

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

SUPPORTING THE POWER OF YOUNG IDEAS

For most of us past the age of 40 today's world offers a variety of technologies and new ideas that probably were more the stuff of science fiction back when we were young. Cell phones, consumer drones, tablet computers, and smart TVs - The list goes on and on, but for today's young person such things are the common accessories, if not often the necessities, of everyday life.

But for many of today's outstanding teenagers and young adults, what we have today is not the end of the process; instead their focus is on how things can change and improve the future. Their ambitions lie in how to use what is available today to make a better tomorrow. Their dreams are of things yet to be seen.

The goal of the Hunter Brooks Watson Fund is to try and help some of these young people have the means to get started on the road to fulfilling those dreams.

HBW Fund grants are not scholarships tied to an educational institution and focused on academic performance. These grants require no GPA, no enrollment in a school or college, and no religious affiliation.

Rather the purpose of these grants is to promote and award the enthusiasms and passions that drive so many young people. The operating philosophy of the HBW Fund is that ideas need to be supported as they are envisioned, before they may be lost forever. Hunter Watson was a young man who followed his passions. From music to entrepreneurship to computer technology, he developed a variety of interests, and broad levels of expertise. He was also fortunate to come from a background that provided him the means and support to further his passions. The HBW Fund grants are a means to both honor Hunter's legacy and to provide that needed support for young people with powerful ideas. Our dream is to help these young people make tomorrow even better.

HBW Fund Announces First Grant Awardees

The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund has completed its First Round of grant applications and reviews with the awarding of 5 unique grants. Fourteen members of the Grants Committee reviewed and scored every application received before sending their recommendations to the full HBW Founders Committee who made the final decisions on grants to be awarded.

The grants, available to those between the ages of 16 and 25, were created to encourage and support young people demonstrating the passions and enthusiasm that Hunter Watson embodied in his life. The current grant awards certainly meet that criteria. The 2017 first round of grants went to the following promising young men and women:



Hunter Brooks Watson



Grant Recipient:

Derek Snyder

Area of Interest:

Establishing a Traumatic Brain Injury Foundation.

Derek Snyder is a resident of Boiling Springs, PA, and a senior at The Pennsylvania State University. Majoring in Corporate Innovation and Entrepreneurship with a minor in Economics, Derek's funding request was to help establish a nonprofit foundation focusing on outreach and education programs related to traumatic brain injuries.

Derek began helping those who have suffered this disability after a high school friend was assaulted during his freshman year at college, leaving him in a coma and with brain injuries. Derek founded a Golf Tournament to provide assistance to both his friend and a cousin who also suffered a traumatic brain injury after a car accident. The funding provided by the HBW Fund grant will be used to establish the Jackie Lithgow Foundation and to support its initial programs in educating the public and supporting the victims of traumatic brain injuries.



Grant Recipient:

Cassandra

Couwenberg

Area of Interest:

Upgrading Video Production Capabilities

Cassandra Couwenberg is a senior at Syracuse University majoring in Television, Radio and Film. She is also the president of Loud and Clear, a video production service that provides video productions for young and

upcoming artists.

Her organization focuses on making music videos and she will be using her grant award to upgrade the video capabilities of her company. Her aim is to provide the young musical artists with whom she works with high quality and affordable video productions that can help support their careers.

Cassandra has been involved in the music field for a number of years and is interning at a music marketing company in Los Angeles before returning to Syracuse to graduate next spring.



Grant Recipient:

Hamaas Daud Khaalis

Area of Interest:

Producing, Promoting And Distributing Music EEP

Hamaas Khaalis is a music composer and artist from Washington, D.C. who has recorded a number of songs and is now looking to produce them in a finished six song album.

Hamaas, a graduate of Marymount University, has invested a great deal of time, effort and finances in writing and recording his music. The grant will provide funding for high-quality mastering, as well as the additional services needed to produce and promote the final album.

His upcoming plans include the production of a music video of a single from the album and promotion of the album via social media. His strong interest in composing music, writing lyrics and recording his work are similar to the work Hunter Watson pursued.



