



# UPDATE

Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund

## Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund

P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101  
(703) 448-0436

Published by the **Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund.**

### OUR VISION

#### YOU MAKE THE POWER OF YOUNG IDEAS POSSIBLE



Hunter Watson

Where will the next great ideas come from? Who will provide the insight, inspiration and hard work to create a better tomorrow? The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund believes young people hold the answers to these questions. Young people are using their talents and passions to find ways to improve the world. Their dreams are of things yet to be seen. While we don't know what tomorrow will bring, we do know that today's youth and their ideas will be propelling the changes to come.

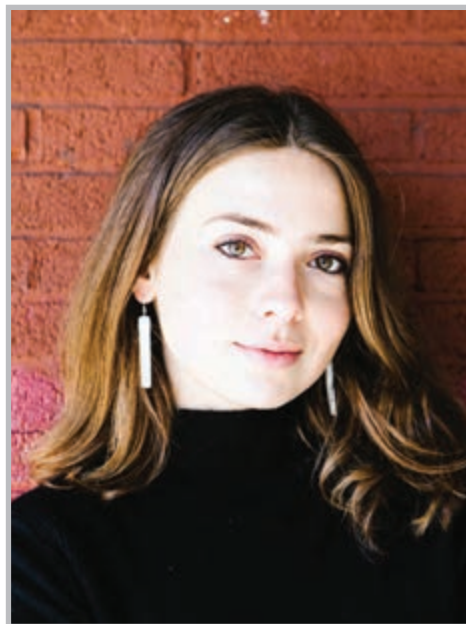
The HBW Memorial Fund invests in young people who have demonstrated talent, experience and passion. The grants you make possible reward innovation and reflect the talents and passions that Hunter Watson brought to his life. They honor his legacy, and provide support for young people who also approach life with powerful ideas. We hope these grants will carry on what Hunter inspired.

#### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are deeply honored that you have placed your trust in the Hunter Watson Fund's work. We work hard to make the most of every dollar you donate by using volunteers and keeping overhead costs low. When you give to the Fund, you can give with confidence, knowing that 100% of your gift will propel young people's dreams and help end distracted driving.

## You Made Five New Grants Possible

*The Committee's multi-stage evaluation and ranking resulted in the following five grants being awarded in the most recent grant cycle:*



### Nastasya Popov

on a brother and sister from a Russian family. The film's story, which Nastasya acknowledges is in part somewhat auto-biographical, aims "to investigate cross-generational strain under tough circumstances."

Clearly passionate about film and its ability to tell complicated stories about the human experience, Nastasya has displayed a talent and sensitivity that is very much in tune with the goals of the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund.

**Hometown:** Alameda, California    **Area of Interest:** Music Production

Lorenzo Wood may only be a high school junior, but he's also a talented young man with broad experience in the music field. He's the operator of Lorenzo Wood Music Studios and has already been working in various areas of commercial music for over four years.

Beginning at age 14, Lorenzo started performing as a singer/musician. It was then that he also set up a studio to record both his own music and that of other young musicians in the Oakland-East Bay area. His musical work has included leading three bands and performing in several others as a singer, or a musician on drums, bass, guitar or keyboards.

His work in music was what drove Lorenzo to apply for an HBW Memorial Fund grant. While he has had a recording studio setup for several years, he has not been able to acquire the professional computer programs and equipment that would allow him to produce high-quality recording sessions for himself and his clients.

Lorenzo will now use this HBW Memorial Grant to acquire a top-grade audio interface, accompanying extensions, and professional-quality microphones. With these improvements, he will be able to record and process quality, professional-level recordings in a small, non-stressful environment.

**Hometown:** Brooklyn, New York    **Area of Interest:** Filmmaker

The Brighton Beach neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, is known for a large number of Russian-speaking immigrants living in this ocean-front community near Coney Island. It's an area in which Russian culture has flourished and in which Nastasya Popov, the daughter of Russian immigrants herself, sees the material for the film she wants to make.

Nastasya, a graduate of Northwestern University with a major in radio, TV, film and screenwriting, is not new to the art of filmmaking. She has already completed 4 previous films -- two of them documentaries and two of them narrative shorts. She previously received a competitive grant from Northwestern for the production of her earlier film, "Healing Chicago."

With the HBW Memorial Grant, Nastasya will be able to begin production on a short film about Brighton Beach focusing



### Lorenzo Wood

## HBW UPDATE

Published by Hunter Brooks  
Watson Fund  
SPRING 2019

### OUR VISION

To live in a world where our youth may follow their hearts.

### OUR MISSION

The Hunter Brooks Watson Fund seeks out young people who dream of something they are deeply curious and passionate about and gives them the resources to explore that passion. Our goal is to support the young person financially, mentor their journey and give them the chance to change the course of their lives.

