

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

Published Monthly from October to June, inclusive, at 12-14 Lawton Street, New Rochelle, N. Y.,  
by the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College of the City of New York.  
Entered as second class matter, 1895, at the post-office at New Rochelle under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. XLIV

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., MARCH, 1939

No. 3

## ALUMNÆ BREAKFAST

A large number of distinguished guests helped the Associate Alumnae celebrate the sixty-ninth birthday of Hunter College and the fifth anniversary of the presidency of Doctor Eugene A. Colligan at the annual breakfast, held on February 11 at the Astor.

Helen Luckey Simis, President of the Associate Alumnae, the toastmistress, stressed the unity of staff, students, and alumnae. She expressed the gratitude of all for a happy year and for the great progress in the new building program. The invocation was pronounced by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Michael J. Lavelle.

Dr. Frank P. Graves, President of the University of the State of New York and State Commissioner of Education, hailed Dr. Colligan as a man whose life, friendship, and career have stood well the test of time and familiarity. "The better we know him," said Dr. Graves, "the more we appreciate and admire him. In his service in the school system, he has dealt with vexing questions with deliberateness and sanity, and with all questions without bias and with an earnest desire to get at the facts." Dr. Colligan has been known, the Commissioner continued, for the fertility of his ideas, his frankness in expressing them, and his firmness of character in carrying them out. In conclusion, Dr. Graves characterized the President as a good citizen and a liberal, humane, fine specimen of manhood.

Hon. Thomas J. Mangan, Chancellor of the University of the State of New York, made a special journey from Binghamton "to pay tribute to a fine educator, a fine administrator, a fine character, a wonderful leader, and a great man." He announced that he brought the best wishes of the Board of Regents to Dr. Colligan on this anniversary.

Among the other leaders in public life who greeted Dr. Colligan were Dr. Harold G. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools of the City of New York, who called the President's work as Associate Superintendent outstanding in its field; Justice James T. Hallinan of the State Supreme Court; Justice Albert Cohn, of the Appellate Division; Dr. George Ryan, former President of the Board of Education; and Miss Millicent Baum, Secretary to Mayor LaGuardia.

The family greetings included those of the Board of Higher Education, the Faculty of Hunter College, and the student body of the College. Miss Ruth Lewinson spoke for the Board of Higher Education. She warned that educational problems must be approached cautiously and should be considered from more than one point of view; she saw, she said, an effective alumnae association

lending a hand to Dr. Colligan; and she offered to the President the greetings of her colleagues on the Board, with the wish for his continued health and success in his high office.

Professor Joseph Cummings Chase, representing the Faculty, told the Alumnae, "We like our President better than any other college faculty likes its President."

Miss Jean Goodman, President of the Student Council, brought the Alumnae the pledge of support of the student body, a student body resolved that "Hunter College shall be the best college in the world".

In his response, Dr. Colligan reminded the audience of the truth that the college will never be greater than its student body and its alumnae. "My fellows on the Faculty," he said, "I salute with esteem. It would be impossible to assemble a better faculty in any institution.

"I am proud of our student body. I regard these alert, intelligent young women as the finest girls," he continued, "and of the Alumnae, I am most proud." The Alumnae, the President noted, are marked by that ripened judgment that experience and maturity alone can bring; they best appreciate and understand what the College means to the community.

Dr. Colligan then paid special tribute to Dean Hannah M. Egan, Professor Marie K. Gallagher, and Mrs. Mary Belden James Lehn for their outstanding work in "individualization of the students". He asserted his own belief and the verdict of those who understand this problem that "in no other college has the problem of individualization of the student been so perfectly accomplished. There is available in Hunter College every service a college should afford to a girl as an individual." Praise was bestowed also on the work of the Curriculum Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Philip R. V. Curoe, described by the President as "one of the finest characters and most intelligent minds".

Dr. Colligan's final salute was for the "most glorious body of womanhood, the student body and the Alumnae of Hunter College". In conclusion, he expressed his sincerest and most grateful appreciation for the anniversary celebration.

Miss Regina C. M. Burke, the new Associate Superintendent of Schools, a member of the Alumnae, offered her appreciation to the fine women and men of the early Hunter College; their high ideals, she said, had shaped her professional life. She reminded the Alumnae that Hunter graduates pledge their service to the city, and that all may render some service in some way.

John Kieran, son of the late President

## COLLEGE NOTES

Hunter celebrated its 69th birthday with a week of activities from February 13 to 18 in which alumnae participated prominently.

The anniversary celebration started with a broadcast over Station WNYC on Monday. The speakers were Mrs. Simis, our president; Jean Goodman, president of the Student Self-Government Association; Renee Kraus, chairman of the Traditions Committee; and Tippins Brown, who was mistress of ceremonies.

On Tuesday, when classes reopened for the spring semester, Dean Hannah M. Egan was hostess at a tea to the Faculty Club and staff members of the College.

The Associate Alumnae's birthday gift to the College, a phonograph for the 2 Park Avenue Building and a radio for the Bronx Buildings, was presented at the birthday chapel, held on Wednesday at the Central Synagogue. The Student Council promised to provide records for the phonograph.

The speakers included President Colligan; Mrs. Simis; Mrs. Walter S. Mack, Jr., Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the College; and Miss Goodman.

Tribute to President Colligan, now in his fifth year as President of Hunter, was paid by Miss Kraus.

Praising Dr. Thomas Hunter, who founded the College, Dr. Colligan declared that Hunter was an experiment in democracy like the United States. "To make the experiment succeed," he said, "America must have patience, tolerance, understanding, good will, and mutual helpfulness. If there is not on the part of those favored by fortune, a sense of responsibility which makes them share with those less fortunate, if selfishness prevails, America has failed. If at the other extreme, there is a denial of the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquired right of property, it has failed equally."

Such failure, President Colligan warned, would lead along the route taken by other nations which have failed and whose names crowd the headlines to-day.

The celebration closed on Saturday with a broadcast by the College Choir from Station WABC. Musical selections included "The Lord Is My Shepherd", by Henry Holden Huss, former member of the Music Department Staff. The selection is dedicated to the Choir and was broadcast for the first time, with Mr. Huss himself at the piano.