

FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

We hope to see many of our members at two meetings in May, on successive Wednesday evenings, the thirteenth and twentieth.

It was long the custom of the Association, in the days when the Executive Council and not the Board of Directors was the governing body of the organization, that the final Council meeting of the year should serve as the annual meeting, with reports from officers and committee chairmen. This year we are trying the innovation of arranging a meeting of this sort, to be held on the regular meeting date of the Board of Directors, May 13, but to be attended jointly by the Council members and the Directors; and all other members of the Association are cordially invited to attend. Probably many who do not belong to either group are hardly aware, at least in detail, of the devoted, the dedicated service rendered quietly by so many of our members, both young and—not so young. One valued chairman who attended a Directors' meeting for the first time not long ago told your President how deeply she was impressed by the evidence she met there of such service. The usual meeting place of the Council, the North Lounge, will not be available for us that evening, and neither will any other room of suitable size, so we shall perforce have to gather in the Assembly Hall. It will be much too big for us, but at least there is the consolation that there will be plenty of room for all.

Providing for reports at the meeting

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SING: A DYING TRADITION

Inertia has sickened Sing and threatens to destroy it. Should Sing materialize this year, it may be making its last appearance. Student apathy is directed toward extra-curricular activity and Sing is not exempt. It is tragic that this traditional interclass competition which originated at our College forty-two years ago and which has been spread to camps and schools with which our graduates have been associated seems about to expire.

The writer of this article led her class for four years — never once to victory. But not one member of the Class of 1927 who participated in those exciting competitions has forgotten the exhilaration of them. Alumni who merely watched caught the contagion of the fire generated.

Alumni can help prevent the disappearance of Sing. Their purchase of tickets for the performance would assist in the production of the income it is necessary for Central Sing Committee to raise.

Are the alumni less apathetic than the undergraduates? Are their memories of the excitement of Sing sufficiently stirring to stimulate action? Is the desire to maintain this tradition strong enough to cause them to turn out en masse to support it?

Tickets are reasonably priced: \$1.00, 1.10, 1.25, 1.30 and 1.50. Should the NEWS reach you early enough you can reserve tickets by writing to Miss Dorothy Dunbar, Chairman of Tickets, % Council Room, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York 21, N. Y. Make checks payable to Hunter College Sing 1959. Should the NEWS be delayed (which is not unusual), buy your tickets the day of Sing—Friday, May 8—at College. The time is one-thirty.

A.T.W.

CENSUS

We are interested in knowing how many couples among our alumni are comprised of Hunterites only. Will all such conjugal twosomes please identify themselves? Send your names and address and that of any similarly composed couples to the editor. Thank you.

CITY COLLEGE STATE AID ENACTED

State aid for the four municipal colleges was enacted into law at this session of the Legislature.* It represents an important innovation sought by the Board of Higher Education, i.e., state contribution toward support of the city's colleges.

Under the new law, the State will pay 1/6 of the current operating costs of the first two years of undergraduate study, based on a plan prepared by the Board of Higher Education (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees of the State University and the Budget Director). In addition to admitting residents of New York City, as in the past, residents of New York State will be admitted subject to conditions prescribed by the Board of Higher Education. State financial assistance will commence with the amount to be paid in January, 1960 (calculated on operating costs of the 1958-1959 fiscal year). The municipal colleges may charge such out-of-city students 1/3 of their operating costs; the municipal colleges may charge the out-of-city counties sending such students 1/3 of their operating costs. Heretofore, enrollment was limited to New York City residents, and the State did not contribute to the support of the city colleges (except for partial support of the teacher training program and the community colleges — which programs are not affected by the new legislation).

Every day the news alerts the country to the urgent need of preparing more and more well trained young people in strategic fields. Pressure for admission to the municipal colleges rises each year — from 10,359 in 1953 to 17,677 in 1958. The current enrollment of the municipal colleges is about 84,000 students. The 1957 enrollments are expected to double by 1970.

This new state aid program is intended to enable the municipal college system to help meet this serious challenge. The aid formula reflected in this legislation, namely \$2,700,000, was tailored closely to the money available in the budget and the extremely tight city and state fiscal situation.

