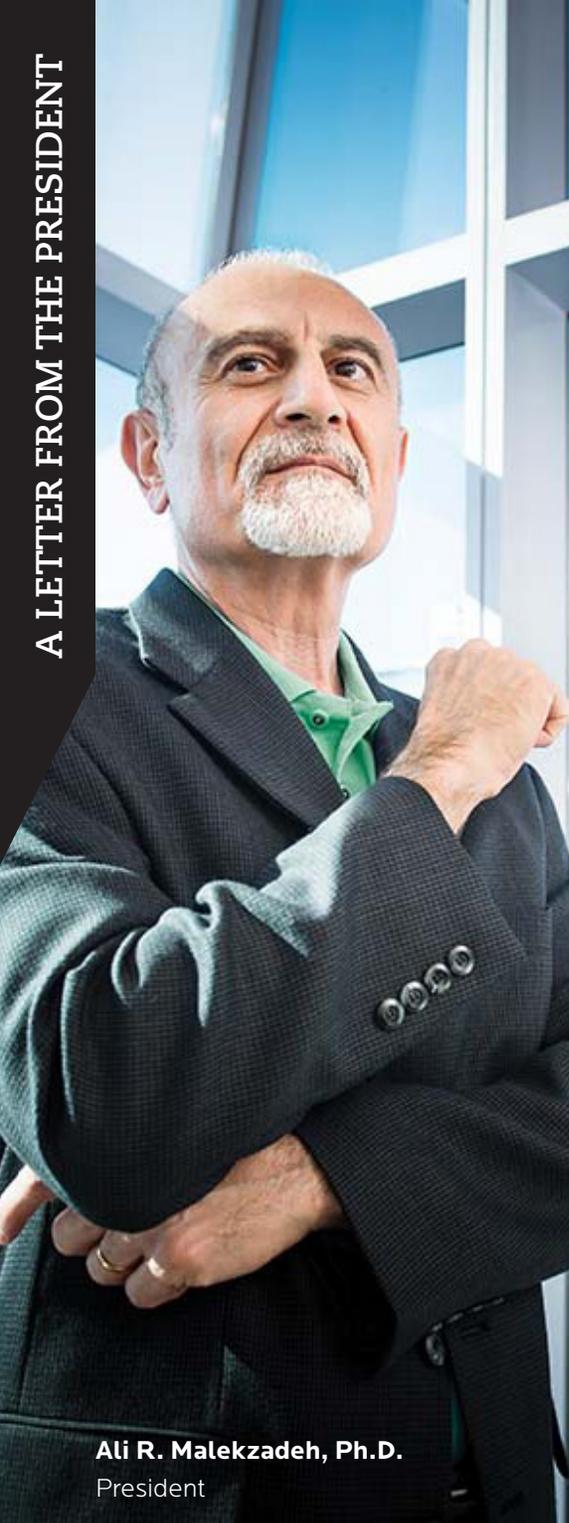




# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Ali R. Malekzadeh, Ph.D.  
President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Resilience. For many, that word aptly describes the year 2020.

My hope today is that you have begun to rebound from what was an extraordinarily challenging year. I also hope that this report finds you and your loved ones healthy, safe and on a path to the normalcy many of us took for granted prior to the pandemic.

As we press on, we look back on our recent accomplishments and recognize a few of the many in our Roosevelt community who use their education to make the world a better and more just place while furthering our founding mission.

One such person is recent graduate **Bellal Alzalam '21**. Last December, while still in his third and last year of the pharmacy program, he had the privilege of administering one of the first COVID-19 vaccines in Chicago. Through that act, Bellal joined the world's health care professionals in providing a way forward. We are immensely proud of him and all those in our Roosevelt family doing their part to care for those in need.

Others in our circle also brought their expertise and knowledge to the community through a series of discussions on the pandemic-related topics of herd immunity, vaccination myths and the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on communities of color. Also adding to the knowledge base were innovators from our information technology group who developed a contact-tracing mobile app, rightly lauded nationally by *EdScoop*, a leading media brand in the IT education market.

