

Developing Applications for iOS



Lab 1: HelloWorld App

Radu Ionescu
raducu.ionescu@gmail.com
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
University of Bucharest

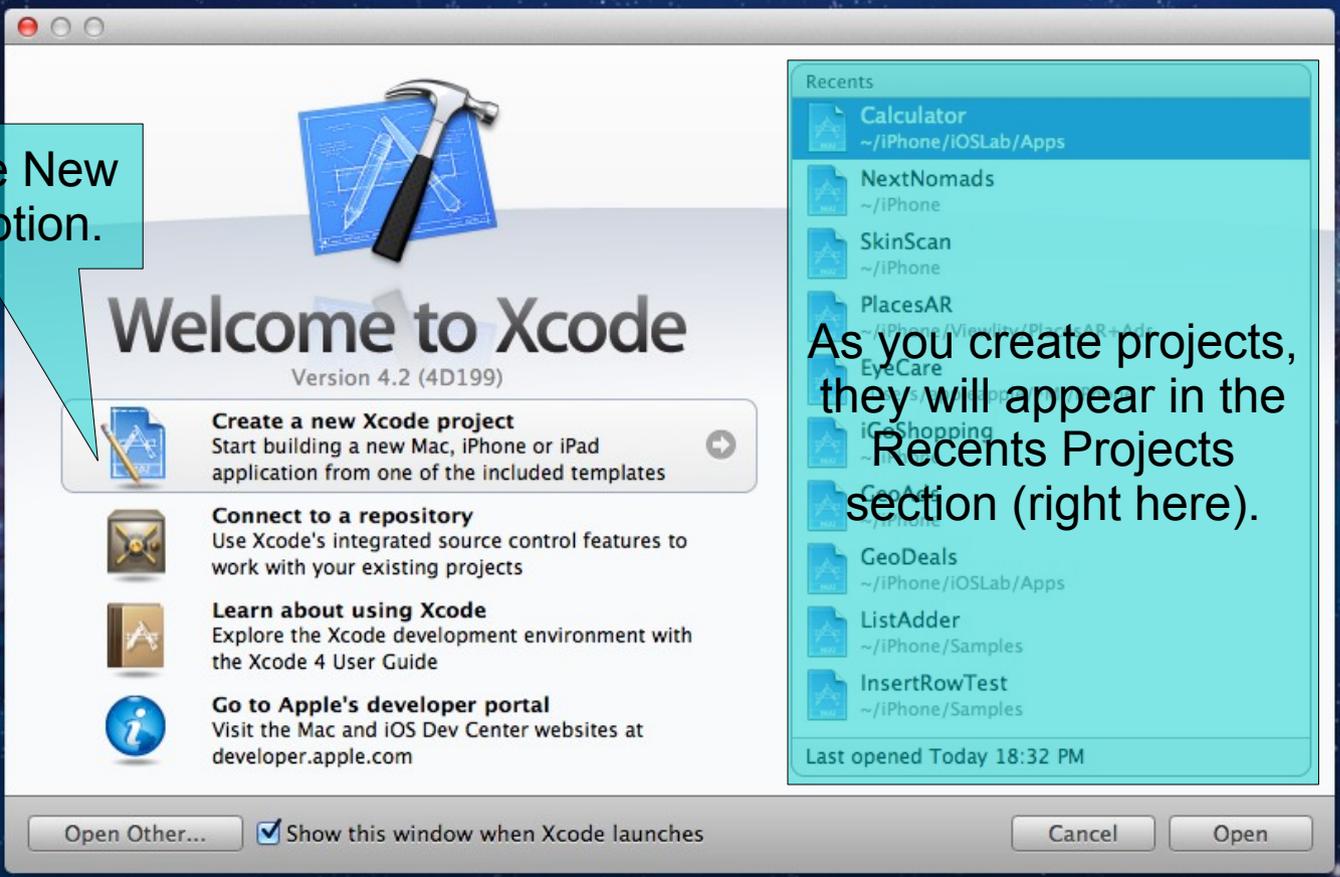
Task 1

Task: Create a new application in Xcode called “HelloWorld”.

1. Launch Xcode and take a look at the splash window. On the left side you will find a few options: Create a new Xcode project, Connect to a repository, etc. Recent projects show up on the right side of this window.

Here is the Xcode menu. Like every Mac OSX application, Xcode displays its menu on the upper side of the screen.

The Create New Project option.



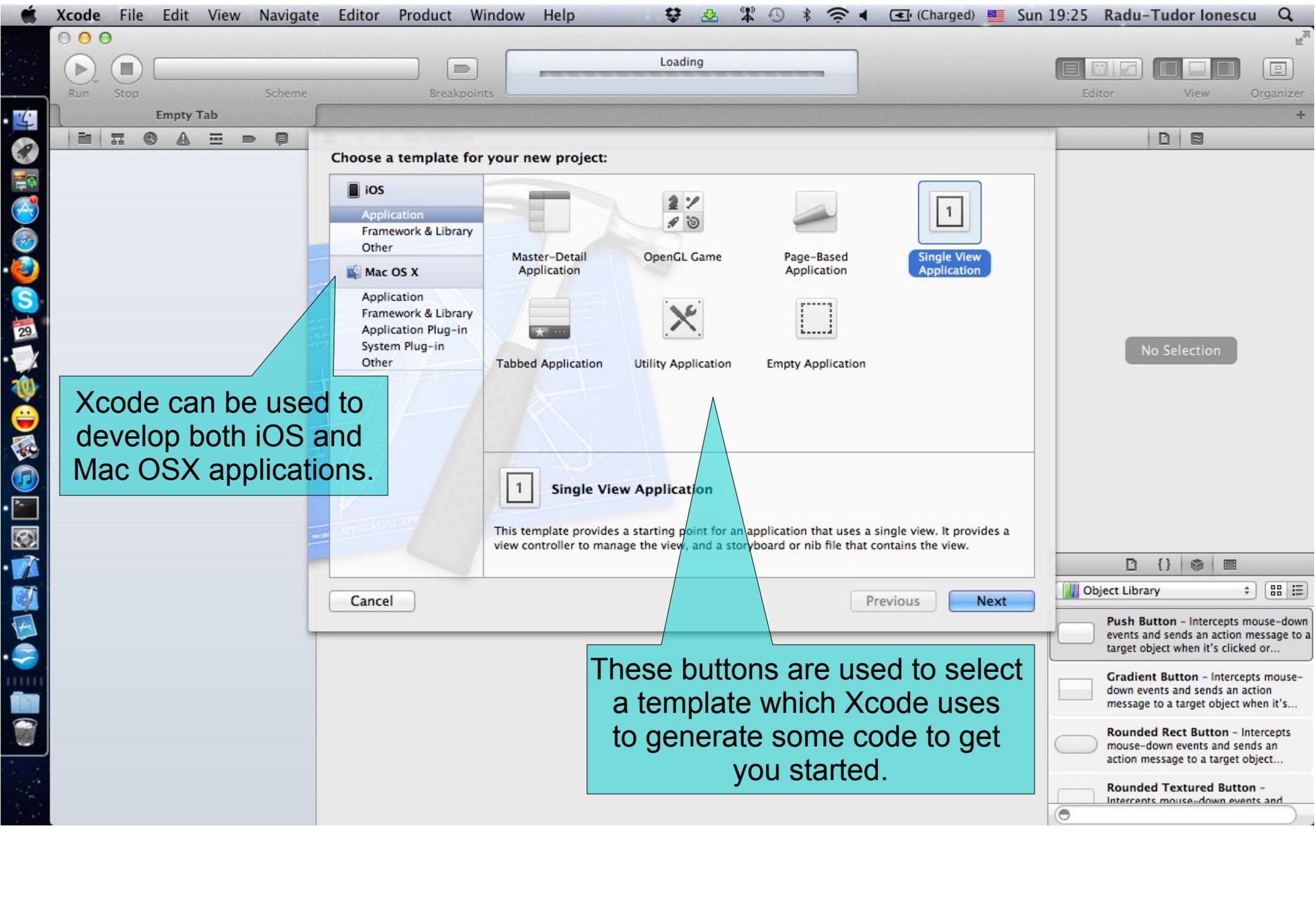
The image shows the Xcode 'Welcome to Xcode' window. The main content area features a hammer icon on a blueprint and the text 'Welcome to Xcode Version 4.2 (4D199)'. Below this are four main options: 'Create a new Xcode project', 'Connect to a repository', 'Learn about using Xcode', and 'Go to Apple's developer portal'. The 'Create a new Xcode project' option is highlighted with a light blue background. To the right of the main content is a 'Recents' sidebar, which is also highlighted with a light blue background. This sidebar lists several projects: Calculator, NextNomads, SkinScan, PlacesAR, EyeCare, iGShopping, GeoApp, GeoDeals, ListAdder, and InsertRowTest. At the bottom of the sidebar, it says 'Last opened Today 18:32 PM'. At the bottom of the main window, there are buttons for 'Open Other...', 'Show this window when Xcode launches' (checked), 'Cancel', and 'Open'.

As you create projects, they will appear in the Recents Projects section (right here).

Task 1

Task: Create a new application in Xcode called “HelloWorld”.

2. Click on the Create a new Xcode project option. If you don't see the splash window, you should go to “File > New > New Project...” in Xcode menu.



Xcode can be used to develop both iOS and Mac OSX applications.

These buttons are used to select a template which Xcode uses to generate some code to get you started.

Choose a template for your new project:

iOS

- Application
- Framework & Library
- Other

Mac OS X

- Application
- Framework & Library
- Application Plug-in
- System Plug-in
- Other

Master-Detail Application

OpenGL Game

Page-Based Application

Single View Application

Tabbed Application

Utility Application

Empty Application

1 Single View Application

This template provides a starting point for an application that uses a single view. It provides a view controller to manage the view, and a storyboard or nib file that contains the view.

Cancel

Previous

Next

No Selection

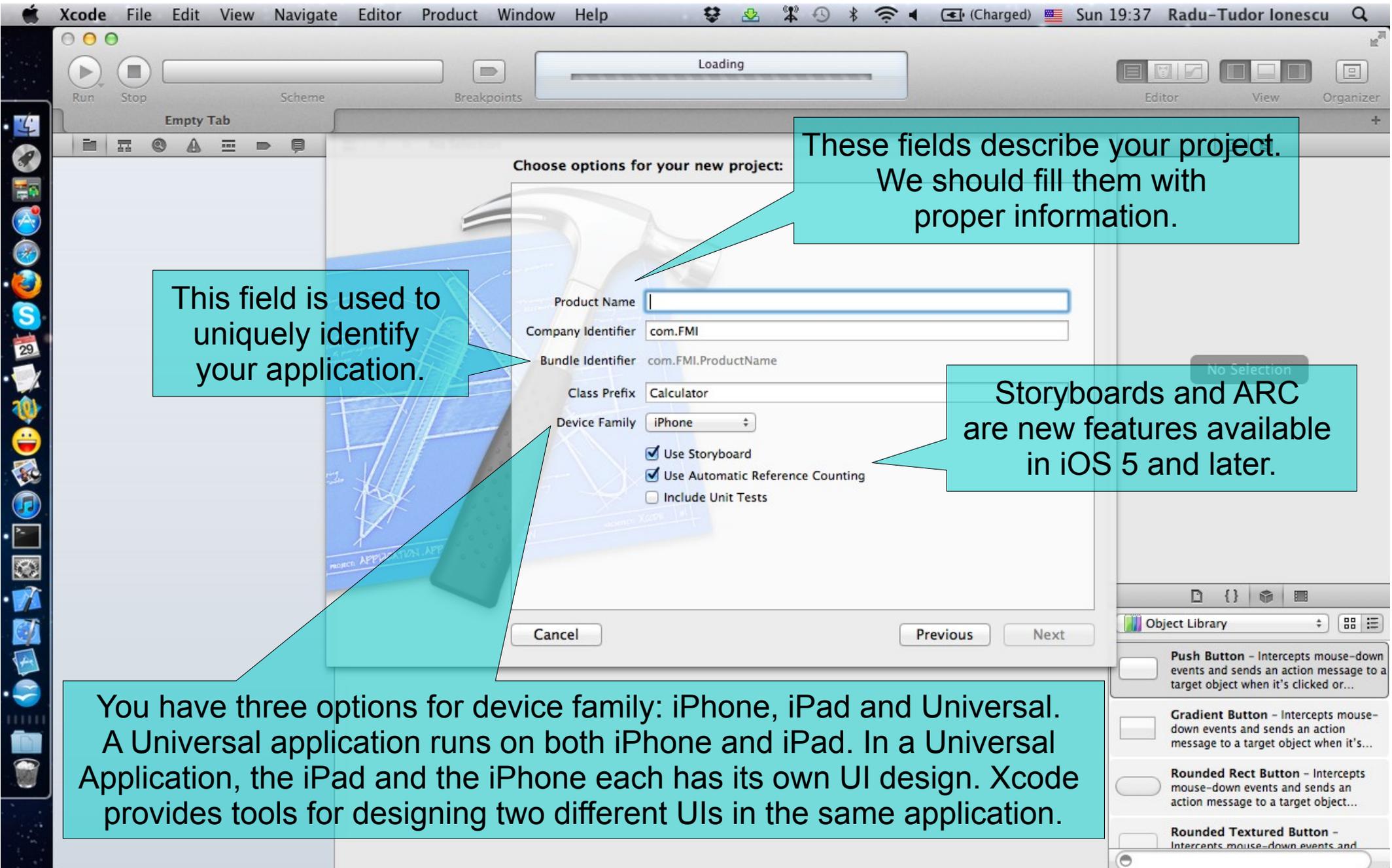
Object Library

- Push Button** - Intercepts mouse-down events and sends an action message to a target object when it's clicked or...
- Gradient Button** - Intercepts mouse-down events and sends an action message to a target object when it's...
- Rounded Rect Button** - Intercepts mouse-down events and sends an action message to a target object...
- Rounded Textured Button** - Intercepts mouse-down events and...

Task 1

Task: Create a new application in Xcode called “HelloWorld”.

3. Select the Single View Application template and click Next.



These fields describe your project. We should fill them with proper information.

This field is used to uniquely identify your application.

Storyboards and ARC are new features available in iOS 5 and later.

You have three options for device family: iPhone, iPad and Universal. A Universal application runs on both iPhone and iPad. In a Universal Application, the iPad and the iPhone each has its own UI design. Xcode provides tools for designing two different UIs in the same application.

Task 1

Task: Create a new application in Xcode called “HelloWorld”.

