

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR RETIRING PRESIDENT

To my Friends in the Associate Alumnae:

The beautiful tribute you paid me at our Spring Reunion is still filling my heart with gladness, and I am happy to have this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity and praise.

To those of you who made possible the gorgeous bracelet of diamonds and sapphires, I offer added thanks and deepest appreciation,—not only for the tangible gift, but for the beauty of the spirit in which you responded.

This final demonstration was but the climax to your years of generosity; and you gave me that day the most precious thing in the world, the assurance of your friendship. And for this there is no thanks. For friendship is priceless and can be paid for only by the return of friendship. And this I *can* do with all my heart. For I have, for each and every one of you, an abiding affection, and the sum of that affection is love and friendship.

The years of my service have been richly rewarded, and the bracelet will be a constant reminder of the circle of my friends.

I cannot adequately thank you, either for your never failing support, your coöperation, your praise, or your lovely gift, but I do want you to know that the pleasure and joy you have given me is so great that it can be spread over the years and will last forever.

IRENE BRANDON GRAFF.

THE SPRING REUNION

A crowd of well over six hundred Alumnae, gathered by the splendid efforts of Mary Abbott Curtin and her committee, made the Spring Reunion of 1938, held in the Belvedere Room of the Hotel Astor on Saturday, May 14, a memorable event.

Mrs. Leslie Graff, retiring President of the Associate Alumnae, welcomed the members with the reminder that, since spring is the time of hope and promise, the reunion should mark for the Association a season of "hope for a stronger Associate Alumnae, hope for a new college, and hope for peace, with a promise of our loyalty, our love, and our effort to fulfill these hopes".

She remarked on the change of room for the function, made necessary by the large attendance, and explained Mrs. Curtin's plan to increase the interest of the younger groups by allotting them a more active part in the program, featuring, at the Spring Reunion, the fifth and tenth anniversary classes.

In keeping with this idea, Mrs. Anne Moore Donnelly of the Class of 1928 opened the program when she sang "O Little Tune

of Tears" by Galloway, and Wells' "I Dunno". The selections were new and different, and the singer charming in voice and manner. Mrs. Evelyn Back Zuckerman, 1928, was the accompanist.

The Hunter College Reading Chorus, under the direction of Miss Helen Gertrude Hicks of the Department of Speech, presented choral readings of three selections: "The Highwayman", by Alfred Noyes; Lewis Carroll's famous "The Walrus and the Carpenter" from *Alice in Wonderland*; and "Jazz Phantasia", by Carl Sandburg. Solo parts in the first two selections were read by the Misses Christina Marchisa, Sylvia Epstein, Hazel Grauer, Iola Dollinger, Molly Green, Pearl Shottland, Ruth Margolin, Caroline Manville, and Mary O'Connor. The readings were interesting and beautifully done.

Miss Catherine A. Weigl represented 1933 with her fine, spirited playing of an arrangement by Pablo De Sarasate of *Gypsy Airs*, and a *Toast to the Alumnae*, arranged by Miss Beatrice Brown of the Department of Music. When the audience heard the familiar strains of "Fame", voices were raised and Mrs. Graff led the singing.

A gift in the form of a bracelet, as an expression of the gratitude of the Association for an administration marked by "clarity of vision, sincerity of purpose, unselfish devotion, singular loyalty, and a dignity and charm which has been the admiration of all", was presented to the retiring President by Mrs. Genevieve Burke Crotty, who recalled to the members that Mrs. Graff had spared neither time nor effort in facing the two great problems of her terms of office—the work for the new college building, and the tangled affairs of the Lenox Hill Settlement.

Mrs. Graff found it difficult to express, she said, her feeling of "very deep regard, sincere appreciation, joy, and pride". She promised that the love and joy given her were so great that they could be spread over the years and still last forever. The President then turned to surrender the gavel, symbol of office, to Mrs. Helen Luckey Simis, newly elected leader, who, she said, brought to the task courage, enthusiasm, and a youthful outlook.

Mrs. Simis, former President of the Student Organization of Hunter College High School, the Alumnae of the High School, and the Student Council of Hunter College, and retiring Treasurer of the Associate Alumnae, declared that she accepted the many responsibilities of her new office without a specific platform, but with a prayer for a harmonious Hunter family of alumnae, students, and staff.