Grant Recipient:

Carlon Bute

Area of Interest:

Training In Computers, Robotics And Computer Design

Carlon, at only 17 years old, was one of the youngest grant applicants. A resident of Kingstown, on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, he has displayed a passion and aptitude for the computer field. However, coming from a single-parent home with many financial challenges, he was limited in pursuing his education in computer technology.

With the HBW Fund Grant Carlon will be entering college and earning a two-year degree. His ongoing aim is to earn a college scholarship and travel to Taiwan to continue his studies in computer and robotics design.



Grant Recipient:

Callum Smeaton

Area of Interest:

Expanding Music Recording Services

Callum, a junior at the University of Virginia, is a Sociology major and the founder of SmeatsBeats Productions, a recording studio providing quality recording services for young, aspiring musicians at affordable prices.

His application for the grant emphasized the need to upgrade the equipment at his recording studio in order to provide his clients with the best quality productions. He has built the current studio through his own funding earned working part-time jobs. With the new equipment that the grant will provide, Callum should be able to offer greatly improved recording services.

HBW UPDATE

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Hunter Brooks
Watson Fund

FALL 2017

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.

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Hannah Kliot and Will Snape

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Mark Ramsey

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Connor Sweeney

Ted Watson

Tell us what you think about what we are doing. Send your comments and suggestions to: Editor, HBW Update, 850 Dolley Madison Blvd, McLean, VA 22101 or email to editor@hunter-watson.org. All letters are assumed to be intended for publication unless otherwise noted.

The Hunter Brooks Watson Fund is an all volunteer organization established as a division of CharitySmith Nonprofit Foundation (EIN 87-0636433), www.charitysmith.org which administers all donations for memorial funds like Hunter's. All donations are tax deductible in accordance with federal tax law and are administered by CharitySmith. For questions regarding your donation or administration of this memorial fund please contact CharitySmith at (866) 558-2064.

How the HBW Memorial Fund Began

On June 18, 2016, Hunter Watson's promising life was abruptly and tragically ended when he was fatally injured as a passenger in an automobile collision.

In the months following Hunter's death, his family and friends and the communities in which he was nurtured, including The Potomac School, Syracuse University and Mustique Island, among others, — all searched for a way to continue his presence and ideals. The Hunter Brooks Watson Fund was founded as a result and is

the realization of his family's and his communities' desire to celebrate his life and interests.

The Fund aims to keep Hunter's insatiable energy and optimism alive by giving grants to help young people's involvement in the fields of performing arts, music, computer science and entrepreneurship. The fund is unique in that it provides financial assistance for projects of their own choosing.

A Founders Committee was set up and today this Committee of 18 young men and women have organized them-

selves into various working groups and are holding regular meetings (via Skype, of course, since most are still college students) to move forward the programs of the HBW Fund, including fundraising efforts, grant application evaluations and the awarding of grants.

Memories of Hunter's spirit, interests and love will always remain with his family, but it is so gratifying to see how many people his life touched, and to see the good things that are being accomplished in his memory.

Who Was Hunter Brooks Watson?

EDITORIAL BY [WILL SNAPE](#)



Four members of original Founders Committee on their graduation day. Left to right - Liam Catto, Will Snape and Matt Kimm with Hunter Watson.

As I was sitting in my living room watching the post-event coverage of the highly anticipated boxing match between future Hall of Famer Floyd Mayweather and decorated UFC fighter Conor McGregor, the significance of what I had just watched slowly started to sink in. While McGregor went on to lose midway through the 10th round (out of 12), in a way he still came out a victor. Not only did McGregor, a man with no professional boxing experience, have the courage and self-belief to challenge arguably the best boxer in the history of the sport, but lasted nearly 10 full rounds and made them highly competitive.

I use this anecdote to highlight a trending "Why Not Me?" attitude that has emerged amongst the younger generations in the United States. Coincidentally, it seems Hunter Watson was a trendsetter in this regard. Whether it was in music, computer science, or

entrepreneurship, Hunter displayed this same can-do ethos long before it became commonplace.