4. Type in “HelloWorld” for the Product Name.
5. Type in “com.FMI.FirstName.LastName” for the Company Identifier. Notice how Bundle Identifier changes as you type. You should obtain something like “com.FMI.Radu.Ionescu.HelloWorld” as your bundle identifier. Using an entity's reverse DNS lookup string is a pretty good way to get a unique identifier.
6. Type in “HelloWorld” for Class Prefix. We don't want the names of the classes generated by the template to be too generic. That's why we specify this prefix. Usually we use the name of the application for this prefix. In fact, older versions of Xcode would automatically do this whether we wanted it or not.
7. Select “iPhone” for Device Family. Our first application is going to be for the iPhone (not iPad).

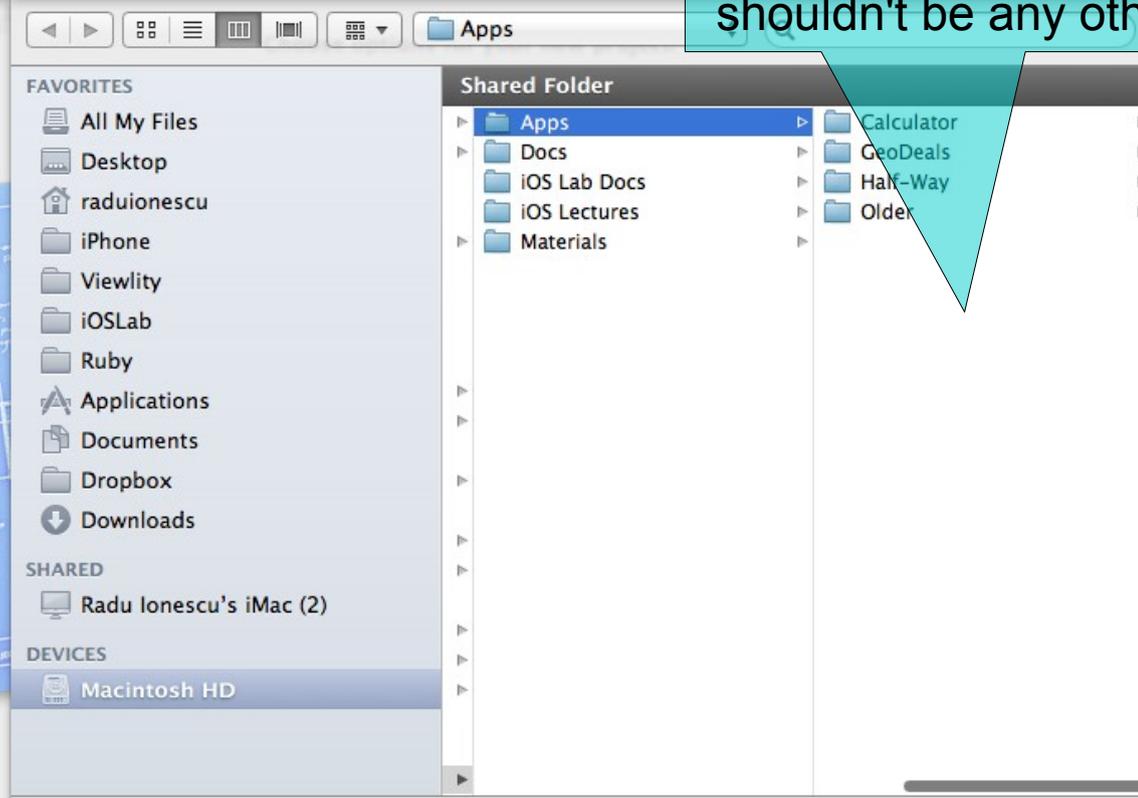
Task 1

Task: Create a new application in Xcode called “HelloWorld”.

8. Check “Use Storyboard”. Storyboards are a new (iOS 5) way to organize your MVC's Views. We are going to use them.
9. Check “Use Automatic Reference Counting”. ARC is a fantastic upgrade to the compiler (in iOS 5) which causes it to generate all the code necessary to manage the memory allocation of objects. We definitely want ARC to be on!
10. We won't be creating Unit Tests for our first application so we are going to leave the “Include Unit Tests” option unchecked.
11. Click Next.

Xcode wants to know where to store this project's directory.

“~/Developer/Apps” folder inside the home directory. There shouldn't be any other projects in it.



Source Control: Create local git repository for this project
Xcode will place your project under version control

New Folder

Cancel

Create

We will definitely be covering source control in this course. But not for this first project, so leave this switch turned off.

Task 1

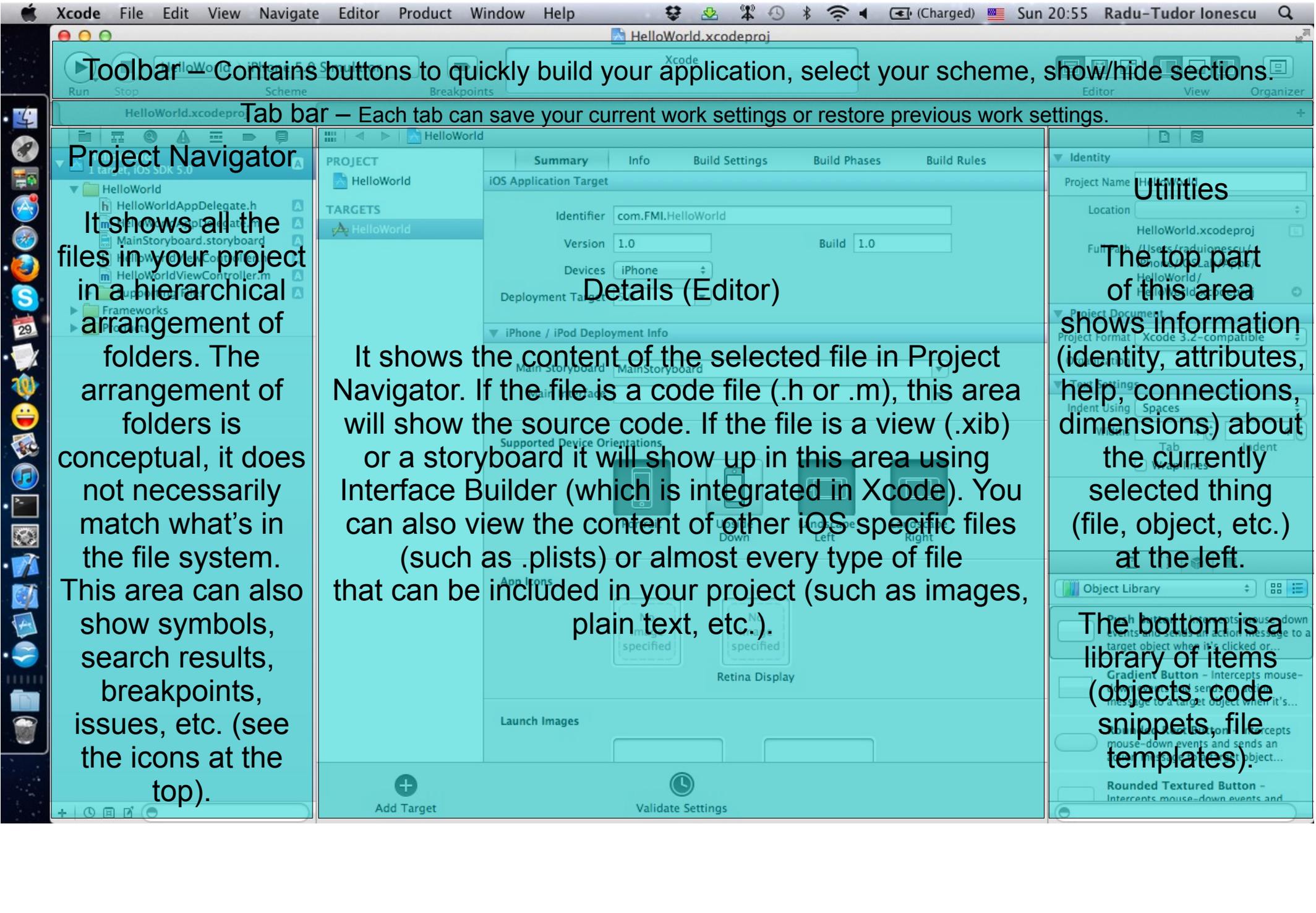
Task: Create a new application in Xcode called “HelloWorld”.

12. Navigate to “~/Developer/Apps” folder inside the home directory. There shouldn't be any other projects in it.
13. Click Create to create your project directory inside the “~/Developer/Apps” folder.

Task 2

Task: Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

1. Check out the general structure of the project window and identify the important sections: the Toolbar, the Tab bar, the Project Navigator, the Details Editor and the Utilities Area.



Toolbar – Contains buttons to quickly build your application, select your scheme, show/hide sections.

Tab bar – Each tab can save your current work settings or restore previous work settings.

Project Navigator

It shows all the files in your project in a hierarchical arrangement of folders. The arrangement of folders is conceptual, it does not necessarily match what's in the file system. This area can also show symbols, search results, breakpoints, issues, etc. (see the icons at the top).

Details (Editor)

It shows the content of the selected file in Project Navigator. If the file is a code file (.h or .m), this area will show the source code. If the file is a view (.xib) or a storyboard it will show up in this area using Interface Builder (which is integrated in Xcode). You can also view the content of other iOS specific files (such as .plist) or almost every type of file that can be included in your project (such as images, plain text, etc.).

Utilities

The top part of this area shows information (identity, attributes, help, connections, dimensions) about the currently selected thing (file, object, etc.) at the left.

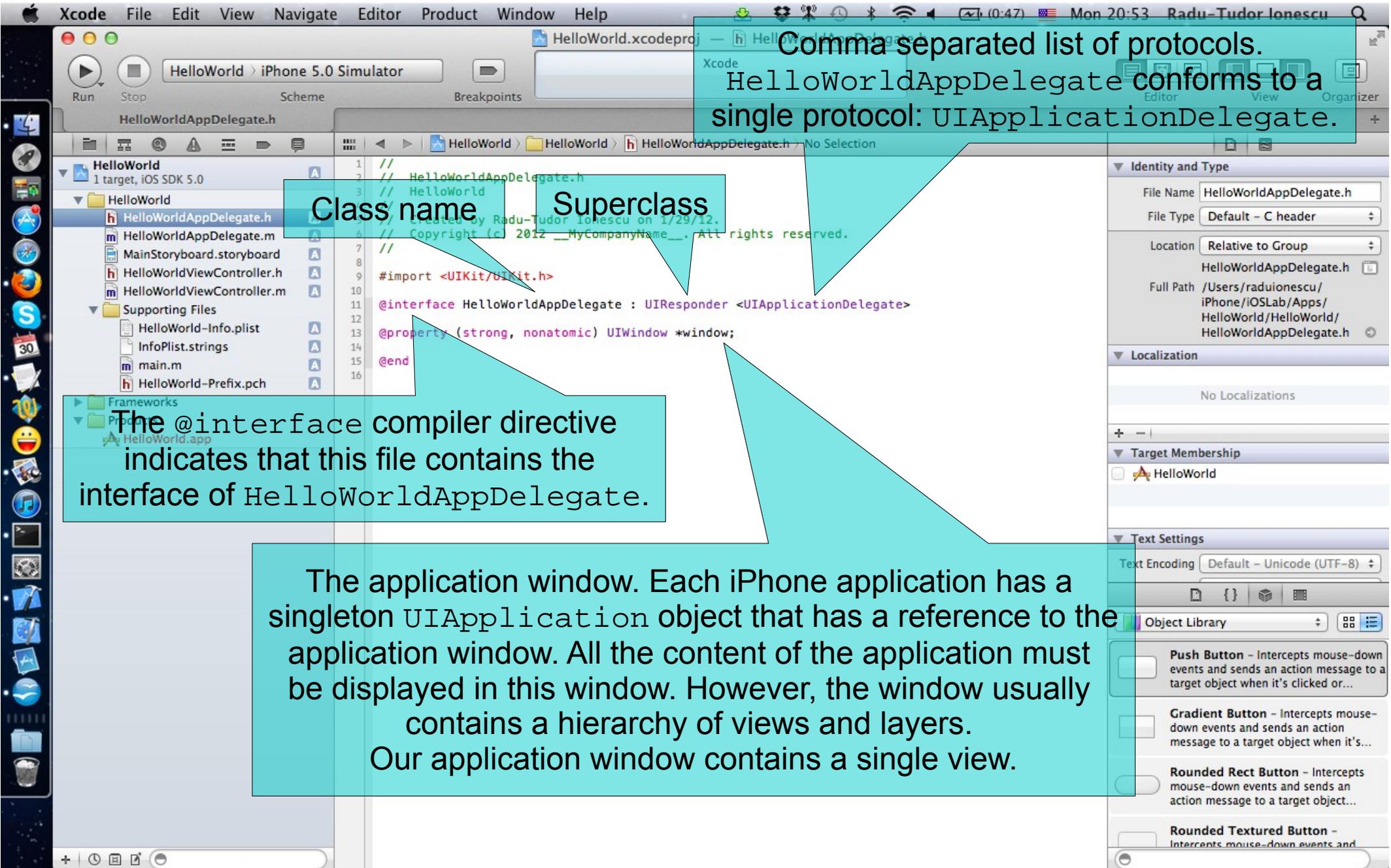
The bottom is a library of items (objects, code snippets, file templates).

Task 2

Task: Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

2. View the content of the “HelloWorldAppDelegate.h” file. This file contains the declaration of instance variables, public properties and public methods of the `HelloWorldAppDelegate` class. In Objective-C we call this part the class **interface**.

Notice the class conforms to the `UIApplicationDelegate` protocol. This protocol declares methods that are implemented by the delegate of the singleton `UIApplication` object. These methods provide you with information about key events in an application’s execution such as when it finished launching, when it is about to be terminated, when memory is low, and when important changes occur. Implementing these methods gives you a chance to respond to these system events and respond appropriately.



Comma separated list of protocols.
HelloWorldAppDelegate conforms to a single protocol: UIApplicationDelegate.

