

PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017 | Volume III, Issue 1



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

As we begin the second semester of the 2016-17 academic year, it is my pleasure to welcome new full-time students to both Hellenic College and Holy Cross. I am also pleased to welcome those who have chosen to study in the Semester of Faith program that continues to expand and grow.

These students, combined with our returning undergraduate and graduate classes, represent the best of our Christian faith and a bright tomorrow. Inside this issue, you will have the opportunity to begin to acquaint yourself with their individual stories and collective community service and activities, including the Liturgy on the Streets mission.

Also in this issue, I am pleased to highlight the steadily increasing accomplishments of our Office of Institutional Advancement, which, along with the efforts of administrative and senior staff, contributed to the successful award of a \$1.5M grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. and a \$1M donation from the George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation to our school.

May Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the power of His Holy, Precious, Life-Giving Cross, keep, preserve, and bless you for your continued interest in and support of our sacred institution. We value and welcome your active involvement and participation in our perpetual admissions efforts to bring the Word of God to all people, and we love to hear from you.

In Christ,

Fr. Christopher

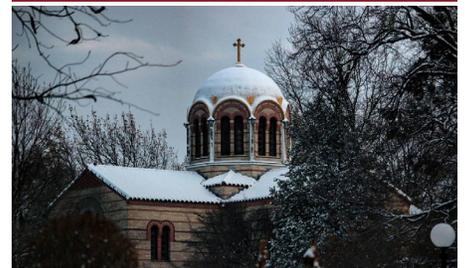
Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin
 President

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PAST SUPREME PRESIDENT OF AHEPA VISITS HCHC



Philip T. Frangos, past Supreme President of the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association (AHEPA) and a member for almost fifty years, generously spent most of the day on our campus November 3, 2016, along with his son, Themistocles. A native of Chicago, he was baptized there by Fr. Kokkinakis, who, as Bishop Athenagoras, later became Dean of Holy Cross and ultimately Archbishop of Great Britain. Mr. Frangos served in the Michigan state government for over 35 years. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Speaking to the Parish Administration class of more than 20 seminarians in the morning, Mr. Frangos shared the rich history of the organization, which was founded in 1922

to combat bigotry and racism in America and help Greek immigrants thrive in their new country. AHEPA has evolved over time, along with the Greek American community, while remaining steadfastly focused on philanthropy, education, and civic engagement. He also advised our future clergy on how parishes can and do interact with AHEPA. In the afternoon, Mr. Frangos addressed an audience of students from both schools, as well as faculty and staff, elaborating on themes and issues central to AHEPA and to the Orthodox community at large.

We are grateful to Mr. Frangos for honoring us with his visit and to AHEPA for its vital support over many years, at both the national and local levels, of our school and our students.

HCHC MISSIONS: LITURGY ON THE STREETS

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat."



"...you may think you are helping the people on the streets, but they actually end up helping you."

Before dawn on a frigid Saturday morning in December, eight of our students went into Boston for what they call Liturgy on the Streets—engaging with the many homeless who congregate on historic Boston Common. Thanks to a monetary donation from the Student Government Association and a clothing drive, the students were able to buy a number of backpacks and fill them with warm clothing, bottled water, and energy bars. They spent four hours in the bitter cold, talking to homeless individuals and distributing the backpacks, encouraging those who received them to share the contents with others.

Hellenic College student Anastasia Rauch described the day as “a wonderful experience because you may think you are helping the people on the streets, but they actually end up helping you. They teach you humility, sympathy, and how to be grateful for what you have. Most of the people I met did not complain about their situation once. It was very inspiring.”

HCHC HOSTS DONOR RECEPTION AND CONCERT



The annual HCHC Donor Appreciation Reception and Christmas Concert took place on Saturday, December 10. The gracious afternoon reception in the Reading Room was followed by a tour of the Archbishop Iakovos Collection conducted by the V. Rev. Dr. Archimandrite Joachim Cotsonis, Director of the Archbishop Iakovos Library. Guests were then treated to a concert of beautiful sacred and secular Christmas music in Greek and English by the Holy Cross St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir under the direction of Dr. Grammenos Karanos, Assistant Professor of Byzantine Liturgical Music. The afternoon ended with Vespers in Holy Cross Chapel served by our President, Rev. Fr. Christopher Metropulos.



THE ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS COLLECTION



Since its opening in 1998, the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Resource Center has been visited by thousands of people from around the world, and of course, by everyone who has studied and worked at HCHC. Yet many are unaware that the Library houses not only an enormous collection of books and other study resources but a museum full of extraordinary objects once owned by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory.

The permanent exhibition was designed and installed by His Grace Bishop Andonios of Phasiane with curatorial assistance from Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. Housed in a splendid domed space on the top floor of the Library, the collection includes His Eminence's personal effects, ranging from antique vestments, icons, and liturgical vessels to gifts and awards from numerous governments and societies, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, given by President Jimmy Carter. Among the many impressive objects on display are humbler, yet very moving ones, such as family photographs and small religious artifacts used by His Eminence for private devotions. Archbishop Iakovos also gave to the Library his personal archives and a number of very rare books, one of the earliest of which is the 1539 edition of Dionysios the Areopagite's *Ecclesiastical Hierarchy*.