### CHAIRMAN

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Matt Kimm  
Hannah Kliot  
Matthieu Menand  
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Mark Ramsey  
Jason Reif  
Matt Salutillo  
Will Snape  
Connor Sweeney  
Ted Watson

### DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER

Kathy Ward, CFRE

Tell us what you think about what we are doing. Send your comments and suggestions to: Editor, HBW Update, P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101 or email to editor@hunterwatson.org. All letters are assumed to be intended for publication unless otherwise noted.

# You Made Five New Grants Possible

(Continued from page 1)



## Keston Baynes

Several years later he graduated cum laude in the field of computer science and followed that with a position in a bank in Kingston, soon moving up to the head teller position. While he clearly was being successful, Keston also realized that his education and work were not fulfilling his real ambition -- to become a pilot.

Interest in aviation has grown in St. Vincent since the recent opening of a new international airport. It's helping spur the tourism economy while also creating an immediate need for new pilots for the growing number of local airlines.

Keston has begun working toward his goal of becoming a commercial pilot. He will be beginning training shortly in a commercial aviation program in Florida. As might be expected, it is both a difficult and expensive career option to pursue. Keston's HBW Memorial Fund grant is providing an initial first step toward his goals and is helping secure the educational loans he will need to complete the commercial airline pilot training program.

**Hometown:** Kingston, St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
**Area of Interest:** Commercial Pilot's License

Imagine yourself as a young man in a relatively poor Caribbean country with ambitions that might not seem attainable to most. This certainly seemed to be the case for Keston Baynes as he was growing up in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

But Keston wasn't willing to accept what might seem impossible odds. At the age of 14, he won a tennis scholarship that enabled him to travel alone to Florida for tennis training.

**Hometown:** Minneapolis, Minnesota    **Area of Interest:** Music and Film

Ryan Bloomingdale looks at the world in a different way than most of us. He tends to see it in terms of the music he composes and performs, the poetry he writes, the photographs he takes and the films he makes. Yes, he is someone with artistic talent and someone driven to produce original creations that communicate to the world.

Now a senior at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Ryan applied for the HBW Memorial Fund Grant to help fund the recording studio and instruments that he will need as he completes his senior thesis in the coming year. An accomplished musician and performer, he will be using piano, guitar and drums in support of his songwriting work.

Ryan has demonstrated through his past efforts that he is able to identify his interests and then is willing to go to considerable lengths to carry them out. His talents, his experiences as a performer, and his artistic vision are but some of the reasons he was such a strong candidate for and winner of a HBW Memorial Fund Grant.



## Ryan Bloomingdale

**Hometown:** Columbia, Illinois    **Area of Interest:** Art Entrepreneur



## Carter Nelson

allowing his clients to choose the design wanted and, if desired, even to supply a piece of wood with special significance for the client onto which the original design will be burned.

Carter, a junior in high school and a gifted competitive swimmer, has a love for the outdoors and nature which is part of the reason for using the sun's power to help create his art. He also wants his business to be aiding the community and is designating ten percent of the company's proceeds to support the Soul River charity, a group that benefits veterans suffering from PTSD and inner-city youth by creating opportunities for them to experience nature.

His creative talents and his entrepreneurial passion closely matches the talents and interests that Hunter Watson displayed in his life.

All it takes is a steady hand, patience, and a good deal of artistic talent. Seventeen year-old Carter Nelson has all of that and when he adds a sunny day and a magnifying glass he has the basics for the "Burning Love" business he is developing and for which he is receiving a Hunter Watson Memorial Fund grant.

This young entrepreneur is starting a business in "solar pyrography," an artistic endeavor that uses the focused power of the sun to burn creative designs into wood. Carter's business will personalize these artistic efforts by





Jake Levingston and Robert O'Brien organized the Potomac School Safe Driving Campaign.

## 50% of Potomac High School Students Sign "Hunter's Pledge"

The Potomac School's Boys Leading Boys Club is the first to sponsor this campaign at a High School where they were able to get more than half the students at the high school to sign Hunter's Pledge Not to Drive Distracted. Hunter Watson was a graduate of The Potomac School along with 7 members of the HBW Fund Founders Committee.

Boys Leading Boys' mission is to bring together young men, in order to raise awareness about sexual assault and explore key principals of consent. In addition to learning about sexual assault and the principles of consent, Boys leading Boys provides a path for young men to make significant change within the male culture to create a world where sexual assault does not exist

# Two Unspeakable Losses Brought Fraternity Brothers Together

## Greek Students Continue Syracuse's Safe Driving Week



The two tragic accidents happened just a few months apart.

