

Paul LeClerc Inaugurated as Eleventh President of Hunter

With fanfare, pageantry, and song, with solemn speeches, celebratory verse, and humor, Hunter College's eleventh president, Paul LeClerc, was inaugurated on November 20. Despite heavy rain outside, the Assembly Hall was filled to capacity for the occasion as were three floors of the West Building used for a post-inaugural reception.

The inauguration ceremony, with acting provost Elizabeth Beaujour presiding, began with a colorful procession of participants and guests headed by white-capped and -gowned representatives of the Hunter College Elementary School. Also marching were other student and alumni representatives, some 200 distinguished delegates of colleges, universities, and learned societies in the U.S. and Canada wearing the academic robes of their institutions, Hunter College faculty and administrators, officials of The City University of New York, elected public officials, and the president.

Mayor of New York City Edward I. Koch told the audience that "it takes people with enormous courage, and intellect, and integrity to rise to the position that Paul LeClerc has attained and then to reach out and convey those leadership qualities and keep this institution as it currently is, one of the greatest in the country and certainly one of the city's crown jewels." In a reference to the budget cutbacks facing the City University the mayor jokingly added: "Whatever it is I can do to be helpful, in thick or in thin, when things are good and when things are bad, he can call on me—except for money."

Borough of Manhattan president David Dinkins called LeClerc "a learned scholar, an able administrator, and a man deeply committed to excellence in education," adding, "I am also impressed with his desire to encourage greater numbers of minority students to seek doctoral degrees and positions as university professors."

Other elected officials present included congressman Bill Green, state senator Roy Goodman, the assistant speaker of the State Assembly Edward Griffith, and New York City councilman Robert Dryfoos.

Patrick Talbot, cultural attache of the French Embassy and permanent represen-



José Peláez

From l., chairman of the CUNY Board of Trustees James P. Murphy, mayor Edward I. Koch, president LeClerc, Borough of Manhattan president David N. Dinkins, and CUNY chancellor Joseph S. Murphy share a joke before the ceremony.

tative of French universities in the U.S., brought greetings from France. Calling the new president a "distinguished scholar of the French Enlightenment and of Voltaire," he reminded the audience that LeClerc had been influential in setting up an exchange program between the University of Paris and the City University that in the last seven years had involved hundreds of students as well as faculty.

Eighty-year-old professor Otis Fellows, emeritus Avalon professor of humanities at Columbia University and the dean of Eighteenth Century French studies in America, was introduced to the audience as LeClerc's intellectual mentor at Columbia, where LeClerc had earned his PhD.

In honor of the president, Damon Evans, tenor, a personal friend, sang "Make our Garden Grow" from *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein. Grace Schulman, professor of English at Baruch College, where LeClerc was provost before coming to Hunter, read "The Lesson of the Temple: Ode to Paul LeClerc on his Inauguration as Eleventh

President of Hunter College," a poem she had written for the occasion.

The investiture was performed by James P. Murphy, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the City University, at a podium that had been used by Thomas Hunter, founder of Hunter College.

In his address president LeClerc reminded the audience that Thomas Hunter had written: "Public schools and liberty are one and inseparable. The existence of the one is interwoven with the existence of the other; they live or die together."

"Ours is, in some ways, a very different college from the one Thomas Hunter founded," he continued. "But our commitments to access, to the education of women and of men, and to superior quality in all that we do remain the same."

continued on page 10

See pp. 6 and 7 for more pictures of the inauguration.



President Paul LeClerc and secretary of state George P. Shultz at convocation of Tel Aviv University in New York City, where Shultz was awarded an honorary degree.

Alumna Donates Graduate Chemistry Scholarship

Helen Samuels Schectman '38, a chemistry major and co-founder of the Hunter Chemistry Club, has established the Helen Samuels Schectman Graduate Scholarship in Chemistry.

The scholarship of \$2000 is awarded on a merit basis each fall to a student entering the graduate program in chemistry. The winner is selected by a committee headed by the chair of the chemistry department. Associate professor of chemistry William Sweeney comments that "an award this early in a career can make a big difference in how we feel about our work."

Mrs. Schectman and her husband attended a reception last October for Miriam Gulotta, the first recipient of the scholarship. Gulotta completed her undergraduate studies at Carnegie-Mellon and is now studying the biophysical structure of left-handed DNA with Professor Dixie Goss. She has already submitted one paper for publication, a remarkable achievement at this early stage of her career.

Mrs. Schectman, who taught chemistry at C.W. Post University, told those attending the reception: "I always felt very strongly about the quality of the education I received as an undergraduate at Hunter. When my birthday came this year—the fiftieth an-

niversary of my graduation—I told my husband that what I really wanted for a gift was to establish a scholarship at Hunter."

Mr. and Mrs. Schectman plan to work toward building a \$20,000 endowment for the scholarship.

NIH Rewards Cancer Research at Hunter

The National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has given a prestigious MERIT award to Maria Tomasz of the Hunter chemistry department for her research on the action of anti-cancer drugs.

Established in 1986 by the NIH, the MERIT award is an additional 10-year grant for selected researchers already receiving NIH funds who demonstrate superior competence and productivity. This year, only five out of 300 grant recipients in the Biochemical Pharmacology Program received MERIT awards.

William Grossman, chairman of the chemistry department, remarked: "This is really a spectacular achievement which recognizes Maria Tomasz's very high level of productivity . . . an award of this kind redounds to the credit of Hunter College, as well as to hers."

Tomasz's team is, as she describes it, "small, but very talented and productive."

Recent members have included Roselyn Lipman, research associate; graduate students D. Chowdary and Anil K. Chawla; and undergraduates Dawn Behr-Ventura and Vinette Walker, a MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) scholar, both of whom are now in medical school. New students and postdoctoral fellows are being recruited to join the project.

Tomasz's research focuses on the action of anti-cancer drugs on the chemical level within the cell. The team is studying mitomycin C, a drug widely used in clinical chemotherapy. They have discovered how the drug reacts chemically with a cancerous cell's DNA, which kills the cell. The detailed analysis of the complex process will occupy the team for many years to come. Along the way the knowledge the team gains will be applied to the design of new and better drugs against cancer.

Inauguration

continued from page 1

Reaffirming Hunter College's dedication to community service, LeClerc announced the formation of two presidential task forces: one to define the role Hunter will play in combating AIDS and to coordinate all of the College's resources bearing on this problem, and a second to help shape the College's role in bettering public secondary education in New York City.

Music for the inaugural ceremony and for the reception that followed was provided by Hunter graduate student Mary Prime, the Hunter College Brass Ensemble, the Hunter College Choir, the Hunter College Campus Schools Chorus and Jazz Chorus, and The Long Island Sound Jazz Band. The Hunter College Dance Company, the Hunter College Mime Troupe, and "strolling performer" Patrick Sciarratta, coordinator for the performing arts at Hunter, entertained the crowd attending the reception.

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