

# THE HELLENIC

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Co-Editors:

Kiki Glikerdas • Ginny Kramvis • Tula Christopoulos



Spring 2004

## The Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (ICHS-RSCNJ)



THE CENTER - The ICHS, established at Stockton College by the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC), after their model developed at the University of South Florida, aims to promote and assist in the study and teaching of Hellenism through the many fields that define Greek civilization and culture. The areas of focus of the Center are wide, inclusive and diachronic, representing all aspects of Hellenic culture in all of its long period of existence and its unquestionable, striking modernity. At Stockton this includes the disciplines of Greek language and literature, history and culture, classical archaeology, art, philosophy, politics, anthropology and Byzantine Civilization and Orthodox Christianity.



Instrumental in the establishment of the Center were then-president of Stockton, Dr. Vera King Farris, Professor Demetrios Constantelos, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. David Carr, AFGLC President, Dr. Chris P. Tsokos, and President, AFGLC TRI-STATE, Dr. Peter N. Yiannos.



In accordance with the AFGLC model, the ICHS will consist of five endowed, named professorships in the following "core" areas of Hellenic studies:

- Greek Language and Literature
- Greek History
- Greek Culture
- Greek Philosophy
- Byzantine Civilization and Orthodox Christianity

Currently, these professorships are represented by the Charles Cooper Townsend, Sr. Distinguished Professorship of Religion, held by Professor Demetrios J. Constantelos (funded by RSCNJ) the Peter and Stella Yiannos Professorship in Greek Language and Literature, funded by Peter and Stella Yiannos through AFGLC the AFGLC Professorship in Greek History, the candidate for which is Dr. Tom

## Board Member News

**The Friends of Hellenic Studies wish to congratulate Kiki Glikerdas for her doctorate.**

**We wish her every success for the future!**

The title of her dissertation is "Labor Aspects of Internationalization: Multinational Corporations and Employment Relations in the U.S. and Germany". It examines multinational corporate investment activities such as mergers and acquisitions between German and U.S. global firms in the automobile and banking sectors and the economic and social impact of such activities on their respective workforces. Her Ph.D. is awarded by the Department of Political Science, Temple University, in Philadelphia, PA. ■



*continued on page 2*



Papademetriou (to be funded in 2004 through AFGLC) the AFGLC Professorship in Greek Culture, held by Professor Fred C. Mench (funded by AFGLC) and the AFGLC Professorship in Greek Philosophy (to be funded in the future through AFGLC)

THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE - The Foundation was established by academics and other professionals across America, who came together to assist in the preservation and enhancement of Greek culture and language through institutions of Higher Learning. In so doing, the AFGLC hopes to make clear to both present and future generations the fundamental importance of the Hellenic tradition to Americans of all backgrounds. The AFGLC envisions that the Center, through its programs, will provide enrichment opportunities for both students and faculty at Stockton and will facilitate contacts with other programs and scholars in the United States and abroad by:

- Organizing and hosting public lectures, symposia and conferences,
- Awarding faculty enhancement grants,
- Awarding student scholarships,
- Facilitating study abroad opportunities,
- Helping to build at Stockton a collection of publications, reference works and archival materials that pertain to the goals and objectives of the Center and its members,
- Assisting in the publishing of scholarly works through small grants,
- Assisting in establishing and organizing visiting positions or exchange programs for prominent scholars in various aspects of Greek studies and culture.
- Applying for funding from granting agencies external to Stockton,
- Helping to establish interdisciplinary degree programs at Stockton relating to various aspects of Hellenism,
- Advising students wishing to pursue careers in Hellenic studies,
- Participating in and contributing to the AFGLC academic journal, devoted to all aspects of Hellenism.

### *Inauguration Reception for the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies-AFGLC*

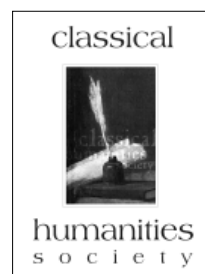
On Wednesday evening, November 12, 2003, Richard Stockton College's Office of the President sponsored a welcome reception to celebrate the inauguration of the college's new Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies. Capping off the event was a one woman performance presented by Lili Bitá entitled, *The Greek Woman Through the Ages*.

