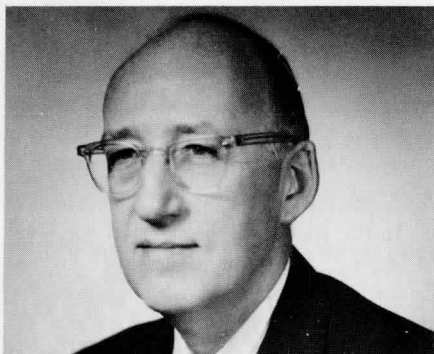


## JOHN J. MENG, SIXTH PRESIDENT OF HUNTER COLLEGE

by Harry L. Levy  
Dean of Students,

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As Dean John J. Meng becomes President of Hunter College, the Faculty and Staff welcome to his new post a man whom, through his decade and more of service to Hunter, they have



come to know well and to hold in deep affection and esteem. Coming to us as Professor of History in 1949, after eleven years on the Faculty of Queens College, John Meng was appointed Dean of Administration and Executive Officer of the Bronx Center in 1952. It is in the latter capacity that he is best known to the students of the College, for they deeply appreciate his constant efforts to develop the Bronx campus as a fully equipped four-year co-educational college.

Born in Cleveland, President Meng studied both as an undergraduate and as a graduate student at Catholic University of America, where he earned the Ph.D. in 1932. Prior to his attainment of the doctorate, a year of study at the Ecole Libre des Sciences Poli-

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## Mrs. Roosevelt and Dr. Shuster Address Alumni Luncheon

Excitement engendered by over 1,250 Hunterites gathering for a three-star event on February 13 filled the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Astor. The "stars" of the day were our Alma Mater, whose ninetieth birthday we were celebrating; Dr. George N. Shuster, our retiring president, who was making his last formal appearance as president; and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaker of the day. An added star was President-elect John J. Meng who made his first extramural bow.

After the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, which was played by Theresa Molloy '22, Florence Serxner Strenger '28, chairman of the Luncheon, presented the Reverend Phyllis Taylor, Assistant to the Minister of Riverside Church, who gave a moving invocation in which she asked a blessing on the College and on all present.

Toward the end of a delicious meal, children from Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association brought their traditional gift of the College birthday cake. After they warbled "Happy Birthday, Dear Hunter", Irene Brandon Graff '98, former alumnae president, chairman of the Lenox Hill Committee and devoted alumna, cut the first slice of the cake. Mrs. Roosevelt cut the second piece for Dr. Shuster.

Mrs. Strenger then presented E. Adelaide Hahn '15, president of the Alumni Association, as one imbued with love of Hunter from the moment she was born. Professor Hahn responded that Alma Mater becomes more beautiful the longer she lives. There was a delighted reaction from the audience when Miss Hahn said that Mrs. Roosevelt has promised to speak at the College's one hundredth birthday celebration.

We have never heard Miss Hahn speak more effectively than when she introduced Mrs. Roosevelt, who spoke on "The Changing World and the Responsibility of Education." Miss Hahn said, "Mrs. Roosevelt has been First Lady by marriage, but now she is First Lady because of her achievements. By her own right she will be the United States' permanent First Lady."

Mrs. Roosevelt paid tribute to President Shuster who, she declared, "has broadened the vision of his students because of his interests. He has helped them meet responsibilities because he himself accepted them."

Mrs. Roosevelt's universality of viewpoint was emphasized when she said that it is the responsibility of universities, colleges and schools to have adult education concerning the world. "We cannot meet the challenge," she continued, "if we do not know there is a challenge. . . . What we want of education in our country is to have the children learn to cultivate their minds, and to make their minds an instrument for learning. It is important to think freely because this

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Seated: left to right; 1st row: Dean Rees, Mrs. Shuster, Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Hahn, Rev. Taylor, Mrs. Graff, Mrs. Strenger. 2nd row: Mrs. Weintraub, Mrs. Simis, Dean Hopwood, Miss Lewinson, Mrs. Thaler, Mrs. Abrams. 3rd row: Mr. Greene, Professor Stewart, Dean Meng, President Shuster, President Gallagher, Dean Levy.

## BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

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has made us a strong country. We must keep imagination alive so that young and old want to learn about the changing world. And good teachers will try to keep alive imagination and curiosity. The American people can meet any challenge if they understand and it is the duty of our educational leaders to tell them."

In closing, Mrs. Roosevelt said she would like to plead that we be dissatisfied, that we not be afraid of change, but that we go on to broader and wider visions because this can mean greater excitement and a better world. "Let us try to develop character, courage, imagination and curiosity," she concluded.

