, 2022 in New York at age 96.

A teacher by training, Kossoff began advocating and raising money

for medical research in the late 1950s — when her infant daughter Stephanie was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. Her advocacy for children stricken by the disease led to her induction into Hunter's Hall of Fame in 1997.

Kossoff championed the revival of Roosevelt House, and soon en-

dowed a lecture series in order to bring, as she wrote, “leading figures in public life for conversation and reflection on pressing issues.”

These have included Justices Stephen Breyer and Sandra Day O'Connor; Nobel laureate Paul Krugman, and litigators David Boies and Theodore B. Olson.



Jane Oppenheim, HCHS '44, HC '47

Jane Oppenheim HCHS '44, HC '47, a long-serving Hunter College Alumni Association board member who headed the Hall of Fame Committee, died on June 10, 2021 in Scranton, Penn.

Oppenheim herself was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992 and received Hunter's Outstand-

ing Community Service Award in 2010. She served on the Hunter College Foundation Board from 2003 to 2021 and was a charter member of the Theatre Advisory Board. She was a devoted supporter of Hunter's library, the Theatre Department and the Mother's Day Scholarship Fund.

A New York native, she supported philanthropies in her adopted state of Pennsylvania, including Keystone College and the Scranton Area Community Foundation. She also served on the boards of Women of Reform Judaism, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and Scranton's Temple Hessed.



Hunter Community Remembers Beloved Film Professor Bob Stanley

chaired the Department of Communications and helped build the Film & Media Department into an internationally recognized powerhouse.

Stanley, who taught at Hunter College for more than 40 years, died last October. He was 82.

“As a scholar, teacher, and author in the media world, Bob was behind the camera, so to speak,” said Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab. “But to those who knew and admired him, Bob was truly a star.”

Stanley, who introduced generations of students to the study of modern media, was an accomplished scholar who wrote several of the most-used books in

university film courses, including *Media Studies: A Cultural-Historical Approach* (2022), *Making Sense of Movies: Filmmaking in the Hollywood Style* (2002), and *The Celluloid Empire: A History of the American Motion Picture Industry* (1978). He served for many years as a judge for the International Emmy Awards of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Speaker after speaker rose to extol his erudition, his scholarship, his dedication, and his wry sense of humor. Stanley was an innovator, incorporating film, video, and sound clips into his lectures. He tirelessly championed the first-time efforts of Hunter's fledgling

film and video producers.

But, most of all, speakers described his intellectual generosity and gentle manner. A student favorite, he shared his commitment to the college with his wife, Hunter Vice President and Dean of Students Eija Ayravainen, who tearfully thanked President Raab and the college for their support during her husband's illness.

Stanley is survived by Eija, their daughter, Katri, and grandson, Kolmas. The Hunter College Foundation has established a scholarship and internship fund for film and media students in Stanley's honor. Donations can be made by visiting <https://hunter.cuny.edu/give/>.

“He was a teacher's teacher.”
“When he was in his office, he was always facing the door, inviting everyone to walk in and chat.”
“He made everyone feel valuable.”

Those were some of the heartfelt reminiscences members of the Hunter family shared at a memorial for Robert “Bob” Stanley, a widely respected faculty member who



Eva Kastan Grove '58

Eva Kastan Grove '58, who endowed a scholars program at the Roosevelt House Institute for Public Policy at Hunter College that provides training for young advocates interested in public service, died May 31 at her home in Los Altos Hills, Calif., at age 87.

Kastan Grove's \$9 million gift also funds scholarships and internships, with a preference to students who are immigrants, the children of immigrants, or are undocumented

A child refugee from Nazi Austria, Kastan Grove spent

her youth in Bolivia and moved to New York at age 18 with her family. At Hunter, she spent many hours at Roosevelt House, which the Roosevelt family deeded to the college in 1943 and the college used for social activities. She met her husband, former Intel chairman Andrew Grove, himself an immigrant from Hungary, when he was a student at City College. “Hunter opened the doors to America for me,” she said.