The ICHS is the result of a partnership between the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC) and the Hellenic Studies Program of the College. Guest speakers included Dr. Herman Saatkamp, President of the College, Professor Fred Mench, Executive Director of ICHS, Professor Tom Papademetriou, Associate Director of ICHS and Dr Peter Yiannos, President, AFGLC TRI-STATE. Dr David Carr, Vice President for Academic Affairs of the College photographed the event.

Lili Bitá's performance was dynamic. She captivated the audience with her portrayal of Greek women, real and mythic, whose characters transcend all ages. Her emotional monologues of Hecuba, Medea and Clytemnestra, to name a few, alternated with comic relief in the poem of Circe and excerpts from *Lysistrata*. Her request to the audience to focus on her passion and not the words which, at times, she recited in Greek left many in the audience with the desire to learn Greek. Ms Bitá welcomed questions following her performance and signed copies of her books.

Greek desserts were donated by Mrs. Yula Mularz, Mrs. Virginia Nicolaidis, Mrs. Chrsanthy Lambropoulos and Mrs. Eugenia Kramvis. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

We look forward to further events concerning Greek Paideia brought to the college by the Center. ■



## **2004 Fall Classical Humanities Schedule:**

*All lectures are in G-208  
at Stockton College*

### **SEPTEMBER**

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2pm

JOHN TRaupMAN  
St. Joseph's University

*"Schliemann's Treasures from Troy and Mycenae"*

### **OCTOBER**

Sunday, Oct. 17, 2pm

DAVID G. ROMANO  
University of Pennsylvania

*"The Ancient Olympic Games, Athletes and Heroes"*



*Save the Date*

**Friends of Hellenic Studies  
at  
The Richard Stockton  
College of New Jersey**

**will present  
A Live Theatre Performance**

**THE APOLOGY PROJECT  
Featuring Yannis Simonides**

**Sunday 10. October, 2004 at the College  
in the Performing Arts Center  
2:30 – 4 p.m. Reception - 4 p.m. Performance**

**Please join us for this exciting event!**

**Proceeds to benefit the Friends of Hellenic Studies of the  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Foundation**

**Tickets:  
\$35 Adult - \$15 Student**

**For information please call 609-652-4528**

## Stockton Celebrates "PAIDEIA: A Tribute to Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, Scholar, Teacher, and Community Leader"



President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos cut the celebration cake.

POMONA, NJ – With over 400 people in attendance on Sunday, October 12, 2003, the Friends of Hellenic Studies at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey celebrated "PAIDEIA: A Tribute to Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, Scholar, Teacher, and Community Leader." Rev. Dr. Constantelos was recognized for his many contributions to Byzantine scholarship, for his many years of service on Stockton College's faculty, as well as being the founder of Hellenic Studies at Stockton, and for being the founder and spiritual leaders of numerous Greek Orthodox Churches in New Jersey.

The event began with a reception from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. where members of the Greek community who have been touched by Dr. Constantelos met and mingled with the Stockton College community, including President and Mrs. Herman J. Saatkamp, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. David Carr, Ambassador and Mrs. Vassilis Vitsaxis,

and many longtime faculty and staff colleagues and friends. These groups shared in admiration, respect and love for Dr. Constantelos.

The honorary co-chairs for the event were Dr. Vera King Farris, President (Emerita) of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and Dr. Constantine Papadakis, President of Drexel University in Philadelphia.

The Mistress of Ceremonies, Ms. Tula Christopoulos welcomed all to the program, and introduced all the speakers and tributes. After the National Anthems of the United States of America and the Hellenic Republic performed by Dr. Beverly Vaughn, Professor of Music, and Presvytera Voula Liacopoulos, the Invocation was offered by Rev. Dr. George Liacopoulos.

Greetings to the community from dignitaries who were unable to be present were read, and remarks were made by President. Saatkamp, and Vice-President Carr.

