

PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016 | Volume II, Issue 1



Happy New Year!

I pray that the celebration of the Feasts of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord and Savior were healthy, joyous, and spiritually rewarding for you and your families.

Since the departure of our students in December for winter recess, the staff has been diligent in preparing for the spring semester and the welcoming of additional students to both of our schools.

Presidential Engagement Gatherings have also commenced throughout the country. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to continue to share the vision of future admissions growth and expansion on our campus.

I would like to acknowledge and thank both Fr. James Katinas and Stephanie Skedros, who worked to implement these and other institutional advancement initiatives, and wish them well in their new positions outside of our school. We are a better place for their work, and they are forever a part of our family.

I'm also pleased to announce that we have received the full donation of altar items requested in the December newsletter. Thank you to all below for your tremendous continued support of our school, and the fulfillment of our divine mission on the Holy Hill.

We love you and pray for you always.

In Christ,



Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin
President

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ALTAR ITEM DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Psaros (Silver Plated Gospel with Enamel Icons, Silver Plated Chalice Set, Liturgical Fans, Silver Plated Altar Candlesticks, Blessing Cross, Zeon, Holy Altar Tabernacle, Baptismal Font with Chrome Plated Cover, Silver Plated Sprinkler, Silver Plated Censer, Bronze Standing Candlestick with Hook and Bowls for Censer, Silver Plated Standing Bread Bowl, Silver Plated Holy Week Censer, Silver Plated Holy Myron Container, Altar Candles, Silver Plated Processional Cross, Silver Plated Holy Epistle, Altar Lamp, Bishop's Staff)

Archdiocesan Presbyters Council (Chalice and Paten Set)
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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cherpelis (altar items)
Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Drechsler (Silver Plated Processional Cross)
Ms. Fontini T. Economides (altar items)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Every semester, Hellenic College offers a unique opportunity to Elementary Education students to take the Philosophy of Education course, taught by the head of the Elementary Education program, Dr. Alice McIntyre. Within this course, the students are required to spend fifteen hours at the Footlight Club, a community theatre in Jamaica Plain. During the Fall semester, Hellenic College students Alianna Chalpekis, Fotini Dorrance, Alexandra Drechsler, Vasili Frangias, and Christina Randol worked with the director and a group of children to put on a performance of a musical titled “E-I-E-I-Oops.” The objective of the course was to become familiar with “the basic principles of theatre, music, and dance and their relationship to education.”

According to participating students, that objective was fulfilled. Fotini Dorrance (Hellenic '18) said her experience at the Footlight Club was “eye-opening” and made her realize “how much more you can do aside from sticking to a traditional lesson plan.”

Alexandra Dreschler (Hellenic '18) said that her experience at the Footlight Club enhanced her understanding of teaching by “seeing examples of how Carol [the director] interacted with the children...she was gentle, loving, and caring. She had a great way of letting the children be chaotic, yet taking control when needed.”

Both Dreschler and Dorrance expressed how great it was to be able to have “class time” outside of the traditional classroom. Dorrance called her weekly experience at the Club “the highlight of my week.” Dorrance also said that the opportunity to go to the Club allowed her to understand what was being taught in the classroom on a deeper level. “What I didn’t really understand in class, I understood once we implemented it at the Footlight Club.”

All five of the Hellenic College students did an excellent job working with the children at the Club, using what they had learned in their course with Dr. McIntyre and implementing it on their own.



FAREWELL WISHES

Hellenic College and Holy Cross have just said fond and grateful farewells to two remarkable individuals, both of whom have worked tirelessly for years to advance our unique and sacred mission.

Fr. James Katinas, longtime Director of Institutional Advancement and an alumnus of Holy Cross, has wished for some time to return to parish ministry, and is now leading Fr. Christopher’s own former flock at St. Demetrios Church in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Meanwhile, Stephanie Skedros, who has served HCHC in several roles over more than a decade, most recently as Director of Annual Giving, has accepted a position in Development at Harvard University.

We are a better school today because of Fr. Jim’s and Stephanie’s professional and interpersonal skills, not to mention their warmth and wit. We will miss them both, but offer our heartfelt thanks and best wishes as they begin this new year and these new opportunities.