Anyone who knew Hunter would likely agree that he had a gift for music, but good luck finding his photo in a high school or college yearbook playing any type of instrument. He started playing piano from the age of five, which sparked a true passion for musical composition and creation that lasted a lifetime. By the time he was in middle school he was the lead guitarist and lead singer of his own band, and a music video for one song titled "[Video Games](#)" went viral on YouTube resulting in nearly 6,000,000 views worldwide. Later in his life he pivoted towards electronic music production where he created multiple albums, only one of which was publicly released.

Shortly after entering ninth grade, Hunter became the leader of a local

entertainment venture that put on private club-like events for high school students. Think: a regular nightclub, only it served Coca-Colas instead of Rum and Cokes. He played the role of a promoter and manager for these parties, making sure attendance was high and consistent, as well as monitoring party activity to make sure everyone was having fun and being safe. At the young age of 15, Hunter had developed an idea that would allow under age teens to party like they were 21 in a safe and secure environment that had the support of both the parents and the community. It was an idea that later spread to cities around the country.

Hunter was also adept with computers and computer science from a very early age. He was studying how to write JavaScript and was able to create webpages from scratch. With this background he pursued numerous versions of self-led tech startups and other entrepreneurial ventures — many of which he kept to himself, but others he couldn't help but share with his friends. Around the time of his passing, Hunter had thrown himself into his latest billion-dollar idea and was preparing to take the next steps in bringing it to life.

What made Hunter so unique was that if he had a vision he believed in, he didn't care if 1,000 people told him it wouldn't work. His drive and self-belief drowned out the naysayers' voices. I admire Conor McGregor for his "Why Not Me?" approach to life — it is a rare and immeasurable attribute. Only in hindsight did I recognize that Hunter was oozing with it, and is probably a main reason why I admired him, too.

Meet The Founders



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 Black-out 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 US and West Indies.



Abigail Breslin

(Hollywood, California):

Oscar Nominated Actress and singer/song writer.

Abigail became a friend after collaborating with Hunter's brother Teddy Watson on musical recordings and performances. She encouraged Hunter's interest in rap music, acting and comedy.



Madeleine Bunbury

(Mustique, West Indies):

Madeleine, an emerging young artist, grew up on the Island of Mustique the daughter of the Island's only 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.



Liam Catto

(Boulder, Colorado):

Senior at the University of Colorado studying Business and Advertising. Liam was part of a close-knit group in 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 inclusive in the community they loved. And, they made sure their other classmates didn't take the pressure of an intense academic environment totally serious.



Forrest Crane

(Lexington, Kentucky):

Junior at the University of Kentucky studying Political Science and Business Management. Another member of Hunter's "Band of Brothers" who loved Hunter and always joined him in suppressing the pressures of academic life as much as possible.



Chris Dale

(McLean, Virginia):

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 and both went to

Potomac. Even though they were a year apart, they remained close often hanging out after school and playing sports together. They bonded over sports, going out and a general adventurous attitude that would sometimes find themselves in trouble.



Yannick Della Shavia

(Milan, Italy):

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.



Ilana Dunn

(New York, New York):

2016 Syracuse University graduate now working in the music industry 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 important we asked her to join the Committee and she spearheaded the development of our sophisticated Grant Application

program.



Matt Kimm

(Austin, Texas):

Senior at the University of Texas at Austin, where he studies Advertising and Business. Matthew was a lifer at the Potomac School with Hunter, and the two became best friends at an early age.



Hannah Kliot

(New York, New York):

2017 graduate of Northwestern University who studied broadcast journalism. She is an incoming News Associate at the Specials Unit for CNBC. Hannah, from New York City, and Hunter met on vacation in the 8th grade and became close friends from that moment on. He adored her family and always tried to see them when he visited NYC.



Matthieu Menard

(Syracuse, New York):

Senior at Syracuse University studying Entrepreneurship and Supply Chain Management. Hunter took a French course in high school and decided to list himself as fluent in the language on his college application so the University decided to arrange for Matthieu and Hunter to be room-

Continued on page 5

MAILBOX

It is inspiring to see what a success this is already. We are so humbled to be a supporter and will keep you all in our prayers as you review the grant applications and make decisions. This is the most incredible and meaningful way to celebrate Hunter's life.