A highlight of the day was a Musical tribute to fulfill one of Rev. Dr. Constantelos' dreams, to bring together the Stockton Oratorio, and the Kassiane Byzantine Choir of Holy Trinity for a performance. The selections included a traditional Byzantine hymn, *Ex Ipsous Katilthes*, a Greek folk song, *Yialo-yialo*, and a moving rendition of *Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin With Me*. Under the direction of Dr. Beverly Vaughn, the performance inspired all in attendance.

Among those offering remarks were Ms. Eleni Constantelos, daughter of Rev. Dr. Constantelos, and grandson Michael Demetrios Loukeris, who is ten years old. In addition, Mr. Max Slusher, a former student and Associate Dean of Atlantic Cape Community College offered memories of being in class with Dr. Constantelos.

In recognition of the many contributions and hard work of Presvytera Stella Constantelos to the community, who was not able to be in attendance for the event, Presvytera Liacopoulos offered wonderful thoughts, and a basket full of Quince, Presvytera Stella's favorite fruit.

Representing the community, Mr. Christ Georges offered an emotional message of love. Colleagues, Prof. Fred Mench, and Prof. William C. Lubenow also offered words of admiration and congratulations.

In conveying her affection for Dr. Constantelos, Dr. Vera King Farris, President Emerita, likened Dr. Constantelos' accomplishments to having won an Olympic Decathlon. In her words, the many areas of Dr. Constantelos' endeavors were all capped by success and were each worthy of a "Gold medal."

**The event proved to be a great success, with proceeds from the event directly benefit the Stockton College Friends of Hellenic Studies Scholarships in honor of Rev. Dr. Constantelos.**

Excerpts from:

**GRATEFULLY FULFILLED**

**FAMILY LIFE, VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER, AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

By  
Demetrios J. Constantelos



**Parents, brothers and sisters**

I have nothing but fond memories of my parents. Though they had little formal education, they were intelligent, hard working, charitable, peaceful and wonderful people. Thus, I was brought up in a large family that provided a very good, orderly and peaceful environment, where we learned how to share and love each other, a love that has survived among all of us eight to the present day. Their pedagogical philosophy was love with a flexible discipline.

**and childhood memories**

It was in madourou that I spent my most memorable summers from the age of seven to sixteen. Madourou commands an extraordinary view of the mountain range of Aegaleo, only three kilometers to the north, and the Ionian Sea, seven to eight kilometers to the south. It is impossible to forget sunrises from the high peak of Hagia Varvara and sunsets in the Agrili area of the Ionian Sea. Full moons and starry skies in the month of August only poets can describe.

I remember lying on a mattress placed on a heap of wheat hay, covered with another comfortable blanket falling asleep while watching a sky full of glittering stars. It is impossible not to remember the “symphony orchestras” conducted early in the morning by roosters from all sides of the region. Soon after, roosters were joined by the rhythmic tinkling of bells placed around the necks of sheep and goats. Beautiful and refreshing mornings!

**Scholar**

...from a certain Haralambos Vlachos, who said something that influenced me for the good...

He turned to my father and said “afto to paidi tha yine megalos anthropos - this little boy will become a great man!”



...When I graduated from our Theological School in Brookline, Massachusetts

...Books had become a passion for me

...I turned to the fulfillment of my own dreams-post-graduate education!

...”Demetraki, you must go on, you must go on-na prochorisis, na prochorisis sta grammata”. I never forgot Father Sophocleous’ encouragement. He proved prophetic to me.

**...And that is how my graduate studies at Rutgers began.**

**from Pastor**

...My homilies and sermons in the church services emphasized the importance of education, both religious and secular, Christian Orthodoxy and Hellenic learning...

...St. Nicholas in Lexington... included many professional people and a few leading business people, presidents and officers of major corporations... My ministry there for two years was a challenge and in a way it helped me understand the spiritual needs of highly educated people. I remember vividly that after a series of homilies and lectures on the Church, Christianity, and theological themes, a group of scientists and professors at MIT, Harvard, Boston University, Boston College, Northeastern University, Tufts University, Lincoln Laboratories of MIT approached me and said, “Father, now we understand that our Church has much to offer us, too.” I had tried to speak on their level and to use their language in a theological context.



