

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

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by
THE ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE
OF HUNTER COLLEGE

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*For Alma Mater, on her Eightieth Birthday—
Let's dine, and have a merriment-and-mirth-day;
Let's give, and have a testament-of-worth-day.*

AN HONOR FOR OUR PRESIDENT

Still another honor has been conferred upon Mrs. Robert E. Draddy, President of the Associate Alumnae.

On Thursday, December 22nd, at 10:30 A. M., at the Cardinal's residence, 452 Madison Avenue, about two score of her intimate friends and members of her family were present at the formal presentation of the Medal *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, a special decoration from His Holiness Pope Pius XII, to Mrs. Draddy. The ceremony was performed by His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, by order of His Holiness, for many years of outstanding achievement and unselfish work in the field of Catholic endeavor. During the reading of the long list of her accomplishments, the Cardinal paused to remark that His Holiness was surprised that he (the Cardinal) was about ten years late in giving recognition to such wonderful work on the part of one individual.

"The Medal is a gold cross made octangular in form by fleurs-de-lis fixed in the angles of the cross in a special manner. On the obverse side are the papal emblems, in the centre, and in the circle surrounding the emblems the motto 'Pro Deo et Pontifice' is stamped. The ribbon is purple, with delicate lines of white and yellow on each border, and is worn on the right side of the breast." (Catholic Encyclopedia.)

The *Pro Ecclesia* medal is one of the highest honors conferred upon laymen by the Catholic church. A. C. F.

Dear Miss Hahn:

In the December 1949 issue of the ALUMNAE NEWS, it was stated that at the 1949 Alumnae Day, at a roll-call in the Assembly Hall, in response to which the representatives of the group were to stand, the group of the 1870's was not represented.

That is an error. One Alumna stood up to represent her Class of 1878.

(Miss) MINNIE A. SCHERZINGER, 1878.

(As the writer of the report in question, the Editor is happy to have this error brought to her attention, and still happier that her statement *was* an error.)

CALENDAR, FEBRUARY, 1950
Tues., Feb. 14—80th Anniversary Dinner
Wed., Feb. 15—College Birthday Assembly

IN MEMORIAM

A highly respected and deeply beloved member of the Hunter College Faculty, Professor Emeritus Lao Genevra Simons, died on November 25 in the Kelmar Nursing Home in Greenwich, Conn., after a long illness. She was 79 years old. Holder of the degrees of A.M. and Ph.D. from Columbia University, she taught Mathematics at Hunter College from 1895 to 1940, becoming Assistant Professor in 1916, Associate Professor in 1925, and Professor and Department Head in 1928.

At a meeting on December 16, 1949, the Faculty Council of Hunter College unanimously adopted the following resolution in her memory:

"In paying tribute to the memory of Doctor Lao Genevra Simons, Professor Emeritus and retired Chairman of the Department of Mathematics, we are honoring one who took an active part in the building and developing of Hunter College. Associated with the College as a teacher for forty-five years, Professor Simons became Head of her Department and full Professor in 1928.

"In the College at large her influence extended in ever widening circles: to students, whose welfare was to her of vital importance; and to colleagues, whose interests she identified with her own. As Chairman of Student Activities from the formation of this committee in 1934 until 1940, her good will, integrity, and high purposes left a deep impression upon her associates. In the first two years of the democratic regime at the College, Professor Simons, always kindly and helpful, showed loyal cooperation in this educational experiment.

"By introducing statistical science in her own department and by adding advanced courses in pure mathematics, Dr. Simons brought distinction to Hunter College, a distinction realized in the success of Hunter's mathematics majors at the graduate schools of our great universities. When she retired in 1940 she established a \$1000 scholarship in the name of the mathematics honor society, Pi Mu Epsilon; at the same time her friends and admirers collected funds for a second graduate scholarship to perpetuate her name.

"Professor Simons was author of two books on early American mathematics, and was book review editor for *Scripta Mathematica* from its founding in 1932 until 1938. Zealous in all professional activities, she held office in the History of Science Society and in the Mathematics Association of America, and served on a sub-committee for the International Commission on Teaching of Mathematics. The summers of 1930, 1932, and 1936 found her attending International Congresses on Science and on

Mathematics in London, in Zurich, Switzerland, and in Oslo, Norway, respectively.

"In June, 1940, arrangements were made for a unique farewell dinner at which students, alumnae, faculty, and administrative officers united in honoring Professor Simons.