B.&T.E.
McLean, Virginia

We were pleased to be able to do our small share to honor Hunter and the scholarship recipients. I will keep you on *the list* for the most worthy of donations. Thank you for this update, and I look forward to each piece of news along the way.

J.K.
Boston, Massachusetts

I wanted you to know how Hunter managed to change my life. Like many of our classmates we used to go through every day looking forward to the end of the year, But my junior year in Economics Hunter's constant jubilation and ability to make those

around him laugh and bring everyone's spirits up gave me a new outlook. I started living for the moment and appreciating every amazing detail of everyday. I doubt he knew he had impacted me this way but he helped me understand that life is more enjoyable in the moment. I am forever grateful for that.

W.L.
Washington, DC

I marvel at the wonderful work these young people are doing and how this Fund is helping change their lives, as well as the lives of those who will be awarded scholarships in Hunter's name. You have turned such heartbreak into something so powerfully positive. That's not only a lesson to all of them, but to all of us. Thank you. We're truly honored to be a small part of this.

S.M.
Washington, DC

As members of the Potomac School community, we long admired Hunter's enthusiasm for life. Thank you for the

opportunity to be part of this tribute. It is a privilege to be part of this to honor him.

J.&G.P.
Bethesda, Maryland

For the boss!!!
Great to see this terrific program by Hunter's friends and family.

J.B.
Great Falls, Virginia

Hunter was certainly an inspiring young man who lived life to the fullest. May we all strive to live life with as much gusto. He left a legacy of modeling for others how to dare to reach for one's dreams.

S.P.
New York

We will be delighted to send a contribution in honor of Hunter's memory. We really admire what you have done, and look forward to seeing how the students will use their grants.

K.C.
Washington, DC

Hunter was a remarkable young man. What a wonderful tribute this is.

M.P.
Tarzana, California

We are happy to support the fund, and glad to hear the program is going so well! We'll look forward to hearing about the students as grants are awarded.

S.&D.P.
Bethesda, Maryland

In memory of Hunter's larger than life personality and love of life. He will always live on in our hearts.

D.C.
Great Falls, Virginia

I love everything that the fund stands for and intend on sending another donation this week. Looking forward to hearing about the students in the upcoming years that will benefit from the fund.

N.&S.E.
Washington, DC

Charter Members Since January 1, 2017

Lauren Abraham	Madeleine Bunbury	Morris Dees	Steven George	Ray & Petra Kimsey	Britt Nelson	Cornelius Sigety
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Charter Members are donors who make a gift during our first year of launching the Fund which ends December 31st, 2017. You will be a part of the wonderful friends who made the first year successful and will forever be remembered. Any amount you can donate, large or small, will help change the lives we hope to help.

YES, I want to help students make a passionate idea a reality.

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Hunter Brooks Watson Fund
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Meet The Founders

From page 3

mates. 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 they immediately became close friends. Matthieu never looked back and attributes his love for Syracuse to Hunter.



Jordan Parent

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



Jason Reif

(Syracuse, New York): Senior at Syracuse University from Fair Lawn NJ studying Finance, Accounting and Information Management & Technology. Freshman Year Floor-mate 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 Face Time Hunter you would always see Jason next to him working on a class assignment.



Mark Ramsey

(Charlottesville, Virginia): Rising Junior at student 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 of 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.



Matt Salutillo

(Sterling, Virginia): 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.



Will Snape

(Hartford, Connecticut): Senior at Trinity College majoring in Urban Studies. Will said throughout high school he would do everything he could to be placed into as many classes with Hunter as he could. He added that Hunter’s personality brought enthusiasm and a lightheartedness to campus life that made him look forward to going to school in the morning.



Connor Sweeney

(Great Falls, Virginia) Student at 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 to 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 every day school life that made learning easier at such challenging school.



Teddy Watson

(New York, New York) 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.



DISTRACTED DRIVING IS A PROBLEM FOR ALL OF US

When it comes to distracted driving and the accidents it causes, virtually all of us share the blame. Teens on their cell phones, a salesman eating while driving to his next customer, the harried mom turning around to yell at the misbehaving kids in the back seat. They’re all forms of distracted driving, and all activities that can lead to a fatal crash.