Additionally, to help meet the surging demand for health care professionals, the University established the **College of Science, Health and Pharmacy** on our Chicago and Schaumburg campuses last October. Advancing our Building a Stronger University initiative and led by Dean Melissa Hogan and Co-Dean Kelly Wentz-Hunter, this new college consolidates Roosevelt's established programs in science, health, nursing and pharmacy. The new college prepares graduates to provide culturally competent care to an increasingly diverse American population.

### SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

University trustee **Larissa Herczeg** recently honored her mother by establishing a scholarship program to help form and empower future women leaders. The Joan Deutsch Herczeg Women Leaders Program will provide ambitious female students with \$5,000 scholarships to develop leadership skills through workshops, internships and mentorship from members of the Women's Leadership Council. The first cohort of nine scholars includes seven women who also belong to the Roosevelt Honors Program.

This summer, 15 students received academic credit and \$2,500 stipends to explore academic, activist, advocate and abolition approaches to social change through a generous three-year grant from the Albert and Anne Mansfield Foundation. The **Mansfield Fellowship for Activism and Community Engagement** supports fellows as they work with local community organizations to make social change. The program helps remove financial barriers for the



students and Chicago-area organizations — enabling more students to complete summer internships with nonprofits.

Another transformative program is our **McNair Scholars Program**, a federally funded bridge program that helps first-generation and underrepresented students build competitive graduate-school applications. First-generation science student **Victoria Lopez** was part of the 92% of this year's graduating McNair Scholars who received graduate program acceptances. Lopez built her chemistry research skills in **Dr. Oluseye Onajole's** research lab and, upon graduation, had the happy task of choosing from among four Ph.D. programs.

## TRANSFORMATIVE WORK

To me, composer and alumnus **Carlos Jaquez Gonzalez '21** exemplifies the best of a Roosevelt education. Gonzalez was inspired by his immigrant parents and documentary photographer Greg Constantine's exhibit *American Gulag* at Roosevelt's Gage Gallery. He partnered with Constantine, the Chicago Composers Orchestra and Roosevelt's Conservatory Chorus to produce the score, audio and visuals for a multimedia performance that lives on in a 31-minute film.

"Immigrant Mass: A Multimedia Music Film" is a heartrending fusion of his haunting orchestration, immigrant interviews sung by soloists, and poignant sound bites and photographs depicting the plight of immigrants — all set against a sobering backdrop based on the Catholic Mass. The experience is but one of many good reasons to attend our American Dream Reconsidered Conference in November.

The University takes great pride in **history professor Margaret Rung and journalism professor John Fountain**, who were recently named Fulbright Scholars.

Spending her Fulbright award in Taiwan during the spring semester, Rung offered public lectures on and taught American history courses about the Great Depression and the late 19th and early 20th century at her host institution, National Taiwan University in Taipei. There, she and her students explored the shifting boundaries between public and private spheres and interrogated how Americans negotiated a social contract in an ethnically and racially diverse nation devoted to capitalism and democracy.

Fountain and his students recently gained national media attention for "Unforgotten 51: The Untold Story of Murdered Chicago Women." The multimedia portraits of these women — three-fourths of whom were African American — exposed the ethnocentrism of U.S. journalism while showing each woman's humanity and that they were beloved. As a Fulbright scholar, Fountain is teaching this semester and next at the University of Ghana in Accra. He will also conduct research on his new project, *Africa Calling: Portraits of Black Americans Drawn to the Motherland*.

## PASSING THE TORCH

The leadership of any institution is demanding — especially for its volunteer board members who selflessly give their time and expertise. **Patricia Harris '80** is an admirable example of that devotion. In 2010, she joined our Board of Trustees, and in 2015, she became the first alumna, the first female and the first African American to serve as its chair — a milestone for Roosevelt and the national landscape of higher education. She completed two terms as chair, but remains on the Board of Trustees. I wish to thank her for her thoughtful leadership, her service to the University and for her partnership to guide our great university on its path.

Stepping into the chair role is **Maurice Smith '95**, president and CEO of Health Care Service Corporation, the largest customer-owned health insurer in the United States, which operates through its Blue Cross and Blue Shield® Plans. Joining him as vice chair is **James B. Connor**, chairman and CEO of Duke Realty Corporation, one of the largest owners, developers and managers of industrial properties in the United States.

