

# Those Were The Days

The vicinity of 68th and Park, Manhattan Island, was a barren place "where wild goats roamed free" when the doors of Hunter College's first home were opened one hundred years ago this fall.

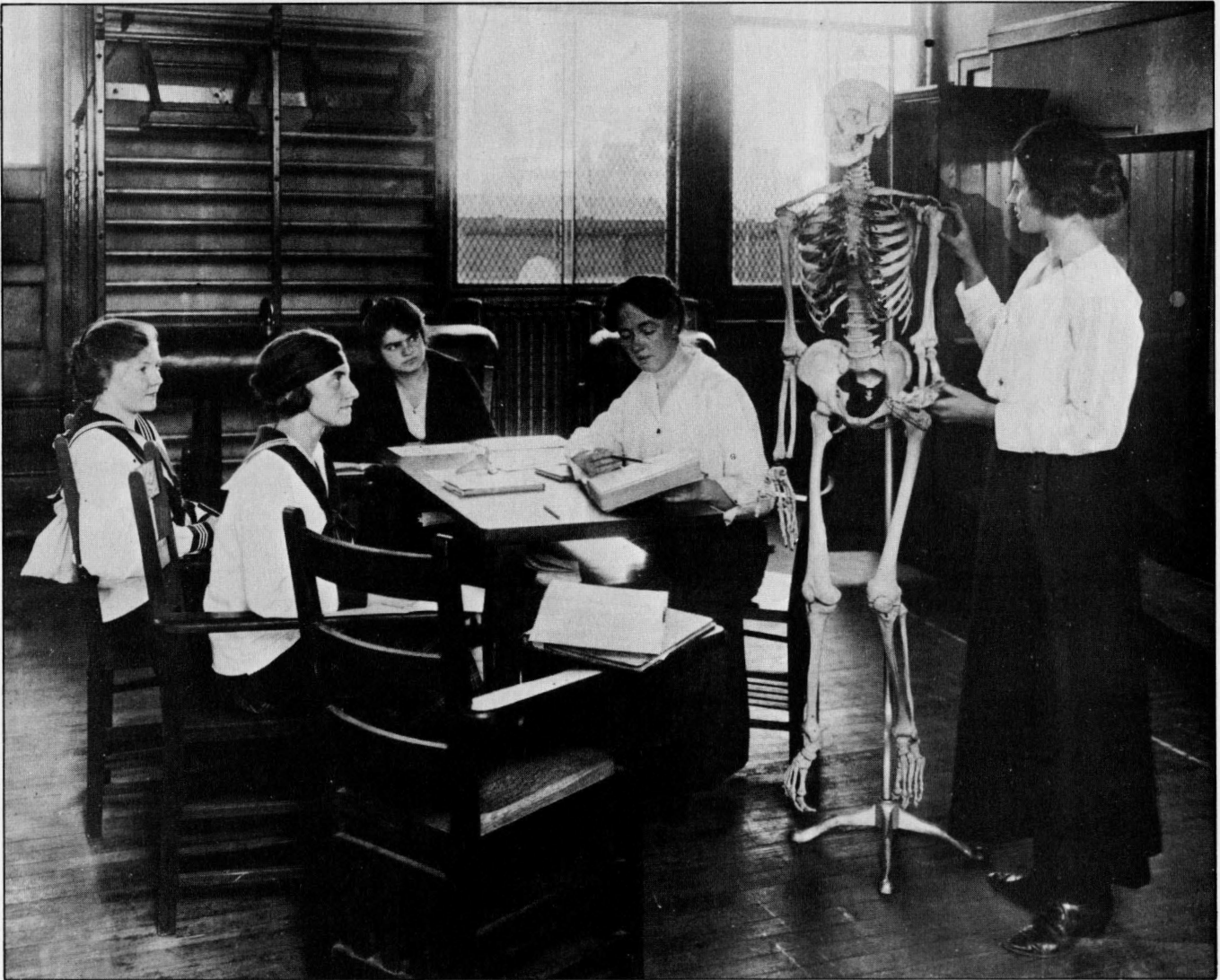
Hunter's present building, replacing the original structure destroyed by fire in 1936, shows few traces of the college's colorful early history — the era when it was still known as Normal College, the nation's first tuition-free institution of higher learning for women. But, thankfully, some of the photographs carefully preserved by early alumnae give us some idea what Hunter was like, back in the days . . .



*The Normal College for girls had been in existence only fourteen years when the class of 1884 sat for its annual portrait in this gothic-windowed nook outside the old building. School president Thomas Hunter often posed with the students, and beginning a few years after this photo was made it became traditional for someone sitting in the foreground to hold an open fan on which was lettered the group's graduation year. This is not the entire class of 1884, incidentally, for at the time the yearly classes were subdivided into small groups designated Class A 5, B 5, etc., as was the custom in high schools.*

In 1914, the elaborately costumed Hunter students at right took part in what was called a Shakespearean Masque, to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. The pageant with directed by Prof. Helen Gray Cone, class of '76, poetess, and for nearly half a century head of the English department. Prof. Cone also directed the annual Christmas Plays, which, prior to 1914, had been written and produced exclusively by the senior class and bore such infamous titles as "Love Laughs At Spice Cakes" (1900).