Class name

Superclass

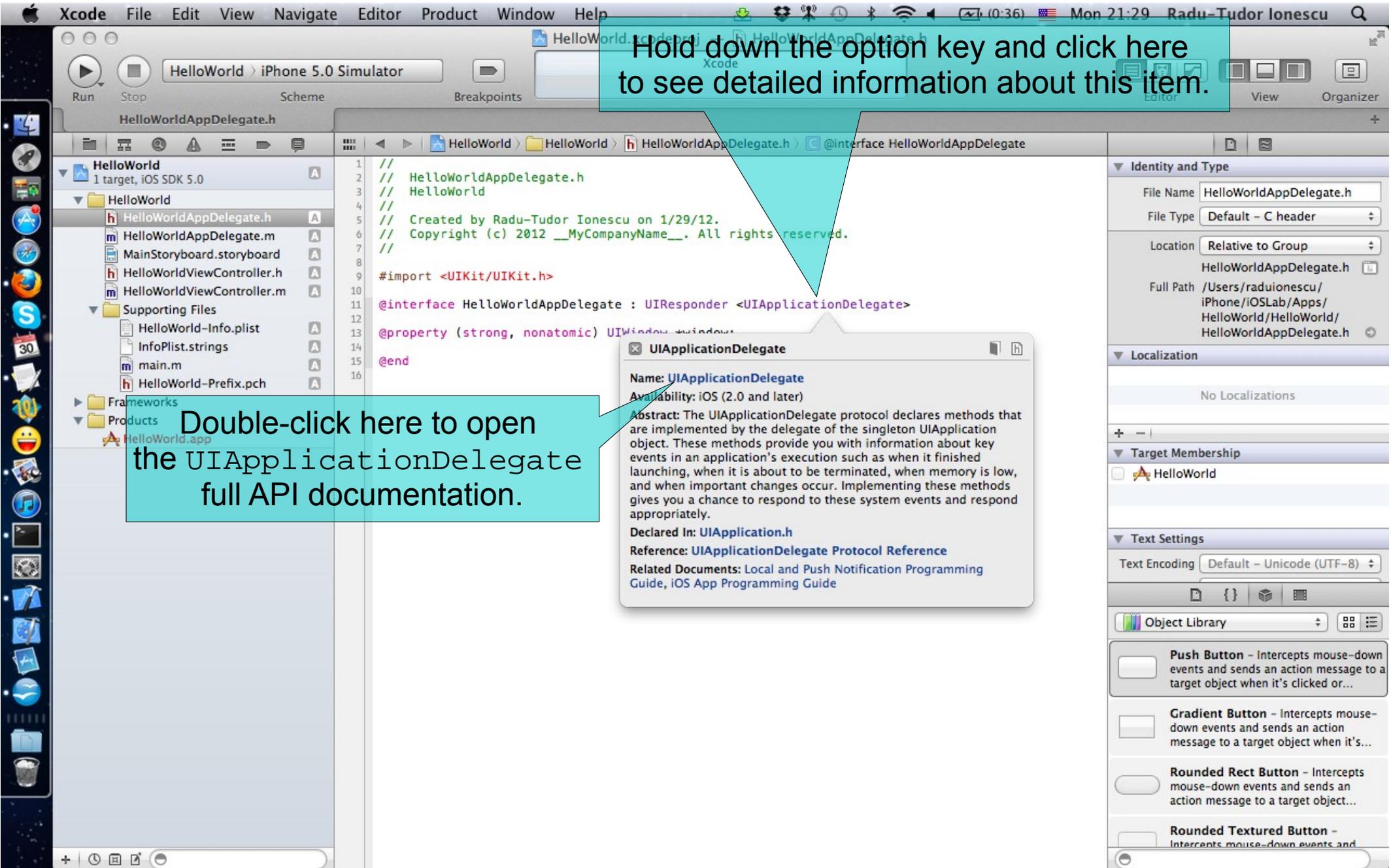
The @interface compiler directive indicates that this file contains the interface of HelloWorldAppDelegate.

The application window. Each iPhone application has a singleton UIApplication object that has a reference to the application window. All the content of the application must be displayed in this window. However, the window usually contains a hierarchy of views and layers. Our application window contains a single view.

Task 2

Task: Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

3. To read more about the `UIApplicationDelegate` protocol hold down the option key and click on the `UIApplicationDelegate`. A pop-up window with detailed information should appear on the screen.



Hold down the option key and click here to see detailed information about this item.

Double-click here to open the UIApplicationDelegate full API documentation.

UIApplicationDelegate

Name: UIApplicationDelegate
Availability: iOS (2.0 and later)
Abstract: The UIApplicationDelegate protocol declares methods that are implemented by the delegate of the singleton UIApplication object. These methods provide you with information about key events in an application's execution such as when it finished launching, when it is about to be terminated, when memory is low, and when important changes occur. Implementing these methods gives you a chance to respond to these system events and respond appropriately.
Declared In: UIApplication.h
Reference: UIApplicationDelegate Protocol Reference
Related Documents: Local and Push Notification Programming Guide, iOS App Programming Guide

Task 2

Task: Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

4. To open the `UIApplicationDelegate` API reference in Organizer double-click on the link displayed on the pop-up window. Read the full documentation of the `UIApplicationDelegate`.

Make sure you are reading the right version (iOS 5.0).

This is the Organizer window.

You are on the Documentation tab.

Notice that Organizer can also give you information about the connected devices (installed certificates, log information, installed apps, etc.), repositories (integrated git control), projects (create and manage snapshots) and archives (manage and share ad-hoc builds or submit AppStore builds).

There are two versions of each class: one for iOS 5.0 and one for iOS 4.3.

Scroll down and read all the information here.

Conforms to	NSObject
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/UIKit.framework
Availability	Available in iOS 2.0 and later.
Declared in	UIApplication.h
Companion guides	iOS App Programming Guide Local and Push Notifications Programming Guide

Overview

The `UIApplicationDelegate` protocol declares methods that are implemented by the delegate of the singleton `UIApplication` object. These methods provide you with information about key events in an application's execution such as when it finished launching, when it is about to be terminated, when memory is low, and when important changes occur. Implementing these methods gives you a chance to respond to these system events and respond appropriately.

One of the main jobs of the application delegate is to track the state transitions the application goes through while it is running. Prior to iOS 4.0, applications were either active, inactive, or not running. In iOS 4.0 and later, applications can also be running in the background or suspended. All of these transitions require a response from your application to ensure that it is doing the right thing. For example, a background application would need to stop updating its user interface. You provide the response to these transitions using the methods of the application delegate.

Launch time is also a particularly important point in an application's life cycle. In addition to the user launching an application by tapping its icon, an application can be launched in order to respond to a specific type of event. For example, it could be launched in response to an incoming push notification, it could be asked to open a file, or it could be launched to handle some background event that it had requested. In all of these cases, the options dictionary passed to the `application:didFinishLaunchingWithOptions:` method provides information about the reason for the launch.

In situations where the application is already running, the methods of the application delegate are called in response to key changes. Although the methods of this protocol are optional, most or all of them should be implemented.

Task 2

Task: Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

5. View the content of the “HelloWorldAppDelegate.m” file. This is the implementation of HelloWorldAppDelegate. Notice the superclass declaration is missing. Check if the methods declared by the UIApplicationDelegate are implemented there.

The @implementation compiler directive indicates that this file contains the implementation of HelloWorldAppDelegate.

Superclass declaration missing.

The screenshot shows the Xcode IDE with the following elements:

- Project Navigator (Left):** Shows the project structure for 'HelloWorld' (target: iOS SDK 5.0). Files include HelloWorldAppDelegate.h, HelloWorldAppDelegate.m, MainStoryboard.storyboard, HelloWorldViewController.h, HelloWorldViewController.m, Supporting Files (HelloWorld-Info.plist, InfoPlist.strings, main.m, HelloWorld-Prefix.pch), Frameworks, and Products (HelloWorld.app).
- Editor (Center):** Displays the implementation of HelloWorldAppDelegate.m. The code includes:

```
#import "HelloWorldAppDelegate.h"
@implementation HelloWorldAppDelegate
@synthesize window = _window;

- (BOOL)application:(UIApplication *)application didFinishLaunchingWithOptions:(NSDictionary *)launchOptions
{
    // Override point for customization after application launch.
    return YES;
}

- (void)applicationWillResignActive:(UIApplication *)application
{
    /*
     Sent when the application is about to move from active to inactive state. This can occur for
     example when the application is being moved to the background. Use this method to pause ongoing
     tasks, disable timers, and throttle down OpenGL ES frame rates.
     */
}

- (void)applicationDidEnterBackground:(UIApplication *)application
{
    /*
     Use this method to release shared resources, save user data, invalidate timers, and store
     any persistent data that needs to be shared with other parts of the app. If your application
     supports background execution, this method is called instead of applicationWillResignActive:.
     */
}

- (void)applicationWillEnterForeground:(UIApplication *)application
{
    /*
     Called as part of the transition from the background to the inactive state; here you can
     reload any resources that were paused or not yet started.
     */
}

- (void)applicationDidBecomeActive:(UIApplication *)application
{
    /*
     Restart any tasks that were paused (or not yet started) while the application was inactive.
     For example, if you had a background task that was paused, you may want to resume it here.
     */
}

- (void)applicationWillTerminate:(UIApplication *)application
{
    /*
     Called when the application is about to terminate. Save data if appropriate. See also
     applicationDidEnterBackground:.
     */
}
```
- Inspector (Right):** Shows the 'Identity and Type' panel for HelloWorldAppDelegate.m, including File Name, File Type (Default - Objective-C source code), Location (Relative to Group), Full Path, and Target Membership (checked for HelloWorld). Below it are 'Text Settings' (Text Encoding: Default - Unicode (UTF-8)) and an 'Object Library' with various button types like Push Button, Gradient Button, Rounded Rect Button, and Rounded Textured Button.

Task 2

Task: Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

6. Inspect the Toolbar items. Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

Run the application from here.

When you run the application in debug mode, you can set breakpoints. You can enable/disable all breakpoints from here.

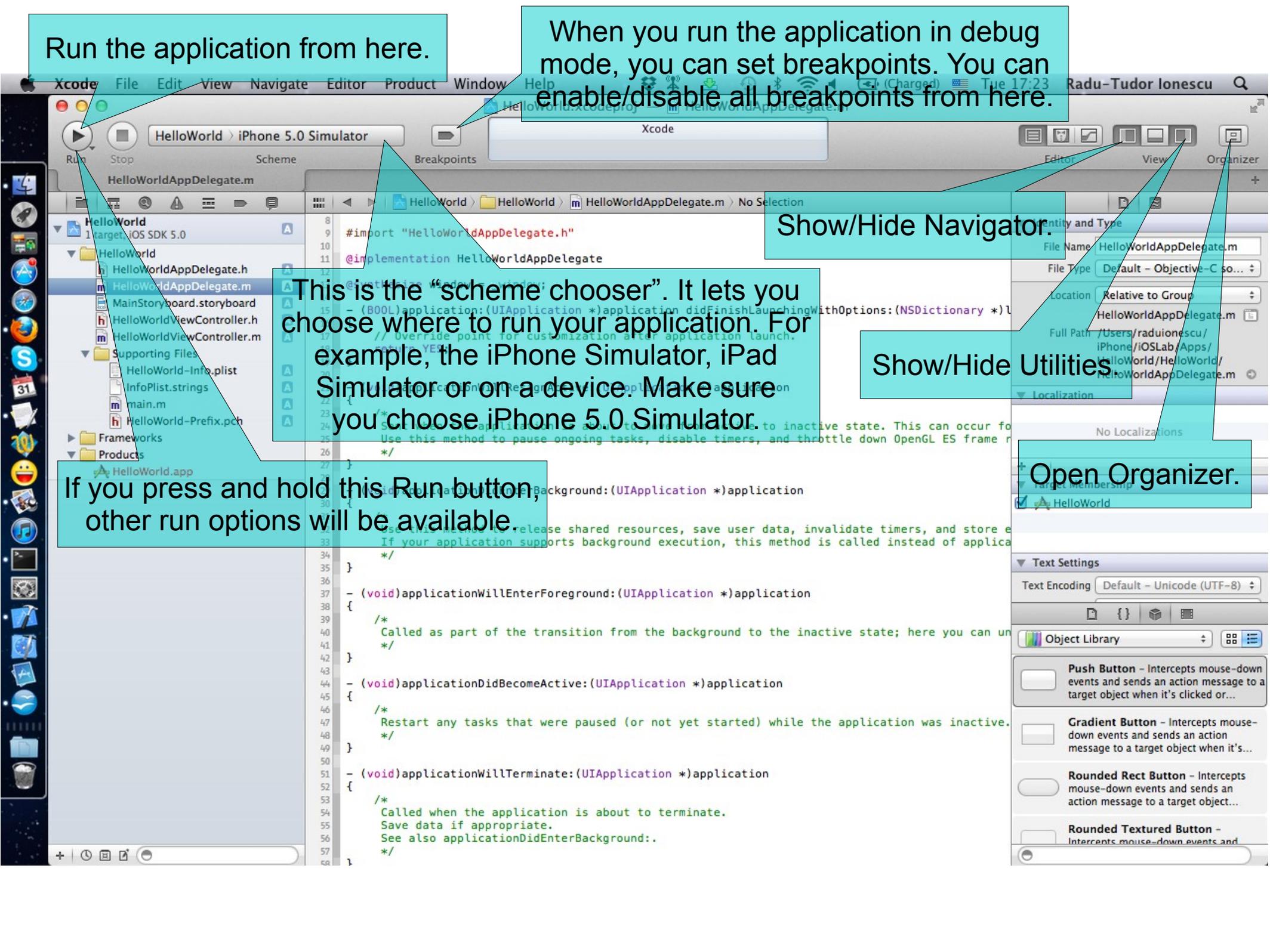
Show/Hide Navigator.

Show/Hide Utilities.

Open Organizer.

This is the "scheme chooser". It lets you choose where to run your application. For example, the iPhone Simulator, iPad Simulator or on a device. Make sure you choose iPhone 5.0 Simulator.

