

THE HUNTER COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWS

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Alumni,

During the last few weeks I have had opportunities to attend various functions as a representative of the Alumni Association. I was present at the ground-breaking ceremonies, on Friday, November 22nd, for the new building on the Bronx Campus. This building will add greatly to the classroom capacity which is so sorely needed in the coeducational division of our College. There will also be ample space for the new Bronx library and for administrative offices. Incidentally, we hope that a small office will be set aside for the Alumni Association.

The Alumni Day Assembly at the College on November 20th was one of the most outstanding that I have ever attended. The organization owes a special vote of thanks to Vera Loeb Stern and to Josephine Burke for a most interesting and truly delightful program. The tea in the afternoon and the events thereafter were enjoyed by many of our members. I was glad to note that more graduates came back this Alumni Day than I have ever seen before.

This morning, Wednesday, December 11th, I happened by chance to see Professor Thomas O. Mabbott of the English Department on a television program called "Excursion into English". He was introduced by Dorothy Horowitz, a Hunter graduate. His topic was Edgar Allan Poe. I cannot remember ever having heard a more inspiring English lesson. Not only lovers of literature but everyone who was privileged to watch this program must have felt the "contagious enthusiasm" which Professor Mabbott expressed.

On all these occasions, I felt a renewed pride in being a member of the Hunter family. I have often wished that I could arouse in the heart of every Hunterite a greater sense of pride, a sense of satisfaction and joy in our common cultural heritage.

As Hunter graduates, we shall again have the opportunity to come together, to celebrate—on February the 15th—the 88th birthday of our College. Set the date aside now—plan to be with us. There is room for all in the grand ballroom of the Sheraton-Astor. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely,

FRANCES ROTH ABRAMS, President

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

On the blustery, chilly morning of November 22, the fifth building for Hunter College in the Bronx became more than just a gleam in the eyes of the City fathers and Hunter administrators. It was then that students, staff, Hunter College Alumni Association officers, representatives of neighboring educational institutions, Board of Higher Education mem-

bers, civic leaders, and press, gathered on the Central Quadrangle for an eagerly-awaited ground-breaking ceremony. This event, arranged by Dr. John J. Meng, Hunter's Dean of Administration, marked the beginning of construction on the \$3,300,000 Library-Classroom-Administration Building which will be erected on the site of the "sunken garden" located between Davis and Gillet Halls.

President Shuster presided and introduced the guest speakers. The invocation was delivered by the Very Reverend Laurence J. McGinley, S.J., President of Fordham University. Father McGinley asked that "God grant that from these halls will spread across our city and our land the knowledge of Your truth; the respect for Your creation; the love of all Your creatures; that makes these young Americans the hope of the world." President Shuster then introduced the architect of the building, Marcel Breuer. David Marcus, President of the Bronx Student Council, spoke on behalf of the Bronx students, thanking the administration and the City for making the building possible. Hon. Gustave G. Rosenberg, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, termed the ground-breaking "a banner day for the City and the Borough of the Bronx". He expressed the hope that "this new building would be able to educate some of the students who are now denied an education because of lack of adequate facilities". The Deputy Mayor of the City of New York, Dr. John J. Theobald, addressed the assemblage next, after receiving words of praise from President Shuster for his help in getting the plans for the building in its present form approved by the City authorities. Dr. Theobald said, "The tradition of Hunter College is rich in the building of better human understanding." The President of the Borough of the Bronx, Hon. James J. Lyons, said the new building emphasized the Bronx's title of "the Borough of Universities and the home of culture".

President Shuster next expressed his thanks to various other individuals who, in one way or another, helped to further the realization of our new-building dream.

Then, amidst enthusiastic applause and clicking cameras, Dr. John E. Conboy, Chairman of the Hunter College Administrative Committee, Father McGinley, Dr. Theobald, Mr. Lyons, Dr. Rosenberg, Miss Ricki Waldman, Vice-President of Bronx Student Council, Dr. Shuster, and Mr. David Marcus manned the silver shovels and turned the earth at the building site.

At the conclusion of the outdoor ceremonies, a buffet luncheon for invited guests was served in the East Lounge of Student Hall.

All at Hunter are greatly indebted to Dean Meng for his invaluable direction of all stages of the planning for this sorely-needed addition

to our Bronx plant, which culminated in this ground-breaking observance.

A few days after this event, actual construction was begun. It is hoped that the structure will be ready for occupancy by September 1959.

EUPHEMIA E. McDONALD

(An illustrated article by Dean Meng describing the new building will appear in a later number of the NEWS.)
