

# THE HELLENIC

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

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Summer 2014

## Faith and Reason: Hellenic Collection and Reading Room to be dedicated in the name of Professor Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos



CONSTANTELOS

HELLENIC COLLECTION  
AND READING ROOM

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will honor Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos' contribution to scholarship, teaching, and community leadership by dedicating space on the second floor of the Bjork Library and naming it the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room. It will provide an inspiring and reflective environment for students, scholars and community members to study and seek information on Hellenic history and culture. It will house approximately 3,000 rare and important works from the personal library of Demetrios J. Constantelos and provide space for public programming, lectures, films, and seminars. It will also be a repository for the NJ Greek-American Oral History Project.

This project has the full support of the College President, Herman Saatkamp,

Provost, Harvey Kesselman, and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Dean C. Pappas (Leadership 100) and is being spearheaded by the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies (ICHS) under the direction of Dr. Tom Papademetriou, Professor of History and Executive Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies. Now, what we need is YOUR support.

**MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE:** ICHS is pleased to announce a matching gift challenge through two recently received generous and major donations: The Richard Stockton Friends of Hellenic Studies have donated \$100,000. In addition, \$50,000 has been received from Zoe and Dean C. Pappas, making the matching gift challenge a total of \$150,000. From now through August 31, 2014, any donations received will be matched dollar-for-dollar by these two gifts. The goal is to raise \$300,000 by the end of the summer. We are appealing to you to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity to honor, Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, a great man of our community. To help us achieve this goal, call Nicholas Sena at 609-626-6093 or Tom Papademetriou at 609-748-6093.

Once funding goals for construction have been met, gifts will go to an endowment fund so that the Collection can continue to expand its acquisitions on the history and culture that spans the ancient, medieval (Byzantine) and modern Greek eras that include print and digital resources, books, journals, newspapers, music, art and film.

## Constantine: Religious Faith and Imperial Policy

by A. Edward Siecienski

On October 4-5 2013 the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies (ICHS), in conjunction with Fordham's Orthodox Christian Studies Center, hosted a two-day symposium commemorating the 1700th anniversary of the Edict of Milan. Entitled, "Constantine: Religious Faith and Imperial Policy," the symposium brought together some of the nation's leading Constantinian scholars, many of whom were meeting for the first time.

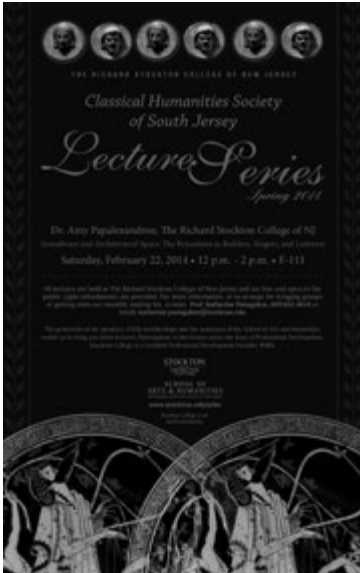
The event started on Friday evening, with a lecture that not only served as the opening of the symposium, but also a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the ICHS and a moment to honor Rev. Dr. Demetrios Constantelos, whose many contributions to the ICHS were recalled. The speaker that evening was Dr. H.A. Drake, emeritus professor of History at the University of California Santa Barbara, whose lecture was entitled, "What Hath Constantine Wrought: The Edict of Milan and Constantine's Religious Policy." Over 200 people were present for the lecture and reception, including the Provost of the College, Harvey Kesselman, who spoke in glowing terms about Rev. Dr. Constantelos and the ICHS, and the contributions they have made to Stockton's ethos and growth.

Dr. Tom Papademetriou opened the symposium by thanking those involved, and by reflecting on the growth of the ICHS in its decade of existence. He announced the imminent construction of the Constantelos Reading Room, which will be in the Richard E. Bjork Library at Richard Stockton College and serve as a center for Hellenic Studies

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## Classical Humanities Society of South Jersey (2013-2014)



### Fall 2013

October 4-5, 2013: Constantine Symposium in lieu of a September and October lecture

November 16, 2013: Mr. Austin Rooney (Temple University) "Plato's Thoughts on Akrasia, or, The Socratic Way to Quit Smoking"

### Spring 2014

February Dr. Amy Papalexandrou (Richard Stockton College) "Soundways and Architectural Space: The Byzantines as Builders, Singers, and Listeners"

March 22, 2014: Dr. H. Paul Brown (Gettysburg College) "Etymological Oddballs: Not-so-obvious lexical connections between English and Greek (and Latin, too!)"

