

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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THE COLLEGE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The festivities in honor of Hunter's sixtieth anniversary, which opened with the Alumnae Breakfast on February 12, closed with the Chapel exercises held just a week later. Our dear old Chapel, itself nearly of an age with Alma Mater, was filled to overflowing for the occasion, with Alumnae in two of the front sections, seniors, stately in cap and gown, in the other two, juniors crowding the space behind the transverse aisle and the gallery, and faculty and distinguished guests occupying all available space upon the platform. These distinguished guests included four Trustees, namely, Mr. Cassidy, Mrs. Elliott, Miss Lewinson, and Mr. Steiner; Dr. Ryan, President of the Board of Education; Professor Emeritus Cone; Mr. Zabriskie, Principal of Washington Irving High School; the three Vice-Presidents of the Alumnae, Mrs. Lilly, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Hahn; and Mr. and Miss Cohen, donors of the Hattie Cohen Prize. And they also included Mrs. Kieran, who modestly concealed herself in a remote corner, but appeared at the end of the ceremonies to exchange greetings with her many friends among faculty and alumnae.

The program opened with the reading of the Nineteenth Psalm by President Kieran.

This was followed by a selection sung by the choir, "Ring Out Wild Bells"—unfortunately not to Hunter's own dear music. (Could not, at least one Alumna wondered, some of our loved traditional songs be revived? Possibly the present generation does not even know Professor Mangold's lovely, lively setting of this old favorite.)

Next President Kieran announced, with that genial simplicity that makes his manner of presiding so singularly happy, "Introductory Remarks—by me."

These "Introductory Remarks" were of great interest. We were reminded that, in the course of her sixty years of life and growth, our institution has changed her course from the original one of three years following directly on graduation from elementary school, to one of four years based on four years of high school work; has admitted over 45,000 students, of whom 60% remained to be graduated; has increased the size of her graduating class from 19 in 1870 to 957 in 1929, and of her staff from 27 in 1870 to 472 in 1930. She has also liberalized her course of study, originally strictly uniform. The first step in this direction was the introduction in 1905 of an idea then comparatively new, the establishment of required work and optionals, and of a group of majors each one accompanied by its own

specific minor. To-day any student of ability may combine any major with any minor, and she has 17 majors (as against 10 in 1920) and over 20 minors to choose from. In 1870 our institution's aim was to provide better academic education for elementary school teachers. To-day our graduates include superintendents, principals and first assistants in high schools, about a third of all the principals of the elementary and junior high schools of the city, and several heads of departments in our own college. In 1916 was established our Summer Session, which in 1929 had an enrollment of over 3,000 students and a staff of 137; and in 1917 were established our Evening and Extension Sessions, which in 1929 had a register of nearly 12,000 students and a staff of 540. To-day Hunter is instructing over 20,000 students in all her sessions, and is now granting master's as well as bachelor's degrees. In both day and evening sessions she maintains more rigid admission requirements than do most colleges, and she drops those students that cannot maintain certain academic standards. Hunter has always had a large number of students that did not mean to teach, but desired preparation for other professions: now to take care of the growing demand for business training, she has established commercial majors combined with the same academic requirements, and resting on the same broad cultured foundations, as the old majors.

President Kieran paid tribute to the generosity always shown by the City of New York in the matter of higher education for women, and gave assurance that our graduates will always give a full measure of service in return for the city's investment in our College.

One particular representative of the city, and one who is a specially staunch friend of Hunter College, the Honorable Joseph V. McKee, was expected to follow President Kieran as a speaker; but unfortunately his special duties as Acting Mayor, in addition to his regular ones as President of the Board of Aldermen, kept him away.

Next on the program was our loved Professor Helen Gray Cone. The title of her address was down on the program as "A Word from the College of the Past"; but, as President Kieran declared in introducing her, though she may speak of the past, she is always of the present, and is, we hope, long to be of the future. In her own inimitable way, she took us back to the days of "little old New York", in September, 1873, and brought before us the impression that the College of those days made on a "simple little girl with long braids" just come from

P. S. 39. That impression was above all one of dignity—dignity of the tower like that of Magdalen College in Oxford, dignity of wide halls (no disfiguring lockers then!), dignity of Chapel and Chapel exercises, dignity of staff and of seniors.