RECENT DISTRACTED DRIVING RELATED STATISTICS

- 551 non-occupants (pedestrians, bicyclists) killed
- 476 fatalities tied to cell phone usage while driving
- 3,477 fatal crashes involved some form of distraction
- 70% of teens report using social media while driving
- 660,000 drivers use electronic devices each day
- 9 people killed, 1,000 injured daily by distracted driving

Focus On Distracted Driving

The cell phone pings, indicating a text message has just been received. Most of us, and especially most young people, don’t hesitate to pick up the phone, push a button and quickly read the message.

No big deal, right? Unless the person reading the message happens to be behind the wheel of a car. If that person takes his eyes off the road for a mere five seconds to read the incoming message, his or her car, traveling at only 55 miles an hour, will be blindly covering a distance

that is more than the length of a football field, a distance in which any number of things can happen. Moreover, studies have found that being distracted behind the wheel means the driver takes longer to react if sudden braking is needed. At just 45 mph a distracted driver will take an extra 330 feet to stop.

Distracted driving is a major highway safety issue, and it’s getting worse. Experts report that this past year about 421,000 Americans were injured in crashes that involved

a driver distracted in some way. Deaths related to distracted driving are rising. It’s estimated that cell phone usage is responsible for over 1.6 million car crashes per year. And young people tend to be the ones most likely to be driving while distracted.

For the Hunter Brooks Watson Fund, the issue of distracted driving and the risk it poses not just to young people, but to all of us, is of primary importance. Having experienced the loss of Hunter in an auto

accident due to distracted driving and speeding this is a very personal and meaningful problem for the Watson family and Hunter’s many friends.

Cell phones may be the most common and visible cause of distracted driving, but any activity that draws the driver’s attention away from the road can contribute to the problem. Fortunately, with education and an effort by each of us to eliminate such distractions, it is a problem that can be solved.

Distracted Driving Awareness Events Held

BY [JESSICA GORMAN](#), SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY



Distracted driving bracelets in school colors encourage students to pledge to end Distracted Driving

In the wake of Hunter Watson's death as a passenger in a distracted driving accident, Hunter's [Phi Kappa Psi](#) fraternity brothers at Syracuse University and friends at Pennsylvania State University held events to build awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

Last October, the Beta Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi at Syracuse conducted a week-long philanthropy event featuring educational activities, a memorial service and a social media campaign. Students and faculty were encouraged to donate and sign a pledge to end distracted driving.

Participants received embossed wristbands with 'I pledge to end distracted driving' to spread awareness while also remembering Hunter. The event raised over \$13,000 in support

for the National Safety Council.

The success in Syracuse spread to Pennsylvania State University, where Mathew Salutillo, a member of the Founders Committee of the HBW Fund, held an education and fundraising campaign last April.

Organized in conjunction with the campus annual [CrossFit](#) competition, the campaign included safe driving pledges, the distribution of distracted driving wristbands, and fundraising for the Hunter Watson Fund through the sale of t-shirts donated by the coach of the Penn State's CrossFit team.

The HBW Fund is very appreciative of these efforts and is encouraging additional distracted driving awareness campaigns at colleges, universities and high schools across the country.

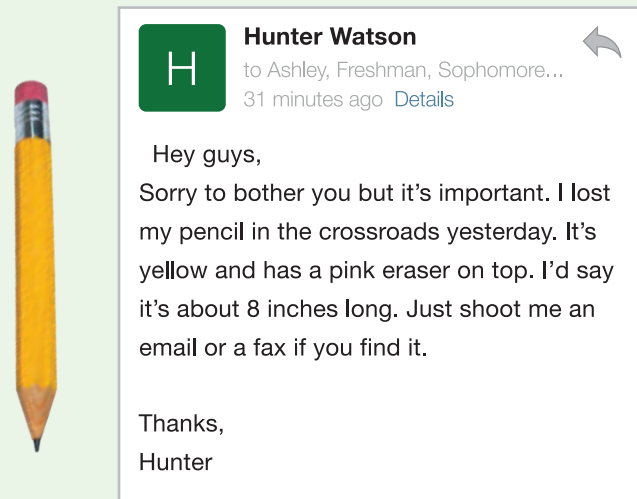
WE CAN HELP YOU SPONSOR A DISTRACTED DRIVING CAMPAIGN:
WWW.HUNTERWATSON.ORG/EVENTS

HUNTER STORIES

As we remember our good friend Hunter Watson, I have to tell the story of when Hunter, who many thought was one of the sharpest minds in our class, reminded us to not take everything so seriously.