April 10, 2014: Dr. D.W. Roller (Professor Emeritus of Classics from The Ohio State University) "Cleopatra of Egypt: Debunking the Myth"

The Classical Humanities Society of South Jersey hosted a number of enlightening and very engaging lectures during the 2013-2014 academic year. In lieu of September and October lectures, we invited our members to attend the two-day Constantine Symposium on October 4th and 5th sponsored by the ICHS (Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies) and the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University. Those who attended the opening lecture in honor of Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos were first entertained by a selection of Byzantine Hymns by the Byzantine Choir of the Metropolis of NJ then heard a riveting lecture by H.A. Drake, Professor Emeritus of History from the University of California Santa Barbara on "What Hath Constantine Wrought: The Edict of Milan and Constantine's Religious Policy." The second day of the Symposium featured world-famous experts on Constantine who talked on a range of topics related to events surrounding the Edict of Milan and its influence. Later in the fall, Mr. Austin Rooney, a Ph.D. Candidate at Temple University in Philosophy and former student of our very own Dr. Lucio Privitello, gave an excellent lecture on akrasia in Plato. He first provided a background on Greek philosophy for the audience that set the stage for his argument. We all left the lecture with stronger wills and a better understanding of how to fight temptation.

In the spring, we kicked off our lecture series by inviting our newest Hellenic Studies faculty, Dr. Amy Papalexandrou, to present some of her research on Byzantine churches and acoustics. Her talk, "Soundways and Architectural Space: The Byzantines as Builders, Singers, and Listeners" Introduced many in the audience to a new topic, but one that was so readily received that no one wanted her talk to end. In March, Dr. H. Paul Brown of Gettysburg College presented a talk on "Etymological Oddballs: Not-so-obvious lexical connections between English and Greek (and Latin, too)." Dr. Brown gave a very detailed and well-researched talk on a topic that most would think too difficult to follow. With his excellent guidance, however, we all learned how languages change and evolve over time. Last but not least, a favorite of the CHSSJ returned to give a very thoughtful lecture on Cleopatra. Dr. Roller presented the audience with a survey of Cleopatra's youth and reign up to her death in 30 BCE. By looking closely at what the sources wrote, we were better able to appreciate how fascinating, strong, and brilliant a person Cleopatra truly was; a woman quite different than featured in Hollywood films.

For more information on the Classical Humanities Society of South Jersey, please see our website [www.stockton.edu/ichs](http://www.stockton.edu/ichs) or contact Madeline Perez, CHSSJ Secretary at 609-652-3404/e-mail: [madeline.perez@stockton.edu](mailto:madeline.perez@stockton.edu).

*Faith and Reason...*  
*continued from cover*

Professor Constantelos' scholarly career began at Hellenic College, where he served as Professor of History and also as Dean. He, then, accepted a position to teach at the newly established Stockton State College in 1971 where he initially taught courses like "The Fall of Rome/Rise of Byzantium." Throughout his teaching career he promoted the study and teaching of history and religion through the lens of ancient, medieval (Byzantine) and modern Greek civilization.

Rev. Dr. Constantelos also served as a priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and, over the course of 53 years, he assisted several communities in New England, New Jersey and Maryland. Through his exceptional knowledge of Ancient and Medieval Greek, he wrote several books and hundreds of articles and book reviews. Among the most notable and groundbreaking is *Byzantine Philanthropy and Social Welfare*. He edited the papers of Archbishop Iakovos of America, and served as a member of the New Revised Standard Version Bible Committee of the National Council of Churches in the United States. Dr. Constantelos' scholarly focus continues to be the link between Hellenism and Christianity.



# Crete Explored



Why do Cretans stomp when they dance? (to drown out the cries of the infant Zeus, hidden in a cave, so that his father Kronos would not consume him)

On November 9th, the Friends of Hellenic Studies held the first installment of the Exploring Hellenism series. Guest presenter Maria Hnaraki shared that and many other fascinating pieces of information as she took the audience on a virtual 4,000-year journey of Greece's largest island. From Minos to the matinales, from the Labyrinth to the lira, those in attendance learned a great deal about the music, history and culture of Crete.