**and Community Leader...**

...I was invited and helped in the establishment and the early years of growth of three new Greek Orthodox communities in South Jersey. ... the church of St. Barbara, Toms River, New Jersey, which I served for two years (1972-74). Then it was St. Anthonys’ turn (1974-1982) in Vineland, New Jersey,

and finally Holy Trinity's (1982-1989, 1992-1995) in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. I could write a book on my experiences, the kind of people, the strengths and weaknesses of these three communities, ... I can only add that it was a pleasure to help, teach, and serve people.

**To Professor....**

after six years at Hellenic College, I had a lengthy talk with Bishop Gerasimos Papadopoulos, a retired professor of New Testament and an experienced and wise person. After I relayed my problems, aspirations and thoughts, he turned to me and said, "Paidi mou auto pou ehis na prosferis esy, pigene ston exo kosmo na to prosperis. My son, what you have to offer [in academic terms] go and offer it to the outside world."

His advice was the last turning point of my life....



**...at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey**

It was a happy coincidence when in 1970 I read in the Bulletin of the Medieval Academy of America that the State of New Jersey had accepted a referendum for the establishment of two new four year liberal arts colleges-one in the north (Ramapo) and one in the south (Stockton). Immediately, I applied to Stockton and was invited for an interview in November of 1970. The fact that the College was not far from the ocean and was in the woods of South Jersey was an additional enticement for me to accept a satisfactory offer to come to Stockton. According to a report published in the Atlantic City Press and other newspapers of South Jersey, I was the first full professor to be appointed at Stockton.

**The Climax of my happiness**

my wife Stella and our adult and established children Christine, a plant scientist, John, a Professor of Political Science and international relations, Eleni, an artist and story teller, and Maria, an educator (pre-school)

...nothing replaces the joy I receive as a family man-a husband of a wonderful wife and four healthy, intelligent and thoughtful children ...

*All of them are enthroned in my heart and constitute the most important source of my happiness.*



**And a dream pursued with patience and perseverance...**

**To establish Hellenic Studies at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.**

So far

**2 Professorships established in Hellenic Studies**

and continuing....



**The American Foundation for Greek Learning and Culture has endowed \$300,000.00 and with the continuing support of the community for the establishment of 2 additional professorships for Hellenic Studies**

... I believe I have had a full life and I should be very grateful for everything, even though I am just as restless as ever. Provided I have good health, I will continue to love, teach, serve, and write as long as I live. ■

*With Heartfelt Congratulations and Brotherly Love*

Reverend Chrysostom and Presbytera Anthoula  
with their Children and Grandchildren

Ο Μεγάλος μου Αδελφός  
( Δημήτριος Ιωάννου Κωνσταντέλος)

Στο πρώτο άνθισμα της νιότης,  
μόλις δέκα εννιά χρονών,  
έφυγε με όνειρα κι' ελπίδες.  
απ' το μικρό μας το χωριό.

Υγρά τα μάτια του πατέρα,  
γεμάτος πόνο της μητέρας ο λιγμός.  
Τ' αδέλφια λυπημένα σιγοκλαιγαν.  
Ξενητευότανε ο μεγάλος αδελφός.

Κι' έφυγε με μάτια βουρκωμένα,  
φορτωμένος αγάπη και ευχές,  
από τους σεβαστούς Πατέρα και Μητέρα,  
τους αδελφούς του και τις αδελφές.

Με τι εγκάρδια λαχτάρα καρτερούσαν,  
τα γράμματά του απ' την Αμερική.  
Πως έλαμπαν από χαρά τα προσωπά τους  
για κάθε πρόοδό του και κάθε προκοπή.

Εργάστηκε με το μυαλό και με τα χέρια,  
ο μεγάλος αδελφός στην Αμερική,  
κι' απόκτησε γνώσεις, πλούτη και σοφία  
κι' απ' τους γνωστούς του εκτίμηση πολύ.