Please join me in welcoming them. I look forward to their guidance as the University begins its next 75 years of educating socially conscious citizens for active and dedicated lives as leaders in their professions and their communities.

With warm regards,



Ali R. Malekzadeh, Ph.D.  
President  
Roosevelt University



## A CHANCE MEETING LEADS TO A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL-JUSTICE STUDENTS

So much of life turns on a dime. For Raymond Siegel, meeting political science professor Bethany Barratt was one of those moments.

Siegel was in the final throes of getting his long-sought bachelor's degree in economics — something he'd started more than 50 years prior — when he signed up for Barratt's Environmental Justice course in summer 2019.

"Political science was not my major, but I needed to take at least one experiential learning course to graduate," Siegel said. "To be honest, I only took the two-week summer course because it fit my schedule."

Siegel recalled sitting in class the first day when he walked who he thought was another student: a woman in her 40s sporting a couple of tattoos and long blond hair dyed green. She walked up to the board and wrote her name: Bethany Barratt. "I was pretty surprised that she was our teacher," he recalled.

Over the next 10 days, Barratt took the students to sites all over the city that businesses had used as dumping grounds over the years: Chinatown, 12th Street Beach, Altgeld Gardens, the Crawford coal-fired plant in South Lawndale and Bubbly Creek, made famous in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* as the sewer for the Union Stock Yards. These businesses often sat along the south

branch of the Chicago River, in neighborhoods where many of their employees lived.

"Bethany was passionate about our understanding the history and long-term effects of environmental pollution, which disproportionately affects working-class people," Siegel said.

Spending about five hours a day together, the class got to know each other well. Siegel, the oldest in the class, even brought the group chocolate donuts and a strawberry whipped cream cake one morning to celebrate his 71st birthday.

***Raymond Siegel '20 graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts with distinction in economics. Fulfilling a lifelong journey that always pointed toward the value of higher education, Siegel, 73, remarked, "I earned a degree not because it would help me with my career anymore, but because I find economics interesting."***

Over the next year, as the pandemic took hold, Siegel and Barratt continued to keep in touch. Last summer, Siegel and his late wife, Trisha, invited Barratt and her husband, Lou, and another Roosevelt professor and her daughter to their Elmhurst home for a barbecue with friends.

"The town had canceled the fireworks at the last minute, so we decided to invite everyone back for a Labor Day picnic two months later to see fireworks," said Siegel.

Sadly, Trisha died August 5, 2020 and because of COVID-19, Barratt was the only person from Roosevelt to attend her service.

In his grief, Siegel decided to go ahead with the dinner over Labor Day. "Everyone who was at the Fourth of July barbecue returned, except for one — my wife," he said.

Siegel, who loves to cook, had gone all out and prepared a nine-course tasting menu. "It took a lot out of me," he recalled. "Seeing I was tired, Barratt marched into the kitchen with my next-door neighbor and did all the dishes. It was very thoughtful."

Siegel recalls how genuinely concerned and supportive Barratt was, especially in the months after he lost his wife. "I am so appreciative for her friendship," he said. "You never know how someone will touch your life."

In June, to honor their friendship and Barratt's passion for teaching and social justice, Siegel established the **Bethany Barratt Award in Social Justice Issues**. The scholarship will fund students who demonstrate financial need and a commitment to social justice issues, including environmental justice, human rights, economic justice, racial justice and Indigenous land rights, among others.

Colleague and friend Gina Buccola, chair of humanities and professor of English, has known



Barratt for 17 years — a friendship that began when they shared a shuttle ride to Roosevelt's Schaumburg Campus, where they taught classes.

"Bethany really is a pioneer in experiential learning," Buccola said. Barratt has taken her students abroad through Roosevelt's Joseph Loundy Human Rights Project, including trips to Amsterdam, British Columbia and London, where she arranged for them to witness a debate on the floor of Parliament and a tour of Scotland Yard, among other immersive experiences.

"She employs what's known as high-impact practices in the classroom," Buccola said. She also urged Barratt to teach a cross-disciplinary class based on one of her books, *The Politics of Harry Potter* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2012).

