

Dear Students,

I would like to invite you to take part in creating art that will hang on Hunter walls, telling the story of your generation, for years to come. Thanks to a generous grant from the HCHS Alumnae/i Association, we now have that opportunity.

Here in our Brick Prison, we have a tradition of transitory images...beautiful student art work is briefly posted on our new colorful bulletin boards by the hardworking art department and then returned to the budding artists. Term Councils and clubs create vivid murals to advertise the current leadership and themes, but these are then painted over for the next academic year.

Sometime, probably in the late 1940s, Hunter College commissioned a series of black and white portraits of HCHS students in daily school life. These photographs depict "Hunter Girls" studying Chemistry, playing basketball, in chamber music performances, taking typing class and in other posed scenes depicting the virtues and identity of the women who attended your Alma mater. You can see one of these photographs on the HCHS website. Look for the announcement about the "Photography Project."

These striking photographs hung in the student lounge at the downtown campus through the 1950s and were brought to the current building and installed in what is now the GO Foyer more than ten years ago. But the sense that times have changed and with it, that HCHS is a very different place from when these photos were taken, made the images seem disconnected. Mr. Lim has been housing the originals for several years in the library as we tried to determine their future.

And their future is tied to yours. The HCHS Alumni Association is giving us the opportunity to create a series of new companion pieces. Mr. Towber (HS Photography teacher and artist) and Dr. Mozes (HCHS English teacher, HCHS alumnus and photographer) have been commissioned to work with current students to create some professionally staged portraits of today's HCHS students in action.

What exactly does that mean? We hope that interested students, Mr. Towber, and Dr. Mozes will discover the answer on this unique artistic journey. It is our hope that those working on this project will conceive images that represent HCHS students today in a direct photographic dialogue with the original 1940s photographs. We hope to complete the new series of portraits and to install the originals together at an unveiling ceremony near before the end of the school year.

If you would like to be a part of this artistic endeavor, you are invited to attend a general interest and informational meeting on **Thursday, February 2nd in room 320 during 9th period.** Experienced photographers are encouraged to attend; novice photographers are welcomed! There will be many ways to be a part of this project: photographers, models, lighting crew, props and location scouts. As a member of this project, you will learn a great deal about photography and will be a part of a group that artistically defines a generation of Hunter.

We are a school that cherishes its history. Here is an artistic opportunity to create an integrated vision of where we have come from, and where we are, today. I know I can't wait to see this. If you have any questions, feel free to see Mr. Towber, Dr. Mozes, or Ms.Siegmann.

Lisa Siegmann  
Assistant Principal  
Grades 10-12