### Ovations for Mrs. Roosevelt

When Mrs. Roosevelt had first been presented by Miss Hahn, the audience gave her a standing ovation. At the end of her speech, all present again rose to express their respect and admiration, also their thanks for her presence.

Professor Hahn said that as a token gift to Mrs. Roosevelt, the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association had voted twenty-five dollars in her name to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund. As a tangible gift, a memorandum book inscribed "Presented to Eleanor Roosevelt, loyal friend of Hunter College, February 13, 1960", was given with the hope that only happy memories be entered in it.

### Milestone Presidents Speak

Miriam Freithal Larus, president of the golden anniversary class of 1910, announced that her class has already given \$3,000 to Scholarship and Welfare over the years. In celebration of its fiftieth anniversary the Class of 1910 was contributing \$2,367, making a very grand total of \$5,367.

Helen Hochfelder Taffel, president of the silver anniversary class of 1935, could speak of the more than one hundred members of her class who were present, but did not disclose their gift because she felt it was as yet incomplete.

### Dr. Shuster Praised

Professor Hahn spoke of President Shuster as one who rivals a thermom-

eter in possession of degrees, and added that the Doctor of Humane Letters given him by Hunter at the January convocation is apparently his most treasured degree because he elected to wear Hunter's hood, of all that he could wear, at the February Commencement. Miss Hahn thanked Dr. Shuster for the recognition given the Alumni Association. Dr. Shuster has given the College a free and happy faculty, as well as a free and happy student body. He has always respected the faculty even when faculty opinion differed from his. He has been a great president. The best gift we can give him is respect and love. But the alumni have arranged for him to have his desk from his office and for this wish to present a desk set, of which a handsome onyx clock was then given.

President Shuster replied that he deeply appreciated the help of the alumni. He particularly mentioned Vicki Bitterman and her assistance in obtaining the organ and Helen Luckey Simis for work done for the Diamond Jubilee. The alumni have also helped him realize his dearest dream, a faculty fellowship fund. Dr. Shuster thanked everyone for the inestimable kindness shown him.

It is impossible to say good-bye, Dr. Shuster concluded. He and Mrs. Shuster will continue to attend the Birthday Luncheons. "Hail to Hunter that is being born. God bless her and may we all remain loyal alumni."

### Dean Meng Presented

Miss Hahn called on President-Elect John J. Meng who spoke of the high regard and deep affection he holds for Dr. Shuster. The growth and development of a college are closely linked with the alumni association. As the College grows, he hopes the Alumni Association will grow. Dean Meng pledged the College to anything that will help in this development.

### Birthday Gifts

The presentation of gifts by classes and chapters then followed. 1920 gave \$1,000 to Scholarship. 1923, \$402 to the Shuster Faculty Fellowship Fund (hereafter referred to as SFFF). 1924, an undisclosed amount to SFFF. 1925, \$100 to SFFF, \$150 to Scholarship and

a check for the purchase of a Caliphone. 1926, \$50 to SFFF. 1927, \$50 to SFFF. 1944, \$50 to Scholarship.

Bronx, \$150 to Scholarship. Brooklyn, \$150 to Scholarship. Queens made its annual pledge of \$1,000 to Scholarship. Staten Island, \$50 to the Birthday Gift Fund. Westchester pledged to Scholarship and SFFF. Chicago sent \$30 to Scholarship. Washington, \$50 to Scholarship. Nassau-Suffolk made a pledge to Scholarship.

Virginia Zuckerman, chairman of the Birthday Gift Fund, announced that \$100 would go to SFFF in the name of each of the Park Avenue and Bronx Student groups. In addition each campus will receive a piano from the Alumni Association. Denver sent \$25.

Mildred Intner Thaler '42, chairman of the Scholarship and Welfare Fund, expressed appreciation of the contributions made to it. She thanked Dr. Shuster for his interest and said that the Fund looks forward to continued cooperation from Dean Meng.

Ethel Garfunkel Berl '27, Executive Secretary for the Planning Committee of the George N. Shuster Faculty Fellowship Fund, thanked all alumni for helping to build the Fund. Their contributions came in from all over the country. She reminded all that the Fund is not closed and contributions are still welcome.

Miss Hahn then introduced the people sitting on the dais. (Picture appears on Page 1.) The only ones who may need further introduction to our readers are Dr. Gallagher, president of City College; Jay E. Greene, president of the Alumni Association of Brooklyn College and Frederic Stewart, College Librarian.

### Committee Thanked

Miss Hahn gave thanks and praise to Florence Strenger and Margaret R. Altenhein '30, co-chairmen of the day, and their committee for the splendid work they had done. They had handled most competently a very difficult task.

The Reverend Phyllis Taylor then gave the benediction and brought to a formal end one of the outstanding affairs of the Alumni Association.

G.C.S.