It was late 2016. The members of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity's Syracuse University Chapter began the school year reeling from the death of their brother and friend, 20-year-old Hunter Watson. Earlier that summer, Hunter had died as a passenger in a distracted driving accident. Then, in October, the chapter lost a second brother when senior Vinny Maugeri was fatally injured after his car crashed and caught fire.

Eric "Rick" Donlick and Cam Kerry had just begun their freshman year at Syracuse. The student deaths rocked this closeknit college community, and the young men recall the deep impression made on them by members of Phi Kappa Psi who paid glowing tribute to Hunter and Vinny. "It was clear these guys genuinely care about each other," Rick says. "Yes," Cam echoes, "hearing about Hunter was extremely influential in my choosing to join this strong brotherhood."

With the support of Hunter's father, Jerry Watson, the brothers held their campus's first-ever "Safe Driving Week" that fall. The effort was a campus-wide campaign to spread awareness of

the dangers of distracted driving — beginning with a candlelight vigil in honor of Hunter. (It was during this week that Maugeri lost his life.)

Repeating the effort in 2017, Rick and Cam took part in preparing to reach even more students. Distributing educational literature and awareness-building mementos at tables set up throughout campus, they and their chapter brothers worked hard to urge as many fellow students as possible to sign Hunter's pledge to end distracted driving.

This October, as philanthropy co-chairs, Rick and Cam, along with Aram Leighton, spearheaded the initiative in its third year.

"It keeps growing every year. This year we raised almost \$6,000 in charitable donations for safe driving, and we got an additional 1,200 students to sign the pledge," Cam notes. "That's on top of over 3,500 signatures from the past two years. That's a pretty good percentage of students given that Syracuse's enrollment is around 14,000."

Each day of the week between October 16-20 featured at least one major campus-wide educational or fundraising event. Following the successful tabling day, October 18 featured a social media blitz, with every one of the 78 chapter brothers taking to Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, and Twitter to raise money and awareness. Friday's culmination saw brisk

T-shirts sales, with students lining up for "Pie Phi Psi" in which participants paid \$3 to toss a pie at Phi Psi brothers volunteering to make the Safe Driving Week finale a financial success.

Asked why they think more drivers of all ages who understand the risks of driving while distracted still do it, Rick and Cam reflect thoughtfully:

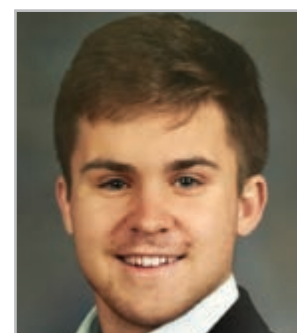
"I think it's that they don't believe it can happen to them. They don't realize how prevalent the problem is. It only takes one little mistake. Everyone sees it happening, but it always seems it will be to someone else," Cam says. "When I was in high school, I remember driving; I looked down for a second to grab a sip of my drink, and the person in front of me slammed on their brakes. Literally in that split second, it was that unpredictable thing that happened. I hit him. Luckily, no one got hurt."

Rick notes, "And actually, some people are just stubborn. We talked to some students who said, 'Hey, I understand, and I respect that ... but I am unwilling to change.' So they were honest in not wanting to make this commitment. What we

say about distracted driving holds true for all kinds of other activities, like drinking and driving. Being in this house and knowing two brothers passed away so young, that makes it a real thing for us. A number of people who signed the pledge said, 'Yes, I lost a family member to distracted driving.' Or, 'I went to high school with Hunter.' So when it hits close to home, that's the biggest thing that makes it real."

And so, from two tragic accidents, two unspeakable losses, that brought a group of fraternity brothers closer than ever, a great deal of good has come, and will for many years to come.

*Rick, Cam, and Aram extend a special thanks to Jerry Watson, who attended the Syracuse candlelight vigil and tabling day on campus, and their brothers, whose enthusiasm for Safe Driving Week knew no bounds. In future years, as Phi Psi active brothers who didn't know Hunter or Vinny take over the event, the Safe Driving Week in their memory is expected to continue as a primary philanthropic focus at the chapter.*



Members of the Syracuse Phi Psi Philanthropic Committee (Left to Right): Aram Leighton, Cam Kerry, Rick Donlick



# University of Alabama Students Sign "Hunter's Pledge"

*"I definitely want to see this event come back next year, and I hope it can spread to more schools, too."*



Nicholas Georgas is referring to the first-ever Safe Driving Campaign conducted at the University of Alabama. The junior marketing major, who serves as his fraternity chapter's philanthropy chairman, was instrumental in bringing the weeklong effort to campus during the last week in October.

