

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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ALUMNÆ BREAKFAST

A large number of distinguished guests helped the Associate Alumnae celebrate the sixty-ninth birthday of Hunter College and the fifth anniversary of the presidency of Doctor Eugene A. Colligan at the annual breakfast, held on February 11 at the Astor.

Helen Luckey Simis, President of the Associate Alumnae, the toastmistress, stressed the unity of staff, students, and alumnae. She expressed the gratitude of all for a happy year and for the great progress in the new building program. The invocation was pronounced by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Michael J. Lavelle.

Dr. Frank P. Graves, President of the University of the State of New York and State Commissioner of Education, hailed Dr. Colligan as a man whose life, friendship, and career have stood well the test of time and familiarity. "The better we know him," said Dr. Graves, "the more we appreciate and admire him. In his service in the school system, he has dealt with vexing questions with deliberateness and sanity, and with all questions without bias and with an earnest desire to get at the facts." Dr. Colligan has been known, the Commissioner continued, for the fertility of his ideas, his frankness in expressing them, and his firmness of character in carrying them out. In conclusion, Dr. Graves characterized the President as a good citizen and a liberal, humane, fine specimen of manhood.

Hon. Thomas J. Mangan, Chancellor of the University of the State of New York, made a special journey from Binghamton "to pay tribute to a fine educator, a fine administrator, a fine character, a wonderful leader, and a great man." He announced that he brought the best wishes of the Board of Regents to Dr. Colligan on this anniversary.

Among the other leaders in public life who greeted Dr. Colligan were Dr. Harold G. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools of the City of New York, who called the President's work as Associate Superintendent outstanding in its field; Justice James T. Hallinan of the State Supreme Court; Justice Albert Cohn, of the Appellate Division; Dr. George Ryan, former President of the Board of Education; and Miss Millicent Baum, Secretary to Mayor LaGuardia.

The family greetings included those of the Board of Higher Education, the Faculty of Hunter College, and the student body of the College. Miss Ruth Lewinson spoke for the Board of Higher Education. She warned that educational problems must be approached cautiously and should be considered from more than one point of view; she saw, she said, an effective alumnae association

lending a hand to Dr. Colligan; and she offered to the President the greetings of her colleagues on the Board, with the wish for his continued health and success in his high office.

Professor Joseph Cummings Chase, representing the Faculty, told the Alumnae, "We like our President better than any other college faculty likes its President."

Miss Jean Goodman, President of the Student Council, brought the Alumnae the pledge of support of the student body, a student body resolved that "Hunter College shall be the best college in the world".

In his response, Dr. Colligan reminded the audience of the truth that the college will never be greater than its student body and its alumnae. "My fellows on the Faculty," he said, "I salute with esteem. It would be impossible to assemble a better faculty in any institution.

"I am proud of our student body. I regard these alert, intelligent young women as the finest girls," he continued, "and of the Alumnae, I am most proud." The Alumnae, the President noted, are marked by that ripened judgment that experience and maturity alone can bring; they best appreciate and understand what the College means to the community.

Dr. Colligan then paid special tribute to Dean Hannah M. Egan, Professor Marie K. Gallagher, and Mrs. Mary Belden James Lehn for their outstanding work in "individualization of the students". He asserted his own belief and the verdict of those who understand this problem that "in no other college has the problem of individualization of the student been so perfectly accomplished. There is available in Hunter College every service a college should afford to a girl as an individual." Praise was bestowed also on the work of the Curriculum Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Philip R. V. Curoe, described by the President as "one of the finest characters and most intelligent minds".

Dr. Colligan's final salute was for the "most glorious body of womanhood, the student body and the Alumnae of Hunter College". In conclusion, he expressed his sincerest and most grateful appreciation for the anniversary celebration.

Miss Regina C. M. Burke, the new Associate Superintendent of Schools, a member of the Alumnae, offered her appreciation to the fine women and men of the early Hunter College; their high ideals, she said, had shaped her professional life. She reminded the Alumnae that Hunter graduates pledge their service to the city, and that all may render some service in some way.

John Kieran, son of the late President

POEM READ AT THE REUNION OF THE CLASS OF '98

Life begins at forty, we have recently been told—

A reassuring thought for those who feel they're growing old!

And since a book that sells so well can't wholly be mistaken,

Its comfort and its challenge should our interest awaken.

We may have turned a little gray, we may have put on weight,

We may not be as nimble as we were in '98,

This Mortal Vesture (page the Bard!) may look a trifle worn,

But since life begins at forty, we have only just been born.

We may have scrapped illusions as we travelled down the years;

We may have gardens of the heart we water with our tears;

We may have tasted triumph and have found it bitter-sweet;

We may have plodded patiently the treadmill of defeat;

And those in smooth and sunny roads may miss a vanished zest,

And sigh a little as the light comes slanting from the west;

But never think our world has lost its magic and its thrill,

For life begins at forty and is all before us still.

Yet it were poverty to lose our past of joy and strife!

Not life begins at forty, but another phase of life.

Because of those four decades, we can step with firmer tread

Into the yet uncounted years that beckon us ahead.

Thank God for hands that once we clasped, whose touch we feel no more—

For voices that we still can hear beyond an open door!

May those bright souls who gave to us a timeless heritage

Be glad of what we all shall write upon our brave new page.

AMELIA JOSEPHINE BURR.