

# PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015 | Volume I, Issue 3



Dear friends of HCHC,

We have just completed a glorious month in the life of our sacred school.

Just prior to the commencement of the Feast Day celebration, I had the privilege of traveling to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to be presented to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW by His Eminence our Archbishop Demetrios as the 21st President of our school. His All Holiness received us with open arms and assured me of his love for the school and all of the administration, faculty, staff, and students. We also spoke about the recent trip of our students on the St. Helen's Pilgrimage, as well as next year's journey and the offer to have our students work in assistance for the upcoming Great Council meeting. After this, I traveled to Mt. Athos to pray and strengthen myself as we entered a new academic year, and I must say I returned to the campus filled with joy and excitement for the task ahead.

As if that wasn't enough, immediately upon my return from Europe, we began the celebration of the Sacred Feast of our school. The highlight was the celebration of the divine services officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. The Chapel, as you will see from the photographs, was filled to capacity. The congregation, made up of students and parents, chanted the sacred hymn "Save O Lord your people" with such conviction and fervor I felt as if the walls themselves were trembling. I could not help but think how proud our ancestors must be of this next generation of faithful young people preparing to serve the Church.

This coming month, we will welcome to the campus our Board of Trustees for their annual fall meeting, the Alumni Association, and the Boy and Girl Scouts for their annual retreat. We will also prepare for my inauguration as the new President. I humbly and honestly ask for your prayers, not only for me, but for everyone on this sacred hill of hope. Enjoy this issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

In His Service,

*Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, D. Min.*  
 President

PS: It has come to my attention that the altar in our chapel, the place where we pray and train our future clergy and lay leaders, is in need of new items, such as candle stands for the altar servers, a new chalice set, and kandilia for the altar table. If you would like to donate any of these items, or if you know someone else who might, please call my office at 617.850.1280.

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## STUDENT AFFAIRS

Fifteen second-year students in Hellenic College and Holy Cross received their crosses from the Archbishop during the Vespers of the Holy Cross, symbolizing their being granted full seminarian status. The Archbishop also bestowed the Exorasson upon 19 seniors in Holy Cross, symbolizing their being granted the blessing to preach the Word of God. In order to be found worthy of this sacred honor, the seniors were required to complete a rigorous exegesis project that was reviewed by members of the faculty and presented in an interview with the Dean of Holy Cross and Dean of Students.

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new student-led newspaper. After a naming contest with thirty-seven submissions, three nominees were submitted to the president, who chose the winning title. We are excited to announce that the newspaper will be called *The Daily Bread*, and we are looking forward to the first issue in the coming weeks.

We kicked off our intramural flag football program with nine teams and sixty participants! We are excited for a great season of healthy competition that will lead to a champion being crowned the first weekend of November. As the championship t-shirts from our intramural program last year states: "Those who say it's just a t-shirt don't understand." For updates, please visit our Facebook page, HCHC Athletics.



## INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The Office of Institutional Advancement continues to make significant progress fostering philanthropic giving to advance the vital mission of HCHC. The department added two new staff members last month who have already made a positive impact through their specialized skills and valuable experience. Elizabeth (Beth) Anders was hired as Database Coordinator and Nicole Meaney as a Development Associate.

The school's Annual Report was mailed last month to more than 10,000 households and has been met with enthusiastic reviews. We are very grateful to our many donors who responded to the Annual Report with generous donations. At this writing, gifts have more than doubled compared to last year's Annual Report appeal. We recently opened a phone bank where students and administrators are calling as many of our donors as possible to thank them and encourage continued giving in order to strengthen the institution.

We are also grateful for our Parish Partners, whose numbers continue to grow. We now have 279 parishes across America that have voluntarily chosen to help advance HCHC by spreading awareness of its vital mission, identifying prospective students, and making an annual gift. If your parish is not one of our Parish Partners, we invite you to become one.

This year we are very excited about the thank-you gift we will be giving to everyone who contributes to the Nativity Appeal. To demonstrate our appreciation for your Nativity gift of any amount, we'll be happy to send you our brand-new CD of Nativity Hymns and traditional chant, recorded by our outstanding Byzantine choir in the Holy Cross Chapel just last month. It will touch your heart and connect you more deeply to our traditional music – the music that has inspired and sustained devout Orthodox Christians through the centuries.

