

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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I welcome the opportunity to report to the loyal army of Alumnae of Hunter College regarding recent activities which have led to the appointment of George N. Shuster as Dean and Acting President of the College.

On June 20, 1939, Dr. Colligan requested a year's leave of absence. At that time his wife was seriously ill in the hospital; and his own physical condition was drained both by illness and by overwork arising from New Building problems and the heavy administrative load of a scattered plant. This leave was granted by our Board as of September 1, 1939. And it became necessary in the Board's judgment to act promptly in order to assure an immediate successor who would handle the large administrative responsibilities which Hunter faces at this time. From the budgetary angle it was fortunate that there happened to be available the vacant line of an Academic Dean. We were not unaware that the Faculty Council had appointed a committee to search for such a Dean; but we were assured that by the end of the last academic year this search had not yet been narrowed down to one or two candidates. The College was on a vacation, and since time was of the essence of the problem the Administrative Committee of Hunter College decided upon a course of action of which the present facts are the outcome. It undertook an intensive, careful survey of the field, for a scholar who could at once serve effectively as Acting President as well as occupy the position of Academic Dean.

It selected for this position Mr. George N. Shuster, former editor of the *Commonweal*, who was working at Columbia under a Carnegie grant on a three-year research study of the history of the Weimar Republic. Mr. Shuster was unanimously recommended to the Board for this joint position and was unanimously elected by the Board at its meeting on July 6, 1939. I shall not take the space to recite Mr. Shuster's distinguished career in the academic field in the teaching of English, nor in the field of letters to which he has contributed a dozen volumes. But I can assure you that he comes to us with literally the most superlative recommendations as a man, as a democratic citizen and educationist, a keen scholar in the field of English and German, a true gentleman of high integrity, liberality of outlook, sensitiveness of feeling, and genuine piety in devotion to the best spiritual heritage of mankind.

I am confident that as soon as the Alumnae have an opportunity to meet Acting President Shuster face to face, they will share in my confidence that under his leadership the College is in splendid hands.

ORDWAY TEAD, Chairman,
Board of Higher Education.



GEORGE N. SHUSTER
Acting President of Hunter College.

THE ALUMNAE AND THE COLLEGE

Permit me to say first of all that though my acquaintance with everything that is being done to maintain Hunter College at its traditional high level is necessarily limited, I have already seen enough to assure me that the coöperation given by the Alumnae is cordial and worth its weight in gold. This is a most encouraging fact.

The College needs its Alumnae more than ever before. I am thinking primarily of the fact that it is an institution unusually dependent upon public interest and good will. Hunter girls have the great advantage of living against the background of a metropolitan community; but their ability to utilize this opportunity to the full must in large measure depend upon the attitude of others towards them. This problem is recognized by the Alumnae. They are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that if they talk Hunter, represent Hunter, the students of the present will profit by this assistance more than by any other thing.

May I add also that we for our part are consumed with anxiety to associate the graduates more intimately with the life of the College? It is hoped that when the new building opens next year, a program of Alumnae activities can be inaugurated that will interest, in one way or another, every graduate. And of course we shall be only too glad to welcome any suggestions as to what that program might desirably be. If interest can be developed, the College will become what it might ideally be—an institution which binds the past and the present together in a living tradition.

GEORGE N. SHUSTER,
Acting President.

THE STAFF MEETS ITS ACTING PRESIDENT

On Thursday, September 21, the Instructional and Administrative Staff of Hunter College gathered in the Park Avenue Building's largest room to meet their new Acting President and Academic Dean.

After a greeting from Dean Hannah M. Egan, Mrs. Walter S. Mack, Jr., Chairman of the Hunter College Administrative Committee and Hunter's staunch friend, took the chair.

Dr. Ordway Tead, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, introduced Acting President Shuster in a thoughtful speech in the course of which he also touched on several College problems. He told of the formation within the Board of a Committee on Curriculum and Faculty Relations; of the proposal for the formation within each college of a Committee on Faculty-Board Relations consisting of the President, the Academic Dean, and three faculty members elected by the Faculty Council; and of the formation of a committee to handle the appraisal and reclassification of the clerical staff. He also reported that the Presidents of the four colleges had been asked to work together concerning budget matters and the appraisal of teachers. He concluded by presenting the new Acting President.

Acting President Shuster, after stressing the fact that his new position had come to him not of his own seeking, enumerated his three goals: (1) with reference to the student body, to keep the spark aglow, to reopen the question of student-teacher relationship, perhaps to change faculty control into solicited faculty leadership; (2) with reference to the staff, to be quite humbly its servant; (3) with reference to the public, to think through once again the College relations with the public, whose demands upon the institution increase as the finances of the population decrease. In conclusion he pledged courtesy, reverence for scholarly endeavor, and resolute devotion to the student body.

His speech was hailed with spontaneous and prolonged applause.

E. A. H.