

PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Christ is Risen! Χριστός ανέστη!

We celebrate the Feast of Feasts – Great and Holy Pascha – with joy and thanksgiving in Our Risen Lord! Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God, became man. He died and was raised from the dead by God in perfect fulfillment of the Old Testament so that we might live in Him and with Him forever.

We, at Hellenic College Holy Cross, are witnesses of Jesus Christ. “He is the head of the body, the Church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the

dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.” (1 Col 1:18)

Put simply, “Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” (1 Cor 2:14)

Mindful of our conviction, we rejoice in our calling from God to serve Him, so that through our actions, cultivated through our experiences at Hellenic College Holy Cross, the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be spread throughout the world (Mark 16:15).

It is my pleasure this month to welcome the Board of Trustees, clergy, alumni, parents, relatives, and friends visiting and praying with us throughout graduation and the Paschal season. I especially acknowledge the visits of the Honorable Haris Lalacos, Ambassador of Greece to the United States, and His Grace Bishop Athanasius of Kisumu and All Western Kenya (Holy Cross ‘02), the first since his enthronement. May God grant both men continued strength in His service and many years!

Congratulations to all of our graduates! It is my prayer that God will continue to bless them and enable them to be true witnesses of the Holy, All-Glorious Resurrection throughout their lives.

I further acknowledge and congratulate our distinguished honorary degree recipients, Rev. Fr. George Poulos and George M. Logothetis, whose accomplishments represent the highest levels of exemplary achievement in the Orthodox Church and society.

Jesus Christ, “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob,” is “not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (Matt 22:32) May He be with us always in all that we do and become!

With Love in the Risen Christ,



Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropoulos, DMin
 President

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HOLY CROSS STUDENT RUNS BOSTON MARATHON



It's not unusual for seminarians to compare their long and rigorous training for the holy priesthood to running a marathon. However, William Damaskos, a second-year seminarian at Holy Cross, has been combining his demanding theological studies with training for a real marathon. This year he qualified for the first tier of runners in the 2017 Boston Marathon with an impressive time of 2:47.

William began running competitively in seventh grade, "the first year you could compete for the school," and by high school was a varsity runner. His passion for the sport

continued to develop in college, where he majored in business while "training really hard." But during those years, he was also running away from something: the feeling that he might have a priestly calling.

As the son of a priest, Rev. Fr. Aristotle Damaskos, William had grown up in the Church and participated in the life of his father's parishes on every level: altar boy, summer camper and counselor, GOYA, and AHEPA. "Church has always been my second home," he says, "but I fought against the idea of becoming a priest myself for the longest time." His father, a graduate of both Hellenic College and Holy Cross, never pressured him to follow in his footsteps and gave him the assurance that "I will support you no matter what you do in life."

Ultimately, William realized that he needed to answer the call and enrolled at Holy Cross, where he has managed to keep up with his theological studies while training more seriously than ever. In fact, he ran two marathons during his first year as a seminarian. Coming from Florida, William had the extra challenge of adjusting to the extreme cold of Boston winter. "I used to have tunnel vision about my training schedule, but this past winter, I decided to have fun running and be open to whatever the school, the weather, or life throws at me."

So how did it feel to run the Boston Marathon? "I'd watched it on TV a bunch of times and thought I knew what it would be like, but it was beyond my wildest dreams. It's incredible how encouraging the crowds are the whole way." Asked if he's going to take a break now, William smiles and says, "No—I'm running another marathon in Maine this month."

HCHC Hosts Overnight Visit for Future Students

Hellenic College applicants and their parents arrived on campus Thursday, April 6, to a warm welcome that even the rainy weather could not dampen. They attended Vespers in Holy Cross Chapel, after which the young visitors joined current students for dinner while their parents dined with Dr. Demetrios Katos, Dean of Hellenic College, and other faculty members at an elegant inn nearby. After dinner, the prospective students participated in a workshop conducted by the Office of Vocation & Ministry, followed by a lively trivia competition and ice cream social.

The next day began with Orthros in the Chapel and included a meeting with Dr. Katos, as well as opportunities to sit in on classes and tour the campus (under sunny skies at last). Group and individual meetings with Admissions and Financial Aid were available for applicants and parents, all of whom we hope to see again in September!



HCHC ANNOUNCES 2017 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Two extraordinary men are receiving honorary doctorates at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology's commencement on May 20. Their very different but equally laudable accomplishments are deserving of this special recognition and the gratitude not only of this institution, but of all Greek Orthodox Christians in America.



