

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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It gives me pleasure to state that your President has been placed on the Mayor's Committee of the Municipal Art Center. Any suggestions that you may offer will be gladly received by me, and in turn I will place them before the chairman, Mrs. Henry Breckinridge.

I am sure we all want to help in furthering this work which has been conceived with so great a vision, even if it takes years to fulfill it. I count on your coöperation, which has never failed me.

One of the most beautiful gestures was that made by the Student Self-Government Association at the celebration of the College Birthday, in Chapel on Wednesday, Feb. 13th. They tendered their gift, not to the College, but to the Associate Alumnae, and asked that their check be used for the unemployed. With very full hearts we thank them, and voice our appreciation of the beauty of their thought.

IRENE B. GRAFF, President.

## THE ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Birthdays, in spite of opinion to the contrary, have at least one advantage! They are a convenient annual springboard from which we can take a refreshing backward look into the past before launching ourselves into the perplexities of a new year. There is always something nostalgic in that backward glance, but there is also something heartening in it that gives strength for the plunge into the future. At the Annual Breakfast of the Associate Alumnae on Lincoln's Birthday, that sense of gathering courage from the solid, substantial achievements of sixty-five long, busy, successful years to meet the problems of to-day was almost tangible. It wasn't just an assemblage of 800 graduates to eat a meal and discuss the news; it wasn't just a chance to meet old friends; it was a gathering of 800 women, adult and thoughtful citizens, who were feeling, down beneath the laughter and the light chatter, the urgent need to give to the young people who are now facing a hostile world in which they seem to have no place the support of their experience and their wisdom.

"Viewing with alarm" has long been a favorite and often unnecessary pastime, but the plight of the rising generation has passed the "viewing" stage. It is alarming.

Mayor LaGuardia, the guest of honor, recognized its seriousness when he said that the young people of to-day have little to look forward to besides the heritage we have left them of world war and world-wide depression. No longer can we blithely assure them, in flowery commencement speeches,

that the world is theirs. This is certainly not the time, the mayor asserted, to handicap them further by depriving them of opportunities for advanced education and cultural development. It is not the time to cut down on the activities of the colleges which the city maintains, but to extend them.

President Colligan laid further emphasis on this besetting problem. He urged the Associate Alumnae to come to the rescue of their younger "sisters" in the drive "to create a future for youth", to support wholeheartedly the threefold program of educational, vocational, and social guidance which Hunter College is endeavoring to work out. The support, he said, should be active and, whenever possible, tangible, in the shape of actual job opportunities for the young graduates who are being seriously handicapped by the present unfortunate prolongation of their "infancy in education".

Mrs. Henry Breckinridge, chairman of the Municipal Art Committee, in outlining the plans for an art center in New York City, of which the Mayor had also spoken, sounded the same note—the youth problem and ways of meeting it. One of the ways, it is hoped, will be the proposed art center, offering a chance for development and expression to those whose talents lie in the direction of music, art, and the drama (including the dance). The Municipal Art Committee is looking to such organizations as the Associate Alumnae for intelligent support of its program.

But enough of seriousness! The Breakfast, in spite of the reiterated note of earnestness underlying the celebration, was a joyous affair. We talked and we ate and we visited. We goggled at the celebrities. We experienced a thrill when the huge birthday cake with its sixty-five lavender candles, a gift from the Alumnae Committee of the Lenox Hill Settlement, was carried through the room, followed by four little girls from the Settlement who sang "Happy Birthday to You." We enjoyed seeing Miss Mary Wells, first teacher at the Lenox Hill Kindergarten, cut the cake. We enjoyed the cake! We applauded the Class of 1910 which brought its silver anniversary greetings in the very substantial form of 100% membership in the Associate Alumnae, and the Golden Anniversary Class of 1885 which is sponsoring a Helen Gray Cone Scholarship. It was Helen Gray Cone's *Valentine*, beautifully read by Miss Marguerite Jones, that fittingly crowned the birthday feast.

And so we came away, fortified by the hour or two of pleasant remembrance and ready to tussle more understandingly with that knotty modern problem—youth to-day.

ELSIE HOERTEL PARRY.

### THE COLLEGE BIRTHDAY

The sixty-fifth "birthday party" of our Alma Mater was fittingly celebrated in Chapel on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Main Building. A stirring march by the orchestra under the leadership of Dr. Hughes; seniors in caps and gowns filling the front seats; President Colligan and our distinguished guests, Trustees, Alumnae, and other friends, joining the assembled Faculty members on the platform behind the beautiful flowers given by Panhellenic,—and the festivities were on.