Οι γονείς του υπερήφανα μιλούσαν,  
για τα έργα του μεγάλου τους του γιού.  
Καλό παράδειγμα είναι για τ' αδέλφια,  
και καμάρι του μικρού μας του χωριού.

Αμφιτρίτη Κωνσταντέλου Εμμανουήλ

## Poet's Corner with Manya Bean

by Lili Bitá

### BARREN LINE

She climbed to greet  
the boat of the Barren Line,  
that rode the waves,  
winter or summer,  
like the broken tool of God  
or sat becalmed  
like a seaflower in the mist.  
This was the boat  
with its flag astern  
its black premonition of smoke  
its hoarse farewell  
as it passed the harbor.  
She needed hours  
to reach her vantage.  
The nuns believed  
she was sowing God's seed  
in the rock,  
she, their holy one,  
that only in solitude  
did the angels  
confide in her.  
When the boat first passed  
her braids were thick  
as axe handles,  
her knuckles tensed  
under the cassock,  
draining the blood.  
It passed each time  
at the same hour,  
waiting to abduct her.

Now the Yoke of the years  
has undone the heavy braids  
it has loosened the hands  
and closed the eyes.  
The boat has vanished  
on the dolphin's neck  
of the sea.  
When the nuns clean the little cell  
for the last time  
they'll find the silver boat  
that sailed her veins  
in the matin prayer,  
an amulet in the corner  
among the cobwebs and mouse pellets.

Atop the rock,  
God's bride stretches her arms,  
palms nailed to the wind.

Lili Bitá is a Greek Renaissance woman. She is a poet, novelist, playwright, journalist, translator, actress, musician, and storyteller extraordinaire. She has published eleven books of poetry, as well as fiction, plays and translations. She has performed in many venues in major cities of the U.S., in addition to England and India. Her most recent book was published in the summer of 2003 in Athens, a beautiful volume of poems entitled: *Αστραπες στη Σαρκα (ΙΩΛΚΟΣ)*.

Lili is a highly evolved human being with an exceptional warmth and a big heart. It has been my observation over the many years that I have known her, that everyone who meets her falls in love with her. Her charismatic style infuses her work, including her one-woman show, *The Greek Woman Through the Ages*, recently performed at the Fringe Festival in Philadelphia. Lili has participated in the Fringe Festival for the last six years with great success. Another well received one-woman show of hers, *Freedom or Death*, deals with the most important events of Greek history and its performance has moved Greeks and non-Greeks alike.

On an evening at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, "people were glued to her," noted Laura Henrich, the museum's Wednesday night program co-ordinator. Lili performed her own poetry and monologues from Aristophanes and Euripides. "She didn't want a microphone....She stood at the bottom of the museum steps and beckoned people to come join her. She created this intimacy in this space that's not exactly and intimate setting. She's full of energy. There's so much soul to what she does." The same qualities are found in her books which should be included in the curricula of any program of modern Greek studies.

Lili is married to Dr. Zaller, a historian at Drexell University, who is also widely published. He is her faithful translator and advisor. They are the grandparents of a famous little girl named Athena. ■



## Life with Zeus and Hermes: A modern day myth

by Tula Christopoulos

Once upon a time, I married a xeno (a non-Greek) named Jeff. Now, while many other "American" names of non-Greek derivation have managed to find a reasonable facsimile (Example: Bill to Vasilis; Steve to Stavros), Jeff had none, that is, until a fateful trip to Greece many years ago.

Little did we know when we arrived in a remote village in the heart of the Peloponnese that, upon meeting my grandmother (yaya), Jeff would discover his Greek name. She welcomed him with, "Kalosorises Zef." Now, "Zef" is how "Zeus" is said in Greek, and from that moment on, Jeff would be known as "Zef" to the family in Greece. But, that's only half of my story.

