

HUNTER COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWS

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AVETE ATQUE VALETE

It is not an easy thing to lay aside a special undertaking with which one has been associated, first indirectly and then directly, for 45 years. Such an undertaking becomes so intimately a part of oneself that it is impossible to go on behind the barrier of the impersonal "one" or the formal "we"; the frank first person singular is what I must use.

My indirect connection with the NEWS began when I was still an undergraduate. My mother, Eleonore Funk Hahn, 1875, became its Editor in the fall of 1913 — just the time when I became the Literary Editor, and one of the five founders, of the College weekly, the *Bulletin*, so that the two beloved periodicals are closely associated in my memories. But my official connection with the *Bulletin* perforce ceased with my graduation in 1915; my family connection with the NEWS continued throughout the succeeding years. My mother's editorship ended only with her death, in July, 1944; she had prepared the June 1944 issue before her final illness began. Thereafter the NEWS passed into the hands of her daughter.

The results of my mother's editorship are a matter of record. The early copies of the NEWS unfortunately appear to be irrevocably lost; but as soon as she became Editor, she began the keeping of a file, together with spare copies which, eked out by some gifts from Miss Margaret Plumb of the College Library, were sufficient to provide three complete sets from November 1913 on. One of these sets is still in my possession, and will ultimately go to the Library of Hunter-in-the-Bronx. The other two sets, ending with 1944, were beautifully bound in three volumes each as a memorial to my mother, thanks to the generosity of her many friends and to the energy of her specially treasured co-worker, Irene Brandon Graff; one of these sets is now in the Library at Park Avenue, and the other in the Alumni Office. My mother had often expressed the wish that the NEWS might be bound; and so, when I was consulted as to the form that a memorial to her might take, I suggested that this wish of hers be gratified. The Public Library Reference Division at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street also has a file; unfortunately I found that it contained a few gaps, some but not all of which I was able to fill. The Public Library, as well as the two branches of the Hunter Library and the important administrative offices of the College, has been regularly on our mailing-list throughout my editorship.

Now to this editorship a period must be set. It is a great honor to have been chosen President of the Alumni Association of Hunter College; yet I confess that my pleasure in it is a little dimmed by the necessity of saying farewell to the NEWS. I feel somewhat as I did at my own graduation, when I looked forward eagerly to the new life that was opening before me, yet grieved that what was justly called commencement still marked an ending for my happy undergraduate days.

The NEWS has been much work, but a love of labor is not alien to my make-up, and this has truly been a labor of love, both for my mother's sake and for the sake of my alma mater. My mother often said that the Editor's position was a particularly privileged one, because she was in touch with every member of our Association. It has been a joy to try to work for the College and for the Alumni; and if our little periodical has pleased at least some of those for whom it was prepared, that is a signal reward.

I have felt always that the prime function of the NEWS is to serve as the organ of the Alumni workers (etymologically, *organ* and *work* are one and the same). First place has always been given to Alumni activities — those of the Association itself, and also those of committees, of classes, of chapters. But it has been a great gratification that recently, thanks to increased support by the Association (which in its budget granted us a stated sum instead of the precarious percentage of dues on which we were formerly dependent) and to the advertisements obtained by my efficient and energetic colleagues, we have been able to provide an enlarged NEWS, with pictures and feature articles, and yet to complete our term without a deficit. Even so, we have hardly ever had space enough for all our material, and frequently have had to postpone items of interest from issue to issue. For instance, only last month were we able, tardily, to publish reports that we had received from various Department Chairmen at a much earlier date; and only this month are we catching up on the large backlog of Graduate Cleanings accumulated throughout the year.