The "simple little girl" received a sound foundation for which the woman into whom she was to grow is truly grateful; but the "College" of those days was so called by courtesy only, for the course was really a very good high school course with "a sort of normal attachment." Its complete uniformity made for solidarity but not for freedom, and its outstanding features were discipline, guidance, and obedience. For these features the new course of study, adopted in 1905, substituted power of choice, self-government, and a deep sense of responsibility. The average student was older now, and ready for the new order of things. Soon after the adoption of the new course of study followed two other important events, both in 1908: the registering of our degree by the Regents; and the coming of President Davis, who did so much in helping the College escape from its early isolation and in encouraging extra-curricular activities. His great services to the College have been summed up well by the Resolutions in his honor adopted by the Alumnae at the time of his retirement, which Professor Cone proceeded to read.

After this tribute to President Davis, Professor Cone reminded us of what we owe to others of Hunter's bright particular list of worthies: the members of the committee that drew up the epoch-making course of study in 1905, including President Kieran himself, two departed friends, Professor Burgess and Professor Kayser, and, finally, Professor Whicher (and here Professor Cone sent a special "wave of gratitude" toward Rome); then to "that sincere strong spirit" Lydia Wadleigh, of whom Professor Cone etched an unforgettable miniature; and finally to Professor Gillet, who took President Hunter's place for a year, and whose kindly and genial face still greets us from the wall of our Music Room—"shall we not count it grace to have known and loved so rare a man as he?" And of course Professor Cone's recreation of the past ended with the name of the man who is still here and will be for all time—the name whose adoption by Alma Mater when she took her place in the world was the most beautiful and fitting in the world—"what brave name but his?"

Thus our Emeritus Professor's conclusion linked the past with the present and the future—and of course everybody heartily agreed with President Kieran's comment, "I can't get over the absurdity of associating Professor Cone with the past."

Next the orchestra played—and then came the time of birthday gifts and valentines.

First Mrs. Harry Lilly, Vice-President of the Alumnae, in a stirring speech presented

the portrait of Mrs. Elliott—"the likeness of our fearless leader who marked out the Alumnae path to the new building and kept the course straight"—the gift of the Associate Alumnae and of members of the College staff who are Alumnae and others—a "testimonial to responsibilities faced and discharged in full." "A true exemplar of the Alumnae spirit"—so the Vice-President of the Alumnae truly termed its President. Then she drew back the curtain that had veiled the portrait, and thus dedicated the portrait to the spirit of Hunter—"Long may she live our College fair!"

"Now," said our President Kieran in his own delightful way, "we are to have the dedication of another portrait, but modesty prevents—." So Adele Langenbahn, the President of the Student Council, mounted the platform to help him out of his difficulty. In a simple, sincere little speech, she expressed his girls' appreciation of "Dean Professor Doctor President Kieran", and their pleasure at being with him at the beginning of his administration. Then she unveiled his portrait, and his likeness gazed at the audience with that smile with which its model, as Miss Langenbahn had said, always greets the girls when they seek his office. And the real President Kieran smiled too—but with his smile now there was mingled a tear.

The two portraits were accepted for the College by the Honorable Laurence L. Cassidy of the Board of Trustees, who began his acceptance with a word of praise for the efficiency and devotion of the Chairman of that Board, Dr. Swift, for whom he said he was serving as substitute. He directed that the two portraits be accorded a prominent place on the walls of the new building, "in our own Hall of Fame." He added his tribute to the two subjects—Mrs. Elliott, "the ideal type of college graduate, not only because of her qualifications, but also because of her intense loyalty to her Alma Mater"; and President Kieran, "able associate, efficient executive, and charming gentleman", who has "taught us lessons of what may be accomplished when the heart and mind coordinate."

Now all, led by Marion Bader, the College Cheer Leader, sang "Hunter"; and then Mrs. Elliott arose to make her Address for the Alumnae. First, of course, she made reference to her new honor, expressing pleasure that her portrait had been unveiled at the same time as that of one so esteemed as President Kieran, and saying of it, "If you like it, then I am happy." After that she gave her special greeting from the Alumnae, recalling their first meeting, in 1872, when they laid down the traditions for us to follow, and then mentioning their present great undertaking, the building of the fence around our new campus. After congratulating President and students alike, and expressing the hope that the latter as graduates would share

in the work of providing the fence, she ended as Mrs. Lilly had done, "Long may she live our College fair!"

President Kieran's "Concluding Remarks" were now due, but he postponed them that we might have a chance of hearing from a new arrival, Dr. George J. Ryan, President of the Board of Education. He paid tribute to Hunter's record in the schools, certifying that the contribution that our graduates have received is reflected in the young men and women of the city; to that "eminent whole-souled man" who guides our faculty, President Kieran; and to the "charming women" on the Board of Trustees.

