

At the House of Greece, the graduation ceremony of the Center for Byzantine Studies of Queens College

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The students in a commemorative photo with the professors and members of the advisory committee.

NEW YORK. The Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of Queens College, on the evening of Tuesday, May 16, 2023, organized for the first time in its history the 45th annual awards and scholarship ceremony at the House of Greece as we usually call the Consulate General of Greece in New York.

The Greek Consul Konstantinos Konstantinou, as mentioned in the relevant press release, enthusiastically accepted to host the ceremony of the Byzantine Center at the Consulate for the first time as he said it is the duty of the Greek State to embrace every effort to spread and preserve the Greek language and Greek Culture .

The event hall of the Consulate General was packed with students, parents, professors, senior officials of the University, members of the Advisory Committee of the Byzantine Center, and representatives of expatriate organizations,



The students who were awarded Efstathios Valiotis, Dr. Gerasimos Katsan and Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou.

The Director of the Center Dr. Gerasimos Katsan, as well as the Consul General Mr. Dinos Konstantinou, welcomed and thanked the students and all the guests.

The archbishop of the Holy Archdiocese Fr. Nektarios Papazafeiropoulos opened the ceremony with prayer representing the Archdiocese as the multiple obligations of Archbishop Elpidophoros did not allow him to attend.

The singer, baritone and graduate of the Department of Fine Arts of Queens College, Mr. Neophytos Ioannou sang the Greek national anthem in a unique way.

Then the President of Queens College, Frank Wu, spoke, whose presence at the Greek Consulate gave special weight to the event. He stated that he was thrilled to see in person the Greek State and expatriate actors supporting the Byzantine Center.



Costas Vaggellatos while awarding the scholarship and next to him Dr. Gerasimos Katsan and Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou.

The vice chancellor of the University Dr. Megan Healey welcomed the guests and congratulated the Management of the Byzantine Center for the excellent organization of the event as well as for maintaining and developing the multiple academic and cultural role of the Center.

The Consul General, Mr. Dinos Konstantinou took the floor as he was the keynote speaker and presented the established honorary lecture dedicated to the memory of Haris Psomiadis, founder and visionary of the Byzantine Center on "The Present and Future of Modern Greek Studies in America".

In his excellent speech, the Consul General spoke about the importance of the continuity of humanities studies in the Academic map and emphasized the timeless nature of the studies of the ancient and modern Greek language as well as Byzantine history.



Screenshot from the lecture of Mr. Constantinos Constantinos, Consul General of Greece in New York.

He did not fail to say that he personally as well as the Greek state will support every effort in this direction and invited the Center for Byzantine and Greek Studies of Queens College to continue the admirable effort it is making.

A total of 22 scholarships funded by individuals and organizations of the Community were awarded. Some of them have been supporting the Byzantine Center for many years.

It is encouraging, however, that new expatriate organizations have expressed a particular interest in supporting the Center. Everything shows that the persistent efforts they are making in the last year that the Director Dr. Katsan and the deputy director Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou to strengthen the Center financially, always with the full assistance of the Advisory Committee, it is beginning to bear fruit.



Queens College President Frank Wu

The scholarships were given on the one hand based on academic criteria and on the other hand they were given to students who choose Greek and Byzantine Studies as a Major or Minor, thus encouraging and strengthening their choice.

Dr. Gerasimos Katsan and Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou then invited the sponsors of the scholarships and the professors to congratulate and present the award certificates to the students themselves, receiving warm applause.

Then Dr. Katsan especially thanked the members of the Advisory Committee who attended the event as well as all the scholarship sponsors old and new for their support of the Byzantine Center.



The students and Panagiotis Gerazounis, Dr. Gerasimos Katsan and Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou.

From the Advisory Committee, Mr. Efstathios Valiotis, Mr. Savvas Tsvikos, Mr. Kostas Vagelatos, Mr. Yiannis Metaxas, Mr. Dimos Siokis and Mrs. Efi Lekka honored the event with their presence.

Also present was Mr. Christos Stratakis, who voluntarily retired and was the chairman of the Commission for a number of years.

