



*The 83rd  
Commencement  
Saturday, May 17, 2025*



## Events



### Orthros

Eight o'clock in the morning  
Holy Cross Chapel

### Archieratical Divine Liturgy

Nine o'clock in the morning  
Holy Cross Chapel

### Celebrant

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

### Commencement Exercises

Following the Divine Services  
Twelve o'clock Noon  
Maliotis Cultural Center Auditorium



## Απολυτίκιον



Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου,  
καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς  
Βασιλεῦσι,  
κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος,  
καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων,  
διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.



Save, O Lord, Your people  
and bless Your inheritance,  
grant victory to the faithful  
against the adversaries of the faith,  
and protect Your people,  
by the power of Your Cross.



# Program

## PROCESSIONAL

"Pomp and Circumstance"

Edward Elgar

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Very Rev. Fr. Bartholomew Mercado, S.E.O.D.

*Dean of Students*

## INVOCATION

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

*Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America,*

*Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

## MUSICAL OPENING

Χριστός Ἀνέστη / Christ is Risen

Traditional

Σῶσον Κύριε / Save, O Lord, Your People

Traditional

Ὕμνος εἰς τὴν Ἐλευθερίαν

Dionysios Solomos

The Star-Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key

Holy Cross St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir

conducted by Rev. Fr. Romanos Karanos, PhD

*Assistant Professor of Byzantine Liturgical Music*

## SALUTATION

Demetrios S. Katos, PhD

*President, Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*

## GREETINGS

Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis

*Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees*

Debbie George

*National Philoptochos Society President*

Symeon Tegos

*The Honorable Consul General of Greece*

Demetrios G. Logothetis

*Chairman, Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund*

Paulette Poulos

*Executive Director, Leadership 100*

# Program

## REMARKS

Nicholas Ganson, PhD

*Interim Dean, Hellenic College*

Rev. Fr. Eugen J. Pentiuc, PhD, ThD, DD

*Dean, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*

## VALEDICTORY ADDRESSES

Faeli Kathryn Karcher

*Hellenic College Valedictorian*

Rev. Dn. Ephraim Awad

*Holy Cross Valedictorian*

## CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREES

### Citation

Nicholas Ganson, PhD

*Interim Dean, Hellenic College*

### Conferral

Demetrios S. Katos, PhD

*President, Hellenic College Holy Cross*

### Recipient

Helen A. Carlos

*Doctor of Humanities*

### Citation

Rev. Fr. Eugen J. Pentiuc, PhD, ThD, DD

*Dean, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*

### Conferral

Demetrios S. Katos, PhD

*President, Hellenic College Holy Cross*

### Recipient

Rev. Fr. Alexander Karloutsos

*Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne*

*Doctor of Divinity*



# Program

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

### Presentation of Candidates

Nicholas Ganson, PhD  
*Interim Dean, Hellenic College*

Rev. Fr. Eugen J. Pentiuc, PhD, ThD, DD  
*Dean, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*

Conferral  
Demetrios S. Katos, PhD  
*President, Hellenic College Holy Cross*

Hooding of Graduates  
Hellenic College Holy Cross Alumni Association

Paterexhortatory  
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
*Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

Benediction  
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
*Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

Recessional  
Ἀναστάσεως Ἡμέρα                      Petros Peloponnesios  
Holy Cross St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir  
conducted by Rev. Fr. Romanos Karanos, PhD  
*Assistant Professor of Byzantine Liturgical Music*

# Board of Trustees

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, *Chairman*  
Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis, *Vice Chairman*  
Demetrios S. Katos, PhD, *President*  
Rev. Nicholas Anctil, *Secretary*  
Paul Kalamaras, *Treasurer*

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His Eminence Metropolitan  
Savas of Pittsburgh

His Eminence Metropolitan  
Gerasimos of San Francisco

His Eminence Metropolitan  
Sevastianos of Atlanta

His Eminence Metropolitan  
Apostolos of New Jersey

His Eminence Metropolitan  
Nathanael of Chicago

His Eminence Metropolitan  
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Gregory Cokinos

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Frank Mihalopoulos

Joanne S. Mitchell

Mark Moraitakis

George T. Orfanakos

Demetrios Papacostas

William Spell

Timothy Tassopoulos

Rev. Fr. Elias Villis

Stephanie Wilcox

Kathryn B. Yatrakis, PhD

Christine Zeppos, EdD

### EX-OFFICIO

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*Executive Vice President for  
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*Director of Enrollment*