"Bethany brings a lot of behind-the-scenes work to her classrooms," Buccola added. "She's interested in everything. She even earned a master's degree in biology while teaching here and has spent time volunteering for a number of organizations, especially those supporting animal welfare. She brings her passion for life to her students. To me, it's a natural fit to have a scholarship named for her because social justice is at the center of all she does."

Barratt was deeply touched by Siegel's generosity.

"That Ray has made this gift in my name means so much to me. It's a huge honor," said Barratt. "I am most excited about the scholarship's ability to bring more opportunities for students to learn in a really hands-on way about the social justice

issues most important in our communities, our nation and the world, including environmental justice, indigenous rights and the rights of older persons."

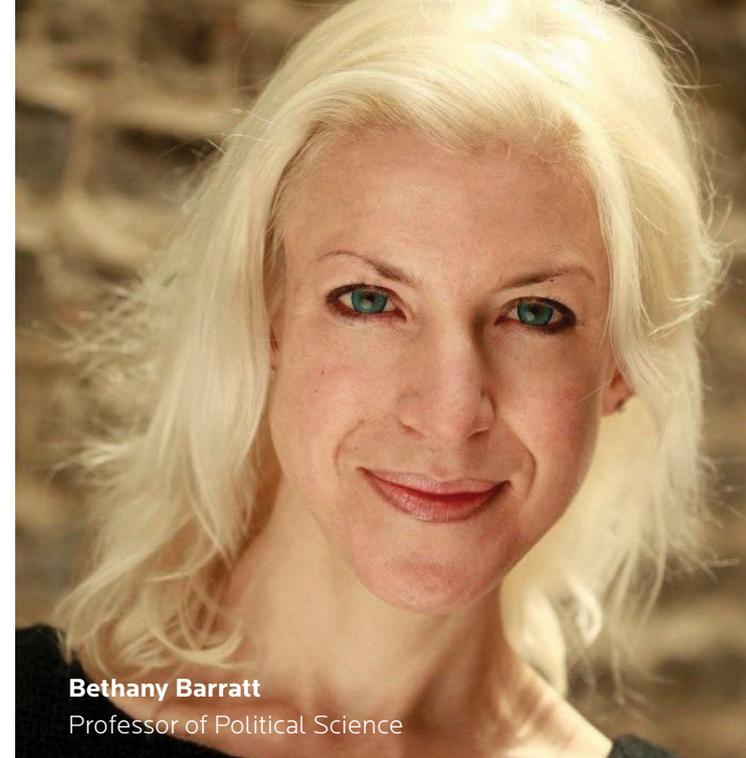
Ray added that he hopes this scholarship will be a source of knowledge and inspiration for students.

"At 73, I know well that there's no time like the present to honor someone who deserves to be recognized," Siegel said. "Bethany is such an enlightening teacher that I wanted to do that for her. She's earned it."

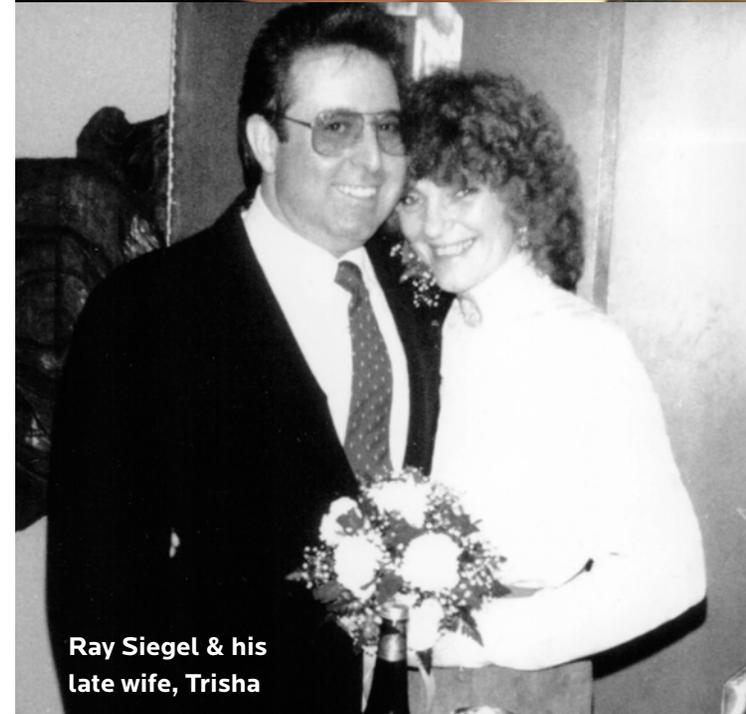
And college dean Cami McBride couldn't agree more.

