

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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No. 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All Alumnae who are free at noon on November 22nd are urged to attend the Student Chapel at College, which is a combined celebration of Thanksgiving and Alumnae Day. The students are very eager to meet the Alumnae, and the Faculty will generously act as hostesses at tea in the afternoon of that day.

On December 7th and 8th, the Lenox Hill Committee will have a sale of charming and useful gifts in the Alumnae Rooms at the College for the benefit of the Settlement House. It would be very heartening to the work of our Lenox Hill Settlement Committee if you would make a contribution, and would also attend the sale.

The plans for the Jubilee are making great strides. If you have not already responded to the appeal for your share of the Birthday Gift, I sincerely hope you will do so before you lay this copy of the News aside. Such a fund as the Alumnae plans to put into the hands of the President, to be used for the benefit of the students, the College, or the Alumnae, to fill the greatest need or serve the best purpose of the moment, is a fine free-will offering which should be generously supported.

I am happy to report that all Committees are working actively; that the Board meetings and the meeting of the Executive Council have been well attended. We can still make use of active workers. If you have any spare time for service to the Alumnae in any special capacity or for any task to which I may be able to assign you, I would deeply appreciate it if you would let me know through the Alumnae Headquarters that you are available.

RUTH LEWINSON, President,
Associate Alumnae of Hunter College.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Miss Catherine O'Hara, Chairman
Miss Linda Allegri
Mrs. Leo Burger
Mrs. Bertha Mack
Miss Celia Rueth
Mrs. William Valet
Mrs. Beatrice Weinberg

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ?

If you have not already done so, please send your contribution for the Jubilee Fund *at once!* We need your help! Our goal is a gift from every member!

HELEN L. SIMIS, Chairman,
Seventy-fifth Anniversary Committee.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

Hunter will attain during this jubilee year to the venerable age of seventy-five. It is appropriate that we enlarge our usual College Birthday celebration, subject to the limitations imposed on us by war-time conditions.

During the summer months, a number of alumnae, faculty, and students, organized in committees, have been working on plans which are still in a highly tentative state. In broad outline, these include the following:

Tuesday, February 13, 1945

10:00 A.M. Formal opening of Hunter College Historic Exhibit at the New York Public Library.

2:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. Academic Symposium on the topic "Cultural Forces in America" with speakers on the following subjects:

Humanistic Scholarship
Scientific Scholarship
The Creative Arts
The Educated Woman

Professor Hoxie N. Fairchild has consented to serve as Chairman.

7:00 P.M. Dinner of alumnae, faculty, students, and guests of the College.

Wednesday, February 14, 1945

11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. Formal Birthday Assembly in Assembly Hall for faculty, guests, and students to the capacity of the hall.

Informal Student Assemblies for all other students.

3:00 P.M. Student Tea.

The Executive Committee for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration consists of Dean Marie K. Gallagher, Professor James M. Hendel, Miss Joan Martin (President of Student Self-Government Association), Mrs. Helen L. Simis, Chairman, and Dr. Ruth Lewin-son, ex officio.

Present subcommittees and their chairmen are:

Birthday Assembly (Formal), Miss Josephine Burke for Faculty, Miss Vera Andruson for Students.

Historical Brochure and Exhibit, Professor Edna Wells Luetz.

Dinner, Mrs. Louise N. Draddy.

Public Relations, Press, and Radio, Professor A. Broderick Cohen.

Symposium, Dean Eleanor Hunsdon Grady.

Student Assemblies and Tea (Informal), Professor Ruth G. Weintraub for Faculty, Miss Vera Andruson for Students.

You will be apprised of more detailed plans as they mature. Meanwhile, if you have ideas or suggestions, please refer them to Mrs. Helen L. Simis, Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

GEORGE N. SHUSTER, President.

MEMORIAL TO DR. WILLIAMS

On November 30th, at five o'clock, in Room 1106 of Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, a memorial meeting will be held in honor of Dr. Blanche Colton Williams, whose death on August 9th in Mississippi closed a career of unusual achievement. Professor Emeritus and former Head of the Department of English, Dr. Williams had also won for herself a recognized place among American men and women of letters.

Her service at Hunter College began in 1910 and ended in 1939. From 1914 until 1926 she also conducted unusually successful courses in the short story at Columbia University. Her work in the technique of the short story was internationally known. Students in universities as far apart as Cambridge, England, and Shanghai, China, used her *Hand Book on Short Story Writing*. Dr. Williams had a driving force that stimulated her students to high endeavor; and she quickened in them the desire to do nothing less than their best.

As Head of the Department of English at Hunter College from 1926 until 1939, Dr. Williams left a distinguished record. She enriched required and elective writing courses and built up a strong English major with emphasis on linguistic studies. Her requirements in Anglo-Saxon gave Hunter College a unique reputation in graduate schools, where her own monograph, *Gnomic Poetry in Anglo Saxon*, is highly regarded by authorities on Old English.

During her professional career, Dr. Williams produced books in rapid succession. For fourteen years as Chairman of the O. Henry Memorial Prize Committee, she edited the annual *O. Henry Memorial Prize Stories*. Her continued interest in the technique of fiction led to the choice of George Eliot for her first critical biography. This was followed after retirement by *Clara Barton—A Biography*, and an impressionistic biography of Keats, *Forever Young*.

Dr. Williams gave of herself without stint to students, to colleagues, and to the general activities of the College. With her dynamic energy went a warmth of heart and a breadth of interests that never interfered with her unflinching devotion to duty. Nothing pleased her more during these last years than the efforts made at Hunter to raise funds for a fellowship in her name. Her success in helping to establish a Helen Gray Cone Fellowship will be remembered by members of the Alumnae Association. We trust it will not be long before the Blanche Colton Williams Fellowship is awarded.

PROFESSOR MARY A. WYMAN,
Chairman, Department of English.