

PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here in New England, the month of November is when much of nature begins to go dormant after the trees drop their colorful leaves and temperatures drop as well. But I am happy—and proud—to tell you that Hellenic College Holy Cross is going into a very active, not dormant, phase right now, with new growth and new energy evident in every aspect of our

institutional life. The many visitors we have welcomed to our campus lately have certainly enjoyed the autumnal beauty of these surroundings, but their reasons for coming have been based in nature of a different, deeper kind: the nature of their relationship with our Orthodox Faith.

In these pages you will read about some of them: the prospective students and their families who attended our Fall Open House, the scholars and students of the Church Fathers who participated in a superb Patristics Symposium, the faithful from far and near who visited us during Missions Week to hear His Eminence Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea, a Holy Cross graduate, speak about the joys and challenges of mission work in his adopted country. And you will read about the visit of a truly miraculous, myrrh-streaming icon that came to us all the way from Hawaii.

You will also learn how our students and I have been spreading the word about our wonderful, unique institution in this country and abroad, and how an exciting new partnership will provide multiple opportunities for HCHC students to expand their academic horizons. And you will get acquainted with some remarkable members of our community.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving at the end of this month, a holiday celebrated by all Americans, regardless of their origins or beliefs, I give thanks on behalf of everyone here at HCHC for your interest, your support, and your prayers.

God bless you and all those you hold dear—

With love in Christ,



Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin
President

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HCHC HOSTS MISSIONS WEEK 2017



The HCHC community was honored to welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea to campus as the featured speaker during Missions Week, which began on October 16. His Eminence grew up on the Greek island of Aegina as one of 16 children. He went on to earn undergraduate and doctoral degrees from the University of Athens and, in the United States, graduate degrees from our School of Theology and Princeton Theological Seminary. Returning to the HCHC campus was, he said, “a joyful homecoming.”

On the morning of the 16th, His Eminence celebrated the Divine Liturgy in Holy Cross Chapel, which was overflowing with a throng of the faithful eager to hear him preach and to venerate the miraculous myrrh-streaming Portaitissa icon of the Holy Theotokos [read more about the icon’s visit below]. That evening and during the following days he spoke to students and interested others about different aspects of Orthodoxy in Korea and delivered the EFOM Annual Missions Lecture, focusing on “St. John Chrysostom’s Missionary Principles with Reference to Orthodox Witness in Korea.”

His Eminence is President of Korea’s National Council of Churches, evidence of the esteem in which he is held by all Christians in that country, who represent only 27% of the population, the overwhelming majority of whom are Protestant. When asked to compare the Orthodox and Protestant approaches to missionary work in Korea, he said that they could not be more different. The latter pursue prospective converts aggressively, going door to door and proselytizing. By contrast, he said, “It is not and should not be the Orthodox way to pressure people” to embrace the Faith but to remember “Philip’s words to Nathanael: ‘Come and see.’”

MIRACULOUS ICON RETURNS TO HCHC

On October 17, the HCHC community was blessed for the second time by a visit of Hawaii’s myrrh-streaming Portaitissa icon of the Most Holy Theotokos, the first visit having been exactly five years before. The icon is a copy of the original at the Iveron Monastery on Mount Athos and began streaming myrrh in 2007 at the home of Subdeacon Nectarios and his wife in Honolulu. Many instances of physical and spiritual healing have been attributed to this icon, which is recognized by the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia as genuinely miraculous and is allowed to travel widely, always with Subdeacon Nectarios as faithful guardian.

The wonderworking icon was carried that morning in procession from Dowd Hall, where Subdeacon Nectarios spoke movingly about the awesome privilege and sacred responsibility that are his, to Holy Cross Chapel for the Divine Liturgy. At the conclusion of the service, His Eminence Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea anointed everyone present as they approached to venerate the icon, which remained at the Chapel for the entire day.



HCHC STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CONCORDIA ANNUAL SUMMIT IN NEW YORK CITY

Five fortunate Hellenic College and Holy Cross students joined Rev. Fr. Christopher Metropulos, HCHC President, at the seventh Concordia Annual Summit, held in New York City September 18-19. Concordia is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization which seeks to build effective public-private partnerships to create a more prosperous and sustainable future. Its Co-Founder and Chairman, Nicholas Logothetis, was already admired by our students because he had come to campus last February to share his insights on business and philanthropy with them in dialogue with Fr. Christopher. In his opening remarks at the Summit, Mr. Logothetis said, "I believe that today we have a unique opportunity to change the world in our own small way. If not now, then when? If not us, then who?" This year's Annual Summit brought together 2,600 of the world's preeminent thought leaders and decision-makers, among them 17 current or former heads of state, to discuss today's most pressing global issues.