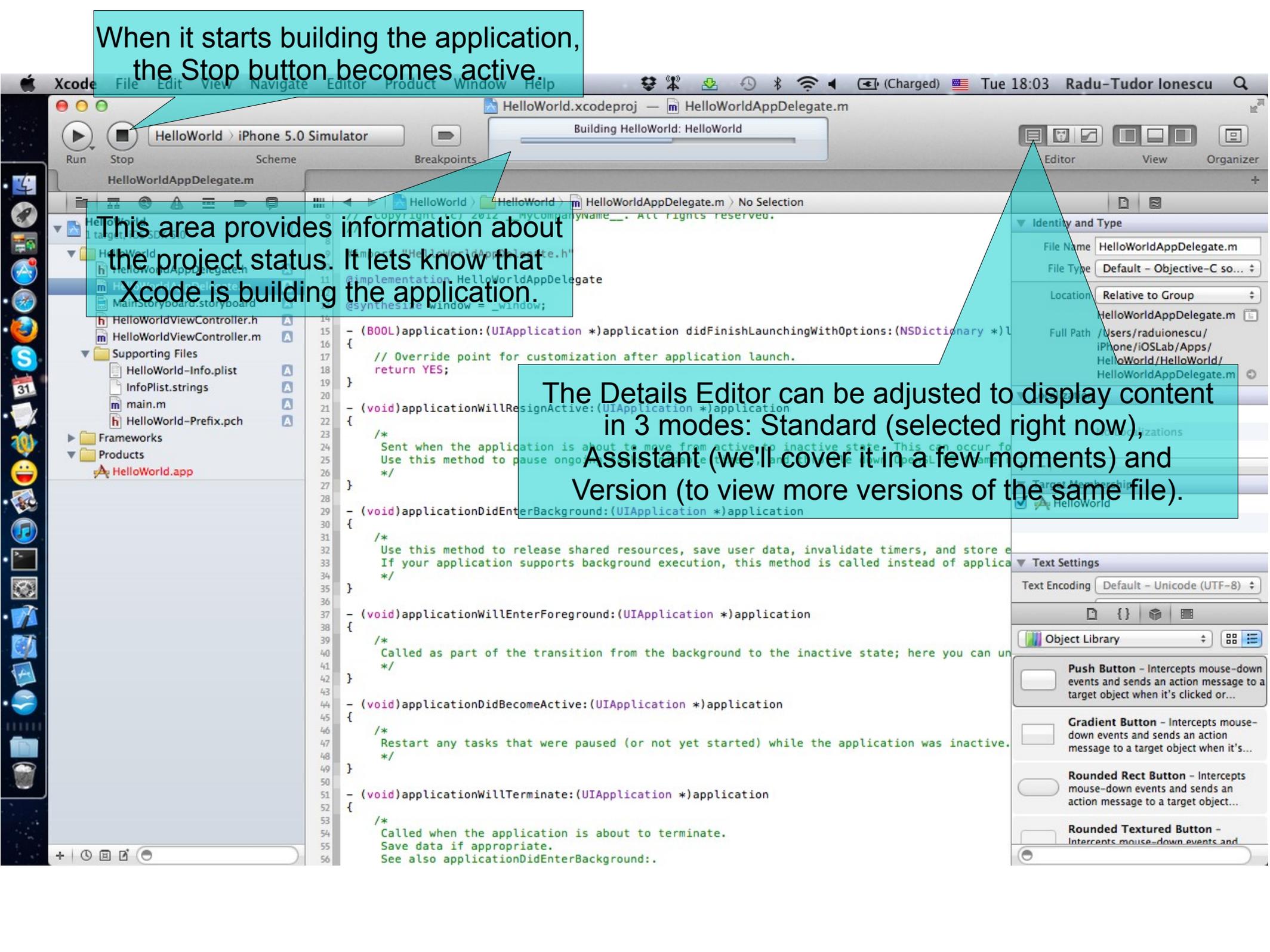
If you press and hold this Run button, other run options will be available.



When it starts building the application, the Stop button becomes active.

This area provides information about the project status. It lets know that Xcode is building the application.

The Details Editor can be adjusted to display content in 3 modes: Standard (selected right now), Assistant (we'll cover it in a few moments) and Version (to view more versions of the same file).



Task 2

Task: Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

7. Open the debugger/console.

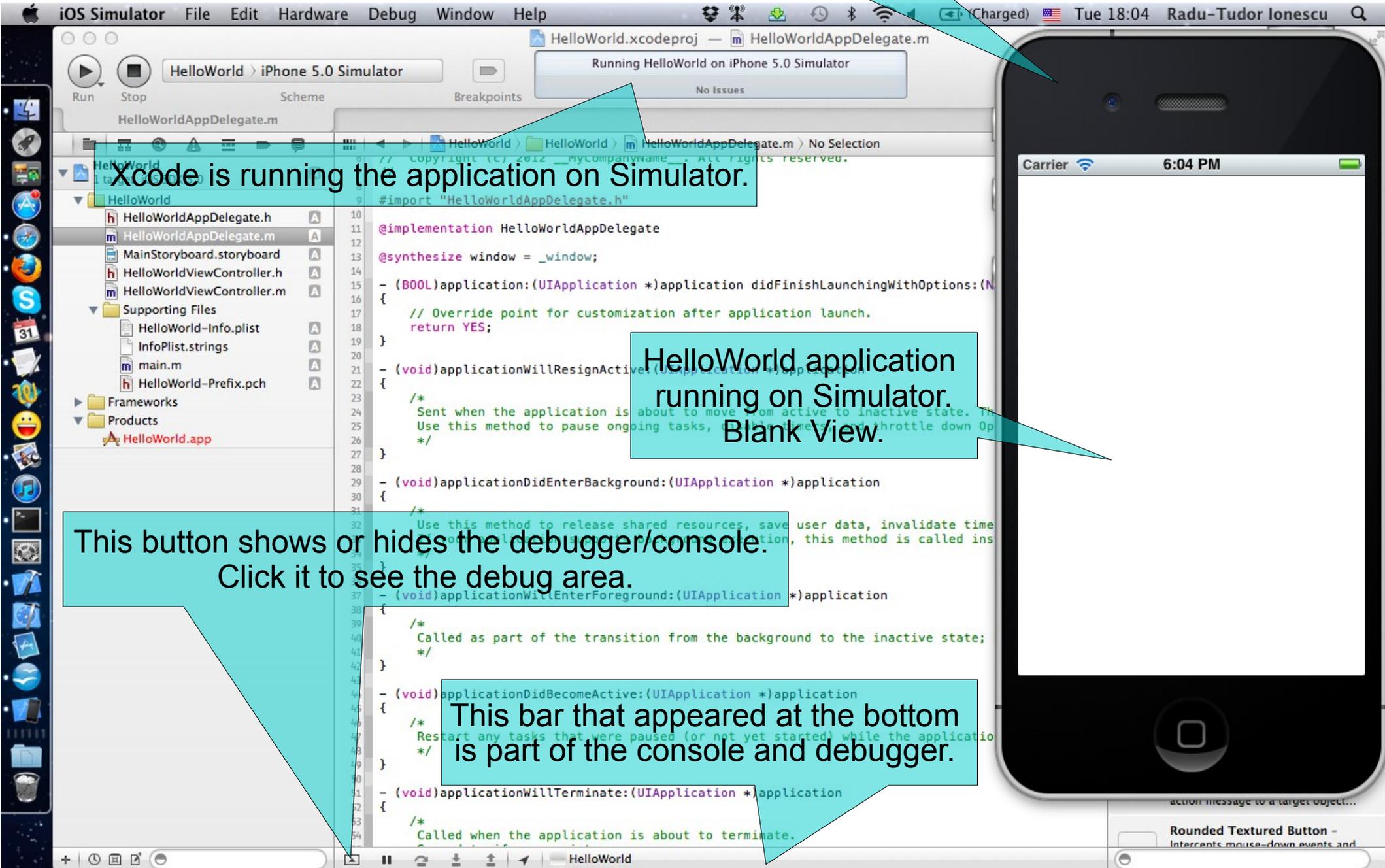
iOS iPhone Simulator.

Xcode is running the application on Simulator.

HelloWorld application running on Simulator. Blank View.

This button shows or hides the debugger/console. Click it to see the debug area.

This bar that appeared at the bottom is part of the console and debugger.



Task 2

Task: Run the application in iPhone Simulator.

8. Stop running the application. Notice that the debug area automatically disappears when you stop running.

You can also show/hide the debugger from here.

Stop running the application from here.

Debugger Control: Step In/Out

View variables only.

Split view.

Debugger Control: Pause

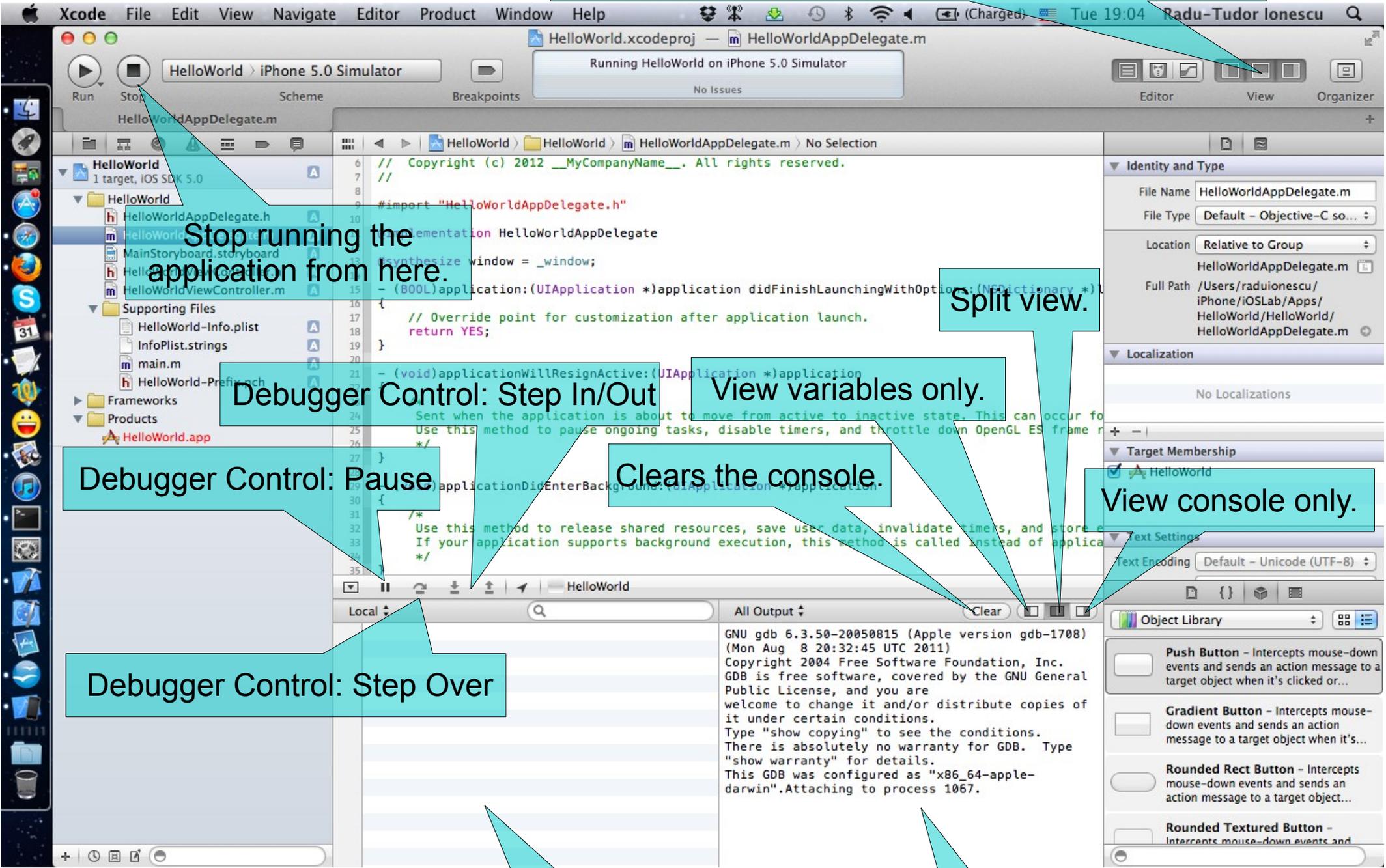
Clears the console.

View console only.

Debugger Control: Step Over

Variables View

Console



Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

1. Open the MainStoryboard.storyboard file.

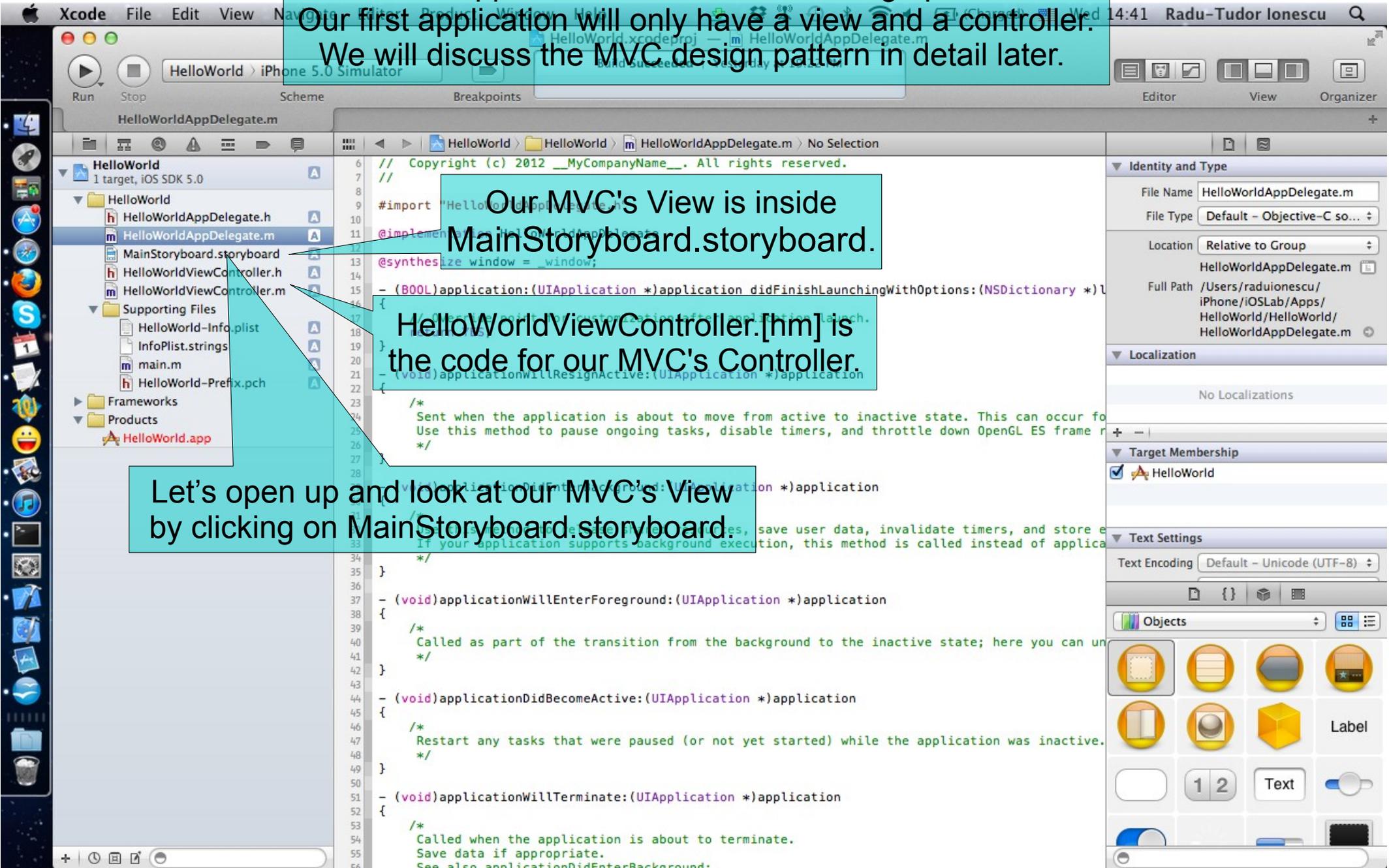
All iOS applications use the MVC design pattern.

Our first application will only have a view and a controller.
We will discuss the MVC design pattern in detail later.