"Bethany is a magnetic professor with a deep commitment to human rights and environmental justice," said McBride. "Her example and her energetic, creative and powerful teaching impact her students in profound ways."

She added, "The award Ray has established in her name is a reminder of the important role professors play in their students' lives, as well as the social justice and democratic values at the core of a Roosevelt education."



**Bethany Barratt**  
Professor of Political Science



**Ray Siegel & his  
late wife, Trisha**



## FAMILY GIFT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO PURSUE CAREERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

First-generation college student Le Roy “Lee” R. Baur (MPA '72) believes in the power of education, both formal and informal.

“One learns something every day from every encounter with another person,” said the retired civil engineer from his home in Knoxville, Tennessee. “The goal is to always better oneself from your experiences.”

Lee was fortunate to have devoted parents, Robert and Clara, who valued the transformational power of education. They came to Chicago in the 1920s as immigrants — his father from Zurich, Switzerland, and his mother from Stuttgart, Germany. They met, married and settled in the Irving Park neighborhood on Chicago’s North Side.

To pay tribute to his parents, Lee and his family established the Baur Family Endowed Scholarship in Public Administration to provide financial support to and encourage the success of students pursuing careers in the public sector.

***“This scholarship honors my parents and their courage to immigrate to the United States, while also providing students an educational pathway to opportunities that otherwise might not be possible,” said Lee.***

With both parents fluent in German, Lee remembers surprising his grammar school teachers with his language skills. “I only spoke High German at home until I started kindergarten,” he said. “My parents believed that knowing a second language was an advantage in life.”

Lee was a good student, drawn to math and science. After graduating from Lane Technical High School, he enrolled at the Illinois Institute of Technology and also worked at LaSalle Extension University in the Loop, where he met his late wife, Jo an. They married in 1959. In 1962,



Lee Baur

Lee received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from IIT and worked for the next five years as a civil engineer for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

“My education benefited from having some concrete work experience,” he said. “It enabled me to get much more from my classes because it helped clarify what I wanted out of them.”

He and Jo an bought a home in Winnetka in 1963 and began raising a family: daughter Suzanne is now a software engineer in Poughkeepsie, New York, and son Stuart is a writer in Hollywood, California. Lee’s next position was director of the Village of Glenview’s Public Works Department, where he oversaw a staff of 40.



While there, Lee heard about Roosevelt's graduate program in public administration from his friend and mentor, the late Max Whitman.

At the time, the program was taught at Great Lakes Naval Base in North Chicago and included military officers and federal employees who, he said, helped broaden his worldview. He continues to be grateful to the Village of Glenview for sponsoring his studies.

With classes in management, organizational structure and effectiveness, policy and human relations, among others, Lee learned to be a better supervisor.

"In contrast to my engineer education of math, equations and predictable science, my MPA degree taught me to embrace the human side of employees," he said. "I learned how to be open and explain the reasons behind my actions and to give my employees the ability to make their own decisions, which gave them ownership of their jobs. It showed me the importance of motivating employees so we both could be satisfied with outcomes."

In the mid-1970s, Lee began working for the City of Lake Forest, where he rose to director of public works. There, he managed a staff of 80 and initiated and accomplished a number of major infrastructure improvements. He also served as president of the 800-member Chicago Metropolitan Chapter of the American Public Works Association and advised the national organization.

When he retired in 1992, he and Jo an traveled

throughout the world and to 49 states — North Dakota is still on his bucket list. Before Jo an passed away in 2012, they cruised America in their motor home, settling in the beautiful mountains of eastern Tennessee.

"Through hard work and education, I was able to have a successful career, live a happy life and provide a good living for my family," Lee said. "I hope to give that same chance to a new generation of Roosevelt students. The Baur Family Scholarship is my way to make that a reality."

