

Faith and Reason...
continued from cover

Professor Constantelos' scholarly career began at Hellenic College, where he

Why do Cretans stomp when they dance?

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 matinades, 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, _____ (including a CD), are available. Please contact George Plamantouras at hellenicstudies@stockton.edu to order. Copies of her new book, _____ can be found and/or ordered at most bookstores.

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

By Professor Katherine Panagakos,

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

By Professor Katherine Panagakos, Advisor

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.

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 Minerva students to [J]O -1.211 u4 M q faowt[pcu]J]O stuudo (to0 -1.2)0.9(year)s first lh Minerv8arinenow 0 (ouRo

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.

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 *Contestatio* (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. *"Fortune helps the brave,"* *Phormio*, In. 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 *Tortoise* (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.

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, *μ* (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

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