Our school had been in the habit of sending out several emails daily to faculty and students alerting us to look out for lost jackets, backpacks, books and calculators and asking if any were found to turn them in to the office.

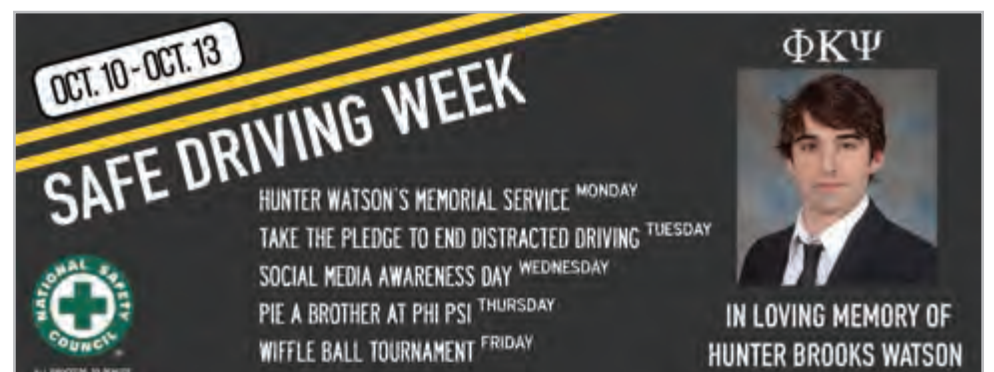
During an unusually heavy day of these notices, Hunter emailed the following message to the entire student body and faculty:



This is just one of the many ways Hunter helped keep his classmates in an upbeat mood as they struggled through the challenges of an intense academic life. We love you Hunter!

- Will Snape IV

If you have a Hunter story you would like to share with us, please e-mail it to editor@hunterwatson.org



Apps Helping Limit Distracted Driving

While the only sure cure for distracted driving is for all of us to pay attention to our driving 100% of the time, today there are apps for our cell phones that recognize we make mistakes as drivers and that try to help us pay more attention.

Several of the largest cell phone service providers now provide apps that can be configured to block incoming calls and to send an automatic response to texts that let the sender know you are currently driving.

[AT&T DriveMode](#), for example, can

automatically turn on when it senses that the vehicle is going 25 MPH or faster. It allows the user to create a list of five contacts who can call you without being blocked and doesn't require the phone to be connected to the car's Bluetooth.

Sprint's app is called [Drive First](#). It turns on automatically when the car is going 10 MPH. For the parents of a teen, the app can also link to a website where a parent can monitor if the app has been turned off.

Verizon is offering an app called

[Safely Go](#), but unlike the AT&T and Sprint apps, it must be manually activated every time a driver gets in the car. The problem, of course, is that it requires the driver to remember to turn it on.

All of these apps are a step in the right direction, but none of them are perfect. Some are complicated to install, and all still allow for some phone calls to come through, and some apps to be used, while driving.

The [Life-Saver](#) app actually locks the phone to outgoing calls when the

car is in motion, but does allow incoming calls, as well as the phone's navigation app.

[TrueMotion](#) is a free app for both Android and iOS phones that tracks how safely everyone in the family drives, and also whether a cell phone was used while driving. The TrueMotion folks claim that simply downloading the app helps reduce distracted driving by 50%.

None of these are perfect solutions, but they do show companies and individuals are taking steps to try and make distracted driving less of a problem.

Hunter - A Man Of Many Interests



When Hunter Watson passed away as a passenger in an automobile accident in 2016, it was a loss felt by just not his family, but by the many friends and fraternity brothers with whom Hunter was so close. They were the people who were behind the start of the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund, and they were the ones who insisted on its grants being focused on the variety of interests and passions that Hunter had displayed in his all too short life.