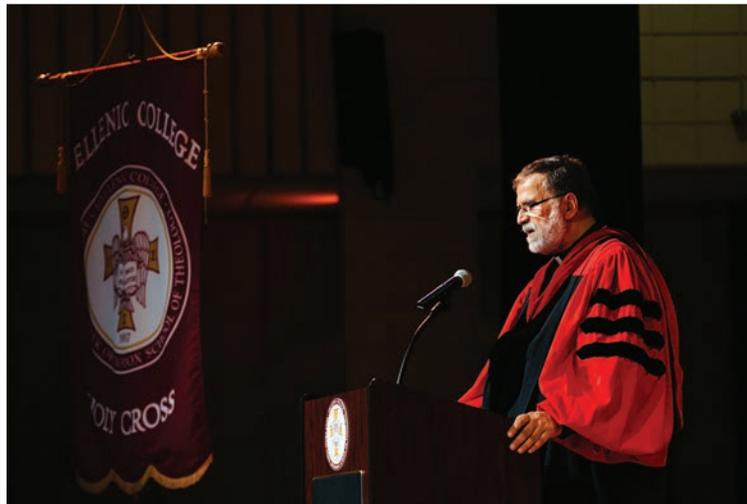
Last but not least, we are planning Presidential Engagement Gatherings around the country at which you can meet Fr. Christopher Metropulos, hear firsthand about the exciting developments at HCHC, and help advance our school and our Church. Please contact Stephanie Skedros at 617-850-1268 (email: [sskedros@hchc.edu](mailto:sskedros@hchc.edu)) so that we may help you plan a Presidential Engagement Gathering in your community.

Thank you for your ongoing, faithful, and generous support! Because of you, we are able to educate and inspire the Orthodox Christian leaders we need for exemplary service in the Church and society.



# EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS AND CONVOCATION

September 14, 2015



### Staffing

Over the past several weeks, in consultation with the Senior Administration, we have reorganized several departments and their respective reporting structures. During the transition we experienced involuntary and voluntary separations, retirements, transfers of existing staff, and newly hired staff. All this activity is necessary to properly align existing skills and acquire new skills to advance the institution. The changes include the following transfers and new hires:

- **Melanie Pappas** is now Senior Designer in the Marketing and Communications Department.
- **Tanya Contos** is now Writer/Editor/Writing Center Director in the Marketing and Communications Department.
- **Ephraim Roberson** is now Bookstore Manager.
- **George Stefanides** is now Procurement & AP Supervisor in Finance & Operations.
- **Stephanie Couchell** is now Enrollment Counselor in Admissions.
- **Peggy Giovane** is now Development Associate in Institutional Advancement.
- **Nicole Meaney** is now Development Associate in Institutional Advancement.
- **Elizabeth (Beth) Anders** is now Database Coordinator in Institutional Advancement.
- **Nina Leone** is now Systems Analyst in Information Technology.

Let's offer everyone sincere congratulations and blessings in their new roles at Hellenic College Holy Cross. The institutional growth we seek will require continued fine-tuning of our staffing needs as we move forward towards becoming the true center for Orthodoxy and the Church.

### Card Swipe System

Through a generous gift of the National Philoptochos Society, Hellenic College Holy Cross has recently purchased a campus-wide card swipe system. Plans for implementation are scheduled for the end of the year.

Each member of the HCHC community will be assigned a plastic swipe card containing a magnetic strip encoded with specific data about that individual. The card is passed through a slotted electronic device that reads the data and updates

that person's account with regards to specific purchases. It will also be used to provide authorized people with access to secure areas and/or systems.

Hellenic College Holy Cross will begin utilizing the system for tracking meals in the cafeteria. Over time, its use will be expanded to include access to dormitories and other secure locations on campus, purchases at the Holy Cross Bookstore, and the payment of auxiliary services, such as laundry and postage. Plans are also underway to negotiate discounts from local vendors, which will be recognized and activated by the swipe card.

The system will not only ensure significant control over a variety of expenses that are currently difficult to track, but will also provide its holders with the benefits of convenience, security, and accurate tracking of these expenses.

We would like to thank the National Philoptochos Society again for their generosity. The card swipe system is a much-needed asset for the college.

### Work-Study

This fall, Hellenic College Holy Cross introduced its first formal work-study program to undergraduate and graduate students. All positions are part-time and are located on the HCHC campus. They range from Front Desk Receptionist/Administrative Assistant to Media Producer for the OCN Media Ministry Lab. The response has been tremendous, with more than 20 job opportunities initially posted.

To date, the college has committed over \$50,000 to fund these positions and has earnest intention to increase the number of opportunities as they arise.

Because the HCHC work-study program has been formalized, HCHC now has the opportunity for reimbursement from the federal government for 75% of the cost of any position held by a federal work-study eligible student. It is a win-win situation.

Interested students may peruse open positions at the HCHC website at [www.hchc.edu/workstudy](http://www.hchc.edu/workstudy). Specific instructions regarding eligibility and documentation requirements are also accessible from that page.

HCHC staff and faculty should email Kevin Derrivan at [kderrivan@hchc.edu](mailto:kderrivan@hchc.edu) if there is a need for part-time student help within their departments.