Eight years ago, we adopted a cat. Jeff ("Zef") held the 8 week-old orange and white bundle in one hand and decided to name him Hermes. Hermes and "Zef" immediately bonded. In or out of the house, they were always together. It wasn't long before we realized this was no ordinary cat. Unlike other felines, Hermes didn't run; he flew. With a single leap, he would become temporarily air-borne, as if on, yes, winged feet. He really was Hermes! Sometimes, we'd spot him walking on the roof of our house and wonder, "How'd he get up there?" And, strange but true: This cat looks both ways before crossing the street.

When I asked Jeff how he knew to name our "flying cat" Hermes his reply was simply, "Why wouldn't I know? After all, I am Zef, aren't I?"

### And, now, a traditional myth of Zeus and Hermes:

Sometimes Zeus, the King of the Olympian gods, would leave Mt. Olympus and journey down to earth. Disguising himself as a mortal, Zeus would go off accompanied by his loyal assistant Hermes, the messenger god. On one such adventure, Zeus and Hermes disguised themselves as poor travelers and flew to Phrygia to test the hospitality of its people. They knocked on several doors, be they rich or poor, large or small but were turned away everywhere.

Zeus was the guardian of travelers, and all those who sought shelter in a strange land were under his special protection. To him, hospitality took top priority in the civilized order of things. As he was about to punish the Phrygians for discourteous behavior, the gods came upon a poor and wretched dwelling. They knocked and to their surprise, the door swung open and they were warmly greeted by an elderly couple. Zeus and Hermes, still disguised, found themselves in a small yet gracious room.

In the dim light they saw the compassionate face of an old man and an equally elderly woman who appeared sincerely glad to see them and bustled about the room trying to make their guests more comfortable. As the old woman threw a soft cover over the bench and urged them to rest their tired limbs, the old man kindled the fire, so they could warm their chilled bones.

The woman's name was Baucis and her husband was Philemon. This humble cottage had always been their home and they had lived there happily throughout their marriage. Even though they were poor, they

lacked for nothing, for their love for each other filled them with the type of bliss that would make a king envious.

"We don't have much to offer you, but poverty isn't so bad when your spirit is rich and you're filled with love!" they said with a smile, gazing fondly at each other and apologizing to their unexpected visitors because they had so little to offer them.

Zeus and Hermes exchanged knowing glances - this was an unusual pair of mortals indeed! Perhaps not all Phrygians were inhospitable after all. Philemon offered them what little food they had and poured the little wine they saved for a special occasion which they watered down to last longer.

After a while, he and Baucis noticed a miraculous thing happening: No matter how many cups Philemon would pour, the wine pitcher remained filled to the top. Terrified, Baucis and Philemon looked at each other and bowed their heads in silent prayer to the Olympian gods high above. They now suspected that these two haggard strangers were more than mere beggars.

Suddenly, Zeus and Hermes revealed their true identities to their gracious hosts and informed them that they had been entertaining Olympian deities. They commended Baucis and Philemon on their splendid hospitality, saying they were not like the rest of their countrymen. "These mortals have forgotten that the godliest act is to offer hospitality to poor strangers and they shall pay the price for their arrogance."

Zeus assured Baucis and Philemon that his wrath would not include them, for they had proven to be kind and giving hosts. He told them to step outside their hut and to look around them. A huge lake had swallowed the entire countryside, people and all, and only their own humble hovel stood unscathed. Even though their neighbors had been very mean to them, the kindly couple was saddened by their fate. Then, another miracle:

Their lowly hut had been replaced by a magnificent temple! "This is your new home," said Zeus. "Now name anything you want, and I will be happy to grant your wish." The only other thing they asked of Zeus was that they should die together so that neither would ever have to live alone.

Their love was great and Zeus was pleased to grant their request. For many years the couple lived in the temple, faithfully serving Zeus, growing older together and cherishing each moment of their lives. One day, in extreme old age, Philemon saw Baucis sprouting leaves. Then, the same thing started happening to him! In no time bark was growing around them and they only had time for one last kiss before they became trees, a linden and an oak growing from the same trunk, entwined in one another's branches. Their wish had thus been fulfilled: They would forever be together! ■



Zeus and Hermes in one of their many earthly disguises

## Somerset Hall Press Announces Publication of Book of Writings of a Greek-American Soldier in Korea

BOSTON – A new book describes the experiences, in his own words, of John C. Papademetriou, a Greek-American immigrant and a U.S. soldier who was killed while serving bravely in Korea. The book is entitled, *The Golden Anthology: Writings of John C. Papademetriou, a Greek-American Soldier in Korea (1947-1951)*.