I have tried hard to get the NEWS out early in the month, but I have not been able to equal the good record of my mother, under whose editorship the paper usually reached its readers promptly on the first. Conditions in both printing-offices and post-offices have unfortunately deteriorated: five-day work-weeks, and one-a-day mails, have slowed us up considerably. Inexplicable and exasperating delays on the part of linotypers and printers have led me to feel that the old adage "Put not your trust in princes" should be revised to read "Put not your trust in printers". Also, last-minute changes and additions in items to be published have sometimes been necessary; and appeals from dilatory contributors have sometimes been irresistible (if only our contributors would realize that *every* item, long or short, accepted after the deadline is a potential cause of delay, as well as

of expense, to the News, perhaps the pleas for leniency would be fewer; I bespeak consideration for my successor in this respect).

I have also tried hard to avoid mistakes and misprints. For those that have crept in, I crave indulgence.

I thank all those contributors and collaborators (especially the loyal fellow-members of my staff, whose names are listed above *honoris causa*) for cooperation and good will. And as President, I shall endeavor to cooperate with the future Editor as past Presidents have cooperated with me.

In conclusion of this perhaps unduly personal and egotistical farewell editorial, let me close by addressing each gentle reader personally, and thus using the singular rather than the plural which I placed at its head. So to every Alumnus or Alumna, as President I say *ave*, as Editor *vale*, and as fellow-Alumna *salve*.
E. ADELAIDE HAHN

Save Saturday, Oct. 18, Alumni Homecoming Day! A.m., panels on Humanities, Social Science, Science, and Education; noon, informal, inexpensive luncheon with your old teachers; p.m., exhibition of opera, drama, and dance.

Dear Members of the Executive Council,

The tokens of appreciation which were presented to me at the Annual Meeting touched me deeply. I was so grateful for the beautiful personal gift and the prizes offered in my own Department.

As you recall, I answered the call to the presidency very reluctantly; but once I assumed the office, I tried to give of my time and energies without stint. I enjoyed the challenge which the job presented, and I am grateful for the words of praise which the faculty of the College and the members of the Alumni Association have lavished upon me.

It is heart warming to know that my efforts on behalf of our organization seemed to bear fruit; and I know that the Alumni Association, under the able guidance of E. Adelaide Hahn, will continue to flourish.

To all who participated in making these gifts possible, my sincere thanks.

Affectionately,

FRANCES R. ABRAMS

FACULTY FACTS

Mr. Bruce Prince-Joseph of the College Music Department is serving as the official pianist, organist, and harpsichordist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra during a seven week tour of South America sponsored by the State Department.

The U. S. Office of Education has assigned a grant of \$24,000 to the College for a Classroom Behavior Project to be directed by Dr. Gerald S. Lesser, Assistant Professor in the Educational Clinic. The project aims to develop new procedures for identifying gifted children, and on their basis to select a class of thirty children for the Hunter College Elementary School.

A summer institute will be offered at the College this year, for the purpose of bringing high school teachers of mathematics up to date on new concepts and their effect on the teaching of algebra and geometry. A course in modern concepts in chemistry and their applications will similarly aim to bring teachers of chemistry up-to-date.

An intensive course in Russian, to be taught by Dr. Maurice Friedberg, will be an innovation at the Hunter Summer Session this year. The idea of a six-weeks' summer course covering the whole first year's work in a foreign language was originated by the Chairman of the Classics Department in 1947, when a course of this sort in Greek was instituted: this course will be conducted in 1958 by Dr. Thelma B. DeGraff, Chairman of the Department of Classical Languages of Hunter College High School, who will be teaching it for the twelfth time. Later the Classics Department added a similar course in Latin; this has always been taught either by Professor Harry L. Levy of the Classics Department, or by Mrs. Winifred Ruter Merkel, Hunter '24, formerly an instructor at Hunter College, and later associated with the University of Cincinnati, where her husband is Professor of German. Mrs. Merkel will teach the course this summer. The German and Romance Language Departments eventually followed the lead of the Classics Department, and they will give courses this summer in German, taught by Mrs. Raisa S. Bakum; in French, taught by Professor Myrtle N. Volkhardt; and in Spanish, taught by Professor John H. Gray Jr.

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