

PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018 | Volume IV, Issue 3



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write to you, another busy day on the Holy Hill is drawing to a close. The windows of my office overlook the roadway between our historic Cavadas Administration Building and the classroom building that also houses the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Center and the Leadership 100 Fitness Center. This roadway is HCHC's 'Main Street' and the people I see passing by at this golden hour represent in microcosm all of the diverse elements that populate our village-like campus. Some of our students are chatting animatedly with their

professors after their last classes, some are pushing their children in strollers, some are simply pausing for a moment with their faces upturned to the sun, enjoying the unseasonably warm weather.

In a few minutes, most of these passersby and I will be following the sound of the bells summoning the faithful to Vespers in Holy Cross Chapel. You can't imagine how it lifts my heart to see people of every age and from so many parts of the country and the world gathered together in worship. Whatever the day has brought them, good or bad, they know that they will be reminded in Chapel of Christ's love for them and of their place in the very special community that is Hellenic College Holy Cross.

In this issue, you will read about some of the amazing individuals who make HCHC what it is: students with captivating stories, faculty members who are doing impressive things, a child genius, an HCHC-based center dedicated to celebrating Byzantine culture, our new Pre-Law program, and more. I hope you will find these articles compelling and inspiring. If there are aspects of life at our school—*your* school—that you would like us to highlight in future issues, please let us know.

May our common journey through Great and Holy Lent deepen our faith and our commitment to living our lives in accordance with the teachings and example of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In His Service,



Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin
President

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HCHC OBSERVES CLEAN MONDAY

On Monday, February 19, the Hellenic College Holy Cross community observed the start of Great Lent with a day-long retreat that began with Orthros in Holy Cross Chapel. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, delivered the keynote address, in which he elaborated on the themes highlighted in this year's Lenten Encyclical [read the full text on our website]. His Eminence exhorted the students, staff, faculty, and visitors in attendance to see Great Lent as "a transformative journey" in which prayer, fasting, and self-examination are key elements that prepare the faithful for the ultimate gift of the glorious Resurrection. After the morning service, students gathered in breakout discussion groups and later had time for individual reflection and meetings with their spiritual fathers before Vespers. The day concluded with Great Compline.



JAHARIS CENTER NEWS



The Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture is dedicated to promoting and advancing knowledge about the rich cultural heritage of the Byzantine Empire through a wide range of resources and programs. Since its establishment at HCHC in 2010, thanks to a generous gift from the Jaharis Family Foundation, the Center has greatly increased awareness and appreciation of Byzantium's legacy among scholars and the broader public.

One of the Center's most significant contributions to its area of concentration and to Boston's importance as a cultural capital is the Boston Byzantine Music Festival, which it co-sponsors with the New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor. The fifth Festival, which concludes later this month, has presented a number of noteworthy events focused on Byzantine music and related medieval and Mediterranean musical traditions.

In November the Center presented a two-day symposium in partnership with the New England Conservatory's Intercultural Institute. The symposium included two concerts, one of them featuring our Holy Cross St. Romanos the Melodist Choir among the groups performing. Other November programs focused on the art of chanting in various forms. February programs also explored different chant traditions, from Byzantine to Gregorian to Judaic, as well as the music of Greece and Cyprus. On March 24, HCHC will host two workshops led by jazz pianist and composer Lefteris Kordis. For more information, please visit the Center's website: <https://maryjahariscenter.org/events>.

ANSWERING THE CALL: WILLIAM MAILLIS



There is nothing unusual about seeing college students and children on our campus, but HCHC recently hosted a most unusual visitor who is both a college student and a child. Eleven-year-old William (Vasilios) Maillis is one of the youngest people ever to graduate from a public high school—at the ripe old age of nine—and will soon have his associate's degree from St. Petersburg College in Florida. His long-term goal is to earn a doctorate in astrophysics and ultimately prove scientifically that God exists.