The Golden Anthology offers an illuminating glimpse into a pivotal but little known time in American history – before and during the Korean War – as seen through the eyes of John C. Papademetriou, a Greek-American immigrant who enlisted in the United States Army in 1950, just as military operations commenced in Korea. It is an idealistic story of a young man who served his new country and gave the ultimate sacrifice of his life, in 1951.

John was born in Greece in 1929, and spent the early years of his life there. In 1941, during World War II, when he was only 12 years old, John was captured and imprisoned in a forced labor camp. Although he was the youngest boy in the camp, he was treated as harshly as the older men were. He later wrote that the food was “not fit for the chickens.” He was finally released from the camp after the Red Cross petitioned on his behalf.

After World War II, John immigrated to the United States in 1947, and was reunited with his father, Rev. Constantine G. Papademetriou. Rev. Constantine had come to the United States alone in 1939 to serve as a Greek Orthodox priest, expecting to bring his family to join him when he was settled. Unfortunately, World War II kept the family separated for 8 years. Eventually, John’s family came to Moline, Illinois. John marveled at the buildings and clean streets, and he eagerly embraced life in post-War America.

After graduating from high school, John enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1950. This was the time that hostilities were escalating in Korea. Despite the danger, John joined the medical corps, feeling that it was his patriotic duty. He was highly respected among his fellow soldiers in Korea, and was referred to admiringly as “Doc the Greek.”

John served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Second Division, which went through some of the toughest fighting in the Korean War and sustained the most casualties. As Col. Sherman Pratt (ret.), who served as Rifle Company Commander of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division of the United States Army in Korea, said, “John Papademetriou went through some of the toughest fighting in the whole Korean War. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division holds the record by far of the most casualties and MIAs in the War. The 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment was almost wiped out in a rear guard action that enabled the bulk of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army to withdraw to more secure positions. John was right in the middle of this devastating slaughter.”

John was killed in 1951 during the “May Massacre” in Central Korea, while tending to a fellow wounded soldier during combat. He posthumously received the high honors of the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, and was buried with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery, outside Washington, D.C.

After immigrating to the United States, John quickly learned English and became a prolific writer of poems and essays in English and Greek. He wrote about his life in Greece, in the United States, and in the Army. He also wrote about patriotism, philosophy, and love. Now, over 50 years after his death, John’s writings – including poems, essays, letters home, and a brief autobiography – are collected in a single volume with pictures and other materials. It is a testament to an idealistic young man and his era.

John’s writings were compiled and edited by his nephew, Dean Papademetriou, an attorney, writer, editor, and businessperson in Boston, Massachusetts. Dean Papademetriou became fascinated by his uncle’s unpublished writings, and realized their importance in telling a wider audience about a patriotic time that is again coming into public view.

Regarding John and The Golden Anthology, Congressman and veteran Mike Bilirakis wrote, “I remember John and the Papademetriou family most fondly fifty-some years ago ... As we think of John, we must wonder what contributions to our world he

would have made had he not died while serving our Republic. He was a true hero who died while trying to rescue a fellow wounded soldier. He shall live on through his writings.” More information is available at [www.somersethall.com](http://www.somersethall.com).

Books can be ordered from Dean Papademetriou, Somerset Hall Press, 416 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 117, Boston, MA 02215. The list price is \$14.95, plus shipping and handling charges of \$3.00

**Contact:**

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### A thank you to our Benefactors!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Foundation, we are pleased to inform you that the following individuals have recently contributed to The Hellenic Heritage Fund:

**These contributions are greatly appreciated.**

**Thank you for your support!**

*Constantine Efthymiou*

*Stephanos Hadjiyannis*

*William Mitchell*



## A Greek Feast and Wine Symposium

*with featured Certified Wine Educator, John J. Mahoney*



*No thing more excellent or more valuable than wine was ever granted to mankind by God.*

*-Plato*

An interesting and informative talk on Greek wines, held at the Somers Inn Restaurant on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and attended by 80 contented people, made for an enjoyable evening at the Greek Feast and Wine Symposium

The sponsor, Athenee Importers, generously donated six Greek wines which were offered in a guided tasting by well known local certified wine educator, John Mahoney. He was humorous and informative as he taught the art of wine tasting and selection.

