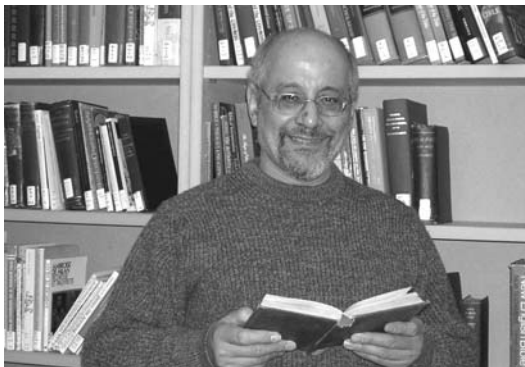




The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies



A Tribute to George Bebawi

Dr George Bebawi, IOCS Director of Studies since 2000, retires after four years of service to the IOCS to take up a new job in America. His work with students and his contribution to the life of the Institute will be missed and the distinctive eastern flavour brought to the life of the IOCS through George's presence will be impossible to replace.

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Wedding bells at IOCS

Krastu Banev and Esther Hookway were married on 15 February 2004 in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge, in the company of a host of guests there to celebrate with them.

Many will know Krastu, originally from Bulgaria, as one of the first students to enrol at the IOCS in 1999 and the first to graduate from the MA programme with distinction. During his time as President of the Cambridge University Orthodox Society, he put tremendous energy into bringing together the Orthodox students of the IOCS and the University, organising regular talks, meetings and occasions for students to get to know each other. Krastu is now pursuing his doctoral studies in patristics at Trinity College, Cambridge. Esther has been working part-time at the Institute since Spring 2000, involved with managing the office, the organisation of the study weekends and the publicity of the Institute in her capacity as Communications Officer.

Krastu and Esther were married by Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain and Fr John Hookway, in the presence of their guests including IOCS staff, many IOCS students and directors. After the ceremony the newly weds and friends processed from Trinity Chapel across market square to the Guildhall, in carnivalesque fashion, to enjoy the festivities which followed. IOCS Chairman Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia was among the guests and made a short address at the reception. ■



The wedding ceremony in the Trinity College Chapel

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He goes, but his inspiration remains

Students had the opportunity to bid George an official farewell on the occasion of the March 2004 study weekend, and to adorn him, amidst tears and laughter, with gifts of all kinds, including a painted wooden cross from Sweden. A leaving party in Cambridge before the Easter break was a further opportunity for IOCS staff, directors, members, students and friends to say goodbye.

We thank George for all that he has contributed to the life and work of the Institute over these past three years and we wish him good health and happiness in this new chapter.

Students' tributes:

❖ If you hear a deep chuckle on entering the Orthodox Institute, then you know George is there. How we shall miss his stories and jokes! His humour is appreciated because it has its roots in inner warmth: George sees in each of us an icon of Christ, to be loved because of the love of Christ. We shall miss his acute mind and understanding, as that of a true theologian rooted in prayer. As students we shall miss his astonishing depth of knowledge of the Bible and the Fathers, his stimulation and encouragement. He goes, but his inspiration remains with us.

Gladys Bland, IOCS part-time Diploma Course student

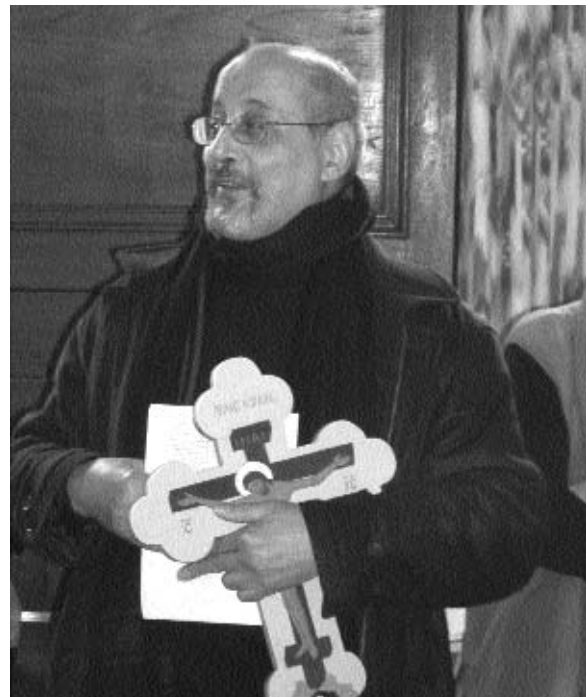
❖ 'Let your light so shine before men...' I cannot remember the details of my first meeting with George Bebawi, but I will always recall a vivid first impression of his brightness and joyfulness that helped me cope with the difficulties of living in a foreign country. The presence of George Bebawi makes life colourful and fills all situations with joy. All students feel that George is their personal friend and comforter. I will never

forget his lectures, which always turned into powerful sermons through his deep love for God and for people. George Bebawi's leaving is a great loss for all students of the IOCS; but God needs such burning candles everywhere in order to reveal through them His divine love and wisdom.