GEORGE M. LOGOTHETIS

Mr. Logothetis is Chairman and CEO of the Libra Group, an international business controlling 30 subsidiaries active in 35 countries across six continents. The group is focused on aviation, energy, finance and diversified, hospitality, real estate, and shipping. He joined his family's shipping company in 1993, becoming CEO in 1994 at the age of 19. In the ensuing years he presided over the company's transformation from three vessels into a fleet of 55 before creating the Libra Group in 2003. Principal among Libra's business values is a sense of community. The group expresses its responsibility to global communities through ten social programs and initiatives which seek to deliver educational opportunity, business opportunity, and acts of humanity towards people who are neglected, marginalized, or underserved. These programs span internships, educational fellowships, backing for entrepreneurs, aid for refugees, and support for charitable institutions and other non-profit organizations. The group's most recent social responsibility program is the HOME Project—an initiative set up in Greece to provide a safe haven for refugees, and unaccompanied children in particular. *Fortune* included Mr. Logothetis in its 2014 "40 under 40" annual list of the most influential young people in business.

Mr. Logothetis is also Chairman of the Leadership Council of Concordia, a non-profit organization which seeks to promote public-private partnership and cooperation around pressing global issues.

REVEREND FATHER GEORGE POULOS

Among the many distinguished graduates of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Rev. Fr. George Poulos holds a unique place in the history of the institution and in the hearts of his fellow alumni. He entered the seminary at the school's original home in Pomfret, Connecticut, and was among the first to graduate from its new Brookline campus in 1948. He served as pastor of the Church of the Archangels in Stamford, Connecticut, for 53 years. During those years (1956-2009), Fr. Poulos oversaw the building of a new church, pioneered the use of technology to reach the faithful, wrote many popular books and articles, and served on numerous boards, including that of Hellenic College Holy Cross. His vision of a summer program in Greece for American youth, combined with his skill in negotiating with the Greek government, the Church of Greece, and other stakeholders on behalf of our Archdiocese, led to the creation of Ionian Village, where he served as the first Executive Director.





M.S. Photography

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Scenes from Holy Week and Pascha on the Holy Hill.





MEET ALEXANDRA BULITEANU

HELLENIC COLLEGE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP MAJOR



Alexandra is graduating from Hellenic College this May with a bachelor's degree in Management and Leadership—and the promise of a wonderful future that she could never have dreamed of as a child. Born in Romania, she moved to Greece with her family when she was four years old. When she was 12, her mother gave birth to a son so premature

that he was not expected to survive. Miraculously, he did, but with serious health issues that required long stays at Children's Hospital in Boston every year.

When Alexandra was 15, she joined her mother and brother in Boston. "We hadn't seen each other for a year," she remembers. "My mom was staying at Philoxenia House, right on the campus, and the students would take her out sometimes, to give her a break. They were really nice to me too, and encouraged me to think about coming to Hellenic for college. From the beginning, I loved the atmosphere and it felt familiar because of the Orthodox elements. When the time came, I didn't even think of applying to any other American colleges."

"I can't express how much I love this school," she goes on to say. "I never felt like I belonged anywhere—not in Romania, not in Greece—but here, I finally did." With high motivation and energy, Alexandra flourished right from the start at Hellenic. She combined her major in Management and Leadership with a minor in Human Development. She particularly loved a course on research methods with Dr. Asimina Lazaridou. "She told us about her research on patients with chronic pain at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she's doing a post-doc, and I was really fascinated by that."

Last year, Dr. Lazaridou asked Alexandra if she would like to be her intern. That unpaid internship led to a part-time paid position, three full days a week, which Alexandra held while carrying a full load of classes and serving as a student representative to the faculty. To her amazement, a paper based on the pain study appeared in a major medical journal with her name on it as a co-author—and the offer of a full-time job as Clinical Research Coordinator starting right after graduation.

Congratulations on all of these stellar achievements, Alexandra!

MEET ANTONIOS PAPATHANASIOU

HOLY CROSS MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM



There have been many priests in every generation of Antonios Papathanasiou's family since 1750, so it is not surprising that the Church has called to him all of his life. "Even as a kid, I'd say that I was going to be a priest. I started chanting very early at my father's church in Ioannina and went to chant school for four years." His father and lifelong role model, Rev. Fr. Athanasios of blessed memory, "always

told me to do what felt right to me and would say, 'If God wants you to do something, it will happen, no matter what.'"

After a well-rounded upbringing that included studying Byzantine music and violin, learning English and French, and playing basketball, Antonios enrolled at Hellenic College. He majored in Human Development, while also serving as assistant to the director of the Office of Student Life, co-editor of the weekly newsletter, and Greek tutor, as well as singing in both the Byzantine and Western choirs, and working with developmentally disabled children in Boston.

Instead of entering Holy Cross as a seminarian right after receiving his BA with honors in 1998, Antonios spent a number of very busy years on a very different track. He earned a master's degree at CCNY in international relations and politics (ranking first in his class), began doctoral studies in the same field, worked for the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations, fulfilled his mandatory military service in the Greek Navy, and worked in Athens as an international relations/politics analyst at a think tank and the Greek Parliament.

Then, in 2008, Antonios went to Mount Athos for the first of many visits and "immediately felt at home." After running for Parliament and a good deal of soul-searching, he moved to Mount Athos, then to Constantinople, where he served as a novice monk. Ultimately, he returned to Brookline—after almost twenty years—and the Master of Divinity program at Holy Cross. Outside of classes, he has served as President of HCHC's Student Government Association. Now that he is graduating, he looks forward to being ordained and following in his father's footsteps. "I'd like to be at a small parish, where I can serve as my father and my forefathers did."