Our MVC's View is inside
MainStoryboard.storyboard.

HelloWorldViewController.[hm] is
the code for our MVC's Controller.

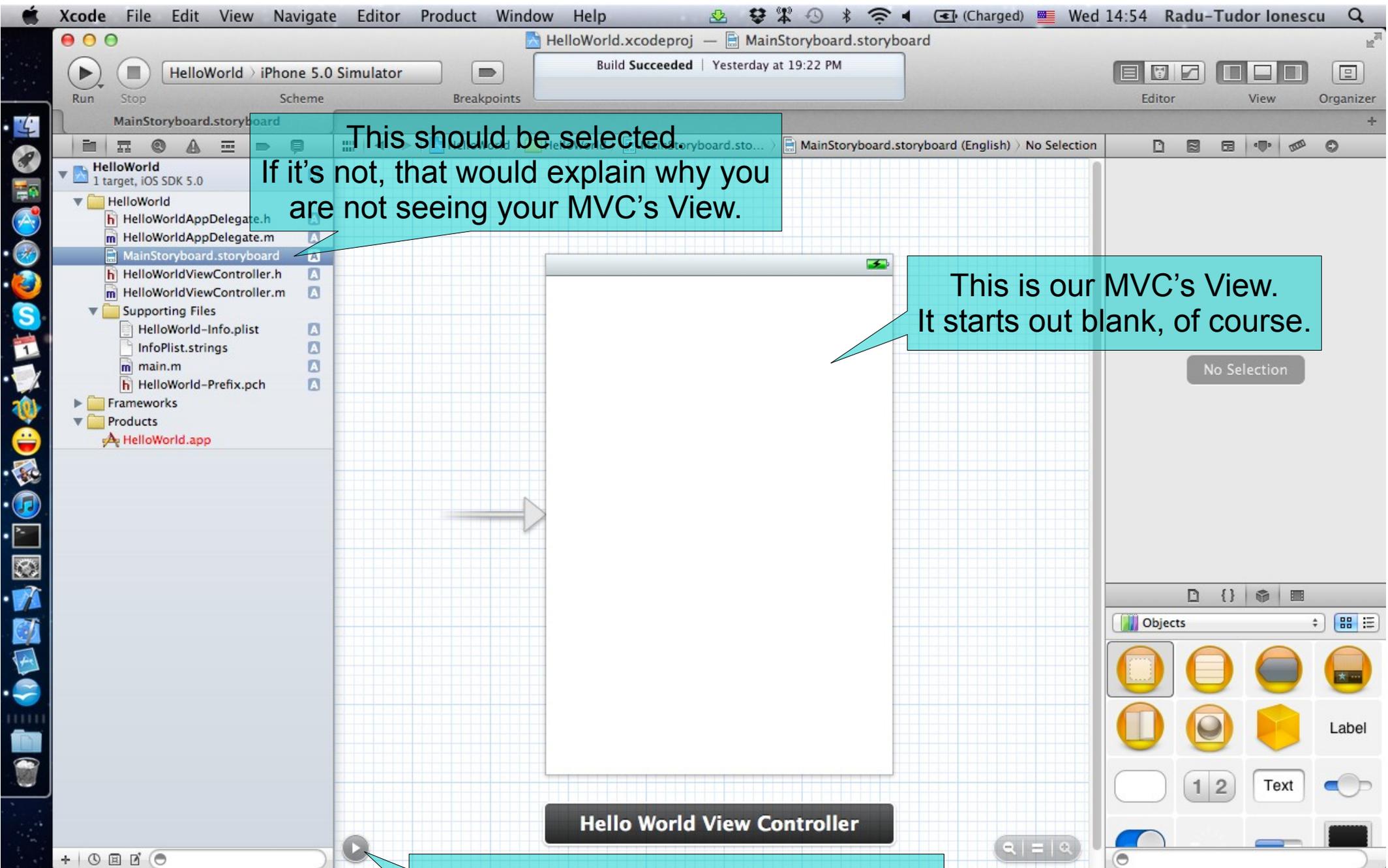
Let's open up and look at our MVC's View
by clicking on MainStoryboard.storyboard



Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

2. Open the Document Outline.



This should be selected.
If it's not, that would explain why you are not seeing your MVC's View.

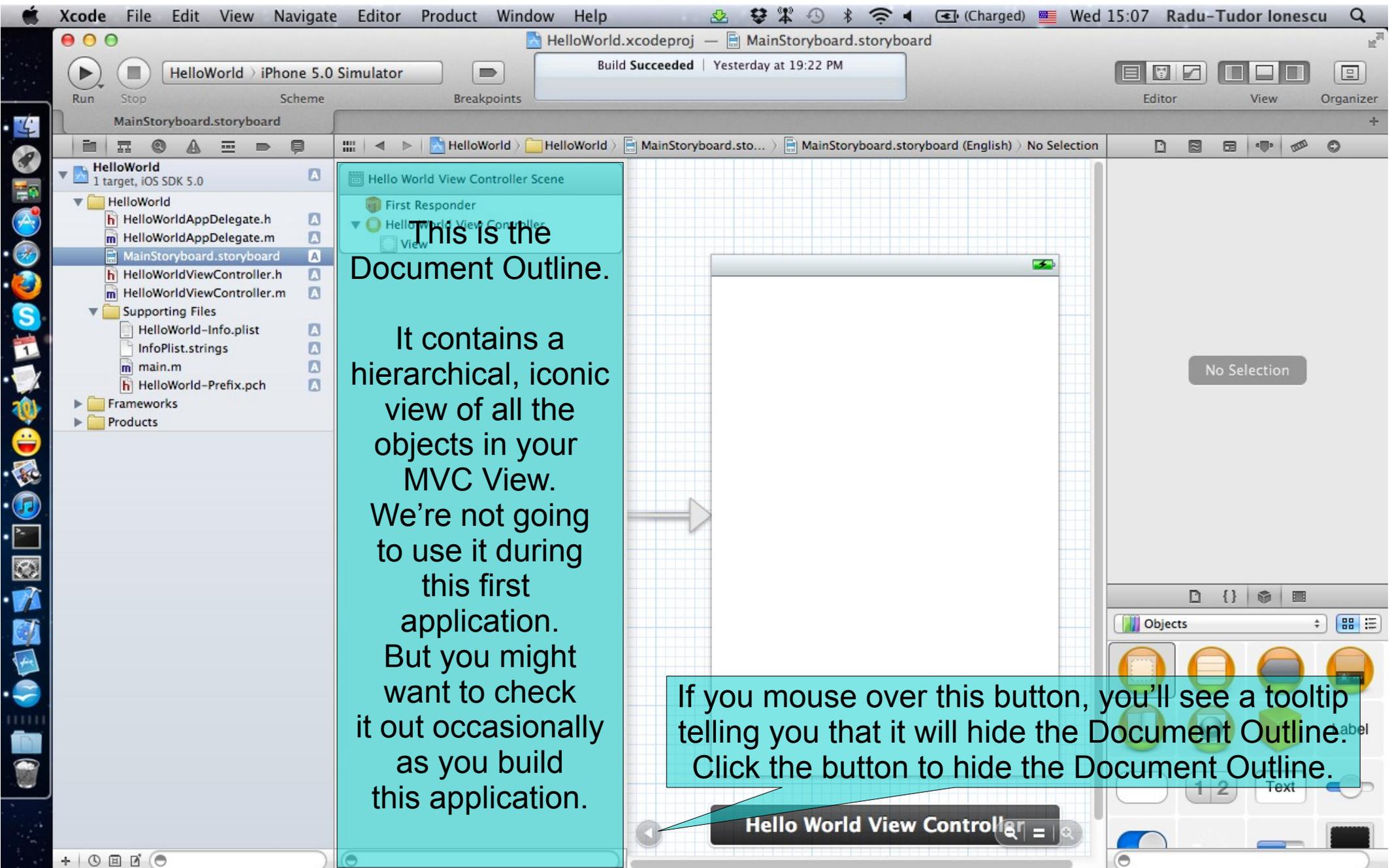
This is our MVC's View.
It starts out blank, of course.

You can view the Document Outline by clicking this button.

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

3. Hide back the Document Outline.



This is the Document Outline.

It contains a hierarchical, iconic view of all the objects in your MVC View. We're not going to use it during this first application. But you might want to check it out occasionally as you build this application.

If you mouse over this button, you'll see a tooltip telling you that it will hide the Document Outline. Click the button to hide the Document Outline.

Hello World View Controller

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

4. Open the Assistant Editor.

We need to see our MVC Controller now. But we still want our MVC View on screen at the same time. The way to have two things on the screen at once is to use the Assistant Editor. It is shown/hidden using the “butler” icon from the toolbar.

5. Check out the Navigator's bar items.

Project Navigator
View files and libraries included in your project.

Logs
Every time you build/run, a log of it is saved. Access old ones here.

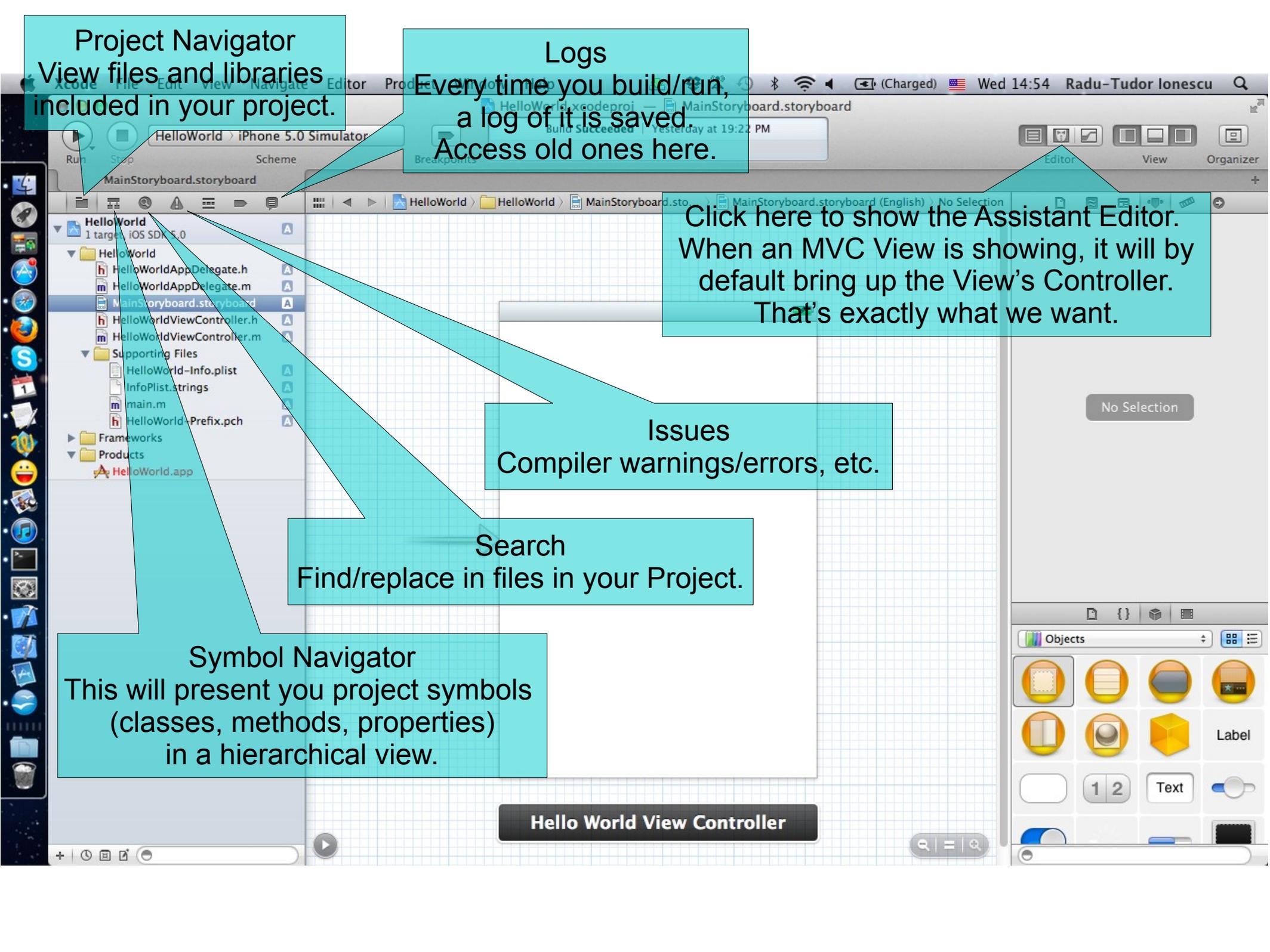
Click here to show the Assistant Editor. When an MVC View is showing, it will by default bring up the View's Controller. That's exactly what we want.

Issues
Compiler warnings/errors, etc.

Search
Find/replace in files in your Project.

Symbol Navigator
This will present you project symbols (classes, methods, properties) in a hierarchical view.

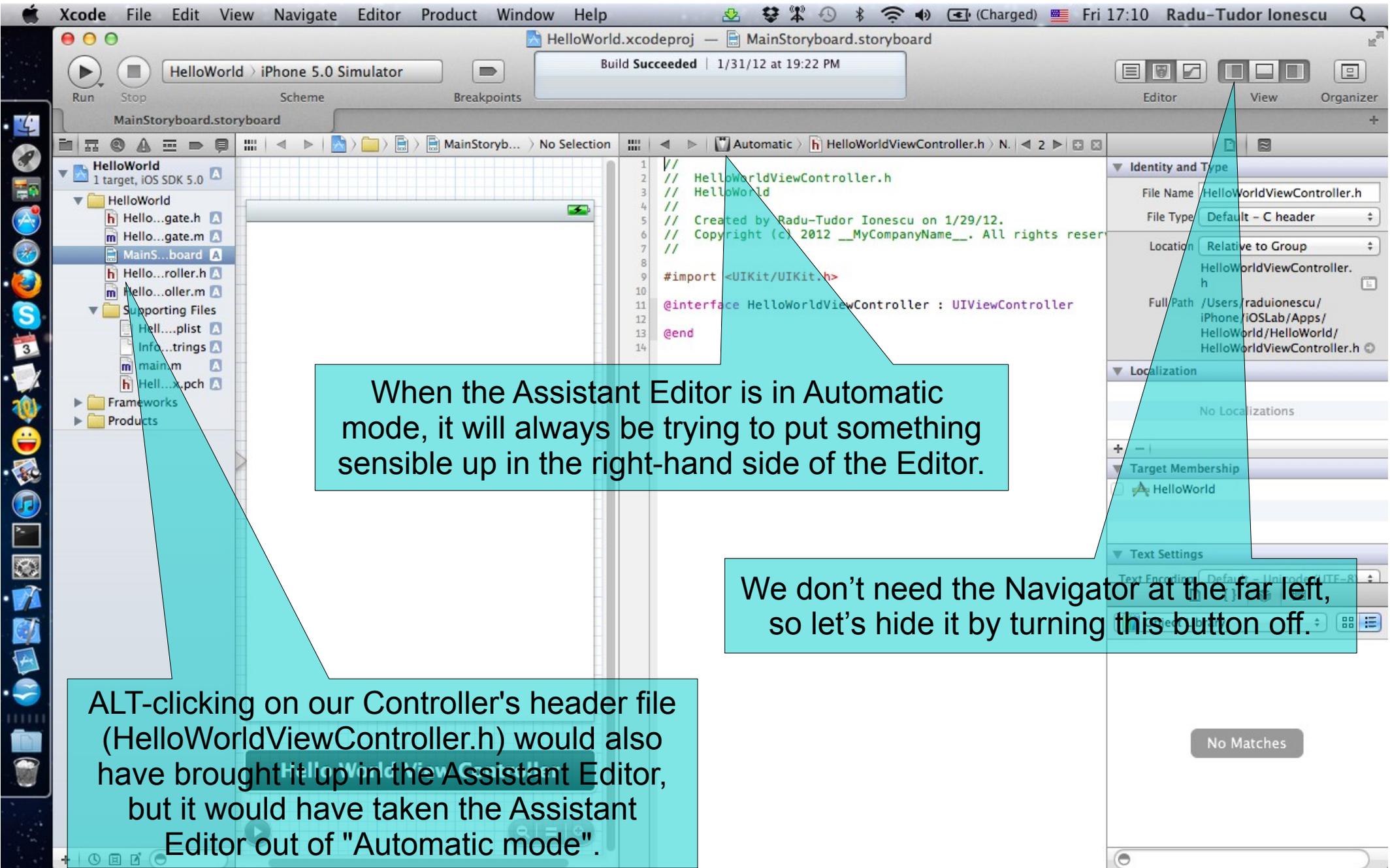
Hello World View Controller



Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

6. Hide the Project Navigator.



When the Assistant Editor is in Automatic mode, it will always be trying to put something sensible up in the right-hand side of the Editor.

We don't need the Navigator at the far left, so let's hide it by turning this button off.

ALT-clicking on our Controller's header file (HelloWorldViewController.h) would also have brought it up in the Assistant Editor, but it would have taken the Assistant Editor out of "Automatic mode".

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

7. Study the header file of the HelloWorldViewController class.

Let's make even more room for our code on the right by dragging this center bar to the left.

UIKit.h imports all the iOS user-interface classes. #import is like #include, but better.

Notice the @interface - @end syntax.

Here is the header (.h) file for our MVC Controller. It contains its public methods and properties and also defines its superclass public methods and properties (all Controllers in iOS inherit from UIViewController).

The image shows the Xcode IDE interface. On the left, the Storyboard Editor displays a scene titled 'Hello World View Controller'. The center pane shows the code editor for 'HelloWorldViewController.h'. The code includes comments, an import statement for UIKit, and an interface definition for HelloWorldViewController inheriting from UIViewController. Annotations with callout boxes explain the code and the interface syntax. The right pane shows the Project Navigator and the 'HelloWorld' target settings, including localization and target membership options.

```
1 // HelloWorldViewController.h
2 // HelloWorld
3 //
4 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
5 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
6 //
7
8
9 #import <UIKit/UIKit.h>
10
11 @interface HelloWorldViewController : UIViewController
12
13 @end
```

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

8. Click on the header file. Study the items in the Utilities area.
9. Select the Object Library in Utilities area. We're going to start building the user-interface in our MVC View. To do that, we'll need a text label, a text field and a button. We get those from the Object Library.

The top bar will be darker gray if the selected item is in this half of the Assistant Editor.

Quick Help
If the selected item at the left has some documentation reference, this shows a "summary" version of it.

File Inspector
Shows information about the file containing the selected item.

Media Library
Images, sounds, etc.

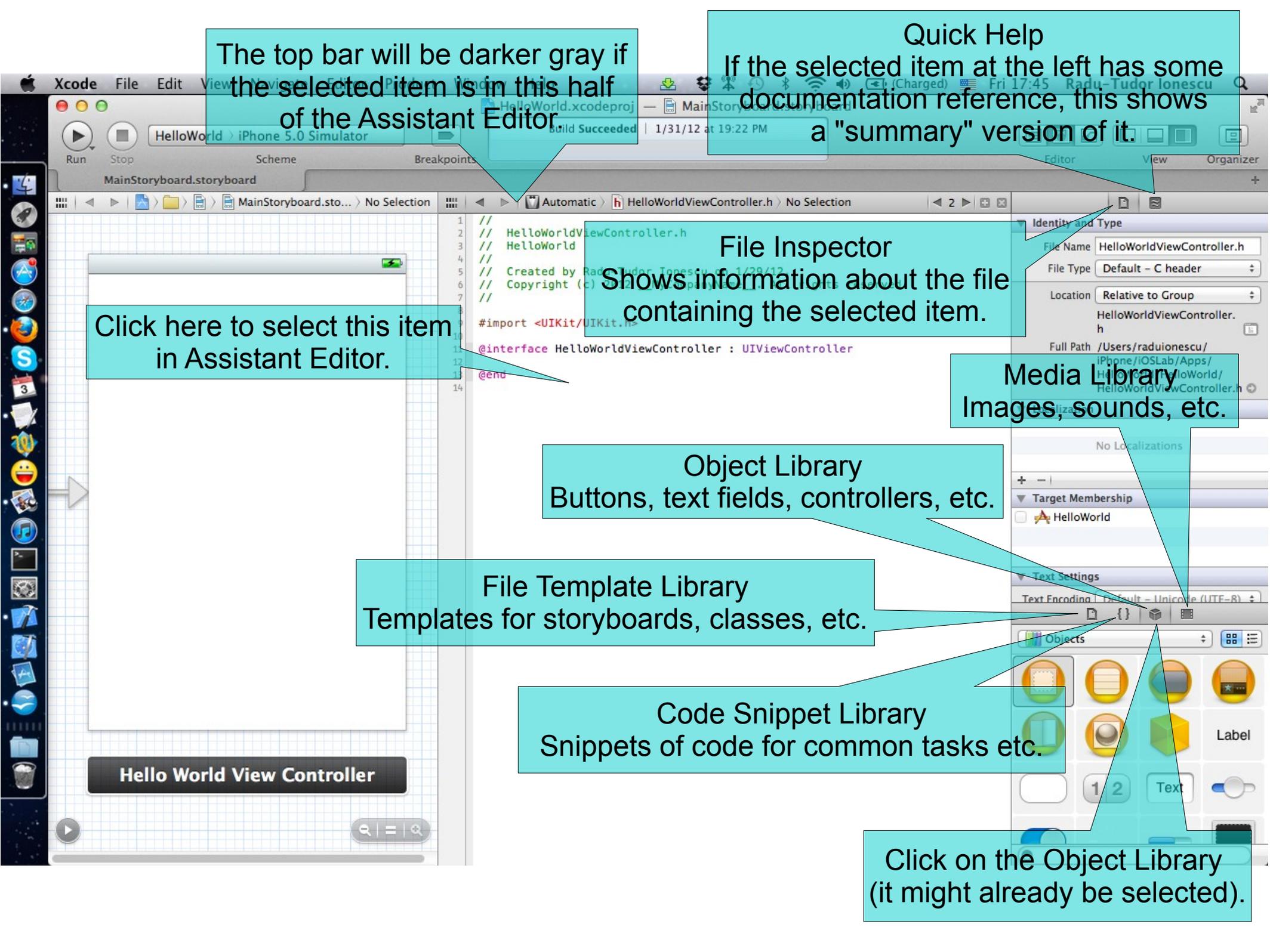
Object Library
Buttons, text fields, controllers, etc.

File Template Library
Templates for storyboards, classes, etc.

Code Snippet Library
Snippets of code for common tasks etc.

Click on the Object Library (it might already be selected).

Click here to select this item in Assistant Editor.



Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

10. Select the View on the left. Notice the items in the Utilities area change. Study these items.

Note that the top bar is darker gray when the View is selected.

Connections Inspector
Connections between your View and Controller.

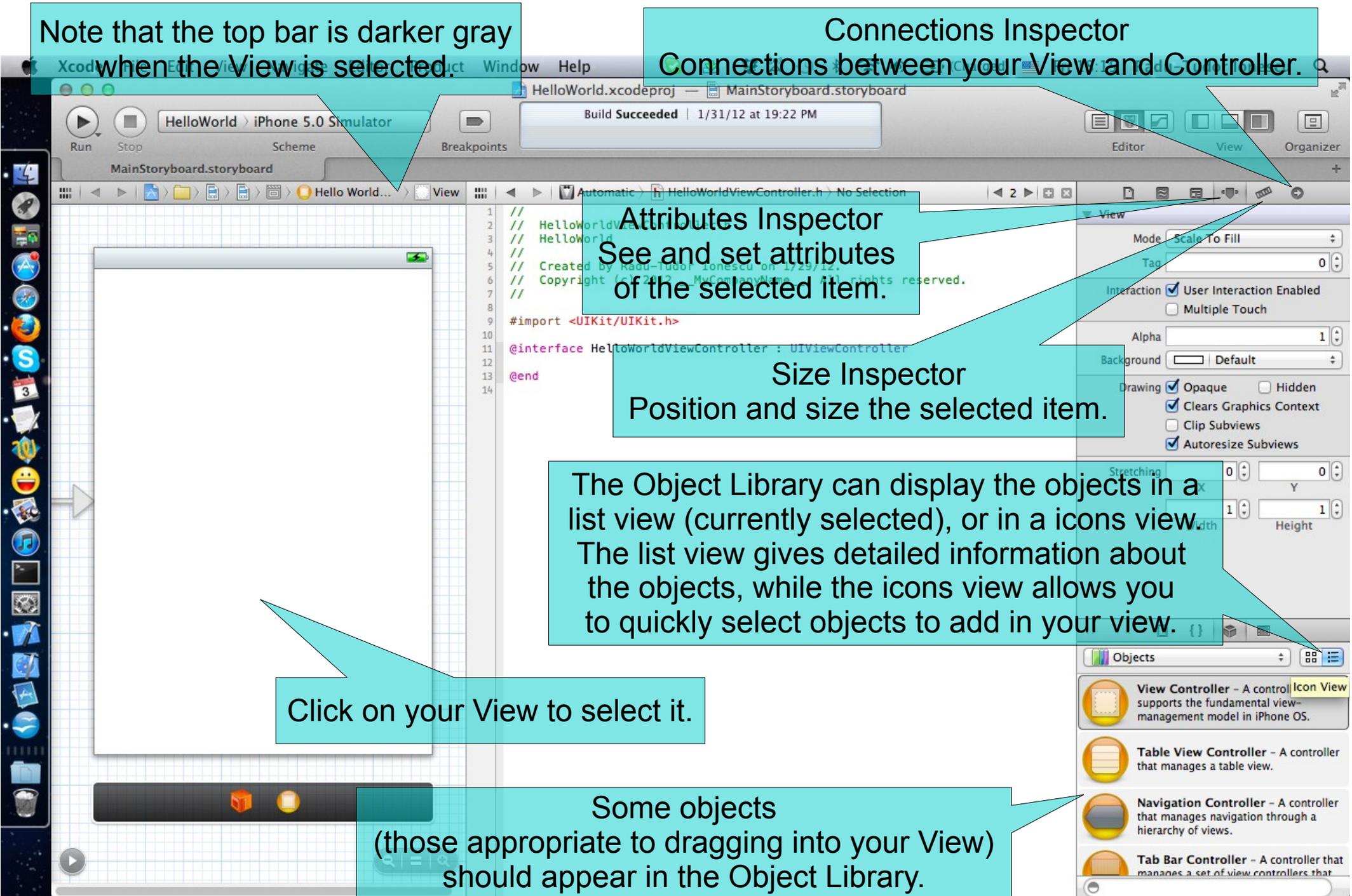
Attributes Inspector
See and set attributes of the selected item.

Size Inspector
Position and size the selected item.

The Object Library can display the objects in a list view (currently selected), or in a icons view. The list view gives detailed information about the objects, while the icons view allows you to quickly select objects to add in your view.

Click on your View to select it.

Some objects (those appropriate to dragging into your View) should appear in the Object Library.

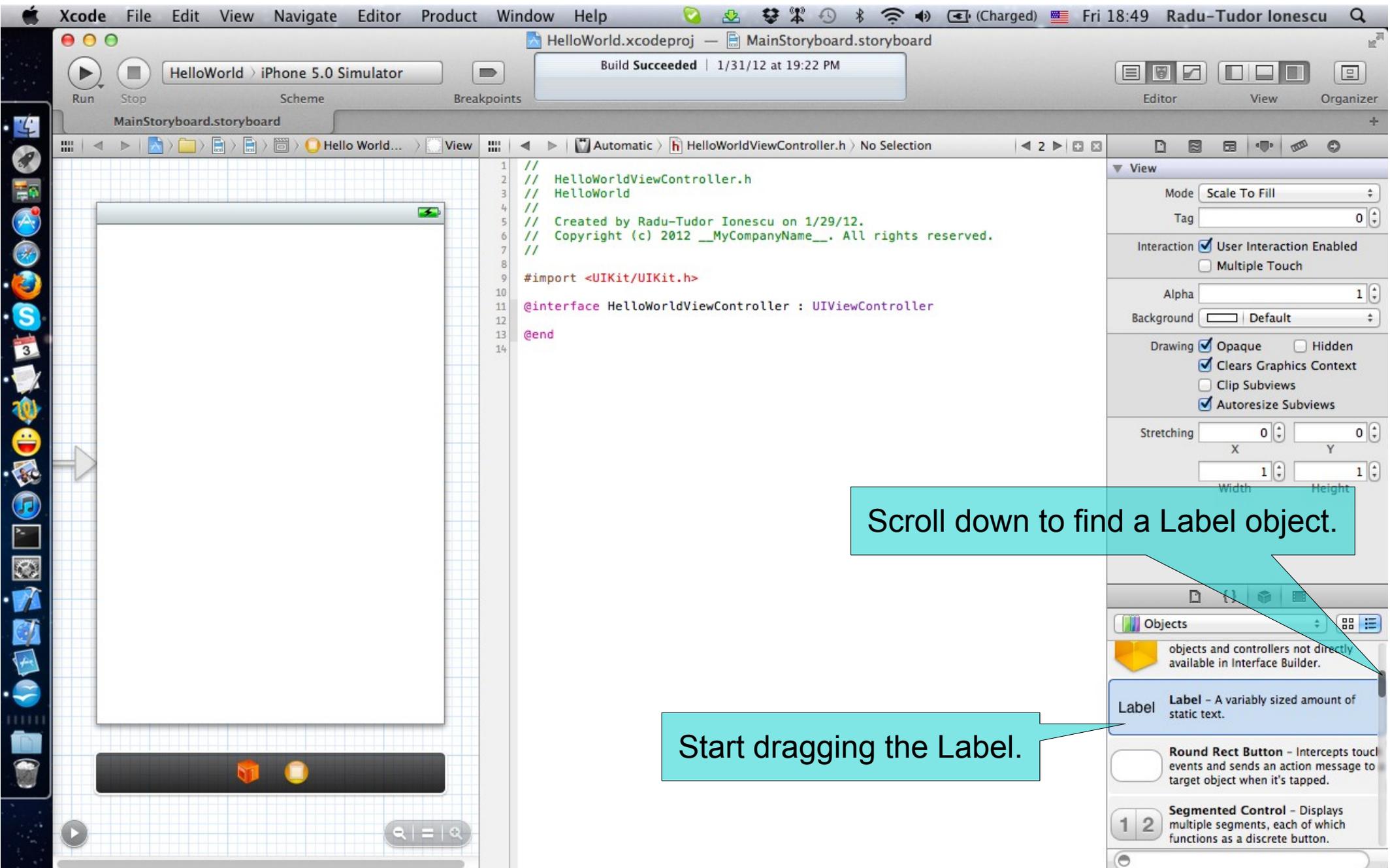


Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

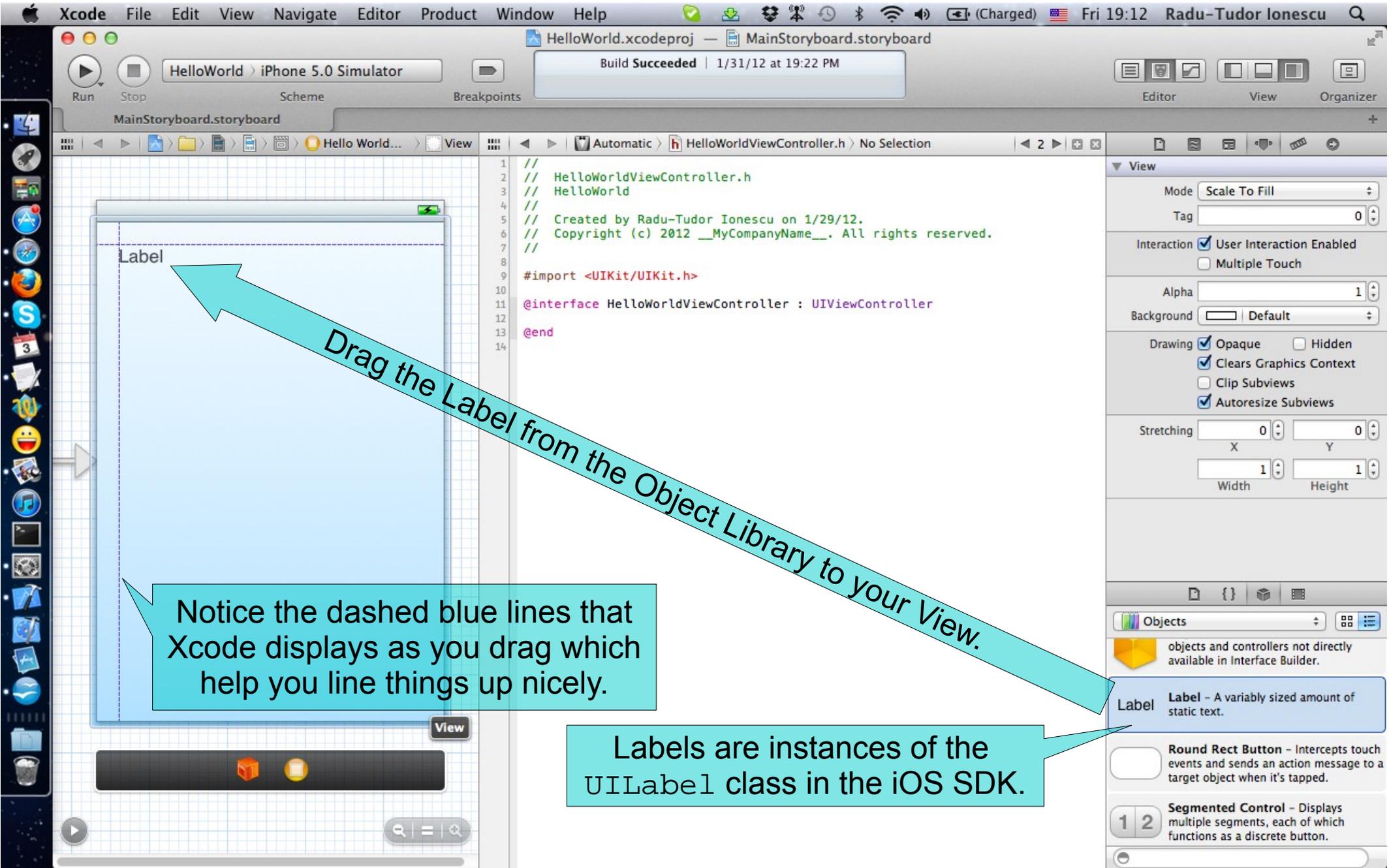
11. Drag an `UILabel` from the Object Library to your View.

The `UILabel` class implements a read-only text view. In general, you can use this class to draw one or multiple lines of static text, such as those you might use to identify other parts of your user interface. The base `UILabel` class provides control over the appearance of your text, including whether it uses a shadow or draws with a highlight.



Scroll down to find a Label object.

Start dragging the Label.



Notice the dashed blue lines that Xcode displays as you drag which help you line things up nicely.

Drag the Label from the Object Library to your View.

Labels are instances of the UILabel class in the iOS SDK.

Label - A variably sized amount of static text.

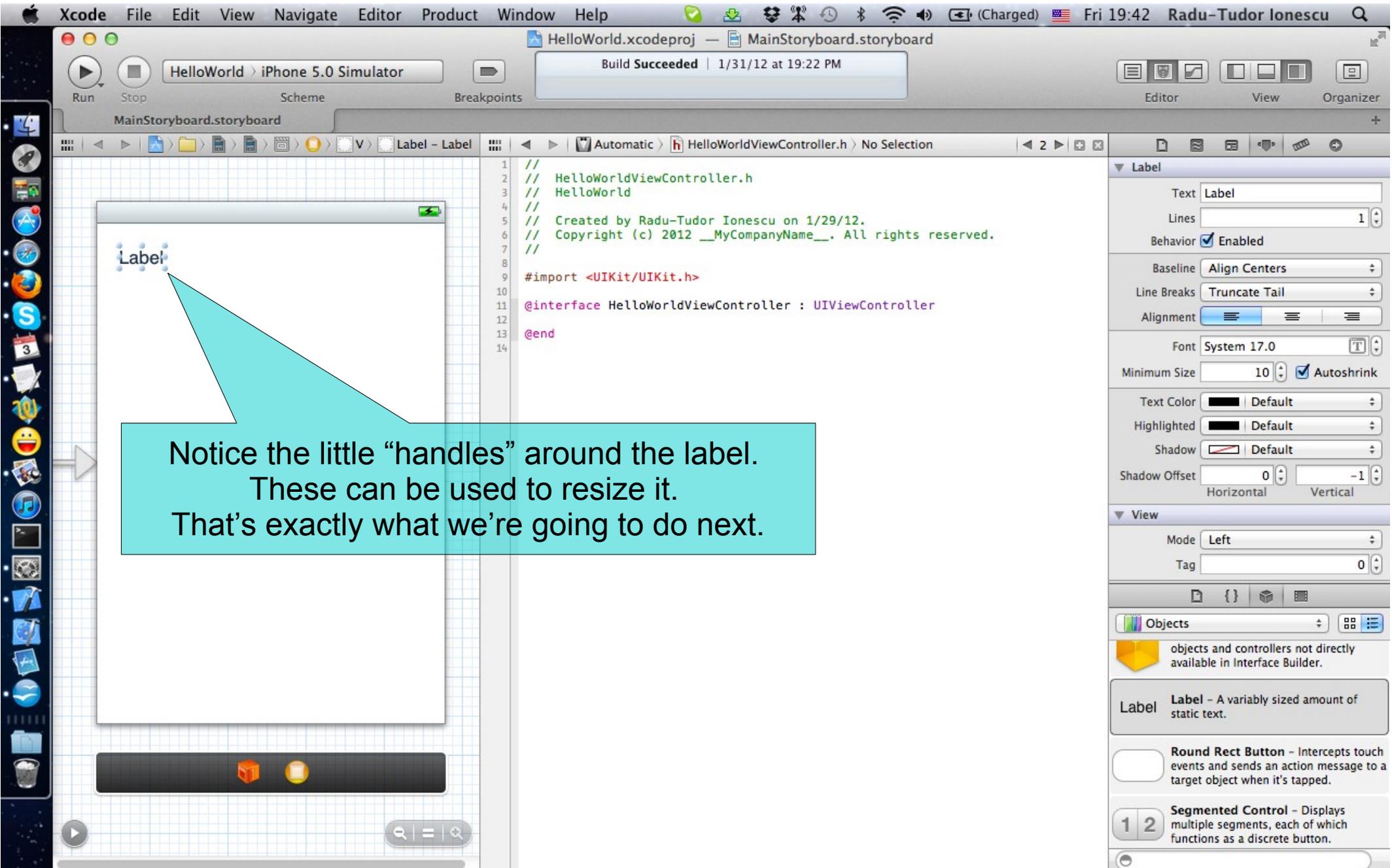
Round Rect Button - Intercepts touch events and sends an action message to a target object when it's tapped.

Segmented Control - Displays multiple segments, each of which functions as a discrete button.

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

12. Resize the label to 280 width x 36 height pixels.
13. Open the Attributes Inspector.



Click on the Attributes Inspector. You should see attributes of the Label you just created.

The screenshot shows the Xcode IDE with three main panels. On the left is the Storyboard, in the center is the code editor, and on the right is the Attributes Inspector. The storyboard shows a white label on a grid with a dashed blue border and a small blue handle at the bottom right. The code editor shows the header file for HelloWorldViewController.h. The Attributes Inspector shows various settings for the selected label, such as text, font, and alignment.

W: 280.0
H: 36.0

Label

```
1 //  
2 // HelloWorldViewController.h  
3 // HelloWorld  
4 //  
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.  
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.  
7 //  
8  
9 #import <UIKit/UIKit.h>  
10  
11 @interface HelloWorldViewController : UIViewController  
12  
13 @end  
14
```

Label

Text Label
Lines 1
Behavior Enabled
Baseline Align Centers
Line Breaks Truncate Tail
Alignment [Left] [Center] [Right]
Font System 17.0
Minimum Size 10 Autoshrink
Text Color [Black] Default
Highlighted [Black] Default
Shadow [None] Default
Shadow Offset 0 -1
Horizontal Vertical
Mode Left
Tag 0

Objects

objects and controllers not directly available in Interface Builder.

Label Label - A variably sized amount of static text.

Round Rect Button - Intercepts touch events and sends an action message to a target object when it's tapped.

1 2 Segmented Control - Displays multiple segments, each of which functions as a discrete button.

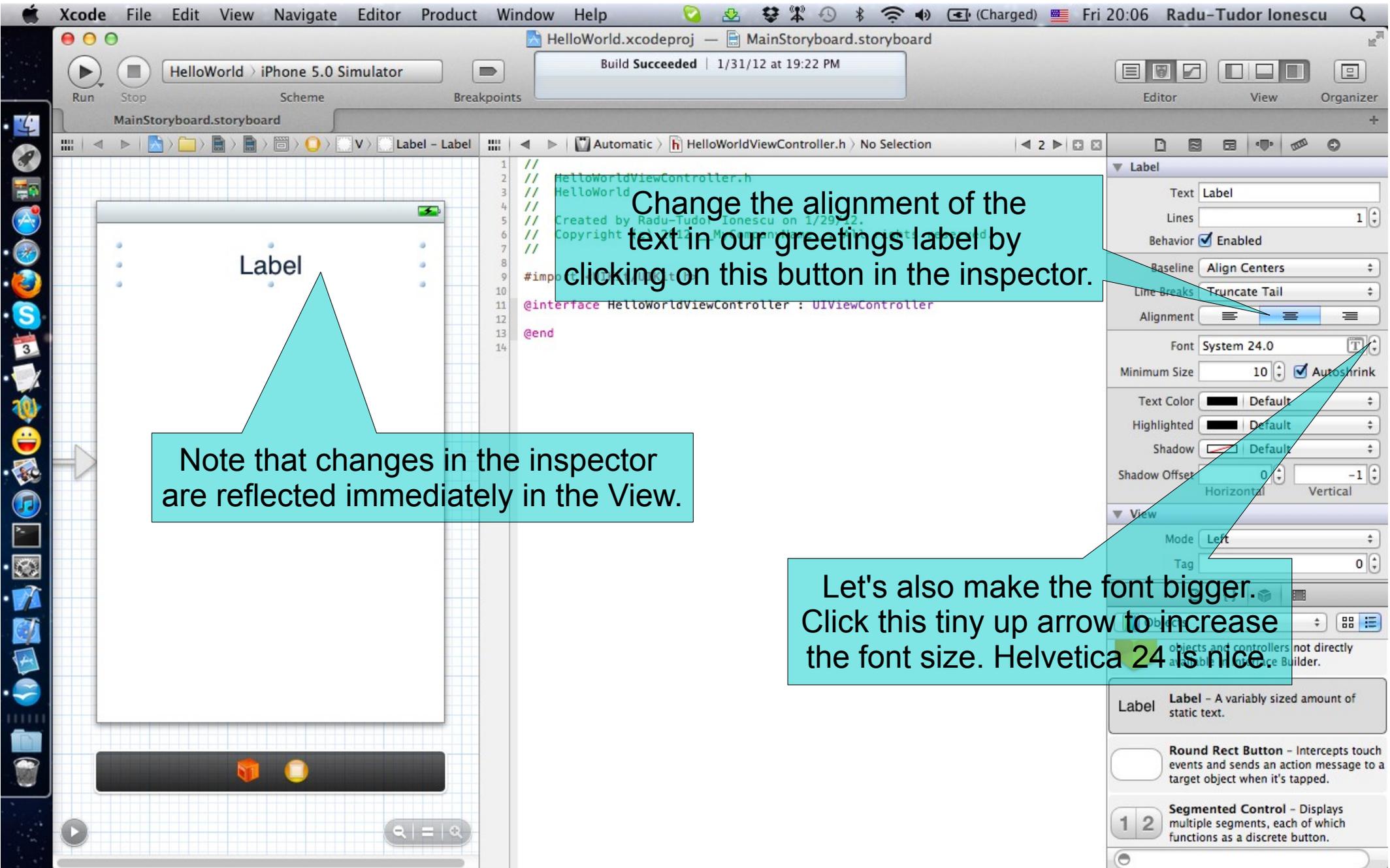
Grab the lower right "handle" on the label and resize it. Use the dashed blue guidelines to pick a good size.

