

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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No. 6

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Before we separate for the summer, I must express my appreciation for the support which you have so constantly given me during the past year. To those of you who by your vote have again placed me in the high office of President, I offer my thanks; and pledge my best efforts for the future.

Our work during the summer must be to gain public support for our goal—a *new Hunter College on the site of the old building!*

To this end, the Central Committee, composed of representatives of the Staff, Student Council, High School, Model School, Parent-Teachers Association, Business Interests, and the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College, appeared before the Board of Trustees, and before the Board of Higher Education at its annual meeting. As Chairman of this Committee it was my privilege to speak. We thanked the Board Members for their interest and coöperation, expressed the hope for their continued consideration of our needs, and presented to them the salient points in favor of a new Hunter College at 68th St. and Park Ave.

And now we are ready to make contacts with every civic organization, every club, every individual that will listen to our plea. That is your work, and if you will let me know where you can be of help, I shall be grateful.

Have a happy summer, but do not forget to work for Hunter and the Associate Alumnae. My thoughts go with you.

IRENE BRANDON GRAFF,
President.

ALUMNAE HALL

The Hunter Alumnae Hall Committee announces the closing of the Rooms for the summer on June 27th. They will reopen on Tuesday, September 8th.

ESTHER G. VALET,
Chairman.

CALENDAR, 1936-1937

Wed., Nov. 4—Officers and Directors
Wed., Nov. 11—Executive Council
Wed., Nov. 25—Alumnae Day
Wed., Jan. 6—Officers and Directors
Wed., Jan. 13—Executive Council
Wed., Jan. 27—Commencement Day
February — Alumnae Breakfast
Wed., Feb. 17—Birthday Celebration
Wed., Mar. 3—Officers and Directors
Wed., Mar. 10—Executive Council
Wed., May 5—Officers and Directors
Wed., May 12—Executive Council
Sat., May 15—Spring Reunion, Election
Wed., June 16—Commencement Day

THE SPRING REUNION

The keynote of the annual reunion is informality, said Mrs. Leslie Graff, President of the Associate Alumnae, in her brief word of welcome at the meeting held in the Hotel Astor on Saturday, May sixteenth. Mrs. Graff sounded the theme of the afternoon's discussion in the words, "We must have a new college building, and we want that building right where Hunter College has stood for sixty-six years."

President Eugene A. Colligan began his, the principal address of the afternoon, by repeating the belief of Harvard's famed Dr. Eliot that we can measure best the advance in the civilization of a nation by the way it treats its women.

"Hunter College," he continued, "presents the picture of genius studying in a garret." There are 7,039 College students, 2,250 High School students, and 705 Model School students, in six different centers.

The President believes that the Bronx buildings can best be used to house a junior college, and that the land at Sixty-eighth Street should be used for the creation of an environment in which girls may work; for if one were to capitalize the present rental charges for buildings at four per cent., the result would be sufficient to provide a real edifice in Manhattan. Such a center, he thinks, would satisfy the demands of all boroughs and districts because of the excellent transportation facilities.

The present curriculum, Dr. Colligan said, seeks to prepare our girls for the many opportunities which await them in work other than teaching. "We must relate our girls to this heritage which is theirs—the city of New York," he averred. "From every practical, sentimental, and financial point of view, the future of Hunter College is based on its staying in Manhattan."

Dr. Ruth Lewinson, senior in service on the Board of Trustees, made a plea for the coöperation of all alumnae in this crisis, and described the plight of the Model School and the High School, with which she is particularly familiar by reason of her membership on the sub-committee to house these units. The speaker outlined the problems facing the sub-committee to secure buildings for the College. She asked again that all alumnae work together under the able leadership of our officers and committees, since organized effort is so much more effective than the attempts of small groups.

"Hunter College's desire for a new building is not selfish, but civic," asserted Mr. Meyer Bloomfield. He reminded those present that ten buildings miles away are not so significant as a center in the cultural heart of the city.

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From October to June, Inclusive,
by
ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE OF
HUNTER COLLEGE

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As all roads led to Rome, so no matter where we may roam for the summer we shall all plan to arrive at the same goal, a worthy building to occupy the present site. All we need to achieve the desired result is an enlightened public opinion. Ours is the privilege to carry the torch.

LENOX HILL SETTLEMENT

Are you interested in Lenox Hill?

Are you willing to rely upon outsiders to carry on *our* work?

Or do you want *Hunter* to continue its own job?

If so, are you willing to do *your* part, even to stretch the part you have been doing?

And if you have not started doing it, are you ready to start now?

Here is how to do it;—

Making contributions, preferably annual donations.

Assisting during the lunch hour at the Neighborhood House,

Advising how to augment our income.

Procuring one new member.

Arranging card parties or other means of collecting funds during the summer.

And finally, adding to our Endowment Fund by placing on our Honor Roll, now at the Settlement House, the name of a beloved one whom you wish to honor, or whose memory you wish to perpetuate.

Will you please do one of these things? If so, which one?

NETTIE M. WEIL, Chairman,
48 East 83rd Street.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

At the Council's meeting on May 13, various officers and chairmen presented reports, which, as they will be printed in the Biennial Report to appear next fall, need not be summarized here.

The Council planned with enthusiasm to join in the drive for New Buildings on the Old Site.

Adjournment was in memory of President Emeritus Kieran.

E. A. H.

On April 25th, 1936, the rich, useful, and happy career of our beloved President Emeritus James M. Kieran was terminated by death. We who have had the privilege and joy of knowing Dr. Kieran as teacher, as administrator, and as friend, realize that a great man has passed from our midst.

The thousands of teachers whom Dr. Kieran prepared for the city schools in his twenty-five years as Head of the Department of Education at Hunter College, will long remember his sane and human philosophy of education. His insight into the young mind, his genuine respect for immature but developing intellects, and his encouraging sympathy with all sincere intellectual endeavor were an inspiration. Perhaps this was partly because he was always primarily a student himself; even in his retirement he studied more than he wrote. It was also because he believed in teaching students—not subjects—and had a horror of verbal as distinct from real apprehensions. No one could ever "bluff" Dr. Kieran—or wanted to; his respect for you and for the truth were too disarming.

It was this devotion to the truth that made him so impatient with any sort of indifferentism or opportunism. He had the wisdom to know his major premises; his was a reasoned and well integrated philosophy of life. He had the power to see the application of his principles to the most complicated situations in life. He had the courage to realize the application in action against odds, that earned him the name of "Fighting Jimmie". The fight was always on the application of some principle of individual or social justice. It was his deep conviction of the student's right to the best education available that led to the extensive curriculum changes, the high teaching standards, and the large building program. It was his deep conviction of the teacher's right to professional standing that led to his fight for protective legislation on the matter of salaries, tenure, and pension.

For his integrity, his vision, and his courage, we admired and respected him, but we loved him for his humanity and his charity. He saw the best in his fellow men and trusted and loved them with the simplicity and directness of his nature. By attributing high motives he inspired high ideals, and by sympathetic understanding he discounted failures as "times out".

He was not only a good friend, but also a delightful companion to young and old. His wit was lively, but always kindly; and his mellow geniality was the natural expression of his innate friendliness.

No one enjoyed a good story more or could tell one better. How often he has said in chapel, "Well, girls, I'm not going to deliver a lecture. I'll just tell you a good story."

His life was like that—not a lecture, but a good story, well told—and too soon ended. But we shall hold it in precious memory.

HANNAH M. EGAN.