In conclusion President Kieran made several announcements. He told of the establishment of the Hattie Cohen Prize by the son and daughter of Hattie Cohen, in memory of their mother, who was a student at our College from 1879 to 1881. The prize is to go annually to a senior distinguished for charm of personality, broad capabilities, and strength of character; and this year it is awarded for the first time, to Armine Dingilian—a very popular award, judging by the applause with which its announcement was received. He also told of the increases of several college funds: the fund to further the study of German, raised to \$4,600 by a recent gift; the Student Aid Fund, to which was added the surplus of \$300 resulting from the performance in January of "Patience"; and the fund to make Hunter a Supporting Member in Perpetuity of the American Academy at Rome, augmented by the proceeds of John Erskine's recital on February 14. He likewise reported the bequest by Mrs. Julia Shaw of her gold-cased Steinway grand piano. Finally he read telegrams of greeting that had been sent to Alma Mater by Elizabeth D. Moran, President of 1910, by E. Adelaide Hahn, President of June 1915, by Rose Sigal Golomb, President of June 1918, and by Muriel Leahy, President of June 1929; and gave an excerpt from one that had been sent to Mrs. Elliott by her son.

The President concluded his "Concluding Remarks" with a special word of thanks to the students, and the promise, "some day I'll talk to you when no one else is around—it will be something personal between you and me." And some of President Kieran's "old girls", as they joined in the singing of "Fame" and "Long May She Live", were wishing that they might slip in and have a share in that "something personal" too!

E. ADELAIDE HAHN, '15

CALENDAR, 1930

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| Wed., Mar. 12 | Executive Council |
| Fri., Mar. 28 | Varsity Play |
| Sat., Mar. 29 | Varsity Play |
| Tues., Apr. 1 | Finance Committee |
| Wed., Apr. 23 | Officers and Directors |
| Wed., May 7 | Sing, 10 A. M. |
| Wed., May 7 | Executive Council |
| Sat., May 17 | Reunion; Election |

THE WASHINGTON CHAPTER

The Washington, D. C., Chapter of the Associate Alumnae has been meeting regularly once a month, except for the summer vacation period, for the last five years or more. We have had meetings of various kinds—musicales, bridge parties, talks by members on subjects of interest (one by Irene Diner Koenigsberger on the legal status of married women in the District of Columbia being of pertinent interest to us), discussions of new books, a very delightful program of readings by Clare Auerbach Speaker, in short anything that appeals to the group.

This fall we have had several enjoyable times together. In December we had a Christmas tree party which the members attended dressed as Christmas tree ornaments. Our January meeting took the form of a very delightful luncheon and movie party given to us by Frances Disman, the hostess for this month.

Our membership consists of the following:

Mrs. Frank W. Ballou (Katherine Knapp, 1900), Mrs. Arthur Disman (Frances Liebowitz, 1916), Mrs. Samuel Gusack (Lillian Epstein, 1904), Mrs. Edwin Hahn (Florentine Israel, 1914), Mrs. Laurence Koenigsberger (Irene Diner, 1917), Mrs. Frank Linzel (Verna Diecks, 1911), Mrs. Charles Speaker (Clare Auerbach, 1917), Mrs. Birdie Samuel (Birdie Loewy, 1900), Mrs. George Wharton (Eleanor Harwood, 1900), Mrs. Roland Whitehurst (Althea E. Wettlaufer, 1915), Mrs. Louis Yurow (Lauretta Jediekin, 1921).

The names and addresses of alumnae of Hunter residing in Washington and the vicinity would be appreciated by us. Send them to Mrs. Roland Whitehurst, 4100 Military Road, N.W., Washington, D. C.

ALTHEA WETTLAUFER WHITEHURST,
President.

THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

The Philadelphia Chapter's second meeting of the season was held at the home of Mrs. Meyer Solis-Cohen, 2029 Spruce Street, on Wednesday afternoon, January twenty-ninth. Thanks to the charm and hospitality of our hostess, we all spent a most happy and enjoyable afternoon.

The raffling of the pearls donated by Mrs. H. Herzberg realized for us over fifty-six dollars, which speaks well for the generosity of our members. We decided to dispense with our usual card party this year since the women have already contributed their share.

After the consideration of plans for our next gathering, to take place in the spring of the year, tea was poured by Mrs. Teschner, mother of our hostess and member of the Associate Alumnae.

We are looking forward to our next reunion.

NAOMI C. ROSEMAN,
President.