On February 22, the HCHC community had the opportunity to hear William and his father, Fr. Peter (Panteleimon) Maillis, a graduate of both Hellenic College and Holy Cross, converse with Fr. Christopher Metropulos, HCHC President, onstage at the Maliotis Cultural Center. The conversation was the latest in a series of Presidential Encounters themed "Answering the Call" in which, Fr. Christopher explains, "We invite Orthodox Christians who are doing extraordinary things in their lives to share their experiences with us."

Guided by questions from Fr. Christopher and later by audience members, William demonstrated that he is indeed a child genius but also a regular kid who credits his family and his faith with keeping him on a steady course through a childhood marked by stunningly precocious developmental milestones. "I may be more book-smart than most kids my age, but I like a lot of the same things that they do, normal stuff like video games and watching TV," he said.

William's interest in proving the existence of God began "when I was about five or six" and has evolved into a complex theory that he hopes one day to prove. Although his summary of that theory may have gone over the heads of many of his listeners, the driving force behind it was clear: "Science and theology don't have to be separate... Scientific knowledge is a gift from God, like everything else. We need to learn more about our faith and about where we are in the universe." Recounting the parable of the talents, William said, "We need to invest our talents, our gifts that we have from God, and not just bury them." For this young man with his eyes on both the heavens and Our Father in Heaven, it seems safe to say that the sky is the limit.



JAMES NEMKOVICH | HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2020

Ask James Nemkovich a seemingly simple question—Where are you from?—and he will pause, smiling, because the answer is not so simple. James called many places home before coming to Holy Cross. After growing up on the West Coast, James joined the United States Coast Guard, which took him all over the world.



"I served for thirteen years as an electronics and fire-control technician both on land and sea in a variety of locations, including Alaska and Hawaii," he says. "My time aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Jarvis took me to Japan, Russia, Tahiti, and Costa Rica. I also served as a Russian interpreter while at sea and later was an instructor at the US Navy Fleet Training Center in Norfolk, Virginia, and the Coast Guard Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia." During his military career, James earned a bachelor's degree in intelligence studies through the American Military University.

While in Minsk, Belarus, James began going to an Orthodox church. When he returned to America, he realized that there were many different kinds of churches. He visited a few, but soon knew that he wanted the same experience that he had had in Belarus. Before coming to HCHC, he chanted with the choir at a Russian Orthodox church and later studied Byzantine chant at a Greek Orthodox church. While in Hawaii, James got to know an OCA priest in Honolulu and was so impressed with his ministry that "I felt inspired by him to consider becoming a priest myself. I ultimately gave up my enlisted career to enter the Master of Divinity program at Holy Cross in order to serve Jesus Christ.

While I could have studied for the priesthood at other schools, I felt that I would receive the best theological education here and I wanted to learn Greek and study Byzantine chant more fully than would be possible elsewhere."

Now in his second year as a seminarian, James is certain that he made the right choice. "HCHC is a unique institution of learning characterized by a warmth you won't find in many other schools. Even the faculty—just to take two examples, Fr. Dragas and Dr. Dova are favorites of mine because of their mastery of and love for what they teach and also for their warm and inspiring personalities." James, his Russian-born wife Maria, and their son John enjoy living on campus and getting to know the other families who, like them, have come to HCHC from many different places, yet with a common goal.

"My hope is to serve the Orthodox Church as a priest after graduation, maybe as a military chaplain. In whatever role, I would like to inspire future generations to seek a life of commitment to Jesus Christ and His commandments to love God and one another."

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Stamatia (Mata) Dova, director of HCHC's Greek Studies program, presented a paper on "Procne, Philomela, and the Voice of the Peplos" at the annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies, held in Boston from January 4-7, 2018.

Dr. Nicholas Ganson, Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Hellenic College, has been chosen to serve on the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR) Centenary Committee, which is preparing for the hundredth anniversary of ROCOR in 2020. He will be organizing and editing three publications on ROCOR history: a primary source collection, a volume of scholarly articles, and a commemorative album.