Finally, Dr. Katsan thanked the Consul General, Mr. Dino Konstantinou, the Public Relations Officer of the consulate, Mrs. Evelyn Kanellea for their valuable help and hospitality, as well as his colleague Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou, deputy director of the Byzantine Center and general coordinator of the event.

A reception followed where the guests had the opportunity to taste unique Greek dishes.



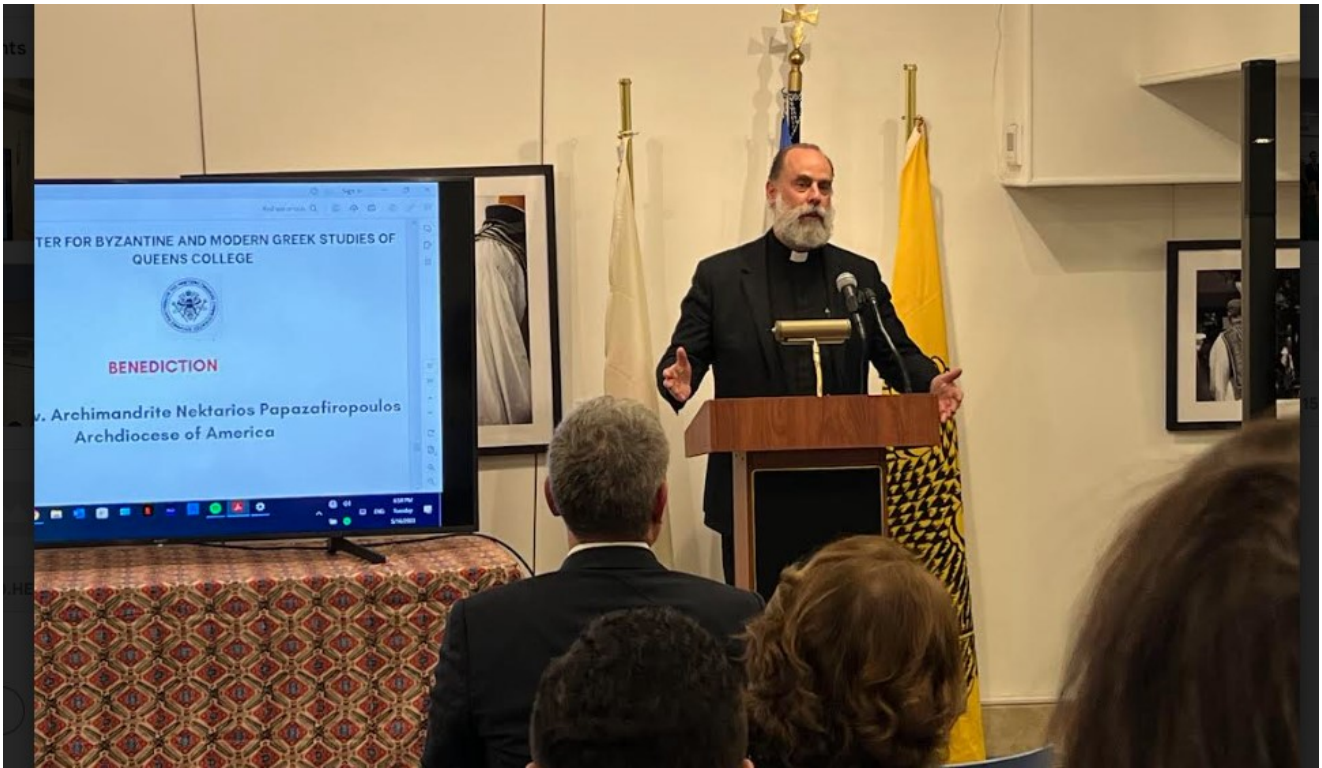
The president of the Association of Constantinople Prodrimos Katsantonis and Dr. Gerasimos Katsan.



Official guests in the front row and students and faculty while attending the graduation ceremony.



In the first row from the left are Efsthathios Valiotis, Efi Lekka, Kostas Vagelatos, Dimos Siokis, Savvas Tsivikos and Yiannis Metaxas.



The first bishop of the Holy Archdiocese, Father Nektarios Papazafeiropoulos.

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