The Entrepreneur - After visiting a teens-only nightclub while traveling, Hunter brought the concept to the D.C. area, arranging with several nightclubs to have teen-only, no-alcohol nights which he then managed and promoted. As he entered college his interest in computer technology spurred a new set of ideas as he was beginning work on developing technology-based businesses.



The Athlete - Baseball, soccer, football, wrestling. Throughout middle school and high school, Hunter enjoyed participating, and performing well, in a variety of competitive, team sports and building close relationships with teammates.



The Musician - Hunter's interest in music began at age 5 when he took his first piano lessons. By age 10 he had formed "The Black Out Band" and had performed with them at schools and various events around the Washington, D.C., area. Their music video of a song that Hunter composed, "[Video Games](#)," has earned more than 6 million views on YouTube.



The Performer - Thanks to his experience on stage with his band, Hunter enjoyed being in front of an audience. Just prior to his death, Hunter was developing a comedy act that he wanted to perform at area comedy clubs.



The Friend - Whether it was friends he had made during his family's annual summer vacations in Mustique, through his years as a "lifer" at Potomac School, or after his enrollment at Syracuse University and his joining [Phi Kappa Psi](#) fraternity, Hunter was a person who cultivated deep and lasting friendships.



The Loving Son - While Hunter was a young man of diverse interests, at the top of the list was always his family. For his mother Judy, his father Jerry, and his older brother Teddy, the loss of Hunter has left a hole in their lives that will never be filled.

How HBW Memorial Fund Grants Are Selected

It might seem a relatively easy process for the [Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund](#) to award grants to deserving individuals. An application is submitted, the application is reviewed and the grantee is sent a check.

The Committee wishes it were that simple.

The HBW Memorial Fund has been established to provide support to young people, between 16 and 25 years old, with outstanding ideas for projects within the Fund's areas of interest. And while the application is long and detailed, it still was a difficult evaluation task for the 14 volunteers who reviewed each of the applications from the first round.

The simple reason for that is that most of the applications are propos-

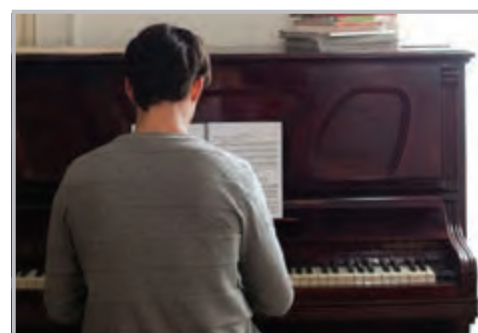
ing truly new, often innovative ideas, ideas about which they are excited and passionate, but which can be difficult to measure while still only in the idea stage. To help accomplish that, the application consists of mostly essay type questions that give the reviewers a chance to feel the applicant's passion while considering. Since each reviewer brings different areas of interests, experience and ex-

pertise to the evaluation process the scores are totaled to give an overall score that can be compared with other applications.

After a grant is approved, first by the Grants Committee and then by the Final Selection Committee, a careful follow-up procedure then takes place. Each grantee is assigned a mentor, with whom they check in with regularly, reporting on progress and prob-

lems. There is also a careful monitoring of how the awarded money compares with the original Budget.

The first round of grant applications was exciting and the grants awarded clearly went to deserving individuals. And it is already clear that the next round of applications, due in by November 15, 2017, will be much larger and just as challenging to evaluate. We are looking forward to that.



Looking for Enthusiastic, Passionate Young People In Need of Assistance

2nd Round HBW Fund Grants are now open for those age 16 to 25.

Deadline is November 15, 2017.

Applications available at: www.hunterwatson.org/grants

How You Can Help This Important Work



Students at Trinity College raised money for the HBW Memorial Fund last holiday season.

Forty one young men and women worked on applications for our first round. For a new organization, the number of applications received, and the strength of the projects and ideas outlined in the applications was amazing.