The event raised nearly \$7,000 and led to total gift from the FHS in the amount of \$100,000, intended for the establishment of the Constantelos Reading Room and Collection. One of the highlights of the evening was a special gift to Ms. Paula Gatos, daughter of the late FHS supporter Dr. George C. Gatos, in whose bequest, Hellenic Studies were not forgotten. In acknowledgement of her father's \$10,000 gift, Ms. Gatos was presented with a beautiful icon of Saint George.

Dr. Hnaraki, who had previously spoken for the Classical Humanities Society at Stockton, was a gracious guest who went above and beyond expectations.

Copies of her first book, *Unravelling Ariadne's Thread* (including a CD), are available. Please contact George Plamantouras at [hellenicstudies@stockton.edu](mailto:hellenicstudies@stockton.edu) to order. Copies of her new book, *Sing in me Muse, and Through me Tell the Story: Greek Culture Performed* can be found and/or ordered at most bookstores.

The next installment of the Exploring Hellenism series will take us to the Peloponnese on March 7th, 2015. More information to follow.

*Constantine...*

*continued from cover*

on campus. It will house many of Rev. Dr. Constantelos's own books, which he has generously donated to the project (along with a substantial monetary grant).

The following day, beginning with Dr. Raymond Van Dam, professor of History at the University of Michigan, the symposium began a full day of presentations and discussions. Also speaking were George Demacopoulos, professor of Historical Theology and director and cofounder of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University, Noel Lenski, associate professor of Classics at the University of Colorado, Charles Odahl, emeritus professor of History at Boise State University, and Peter Leithart, president of Trinity House in Birmingham, Alabama and adjunct senior fellow at New St. Andrew's College in Idaho. Among the questions addressed during the day were the sincerity of Constantine's Christian commitment, the exact nature and purpose of the Edict of Milan (and whether or not it was an edict at all), and the various sources available to scholars (archeological, textual, liturgical) that allow us to draw up a picture of Constantine and his impact upon Church-State relations even today.

At the conclusion of the symposium the participants gathered one final time in a less formal setting in order to share and reflect upon the day's events. Although they had all written books on Constantine or the ancient Church, this was the first time many had been able to gather together and share in person the fruits of their research. All were grateful to the ICHS and to Stockton for the opportunity to come together like this, many commenting not only on the beauty of the campus, but also the ability of the ICHS to put together such an event.

Although the symposium has ended, the next stage has already begun —publishing the papers presented there so that, as with our previous symposia, the wider scholarly world can benefit from what the ICHS is doing. Academic interest in what happened at the symposium is already such that several people have already asked when the proceedings will be in print. Many of these same people have also asked when our next symposium will be, and it is with both hope and confidence that both questions can be answered with the words "Very soon."



*Dr. Hnaraki graciously signed copies of her book, posed for pictures and answered questions well after her talk ended.*

## Order of Greco-Roman Enthusiasts & Theta Tau Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi News and Updates

By Professor Katherine Panagakos, Advisor

### Order of Greco-Roman Enthusiasts & Theta Tau Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi News and Updates

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#### 1. A Day in Pompeii March 18, 2014

Five students and Prof. Katherine Panagakos attended "A Day in Pompeii" exhibit at the Franklin Institute. Over 150 artifacts from the Naples National Archaeological Museum were displayed that featured what daily life was like in Pompeii around 79 CE, the year of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. Students saw artifacts from ancient coins to frescoes, gladiatorial helmets to medical instruments, and even full body casts of victims of the volcano.