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*Interim Dean of Hellenic College*

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*Vice President for Institutional  
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*Executive Director of the  
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S.E.O.D.  
*Dean of Students*

Rev. Fr. Peter Orfanakos

Rev. Fr. Michael Palamara

Rev. Fr. Eugen J. Pentiuc, PhD, ThD, DD  
*Dean of Holy Cross School  
of Theology*

Erika Prijatelj, PhD  
*Hellenic College Faculty Representative*

James Skedros, ThD  
*Holy Cross Faculty Representative*

# Hellenic College Faculty



## FULL-TIME FACULTY

**Nicholas Ganson, PhD**

*Interim Dean and Associate Professor of History,  
Co-director of the Literature and History Program,  
Co-director of the Liberal Studies Program,  
Director of the New York Life Insurance Company Center for the Study of  
Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor*

**Bruce Beck, ThD**

*Assistant Professor of New Testament*

**Stamatia Dova, PhD**

*Professor of Classics and Greek Studies,  
Director of the Classics and Greek Studies Program, Director of the Kallinikeion Institute*

**Erika Prijatelj, PhD**

*Assistant Professor and Director of the Psychology and Human Development Program*

**Kathleen Ryan, EdD**

*Professor of Literature,  
Director of the Minor in Education,  
Co-director of the Literature and History Program, Co-director of the Liberal Studies Program*

**James Skedros, ThD**

*Michael G. and Anastasia Cantonis Professor of Byzantine Studies and Professor of Early Christianity*

**Tone Svetelj, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Theology,  
Director of the Minor in Philosophy, Interim Director of the Business Management Program*

**Rev. Fr. Philip Zymaris, ThD**

*Associate Professor of Liturgics (Holy Cross),  
Interim Director of the Theology Program (Hellenic College)*

## PROFESSORS EMERITI

**John Chirban, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus, Psychology*

**Ellen Lanzano, PhD**

*Professor Emerita, Literature and History*

**Lily Macrakis, PhD**

*Professor Emerita, Modern European History*

**Alice McIntyre, PhD**

*Professor Emerita, Elementary Education*

**Aristotle Michopoulos, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus, Classics and Greek Studies*

# Holy Cross Faculty



## FULL-TIME FACULTY

**Rev. Fr. Eugen J. Pentiuc, PhD, ThD, DD**

*Dean, Archbishop Demetrios Professor of Biblical Studies and Christian Origins,  
Distinguished Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages*

**Bruce Beck, ThD**

*Assistant Professor of New Testament and Director of Enrollment*

**Rev. Fr. John Chrysavgis, PhD**

*Executive Director of Huffington Ecumenical Institute at HCHC, Professor of Theology*

**His Grace Bishop Joachim of Amissos, PhD**

*Director of the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Resource Center*

**Philip Mamalakis, PhD**

*Associate Professor of Pastoral Care*

**Very Rev. Fr. Bartholomew Mercado, S.E.O.D.**

*Chaplain, Dean of Students, Assistant Professor of Canon Law*

**Rev. Fr George Parsenios, PhD**

*Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Orthodox Theology, Professor of New Testament*

**Timothy Patitsas, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics*

**James C. Skedros, ThD**

*Michael G. and Anastasia Cantonis Professor of Byzantine Studies, Professor of Early Christianity*

**Rev. Fr. Philip Zymaris, ThD**

*Associate Professor of Liturgics*

## PROFESSORS EMERITI

**Rev. Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas, ThD**

*Professor of Liturgics Emeritus*

**Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Clapsis, PhD**

*Professor of Dogmatics Emeritus*

**Rev. Fr. George D. Dragas, PhD, DD, ThD**

*Professor of Patristics Emeritus*

**Photios Ketsetzis**

*Professor of Byzantine Music Emeritus*

**Lewis Patsavos, ThD**

*Professor of Canon Law Emeritus*

**Rev. Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, ThD**

*Professor of New Testament Emeritus*

# Class of 2025



## HELLENIC COLLEGE

### Bachelor of Arts

Loukas Agoris\*  
Athena Theodora Bourdaniotis  
Gabriel Titus Fahling\*\*\*  
Oliver Fisher\*  
Nilab Noel Ghauri  
Faeli Kathryn Karcher\*\*\*  
Kale Christian Hiller  
Kostantinos Kazantzis  
Dimitrios Konstantinou †  
Joseph Silouan Zeke Schafer\*\*  
Zoe Galloway Schafer\*\*\*  
Jonathan D. Spies  
Isabel Charissa Timko  
Petra Kosmia Danas Vaporis\*\*\*