WINTER ON THE HOLY HILL

HCHC Christmas Party, Trip to NYC, Epiphany,
Spring Orientation, and Synaxis





LIVIA HALLTARI

HELLENIC COLLEGE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Livia Halltari, a junior at Hellenic College, commutes to campus every day from her family's home in a suburb of Boston, but that trip—hard as it can be at rush hour—pales beside the family's epic journey that began in Tirana, Albania, where Livia was born during the unstable period that followed the end of Communist rule. While still an infant, she moved with her parents and older sister to Verona, Italy, only 500-some miles from Tirana but light-years away in terms of daily life. A decade later, the family made an even more major move to the United States, settling in the Boston area, where they have close friends and have remained ever since.

In thinking about colleges a few years ago, Livia “didn’t consider many others besides Hellenic.” She had visited the campus several times with her stepfather, Andis Nikolla, who received his MDiv from Holy Cross in 2000, and liked the atmosphere and the students she met. Especially appealing to her was the Management and Leadership Program, which augments classroom learning with ‘real-world’ internships. Last summer Livia interned at *Boston Review*, a highly respected magazine that covers global politics and economics as well as contemporary literature. That experience proved so rewarding that this young woman of the world hopes to work for just such a “small, independent, socially conscious” publication after graduation.



JASON YUAN

HOLY CROSS MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES PROGRAM



Growing up in China's Hunan province, Jason (Yongjia) Yuan never imagined that he would one day embrace Christianity, much less travel halfway around the world to enroll at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Yet his long journey, both literal and spiritual, has brought him to the HCHC campus with the goal of translating the works of the Church Fathers into Chinese.

Jason became a Christian in 2003 and was baptized the next year. He met his wife, Crystal Cui, at the Protestant church both attended in Beijing, and they were married there in 2011. Trying to discern God's plan for him, Jason began reading the Greek Fathers and became more and more interested in their wisdom. Last year he and Crystal quit their jobs in marketing communications, rented out their Beijing apartment, and with their two-year-old son, Caizi, came to Boston, where Jason enrolled in the Master of Theological Studies program at Holy Cross. He now hopes to go on to the Master of Theology program after he completes the two-year MTS to become more proficient in patristic Greek and eventually translate the entire *Philokalia* into Chinese.

About his ambitious plans, Jason says, “It is an adventure, but we trust in God. I have a dream that one day 1.3 billion Chinese will come to share my belief that Christianity is the only eternal hope of the Chinese people.”

HOLY CROSS PROFESSOR HOLMBERG AT ELEUSIS



On November 11, 2016, Eleusis, a primary spiritual center of ancient Greece, was named one of the three cultural capitals of Europe for 2021. Dr. Evie Zachariades Holmberg, Professor of Classics and Ecclesiastical/Patristic Greek Language and Literature at Holy Cross, and fellow members of an

academic advisory committee under the directive of Carl Ruck, Professor of Classics at Boston University, launched an initiative called the Gaia Project in order to raise awareness of the site's significance, with the objective of protecting Eleusis, reshaping the ecology of the surrounding area, and establishing a museum.

Eleusis is best known as the center of the most important mystery initiations in antiquity, but in recent times the area around the site has been inundated by industrial complexes, which have produced damaging pollution and hindered excavation efforts.

"The naming of Eleusis as a cultural capital of Europe for 2021 is a major step toward the realization of the Gaia Project's goals," Dr. Holmberg says. "It will certainly draw attention to the ancient and modern site on a universal scale and enhance the rich cultural activity which is already vibrant there." Dr. Holmberg has delivered several talks and presented papers on Eleusis at international conferences, "integrating the importance of these ancient mysteries within the domain of ancient spirituality, as well as within the early Christian Church as a point of reference for the early Christian Greek Fathers."

OFFICE OF VOCATION & MINISTRY NEWS

OVM RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION GRANT



The Office of Vocation & Ministry has received a \$1.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to establish the Telos Project, an initiative that will help Orthodox Christian parishes develop new ministries with young adults from 23-29 over a five-year period. The Endowment is one of the world's largest private philanthropic foundations and one of the few major foundations that fund religious endeavors. It affords special emphasis to projects that benefit young people.

Drawing on the biblical concept of *telos*, or end goal, this project will engage both young adults and whole congregations in focusing on their own end goals, as people

and as communities. Parishes will be invited to apply to join the Telos Project learning hub. Funding will allow teams from fourteen selected parishes to attend annual learning hub consultations in Boston, implement their work, and evaluate their learning. Information from this process will be shared with HCHC faculty so that they can incorporate the findings into their coursework and training of future clergy and lay leaders. Via a website, the project will have an impact far beyond the parishes directly involved.

HCHC's President, Rev. Fr. Christopher Metropoulos, believes that this innovative opportunity will be "a beacon of outreach and learning for our school."

LEARNING TO LEAD WITH EMPATHY

Last month, the Office of Vocation and Ministry at HCHC welcomed Karen Korellis Reuther, Vice President, Creative, VF Global Innovation Center, and Dieter Reuther, Transformation Facilitator, Cast Collective, for a workshop

about learning to lead with empathy. Following the presentation, students paired up, interviewed their partners, and then engaged in Lego Serious Play to build structures to represent what they had learned about one another.



HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS

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