*Enthusiastic Latin students waiting for the festivities to begin during the first annual Latin Day*

#### 2. First Annual Latin Day at Stockton April 4, 2014

On April 4th, about 70 Latin students from five local high schools (Egg Harbor Township; Atlantic City; Absegami; Southern Regional, and Clearview Regional) came to Stockton for our very first Latin Day. Students participated in Certamen, a trivia game very similar to a quiz bowl and had the opportunity to participate in two activities: Weaving with Minerva and Testudo Formation. The students ranged from first year Latin students to fourth year and were divided into teams. While the first and second year students participated in Certamen, the third and fourth year students engaged in the activities. The Testudo Formation was a hit. Students first learned about the Roman military, then watched a clip from HBO's Rome, then grabbed a shield (all made by OGRE students) and were given instruction on how to move as a unit. The students each had a centurion who was tasked with calling out the formation as another group of students began throwing missiles. After lunch, all the students gathered for the final round of Certamen. The winning teams were awarded with golden laurel crowns. All students were given a commemorative Latin Day cup along with other gifts. The second annual Latin Day will be held in the fall, and we are hoping to host a dozen schools.

#### 3. Theta Tau goes to the Centennial Eta Sigma Phi Convention April 11-13, 2014

Four students of the Theta Tau chapter, Evan Lechner (President); Kelsey Barber (Vice President); Sarah Baginsky (Secretary); and Katelynn Torcato (Treasurer), attended the Centennial Eta Sigma Phi Convention in Chicago, IL. Eta Sigma Phi, the national undergraduate honor society for students of Greek and Latin, hosts a convention annually where students and their advisors gather for a weekend of Certamen (quiz bowl), student presentations, chapter reports, a banquet, lectures, and other activities. Our own Katelynn Torcato was voted in as the national Eta Sigma Phi treasurer for 2014-2015. Congratulations, Katelynn! The Theta Tau Chapter at Stockton is very excited because we will be hosting the 87th National Convention next spring (2015).

#### 4. 5th Annual Marathon Reading of Classical Literature April 23, 2014

On April 23rd, OGRE hosted its 5th Annual Marathon Reading of Classical Literature for a Charity. This year, the money raised will be donated to the Rev. Dr. Demetrios Constanelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room. Faculty, staff, and students read selections of ancient Greek and Latin literature for six hours straight in Independence Plaza at Stockton and raised \$650. Texts included Lucian's A True History, selections from Herodotus' Histories, the Cupid and Psyche tale from Apuleius' Metamorphoses, and Aesop's Fables.

# The Olive Tree

Symbol of the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room

In Greece, having olive groves on one's property is quite common and Professor Rev. Demetrios Constantelos' family home in the Peloponnese is a testament to that tradition. When he was 15 years old, Dr. Constantelos propagated his own olive grove through rooted stem cuttings which today continue to thrive and produce oil.

Dr. Constantelos recalls memories of his mother using olive oil as an ointment for cuts and burns and, like many Greeks who struggled through the trials of World War II, describes how "kapsales" - bread toasted in the fireplace and dipped in olive oil - provided sustenance during those lean years. These days, he loves plenty of olive oil in his lentil soup and salad and always asks for extra at a restaurant. He explains a Greek Orthodox prayer that asks for blessings on the bread, wine and the olive oil. So, while man cannot live with bread alone, perhaps with olive oil alone it might be possible!

The olive's origins are thought to be in the Middle East, and evidence of its long existence shows up in The Bible as far back as Genesis. When the dove, sent out by Noah to find land, returns with an olive branch in its mouth, it becomes a symbol of peace - an indication from God that the flood is over.

In Greek mythology, it is said that Zeus told the gods that Attica would belong to the one who presented him with the most valuable and practical object. In her wisdom, the goddess, Athena, gave him the olive tree. She won the challenge and, thus, possession of Attica. To this day, Athens bears her name and it is said that the olive tree she planted on the Acropolis still grows there.

Olive branches were used to crown victors of wars and of the first Olympic Games. The oil of the olive tree was and is considered sacred. Used to anoint kings and athletes in ancient Greece, it was burned in ancient temples and is still used in many religious ceremonies today. Olive oil lit the "eternal flame" of the first Olympic Games, and Athena is often depicted wearing an olive wreath on her helmet with an amphora for olive oil nearby. Aside from peace, the olive tree symbolizes wisdom, glory, fertility, power and purity, and it has been used for light, heat, food, medicine and perfume. It was an olive tree under which Plato is believed to have taught his students 2,400 years ago.

The Mediterranean area produces 99% of the world's olive oil and Greece comes in third behind Spain and Italy in olive oil production. The average life expectancy of an olive tree is 300-600 years, though many claim that the oldest olive tree, found in Chania, Crete, is at least 2,000 years old.