### Certificate of Sacred Arts

Isabel Charissa Timko  
Petra Kosmia Danas Vaporis

## HOLY CROSS

### Certificate in Byzantine Music

Rev. Dn. Ephraim Awad  
Thomas Carroll  
Zachary Luke Hartlep  
Jamil Alexander Samara

### Certificate in Youth & Young Adult Leadership & Ministry

Christina Dager

\*with distinction  
\*\*with high distinction  
\*\*\*with highest distinction

†Degree to be awarded upon completion of final requirements

# Class of 2025



## Master of Theology

Rev. Fr. Jonathan Bannon\*\*  
Rev. Dn. Justin Bosl\*\*\*  
Athanasios T. Chatzis\*\*\*  
Stephen Mark Girard\*\*\*  
Alexander Stephen Karcher\*\*†  
Rev. Dn. Nabin Shrestha  
Reuben Joseph Thomas\*\*†

## Master of Theological Studies

Stepheny Antrobus\*\*  
Gregory Carty  
George Leluashvili\*\*  
Jack Metry\*\*  
Joseph Metry\*\*  
Jacob A. Mueller\*\*  
Rev. Dn. Vasili G. Yacalis\*\*\*  
Zijia Pan

## Master of Divinity

Rev. Dn. Ephraim Awad\*\*\*  
Rev. Fr. Jacob Bourassa\*  
Lukas Austin Breen\*\*\*  
Nicholas John Dafulas\*\*\*  
Kevin Cornelius Grandberry\*  
Rev. Fr. Anastasios Hallas  
Nicholas Anthony Kokkales\*  
Matthew James Power\*\*  
Joshua Rognstad\*  
Emmanuel Salem\*  
Rev. Dn. Anargyros Stakias\*

\*with distinction  
\*\*with high distinction  
\*\*\*with highest distinction

†Degree to be awarded upon completion of final requirements



# Honorary Doctor of Humanities



HELLENIC COLLEGE

HELEN A. CARLOS

## Citation for the Honorary Degree Doctor of Humanities

Visionary philanthropist, tireless advocate for Orthodox Christian education, and devoted servant of the Church, you have labored with love and leadership on behalf of Hellenic College Holy Cross and the broader Greek Orthodox community. Through your longstanding commitment to faith, learning, and service, you have shaped generations of seminarians, students, and emerging leaders in the life of the Church.

With wisdom and foresight, you founded the St. Helen's Pilgrimage, offering seminarians the gift of journeying to the heart of global Orthodoxy. Through your generous support of the CrossRoad Summer Institute, you have guided Orthodox youth to discern their vocation. In every endeavor—on the Executive Committee of our Board of Trustees, in your leadership of our 75th Anniversary Celebration, and through your passionate advocacy for the advancement of Hellenic College Holy Cross—you have advanced the mission of Christ and His Church with courage, zeal, and compassion.

For your steadfast faith, your transformative generosity, and your inspiring example of Christian leadership, we honor you.

Thus, Helen A. Carlos, we are most thankful to you for allowing us the singular privilege and great joy of bestowing upon you our sacred institution's highest honor, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, ΤΙΜ-ΗΣ ΕΝΕΚΕΝ.

May your devotion and faithfulness continue to be a beacon to all who seek to serve the Lord and His people.

"Well done, good and faithful servant."  
Matthew 25:21



# Honorary Doctor of Humanities



HELEN A. CARLOS

Helen A. Carlos has long been a driving force behind the advancement of Hellenic College Holy Cross and the broader work of the Greek Orthodox Church. As a distinguished Trustee and Executive Committee Member of the HCHC Board, she has played an instrumental role in strengthening the School's academic programs, spiritual formation initiatives, and institutional stability.

