

*The Hunter College High School
Collection, 1911-2015
Finding Aid*



Archives and Special Collections



November, 2012

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Cover Photograph:

Senior Class, Hunter College High School, January, 1933

Source:

“*Annals*,” January, 1933, p. 28, Box 7, Folder 4, Hunter College High School Collection,
Archives & Special Collections, Hunter College Libraries

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number: 95-02

Size: 525 linear feet

Provenance: Hunter College High School

Restriction: None.

Location: Range 3

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Date: May 1999

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HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1869, the Board of Education established the Female and Normal High School of the City of New York. It was the first separate institution in New York City to offer girls free education beyond the eight grammar school grades. The initial three-year curriculum offered enrollees instruction in the liberal arts and in pedagogy. In April of 1870, the name of the school was changed to the Normal College of the City of New York.

In 1903, the course of study of the Normal College consisted of four years of high school and three years of college. The high school component of the College became known as the Normal College High School and was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Between 1903 and 1913 the high school was under the supervision of a college committee chaired by Professor Hill of the Physics Department.

In 1913, Dr. Grace B. Beach, Chair of the high school's Department of Physics, became the school's first principal. Dr. Beach was succeeded in 1920 by Dr. Louisa M. Webster; she was subsequently succeeded by Dr. Jean F. Brown in 1934.

One of the chief aims of the high school was to prepare students for college. An added aim of the school was to serve as a training ground for Hunter College students who intended to teach in the secondary schools of New York City. Teacher training opportunities were greatly enhanced in the high school when grades seven and eight were transferred from the Hunter College Elementary School in 1934. In 1955, the Hunter College High School was officially designated as a laboratory school for the education of intellectually gifted girls. In 1974, boys were admitted to the school for the first time.

Since 1977, the Hunter College Campus Schools (Elementary and High School) have shared the same facility on East 94th Street and Park Avenue. Hunter College High School is a publicly funded tuition free institution. It is chartered by the Board of Trustees of City University of New York and administered by Hunter College. In an unorthodox fashion HCHS is structured around a six-year program, from seventh through twelfth grades, with selected students gaining access to the school in the beginning of the seventh grade. Successful passage of an admissions exam is required at the end of an applicant's sixth grade year for admittance to the school.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hunter College High School Collection highlights the establishment and growth of a highly prestigious high school in New York City from 1911 to 2010. The strengths of the collection are the annual reports, general reports and studies, programs and scripts, and publications. The annual reports are key sources of information because they document the activities and events, news, programs, and general accomplishments of the school from 1911 - 1917, and 1929 - 1951. Publications like *Alum Notes*, *Argus*, *Marianne*, *What's What*, and *The Observer* have served as a platform for the voices of the student body throughout the 20th Century. Researchers of high school education in New York City should find this collection to be appealing, informative, and stimulating.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I – Administration

Series I consists of annual reports, commencement programs, committee minutes, correspondence, general reports and studies, and programs and scripts. The documents are arranged alphabetically by category and chronologically therein.

Series II – Organizations

Series II provides abbreviated views of the Athletic Organization, the General Organization of Hunter College High School, the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, and Term meetings.

Series III – Memorabilia

Series III consists of one beanie cap and a variety of buttons and pins that were donated by alums and faculty.

Series IV – Publications

Series IV consists of administrative and student publications spanning the years 1914 through 2011. Key publications include *Alum Notes*, *Argus*, *Marianne*, *What's What*, and the *Observer*. Publications are arranged alphabetically by title and chronologically therein.

CONTAINER LIST

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| | 2 | Enrollment Statistics, 1913 - 1925 Examinations, 1946 - 1948 |
| | 3 | General Reports and Studies Summary and Interpretation of Questionnaire The Grace B. Beach Oral English Prize Fund, 1922 - 1941 Responses Relating to Organization and Administration of Campus Secondary Schools in the United States, June 27, 1940 |
| | 4 | Report on Work of Hunter College High School and Its Current Problems, June 20, 1945 |
| | 5 | Materials for Brochure for Diamond Jubilee, ca. 1945 Hunter College High School speech by the General Organization President, College Assembly Hall, February 13, 1945 Tentative Draft 75 th Anniversary of the Founding of Hunter College by the Writing Group under the Direction of Miss Dorothy Bunker Script of the Original Historical Festival by the High School, ca. 1945 |