Here are the students' reflections on being part of this extraordinary event:

"Although the world of today is vexed by countless challenges and uncertainties, Concordia is a fine example of cross-sector collaboration dedicated to advancing a better future. Many of the diverse speakers shared cutting-edge knowledge or tidbits of experience from their own professional careers. It was reassuring to know there are so many others out there wanting to help people and communities."

- **Christopher Coombs**, *first-year seminarian, Holy Cross*

"If we want change in the world, we need to stand together, we need to be loud and clear. We must share our values and do it with humility."

- **Kristen Karavantos-Love**, *sophomore, Hellenic College*

"I was extremely honored to have been able to attend the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit. It was incredible to see numerous nonprofit and for-profit companies working

together to solve pressing global issues. One major takeaway was the fact that there are so many young entrepreneurs out there trying to positively impact the world. Hearing their personal anecdotes and speaking face to face with them showed me that anything is achievable as long as you work hard to achieve it."

- **Nicholas Metropulos**, *freshman, Hellenic College*

"It was very eye-opening and inspiring to be in the presence of so many influential people from around the globe and to hear the things they had to say about all of the current and continuous world issues."

- **Vasiliki Motsios**, *sophomore, Hellenic College*

"Concordia was a breathtaking experience. The combination of topics such as art, technology, engineering, ecology, health, and politics reminded us that social change can happen through many forms in today's fragmented world."

- **Ioannis Zempos**, *senior, Hellenic College*

HCHC HOSTS ADMISSIONS FALL OPEN HOUSE



Prospective students from as far away as California and Greece traveled to our campus on Saturday, October 14, for an Open House that allowed them to see firsthand all the things that make HCHC unique. The visitors, many of whom brought parents or friends with them, mingled informally with faculty and staff over a continental breakfast before being welcomed officially by Rev. Fr. Gregory Floor, HCHC's Director of Admissions, Dr. Demetrios

Katos, Dean of Hellenic College, and Dr. James Skedros, Dean of Holy Cross. HCHC's President, Rev. Fr. Christopher Metropulos, also offered warm words of welcome by Skype from Greece. Fr. Gregory and Michael Kirchmaier, Director of Financial Aid, then provided an overview of the admissions process and the array of scholarship opportunities available to students enrolled here. Academic sessions with faculty members from both schools followed and gave our visitors a chance to ask questions about specific programs and offerings.

No visit to HCHC would be complete without a walking tour of our beautiful campus overlooking Boston, the highest point of which is—fittingly—Holy Cross Chapel, where the visitors were greeted by the glorious sound of Byzantine hymns chanted by current students. A panel on student life after the tour frequently elicited a different sound—of laughter, as student speakers engaged their audience with lively stories about the fun and fellowship they enjoy here and in Boston, just minutes away. The morning concluded with presentations by several students about their life-changing internship experiences locally and abroad. After lunch in the Condakes Cafeteria, all of the visitors were warmly encouraged to stay on for HCHC's annual Fall Fest.

HCHC ANNUAL FALL FEST



HCHC LAUNCHES NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH LEADING UNIVERSITY

Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology proudly announces an exciting new partnership with Regis College, a leading Roman Catholic university just outside Boston. Founded in 1927, the private institution is substantially larger than HCHC, with close to 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students, yet shares a similar tradition of academic excellence grounded in faith. The new partnership will allow Hellenic College students to gain access to three Regis master's degree programs in such a way as to make possible the earning of a graduate degree in one year rather than the customary two years.

Beginning next semester (spring 2018), Hellenic undergraduates in the Elementary Education program will have preferred admission into the Regis master's program in Special Education and begin taking classes toward the master's degree during their final year at Hellenic, with only one year at Regis needed thereafter to complete the MA.

Those in Hellenic's Human Development program will have preferred admission to the Regis Master of Arts in Counseling



REGIS
A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
IN GREATER BOSTON

Psychology program, also beginning classes toward the MA at Regis during their final undergraduate year here, allowing them to earn the graduate degree with only one additional year of study.