FLORENCE RAIDER ZIMMERMAN

*As we go to press, the bill has not yet been signed, but the Governor is expected to do so.

SPRING REUNION — THE PLAYHOUSE

Wednesday, May 20 at 8:30 p. m.

Dr. George N. Schuster: An Appreciation and A Salute

by Mina S. Rees

At the end of January, 1960, George Schuster will begin a terminal leave from the presidency of Hunter College after 20 years of service that have had a profound



and beneficial effect on the development of the College. The history of Hunter during those twenty years is rich in incident. First came the move to the "new" building on Park Avenue. The structure, which won the

praise of many and the scorn of some, set the pattern for the recent burgeoning of modern architecture all up and down the Avenue. It bore on its southern face a quotation from Emerson:

"We are of different opinions at different hours but we always may be said to be at heart on the side of truth".

which gives some indication of the quality of the man who chose it, a president moved in all things to cherish the finest qualities in the heart and spirit and mind of all his colleagues and all the students of the College.

Soon after the move to the new building on Park Avenue came World War II with the invasion of our Bronx Campus by the training school for WAVES; then the end of the war with the coming of the newly formed United Nations to its temporary home in our Bronx Buildings; finally our return to the Bronx Campus, and the establishment of coeducation. During all this time the President was engaged in many public activities flowering in his appointment as Land Commissioner for Bavaria under the U.S. Military Government in Germany during 1950-1951, and his present service as representative of the United States on the Executive Committee of UNESCO.

HUNTER'S STATURE GROWS

The stature of the College has grown under the impact of his leadership; Hunter is known far and wide as a first class institution, considered by educators as one of the really great colleges for women in the United States, and quickly winning for itself a comparable esteem as a co-educational institution. The sureness with which our graduates, men and women, win awards at leading universities and distinguish themselves in national fellowship competitions, the eagerness with which the deans of great graduate schools ask for more of our graduates to study at their institutions, attest to the excellent records of our students in their graduate work. The enviable reputation that Hunter enjoys both here and abroad has benefited from President Schuster's personal distinction and widely acclaimed activities.

Since Dr. Schuster came to Hunter many

changes have taken place in the College. Most obvious among these is the coming of coeducation and the operation of four-year colleges on two campuses; but most striking in a deeper sense is the coming of age of the College, its concern for its students as citizens of the world, its reputation among graduate schools, the scholarly distinction of its faculty, the expansion of its graduate school, its role as a great cultural center for the City, its programs to support community needs. All this omits the central role of Hunter as a liberal arts college which offers to all the young people of New York the opportunity for a sound education in a world in which such an education is needed as never before by individuals in their role as home-makers and as citizens, and by society for the preservation of our culture and our way of life. Hunter has also continued its great tradition as an institution that provides New York City with many of its most valued teachers, and has expanded this teacher-training service to other communities in the State. The new legislation providing further state aid to the city colleges will probably bring to our doors from outside the city many students who are preparing for careers other than teaching. Thus Hunter's opportunities for an even larger role in higher education in New York State continue to expand.

Of each of these many facets of the life of the College we may be proud. The President has played a vital role in providing the climate that supports these activities, and has, through his personal action and knowledge and concern, facilitated and often provided the single support that has made these developments possible.

To newcomers to the staff of the College, and to visitors, the most striking thing about Dr. Schuster is his personal warmth and his concern for individuals. I remember the first Christmas assembly I attended after my return to Hunter in 1953. Dr. Schuster spoke to the student body with his moving spirit and humility and humor, I found myself filled with pride to be a part of this College, and resolved to try to make my contribution to its life an appropriate counterpart of his. I know other newcomers, not alumni, who have responded similarly. All his dealings with students and staff are enlightened by a personal generosity that somehow contrives to avoid the sentimental. These attitudes have had their effect in setting the tone of the whole college. Scores of students and parents each year, as well as every visitor who examines in detail our procedures for handling special problems of individual students, report to me their amazement that a college the size of Hunter can be so aware of the needs of individuals, and so responsive to these needs.