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| 4 | 5 | General Reports and Studies “The High School Jubilee.” <i>Alumnae News</i> , April 1944, p.4. Photographs of the original historical festival by the High School Diamond Jubilee of Hunter College, February 16, 1945 Press Notices, March 7, 1945 |
| | 6 | Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools Evaluation Report for Hunter College High School, October 30, 1950 Curriculum Study Report, Hunter College High School, September 1952 - December 1954 The Final Report on the Curriculum Study of Hunter College High School, January 10, 1955 |
| | 7 | Report on Coordination between the Teacher Education Program and Hunter High School, May 1956 End of Year Report Experimental Program, 1958 -1959 Final Report 1961-1962 an integrated Arts Program For the Gifted Survey Report, Hunter College High School, January 16, 1967 |
| | 8 | Hunter College Campus School Feasibility Study, October 27, 1988 |
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| | | Sherwood, May 29, 1917 |
| | | A Concert of Poetic Readings by Students of Hunter College High School in Competition For the Grace B. Beach Prize, March 15, 1919 |
| | | Feast of the Little Lanterns, December 16, 1933; Little Women, May 24 - 25, 1935 |
| | | Dinner in Honor of Dr. Jean F. Brown, Principal of Hunter College High School, October 18, 1935 |
| | | The Dramatic Club of Hunter College High School and The Stuyvesant High School Theatre Guild Presents "The Importance of Being Earnest," March 2, 1946 |
| | | The Grace B. Beach Poetry Reading Contest, 1922, 1924 - 1941 |
| | | Grace B. Beach Concert of Poetry by Students of Hunter College High School sponsored by the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College, May 17, 1946 |
| | | The Dramatic Club of Hunter College High School in Association with Students of Stuyvesant High School Presents "Spring Dance," March 15, 1947 |
| | | Grace B. Beach Recital by Students of Hunter College High School sponsored by The Associate Alumnae of Hunter College, May 9, 1947 |
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| 5 | 4 | <p>Programs and Scripts</p> <p>The General Organization presents With Pink Frosting, December 12, 1947</p> <p>The Dramatic Club of Hunter College High School sponsored by The General Organization presents “Our Hearts Were Young and Gay,” March 13, 1948</p> <p>The General Organization Presents “Static: A Radio Parody,” May 21, 1948</p> <p>The Grace B. Beach Recital by Students of Hunter College High School, May 14, 1948</p> <p>Senior Show of Graduating Class of June 1948 “Leap Year”</p> <p>“Cesar Crosses the Rubicon: A Burlesque,” January, 1949</p> <p>Grace B. Beach Assembly, March 9, 1949</p> <p>Senior Day Assembly, March 25, 1949</p> <p>The Grace B. Beach Recital Assembly Program, May 11, 1954</p> <p>“After the Crash or Six Criminals in Search of a Crime,” Senior Show of 1964</p> <p>The Senior Sing of the Class of 1964</p> <p>“Arms and the Man,” n.d.</p> |
| | 5 | <p>Report Cards</p> <p>Hunter College Model School, n.d.</p> <p>Hunter College Model Junior High School, 1935</p> <p>Hunter College High School, 1936 -1939</p> |
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| | 10 | Minutes, 1990, 1993, 1994 1995, 1997 - 1998 |
| | 11 | Miscellaneous Materials |
| | 12 | Reminiscences Willett, Roslyn S. "Thirty Years Ago-Hunter High." <i>Hunter Alumni Quarterly</i> , Spring, 1970, 20-22 Ozick, Cynthia. "I Call You Beloved." <i>The Hunter Magazine</i> , September 1982, p. 3-5. |
| | 13 | Term Meetings, 1946 - 1949 |

SERIES III – MEMORABILIA

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| | | 5 | <i>Big 5</i> , n.d. |
| 6 | | <i>Bio Bulletin</i> , Spring, 1948 | |
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| 9 | <i>Friday</i> , November, 1985, June 5, 1987 | | |
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| | 6 | <i>Poems</i> , December, 1927 | |
| | | <i>Reading Whitman in Manhattan: Teaching, Poetry and Hunter College High School</i> by Kip Zegers and the Poets of <i>Argus</i> , 2010. | |
| | <i>The Teacher Center for Teachers of the Gifted and Talented Newsletter</i> May, September, November, 1979, February, 1980 | | |
| 7 | <i>That's What</i> , 1952-1957, Summer 1990, Summer, 1991 | | |
| | 8 | <i>The Umbrella</i> , June 1955 | |
| | 9 | <i>What's This</i> , April 1949 - December 1951 | |
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| 11 | <i>The Observer</i> , 1985 - 1997, 2004, 2009, 2012 | | |
| | Sheet Music "Sarah Maria Jones of Hunter High" Lyric and Music by Charlotte Hochman | | |