## FEATURED FACULTY



### DR. STAMATIA DOVA

Dr. Stamatia Dova, Professor of Classics and Greek Studies, contracted with Ashgate Publications UK for her book *The Poetics of Failure in Ancient Greece*. She has been working extensively on the topic of failure in classical literature and this past May presented the paper “Collective *aposiopesis* and the

Failure of the Ionian Revolt,” at the Annual General Meeting of the Classical Association of Canada, held at the University of Toronto. She also continues to be active on her projects, too: during the summer she presented the paper “ ‘Worth Visiting Greece for’: Dimitrios Vikelas and the Uniqueness of Olympia,” at the international conference *Sports, Society and Politics: Exploring Excellence*, co-sponsored by the Center for Hellenic Studies and the International Olympic Academy, in Olympia, Greece, and “Achilles, Melikertes, and the Perils of Immersion,” at the conference *Water and Greek Religion: Landscapes, Uses, Mythology*, at Tufts University in Boston and co-organized with the Université de Liège and the Université de Montréal . . . and still managed to teach 102 hours of Beginning Modern Greek in the Kallinikeion Institute this past August! Prof. Dova joined the department of Greek Studies in 2003. She teaches and publishes on Homeric epic, the concept of the hero in ancient Greek civilization, ancient and modern Greek language pedagogy, and reception studies. Prof. Dova’s books include *Greek Heroes in and out of Hades* (Lexington Books, 2012) and *Historical Poetics in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Greece: Essays in Honor of Lily Macrakis* (Center for Hellenic Studies, 2012).

## OFFICE OF VOCATION AND MINISTRY WORKSHOPS



### Leadership Workshop

On October 7th, students will participate in a Leadership Workshop led by HCHC trustee Tim Tassopoulos, Executive Vice President Operations for Chick-fil-A. This workshop, sponsored by the Office of Vocation & Ministry, will focus on how students can make great decisions during their time on campus and beyond. Decision-making is integrally related with vocation, and a critical task of servant leaders.

Mr. Tassopoulos most recently offered the keynote address at the Emerging Leaders Summit in March 2015. For more information, please contact Dr. Ann Bezzerides at [abezzerides@hchc.edu](mailto:abezzerides@hchc.edu).



### Career and Internship Forum

Janet Bates from Boston College will encourage Hellenic College students to begin thinking about and preparing for their future careers. She will also introduce students to the world of internships. Hellenic College faculty will discuss available internship opportunities, and alumni will share their experiences about transitioning into the workplace after college.

The event will take place on Thursday, October 15, 2015, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. in the Maliotis Cultural Center. Lunch will be provided. For more information, please contact Chrysoula Kourkounti at [ckourkounti@hchc.edu](mailto:ckourkounti@hchc.edu).

## FREE ONLINE TUTORING



Did you know that Hellenic College has partnered with SMARTHINKING to offer FREE online tutoring? That's right, students can now receive assistance up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in various subjects (see the complete list at <http://bit.ly/1i4dl32>).

SMARTHINKING has a staff of more than 1500 tutors worldwide who are trained to provide high-quality learning assistance to students. SMARTHINKING is not a homework answering or editing service. Instead, they strive to assist students in developing successful learning and problem-solving strategies that will help them succeed in the classroom. Remember, for us, it is all about the students.

## OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID



It's official! The Federal Department of Education has just released the National Student Loan Default Rates for all schools participating in the Federal Student Loan Program. Hellenic College Holy Cross was listed as having a zero default rate. By comparison, the average default rate for non-profit, private institutions like ours is 5.2%.\* Learn more at <http://1.usa.gov/1t27mBM>.

Outside scholarship foundations have already funded or have committed to fund 45 students for a total of \$133,000 in the first month of this academic year.

The Canadian Ministry of Advanced Education recently approved Hellenic College Holy Cross to provide Canadian citizens with student loans and grants, making us one of just a handful of U.S. institutions recognized by the Canadian government.

## THIRD BOSTON BYZANTINE MUSIC FESTIVAL, NOVEMBER 13 & 14, 2015

The third Boston Byzantine Music Festival highlights the influence of Byzantine music on modern and contemporary music in the East and West. On Friday, November 13, Holy Cross St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir joins the Boston Choral Ensemble in *The Angel Cried: A Concert of Eastern Orthodox Sacred Music*, a concert of works inspired by the rich chant tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Post-Byzantine ecclesiastical compositions by Petros the Peloponnesian will be performed alongside contemporary works by John Tavener, Arvo Pärt, and Ivan Moody.

On Saturday, November 14, Rebetoparea and acclaimed singer Gregory Maninakis will perform *From Constantinople through Smyrna to Piraeus: A Night of Byzantine Chant and Rebetika Songs*, featuring selections from all periods of the genre's history. Holy Cross St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir will showcase the pre-history of rebetiko, which is intimately connected to the ecclesiastical music of medieval and post-medieval Constantinople.

Fr. Ivan Moody and Panayotis League will present this year's lectures and workshop. For a full description of events, information about times and venues, and tickets, please visit [www.BostonByzantineMusic.org](http://www.BostonByzantineMusic.org). Sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture with the New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor.

**BOSTON BYZANTINE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**BOSTON CHORAL ENSEMBLE**  
REBETOPAREA with special appearance by GREGORY MANINAKIS

NOVEMBER 13 & 14, 2015

www.BostonByzantineMusic.org

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# FALL OPEN HOUSE

September 26, 2015



We are here to serve and not be served. We are about developing servant leaders who realize they are children of a King who loves them and cherishes their very being. Remember that, for us, “It’s all about the students.”

*Our mission is biblically based. Our vision is divinely inspired, and the community is devoted to Christ.*

We are about advancing Orthodox Christianity in America.  
Thank you for your support.

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