"Our Phi Kappa Psi Chapter Advisor, Marc Robins, had attended our fraternity's Grand Arch Council, where Jerry Watson was speaking. Mr. Watson was a founding member of my Alabama Chapter in 1964. Our fraternity charter had started a

Safe Driving Campaign at Syracuse University, following his son Hunter's death in an accident due to a distracted driver."

Nick enthusiastically agreed to help spread the initiative by heading up a similar effort at Alabama, where some 35,000 students are enrolled.

"We have 140 active members in our chapter, and everybody got super on-board with helping out. That really made me happy. Our main activity was manning tables around campus for two straight days, seven hours each day. We had posters, information, wristbands, and stickers.

The goal was to get students to sign a pledge to end distracted driving. Statistics say that people who sign a pledge like this are 47% more likely to change their habits."

For Nick, the drive had personal meaning. "I was hit by a distracted driver right before I started college. I was only a couple blocks from my home, with my younger brother in the car. The driver in front of me stopped suddenly. I had to slam on my brakes, and the driver behind me was on her cell phone and hit us. The car was totaled, but thankfully everyone was OK. She was very apologetic ... and it's not just millennials who are the problem."

The Alabama Phi Psi's set an ambitious goal to secure more than 3,500 signatures, representing about 10% of undergraduate enrollment. "After those two days, we were at just over 2,500 — but the brothers and I are continuing some efforts by talking with other groups and students,

so that number will go up."

Georgas and his chapter brothers are going to add to their efforts this coming spring. "We plan to do a 'Pie Phi Psi' pie-throwing fundraiser on campus, have a raffle and rent out a restaurant, plus hold a weeklong letter-writing campaign to friends, family, and alumni to ask them to donate and sign the pledge." Funds raised will support next year's Safe Driving Week, along with the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund, the charitable foundation created by Hunter's friends that funded the inaugural Campaign.

"I probably won't be serving as philanthropy chairman next year," Nick says. "But I'll definitely be helping whoever is."

Nicholas Georgas is studying marketing and criminology. According to CBS news station 42, 16 people died in Alabama as a result of texting and driving in 2017, and state troopers issued 781 texting-while-driving citations.

## Keeping Promises: Do Pledges Work?

The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines pledge as a promise of performance -- powerful words -- but do they mean anything? Now there is compelling research to suggest that gaining a [written] commitment has a positive effect on changing long-term behavior.<sup>1</sup> Here's how some of the key elements of the HBW Fund's distracted driving campaign events have been validated by this research:

- **Public commitments work better than private ones** – the HBW Fund sponsors events on college campuses, providing a public venue for students to sign pledge cards along with fellow students, adding a little "peer pressure" to every event.
- **Written, specific commitments are better than vague verbal ones**

– the HBW Fund provides pledge cards at its sponsored events.

- **Remind people of their written commitment and their behavior** – the HBW Fund provides wristbands for pledge card signers. Wearing a wristband and seeing it every time they are behind the wheel of a car— whether it's two weeks or two months after they signed the distracted driving pledge -- will be a constant reminder of the dangers of distracted driving. This will help the HBW Fund achieve its goal of saving lives.

- **Regular reminders** – HBW Fund sends email reminders including safety tips on the dangers of distracted driving to pledge signers who have provided an email address.

**Signing Our Pledge  
Can Change Behavior By**

# 47%

Supported by the  
Hunter Watson Memorial Fund

*Did you know that studies have shown that **pledge signers change their behavior 47% of the time?***

Thankfully, many large companies like ATT, Toyota, and AAA are using PSA's to make people aware of the dangers of distracted driving. However, the research shows that the most effective tool is the use of a written, signed pledge – just what the HBW Fund is doing already!

So, it appears that gaining a written pledge is a worthwhile way to increase the likelihood that behavior change efforts will have effective long-term results. This supports the HBW Fund's distracted driving campaign strategy to save lives by reducing the incidence of distracted driving.

<sup>1</sup>Awake provides psychology-based services to support the development of sustainable behavior in individuals, groups and organizations. Visit [www.awake.com.au](http://www.awake.com.au) for more info



**Sandy Johnson**

### A Pledge Brother's Mom Gets Involved

Hunter was a pledge brother and friend of my son Jack at Syracuse; his death devastated Jack and his entire fraternity. Having lost my mother at age 16, I could relate to the pain that the boys felt in the loss of someone so young. For most, it was their first experience losing a friend so suddenly and it had a tremendous impact on them.

To make sure Hunter would not be forgotten, Jack became actively involved with the HBW Memorial Fund scholarship committee at Syracuse. Several fraternity brothers as well as Hunter's other friends got tattoos to never forget him!