DR. SCHUSTER IN THE CLASSROOM

Through all the years of his service, the President has maintained his contact

with the students, not merely through meetings with their leaders, but also in the classroom. For many years as a professor of English, he offered a course in English Poetry; more recently as an expert on Germany, he has lectured in the Department of Political Science on German Politics. He feels, as he so often says, that only by knowing the students in the classroom does he really understand the College and its work. His warm concern for the students extends to their families as well. Each year, at commencement, the parents of the graduates find themselves the center of admiring applause as the President, with a typical Schusterian touch, singles them out for honor because of their sacrifices and the understanding sympathy that has brought the undergraduate years of their children to happy fruition.

PROGRAM ADDITIONS

There are special directions in which this concern for the personal and human needs of the students has taken concrete form. The acquisition of Roosevelt House by friends of the college, and its operation as a religious and social center for the benefit of the students illustrate both the kind of concern I have been alluding to, and the imaginative way in which apparently insoluble problems have been solved. In this effort, as in so many others, he has been supported by the tireless work of his wife, Doris Schuster, whom the alumni have come to know as a charming and dedicated friend. There are other significant additions to the College program that have been made possible by his vision and hard work. The Opera Workshop, one of the relatively few activities of its kind in the United States and now one of the most distinguished, was certainly an undertaking of frightening difficulty for a municipal college. It has managed to survive financially, and flourish artistically primarily because Dr. Schuster knew its importance as a cultural service to New York and those of its young people who are striving to prepare for an operatic career, and knew how to involve in its operation and support other knowledgeable and dedicated members of the community. The coming of Jacques Maritain as a visiting professor of philosophy is another instance. In both these cases the opportunity came to Hunter because the Schuster character and vision were known to people distinguished in arts and letters outside the Hunter circle; in both the difficulties were formidable; in both the results not only gave to the College rare distinction in the larger world outside the College but also brought to the students a quality of experience that few colleges can boast. There have been many students who have benefited from these and similar offerings whose names and careers have become well-known to the alumni and to the world outside and who acknowledge their personal gratitude for the support and en-

couragement of the President. The faculty, too, have reason to be grateful for his liberal spirit, for the unflinching encouragement they receive in their scholarly activities, and for the sympathy they can count on when personal difficulties cloud the horizon. The role of the President at Hunter, amidst his many commitments to educational and cultural and liberal causes outside the College, is a formidable one. One consequence of Dr. Shuster's involvement on the international scene has been to make more urgent for our students the plight of students in other lands; one scholarly concomitant has been to interest our outstanding students in study abroad. Each year several of our students have won Fulbright scholarships, and during each of the past three years, a Hunter graduate has been selected by the State Fulbright committee as one of four students from the State to be nominated for Fulbrights. The reports we receive of their work in foreign lands are a real tribute not only to their training, but to their ability to conduct themselves as young scholars in foreign settings. President Shuster often remarks jocosely that there is no corner of the world to which he goes where he does not meet a Hunter graduate.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Even with students as gifted as many of those who come to Hunter, the pursuit of excellence relies heavily upon the quality of the faculty; and no one knows better than I the role the President has played through the years in insisting upon a faculty of which any college may well be proud. Criteria of scholarly distinction and teaching excellence have been maintained steadfastly with the same sureness with which principles regarding academic freedom and the privilege to dissent have been supported. During recent years, there have been several appointments to important positions in the college, each arrived at with complete freedom to choose the candidate of highest quality, nominated by groups of proved competence. Each of the newcomers has found the same unflinching support in his quest for excellence. The considerable recognition that comes to our faculty from outside the college, as so often reported in the pages of the ALUMNI NEWS, our enviable achievements in the field of scholarship, the many scholarly awards received by our teachers, all attest to the distinction which Dr. Shuster's policies have brought to the College.

FACULTY FELLOWSHIP FUND

His concern to preserve and enhance this distinction has been manifested in his urging that a Faculty Fellowship Fund be established. The Alumni will recall that, at the Alumni Luncheon of 1955, the President pointed out the acute need for assistance for the scholarly work of the faculty if Hunter is to maintain her place in the van of American colleges. This Fund was subsequently established as the George N. Shuster Faculty Fellowship Fund, and has recently been augmented and made operable by a splendid gift from James and Evelyn Picker. Part of the tribute that is planned for Dr. Shuster at the time of his retirement is a substantial further endowment of this fund. No need of the College is closer to his heart, for he knows from the depth of his conviction and the breadth of his experience that the excellence of the College can be preserved and enhanced only if it can attract a facul-

ty based firmly in the academic tradition of scholarship and research.

