

CALENDAR — 1957

Wed., Mar. 6—Executive Council, 4
 Wed., Mar. 13—Board of Directors, 8
 Thurs., Mar. 21—Scholarship Board, 4
 Thurs., Apr. 18—Scholarship Board, 4
 Wed., May 1—Executive Council, 8
 Wed., May 8—Board of Directors, 8
 Fri., May 10—College Sing
 Thurs., May 16—Scholarship Board, 4
 Thurs., May 16—Reunion, Election, 8

SPRING REUNION

Your membership card will admit you to the Annual Meeting and Spring Reunion of the Alumni Association, on Thursday, May 16, at 8:00 P.M., in the Hunter College Playhouse. Non-members (for whom there is an admission charge of 50 cents) will also be welcome.

On the agenda—which will be short—are a summary of the year's activities and the election of twenty Directors.

An exciting program will be offered by the Opera Workshop and the Modern Dance Group. Refreshments will be served after the program in the North Lounge.

THE CLASS OF '42

The fifteenth Anniversary Reunion Dinner of the Class of '42 will be held on Monday, April 29th, at the Tavern on the Green. For reservations (\$5.50) and any further information, write Marion Wolff Cohen, 110 East 177 Street, Bronx 53.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is happy to report at this printing a total of close to 2500 paid-up members. This number is greater than the final fiscal total of last May.

The Membership Committee will continue to expand its efforts, and urges additional volunteers to join in its endeavors.

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CONTRIBUTORS

ESTELLE FORCHHEIMER ANNA LEVOWITZ

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

There is a vigorous and healthy movement toward the introduction of foreign language teaching at the elementary school level. For many years French has been taught in the Hunter College Elementary School by Minnie Rigrutsky Hopstein, '31, who originally taught Latin there until this was given up with the removal of the seventh and eighth years from the school. More recently Professor Bertha M. Masche, '20, of the College German Department, has been teaching one class of German there, which she has voluntarily continued for sheer love even though there is no longer room for it on her regular College program.

Meanwhile an exciting development has been taking place in Long Island under the direction of Vera Villegas, June '50, who is now in charge of a group of twenty-seven teachers (either bilinguals or college majors in a foreign language) all engaged in teaching foreign language in the elementary schools of Hicks-

ville. Miss Villegas herself, as Coordinator of the program, is not expected to do any teaching herself, but, like Professor Masche, does it voluntarily, "even though I'm not supposed to—because I like to see how my own curriculum works out, what can be added, what doesn't work, what should be done."

We quote below part of an interesting article about Miss Villegas' work which appeared in the *New York Herald Tribune* of Dec. 16 under the familiar by-line Judith Crist (incidentally, Mrs. Crist, one of the *Herald Tribune's* feature writers, is also a Hunter graduate—the former Judith Klein, '41).

"The teaching of foreign languages in the elementary schools is a major topic among educators. In Hicksville, L. I., it is a fact.

"From the first through the sixth grade in the Hicksville elementary schools, there are 2,304 youngsters studying Spanish, French, Italian, and German—and by next year, the number will probably be doubled, with Russian added to the list.

"Theory became fact in Hicksville through the special talents, interest, and efforts of a young woman who arrived there three years ago as a high school Spanish teacher erroneously assigned to first grade. She is now Foreign Language Coordinator for the Hicksville Public Schools.

"Then twenty-three, with both a bachelor's and master's degree from Hunter College, Miss Vera Villegas was ready for her first high school teaching assignment when, through one of those comedies of errors, she found herself actually assigned to teach a first-grade class. She did have an elementary license, as well, and so pitched in. She became so enchanted with her six- and seven-year-olds that when the opportunity came to turn to secondary level teaching, she turned it down.

"In addition to first-grade teaching, she participated in the special area work, a period in which youngsters choose some particular activity, such as arts and crafts or sports. Miss Villegas proposed that Spanish be offered, and with the consent of her principal, now Assistant Superintendent, Donald Abt, the experiment was initiated with twenty-two fourth graders and twenty-seven fifth and sixth grade pupils.

"Miss Villegas met each group twice a week for forty-five minutes, and spoke only Spanish to them except for brief English expositions about Hispanic culture. By spring, when fourth graders demonstrated what they had learned to a PTA meeting and visiting officials saw the youngsters' accomplishments for themselves, the experiment was over, Miss Villegas was relieved of her first-grade duties and told to set it up for foreign language studies for the entire elementary system.

"She proceeded slowly. During the 1954-'55 school year, she introduced a class of first-graders to Spanish, continued to teach it to the fifth and sixth graders, with whom she had started, and took on a fourth-grade group.

"By last fall, all eight elementary schools in Hicksville were teaching foreign languages in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, by spring in the second through ninth grades, and by this fall, from kindergarten up. And by next fall, Miss Villegas said, foreign languages will become a part of the curriculum."

GRADUATE GLEANINGS

Ella O'Gorman Stanton, '85, celebrated her ninetieth birthday on Nov. 3, and her children gave her a party at the home of her son Walter. 150 dear friends were present, including Bishop Joseph Flannelly, Rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral; Bishop Philip Furlong, Pastor of St. Thomas More Church, Auxiliary Bishop of the Military; Rt. Rev. Monsignor Edward Loehr, Dean of the Bronx; Rev. Charles J. Deane, S.J., Secretary General of