

Thousands Hail New Towers

HUNTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES



President Donna E. Shalala and NYC Mayor Edward I. Koch cut ceremonial ribbon as CUNY Chair James P. Murphy looks on.

Part Mardi gras, part Renaissance fair, part three-ring circus (with a few rings added for good measure), it was the biggest party in Hunter's 114-year history.

More importantly, it was fun.

Jugglers juggled, madrigalists serenaded, and a raucous Chinese lion stomped joyfully through corridors as more than 2500 people gathered at Hunter on January 19 to celebrate and dedicate the College's two new 17-story buildings.

The rays of four World War II searchlights swept across the concrete and glass facades of the Lexington Avenue buildings, creating an opening night effect, as guests crowded into the new student cafeteria on the 3rd floor of Hunter West to watch President Donna E. Shalala symbolically cut a 12-foot purple ribbon with an enormous pair of scissors, thereby ending more than 15 years of waiting for the buildings to be completed.

The gala celebration, financed entirely by contributions from individuals and corporations, stretched from the depths of Hunter's magnificent new competition gymnasium to the President's 17th-floor suite overlooking the midtown skyline. It included a reception for faculty who had recently won major awards from the College, an alumni home-

coming, more than a dozen departmental parties, a women's basketball game, and continuous entertainment by three jazz bands, a 25-voice choir, a chamber music trio, mimes, and modern dancers.

The highlights of the party, a 20-minute dedication ceremony characterized by flashing cameras and boisterous bonhomie, included a welcome from President Shalala and speeches by CUNY Chancellor Joseph S. Murphy, CUNY Chair James P. Murphy, Assemblyman Mark Alan Siegel, and Robert Polk, Chair of the CUNY Construction Fund, under whose auspices the buildings were constructed.

New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch also addressed the packed audience and acknowledged Jacqueline Grennan Wexler—president of Hunter during the fiscal crisis, which delayed construction of the buildings for nearly five years—for her role in persuading city officials to resume construction.

Also attending the party were former New York City Mayors Abe Beame and Robert Wagner, Sr.; Donald Blinken, Chair of the State University of New York; City Council President Carol Bellamy; Manhattan Borough President Andrew J. Stein; former Metropolitan Transit Authority chief Richard Ravitch; and many others.

INTRODUCING . . . At Hunter.

This issue marks the debut of a newsletter that will contain an assortment of news and features about Hunter College, its faculty, alumni, and staff. When we originally announced the newsletter, we called it *Hunter Update* but, because our own School of Social Work publishes a fine newsletter called *Update*, we've changed our title. **At Hunter** will appear twice a year, alternating with *The Hunter Magazine*, which will also continue to appear twice a year. Let us know how you like it and how it may be improved!

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