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CONTENTS

The Department of Geology and Geography at Hunter	4
Cartography: The Art of Making Maps	8
The Leisure of the Theory Class	11
Upon Ten Years at Hunter	14
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> and the Exponential Explosion	16
Chapter News	19
Class Notes	20
Milestone Classes Report	21

Cover: A partial view of Commencement on the Bronx Campus, June 1965

PHOTO CREDITS

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Report of the President



Anna Michels Trinsey '22

It is good to be able to report on the great growth and progress in our Association in the last three years. Active membership has doubled since May '62, rising to 7200 for the fiscal year ending May '65.

New active members have been enlisted from older as well as more recent classes—a gratifying indication of support, we feel, for the Association's present programs and announced plans.

Our *Alumni Quarterly*, first issued in the autumn of '62, has with little question been a great stimulus to membership. At a conference with new officers in the preceding summer President Meng had described the need for a new Hunter Alumni publication like the periodicals issued by alumni groups elsewhere, which keep graduates in touch with college and university programs, as well as alumni activities and class and chapter affairs. Our Alumni officers were in entire agreement that a new publication was needed which would greatly strengthen the Association and therefore bring benefit to the College.

It is thanks to President Meng's continued support that we have been able to send the *Quarterly* regularly to all active members, to all seniors on graduation, and to the Faculty and Staff of the College. An advisory editorial board, composed of two editors of well known magazines and other Alumni with varied experience in journalism and design, consults with our Publications Committee.

Another new venture which has quickly proved a success is our Thrift Shop. In the spring of '64 our Association was accepted as a member of Everybody's Thrift Shop (at 330 East 59th Street), a long established enterprise with fifteen cooperating member organizations. In the first year, through May '65, a net profit of \$5700 was earned by our Alumni unit for the benefit of the College. There can be little doubt that the annual Thrift Shop income will increase, as this project attracts even wider Alumni support and cooperation with our Thrift Shop Committee, not only in donations or articles of value for sale, but also in semi-weekly volunteer service in the Shop and in continued appeals.

A new program has been developed by our Professional Groups and Career Planning Conferences Committee, appointed last year. Graduates in various fields have been invited to Roosevelt House to meet seniors and to discuss career opportunities with them. This program is being continued, and the Committee is also compiling lists of cooperating Alumni who may be directly consulted by undergraduates and young graduates for advice about careers.

Continued on page 13

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued from page 3)

Of primary importance has been the development of an Alumni plan to mark Hunter's Centennial year in 1970. Initiating the plan in June of '64, the Association's Board of Directors, in joint conference with the Board of the Scholarship and Welfare Fund, approved four goals for a Centennial gift of \$1,000,000 to the College: a new fund for the College, for such purposes as supplementary support of research and special services to students; a new fund for aid to graduate students; additional funds for aid to undergraduate students, through the Scholarship and Welfare Fund; additional funds for the Graduate Gift Fund, for the establishment of an Alumni center as a memorial to Dr. Hunter, according to the plan adopted on the fiftieth anniversary of the College.

Our Centennial Fund Committee raised over \$83,000 in gifts and pledges in the first appeal last year (\$59,000 sent directly to the Association, \$14,500 sent directly to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund and over \$9,000 pledged). More Alumni contributed larger average amounts than in any preceding year.

Continued success in this great Centennial Gift enterprise, in all our undertakings will be achieved if we can build on a broad base of Alumni support. It is, moreover, the widespread support of all our graduates, of the graduates of all the City Colleges, that will be needed in the effort to have the mandate for free tuition restored in the State Education law, from which it was dropped in 1961. The officers of our Association have given unremitting attention to this issue ever since—making special studies of the continued need for free tuition, sponsoring rallies, presenting statements at public hearings in New York and in Albany, appearing on television and cooperating with the leaders of the other Alumni Associations in the City, and with the new Citizens' Committee for Public Higher Education. There is now no more important issue requiring the outspoken effort of all our graduates than the maintenance of free tuition in the City, and its restoration in public colleges upstate.

For the progress of all our affairs in the last three years we are indebted to our hard-working committees, not only to those mentioned above, but also to other standing and special committees, among them the Program Committee. This Committee has charge of the three principal annual events in the Association's calendar—the Homecoming at the College in November, the College Birthday Luncheon in February, and the Spring Reception in May. It has been good to note the increasing attendance at these annual affairs; over 1200 have been present at the Luncheon in each of the last three years. The Homecoming Programs, as well as the hotel Receptions in the spring, have brought some of the stimulation of college days and have fostered good fellowship. Alumni chap-

Continued on page 18

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 13)

ters have also reported increasing attendance at similar affairs. We now have twenty-two chapters, and the Bronx Campus Section; about twenty per cent of our membership is now affiliated with these groups.

Looking to the coming year, our last in office, we are suggesting new plans for the expansion of our Alumni activities, for example, the formal organization of professional groups of Alumni, development of Alumni radio programs and a speakers bureau, participation in various local educational programs, and a program of special social events for undergraduates and younger

Alumni, to interest ever larger numbers of our graduates in joining with us in all our endeavors. Perhaps this year we may at long last be able to establish an Alumni Center, as the memorial to Dr. Hunter, a center in which Alumni programs and friendships may together flourish.

We have said that we are deeply gratified by the vote of confidence that our increased membership in the last three years indicates. We have also been gratified by the assurances of Dr. Rosenberg, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, and of President Meng and the Deans of the College that the program of our Association in defense of free tuition and in furtherance of Alumni service and Alumni gifts to the College is a meritorious one.