Queens College alumni meeting initiated by the Center for Byzantine Studies

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NEW YORK -

Older and younger graduates from Greece and Cyprus were brought together by the event organized by Queens College's Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies on Thursday, October 19 at the Oasis Cafe in Flushing.

Present was the Director of the Byzantine Center Dr. Gerasimos Katsan and the deputy director Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou who welcomed and thanked all the graduates who responded to his invitation and came to the meeting, among them two members of the Advisory Committee of the Center, Kostas Vagelatos and Efi Lekka.

After the necessary introductions, all the participants in this special meeting talked about how they started their studies, how they made friends with other Greeks or Cypriots, how some friendships endured over the years and continue, and finally they mentioned what they are doing now and how they were helped from Queens College and especially from the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies.

Among them, the need for contact and networking of all alumni both socially and professionally was emphasized and all of them promised to extend the network to other alumni who did not happen to be informed or were not able to attend the meeting.



Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou pointed out that 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Byzantine Center by the late Haris Psomiadis, an anniversary that will be celebrated with a festive event on May 17 for the organization of which she asked for everyone's help and participation.

The Oasis Cafe, as the graduates pointed out, is a timeless meeting point for the Greek students of Queens College as the Greek Club Ikaros has been holding its monthly meetings in this space for years. All the students, as they noted, have tried his delicious Greek sweets and always meet other Greek patrons there. This was also the reason, noted the organizers, that this particular Cafe was chosen as the meeting place. Moreover, its managers and especially the manager Mr. Bogas helped the success of the meeting, since, as he said, we all have to help the Byzantine Center which continues to offer Greek students for so many years.



Finally, everyone agreed that this meeting was necessary. They promised to activate and help the Center according to their capacity, somehow reciprocating its offer to them, the years when they were students themselves and had first come from Greece.

The evening ended happily, some even expressed the desire to have this meeting more often in order to have the opportunity to bring other old fellow students and they thanked Dr. Katsan and Dr. Athanasopoulou for this initiative.



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