Dr. Alice McIntyre, Professor and Director of the Elementary Education program at Hellenic College, has had her book prospectus accepted by the State University of New York Press. The book's title is *A Meeting of the Minds: Teaching Fifth-Graders How to Practice Mindfulness*. She also contributed a chapter on mindfulness as a pedagogical tool to an award-winning book and published an article on the same topic in the journal *Teacher Education and Practice*.

Rev. Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Holy Cross, delivered the keynote address at a conference on "Deep Roots, Deep Faith: Orthodox-Catholic Encounter" on February 18, 2018, at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. The conference was sponsored by the University of St. Thomas and the Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in cooperation with the local Orthodox parishes. Fr. Thomas spoke on the theme "From Communion to Schism to Reconciliation."

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Clapsis, Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Orthodox Theology at Holy Cross, recently participated in a conference on "The Political, Religious, and Spiritual Dimension of the Economic AND Refugee Crisis" in Europe. The conference, under the aegis of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, took place February 20-23 at the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. Fr. Clapsis presented the initial paper discussing the Church's response to the crisis and also gave a lecture at the Theological School of the Aristotle University on "The Dynamics of Interfaith Dialogue."

HELLENIC COLLEGE NOW OFFERS PRE-LAW PROGRAM

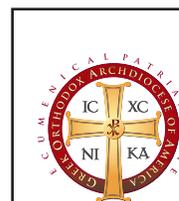
Hellenic College's innovative new Pre-Law program prepares students for eventual admission to law school and future success in their legal education and careers. The program encourages students to choose majors in which they can develop the reading, writing, and analytical skills that they will need to succeed in law school. In consultation with a Pre-Law advisor, students select courses that will help them prepare for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) and the academic rigor of law school. They also have opportunities to intern in legal settings.

The Pre-Law program will:

1. equip students with the necessary academic skills to succeed in law school
2. introduce students to the broad applicability of legal degrees and the legal profession
3. provide students with an opportunity to volunteer in a professional setting related to the legal profession

Hellenic College will also be offering a 'Three Plus Three' program in partnership with five law schools in the near future. This program provides a fast track to a law degree in six years, rather than the standard seven, during which a participating student can receive a bachelor's degree from Hellenic College and then a Juris Doctor degree from one of these top law schools:

- UMass School of Law, Dartmouth, Massachusetts
- Western New England School of Law, Springfield, Massachusetts
- Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont
- Duquesne Law School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens, Florida



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CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS
July 1-5, 2018 | Boston, MA

Join us July 3 for a full day of events
on the HCHC campus!

HELLENIC COLLEGE

ANDREANA KLEIN, Hellenic College freshman
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Andreana was one of 4,300 students at her high school. With an interest in theatre, she wasn't sure that Hellenic College, a small school with no theatre department, would be a good fit for her. But she also loved working with children and "I really wanted a place where the Church could still be a part of my life."

So she applied to Hellenic and took advantage of the Applicant Overnight program, which allows prospective students to experience every aspect of life at HCHC, from sharing meals with current students to sitting in on classes to spending a night in the dorm. That made all the difference to her, and she thinks anyone interested in enrolling here "should definitely come and have that experience."

Andreana is majoring in Elementary Education and looks forward to a career as a teacher of young children, but is already combining her love of teaching and her interest in theatre by working with children as a volunteer every week at the historic Footlight Club, the oldest community theatre in America.



NICHOLAS METROPULOS, Hellenic College freshman
Boca Raton, Florida

It's the rare freshman—at Hellenic or any other college—who arrives on campus with impressive entrepreneurial experience, but Nick Metropulos is just such an individual. He is the Executive Director of a Florida-based nonprofit organization called Fishing for Families in Need, founded by his older brother Lucas in 2007, which serves disadvantaged children by teaching them fishing and life skills and also provides nutritious fresh fish from local tournaments to soup kitchens. "All of my free time goes to that," he admits, "but I'm not unusual in my family. All of my brothers and sisters—I'm the youngest of six—have started nonprofits."