DEAN SKEDROS ATTENDS MEETING AT ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



PHOTOS BY MR. NIKOLAOS MANGINAS

At the invitation of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, James Skedros, Dean of Holy Cross, attended a meeting of thirty scholars on January 4-5, 2016, held at the Patriarchate in Constantinople. The purpose of the encounter was to establish connections with theologians and academics working in various disciplines and ministries throughout the world in order to become better acquainted with their interests and aspirations for the Church, especially in light of the Holy and Great Council. In his address to the scholars, His All-Holiness noted: "We have invited you because we consider you as a small representative group of a much larger segment of our Church, a symbol of our loving concern for all those ministering to the Word of God in manifold ways throughout the world. You comprise theologians and historians, scholars and teachers, women and men from the United States and Europe, as well as from Asia and Australia." "In this way," he added, "we can strengthen the bonds between hierarchal ministry and lay diakonia for the benefit of the Body of Christ." The entire text of His All-Holiness' address is available online.

According to Dr. Skedros, "the gathering was a very positive occasion in concert with the celebration of the Feast of Theophany. Conversations focused on how lay theologians and academics, committed to serving both the academy and the Church, can bring their experiences and expertise to assist with the apostolic witness of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Orthodox Church as a whole." Dr. Skedros noted in particular that "the meeting focused primarily upon the upcoming Holy and Great Council and how the synod can serve as an important expression of the Orthodox Church's synodal character."

The afternoon of January 5th was dedicated to an open discussion on preparations for the Holy and Great Council. His Eminence Senior Metropolitan John of Pergamon chaired two extensive sessions and addressed participants, engaging in wide-ranging discussions with the scholars about goals, challenges, and opportunities of the Council.



Several Holy Cross alumni were present at the meeting: Dr. George Demacopoulos, Fordham University; Dr. Perry Hamalis, North Central College; Dr. John Klentos, Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute; V. Rev. Dr. Panteleimon Manoussakis, Holy Cross College; V. Rev. Dr. Chrysostomos Nassis, University of Thessaloniki; Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou, Fordham University; V. Rev. Dr. Nathanael Symeonidis, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; and Dr. Anton Vrame, Department of Religious Education.

SONIA BELCHER'S HCHC AMBASSADORS PROGRAM FALL 2015 REPORT



This year's Ambassadors program has welcomed back seven returning members and brought in five new Ambassadors, offering a wonderful balance of experience and exciting new energy to this tremendous program of our school. Working together with the Office of Student Life, under the direction of Fr. Nicholas Belcher, as well as the Office of Admissions, under Director Gregory Floor, this year's Ambassadors have already found themselves involved in a variety of youth ministry and recruitment opportunities around the country. The backbone of the Ambassadors program is that we have a Gospel-first mindset as we work with various youth groups and parishes to offer a unique and dynamic experience of engaging the truth of the Gospel and implementing it in all facets of our lives.

While we had already been part of a couple of visiting parish groups and youth retreats in the month of September (a rarity

for the Ambassadors), our kick-off event was the visiting Boys and Girls Scouts of the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS), in which the entire Ambassadors group takes part. The annual EOCS retreat is always over Columbus Day weekend, and is usually held at St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY. This year, however, we had the special treat of welcoming over 70 scouts and 40 adults to our beloved campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross to offer a unique retreat filled with Orthodox Life sessions, arts and crafts, outdoor activities, campus tours, an adult session, and even confessions for these wonderful young people.

October and November have been filled with fantastic opportunities for the Ambassadors to spread the word of the Gospel and inform numerous Greek Orthodox youth of America about the education and experience they can have by enrolling in studies at Hellenic College Holy Cross. We have had youth groups visit our campus and take part in sessions from New York, New Jersey, and Worcester. Our Ambassadors have also been busy traveling around the country to lead retreats in San Francisco, San Jose, Bethesda, Salt Lake City, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Minneapolis, with a number of retreats coming up in New York, Denver, Portland, Phoenix, Atlanta, and Dallas. One of the fantastic opportunities we have this year has been teaming up with Steven Christoforou (MDiv '13) and the Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and taking part in their monthly Be the Bee Retreats across the country. All in all, before the start of the upcoming spring semester, in conjunction with the OSL and the Office of Admissions, the HCHC Ambassadors will have reached out to well over a thousand youth and young adults across the country. We are thrilled with the work our Ambassadors have done so far and look forward to continuing this blessed ministry in the spring semester.

AXIOS!

On Sunday, December 6, 2015, Fr. Maximos (Constas), Senior Research Scholar at Holy Cross, was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios of America at the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of St. Nicholas in Flushing, NY. On December 20, he was ordained to the order of the holy priesthood by His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios of America at the Archdiocesan Cathedral in NYC. At the end of the service, His Eminence elevated him with the title of Archimandrite.



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