Hellenic College students in the four other undergraduate programs currently offered—Classics and Greek Studies, Literature and History, Management and Leadership, and Religious Studies—will have preferred admission to the Regis Master of Arts in Heritage Studies program. They too will be able to take advantage of the combined, accelerated five-year BA/MA option.

HCHC PRESIDENT VISITS TOP SCHOOLS IN GREECE

Rev. Fr. Christopher Metropoulos, President of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, traveled to Greece in October and met with over 400 students and over 300 parents at some of the country's finest private schools, encouraging them to consider furthering their education at HCHC.

In Athens Fr. Christopher spoke to students at the Geitonas School and at Pierce College High School, a division of the American College of Greece, where some 300 parents also were eager to hear about all that HCHC can offer their children. On Mt. Athos Fr. Christopher met with students at the venerable Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, an all-male secondary school and seminary founded in 1749. In Thessaloniki he visited four prestigious private schools: the high school divisions of Anatolia College and Aristotelio College, De La Salle College, and Mandoulides Junior-Senior High School. Fr. Christopher also conferred with officials at DOATAP, an organization charged by the Hellenic Ministry of Education with recognizing academic degrees awarded by foreign institutions of higher education. HCHC is awaiting its full recognition of all degree programs for the institution very soon.

Before returning to HCHC, Fr. Christopher flew to the island of Rhodes to attend the Fourth International Conference for Pastoral Health Care hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Network for



Pastoral Health Care. Over twenty HCHC alumni presented and participated in the conference. Upon his return, Fr. Christopher stated, "I cannot tell you how much enthusiasm I felt from everyone I encountered during this trip to Greece. There is a great deal of interest for students to attend our college, school of theology, and seminary. In addition, our schools continue to be held in high esteem by those in the schools of theology at the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki. Both of those schools have longstanding relationships with our graduate school that will become stronger in the near future with the possibility of a joint doctoral program."

NICOLE CHETSAS | HELLENIC COLLEGE CLASS OF 2019

Nicole is a Hellenic College junior who commutes to campus from her home in Kensington, New Hampshire. Last year, like all sophomores, she took the year-long Community Engagement course, a core component of which is regular volunteer work. Here in her own words is the story of how her volunteer experience changed the course of her personal and academic life and put her on a path to a fulfilling future of service to children:



It's mysterious how God works and communicates to us. Out of the oddest things that happen in life you find out it was His way of grabbing your attention about who you are and what you need to learn about life. I had that experience when I finally got my volunteer placement. Originally, I was going to be helping out homeless children through a program that my mom knew about, but somehow it didn't work out. I tried another place, but they had too many volunteers.

Then my boyfriend happened to point out a sign advertising a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club. I looked into what their mission was and got very excited—it was the perfect match for me! Their mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those that need us the most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring people. Also to promote academic success, good citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. They provide a safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, life-enhancing programs and character development experiences, and lastly, hope and opportunity. The biggest thing that made me want to volunteer there was the character development aspect, because that's what I love to help people with, especially kids.

I rushed over there and talked with the director and found out they wanted volunteers. To make it even better, the director knew about Hellenic! I would be able to help with activities like photography, cooking, sports, arts and crafts, etc. I got a tour of the club and saw some of the interaction that took place between

volunteers, directors, and the children. I could see right away that it was a safe place filled with love, enhancement, and acceptance. The children related to the directors as if they were their own parents. As I left, I felt an indescribable amount of joy at finding such an amazing community that uplifts the generation to come. The biggest lesson I took away is that sometimes the ones who know you best may not know what you need. God is the only one who does know what I need to rely on Him to help me through things.

Through volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, my character grew so much into what I want to become for God. I learned how God's love can be shown through action and I became more aware. One of the hardest things for me before was that I always had a tendency to try to fix people. Boys and Girls Clubs showed me what true serving is about and it became easier for me to use this quality in other aspects of my life.

By the end of the school year, I really wanted to stay on because I had truly fallen in love with the place, so I asked if I could actually work there—and they hired me! I worked full-time all summer and am working part-time now. It's a lot to be a full-time student commuting from New Hampshire and also do that, but it doesn't feel like work. I wake up excited to be with those kids, who range in age from first-graders to teenagers. I'm changing my major to Human Development and am going to take some Religious Studies courses too, so after graduation I can work for the Church in youth ministry or maybe continue my education so I could do clinical work at Children's Hospital—or both! I'm so grateful that the Community Engagement volunteer requirement opened the door for me to a future of helping children.