Not surprisingly, Nick is majoring in Management and Leadership and especially enjoys the Business and Society course, which addresses issues of compelling interest to him and is taught by Jason Dupuis, "a really engaging professor." As if juggling a full course load and running a nonprofit long-distance aren't enough to keep Nick busy, he also serves as one of HCHC's Presidential Ambassadors, who visit parishes around the country to raise awareness about the school.

Although Hellenic might seem like the obvious choice for Nick, since he is the son of Fr. Christopher Metropulos, HCHC's President, he maintains that it was by no means a foregone conclusion. "I applied to a number of schools, but this really is the ideal place for me. I wanted to be in the Boston area, yet not right in the city or too far out. And I love how close-knit and friendly everybody is."



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

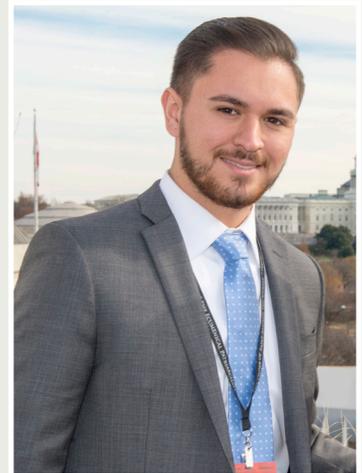
PANAYIOTIS (PANOS) COUFOS, Holy Cross first-year seminarian
Salem, New Hampshire

When Panos graduated from Northeastern University with a degree in industrial engineering and several job offers in that field, he could have made a smooth transition to a rewarding career as an engineer. Yet something was pulling him in a very different direction—toward the Master of Divinity program at Holy Cross.

"I grew up coming to lots of events on this campus and also got to know a number of seminarians at the Metropolis camp," the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in his home state of New Hampshire. "Meeting those seminarians and hearing them chant had quite an impact. Their zeal really rubbed off on me," he recalls. "And while I was still in college, I got involved with a variety of Church ministries and became program director at the Metropolis camp," a position he still holds.

Now in his second semester as a seminarian, Panos says, "It's great to be in a community of people so passionate about the Orthodox Faith and the future of the Church." Enthusiastic about all of his courses, he especially enjoys learning New Testament Greek and Liturgics.

Asked what advice he might give to those considering Holy Cross, Panos replies, "They should come see who we are, what we're about. This place will help you channel your faith to become an agent of God's grace."



JADE AUSTIN, Holy Cross Master of Theological Studies program
Mustang, Oklahoma

Working in radiation oncology, Jade had the satisfaction of knowing that she was helping people with cancer. "It was what I thought I was going to do with the rest of my life." But over time she began to feel herself burning out at work and also searching "for a new church, for the ultimate truth about Christ."

A casual visit to the annual festival at St. George's Orthodox Church in Oklahoma City sparked Jade's curiosity about Orthodoxy. She began attending services and learning all she could. "What drew me in was the rich liturgical life and the lives of the saints," she remembers. When she became Orthodox, the pastor of St. George's, Fr. John Tsaras, encouraged her to apply to Holy Cross, from which he graduated in 1996. Jade is now in her first year of the two-year MTS program, in which students gain proficiency in and understanding of Orthodox history and theology.

Although going back to school and living in a dorm took some initial adjustment, Jade is thriving at Holy Cross and loves "being around people who make you want to be a better person." About the future beyond the MTS, she says, "I want to go on to the ThM [Master of Theology] program and eventually pursue an academic career."



HCHC STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Evangelia Zampeti, a Hellenic College sophomore from Thessaloniki majoring in Human Development, volunteers weekly at the Italian Home for Children near our campus. The Italian Home provides programs for children with emotional, behavioral, and educational special needs. "It was my first choice as a place to volunteer because I love working with kids and it's what I want to do in the future."

The Italian Home is one of a number of local organizations where students in Hellenic College's Community Engagement course can fulfill both the requirement to perform volunteer service and Christ's command to love our neighbors as ourselves.



SAVE THE DATE



HCHC SEVENTY-SIXTH COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 19, 2018

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