REV. FR. ZYMARIS AND THE HOLY WEEK SEMINAR



First-year seminarians at Holy Cross are required to remain on campus and attend classes during Holy Week, when most other students in both schools leave for the Paschal break. Think that must be hard? Think again. They see this requirement as an invaluable opportunity to connect more deeply with their faith and each other through daily services in Holy Cross Chapel and through the Holy Week Seminar, taught by Rev.

Dr. Philip Zymaris, Assistant Professor of Liturgics at Holy Cross. Although the course is not required of other students in the Master of Divinity program, a number of them—male and female—choose to take the week-long course for the same compelling reasons.

A graduate of both Hellenic College (1988) and Holy Cross (1991) who holds a Doctorate in Theology from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Fr. Zymaris brings to the

classroom a combination of erudition, passionate faith, and flashes of humor that keep his students scribbling notes as fast as he can talk—which is to say, very fast (not surprising for a New York native). “This class seems more exciting than a normal class,” he exclaimed on the first day of this year’s Seminar, a comment on the extraordinary richness of the subject. “Holy Week is the center of our liturgical life...The journey to Pascha is a paradigm for real life.”

The Holy Week Seminar provides an in-depth look at the liturgical form and hymnology of Holy Week in the Greek Orthodox Church. Fr. Zymaris puts every service and hymn in historical context, charting the changes in some elements of Holy Week worship over time. He also addresses the differences in how the four Gospels relate the events surrounding Christ’s Crucifixion and Resurrection, memorably summing up the matter by saying, “The purpose of the Church is not *New York Times* journalism—the purpose of the Church is salvation.”

Although Fr. Zymaris has been teaching the Holy Week Seminar for more than a decade, he is quick to credit Rev. Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas, Professor of Liturgics Emeritus, with creating the Seminar and writing *Great Week and Pascha in the Greek Orthodox Church*, which remains the sole textbook for it. Now in its fifth printing, the book is available from Holy Cross Bookstore, where it remains a perennial bestseller.

NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS LEADERS VISIT HCHC

Four members of the national leadership of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society paid a day-long visit to Hellenic College Holy Cross on April 20. President Maria Logus was accompanied by Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Chair of the HCHC Committee for the National Philoptochos board, and fellow board members Barbara Pasalis and Katherine Kotsis. Since its founding in 1931, Philoptochos has grown to include 26,000 members in 440 chapters, making it the second largest faith-based organization and the largest Christian women’s philanthropic organization in the United States.

Visiting the campus allowed the group to see firsthand the results of their organization’s great generosity to our school, ranging from scholarships to extensive infrastructure improvements. It also allowed them to connect directly with the students who have benefited from this longstanding largesse. Introducing the visitors at an afternoon presentation for the entire HCHC community, Dr. James Skedros, Dean of Holy Cross, said, “We are so grateful for what Philoptochos has



done for our school, but even more for what they stand for... They do Christ’s work 365 days a year.”

The motto of Philoptochos is “Philanthropy/Fellowship/Service”—all three elements of which have been manifested abundantly in this venerable organization’s commitment to Hellenic College Holy Cross.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

HIS GRACE BISHOP ATHANASIOS OF KISUMU AND ALL WESTERN KENYA VISITS HCHC



HCHC was proud to welcome its alumnus, His Grace Bishop Athanasios of Kisumu and All Western Kenya, to campus for the first time since his enthronement, and serve with him on the Feast Day of the Removal of the Relics of St. Athanasios the Great on May 2.

His Grace Bishop Athanasios is a 2002 graduate of Holy Cross. He was elevated to the episcopal throne of Kisumu and All Western Kenya on November 24, 2015.

HCHC is extremely proud of the career and service of His Grace Bishop Athanasios. To read more about his life and ministry, please visit www.hchc.edu.

HCHC Trustee Leads Student Leadership Workshop

Mark Moraitakis, recently appointed member of HCHC's Board of Trustees and Senior Director, Customer Foresight, at Chick-Fil-A, engaged a large audience of students, staff, and faculty in a dynamic workshop on April 27 that was centered on the theme "Mindset of a Servant Leader." The workshop was sponsored by the Office of Vocation & Ministry and fueled by a delicious Chick-Fil-A lunch.

Mr. Moraitakis, who first worked for Chick-Fil-A as a restaurant cashier, shared insights gained from his long career with the highly successful company and from his life as a faithful Orthodox Christian. He challenged all of those present to think deeply about what it means to be a servant leader and how best to become one. Among his many thought-provoking statements, he said, "A boss says, 'Go'; a leader says, 'Let's go.'" Comparing skills to a tree, with character as the root system that sustains the tree, he observed that "so often today we coach people on skills, but not on character, and character doesn't just happen."



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