"In recognition of Professor Simons's high and unswerving devotion to Hunter College, be it resolved that this tribute to her memory be spread upon the minutes of the Faculty Council; and be it further resolved that a copy thereof be sent to Professor Simons's sister with the sympathy of the Council in her bereavement."

On the occasion of the retirement in 1940 of Professor Lao G. Simons, her friends and admirers established the Lao G. Simons Scholarship Fund to perpetuate her name in the history of Hunter College.

Her death on November 25, 1949, deprived us of one who has inspired us by her leadership, scholarship, generosity, and kindness. It is our intention to give books to the library of Hunter College in her name. We felt that some who knew her well might wish to join us in this last tribute. If you are interested will you send your contribution to Professor Mary K. Landers, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, Manhattan, or Miss Isabel C. McLaughlin, Hunter College, Bedford Park Boulevard, Bronx.

MARY K. LANDERS

ISABEL C. McLAUGHLIN

CAROLYN EISELE, Chairman

COLLEGE NOTES

On January 19 President Shuster spoke on "Race Relations in Educational Reconstruction", the subject that opened the 1950 Forum Series of the Albany Inter-Racial Council, whose conference topic was "Race Relations in the World Today". On January 30 and 31 the President attended the UNESCO conference in Washington.

Five Hunter girls are among the 650 college and university students appointed to the College Board of *Mademoiselle* magazine. They are Pat Simmons Giardini, Marilyn Mahoney, Barbara Graves, Li Centawer, and Frances Moskowitz. About 4000 students from institutions all over the country competed.

Seventy-six students were recently elected to membership in Nu Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

During the last weeks of the semester student groups doubled their efforts for the scholarship drive. A number of clubs made generous contributions; the SSGA Christmas sale produced at least \$100; the Houseplan Carnival added about \$400. The Student Committee for the Alumnae Scholarship estimated that the students of Hunter will present at the Eightieth Birthday Assembly more than \$4000 to the Alumnae Scholarship Fund as a result of their fund-raising efforts.

CECILIA A. HOTCHNER

ROOSEVELT HOUSE STUDENT LEAGUE

The Roosevelt House Student League is sponsoring a Bunny Sale, the proceeds of which will go to the Alumnae Scholarship Fund. The girls are making the bunnies for Easter. These hand-made rabbits will be exhibited at Roosevelt House on March 21. If any Alumnae members wish to purchase some of these bunnies they may buy them at the exhibition or order them by mail, c/o Student League at Roosevelt House, 47 East 65 St. Prices of the rabbits will be announced in the March issue of the NEWS.

SHEILA PINKWATER, President,
Roosevelt House Student League

COLLEGE PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION

MEET THE FRANTIC PHYSICIAN!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by attending the performance of Gounod's Comic Opera, "The Frantic Physician", which will be sung in English. In writing this opera Gounod employed a libretto based on Molière's comedy, "Le Médecin malgré lui". This opera has all the spontaneity, liveliness, and fun of a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta or a current musical comedy.

The Co-Opera Company, directed by Mario and Alice Pagano, is giving this performance for the benefit of the College Protestant Association. Proceeds will be used for the Association's share in maintaining Roosevelt House. The performance will be in the Hunter College Playhouse, on March 17th, at 8:30. A Patroness, contribution \$5.00, receives two orchestra seats. Individual tickets are \$1.20 each. Please send mail orders to the College Protestant Association, 49 E. 65th St. Checks should be made payable to the College Protestant Association.

MARY CAMPBELL

THE STORY OF "FAME"

In lieu of a report on the Silver Anniversary Class, I'd appreciate an opportunity to give the Associate Alumnae a brief history of "Fame".

"Fame" was our class serious song at the May 1925 Sing. In those days, the music and lyrics of certain Sing songs had to be original or the class suffered a score penalty. Frances Friedman Kurland, our pianist, wrote the music. Pauline Swerling Malamut wrote the words. The song expresses our love and loyalty and devotion to Hunter College. I can still see my classmates, gathered in the gym, listening to "Fame" the first time Frances played it for us. We of '25 are very proud of Frances and Pauline, proud that our song has played a part in the history of Hunter College.

SIBYLLA A. MELLOR

The publication of a number of Graduate Gleanings, including news of engagements, marriages, and births, has had to be postponed till next month for lack of space.