FACULTY PROFILE | REV. DR. DEMETRIOS TONIAS

Ask Hellenic College students to name their favorite professors and you are likely to hear “Fr. Tonias!” again and again. They point to his love for teaching and for the course subject matter, and say that he creates a dynamic classroom experience in which they are fully engaged and eager to learn. This semester, Fr. Tonias is teaching Biblical Heritage I: Old Testament.



Like most ordained HCHC faculty members, Fr. Tonias, a 1999 graduate of our School of Theology, serves a parish, but his is the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England, the seat of the Metropolis of Boston. In appointing him to that demanding and highly visible role, His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios spoke of the “distinction, zeal, and honor” with which Fr. Tonias had served previous parishes. Fr.

Tonias is also the Ecumenical Officer of the Metropolis and serves on the board of the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Fr. Tonias’ scholarly work often focuses on the interaction between Jews and Christians throughout history. He earned his PhD from Boston College in 2011. His dissertation topic was “Abraham in the Works of John Chrysostom,” later published as a book in 2014 by Fortress Press. A prolific author, Fr. Tonias has contributed articles to many publications and regularly presents papers at conferences such as that on “Women and Gender in Religions” at the Nazareth College Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue this past July.

Fr. Tonias says, “It’s truly a privilege and honor to teach such dedicated, faith-centered students. As a graduate of Holy Cross, teaching at Hellenic College helps rekindle the joy of my first encounter with theological studies. It’s so rewarding to help spark that same excitement in this new generation of students.”

HCHC HOSTS SYMPOSIUM ON CREATION AND ECOLOGY



The Pappas Patristic Institute of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology sponsored a “Symposium on Creation and Ecology: Insights from Patristic and Contemporary Christian Sources” on October 5 and 6, 2017, here on campus. The subject, both timeless and timely, drew diverse audiences of scholars and students, both graduate and undergraduate, to lectures by four distinguished speakers.

Dr. Jame Schaefer of Marquette University focused her talk on “Receiving the Gift of Creation with Gratitude: Insights from Basil of Caesarea, John Chrysostom, and Patriarch Bartholomew Informed by Contemporary Science.” Dr. Bruce Foltz of Eckerd College titled his lecture “‘The Lord Is in This Place, Yet I Did Not See It’: From the Concept of Nature to the Experience of Creation.” Dr. David Goodin of McGill University spoke about “Christology and Eco-Theology: The Centrality of Cyril of Alexandria in Safeguarding Ethiopian Tewahedo Church Forests.” His lecture included extraordinary aerial images of churches surrounded by forests with vast tracts of desert beyond those sacred oases. The final lecture was delivered by Rev. Dr. Robert Daly, SJ, of Boston College on “Ecological Euchology: ‘Cosmic Liturgy?’” and offered yet another perspective.



Reflecting on the symposium as a whole, Dr. Bruce Beck, Director of the Pappas Patristic Institute and member of both the Hellenic College and Holy Cross faculties, said, “I was delighted that our students were able to take advantage of this symposium on our campus. Also, I was pleasantly surprised to hear a few shared themes across all four of the papers, including—to take just one—the importance of cultivating an aesthetic gratitude for God’s creation, and articulating a theological understanding of God’s creation as a gift rather than just a consumable resource.”

HCHC ATHLETICS TAKE A LEAP FORWARD

On October 19, the NCAA Division III Executive Committee voted to approve an athletic consortium between Hellenic College and Newbury College through which Hellenic students will have the exciting opportunity to play on any of Newbury's women's or men's athletic teams. The intercollegiate sports are: baseball, basketball, cross country, track and field, soccer, softball, volleyball, and women's lacrosse. All practices and games will take place on the HCHC campus, where Newbury's teams have for some time enjoyed the use of our excellent athletic facilities.

We will be sharing more details about this major development in HCHC's athletic program very soon on the school website (www.hchc.edu).



AXIOS!

David Rayahin, a Hellenic College Religious Studies major, Class of 2018, was ordained to the subdiaconate by the hands of His Grace Bishop Anthony of Toledo on Sunday, June 25, 2017, at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero, Illinois. David, a native of Chicago, says, "It was a day full of blessings. Without HCHC, I could not be the person I am today."

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