The Class of 2020 is “an impressive bunch,” says Kelly Walter, associate vice president and executive director of admissions. This year’s freshmen come from the top 10 percent of their high school class and had an A- average.

WTBU was the first station to give radio host Howard Stern a job, and in July, Stern (CGS’74, COM’76) returned the favor by welcoming the station’s current e-board to his New York City studios for a visit. The group met the host of the Howard Stern Show and toured his studios and the entire SiriusXM complex, looking for ideas that would help them rebuild their station, which was destroyed in a fire last March.

The fire, believed to have been started by an equipment malfunction, caused major water and smoke damage and rendered uninhabitable the studios on the third floor of the College of Communication. Broadcasting has resumed in a temporary studio; the new space is being designed and could be completed by January.

In the weeks following the fire, alumni and supporters of the station from across the country donated more than $40,000 to support the rebuild. Many listeners tweeted at Stern, hoping that the shock jock would see the pleas and help the station. When word did finally get through to him, he invited the students to his studios at satellite radio broadcaster SiriusXM.

Station faculty advisor Anne Donohue (COM’89), a COM associate professor of journalism, accompanied the group, which included seven students and Jake Kassen (CGS’01, COM’03), technical operations manager at COM. “He could not have been more gracious,” says Donohue. “He said he felt terrible about the fire, asked what he could do to help, and then spent time talking one-on-one with each of the kids. He spent an hour meeting with us, when I thought we’d have 15 minutes.”

Howard Stern (CGS’74, COM’76) with Emma Seslowsky (COM’18) and Zach Schiffman (COM’18).

Howard Jones, 24-year BUTI choral instructor and a CFA professor emerita and director of choral activities, a woman who launched a thousand careers, alenmand-ed her way from embrace to embrace along the green and under the party tent. A panel of alumni, moderated by Hoffman, was not only a paean of gratitude, but also an illustration of the creative lives outside performance and teaching that the young BUTI musicians have made.

BUTI alum and vocalist Amy Matthews, for example, is now the host of a string of home renovation shows on HGTV.

The performance featured six BUTI alumni soloists and a chorus augmented by alumni. The result, a thunderous choral finale, sent a rush of goose bumps through audience members who had been fanning themselves with their programs in the humid August heat. Ambrose gave a closing nod to all those “who have had their artistry and their hearts opened” by the BUTI experience.