

THE HUNTER COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWS

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MRS. SAMUEL ABRAMS

OUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

For eighty-five years our Alumni Association has been engaged in good works for the benefit of the College and the community. Through all these decades the Association has undertaken a wide variety of activities to supply the funds and services needed by the College to supplement its educational program. The City has not always been able to supply all the necessary funds, the necessary services.

A backward glance at the history of our Association will reveal some of the many activities undertaken so successfully in the past. We may indeed take pride in the record of the Alumni Association's achievement, as we take pride in the careers of our graduates.

The idea of kindergarten education is a commonplace today, but it was a group of graduates of our College who organized the first free kindergarten in this City. The establishment of kindergarten classes in the City public schools—just 58 years ago—was a direct result of the efforts of our graduates.

One of the largest settlements in the City—Lenox Hill—was originally organized, as I am certain most Hunterites will remember, by a group of College Alumni, as was the Alice Rich Northrop Memorial Camp, which continues to provide a country vacation annually for about 80 children.

Early in the history of the College our Associate Alumnae founded the College Library and provided support regularly. Funds were later allowed by the City for the Library, but many gifts have been made to the Library from time to time by Alumni groups which have filled vital needs.

The Bureau of Occupations, as it was called in its early days, was established and maintained for a number of years entirely by our Associate Alumnae. It was this office which secured part-time employment for undergrad-



DR. GEORGE N. SHUSTER

OUR COLLEGE

Hunter College has become a renowned institution, from some points of view almost breath-takingly so. This is certainly not due to neon lights put up around it by public relations experts, for we have always had too little of that kind of help. What accounts for it? We have not won major football games, nor have we worn an aura of social glamor. Perhaps the presence on the Bronx Campus for some years first of the Waves and then of the United Nations Security Council meant a little in terms of vicarious advertising of our existence, but certainly only a very little.

The cornerstone of our reputation is the "brainy woman". This stone, as I have learned from a number of graduates, is sometimes bulkier than one might wish it to be. People in all parts of the country, and indeed of the world, think this a College harder to get into than most others and still more difficult to get out of again with a degree. It is curious that all our Sings, functions, dances, and club activities leave little or no dent on the public mind as compared with what the Hunter student presumably does in the classroom. On the other hand we do deserve to have that sort of cornerstone—more than those of us who teach often think. The number of our graduates who go on to university study, or receive fellowships and comparable awards, is surprisingly large. This achievement cannot be divorced from the scholarly activities of the Faculty. In many fields the total contribution is, for a college, genuinely remarkable. We are also able to recruit able and promising young scholars, so that the future seems reasonably assured.

Second, we may as well frankly admit that it helps to have a building on Park Avenue. When we first opened shop in what was the earliest example of the "glass house" in New York, some people looked upon us as raucous upstarts. I recall being told by the president

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THE SURVEY OF ALUMNI

Many of us among the alumni and particularly those of us who, in one way or another, have been concerned with college history for various celebrations, have long felt the need for more information about our graduates. In 1956, the Alumni Committee on Vocational Guidance and Placement planned a study to obtain some up-to-date facts about our membership.

Questionnaires were mailed to 2990 members of the Alumni Association. The 1632 replies which were received listed 1016 persons married, 615 single. The number of children in any one family ranged from two to six: 250 respondents have one child, 339 have two children, 115 have three children, 12 have four children, 6 have five children, and 2 have six children.

This group of alumni has to its credit 574 M.A. degrees, 20 Ph.D. degrees, and 197 advanced degrees other than the two mentioned.

Among our members who are employed, 549 are in the \$3,000-\$5,000 salary range, 236 are in the \$5,000-\$7,000 range, 216 in the \$7,000-\$10,000 range; and 27 reported earnings of over \$10,000 per year.

The areas of employment run the alphabetical gamut from accountant to technician, and, for example, include artists, authors, cartographers, college deans, college faculty members of all ranks, dieticians, editors, geologists, homemakers, interior decorators, lawyers, librarians, musicians, pharmacists, physicians, real estate agents, religious workers, reporters, school principals, secretaries, social workers, teachers of all levels. The category listed most frequently was that of homemaker (272). The next highest was elementary school teacher (265).

The material gathered is a useful source of information concerning our alumni members, and the committee wishes publicly to express its appreciation for the grant of money from the Jenny Hunter Fund which made the study possible.

Alva C. Cooper, Chairman

CHAPTERS

In my college days (long before the time of "Fame"), we used to sing
"We are loyal daughters of the Alma Mater,
true

To the Lavender and White."

Later, some of these loyal daughters, residing outside of New York, moved by their need for some ties with their Alma Mater, formed the first Alumnae Chapters. It was not, however, until 1939 that the Associate Alumnae included in its constitution provisions for Chapters. Of these early Chapters, Los Angeles and Westchester are still flourishing.

Later, groups of Alumnae residing in the

different boroughs of Greater New York started organizing as committees. Thus the Parkchester Committee (later the Bronx) and the Queens Committee began. These were given formal recognition as Chapters when the constitution was revised in 1952 during the Presidency of Mrs. Draddy. She wisely foresaw the advantage of working in small groups which could meet in places more easily accessible, and would foster closer ties.

Since then Chapters have increased steadily. We have now added Chapters both within and outside the city. These have a twofold purpose. They serve as a social and educational club for the Alumnae (or Alumni), and at the same time add to the name and prestige of Hunter in the community. Many have contributed generously to the projects of the Alumni Association.

Though our Alma Mater, like the famous Old Woman, has many children, we differ from her, for we know what to do! Loyal daughters, join the Alumni and help us form Chapters. I should be very happy to hear from our graduates in all parts of the globe.

LILLIAN CORRIGAN, Chairman of Chapters

CHAPTER LEADERS

Local

Bronx—Mrs. A. Sambol, 1250 Stratford Ave., New York 52.

Brooklyn—Mrs. J. Friedman, 225 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn 38.

Manhattan

East Side—Miss M. Hassay, 437 East 72 St., New York 21.

West Side—Mrs. J. Jacobs, 210 West 72 St., New York 23.

Stuyvesant—Mrs. R. Mendlow, 520 East 20 St., New York 9.

Nassau—Mrs. R. Offer, 39 Elm St., Lynbrook, L. I.

Statens Island—Mrs. V. Hampton, 301 Hart Ave., S. I.

Queens—Mrs. R. Lewis, 67-108 St., Forest Hills, L. I.

At a Distance

Hartford, Conn.—Mrs. N. Neiditch, 345 Auburn Road, West Hartford.

New England—Mrs. L. Mersky, 485 Crafts St., West Newton, Mass.

Southern California—Mrs. I. Shulman, 2925 North Beachwood Drive, Los Angeles.

San Francisco—Miss I. Logie, San Francisco School Department, 135 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

Washington, D. C.—Mrs. J. Linde, 3305 South Stafford St., Arlington, Va.

Westchester—Miss M. Rooney, 50 Randolph Road, White Plains.

In the Process of Organizing

Baltimore, Md.—Mrs. E. Howe, 142 West Lanvale St.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Mrs. M. Beller, 2479 Parker Boulevard, Tonawanda, N. Y.

Chicago, Ill.—Mrs. L. Sharrow, 7646 East Prairie Road, Skokie, Ill.

Dayton, Ohio—Mrs. N. Brucks, 4241 Brenan Ave., Dayton 9.

(We need organizers in Florida, New Jersey, Philadelphia, et al.!)

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