TEACHER TRAINING

The importance of Hunter in the training of teachers has grown steadily through the years. In 1948 came a State subsidy



President Shuster

to enable out-of-city residents to attend the city colleges if they were planning to teach, and to provide a fifth year of teacher preparation usually leading to a master's degree. Shortly afterward several of the Arts and Science faculties at Hunter initiated Master's programs. These have flourished; imaginative new programs have been introduced; and an unexpectedly large proportion of the graduates of those Master's programs have gone on for Ph.D's.

ORIENTATION TOWARD GOALS

It was during Dr. Shuster's incumbency also that the Elementary School assumed its unique role as an experimental school for gifted youngsters, and rose to a place of national interest. Both the Hunter Elementary and the Hunter High Schools serve special purposes which make our teacher training program distinctive. Exciting studies of gifted children are in progress, and imaginative experimentation with the use of television in the teacher training process are about to begin. To be sure, the President does not participate in these projects. Indeed, there are many activities at the College in which it would be hard to say that the President plays a specific part; yet it is true of every day and every project that his influence and interest and concern are felt, and that all of us carry on our work with full knowledge of his spirit and purposes. His identification of our concern with the problems of the community finds expression in the Teacher Education Program in a new effort to assist the City and the City's teachers to serve better the children of Puerto Rican origin. The same concern with community needs has found expression elsewhere in the College in the introduction of our Nursing Program which has already won recognition from the profession and which receives warm support from the City's Health Department. The School of Social Service, newly instituted and already accredited, was initiated after many years of effort by the President, and is developing unique programs of service to New York. It, too, is warmly supported by Social Service agencies in the City. Less obviously but no less successfully, Hunter has been in the forefront of liberal arts colleges that have

tried to identify for their students while they are still at college the ways in which the liberal arts curriculum provides specific orientation toward their vocational goals. Educational opinion seems now to be moving with increasing enthusiasm toward this point of view — an attitude of which Dr. Shuster has long been a proponent.

HUNTER AS CULTURAL CENTER

Of Hunter as a cultural center for the City, not much need be said. The Opera Workshop has already been mentioned. The Hunter College Concert Series is almost better known than the College itself, and brings to the campus throughout the year music lovers who are deeply grateful for the rare concerts it provides. As Dr. Benno Lee, its creator, would be the first to acknowledge, this Concert series became a reality through the wise and understanding support of the President. But these are only two of the programs of adult education that fill our halls every night of the week with grateful members of the community we serve. The Children's Concerts on Saturday mornings bring streams of children and parents to the buildings when most of us are not there to see; the School of General Studies in the evening competes for the building with audiences who use our halls and who represent many nationalities and many causes.

In all the activities of Hunter College, the President sets the tone. He is a great human being, and Hunter has maintained its position as a great college during the two decades of his presidency, responding to his inspiration, relying on his wisdom. To walk through the halls of the College beside him and to see the affection with which the students greet him, to stand on a receiving line next to him and to observe the eagerness with which parents meet him, is to glimpse the dimension of his influence. His leadership has given quality and direction to the program of the College. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE PLANNED

As he leaves we plan a tribute to Dr. Shuster which will, we hope, reflect his own wishes as well as the needs of the College. And we hope that all alumni will join in this tribute. It will be threefold: a portrait of the President to be painted by a distinguished artist, to be hung as a treasured possession of the College; the publication of a selection of Dr. Shuster's writing on education; and a substantial gift to the George N. Shuster Faculty Fund. Each alumnus for whom we have an address will shortly receive a request for funds to be sent to Ethel Berl at the College. We count on your generous support.

An opportunity to present our gifts will be provided by a convocation planned for the end of January when we shall say farewell to the President. But our most sincere tribute need not find expression on any specific occasion if we maintain and further at Hunter the broad advances in academic life and in community service which George N. Shuster has established during these fruitful twenty years.