Learning about Hunter and his family compelled me to help, so we began supporting the HBW Fund. I was impressed by an unexpected thank you call from his father -- his passion was contagious. As a family, we participate in the charities we support, like volunteering and donating food and other things people need. So, I feel inspired to become more involved with the HBW Fund, and, I intend to explore ways to do so. Our family supports causes with a clear and strong message. To me, the HBW Fund's message is that there are consequences to everything we do, and unfortunately, Hunter's death was the consequence of someone else's action. The HBW Fund's support for distracted driving campaigns to educate college kids to drive responsibly is a powerful message.

I think it's important for the HBW Fund to grow and expand and I would be happy to help. I have experience in this area - I started a company in Chicago and expanded it to 20 markets in 11 years. We had a non-profit component as well.

I would definitely ask my friends and family to support the HBW Fund. By setting up a recurring monthly gift we became HBW Fund mentors early, and we encourage others to consider doing so. We are in the habit of making year end gifts to our favorite charities, and we do that as well.

I think high school age students would benefit tremendously from distracted driving campaigns as well because more high school kids (than college kids) have cars. Many students in high school, as in my own family, drive to their sports and activities, their jobs, their social events. They are new drivers too. The education should start before they even get their licenses.

### Make A Lasting Difference

You can help provide for the future of the HBW Fund Grants Program by leaving a gift in your will to the Fund. We recommend that you consult with your attorney when drafting a new will, or when changing an existing will or creating a living revocable trust, if you wish to include a gift for the HBW Grants Program and Safe Driving Program.

HBW Fund official name: **The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund**

HBW Fund mailing address: **P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101**

HBW Fund telephone number: **(703) 448-0436**

HBW Fund identification: **A not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code**

HBW Fund tax-exempt number: **EIN 83-0574041**

#### Sample Language

*"I give, devise and bequeath to the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund for its general purposes [state fraction or percentage of the rest, residue and remainder] or [the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_] in my estate, both, real or personal"*

#### For additional information, please contact:

Kathy Ward, Volunteer Development Director, Hunter Watson Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 326, McLean, VA 22101, Phone: 1-703-448-0436

### GRANTS PROGRAM

- I am enclosing my tax-deductible gift to help the HBW Fund continue to seek out young people who dream of things about which they are deeply curious and passionate and provide them the resources to explore that passion.

### SAFE DRIVING CAMPAIGN

- Yes, I want to expand the Hunter's Pledge Safe Driving Campaign.**
- \$20 will buy 300 Pledge Forms
- \$50 will pay for 50 Posters
- \$100 will pay for 750 "I Pledged" Stickers
- \$500 will pay for 750 Wrist Bands
- \$1,500 will pay for a Total Campaign on most campuses

### TAX GUIDES

- Please send me complimentary copies of the Tax Guides.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

This Gift is in  memory  honor of :

- I want to charge my gift.

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL THIS FORM TO HUNTER WATSON MEMORIAL FUND, P.O. BOX 326 • MCLEAN, VA 22101 • Please make check payable to HUNTER WATSON MEMORIAL FUND. Contributions are tax deductible.



# Meet The Founders Committee

Each member of the Founders Committee was a close friend of Hunter Watson. Their encouragement led the Watson family to establish the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund. At first, the family thought this group of college-age students would award financial aid scholarships to students, but when they met for the first time it became clear they had something more unique in mind. They wanted to support young people's creativity, helping them explore their passions and pursue their dreams. Two years later, the committee has reviewed and graded dozens of applications and identified more than 20 such dreamers who could not have explored their dreams without financial assistance. Each of our grantees is also being "mentored" by one of the Founders listed below.



## Luigi Ambrosi

(Milan, Italy):

2017 graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in Business Management and Anthropology. Hunter and Luigi became childhood friends sharing holidays together on the island of Mustique. Luigi's fondest memories are from playing together on the beach to the time Hunter wanted Luigi to be the manager of his Blackout Band and on to discovering the world of girls with Hunter, while being gentlemen of course. Luigi has been important to developing support for our grants program to help aspiring musicians and students in the West Indies. Now working for Ambrosi USA in New York City.



## Abigail Breslin

(Hollywood, CA):

Oscar Nominated Actress and singer/song writer. Abigail became a close friend after collaborating with Hunter's brother Teddy Watson on musical recordings and performances. She encouraged Hunter's interests in rap music, acting and comedy.



## Madeleine Bunbury

(Gillingham Dorset, UK):

Madeleine, an emerging young artist, grew up on the Island of Mustique, the daughter of the Island's doctor. Hunter's family vacationed on the Island each year since Hunter was born and Madeleine became one of his closest friends as they grew up together. Now based in Gillingham Dorset, UK, Madeleine has an established career in fine arts and is internationally in demand for her talent for capturing the beauty of horses. Madeleine manages the Fund's program to mentor grant winners from St. Vincent.



