

# THE HUNTER COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWS

Published Monthly from October to June, inclusive, at 49 East 65th St., New York 21, N. Y., by the Alumni Association of Hunter College of the City of New York  
Second Class Mail Privileges Authorized at New York, N. Y.  
Price \$2.00 a Year, or 20% of the Annual Dues.

VOL. LXII

MAY, 1957

No. 5

## RECEPTION FOR DEAN COHEN



JOSEPH G. COHEN

We are pleased to announce that a reception is being planned to honor Dean Joseph G. Cohen, who will retire as Dean of Teacher Education in the Municipal Colleges on February 1, 1958, after a terminal sabbatical leave beginning in September.

The reception will take place at the Hotel Plaza on Friday, May 24, from 4 to 7 P.M.; and the price of admission will be \$6. The reception is being sponsored by the Board of Higher Education, the Presidents of the Municipal Colleges, and the Directors of Teacher Education in the Municipal Colleges.

Since 1949, when the Division of Teacher Education was created, Dr. Cohen has been a part of it, first as Associate Dean with the late Paul Klapper and later with Lester Anderson, and, since 1951, as Dean. He worked with Dr. Klapper in the early negotiations which resulted in the financial support now provided by the State of New York for teacher training at the Municipal Colleges.

We consider it a rare privilege to be able to pay tribute to a distinguished gentleman whom we respect for his great ability and achievements in the field of education, and whom we hold in deep affection for his warmth, his kindness, and his sympathetic understanding of others.

Above all, we admire Dean Cohen for his good judgment. He selected Emma Mabel, Hunter '22, to be his wife, and Ruth Salley, Hunter '22, to be the Executive Assistant for the Division of Teacher Education.

Members of our Alumni Association will be welcome to attend the reception. Any one interested will please communicate with Professor Harry L. Levy, Hunter College member of the Committee, or with the undersigned.

ETHEL G. BERL, Chairman,  
Reception Committee

## FROM OUR NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS



KATHRYN HOPWOOD

(Dean Kathryn Hopwood, who came to us in the fall of 1955, is still our "new" Dean of Students, although by this time all at Hunter look upon her as an old friend. Her genuine warmth and unaffected friendliness, combined with firmness when necessary, have endeared her to faculty and student alike. Dean Hopwood, who was formerly Associate Dean of Women and Assistant Professor of Psychology at Ohio State University, is active in many professional organizations. She holds the degrees of A.B. and A.M., in English, from Oberlin; and the degree of Ph.D., in Administration of Higher Education, from Ohio State.—Editor.)

By and large, deans of women struggle with a tradition and do their best to live it down! Listen to the nostalgic reminiscences of any group of middle-aged people who are recalling their undergraduate days. You are certain to hear accounts of gay and illegal escapades, carried on practically under the nose of a moralistic, justice-meting duenna who always *almost* (but never quite) caught them! Their attitudes are well represented by the boy in a mid-western university who said, "The Dean of Women? Thank God, I never had to meet her!"

Existing as we do with such Apocrypha, life is surprisingly good. It is a happy circumstance that the deans of more recent vintage have taken on a "new look". This is to some extent the result of a growing professionalization of student personnel work. The dean no longer sees herself as a law-giver. She does not sit in her office either to judge on the sins of the college or to "give advice". She is a combination of administrator, counselor, and teacher.

In her administrative role, she deals, to be sure, with certain regulatory functions of the

college. These have to do with the facilitation of a community life that is reasonably safe, pleasant, and appropriate. This is the part of the job that isn't so much fun, for it's not very exciting to supervise bulletin boards, make up lists, plan air raid drills, and decide who is going to smoke where. Occasionally, however, even this mundane aspect of deaning takes a fresh turn, as upon that recent occasion when we received a crisp telephone request to go down and read the verses on the valentines for sale in the Student Supply Store to decide if they were fit for undergraduate consumption!

But fortunately, duties like this make up only a small part of a dean's day. The vital and engrossing part is the face to face contacts with students, parents, faculty, and alumni, and I should like to illuminate each of these relationships briefly.

Our first responsibility, of course, is the students. We see them both individually and in groups, and we work with them in personal and private concerns as well as those which have to do with their organizations. The ways in which a young woman establishes herself as an independent and mature person are distinctive if she lives at home while attending college. She exists, as it were, in two worlds: the familiar one of home, family, friends, and church; and the other, the quite different society of the college with new associations, activities, and demands for time and energy. Frequently she adds another variable—a job. This may be because of financial need or it may be because it is one way in which she can establish her independence within the family circle. One does not wonder that out of these complex relationships, stress and conflict frequently arise. Some of the problems are the normal accompaniment of maturation. Others require highly specialized assistance, and in many cases referrals to other trained counselors within the college are made. Frequently we see parents both alone and in conference with their daughters, attempting to interpret each to the other. At the beginning of every semester in an evening session with the parents of the Lower Freshmen, we try to explain the new life into which their daughters are entering and show them the buildings, both at Park Avenue and at Roosevelt House, where so much of importance to these girls

will take place.

Student organizations are another of our concerns, for we believe they make an important contribution to education. At Park Avenue we have 59 clubs, ranging from departmental societies to purely social organizations. Professor Barrett of the Guidance Bureau has generously been directing for us this term an exhaustive study of our clubs as perceived by both faculty and students. Miss Lillian Kaplan, a Hunter alumna, has worked with Professor Barrett in this enterprise. We are compiling highly significant data which will be exceedingly helpful in our entire College personnel program. One of the factors already evident is the eagerness which most of our students show for warm and close relationships with our faculty. They see clubs as one of the places where they may meet their professors informally in person-to-person relationships. Since intimate communication is achieved with more difficulty in a non-resident college than in one where students live together, we believe it is especially important that we should encourage a climate favorable to this kind of learning contagion.

Finally, one of the most rewarding privileges of the Dean of Students is her daily contacts with alumni. These come through many channels. There is the honor graduate of last year, flushed with recent success in graduate school, eager to come back during her vacations to tell us that for the first time she realizes fully what a Hunter degree really means. There are those delightful young home makers and career women of the ten-year reunion class who return after a decade, armed with children's photographs and advanced degrees, to tell us how they have put their learning to work. And there are those dedicated ones who labor day by day to raise money for the Scholarship and Welfare Fund in order that our present undergraduates may have the benefit of the kind of education they have found so significant in their own lives. These are some of the alumni one comes to know well, but there are many others too, and among them all a newcomer finds an engaging quality, a warm and generous and friendly spirit which goes a long way toward making Hunter such a very satisfying place to be.

KATHRYN HOPWOOD

---

ADVERTISEMENT

**HUNTER COLLEGE OPERA ASSOCIATION**

Presents

Opera Excerpts

ROSE LANDVER, Stage Director

WILLIAM TARRASCH, Conductor

**HUNTER COLLEGE PLAYHOUSE**

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 23, 24, 25 — 8:15 P.M.

For Reservations (\$2.00 and \$1.50) call BU 8-7211, or write Box 301, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.