Professor Mabel H. Taylor (second from right, below) is remembered today for establishing a scholarship fund which continues to provide grants to the Hunter Dept. of Health and Physical Education, of which she was chairman, and the Alice Rich Northrup Memorial Camp. Professor Taylor is shown here in 1919 teaching an anatomy class in the North Gym. Her students are unidentified, but about that skeleton—alumna and former Health Ed professor Eva Tarlow Zuckerman recalls that it never had a name, but it did survive the 1936 fire and she herself transported it by taxi to Hunter's new quarters.





The lovely portrait at left, above, is identified only as "Seven Girls, 1904." Could they have been the editors of *Echo*, or members of the Tennis Club? Or, perhaps the debating team of the Alpha Beta Gamma Literary Society? It could be that the photographer just thought these seven young women provided splendid examples of the turn-of-the-century Gibson Girl look.

Emily Ida Conant, (left) class of 1871, was a founder and first president of what was to become the Alumni Association of Hunter College. She went on to pioneer the first tuition-free kindergarten in the U.S. while an Associate Professor of Education at Normal College, meanwhile becoming one of the first graduates of New York University to receive the degree of Doctor of Pedagogy, and one of the founders of the Hunter College Foundation of the Lenox Hill Settlement.

M. Augusta Requa, (above) class of 1870, had to be one of the most gifted and "liberated" women of her time. In 1888 she graduated from Anderson's Normal School of Gymnastics; in 1893 she received her M.D. at the Women's College, New York Infirmary; three years later a Pd.M. from New York University and in 1907, an LL.B. from NYU. Dr. Requa was the first Hunter graduate to be appointed to the New York City Schools and in 1896 became Supervisor of physical education for the city's public school system. She also taught mathematics at Hunter and, like Dr. Conant, was a founder of the alumni association.



*Weekly student assemblies were held in this huge hall-- always called The Chapel--but the 1893 photo above must have been taken on a more formal occasion, with Thomas Hunter himself at the podium and the entire faculty assembled on stage. The statue of George Washington (in front of the draped flags) disappeared in later photos. Do any alumnae know what happened to it?*

# News

## Six Administrators Named

Six administrative posts have recently been filled at Hunter. Heading the list is the appointment of Dr. Michael R. McGarvey (see profile of Dr. McGarvey in this issue) as vice-provost for health affairs, in charge of the Institute of Health Sciences and the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing.

In the School of General Studies (S.G.S.), Acting Dean Richard M. Huber is now dean, and Professors Angelo Santoro and Antonio Simoes, Jr. are assistant deans. Dean Huber received his B.A. from Princeton and his Ph.D. from Yale. His latest book, *The American Idea of Success*, was published by McGraw-Hill in 1971, the year he joined Hunter as a professor of history. Dr. Santoro is an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Dr. Simoes an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching.

Other new appointments are John W. Smith, former assistant controller at New York University and now Hunter business manager, and Michael Rivkin, who was assistant business manager at Queensborough Community College before becoming Mr. Smith's assistant.

## Recent Grants

Grants and gifts totaling nearly \$75,000 were recently awarded to various Hunter scholarships and other funds. The bulk of that amount was contributed by approximately 3,000 donors and will go to the President's Fund for Alumni Affairs, the Presi-

dent's Development Fund, the President's Fund for Student Aid and The President's Unrestricted Fund.

A number of new Hunter funds and awards have been established by the Board of Higher Education: the Collegium Musicum Prize in Music to be awarded to an undergraduate in vocal music; the Geraldine Saltzberg Memorial Prize in Music, a four year annual award for students excelling in musical studies; the Dorothy Belle Pollack Scholarships in classics for a graduate student in the classics, and the Dean's Discretionary Fund in the Division of Social Sciences. Also, the Hunter Library will benefit from a \$2,000 bequest from the estate of Sally E. Kutz.



*Posters, photos and other memorabilia depicting the history of the Hunter Arts Concert Bureau are now on display at the East River Savings Bank, 68th and Third Ave. The charcoal sketch above was drawn during a Hunter Arts piano concert.*

## Math Department Gets \$100,000 Grant

CUNY's new Chancellor's Grant Program for Curricular Diversity has awarded \$100,000 to Hunter for a project on "Computer-Managed Instructional and Testing Systems for Mathematics," under the direction of Dean Mary P. Dolciani.

This grant is by far the largest of the first ten awards to be announced in the Chancellor's Grant Program. Professor Dolciani says that most of the funds will be invested in computer hardware designed to individualize the teaching of mathematics. Faced with a dramatic diversity of skills in students admitted under the open admissions policy, the department of mathematics in 1970 set up a Mathematics Learning Resource Center utilizing individual audio-visual methods to supplement group work. The new grant will allow the expansion of this program and introduce the capability for computerized individual testing and overall systems management.

The CUNY grant covers the first year of the three year project. Instructor Miriam Hecht will act as co-director with Dean Dolciani.

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*Lydia Fowler Wadleigh had been principal of a "fine public girl's school" before becoming the first "lady superintendent," or dean of students, when Normal College began operations in 1870. She was honored later in the dedication of Wadleigh high school and a Wadleigh Alcove at Hunter.*

*They wore bloomers and middies and were called "The Normal Five." This 1901 basketball team--captained by the contemporary-looking Nancy Kirkman, center--competed in games held as far away as Staten Island and Southampton. Under their signatures on the margin of this original photo, some team members identified themselves by such phrases as "The Missing Link," or "The Galumphing Jumper."*