**4** *out of* **5** **students**  
**received a University scholarship or grant**  
**during the last academic year — that's 80% of all students.**



 Visit [roosevelt.edu/waystogive](https://roosevelt.edu/waystogive)  
to explore how you can establish  
your own scholarship fund.





**Caitlynn Liquigan & Mia Moore**  
2021 Mansfield Fellows

## MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP HELPS STUDENTS DEVELOP TOOLS FOR SOCIAL ACTIVISM

The long-term effects of our simple, ordinary daily actions can significantly improve society, said sophomore Mia Moore. Through the Mansfield Fellowship for Activism and Community Engagement, Mia and 14 other students spent last summer in communities across Chicagoland learning new ways to effect social change.

A member of the honors program with a double major in history and economics and a minor in social justice studies, Mia's placement at Eden Place Nature Center in Fuller Park was spent learning firsthand about issues surrounding food injustice.

***"It opened my eyes to the impact food deserts have on communities and taught me to take a deeper look at how things I do today can make the world a better place tomorrow," she said.***

Through its conservation and agriculture programs, the South Side educational hub uses sustainable practices for growing healthy, fresh food. The Mansfield fellowship, which comes



with a \$2,500 stipend, helped support Mia as she planted, watered, weeded and harvested the farm's fruits and vegetables, bringing healthy food to the community and strengthening the urban farm.

Mia and several other fellows in her cohort began the summer with a three-day intensive course exploring the context of community engagement. Taught by Heather Dalmage, professor of sociology and director of the Mansfield Institute, the fellows studied grassroots civil and human rights activist Ella Baker, among others, analyzing various approaches to the demands for social and racial justice.

"Ella Baker's work is a great example of how small, quotidian actions can change the world," Mia said. "My internship brought to life some of the social-justice theories I learned in class. It's part of my educational journey, which has me leaning toward graduate school once I earn my degree."

## VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP EMPOWERS AND UPLIFTS

For senior Caitlynn Liquigan, a virtual experience as a summer camp instructor for the Michigan chapter of Friendship Circle taught her about her ability to inspire and empower others.

The nonprofit reaches about 3,000 disabled individuals and their families each year through recreational, social, educational and vocational programming, while supporting participants struggling with isolation, addiction and other

family-related crises.

A psychology major with a criminal justice minor and a concentration in child and family studies, Liquigan spent 10 hours a week leading 20 participants from around the country in games, story time, conversations and ways to make positive connections with each other. She also developed a letter-writing program to gain one-on-one connections with nonverbal participants.

"My advocacy work highlights people's shared humanity," said Caitlynn, who plans on graduate school for social work. She taught participants ways to appropriately address their emotions and reactions to one another so they could better understand their own feelings and find ways to lift each other up with words and actions.

"I gave them the space to talk and restore whatever issue needed attention," she said. "They formed and developed new habits and behaviors that furthered their social growth. Ultimately, I taught them new ways to confront the disability issues they're each facing by advocating for themselves and others.

"My fellowship taught me that there is individual power and strength that's often overlooked, and that by embracing our differences, we can transform society."



**donor-funded programs,** totaling \$300k in support, provided 43 students

with career readiness and leadership opportunities in 2021.



Visit [roosevelt.edu/waystogive](https://roosevelt.edu/waystogive) to learn how you can help support Roosevelt's transformative learning programs.



# UNIVERSITY EXPENSES & ENDOWMENT

**\$115.7  
MILLION**

UNIVERSITY EXPENSES

**3%**

PERCENTAGE OF UNIVERSITY  
EXPENSES FUNDED BY  
ENDOWMENT REVENUE

**\$167.4  
MILLION**

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT  
MARKET VALUE

**\$31.1M**  
year-over-year  
increase

\*Dollar amounts have been rounded  
for the purpose of this report.