Helen is the visionary founder and benefactor of the St. Helen's Pilgrimage, an immersive program for senior seminarians that connects them to global Orthodoxy through travel to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Mount Athos, the Holy Land, and Thessaloniki. Her enduring support for the CrossRoad Summer Institute and the Office of Vocation & Ministry reflects a deep commitment to preparing the next generation of Orthodox leaders.

In addition to her role at HCHC, Helen serves on the Executive Committee of the Archdiocesan Council, is a member of Leadership 100, and has provided substantial support to the Metropolis of Atlanta's Diakonia Retreat Center and the St. Photios National Shrine. She was awarded the Medal of Saint Paul, the highest honor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, in recognition of her faithful service and generosity.

Helen credits her late parents, Andrew and Eula Carlos, for instilling in her a lifelong commitment to the Church and philanthropic service. She also expresses heartfelt gratitude to her husband, Ron Hilliard, whose steadfast love and support have enabled her to continue this work with passion and perseverance.



# *Honorary Doctor of Humanities*



HELEN A. CARLOS



It was a beautiful fall weekend in 2003. I was accompanying my Mom to Hellenic College Holy Cross to celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Holy Spirit blessed me that weekend with an Epiphany. It was absolutely clear that this beloved school is the vital organ of our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in America. It was from that weekend that the health and success of HCHC was of the upmost importance in my service to our Church.

As the years progressed, I became a trustee of HCHC through the unique and uncanny vision of Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou. My husband, Ron and I began traveling the country from Hawaii to Nassau. We brought students with us many times, and many times, it was just ourselves. We hosted small gatherings in many parishes and attended larger events. Our goal was to educate the faithful as to the importance of HCHC. Because, you see, I was one of the cradle Orthodox who had very little knowledge of our school prior to 2003. Among our great blessings has been getting to know our students, our Hierarchs, our clergy, our Presbyteres and the faithful. Our bonus blessing has been the lasting friendships we have cultivated with our Orthodox brothers and sisters with whom we share the same love for Jesus Christ and His Church.

I will share one of my warmest blessings in our ministry among many. During the weeks following up to our first HCHC fundraising dinner in Atlanta at the Annunciation Cathedral, one of our widowed parishioners, Augustina Kouros of blessed memory, approached me. She said, Eleni, I do not have enough for a dinner ticket, but I would like to give you what I have for the school. I now know that it is important for us and our church. She gave me twenty dollars. With tears in my eyes, I thanked and hugged her. We made sure that she had a seat at our dinner. The verses from Luke 21:1-4 came to mind. What an example of sacrificial giving this sweet woman was!

To our graduates, CONGRATULATIONS!



# *Honorary Doctor of Humanities*



Your achievements are noteworthy, and you should be proud! Now, the real work begins as you embark on your ministry outside this beautiful campus on the Holy Hill. You will be met with joys and obstacles. You may be surprised at those who oppose your ideas, comments or actions. At these times, always remember that your service is to Christ and His Church. Here, at HCHC you have learned and gathered the tools necessary to move forward. In your upcoming ministry, you will gain practical knowledge. Do not be fearful of mistakes. Mistakes often are the times in which we grow and grow stronger in our faith. As St. Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 4:7 (I am using present tense), "fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith"!

Hellenic College Holy Cross will forever be in my heart and soul. I am eternally grateful to the Lord for giving me this opportunity to serve. He has awarded me with my amazing husband and partner, Ron! Without his love, support and his sharing our ministry, our journey up to now would not have been possible.

My parents Andrew and Eula/Kyriaki Carlos of blessed memory were faithful servants of our Church in many ways. They were shining examples of servant leaders without the need for fanfare or recognition for their service and philanthropic deeds. I am grateful and blessed.

Thank you to Fr. Jim Katinas for his tireless support, pastoral love and friendship throughout the years.

I extend my congratulations to Fr. Alex Karloutsos on the awarding of his Honorary Degree.

Thank you to all past and present of the HCHC family. These past many years have been the most fulfilling, fruitful, joyous and honestly sometimes trying days in my life. Thank you to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and the Board of Trustees: I am humbled by this honor. I accept this Honorary Degree on behalf of all the faithful Orthodox Christians who have worked tirelessly along side me for these many years in order to increase awareness and support for Hellenic College Holy Cross.

