

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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The terrible catastrophe that has befallen our College has shocked and grieved us. But in the midst of our deep concern and bewilderment there is a feeling of gratitude that no one was in the building at the time of the fire.

Let us therefore cease to lament, and rather use this occasion as a spur for the building of a finer Hunter.

I have placed my services at the disposal of President Colligan, and have assured him of the full coöperation of every member of the Association. I know that I have not spoken vainly, and that when the call comes you will respond with all the love and loyalty we have always pledged to our Alma Mater.

IRENE BRANDON GRAFF.

## COLLEGE NOTES

In the dark hour of adversity following the fire which destroyed the central portion of the old building on Friday, February 14, it must have been heartening to President Colligan to be met by the eager and loyal support of staff and students.

Offers of help came from many sources. Mayor La Guardia and other city officials came to the College to support the President.

With the resumption of classes, students found themselves incommoded by the lack of library, bookroom, laboratory, study hall, and locker facilities. The suspension of classes regularly held in the west building also inconvenienced hundreds of College and Model School students.

Work in the Lexington Avenue building has been conducted without a break for day and evening session students. Julia Richman High School is being used for evening and extension students whose classes were held in the old buildings. Hygiene and home economics classes, which lost all their laboratories, met for field trips.

The Executive Board of the Student Self-Government Association of Hunter College, at a special meeting on Monday, February 17; passed a resolution to arrange for a hearing with the Mayor and the Board of Estimate, to discuss the erection of a new building at 68th Street and Park Avenue, in preference to rebuilding the 63-year-old building.

Mrs. Leslie Graff, president of the Associate Alumnae, sent a telegram to the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Higher Education, Mr. Charles Tuttle, urging the erection of a new building on the present site as a protection for the lives of the students.

It is the hope of all of us that great good will come from the united action of students, parents, teachers, and alumnae.

K. M. LAVELL.

## \* THE FIRE AND ITS AFTERMATH

The campaign for the erection of an adequate and safe building for our Hunter College students was inaugurated, on February 17, by the editor of the *Bulletin* with an editorial in the form of an open letter addressed to the members of the Board of Estimate. Copies of this editorial were sent to each member of the Board of Estimate and to the metropolitan newspapers. Excerpts from the open letter appeared in a number of papers.

The Executive Committee of the Student Self-Government Association, headed by Eleanor Tomlinson, has circulated a petition for a new building among students of the College and High School, their parents and teachers. The students have also written letters to the newspapers on the subject.

I trust that the ALUMNÆ NEWS will take cognizance of the splendid spirit manifested by the students when sessions were resumed after the fire. The arrangements made over the week-end by President Colligan, Dean Egan, and Mrs. Lehn, the Registrar, were carried out without the slightest confusion or grumbling, despite the serious inconveniences to which the students and many of the staff were subjected.

A temporary emergency program, providing one hour weekly in the Lexington Avenue building for the classes which met from one to nine hours weekly in the "old building", went into effect on Monday, February 24. The permanent program for these classes will be announced as soon as the necessary arrangements for new quarters are completed.

President Colligan has received many messages of sympathy and offers of help from various sources. Telegrams of sympathy were sent by some of the merchants of the city, including Bloomingdale, Hearn, Saks-Fifth Avenue, and S. Klein. Generous offers of the use of building facilities were made by Congregation Emanu-El, Congregation Beth-El, the Y.M.H.A., the School of St. Ignatius Loyola, the Board of Education, and other groups.

As a result of the offer brought to Dr. Colligan by Dr. Ruth Lewinson, the Model School is now in session at the Community House of Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street. Twenty-five class-rooms in a fire-proof building with a large auditorium were made available to the Model School through the courtesy of Judge Irving Lehman, president of the Congregation, and Mr. Sydney H. Herman, vice-president.

At a meeting of the Sinking Fund Commission on February 27, the request of our Administrative Committee for approval of a

lease of three and a half floors in a modern fire-proof building at 2 Park Avenue as headquarters for 1200 students was granted.