Tamar Gogvadze IOCS full-time CTPS student

❖ I have greatly valued my years at the Institute with George as Director of Studies. George is not only a friend, whose wisdom and discernment I came to appreciate greatly, but also a person with a profound understanding both of Orthodox Christianity, and of its relationship with Judaism, Islam, and the Western Churches. I learned from him the many ways of developing one's talents in theory and practice. All contacts with George are illuminated with humorous and stimulating anecdotes of his experiences living in Egypt and elsewhere.

William Cooper Bailey, IOCS part-time Diploma Course student



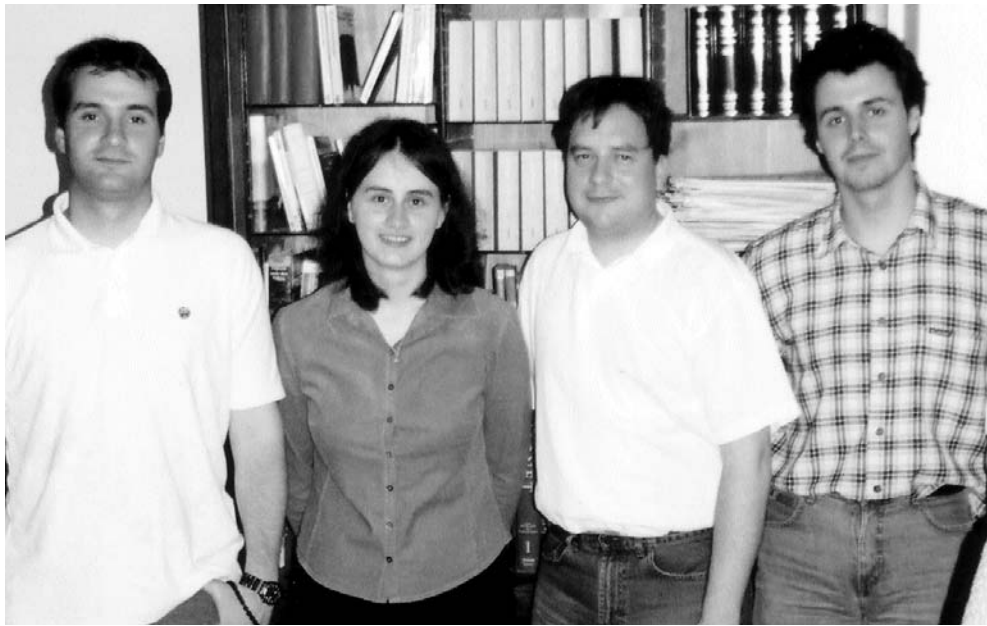
Dr George Bebawi says goodbye to IOCS students



The MA in Pastoral Theology

Many of our full-time students follow the MA in Pastoral Theology, a course taught by the Cambridge Theological Federation in partnership with Anglia Polytechnic University.

Let us listen to the voices of these students, whose message underlines the significance of the MA course to an Orthodox Christian.



Full-time MA students 2002-2003 at IOCS: Vasilije Vranic (Serbia), Ioana Dumitrache (Romania), Razvan Porumb (Romania) and Alexey Dolgov (Russia)

❖ IOANA, Romania:

For those interested in research, the MA in Pastoral Theology is an opportunity to assimilate the Cambridge standards of academic writing and research, to delve into myriad books at the University Library, to reflect theologically on one's experience and converse with prominent scholars and fellow students of various Christian denominations. Definitely a worthwhile learning experience.

For me as an Orthodox Christian, the MA put into perspective the presuppositions about Western theology acquired during theological studies in a solely Orthodox milieu. The MA stretches and challenges the Orthodox student to adjust to what seems to

be a very distinct context. During the MA course, I understood that it is equally detrimental on the one hand to emphasise too strongly the differences between Christian denominations, and on the other, to gloss over them.

