

THE HELLENIC

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Co-Editors:

A. Edward Sicienski •



Stockton Dedicates Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room

As the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room was recently dedicated and has seen its first semester of use, I would like to take the opportunity to offer thanks to the many people who made it possible.

First, this project has been a community project from its inception, and I believe the dedication celebration indicated this clearly; both the Stockton College community, and the wider Greek-American community were present in great numbers to share in the joy. We were honored to have His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America present to dedicate the Reading Room, highlighting the important role Rev. Dr. Constantelos has played in the academy and the church. The outpouring of moral and financial support for this worthy enterprise has been tremendous, whether from South Jersey, or from around the country or around the world. **THANK YOU! !!**

Rev. Dr. Constantelos is extremely pleased with the outcome, and I have received

Faith and reason - two pillars in the life and work of Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos - came together on Sept. 26 as Stockton, in partnership with the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, dedicated the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room.

Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, who first met Rev. Dr. Constantelos in 1946 in Athens, said his life combines "science and piety; faith and knowledge."

The archbishop called the new facility "a landmark achievement" and praised the learning environment at Stockton.

Rev. Dr. Constantelos was born in Spilia, Messenia, Greece and ordained a priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in 1955. He is an expert in the field of Byzantine (medieval Greek) history and a professor emeritus of History and Religious Studies.

The new facility houses 3,000 rare and important works from Rev. Dr. Constantelos' personal collection and research materials, a donation of one of the finest private libraries in New Jersey. It also features a mural by George Kordis, professor of Art at the University of Athens, Greece, and well-known painter of religious imagery in the Orthodox tradition.

The room will be open to students, faculty and the community and act as the statewide repository for the New Jersey

when we first assembled as an Advisory Board a little over a year ago.

This project owes a great deal of thanks to: President Saatkamp for wanting to ensure this was built properly, and offering the significant Stockton College institutional support; to Provost Kesselman who offered the space to ICBS for this purpose as well as a significant donation of IT equipment and who was present with important suggestions at every Advisory Board meeting; to Dean Pappas, who not only offered a challenge gift with his wife Zoe in order to honor Fr. Demetrios, but who also offered energy and counsel to oversee its progress; to the Friends of Hellenic Studies and especially to Ginny Kramvis, who as president

Since its official opening on September 26, 2014, there has been plenty of activity going on in The Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room. Whether it's a group of Hellenic Studies students studying or a special lecture in progress, The Room has quickly become one of the most used spaces on campus. We asked Hellenic Studies students Ciara Barrick and Terry Novak about their first impressions of The Room and here is what they said:

1. Does the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room make you feel differently about the Campus? If so, how?

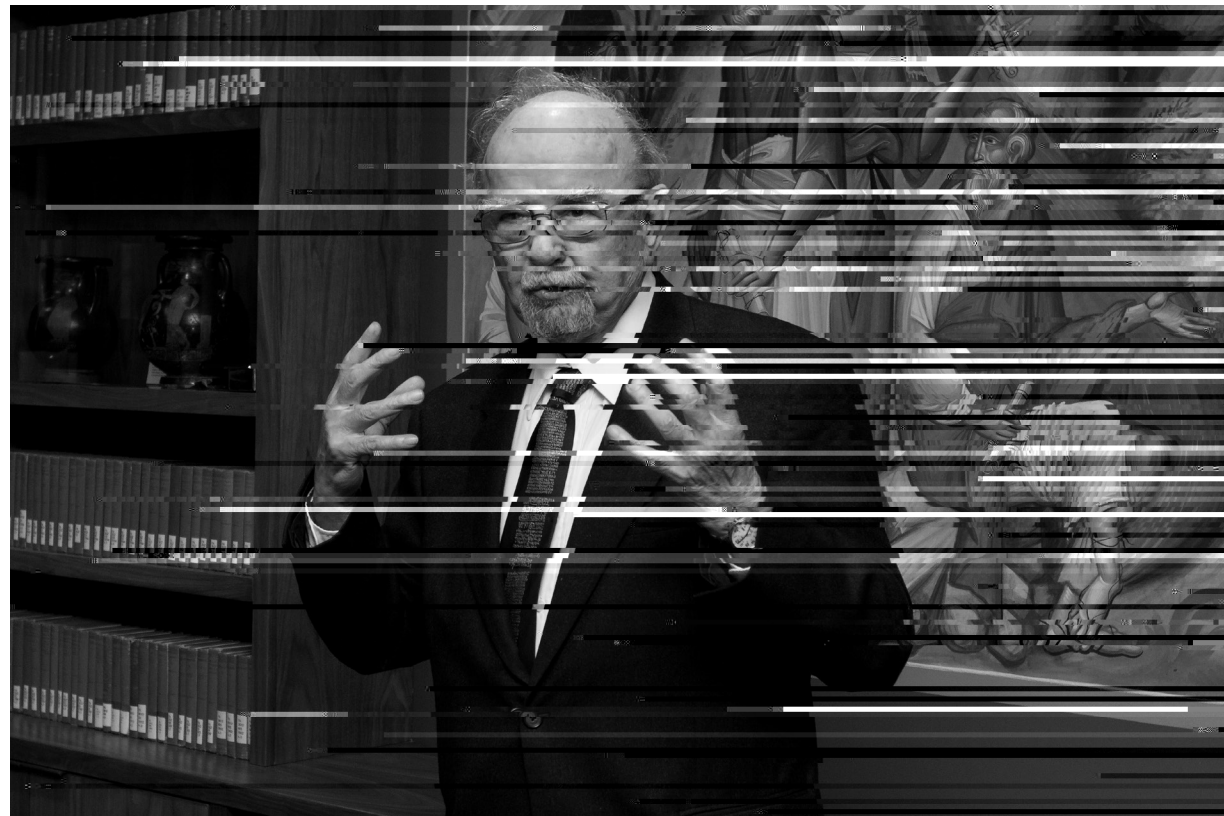
Ciara: The Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room has repositioned the center of the campus for me. It is the heart of the Bjork Library for many of us Ancient Greek students, as well as, I imagine, for some of the Latin and religious studies students. The Classical Humanities lectures, which are now offered in the Constantelos Room, have centralized Hellenic life on campus and have created a locus for the community to meet.

Terry: I don't feel differently about the Campus as a whole, but I do like the "feel" the room gives to the library. It is a great addition.

2. When you are in The Room, are you usually studying alone or with others?

The Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room Grand Opening

Photos by Susan Allen



Rev. Dr. Constantelos speaking at the opening ceremony of the room which bears his name.



Advisory Board Chairman, Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room



One of the many valuable books featured in the collection.

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