The lease will run for two years and five months (with the option of two annual renewals) at a total rental of \$386,000 plus installations and repairs not to exceed \$80,000. The building will provide on the 2nd, 3rd, 15th, and half of the 16th floors facilities for 32 classrooms, 22 laboratories, a gymnasium, a lunchroom, a study hall, a library, and administrative offices.

On this occasion His Honor the Mayor praised the loyalty and devotion to Hunter College of the Chairman of the Administrative Committee, Dr. Laurence L. Cassidy, who has worked tirelessly with our President, Dr. Colligan, throughout the emergency. Mayor LaGuardia also complimented President Colligan on the efficiency with which the College authorities met the situation caused by the fire in promptly resuming classes and seeking new quarters to house the students whose programs had been curtailed.

Dr. Colligan and Dr. Cassidy both expressed appreciation of the coöperation of various city departments involved in meeting the emergency, and gratitude for the prompt and generous action of the members of the Sinking Fund Commission: His Honor, the Mayor; the Comptroller, Frank J. Taylor; the City Chamberlain, A. A. Berle, Jr.; the President of the Board of Aldermen, Timothy J. Sullivan; the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen, Frank A. Cunningham.

Mayor LaGuardia expressed the hope that the action of the Sinking Fund Commission would convince the students of Hunter College and their parents that the city authorities are genuinely interested in their problems and their needs. "No other city or state is more solicitous for its students," he said.

As soon as the students were informed of the provision made for them, the Executive Council of the S.S.G.A. passed a resolution to send messages of appreciation to His Honor the Mayor and the members of the Sinking Fund Commission.

During the time which has elapsed since the fire on February 14, arrangements for the full resumption of College work have been made by all departments, and it is hoped that completion of necessary building adaptations at 2 Park Avenue will permit occupancy of classrooms by March 10.

No one who is not in close touch with the College can have an adequate idea of the untiring and selfless devotion to the interests of our students which has been manifested by the administrative officers of the College. President Colligan, Dean Egan, Mrs. Lehn, Miss Bush, the various department heads and committee chairmen have given all of their time and effort to the solution of the many problems of administration occasioned by the fire, working night and day. The

members of the Board of Higher Education, particularly the members of our Board of Trustees, have likewise impressively revealed devotion to the College and the welfare of the students.

The sympathetic response to the call for assistance which has been met on every side encourages the hope that out of the recent disaster good may come. With the help of a grateful student body and a loyal alumnae association we may see in the near future a new building in Manhattan worthy of the traditions and high academic standing of Hunter College. EMMA K. TEMPLE.

#### THE ACTION OF THE ALUMNAE

Mrs. Graff, from the moment she was informed of the fire, kept the wires busy, first in a telegram to Dr. Colligan, expressing sympathy and the desire to stand by, and next in telephonic communication with the Board of Directors, whom she summoned to a meeting in the Lexington Avenue building, on Wednesday morning, February 19th.

In the course of her message to the meeting, Dr. Lewinson reported the offer of Temple Emanu-El to house the children of the Model School in the spacious Sabbath School quarters.

At the invitation of Mrs. Graff, Dr. Colligan addressed the meeting. He illustrated present conditions of overload of students in the Main Building and the Bronx and 32nd Street Branches by a rapid mathematical graph upon the blackboard, incidentally showing what a fine teacher he is. The Alumnae felt his devotion to the College was unbounded and were impressed anew by his well-directed energy.

Our comparatively new Trustee, Mr. Schlossberg, made a few well-directed remarks, stating he had some connection with the world of labor and never would he have allowed a laborer to face fire hazards such as existed in the old College Building.

The outcome of the meeting was the decision to send a resolution to the Board of Higher Education, stating it was the sense of the representatives of the Associate Alumnae that a modern building be erected on the present site to replace the structure now uninhabitable as a result of the fire.

Mrs. Graff named the committee to draw up the Resolution as follows:—Dr. Hochfelder (Chairman), Mrs. Berliner, Dr. Forchheimer, Mrs. Hahn, Mrs. Simis.

The Resolution is printed on our editorial page. ELEONORE F. HAHN.

#### RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

February 18, 1936.

The Board of Aldermen  
of the City of New York.  
Gentlemen:

On February 17, 1936, the Executive Committee of the Board of Higher Education adopted the following resolution: