

Progress of Coptic studies at Claremont Graduate University (CGU)

We are truly thankful to God who continues to grant us progress in Coptic studies at CGU in the following areas (updates are shown in red):

1) The International Congress of Coptic Studies will be hosted by CGU, 25-30 July 2016. Info and registration at: www.copticcongress2016.org. The strength of Coptic studies at CGU, and the partnership between CGU and St. Shenouda Coptic Society, were leading reasons for the International Association of Coptic Studies (IACS) to accept the invitation of CGU to host the 2016 Congress. The University of Rome hosted the 2012 Congress. IACS appointed Hany Takla as Secretary of the 2016 Congress and a member of the IACS Board.

2) In Honor of HH Pope Tawadros II: On 19 Oct 2015, CGU, Claremont School of Theology (CST), and St Athanasius and St Cyril Coptic Orthodox Theological School (ACTS) held an event to honor HH Pope Tawadros II, who also signed along with the three institutions two MOUs for academic collaboration. This will add an important dimension to the Coptic Studies Track that the Society is independently supporting at CGU with your generosity. Read CGU Press Release: <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/4546.asp?item=8626>

3) Coptic Studies Track is established: See details at <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/9884.asp> (Courses, Faculty, Student Profiles, Recognition, ...). There is also a brochure to download.

4) Developing career Coptologists: Several MA/PhD candidates at CGU are writing their dissertations on Coptic topics, supervised by the eminent Coptologist Professor Gawdat Gabra and other faculty. Copts and non-Copts continue to enroll and graduate under the Coptic Studies Track (or transdisciplinary tracks including Coptic studies). **See examples at Graduate Profiles (names, dissertation titles, books, and recent activities):** <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/9567.asp>

5) Courses in Coptic Studies: Since 2007, Professor Gabra has been teaching courses on Coptic Art and Archeology, Coptic Monasticism, Coptic New Testament and Liturgy, Coptic Sayings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, Coptic Hagiography, Egypt's Religious Heritage, and Coptic Literature. See Course Descriptions at: <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/6860.asp> and one student's experience in the program: <http://www.stshenouda.org/AcademicPGM/PrinnyS-4Nov2007.pdf>

6) The Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia (CCE): All eight volumes of *The Coptic Encyclopedia* (Aziz Atiya, Macmillan, 1991) have been posted at www.cgu.edu/cce according to the Library of Congress standards. The world has been waiting for it: there are about 50,000 views per month on the average. Next tasks; continuously adding new topics and images and updating old entries.

7) In honor of Professor Gawdat Gabra, two celebration books (festschrifts) were recently published by two international groups of Coptology scholars:

i) M. Eaton-Krauss, C. Fluck, and G.J.M. van Loon, Eds., *Egypt 1350 BC – AD 1800: Art Historical and Archaeological Studies for Gawdat Gabra* (Reichert, 2011): <http://amzn.com/3895008206>

ii) Y.N. Youssef and S. Moawad, Eds., *From Old Cairo to the New World: Coptic Studies Presented to Gawdat Gabra on the Occasion of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday* (Peeters, 2013): <http://amzn.com/9042927313>

It is rare for any professor to receive this honor once, let alone twice. It is also a testimony to the scope and influence of Professor Gabra as an advisor to students and scholars of Coptic Studies (especially in art, literature, history, and architecture).

8) Students regularly present the results of their research at the American Academy of Religion, Society of Biblical Studies, and St. Shenouda – UCLA Conferences. **See abstracts of the latest conference:** <http://conference.stshenouda.org/16ccnfreg.htm#Abstracts>. Also read their views on the future of Coptology: <http://www.stshenouda.org/AcademicPGM/PatriciaE-30Aug2009.pdf> and on Coptic studies: <http://www.stshenouda.org/AcademicPGM/PrinnyS-27May2007.pdf>

9) Public Lecture Series continues to present topics of Coptic studies to faculty, students, Claremont residents, and the Coptic community; **the latest:** <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/11557.asp>.

10) LogosTV Coptic Civilization Program: Interviews of CGU Faculty and Students:

- Magi Hernandez (MA 2014), “Neo Coptic Art in Los Angeles,” 11 May 2015: https://youtu.be/z_t2JD65CC4
- Dean Tammi Schneider and Professor Patrick Mason, “Coptic Studies in Claremont,” 18 Aug 2014: <http://youtu.be/IvSVzolUPYE>
- Patricia Eshagh (PhD 2016), “Monastic Influences,” 12 Aug 2013: <http://youtu.be/qMmjZgZ8MKA> and “Monastic Travels and Books,” 13 Jan 2014: <http://youtu.be/KAWos3YuVBM>
- Professor Gawdat Gabra and Editor Carolyn Ludwig, “New Book on Old Cairo,” 22 July 2013: <http://youtu.be/8yYfswrEc3g>

11) Academic Tour of Coptic Egypt: Prof. Gabra led faculty and students in tours of Coptic Egypt in January 2008, 2009 and 2010. The tours were very successful and the group was interviewed by Aghapy TV and CTV. A video of their meeting with HH Pope Shenouda III in 2008 is in minutes 28-37 of a LogosTV episode (in Arabic): <http://youtu.be/WmCqDCJey2o>. Also read about the event at: <http://www.stshenouda.org/AcademicPGM/KarenT-17Feb2008.pdf>

12) NEH Grant: Thanks to efforts by faculty and administration at CGU, the National Endowment for Humanities has allocated an endowment of \$50,000 to Coptic studies at CGU. Though we can only spend from its annual revenue, it is a significant recognition and a step toward a Coptic studies chair. Grant applications to NEH and corporate foundations are always on the agenda.

In keeping with its mission to support Coptic Studies, St Shenouda Society pledged to CGU \$26000 annually in support of Coptic Studies Track, payable in two installments: 30 June and 31 December.

To enable this success to continue, please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society, 1494 S. Robertson Blvd, Suite 104, LA, CA 90035. In the memo, please write: Coptic Studies at CGU. **If you prefer to donate by credit card, please go to:** http://www.stshenouda.org/StShenouda_CGU.htm
For employer matched funds to educational institutions, please contact us for options.

Kindly pray for God’s blessings to this program.

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