As attendees entered the room, they were offered a glass of Spiropoulos Meliasto 2001, a rose (Moschofilero) from Mantinia, Peloponnesos. This allowed everyone to mingle and get to meet each other while tasting the first wine.

The meeting was then called to order, and Father George Liacopoulos gave the invocation. John Mahoney was introduced and gave his lecture while an excellent four course dinner was served to complement the remaining wines which were as follows: GAI'A Notios (Savatiano) white, Thalassitis 2002 (Assyrtiko) Santorini white, Harlaftis Argilos 2001 (Ayioryitiko) red from Nemea, Hatzimichalis (Xinomavro) Naoussa from Macedonia and Samos Grand Cru 2000 (Muscat) from Samos.

The Orion Ensemble, made up of Dr. and Mrs. Alex Alexakis and George Plamantouras, enhanced the ambiance of the evening for the attending guests.

**Websites for information on Greek wines:**

[www.greekwinemakers.com](http://www.greekwinemakers.com) [www.atheneeimporters.com](http://www.atheneeimporters.com)

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## Please support the Friends of Hellenic Studies at Stockton College

**Our mission is to support the efforts at Stockton College and to strengthen its Hellenic Studies Program and to enable its students in acquiring the knowledge developed by the Ancient, Classical, Byzantine and Contemporary Greeks.**

**We do this through annual fundraising events, lecture series, cultural activities and various informal gatherings.**

**Our members share a passion for the Greek heritage and are committed to its promotions. Your contribution is crucial to the success of the Committee's efforts. We ask you to join our membership and support our future events. Please give generously.**

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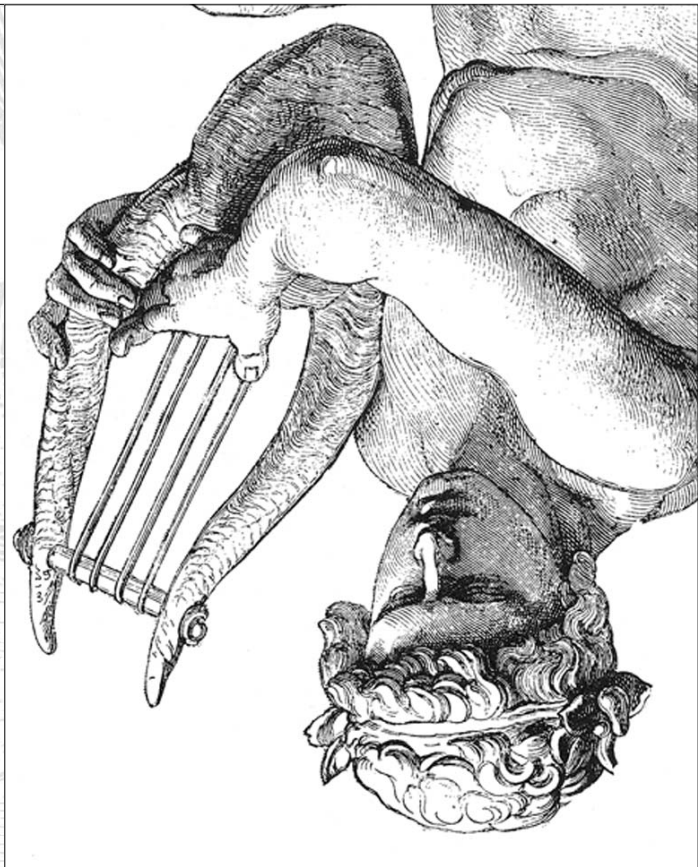
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