

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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SPRING REUNION

To celebrate this spring, a particularly joyous one for Hunter College, almost seven hundred Alumnae gathered at the annual Spring Reunion on Saturday, May 13th, at the Hotel Astor's Belvedere Roof.

This season is marked by the "first blossoming of the building for which we have hoped for years," said Mrs. Theodore E. Simis, President, in her greeting. "But the iron girders show only the framework; they cannot represent the work behind the scenes," she continued, and for the efforts given unceasingly and untiringly by President Eugene A. Colligan, the Administrative Committee for Hunter College, and the whole Board of Higher Education, tribute must be given, Mrs. Simis said. She made special mention of the outstanding record of earnest service of the two Alumnae on the Board, Mrs. Emanuel van Dernoot and Dr. Ruth Lewinson.

Mrs. Walter S. Mack, Chairman of the Hunter College Administrative Committee of the Board of Higher Education, expressed her hope of meeting more of the Alumnae to hear more of what they have to say about the kind of college they would like Hunter to be. She forecast a 1940 Spring Reunion in the new building.

Dr. Colligan, whose fifth anniversary as President of Hunter College is being celebrated this spring, asserted that "Loyalty plays a most prominent part in the Hunter College tradition". He noted that the two best loved songs, "The Ivy Leaf" and "Fame", both emphasize it. The College, the President continued, has commanded the pride and respect of the City of New York because it has as its student body the best in New York womanhood, and this student body has always represented a diversity of race, creed, color, and condition.

Among the seven thousand girls of the College, Dr. Colligan claimed, there is "diversity of opinion, tremendous energy in the promotion of worthy causes, and evidence of a devotion to preparation for various careers, especially careers of service". There is tolerance of points of view in Hunter College, the President declared, because the girls know that they are engaged in a search for truth, for this must be the objective of a liberal education if the minds of human beings are to be free to grow, to produce, and to create for the benefit of society.

In this day of extensive propaganda of all kinds, the President pointed out, we must be on guard against that type, "stealthily created and sedulously propagated, which seeks to divide people who should be bound together by the close ties of human interest; this propaganda sows suspicion and distress

and promotes disorder. But minds trained to suspend judgment until truth can be ascertained will be able to analyze propaganda and thus prevent disunity, prevent injustice, and promote that application to the more abundant life about which so many people talk so much and do so little." The seven thousand students of the College, living in a daily peaceful relationship, Dr. Colligan concluded; are, despite their great diversity of opinion, of race, creed, color, and condition, bound together by one common bond—"the lovely leaf of loyalty".

Miss Millicent Baum, Education Secretary to Mayor La Guardia, told the Alumnae that whatever she has been able to do in behalf of Hunter College, she has done with pleasure, for the sake of the future graduates, the past graduates, and the City of New York. Speaking as a member of the Class of '78, she asserted that she knew that all Alumnae would continue their loyalty to the end.

A thoroughly enjoyable musical program was presented. It included a group of songs by the Alumnae Choir, under the direction of Mr. Anders Emile of the Music Department; the selections were Madrigal Number 5, *The Triumphs of Oriana*, by Bennet, and Mr. Emile's *Spring Song*, dedicated to the Alumnae and sung for the first time in public. Miss Elizabeth MacCracken, '39, sang a solo, *I Passed by Your Window*, by Brahe. Miss Evelyn Ottoson, '38, was the accompanist.

Master Robert Emile, Mr. Emile's eleven-year-old son, played two violin solos, his father's composition, *Northland*, and the first movement of de Beriot's *Concerto No. 7*; these were performed as an anniversary tribute to Dr. Colligan. Robert's sister, Miss Thelma Emile, who had been Robert's accompanist, played as her anniversary tribute to Dean Hannah M. Egan, Franz Liszt's *Waldestrauchen* and the *Waltz in E Minor* by Chopin. The audience was very appreciative of the offerings of these talented young musicians.

A group of undergraduates, under the direction of Mrs. Eugenie S. Goldberg of the Department of Physical Education, illustrated the *Dance, Old and New*. Victoria Kahn showed *Spring Morning* to music composed by Miss Sarah Malament; Celia Lazarowitz danced to *Variations on a Theme* by Debussy; and the spirited Jarabe, a Mexican folk dance, was performed by the Misses Bella Abramowitz, Emma Berkowitz, Marguerite Mochel, and Charlotte Sturtz. Miss Sarah Malament accompanied the dancers.

A delicious tea was served, and the Alumnae enjoyed the usual round of visiting with old friends. This delightful afternoon was

LUNCHEON TO PROFESSOR WILLIAMS

Professor Blanche Colton Williams was honored on the thirteenth anniversary of her appointment as Head of the English Department at Hunter College on Saturday, May 20, by a luncheon given by the members of her department in the White and Gold Room of the Hotel Plaza.

Professor Williams has announced her plans to retire from academic life soon, after teaching English at Hunter College since 1910. She expects to travel and to write.

A tribute prepared and read by Professor Joseph J. Reilly was delivered just before the presentation of a wrist-watch set with diamonds.

"To the Hall of Fame of Hunter College I nominate Blanche Colton Williams, for 29 years a member of the English staff, and named 13 years ago. Head of the Department. Nationally acknowledged an authority in fields as unakin as Old English and the contemporary short story, she has added to her laurels by becoming the foremost American authority on George Eliot.

"Though not a mathematician, she has demonstrated that ONE can equal FOUR, for she is distinguished as a scholar, a teacher, an administrator, and a personality.

"With feminine charm she combines masculine directness of thought and speech; in her blue eyes one reads love of life, of humanity, and laughter.

"To the cold reserve of the North she brought the sunny buoyancy of the South.

"To a vocation whose chief peril is a narrowing of interests she proves that to see life steadily and to see it whole one must not withdraw to an ivory tower. Of Provincialism in all its forms she has been the foe, and of 'all things lovely and of good report' the friend.

"In terms of achievement, she is the all-time Ace of the Hunter College faculty; in terms of the mind she is at the zenith of her powers; in terms of the heart she still stands upon the golden threshold of Youth; in terms of years—those we love are never any age.

"It is because all these things are true that we are gathered here to-day to rejoice, Dr. Williams, in your glorious career and to present to you this gift. 'Time marches on', but beyond his muffled and inexorable way our affection shall abide untouched."

KATHERINE MOLINOFF,
Journalism Office.