*With love and gratitude,*

*Helen A. Carlos  
Your sister in Christ*





# *Honorary Doctor of Divinity*



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**REV. FR. ALEXANDER KARLOUTSOS,**

*Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne*

**Citation for the Honorary Degree  
Doctor of Divinity**

Beloved priest, gifted shepherd, and tireless defender of the Orthodox Christian faith, your ministry has spanned decades of transformative service to Christ's Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. With unwavering devotion, spiritual discernment, and a profound sense of mission, you have brought the light of Orthodoxy into the halls of power, the hearts of the faithful, and the soul of a nation.

As Spiritual Advisor to the Order of Saint Andrew and to FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy & Hellenism, and Vicar General of the Archdiocese, you have served as a bridge between the Church and the world, advancing religious freedom and human dignity with courage and conviction. Your leadership in founding and fundraising



# *Honorary Doctor of Divinity*



for the Saint Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero, the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in Southampton, NY, and the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem reflects a heart wholly given to the sacred, the beautiful, and the eternal.

Elevated by the Ecumenical Patriarch to the rank of Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne, honored by presidents and patriarchs alike, and revered by clergy and laity throughout the world, you have been a voice of wisdom, a vessel of compassion, and a faithful servant of the Gospel.

Thus, Reverend Father Alexander Karloutsos, we are most thankful to you for allowing us the singular privilege and great joy of bestowing upon you our sacred institution's highest honor, the degree of Doctor of Divinity, ΤΙΜΗΣ ΕΝΕΚΕΝ.

May your life of priestly devotion, public witness, and personal sacrifice continue to inspire all who seek to follow Christ with faith, fidelity, and love.

"Well done, good and faithful servant."  
Matthew 25:21



# Honorary Doctor of Divinity

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**REV. FR. ALEXANDER KARLOUTSOS,**  
*Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne*

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To characterize the fifty-four-year ministry of Fr. Alexander Karloutsos as “remarkable” is a great understatement. To begin simply (but most importantly to he and Presbytera Xanthi), Fr. Alexander is the father of three children and grandfather to nine. While at HCHC, he earned a Bachelors of Divinity in 1969 and, subsequently, a Master of Divinity in 1973. Today, he is the pastor of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in the Hamptons, NY and Fr. Alexander serves as the Orthodox Christian Chaplain for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He recently retired as the Vicar General of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Special Assistant to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros.

He is the Spiritual Advisor to the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, and to *Faith: An Endowment for Orthodoxy & Hellenism*. He also served for 46 years as the representative of the Archdiocese to the White House, the Congress, state and local officials, Greek American organizations, political action, religious freedom and human rights groups.

He was previously Executive Director of Leadership 100, serving from 1986 to 1992 and 1999 to 2004, and was appointed by Archbishop Iakovos as the first Vicar of Public



# Honorary Doctor of Divinity

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Affairs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in 1985, holding that position simultaneously until 1992 when he was appointed Special Assistant to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. In 1994, The Ecumenical Patriarch personally elevated Fr. Karloutsos to the prestigious office of Protopresbyter of the Sacred See of Saint Andrew.

Fr. Alexander has been blessed to serve in leadership/fundraising capacities for three unique church building programs: The Saint Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero; The Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in Southampton, NY; and the Interdenominational Chapel at Camp David, Maryland, the country retreat of Presidents. Fr. Karloutsos also served as the principal fundraiser for the restoration of the Holy Sepulcher of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Fr. Karloutsos and his Presbytera Xanthi have been honored in the recent past for their fifty-four years ministry to the Archdiocese, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Hellenic Republic and the United States of America. In 2018, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, bestowed upon Presbytera Karavellas-Karloutsos and Fr Alex, the most prestigious Patriarch Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Fr Alex was extremely humbled in 2022, to receive the Apostolic Cross of Saint Mark the Evangelist from His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II of Alexandria; the Gold Cross of the Phoenix from Prime Minister of Greece; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom on July 7, 2022, from Joe Biden, President of the United States.





“Let us exalt the Cross of Christ in our lives,  
and lift up our School - with prayers,  
support, and above all, committed students,  
who will carry the Cross on High  
and bring glory to our Lord and God.”

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros  
*Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445  
Phone: 617-731-3500 Web: [www.hchc.edu](http://www.hchc.edu)