## Liam Catto

(Boulder, CO):

Senior at the University of Colorado studying Business and Advertising. Liam was part of a close-knit group at Potomac high school often known as the "Band of Brothers". But rather than becoming a "clique", they became a self-appointed welcoming committee for all students to make sure they felt included in the community they loved. And, they made sure their other classmates didn't take the pressure of an intense academic environment too seriously.



## Forrest Crane

(Washington, DC):

2018 graduate University of Kentucky studying Political Science and Business Management. Another member of Hunter's "Band of Brothers" at Potomac high school who loved Hunter and always joined him in suppressing the pressures of academic life as much as possible. Forrest is now continuing his studies at the University of Kentucky and working.



## Chris Dale

(Washington, DC):

2017 graduate of the University of Virginia with a degree in History. Hunter and Chris became friends at a young age and stayed close over the years as they vacationed together on Mustique and both went to Potomac School. Even though they were a year apart, they remained close and bonded over sports, going out and a generally adventurous attitude that would sometimes get them in trouble. Now working with Marcus and Millchap in Washington, D.C.



## Yannick Della Shavia

(Santa Monica, CA):

2017 graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in Operations and Information Management. Hunter and Yannick were close childhood friends from vacationing on the island of Mustique. Yannick's fondest memories of his childhood in Mustique were the days he spent hanging out playing video games with Hunter and Matt (Salutillo). Yannick has been important to developing support for our grants program to help students in the West Indies. Now working in management with Anheuser-Busch InBev in Los Angeles, California.



## Ilana Dunn

(New York, NY):

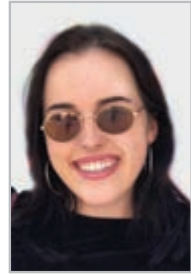
2016 Syracuse University graduate now working for Hinge, a start up in NYC. Hunter never knew Ilana but was responsible for saving her life in a near tragic incident at Syracuse. Ilana and her family's gratitude and support for the Fund was so impactful that we asked her to join the Committee and she spearheaded the development of our sophisticated on line Grants Application and grading program.



## Zack Green

(New York, NY):

2017 graduate of the University of Michigan where he studied political science. Hunter and Zack became close friends while vacationing on the island of Mustique. The friendship formed between Hunter, Zack, and board member Hannah Kliot was forged through childhood adventures in the Caribbean and maintained through contact in the States. Hunter's innate confidence and humor. Now working with First Access Entertainment on a documentary that is set to a feature film!



## Hanna Horvath

(New York, NY):

2018 graduate of Syracuse University in news and online journalism. Hanna first met Hunter in high school, and followed him to Syracuse where they remained great friends. Hanna is now working as a financial reporter for a tech startup in New York City.



## Matt Kimm

(Austin, TX):

Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Advertising and a minor in Business. Matt was part of a close-knit group at Potomac high school often known as the "Band of Brothers". Matt works in digital marketing, works as a electronic musician on the weekends and runs the Fund's social media program.



## Hannah Kliot

(New York, NY):

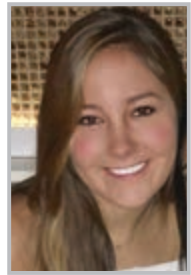
CNBC Associate Producer and 2017 graduate of Northwestern University, where she studied broadcast journalism. Hannah, from New York City, and Hunter met on vacation in the 8th grade and were close friends from that moment on. He adored her family and always tried to see them when he visited NYC.



## Matthieu Menand

(Tracy, CA):

Arriving on campus from France not knowing what to expect from a campus environment far away from his beautiful hometown of Senlis, he walked into the dorm and there was Hunter with his big handshake, smile and warm welcome, knowing "just a little" French and so they immediately became close friends. Matthieu never looked back and attributes his love for Syracuse to Hunter. Now working with Amazon in California.



## Jordan Parent

(Blacksburg, VA):

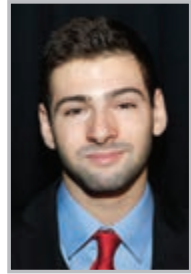
Junior at Virginia Tech studying Computer Science and Cyber Security. Jordan met Hunter in 2014 at a concert and bonded over their passions for music, the tech world, and the enjoyment they felt while spending time together. Instantly they began a loving and adventurous relationship that continued for the last two years of Hunter's life.