Professor Constantelos' personal connection to the olive tree, alongside its colorful history and versatility, makes it a fitting symbol for the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room.



Rev. Dr. Constantelos addresses the Friends, including Peter Douvres (left) and hosts Christopher and Catherine Mularz (right) Our many thanks to thank Christopher and Catherine for hosting this year's Vasilopita evening in their lovely home.

## Stockton's First *Latin Day*

by Professor Katherine Panagakos



With great excitement, Stockton hosted an event for local high school Latin students this spring: Latin Day! It was a unique opportunity for students of Latin and their teachers from neighboring towns to come together for a day of fun and educational activities, as well as a variety of contests. The main event for the day was a *Certamen* (Latin for "competition"), a quiz-bowl contest that features questions about Latin language and etymology, ancient literature, classical history, mythology, religion, and daily life. Schools, made up of teams of four students, were invited to submit two teams: one made of students in the first and second years of Latin; the other made up of students in their third and fourth years of study. Teams competed against each other in a number of rounds, which had us all on the edge of our seats. Additionally, each school made up a classically-themed t-shirt for a best Latin/Roman t-shirt contest. Prizes, not unlike those awarded at the Greek games, were presented to the winning schools. *Fortis Fortuna Adiuvat!* ("Fortune helps the brave," Terence, Phormio, ln. 203).

In addition to these challenging and creative contests, students had a chance to visit the Underworld and talk to the gods and people who are found there, including Cerberus, the three-headed dog who guards the entrance, and Pluto himself. Students learned weaving from Minerva and recreated the famous *Testudo* (turtle) formation of the Roman military from Julius Caesar himself. A short skit from Roman comedy delighted our hearts before a traditional Roman banquet satisfies our stomachs.

For more information on the next Latin Day, please contact Professor Katherine Panagakos ([katherine.panagakos@stockton.edu](mailto:katherine.panagakos@stockton.edu)).

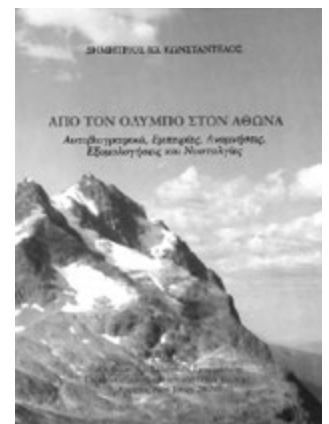
## Stock(ton) Up on Summer Reading and Help the Friends

For those of you who still value the experience of holding a real book, we have two great ones available.

Dr. Maria Hnaraki's *Cretan Music: Unraveling Ariadne's Thread*. This first publication by the Director of Greek Studies at Drexel University is a spellbinding journey through Cretan culture, history and music. It is available in English only and includes an audio CD (192 pages).



Rev.Fr. Demetrios J. Constantelos' collection of autobiographical poems, *Απο τον Όλυμπο στον Άθωνα* (From Olympus to Athos) was published by the Friends of Hellenic Studies in 2009. It is a journey through the four seasons of the poet's life; a must-read for anyone who has come to know him as a priest, professor or scholar. It is available in Greek only (148 pages).



For a donation of \$75, you can become a member of the Friends and receive the book of your choice (which includes return shipping). A donation of \$100.00 will include both books. Please indicate which you would like.

Note: Supplies are limited. Please contact us at 609-652-4433 or [hellenicstudies@stockton.edu](mailto:hellenicstudies@stockton.edu) for information on remaining quantities.



## THE HELLENIC AMERICAN ALUMNI GROUP OF RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Hellenic American Alumni Group of Richard Stockton College is gathering current contact information for alumni of Richard Stockton College so that we may inform members of the Hellenic Community of upcoming events sponsored by the Friends of Hellenic Studies and the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies. If you studied Greek or had a related major, we want to keep you informed of our activities!



For further information on upcoming events and to ensure that you are included in our updates please send your current contact information to the following:

E-mail address: **[hellenicstudies@stockton.edu](mailto:hellenicstudies@stockton.edu)**

Or send to:

**George Plamantouras- ARHU c/o  
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey  
101 Vera King Farris Drive Galloway, NJ 08205**

or visit the web site: **[www.stockton.edu/ichs](http://www.stockton.edu/ichs)**



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