

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNÆ

A Merry Christmas to all!—with peace on earth, good-will to men. And my heartiest wishes for a New Year of hope, achievement, and happiness. 1933 has carried so many hardships and disappointments, that the only way to reach peace of mind is to forget;—and then remember how much we still have for which to be grateful.

My loving wishes to you all, and my thanks for a year of fine coöperation, and my hope for its continuance.

May 1934 see the fulfillment of all your dreams.

IRENE BRANDON GRAFF,
President.

APPEAL TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MADE ON WED., NOV. 8.

I have often wondered how many of the members of the Alumnae read the monthly issues of the ALUMNÆ NEWS as edited so capably by our most esteemed Mrs. Hahn.

In the past three years, during which I have been Chairman of the Unemployment Committee of the Associate Alumnae, I have never missed writing an appeal in the ALUMNÆ NEWS to the members of the Alumnae for help for our destitute graduates. *The response has been most discouraging.*

It is not my intention to find fault with the members of the Alumnae for their lack of coöperation with the work of my committee; but I have often wondered if the members realized what my committee has accomplished with the few dollars it has had at its disposal, and I feel I might be pardoned in calling this lack of coöperation so frequently to your notice.

I have heard it said that the Bureau of Occupation of Hunter College takes care of our needy graduates. This is not entirely correct. The Bureau had a ruling which excluded those graduates who had taken a pedagogical course. Consequently this large group of graduates was left stranded during this most drastic depression. It was only after your Committee on Unemployment was appointed that this group was given consideration and help.

But what a meager help! Through our efforts \$150 a month has been allocated to this group from the teachers' contributions. This means that five girls a month are given employment three days a week at \$2 a day. \$6 a week for a *College Graduate!* And if our Unemployment Committee has sufficient funds one, two, or three more girls are given employment at this starvation wage.

Ashamed of this condition, I appealed to our President, Mrs. Graff, and at her suggestion I am again appealing to you, asking for your advice, asking for your coöperation, asking for your help.

What are we going to do about this?

Do you feel any sense of responsibility to your classmates, to your fellow graduates in this hour of their need?

If you do not, I need say no more. But if you do—I have this suggestion to make to you. There are present at this meeting to-day representatives and members of many classes of many years. I suggest that each class appoint a sub-committee of our Unemployment Committee to represent their class in raising funds to augment our unemployment fund. By so doing each class would be represented in this drive and would in fact be members of the Unemployment Committee.

I have no doubt that a sufficient fund would be raised in this way upon which this committee could rely to carry on its activities this winter in a more liberal and humane manner and one more fitting to the traditions and honor of Hunter College.

JULIA VAN DERNOOT,
Chairman on Unemployment
1112 Park Avenue.

COLLEGE NOTES

In these troublous times Hunter College is fortunate in having as its president Dr. Eugene A. Colligan. In his address to the staff at a meeting of the American Association of University Professors he revealed a fine understanding of the students and faculty in their relations to each other and to the problems which face them in the present difficult and changing state of society.

His philosophy of education as expressed in his address holds out hope. He said: "You must ask yourselves three questions: 1. What are we trying to do? 2. How can we do it? 3. How shall we know when we have done it?" In order to carry out this philosophy he urged that we strive for a better understanding of our students by considering their background, their training, their capabilities, their talents, and their needs. We must fit them for "a progressive and constantly changing society".

Dr. Colligan proposed that we make a close study of the existing curriculum. When we are satisfied that it has been organized to the point of greatest efficiency we must add to it such courses as will offer new opportunities for the training and development of the individual student.

BACK TO NORMAL

When we were College Students, forty years ago
(We do not mention figures in the outside world,
oh no!),

We were earnest, we were eager, we were brave
when we began

That classical suggestion, the untried five-year
plan.

We sharpened our pencils and we sharpened our
wit,

Tackled Latin and letters with scholarly grit;
Our program was balanced, science equalled with
art;

We were never pedantic, we were never too smart.

After strenuous study and arduous crams,
After ponderous lectures and lengthy exams,
We were tried, we were tested, and proclaimed
well equipped;

Into each hand expectant, a sheepskin was slipped.

To the rushed crowd we hurried, impatient to ap-
pear

As applicants with training and carve a great
career.

In Life's university, by necessity's grim force
We delved in many problems not included in our
course.

We needed all our wisdom, all we had in mind.
We resorted to philosophy for the daily grind.

We had to take dictation; and in the economic
path

To make our budgets balance, we needed higher
math.

And the new veins of knowledge made the load
more hard.

Most of our pet theories we're expected to discard.
The modern generation has made us all discern
As wise teachers and wise mothers, we had always
more to learn.

But here we're back to Normal, we can be natural
now,

Brush away each weary year, that wrinkle from
your brow.

Away with grown up duties, away with dignity,
Be the same joyous comrades that we were in '93.
Renew ideals of friendship, the views of youth
restore.

Bound by memories may we be, "Loving comrades
evermore".

GERTRUDE COHEN LEEBURGER.