*For more students' opinions on the MA course
turn over ►*

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Current and former IOCS students share their experience of the MA course

❖ VASILJE, Serbia:

It sounds almost too good to be true: to get the most out of your academic studies, and to be part of a comfortable and friendly environment. Now that I have experienced the MA course in Pastoral Theology at the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge, I can confirm that it is possible! At the IOCS, the academic and administrative staff are excellent, and their expertise provides enormous potential for the development of their students.

Studying here in Cambridge means to be part of one of the greatest academic settings, and to be exposed to the wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds of those living and working here. The combination of a rich academic tradition and progressive modern scholarship provides an inspiring environment in which we can all find our place.

An overseas student will adapt more easily to new settings if he recognizes within them cultural or religious aspects of life from home. In Cambridge an Orthodox student will easily find other Orthodox people. The Institute itself provides a meeting place, alongside two parishes: the Russian Orthodox parish and the Greek Orthodox parish, both situated in Cambridge and with both of whom IOCS co-operates closely.

Finally, when thousands of students around the world are making great efforts to study English language according to Cambridge standards, why not do so at the very source of English language excellence – in a tolerant environment that helps build self-confidence – in Cambridge!

After all I have said it is only natural that I wholeheartedly recommend the MA course at the IOCS.

❖ PENELOPE, Great Britain:

It is both beneficial and important that Orthodoxy maintains a voice in the wider context of ecumenical dialogue within the Cambridge Theological Federation. The Orthodox tradition has much to offer and to learn from the task of contextualisation in pastoral theology, in order for inclusive and unifying Orthodox communities to thrive here in Britain, and to make the presence of Orthodoxy known to other Christian traditions. Through the opportunities for research offered by the MA, native British Orthodox students have the opportunity to take part in the vital role of identifying and interpreting British traditions that can be assimilated in local Orthodox communities, thus creating rich and varied resources for British Orthodox pastoral theology in the future.

As a British student it is a privilege to follow the MA course at the IOCS, which offers a unique opportunity to share in the experiences of other students from within the wide-reaching Orthodox community and the course ensures a proper foundation for Orthodox ministry of both clergy and laity.

If you are considering applying for the MA course for 2004-05, please contact IOCS for an application form and further details



'Office angel' flies home

The Graduate Assistant is the IOCS staff member with whom the students interact most often, not only concerning administrative matters, but also for a word of advice or for a friendly chat. And when that person is friendly, honest and warm and happens to be a student as well, the sense of sharing is likely to be greater. This has been the case with Ioana Dumitrache – former Graduate Assistant of IOCS – both a competent, thorough and committed member of the IOCS staff team, and also a dear friend for all the staff and students.

Ioana's tasks as a Graduate Assistant were diverse, ranging from basic administration to correspondence with the students; from financial duties to the managing of academic files... Ioana executed all tasks with excellence, dedication, and in a highly organized manner – while at the same time remaining one of the brightest students of the Institute.



So much has Ioana's presence become associated with the image of the Institute, contributing to the family atmosphere, that over this year's first study weekend, upon mention of Ioana's departure, her name was hailed with a touching round of applause from all the students. Thank you, Ioana, for all you have done for us. ■

New Graduate Assistant

It would be incorrect to say that Razvan Porumb was 'welcomed,' at the beginning of the year, as a new member of the Institute staff, since he has

long been a member of the IOCS family and has already helped the Institute informally on various occasions during his ten-month stay in Cambridge. Razvan graduated in English and Romanian at the Iasi University in Romania, and his ensuing career took him to the Metropolitanate of Moldavia and Bucovina as editor and translator of theological literature – an activity he enjoyed for almost nine years. He has also taught English part-time at the Theological Seminary of Neamt



and the Theological Faculty of Iasi, and spent a year as an Intern with the World Council of Churches in Geneva before coming to Cambridge.

As well as the ecumenical reality which he has discovered in Cambridge thanks to the wider context of the Cambridge Theological Federation, Razvan has encountered a distinctive Orthodox environment:

'The Orthodox community in Cambridge with its pluri-cultural, multi-ethnic dimension provides an amazing and unique experience, enriching and fulfilling beyond any expectation,' says Razvan.

'Working for the Institute makes you feel very involved, as the Institute is undoubtedly a dynamic centre of Orthodox life in Cambridge.'

'Just like many students here, I have grown attached to the Institute – so being on the staff now is more than a job: it is a true joy and a great opportunity.'