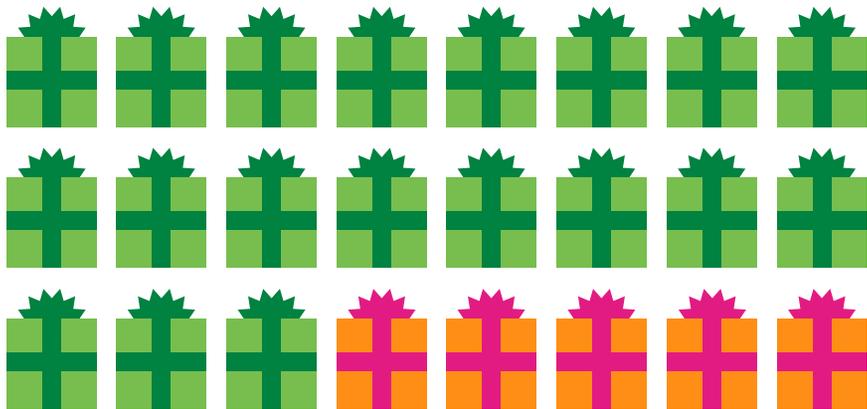
# FUNDRAISING

## TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED:

**\$5,323,520**

Contributions to Annual Fund:  
**\$819,482**

Number of Gifts Received: **2,482**



**23%** of donors made their first gift to Roosevelt in 2020-21.

## GIVING BY DONOR TYPE:

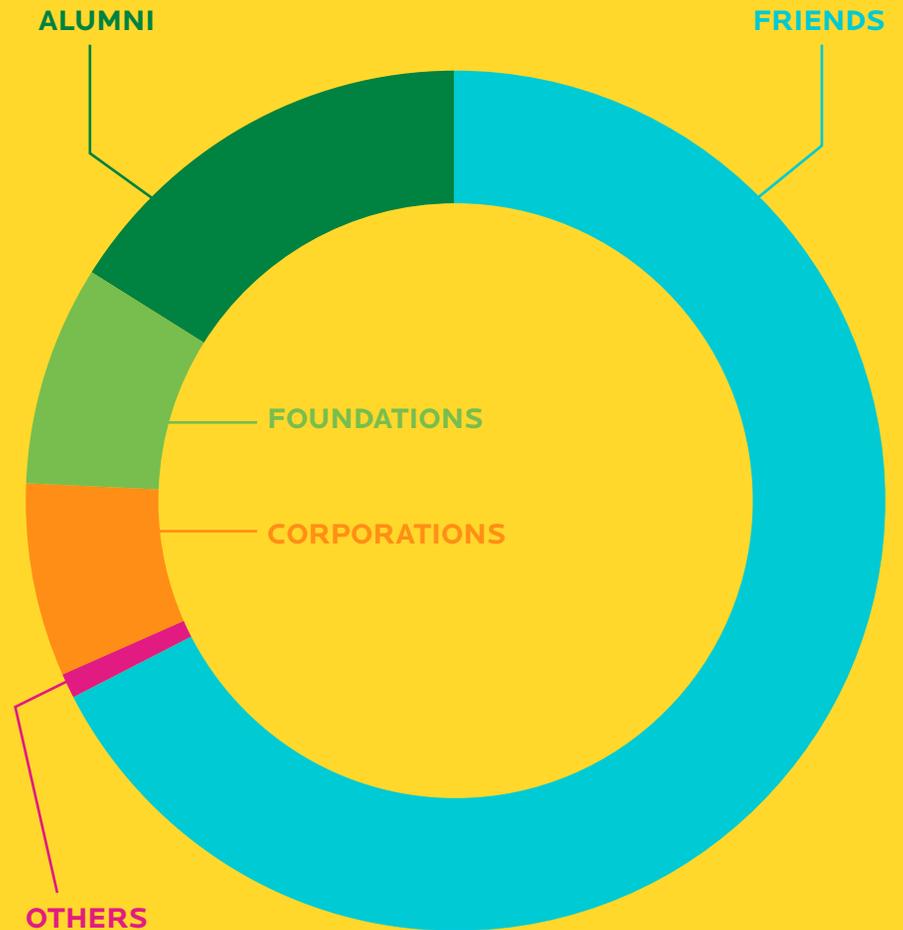
ALUMNI: \$880,891

FRIENDS: \$3,286,235

CORPORATIONS: \$497,374

OTHERS: \$70,000

FOUNDATIONS: \$589,017



## PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY

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Sincerely,

Lauren, BSBA '22

Recipient of Black Student Equity Scholarship



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