Costas Consultations | Christians in the Middle East

In late March, the BTI’s annual Costas Consultations on Global Mission was held on our campus. The theme this year was the plight of Christians in the Middle East. The afternoon speaker was Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou of Harvard University. A short film entitled, “Displaced in their Homeland,” was also screened. It graphically depicted the catastrophic damage sustained by the Christian communities in the Middle East in recent years.

The keynote address was given in the evening by Bishop Elias Toume of Wadi Al Nassara in Syria, pictured right with Father Luke Veronis. He spoke candidly about the Syrian Church facing the struggles of the war. He told some incredible, personal stories about his peacekeeping efforts between warring factions. In fact, he made it a point to say how Christians have historically been called upon to be the peacekeepers in the region, and how they must continue to fulfill that role today.

It was a highly enlightening presentation, but one that was bittersweet. Syrians are faced with violence and death daily. He has embraced this reality, saying he is ready to die for his people at any moment. Therefore, his time with us was precious, and quite special.

The HCHC Missions Committee held a fundraiser for Bishop Elias that evening, providing an outlet for those in the audience to support the Bishop (beyond prayer). With generous donations, over $1,300 dollars was raised. Thank you to all those who attended and who helped with the fundraiser!

-Steven Sarigianis
Holy Cross Seminarian
Missions Committee President

Frozen in April

The class of 2016 sponsored a viewing of the Disney movie Frozen on April 7th for the entire HCHC Community. Kids of all ages were invited to join. Focusing on Great Lent, the theme was “Let it Go!” Let what other people think of you go, and have love in your heart.

-Diaconissa Vicki Cassis, vickicassis@sbcglobal.net

Senior Class Travels to Archdiocese in New York City

The Holy Cross class of 2014 travelled to NYC last month for its annual visit to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America headquarters. During the busy five day schedule graduating seniors listened to many different presentations which gave them an inside look into the Archdiocese. Hosted by His Grace Bishop Andonios, the presentations included Finance, Registry, Internet Ministries, Philoptochos, Leadership 100 and the Archons. They also took side trips to different ministry locations such as St Michael’s Home in Yonkers, New York and St Basil’s Academy in Garrison, New York. The week culminated with a lunch and discussion with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, after which the students had a private tour of the Byzantine exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Overall the class was thrilled with their experience and the opportunity to connect with so many different people.

-Dan Triant, Holy Cross Seminarian

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology!
May God bless you all!
My Fellow Students,

Christ is Risen!

It is with great joy in the Lord’s resurrection that I write this message as we approach the end of the academic year. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve all of you as President of the Student Government Association this past year and it is my sincerest hope and prayer that the President-Elect, Andrew Athanasiou, will serve you all well in his tenure as President as he seeks to have SGA strive for new heights.

Additionally, as we come ever closer to the end of the year, I implore all of you to become involved in the activities as it is never too late to become involved. We are blessed to have an active Campus Activities Board which has planned several major events for the end of the year. Among these are the Paschal Panigyri, the Boat Cruise, and the Dinner Dance. These events are most successful when we have greater student involvement and I not only look forward to seeing you all enjoy the festivities, but I also look forward to all of you taking some role in making these events possible.

Finally, I pray that as you all depart from the school this coming May 17th whether you are graduating, continuing your education, studying abroad, or preparing to engage in full-time ministry, that you keep the joy of Christ’s resurrection close to your heart. Specifically to the graduating seniors, I hope that you never forget your alma mater, your nursing mother, as this campus will always be a place you can call home. Praying that you all have a good remainder to your year and a spiritually edifying summer. I remain,

In the Risen Lord,
Michael Mercado
SGA President

The Maltese Falcon (1941) is a film starring Humphrey Bogart as Detective Sam Spade. The film follows Spade as he tries to unravel the mystery surrounding a priceless treasure - the legendary Maltese Falcon. When Spade finally obtains the Falcon, he comes to a startling realization. The treasure which everyone was pursuing so intently is actually a fake and completely worthless!

The S.L.C. would like to remind everyone that much of what society tells us to chase after is nothing more than fake treasure. Real treasure is available to everyone, but it's "hidden" in plain sight: in the Scriptures, in our Church services, and in loving our fellow human beings. As we end this academic year, the S.L.C. would like to leave you with this meditation for the coming months. We hope that it proves useful to you.

We would also like to acknowledge Fr. Stephen Callos for providing the inspiration for this article. A blessed summer to everyone. Christ is risen!

Cheers,
The SLC

Over the past year, I had the blessing of serving as the Campus Activities Board Director. It has been such an honor and I want to thank each of you for supporting this wonderful ministry! It is with great pleasure that I pass the torch to Gregory Gounardes, who through his love for our school and dedication to the program will do an incredible job next year.

We as CAB, however, do have some incredible events to end the school year! On May 11 from 9 PM-12 AM we are hosting the Boat Cruise. It is $5 to reserve a spot and in honor of Mother’s Day, all moms are able to attend free of charge! The Dinner Dance will take place on May 17 from 6:30 PM-12 AM. Currently, we are tabling outside the cafeteria during lunch hours to collect all cash and checks. Credit card payments can be done online. Along with paying, please be sure to register. Also, as a reminder, all seniors are able to attend free of charge! If you have any questions regarding these events, please contact me at alyssoloutsion@hchc.edu. I pray you have a great end of the year. It’s been an honor serving each of you through CAB!

-Alyssa Loutsion
MDiv Candidate

Dear HCHC,

Christos Anesti!

It has been a great honor and privilege to have been able to serve the community in various capacities at the Holy Cross Chapel for all my four years of study here at HCHC. Now as my final semester comes to a close, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome Steve Sarigianis who will continue his service to our Chapel as Ecclesiarch in the coming school year. I trust that he and his team will continue in their excellent service. Good luck to all those who are continuing with their studies, and congratulations to all those graduating.

Tasso Theodoropoulos
Ecclesiarch
Holy Cross Chapel
2013-2014

Congratulations to the Basketball Intramural Champions!
The Women’s Champions, “Team Angeliki” was made up of two alumni of HCHC Sophia Kon and Angeliki Constantine, and current graduate student Alyssa Loutsion pictured above. They are shaking hands with Andrew Athanasiou, Holy Cross Seminarian and intramural organizer.

Pictured right is “Team Sarris” the Men’s Champions, in order from left to right are Paul Cardoos, Steven Sarigianis, Michael Clemente and Tommy Felactu.

Pictured above in order from left to right are Father Ted Stylianopoulos, Father Nick Triantafilou, and Father Peter Chamberas with the HCHC Community during the Holy Resurrection Service.