It is also a joy for the Institute to have, once again, one of its students among its staff members. ■

New Certificate course module: Orthodox Britain

This striking and arguably provocative title for the new addition to the Certificate course modules, taught over



Fr John Nankivell lecturing Certificate course students at the Orthodox Britain study weekend March 2004

the March 2004 study weekend, causes us to question the extent to which the Eastern Orthodox Church is the natural

continuation of the undivided church of the first millennium and, indeed, the extent to which the Orthodox in Britain today are living – or attempting to live – the faith of their forefathers.

The lectures began with an address from IOCS Principal Dr Marcus Plested on Christianity in Roman Britain, went on to cover the Celtic and Anglo-Saxon traditions (including a wealth of British saints) and ended with a discussion about what the Orthodox Church is doing to address contemporary issues in Britain today. Together with IOCS Principal, the weekend lecturers were Fr Deiniol from Blaenau Ffestiniog in Wales and Fr John Nankivell from Walsall. ■



Students' lunch during the IOCS study weekend in March 2004

Out and about

❖ Teaching at St John's Institute, Brussels

Following the memorable visit in November 2003 of staff and students of St John's Institute, Brussels (Centre de formation théologique St Jean le Théologien), reported in our Winter Newsletter, IOCS Principal Dr Marcus Plested was invited by St John's to teach at its monthly Study Days in February and March 2004. Good flight connections between Brussels and Stansted airport render such teaching trips quite feasible. What is more, this growing connection between our two Institutes can only be of benefit to the developing Orthodox community of Europe.

❖ Erasmus teaching exchange, Finland

Professor Grant White, Professor in the Department of Orthodox Theology at the University of Joensuu, Finland, lectured at the IOCS over a two-week period in December 2003, as part of the Erasmus exchange programme organised by the European Union. He led a session for the Orthodox module of the MA and taught the Diploma Course students over the December Study weekend on Modern Orthodox Ecclesiology. IOCS Principal, Dr Marcus Plested reciprocates the visit with a teaching stint in Joensuu during the Summer term. IOCS is a member of the Erasmus scheme and looks forward to further exchange activity amongst staff and students in the future.

❖ 'What did the Greek Fathers mean by "theology"?'

This was the title of the address of IOCS Chairman, Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia to the Cambridge Theological Federation AGM. Beginning with an amusing and salutary anecdote about a riot of unemployed theologians that stopped the traffic in Athens

some years ago, the lecture went on to explore the Patristic understanding of theology as a paradigm for our own efforts in theological education in the twenty-first century. The lecture was attended by Principals, staff, students and Chairs of the Governing Bodies of Federation Colleges.

❖ 'Orthodoxy in the West Today and Tomorrow'

This summer conference, organised by the Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist from 6-9 August 2004 in Swanick, Derbyshire, is an opportunity for the pan-Orthodox community of Britain and Western Europe to come together and strengthen their Orthodox identity as one body, and to discuss the situation of the Church in Western Europe today. Speakers include IOCS Chairman, Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia, addressing 'The shape of things to come: our future witness', and IOCS Communications Officer, Esther Hookway-Banev, together with Rebecca Hookway, former Secretary-General of Syndesmos, The World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth, speaking on 'Being Orthodox in Britain today'.

For further information and a booking form, contact Bede Gerrard, 26 Denton Close, Oxford, OX2 9BW



Staff and students from St John's Institute, Brussels visiting the Institute in October 2003



The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies
Cambridge

SUMMER SCHOOL

4-9 July 2004, Westminster College, Cambridge

What is Man?

O LORD, what is man that thou dost regard him,
or the son of man that thou dost think of him?
(Psalm 144.3)

The theme What is Man? arises from the IOCS Summer School 2003 'Living Orthodoxy in the 21st Century', at which Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia singled out, as the major issue facing Orthodox theology this century, the question of what it means to be human.

Lecturers will treat the question What is Man? from a variety of perspectives, inviting students to deepen their understanding of the mystery of God's creation and His working in our lives.

The Summer School will gather around 50 students a five-day programme of lectures, discussions, worship, an optional excursion, and other informal opportunities for fellowship.

Speakers include:

Bishop Kallistos, Fr Andrew Louth
Dr Marcus Plested, Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff, Dr George Bebawi,
Archimandrite Symeon (Tolleshunt Knights)

Cost for the five-day Summer School (including tuition):

- £400 residential full board • £300 non-residential including meals
- £200 non-residential tea & coffee only

Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Wesley House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BJ

Contact the Institute on 01223 741037 or info@iocs.cam.ac.uk

or consult the website: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk for an automated Summer School booking form