The HBW Fund is now in the middle of its second grant cycle. [The Potomac School](#) and [Syracuse University](#), both of which Hunter Watson attended, as well as [Phi Kappa Psi](#), the fraternity he belonged to, will all be helping to promote the upcoming grant cycle. Our Founding Members are already making presentations to classes on their

individual campuses promoting the grant program.

The expected surge in applications from this effort, which closes on November 15th, is very much a result we want, but it also means that the HBW Fund is going to have to work harder in order to support the most promising applicants. Our supporters will be even more important if we wish to help these talented young people.

Yes, the HBW Fund does revolve around its financial resources. Without the many donations from individuals, businesses, family foundations, and campus organizations

that have helped fund the HBW Fund's initial grants, and those that continue to provide support for future grant cycles, none of this would be possible.

But the HBW Fund has several ways for individuals and organizations to get involved. The HBW Fund's non-grant focus on distracted driving is one that requires the involvement and support of individuals and organizations at the local level.

Last year, the Phi Kappa Psi chapter at Syracuse University and students at Pennsylvania State University sponsored events to educate students and faculty about the dangers of distracted driving. The events also raised funds to support the [National Safety Council](#) and the Hunter Watson Fund in its fight against distracted driving.

And where could you fit in? Distracted driving education programs should be happening at every high school and college campus across the country. And the HBW Fund is working to support such programs through a simple "Event Kit" that provides instructions, ideas and sample materials to help anyone hold such a program at their local school, college or university.

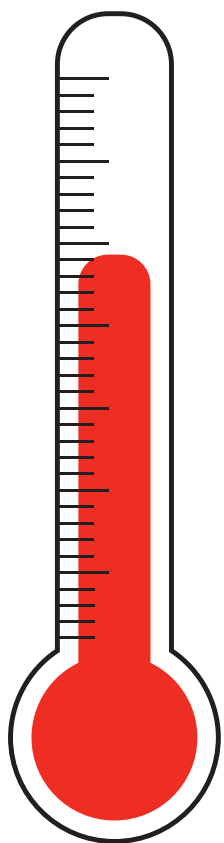
Another way to get involved? If you know a young person who has demonstrated talent and interest and passion but is in need of financial assistance to move forward, let them know about the HBW Fund and its grants. Anyone between the ages of 16 and 25 who has a passion for music, the performing arts, entrepreneurship, or computer science and technology, can apply for a grant up to \$5,000.

The young person can be in school, but need not be, and there are no GPA requirements, no religious affiliation requirements, and no application fee and we don't care if they were a leader in student government or athletics. They just need to be passionate and focused and need the Fund's help.

Full details and the grant application form are available through the HBW Fund website at hunterwatson.org/grants.

And yes, financial support, whether from you as an individual, your company, or your family foundation, are vital if we are to continue to grow this program, support more enthusiastic young people and continue to honor the memory of Hunter Watson.

Join our Facebook team!



Join us in remembering Hunter and help young people with passionate ideas.

1. It takes only a minute to set up your own personal fundraising page using your computer or even your cell phone
2. Post the link to your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email one of our pre-written Invite's to a few of your friends or family members.
3. Feel good about being a part of the HBW Fund!

Check it out! It's Fun and your support will go a long way in helping curb distracted driving and funding grants to empower young people to pursue their distinct passions in life.

Go to this link:
www.hunterwatson.org/TEAM

BEQUESTS

You can help provide for future of the HBW Fund Grants Program through a simple bequest in your will. 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 bequest for the HBW Grants Program.

HBW Fund official name:

The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund a Division of CharitySmith Memorial Funds

HBW Fund & CharitySmith mailing address:
13100 Filly Lane, Truckee, CA 96161

HBW Fund & CharitySmith telephone number: **(866) 558-2064**

CharitySmith identification:

A not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

CharitySmith tax-exempt number: **EIN 87-0636433**

Sample Language

"I give, devise and bequeath to the the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund a division of the CharitySmith Memorial Funds 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:

[Stacey Spain](#), Executive Director, CharitySmith,
13100 Filly Lane, Truckee, CA 96161
Phone: 1-866-558-2064



DON'T MISS FUTURE NEWSLETTERS, SIGN UP AT: WWW.HUNTERWATSON.ORG/GRANTS