

THE HUNTER COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWS

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MRS. SAMUEL ABRAMS
OUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

For eighty-five years our Alumni Association has been engaged in good works for the benefit of the College and the community. Through all these decades the Association has undertaken a wide variety of activities to supply the funds and services needed by the College to supplement its educational program. The City has not always been able to supply all the necessary funds, the necessary services.

A backward glance at the history of our Association will reveal some of the many activities undertaken so successfully in the past. We may indeed take pride in the record of the Alumni Association's achievement, as we take pride in the careers of our graduates.

The idea of kindergarten education is a commonplace today, but it was a group of graduates of our College who organized the first free kindergarten in this City. The establishment of kindergarten classes in the City public schools—just 58 years ago—was a direct result of the efforts of our graduates.

One of the largest settlements in the City—Lenox Hill—was originally organized, as I am certain most Hunterites will remember, by a group of College Alumni, as was the Alice Rich Northrop Memorial Camp, which continues to provide a country vacation annually for about 80 children.

Early in the history of the College our Associate Alumnae founded the College Library and provided support regularly. Funds were later allowed by the City for the Library, but many gifts have been made to the Library from time to time by Alumni groups which have filled vital needs.

The Bureau of Occupations, as it was called in its early days, was established and maintained for a number of years entirely by our Associate Alumnae. It was this office which secured part-time employment for undergrad-



DR. GEORGE N. SHUSTER
OUR COLLEGE

Hunter College has become a renowned institution, from some points of view almost breath-takingly so. This is certainly not due to neon lights put up around it by public relations experts, for we have always had too little of that kind of help. What accounts for it? We have not won major football games, nor have we worn an aura of social glamor. Perhaps the presence on the Bronx Campus for some years first of the Waves and then of the United Nations Security Council meant a little in terms of vicarious advertising of our existence, but certainly only a very little.

The cornerstone of our reputation is the "brainy woman". This stone, as I have learned from a number of graduates, is sometimes bulkier than one might wish it to be. People in all parts of the country, and indeed of the world, think this a College harder to get into than most others and still more difficult to get out of again with a degree. It is curious that all our Sings, functions, dances, and club activities leave little or no dent on the public mind as compared with what the Hunter student presumably does in the classroom. On the other hand we do deserve to have that sort of cornerstone—more than those of us who teach often think. The number of our graduates who go on to university study, or receive fellowships and comparable awards, is surprisingly large. This achievement cannot be divorced from the scholarly activities of the Faculty. In many fields the total contribution is, for a college, genuinely remarkable. We are also able to recruit able and promising young scholars, so that the future seems reasonably assured.

Second, we may as well frankly admit that it helps to have a building on Park Avenue. When we first opened shop in what was the earliest example of the "glass house" in New York, some people looked upon us as raucous upstarts. I recall being told by the president

OPERA ASSOCIATION AND OPERA WORKSHOP

Hunter College is legitimately proud of having been a pioneer in a music education effort which is today gaining in popularity throughout the United States.

More than ten years ago the Hunter College Opera Workshop was organized as a part of the Hunter College School of General Studies by Dr. Fritz Stiedry, now of the Metropolitan Opera Company. It was then one of the few organizations of its kind. Today there are literally scores of such workshops in all parts of the country.

The Workshop serves a threefold purpose. It prepares carefully selected young artists for operatic singing, it creates audiences for new or seldom heard operas, and it gives many people an opportunity to hear excellent music in their own communities.

The Hunter College Opera Association has been formed to sponsor the productions of the Hunter College Opera Workshop and to provide scholarships for talented singers.

The directors and committee members of the Hunter College Opera Association are convinced that this project is one of the greatest cultural significance. Will you join with them in making it just that? You can help by becoming a member of the Association, or, if you prefer, by making a contribution. The Membership Plan is as follows: Patron Member, \$100 or more; Sponsor Member, \$50; Donor Member, \$25; Contributing Member, \$10; Regular Member, \$5.

Please make checks payable to the Hunter College Opera Association and mail to the undersigned at Hunter College, 695 Park Ave., New York 21.

We shall be grateful to you for any assistance you may care to give us.

ETHEL G. BERL, Chairman
Organization Committee
Hunter College Opera Association