Kastan Grove dedicated her life to giving back, guided by Hunter's motto, *mihi cura futuri* — the care of the future is

mine. An activist by nature who volunteered, marched, and wrote op-eds, Kastan Grove supported Hunter's Immigrant Student Success Center for first-generation Americans and immigrants.

“Eva Kastan Grove understood that those reaching for the American Dream must constantly advocate to ensure their rights and freedoms,” said Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab. “Her legacy is a cadre of graduates with the finest education in the nation, many of whom work in top public-policy positions. We will miss her greatly.”

HUNTER

Hunter College of The City University of New York
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MEET FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER **ALEX KOHEN**



Alex Kohen HCHS '05, MHC '09, a two-time Hunter alumnus and now, board member, truly bleeds Hunter purple.

As a student at Hunter College High School, where he commuted to and from Queens, Kohen's academic prowess, commitment to service and community, as well as his leadership potential began to shine. Outside of the classroom — where he naturally excelled — Kohen spent his spare time volunteering at an environmental center, and at the Jewish cultural awareness club. He also became active in student government.

So when Kohen enrolled as a Macaulay Scholar at Hunter College in 2005 — one of the earliest cohorts — it was no surprise that he quickly became a student leader on

campus. He served as Undergraduate Student Government finance commissioner, vice president, and eventually, president. He was also a member of the steering committee for the Middle States Commission of Higher Education.

He worked with education policy expert Professor Joseph Viteritti researching how high schools can improve college access for low-income students — interviewing students, faculty, and administrators at the brand-new Manhattan Hunter Science High School.

He twice participated in a winter study abroad in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil — a historic venue, as the primary port of the African slave trade — and learned Portuguese. As a senior, he interned at Blacksmith NYC, a music company that manages artists.

That's when he discovered that he didn't want to go into entertainment law.

"It helped me close doors that I didn't want to open," Kohen said.

Kohen graduated co-valedictorian, Phi Beta Kappa, and summa cum laude with a degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Urban Studies, and Political Science, and went on to earn his law degree from New York Uni-

versity Law School, armed with a clearer focus, thanks to Hunter's Pre-Law Program, in 2012. Within a year, he became active with the program as an alum, serving as a mentor to help ensure future Hunter students would benefit from the programming, courses, and internships.

It was natural to quickly give back to the school that had given him so much. So when Kohen — who worked closely with President Jennifer J. Raab, as both an undergraduate student leader and as an alum with the Pre-Law Program — approached her about his interest in becoming involved on boards, she stopped him in his tracks.

"I had been inquiring about the possibility of joining a different board, and she said, 'Why would you join a different board? I am about to ask you to join this one!'"

Since joining the Hunter College Foundation Board in 2014, Kohen has served on both the audit and investment committees. He quickly partnered with Abhinav "Anshu" Prasad, a fellow HCHS graduate and chair of the audit committee, to ensure the board paid close attention to furthering the interests of the Hunter College Campus Schools in addition to those of the college.

He has also set his sights on forging the bonds of Hunter's Macaulay Honors College alumni with their alma mater. He is the leading voice on reconnecting those alumni to the school that enabled them to achieve the American Dream. His mission is to create a Hunter Macaulay network, encouraging alumni like himself to give back both philanthropically as well as by mentoring and providing opportunities for the next generation.

Now a director at BNP Paribas, a French international banking group with assets valued at \$2.8 trillion, Kohen recently stepped up to chair the HCF investment committee at a critical time with the advent of the \$52 million gift from Leonard A. Lauder and an endowment that has grown to \$180 million.

"It is an honor beyond measure to serve the school that changed my life," said Kohen. "To do so at such a historic moment, with the transformative gift from Leonard A. Lauder, is a testament to the power of being a part of the Hunter College family. They provide you with the tools to make a difference, and they nurture you to become the very leaders who will ensure that legacy lives on for countless future Hunter students."