## Mark Ramsey

(Charlottesville, VA):

Senior at The University of Virginia studying Economics, Entrepreneurship, and Classical Studies. Mark, who gave a moving speech at Hunter's memorial service, met Hunter in Kindergarten and says they became close friends during their sophomore year at Potomac high school. Mark and Hunter had so much in common that many thought they would eventually end up in business together. They shared the same enthusiasm for discussing new ideas, studying the disruptive technologies of tomorrow, traveling, and most importantly, forging lifelong friendships. Mark says he fondly remembers Hunter for his wide-ranging obsession with music, which in turn introduced Mark to some of his favorite genres.



## Jason Reif

(New York, NY):

2018 graduate of Syracuse University with degrees in Finance, Accounting and Information Management & Technology. Freshman year floor-mate with Hunter at Syracuse. Jason was one of the brightest friends Hunter ever had and it was Jason's intellect and curiosity that inspired Hunter to focus on his grades and want to achieve academically. In Hunter's last year when we would FaceTime Hunter we would always see Jason next to him, working on a class assignment. Now working with NBC in New York City.



# Meet The Founders Committee

*Continued from page 6*



## Matt Salutillo

(Fairfax, VA):

2017 graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Art and Architecture. Matthew and Hunter have been friends since the day they were born. Matthew went just about everywhere with Hunter and they were as close as brothers. Following graduation, Matthew joined an international volunteer organization to help kids with special needs in Vietnam and is now with Lansdowne Resort as an events manager.



## Will Snape

(New York, NY):

2018 graduate of Trinity College majoring in Urban Studies. Will said that throughout Potomac high school he would try everything he could to be placed in as many classes with Hunter as he could. He said Hunter's personality brought enthusiasm and a lightheartedness to campus life that made him look forward to going to school in the morning. Now working with Darktrace, a cyber security firm in New York City.



## Connor Sweeney

(Great Falls, VA)

2017 graduate of Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania majoring in Economics and minoring in Business. When Connor entered Potomac in 7th grade Hunter became his mentor to get him acquainted with the new school. At first he deeply missed the friends he had left behind but Hunter quickly made him fall in love with Potomac. This led to a longtime friendship with Hunter and his friends, who are his best friends to this day. Connor says Hunter was the center of attention at Potomac and brought a special energy to everyday school life that made learning easier at such a challenging school. Now working as a Mobile Application Consultant at GoCanvas in Reston, VA.



## Teddy Watson

(New York, NY)

Hunter's older brother. 2016 graduate of New York University with a degree in Computer Science. Recently returned from an internship in Tokyo with a technology startup specializing in Virtual Reality technology and is now enrolled in the MBA program at Stern School of Business in New York City.

## Looking for Enthusiastic, Passionate Young People.



5th Round HBW Fund Grants are now open for those age 16 to 25.

Deadline is June 15, 2019.  
Applications available at:  
[www.hunterwatson.org](http://www.hunterwatson.org)

The Hunter Watson Memorial Fund is a tax exempt Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which was formed to award grants and scholarships to promising students and promotes programs to improve of the safety of our young people.

 **DON'T MISS FUTURE NEWSLETTERS,**  
SIGN UP AT: [WWW.HUNTERWATSON.ORG](http://WWW.HUNTERWATSON.ORG)



## Meet a Founder's Committee Member: Abigail Breslin

*Abigail Breslin is an Academy-Award nominated actress and a singer. She supports the Hunter Watson Fund as a member of the Founder's Committee for the Hunter Watson Fund and as a philanthropic donor.*

### Abigail Breslin

Many of you know me as Little Miss Sunshine – a great role

I was privileged to play in my early acting career. Since then, I've played a lot of roles but there are none I'm prouder of than my role as a member of the Founder's Committee for the Hunter Watson Fund.

Hunter Watson was my friend and anyone who called Hunter a friend is a very lucky person indeed. He touched people's hearts in such a genuine and caring way. At his memorial service, they played videos that Hunter's dad recorded every year on his birthday. In one video, his dad asked him, "Who are your best friends." Hunter replied, "I don't want to name them because I don't want to leave any one out." That was the Hunter I knew . . . always working to make everyone in the room feel welcome and appreciated.

Hunter was also one of the most multi-talented human beings I know. I used to tease him, "You're so annoying. You're good at everything." At one point, he and I decided we were going to make a rap music mix tape. Neither one of us knew how to rap. But Hunter set his mind to it and, sure enough, he was good at that too.

I still think of Hunter regularly. When I'm at a music festival and think, "Hunter would love this band." And each year when I review the applications from young people applying for grants from the Hunter Watson Fund. I read every application attentively and ask myself . . . "What would Hunter like about this person?" and "Do I see some of Hunter in this person's dreams?"