After the reading of the Scriptures, the President addressed us on the general topic of the past year's activities at College, stressing the fact that in addition to planning new curricula where there was a need for change or addition, educational, social, and vocational guidance had been widely carried on by members of the staff who undertook this additional service to the students in a spirit of real coöperation so that our graduates, deprived so largely of teaching opportunities, might be fitted for other interesting and worthwhile service to the community which gives our College its support. As a practical crown of these achievements, our Trustees made it possible for Mr. Meyer Bloomfield, who has had wide and valuable experience in the field, to take over the task of finding suitable places and making contacts in the various fields offered for our graduates. Thus has it been a forward-moving year. The President then introduced our honored guests, Mrs. Mulqueen, Dr. Lewinson, and Mrs. Mack of the Board of Trustees, and many a distinguished alumna who had made her mark in fields that varied from homemaking to literature, from school teaching to concert giving—and not a few seemed to have been successful at a combination of activities. Dr. Laurence Cassidy, in bringing a greeting from the Board of Trustees, stressed that the "investment" of Hunter had always amply repaid and would continue to repay the City of New York in human "dividends".

After the orchestra had played a selection from "Martha", Mrs. Graff brought the greetings and the gifts of the Alumnae, some valuable additions to the psychological library in memory of Professor Conant, one of the first psychology teachers of our institution, and an etching from the front page of an ancient *Graphic* showing the *new* Hunter Buildings of those days. Professor Jones then recited the well-loved "Valentine" of Helen Gray Cone.

Another of our honored guests was Dr. John Finley, who brought us a delightful "word" of greeting, guaranteed not to last more than five minutes—and, much to our sorrow, it did not. The legend of the hunter seeking truth and cutting notches in the cliffs so that others coming after him might find the climbing easier was another fitting and encouraging Valentine for the College.

Professor Hahn, one of the faculty members of the Traditions Committee, then remi-

nised for us on the history of the College Birthday, and tellingly outlined various natal day festivities of our Alma Mater from 1870 until now, bringing out the fact that as "Hunter College" she had now "come of age". President Emeritus Kieran wished us well and "told us a story", and Dean Emeritus Mills reminded us of the great faith and devotion it took in those early years for the pioneers who made the dream of President Hunter come true to give up their permanent positions in the lower schools and cast their lot with the new Female Normal and High School, for whose dismissal a bill was annually introduced in the legislature. The birthday song "Hunter" was then led by the writer of its music, Lillian Busch Milyko, who promised the original orchestration of the song to College as her gift. Telegrams were read from many "loyal daughters" of the past; and, as suitable close, the "present generation" was given the floor and Ethel F. Schwartz, President of the Student Self-Government Association, presented a check to the Alumnae Unemployment Fund with the wish that there would soon be no further need for such a gift. This was gratefully accepted by Mrs. Graff. Miriam Balf, student song leader, then led "Fame"—and a happy birthday party ended.

The guests of honor were then entertained by the Dean at a luncheon which the Home Economics Club had prepared.

"Long May She Live, Our College Fair!"  
HELENE HARTUNG.

### THE SENIOR TEA

On January 31st, the Membership Committee of the Associate Alumnae gave its senior annual Tea to the graduating seniors of the College. The Tea was held in the Alumnae Rooms, and was well attended by the Alumnae and the seniors. After refreshments had been served, Mrs. Graff welcomed the graduates to the Association. She discussed its outside interests, such as Lenox Hill Settlement, Northrop Camp, and the Unemployment Committee.

Mrs. Graff then introduced Miss Emilie O. Long, Director of the Northrop Camp, who extended an invitation to all present to visit the children at the camp.

Miss Anna M. Hunter welcomed the newcomers, and Mrs. Otto Hahn spoke of the ALUMNAE NEWS of which she is the very capable editor.

The refreshments were prepared by the Home Economics Club of the College under the supervision of Professor Orr. We are deeply grateful for their kind cooperation.

All agreed that it was a delightful afternoon, and we feel sure that through it the Associate Alumnae has won many loyal supporters.

GENEVIEVE BURKE CROTTY,  
Membership Chairman.

### CALENDAR, MARCH

Wed., Mar. 6—Officers and Directors.  
Wed., Mar. 13—Executive Council.