Despite his very busy day, President

Eugene A. Colligan made time to greet the Alumnae at their reunion, one of the occasions, he said, when a busy President feels that the work is worthwhile and that it is a privilege to serve. It is possible, the President continued, "to derive inspiration and strength from the mere vision of you, to feel that this little place really means something in the life of the city. The twenty-five thousand Hunterites, most of them in the City of New York, are an influence for good and a power for the benefit of the College, which we possess especially in the Associate Alumnae."

Dr. Colligan paid tribute to Mrs. Graff as a "gracious and charming lady, possessed of a felicity of expression equalled by few, whose pleasant, quiet, effective support was most remarkable. Never did we need help but we felt confident that we could get it. . . . Mrs. Graff, in behalf of Hunter College and of the City of New York, we express our grateful appreciation for the dignity, poise, and self-sacrificing assistance given to the College and to me. We shall never forget it."

To Mrs. Simis, Dr. Colligan promised his continued support. "We shall be proud," he said, "to serve the Alumnae."

The theme of Dr. Colligan's greeting, as he himself expressed it, was "a word about a dream". The dream had changed, he reported, from one of pastures green on a lake shore in the Bronx, to one of a structure, on the best eminence in the city of New York, of which Hunter girls, past, present, and future, should be proud. He went on to tell that the site is cleared, the excavation started, and the plans drawn. These plans include, he said, "a sixteen-story building, with a Little Theater, a music hall, laboratories, classrooms, a two-floor library which will house 225,000 volumes, faculty and staff offices, social rooms for girls and alumnae, the adornments of swimming pools and gymnasias, and quarters for a Model School which may function, from the physical and environmental side, as a Model School. There is now the dream that some day, another wing of sixteen stories may rise on the Lexington Avenue side, to remind future generations that Thomas Hunter was right when he evidenced his faith in the higher education of women.

"When you blaze the trail before the students and leave your impress on the life of the city, you inspire them," Dr. Colligan continued. He reminded the alumnae of his vision of institutes of women in education, literature, science, the arts, and public affairs; of a cultural center from which the best of womanhood in America might go over the length and breadth of the country to bring knowledge of the finest college in America. "Nowhere," he affirmed, "is there a better regulated curriculum from the point of view of the challenge of a changing society, which, at the same time, keeps in view the cultural inheritance of the race.

"Work done in the fields of educational, social, and vocational guidance is something which our faculty has already accomplished. In the field of college citizenship, our Dean and her assistants have pioneered and produced a sound structure. . . . Our girls have been helped to find their way into occupational areas and come out on top. We have a college," President Colligan concluded, "which I have learned to love, mostly because I have had to respect it."

Delightful souvenir bookmarks, with reproductions of the Old Building on Park Avenue and with reminders of the administrations of the four Presidents of Hunter College, had been prepared by Mrs. Curtin's daughters. The enjoyable chats with old friends and the delicious refreshments, marks of all Spring Reunions, made this one a complete success.

J. A. D.

TEA LEAVES

Our informal Maytime social, the Alumnae Spring Reunion and Tea, is now a happy memory. "Reading the Tea Leaves", I gather these reflections:

To the 600 Alumnae and guests who attended—my affectionate gratitude for your loyal response and kindly enthusiasm.

To class representatives who served as hostesses and ushers—my grateful appreciation for your generous coöperation.

To 1928 and 1933, the Tenth and Fifth Anniversary Classes—congratulations! Your celebration experiment was a success.

To new Alumnae Members of 1928 and 1933 and all those of other classes who became Associate Alumnae at the Reunion—a cordial welcome. You have evidenced your love and loyalty to your Alma Mater by joining with the Association for the ideals of the College.

To 1929 and 1934—yes, to 1919 and 1924 also—an invitation to "follow through" with a worthy celebration of your respective anniversaries at the Spring Reunion next May.

To our entertainers: Mrs. Donnelly, Miss Weigl, Mrs. Zuckerman, Miss Hicks, and the Undergraduate Reading Chorus—Encore! Encore!!

To the Class of January 1938, our "Alumnae Babies", who attended the Reunion in greatest number—deserved praise and admiration.

To President Colligan, who in spite of overlapping duties graced the dais as our guest speaker—genuine appreciation.

To Mrs. Graff and the retiring officers—a niche in our heart of hearts.

To our newly-elected President, Mrs. Simis, and her staff—greetings and a sincere pledge of faithful coöperation and steadfast fidelity.

To one and all—my fond good wishes for a pleasant vacationtime.

MARY ABBOTT CURTIN,
Chairman, Alumnae Spring Reunion.