It's the time of year when I can most feel Hunter's presence. What makes this organization so amazing is that it really is carrying on who Hunter was and keeping his spirit alive. Hunter understood that he was privileged to be able to pursue his passion for music, sports and entrepreneurship. He believed every person should have the same opportunity to pursue their dreams. And now, through the Hunter Watson Fund grants, he is making that possible for dozens of young people.

I spoke to Hunter just a couple days before he died. Hunter had noticed my Facebook posts were not as perky as usual, so he called to check on me. He listened as I told him how much dating sucked. I'll never forget the last thing he said to me. "Well, Abs, all guys have issues but just try to choose the nicest one. You'll be fine because you're a good person and good people find good people."

I guess good people really do find good people and I'm deeply grateful that I found Hunter Watson in my life. Let's all continue to keep his spirit alive by generously supporting the Hunter Watson Fund.



## I Would Not be Alive Today if Not for Hunter



**Ilana Dunn**

I'll never forget the day I got the phone call telling me Hunter Watson had died. I was home sitting at the dinner table with my parents. We all broke down.

My parents had never met Hunter, and at the time I couldn't have told you much about him. Regardless, we did know the world had just lost one of its most remarkable people.

I had only met Hunter once. It was the night that he saved my life.

I literally wouldn't be here today if not for Hunter's kindness and courage. It's hard for me to talk about what happened, but if sharing my story helps others see how good he was and encourages people to lend their support to the charity that bears his name, I'm happy to tell it a hundred times and more.

One night during my senior year of college, I had been out drinking with friends and I decided to go to another bar alone. It was December in Syracuse, NY. The next thing I knew, I woke up in the hospital.

I had suffered from severe hypothermia. My body temperature had been so low that if I had stayed in the cold another 10 minutes, I would have died. The doctors said that someone found me and put me in his car to warm up and get me home. When he realized how much I needed help, he called an ambulance to take me to the hospital.

That someone was Hunter Watson. He asked to remain anonymous—he didn't want a reward or accolades. I later learned through a mutual friend that it was Hunter, and I am so grateful that I was later able to thank Hunter for what he did.

Now, I am so proud to be doing something in his honor – serving on the Founders' Committee for the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund. There's a beautiful serendipity to it all.

I have learned so much about myself in the years since that cold night in Syracuse. I've learned to be passionate about life and to pursue the things that really get me up in the morning. That's what the Hunter Watson Fund is all about . . . helping fuel young people's passions by providing grants to help them pursue their dreams. There's nothing short of amazing and incredible about the young people who we are helping. They are doing incredibly important and unique things with their lives.

At the end of the day, what happened to me could happen to anyone. Rather than letting this experience slow me down and hold me back, I have pushed myself to be a better person. I became someone who looks out for others . . . just like Hunter did for me. It's the least I can do . . . and wouldn't the world be a lot better if more people did that?

*Ilana Dunn lives in New York City where she does marketing for Hinge. She and her parents, Barbara and Chuck, are generous supporters of the Hunter Watson Fund and Ilana serves on the Fund's Founders' Committee.*



## HUNTER'S PLEDGE To End Distracted Driving

### *Hunter's Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity Brothers Launch Campus Wide Campaigns*

Syracuse University

University of Alabama

Potomac High School

University of Texas

Edinboro University

Univ. of Minnesota Duluth

Penn State University

Cal State - North Ridge

Univ. of California Davis

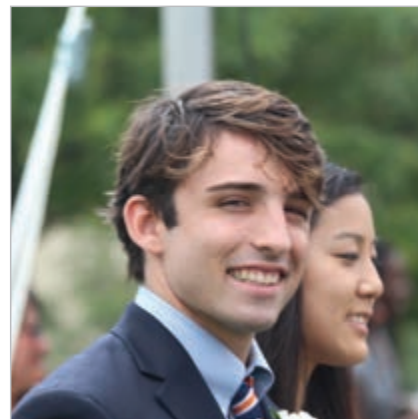
Univ. of Minnesota Twin Cities

University of Pennsylvania

Univ. of California Berkeley

Thousands of students are signing Pledges not to Drive Distracted as chapters at these schools set up tables across campus so students can sign "Hunter's Pledge" to End Distracted Driving.

## Many Interests – One of a Kind



At the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund you are supporting young men and women of diverse interests and talents, so they can let their passions shine.

The inspiration and our mission come from Hunter himself. He was a young man of extremely diverse talents and interests. Wherever he went, whatever he did, he brought a spark and a smile and a contagious energy that inspired those around him.

And while his life was too short, and the hurt that those who loved him feel will never fully heal, there is a peace that comes from knowing that Hunter succeeded in *getting the most out of every day he lived.*