This little indicator will show you the exact size you're resizing to.

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

14. Change the alignment of the text in our greeting label to be centered.
15. Set the font size to 24 (Helvetica).



Change the alignment of the text in our greetings label by clicking on this button in the inspector.

Note that changes in the inspector are reflected immediately in the View.

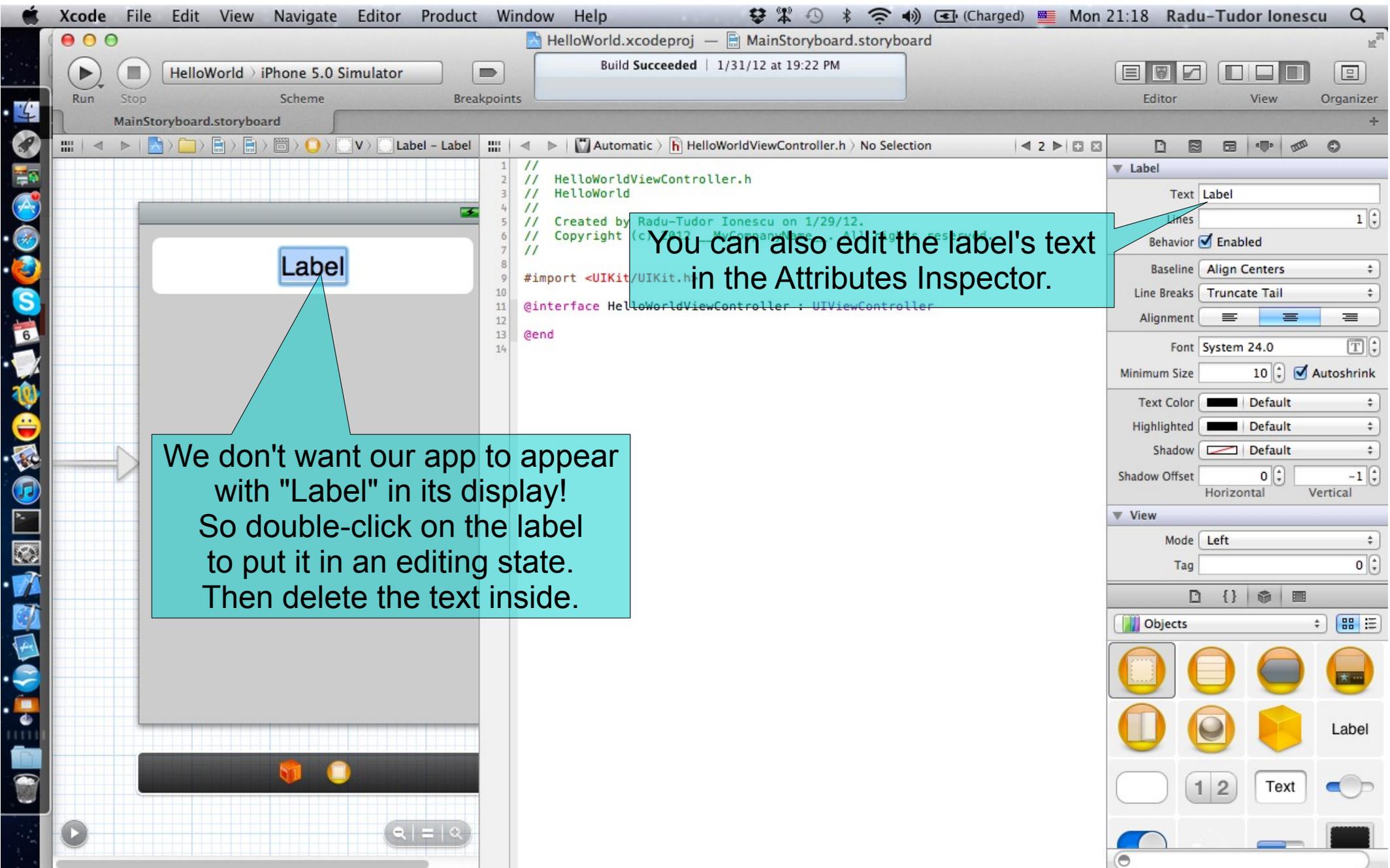
Let's also make the font bigger. Click this tiny up arrow to increase the font size. Helvetica 24 is nice.

- Label** - A variably sized amount of static text.
- Round Rect Button** - Intercepts touch events and sends an action message to a target object when it's tapped.
- Segmented Control** - Displays multiple segments, each of which functions as a discrete button.

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

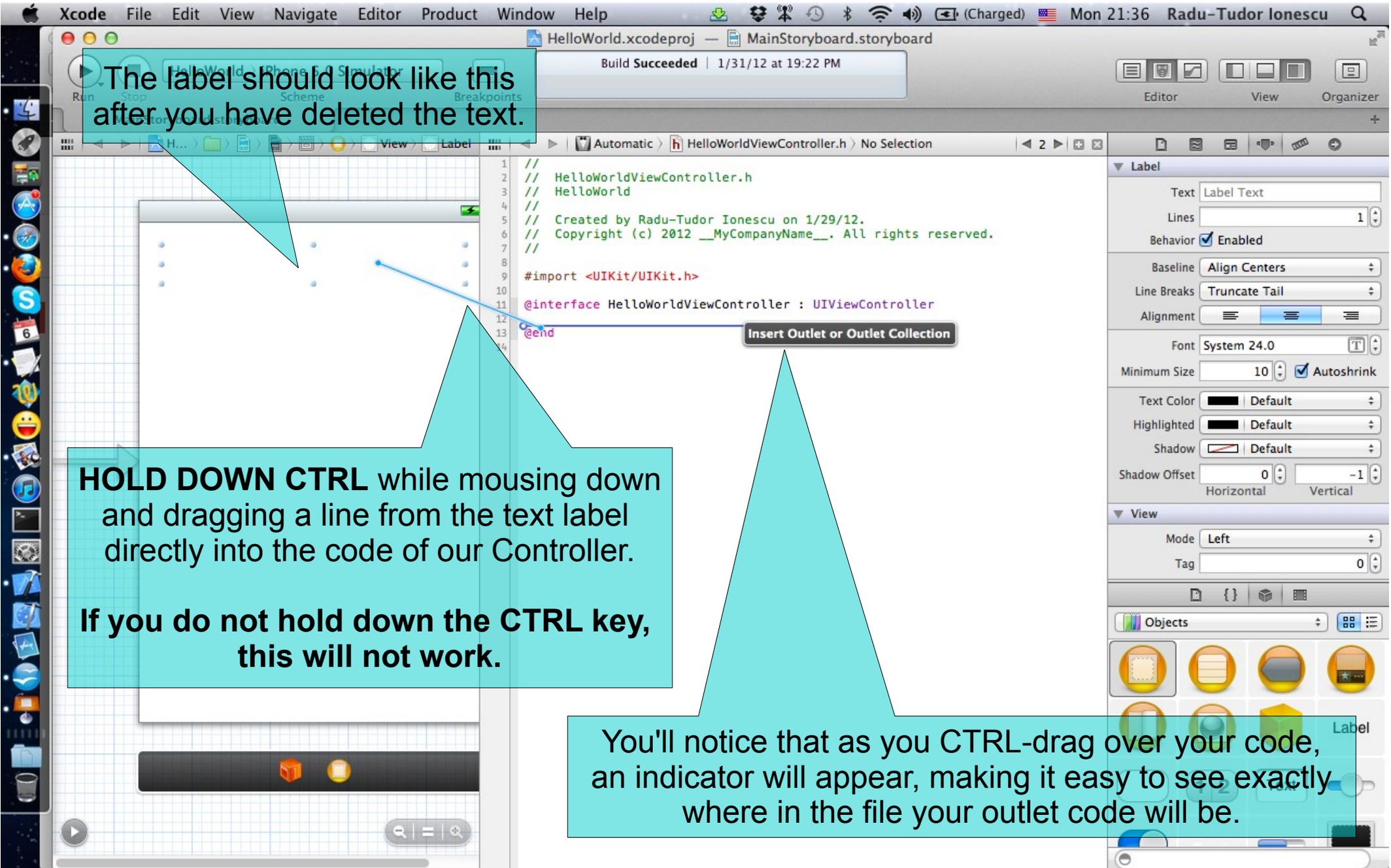
16. Edit the label's text and leave it blank.



Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

17. Declare a property in the Controller for the newly added label. Our Controller needs to be able to talk to its View. For example, in this case, we need to be able to update the greeting label as the “Say Hello” button (that we are going to add it in a few slides) is pressed. We can make this connection between Controller and View directly with the mouse.



Xcode now wants to know what kind of connection we want to make between the Controller and this object in the View. In this case, it has correctly guessed that we want an **outlet**. An **outlet** is just a **property** of our Controller through which we can talk to an element in our View.

```
1 // HelloWorldViewController.h
2 // HelloWorld
3
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import <UIKit/UIKit.h>
```

```
10 @interface HelloWorldViewController : UIViewController
11
12 @end
```

The destination of this connection is our Controller since that's where we CTRL-dragged to.

Connection: Outlet
Object: Hello World View C...
Name:
Type: UILabel
Storage: Weak
Cancel Connect

Label

Text: Label Text
Lines: 1
Behavior: Enabled
Baseline: Align Centers
Line Breaks: Truncate Tail
Alignment: Left
Font: System 24.0
Minimum Size: 10 Autoshrink
Text Color: Default
Highlighted: Default
Shadow: Default
Shadow Offset: 0 Horizontal, -1 Vertical
View
Mode: Left
Tag: 0
Objects
Label

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

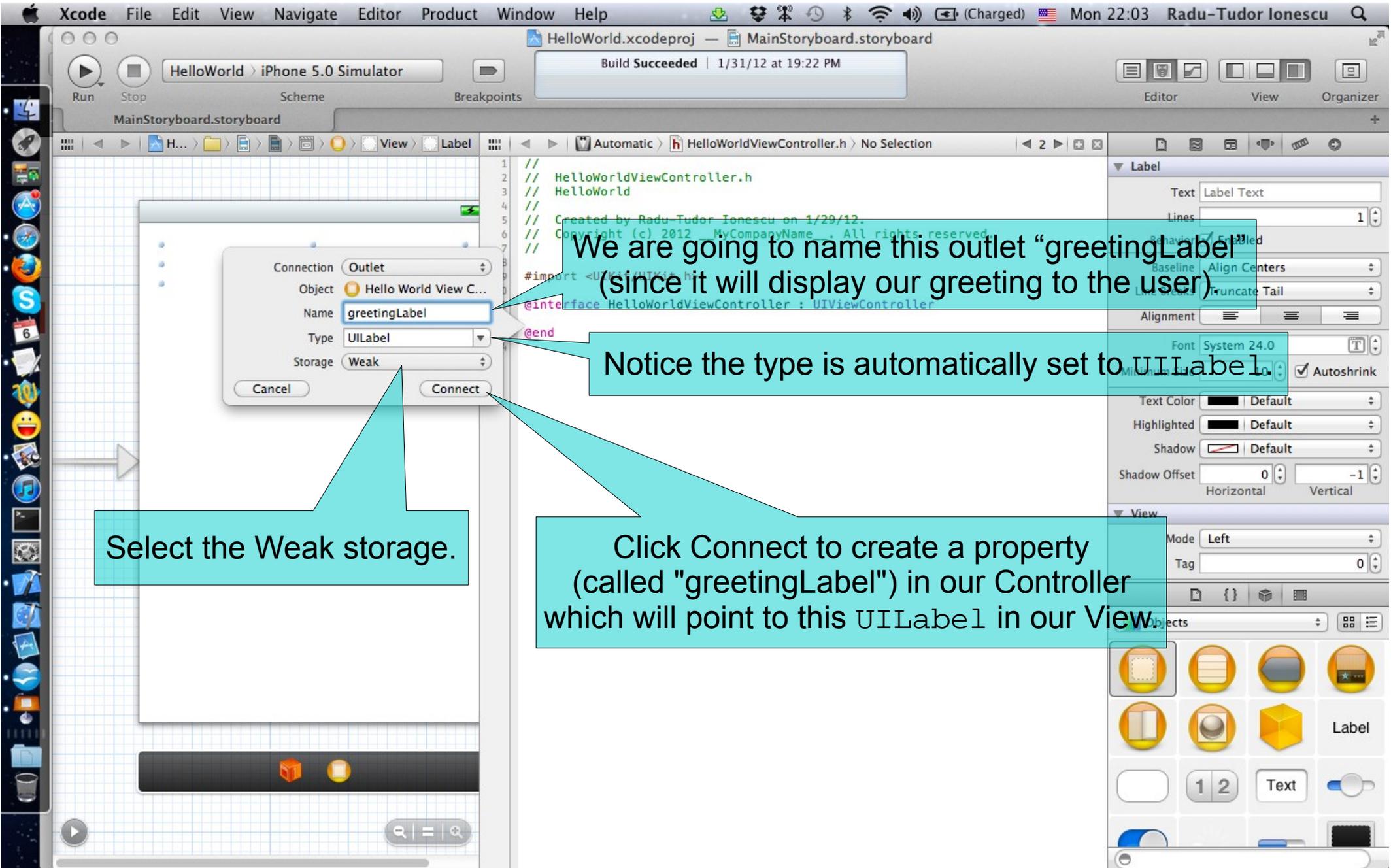
18. Name the property “greetingLabel”.

19. Declare it as a **weak** pointer. An **outlet** is a pointer to an object (a `UILabel` in this case).

A **strong** pointer means the `UILabel` will stick around until we are done using the `UILabel`.

A **weak** pointer means the `UILabel` will only stick around as long as somebody else has a strong pointer to it.

As soon as no one else has a strong pointer to an object that we have a weak pointer to, that object will go away and our pointer to it will be cleared and we won't be able to talk to it (because it will be gone). Since this window already has a strong pointer to this `UILabel`, weak is a good choice here.



Whenever our Controller sends messages to the `greetingLabel` @property, it will be talking to this `UILabel` instance.

Xcode has added a @property to our MVC Controller which is a pointer to a `UILabel` object. It has also hooked this @property up to the text label we dragged out into our MVC View.

```
1 // HelloWorldViewController.h
2 // HelloWorld
3
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import <UIKit/UIKit.h>
10
11 @interface HelloWorldViewController : UIViewController
12
13 @property (weak, nonatomic) IBOutlet UILabel *greetingLabel;
14 @end
15
```

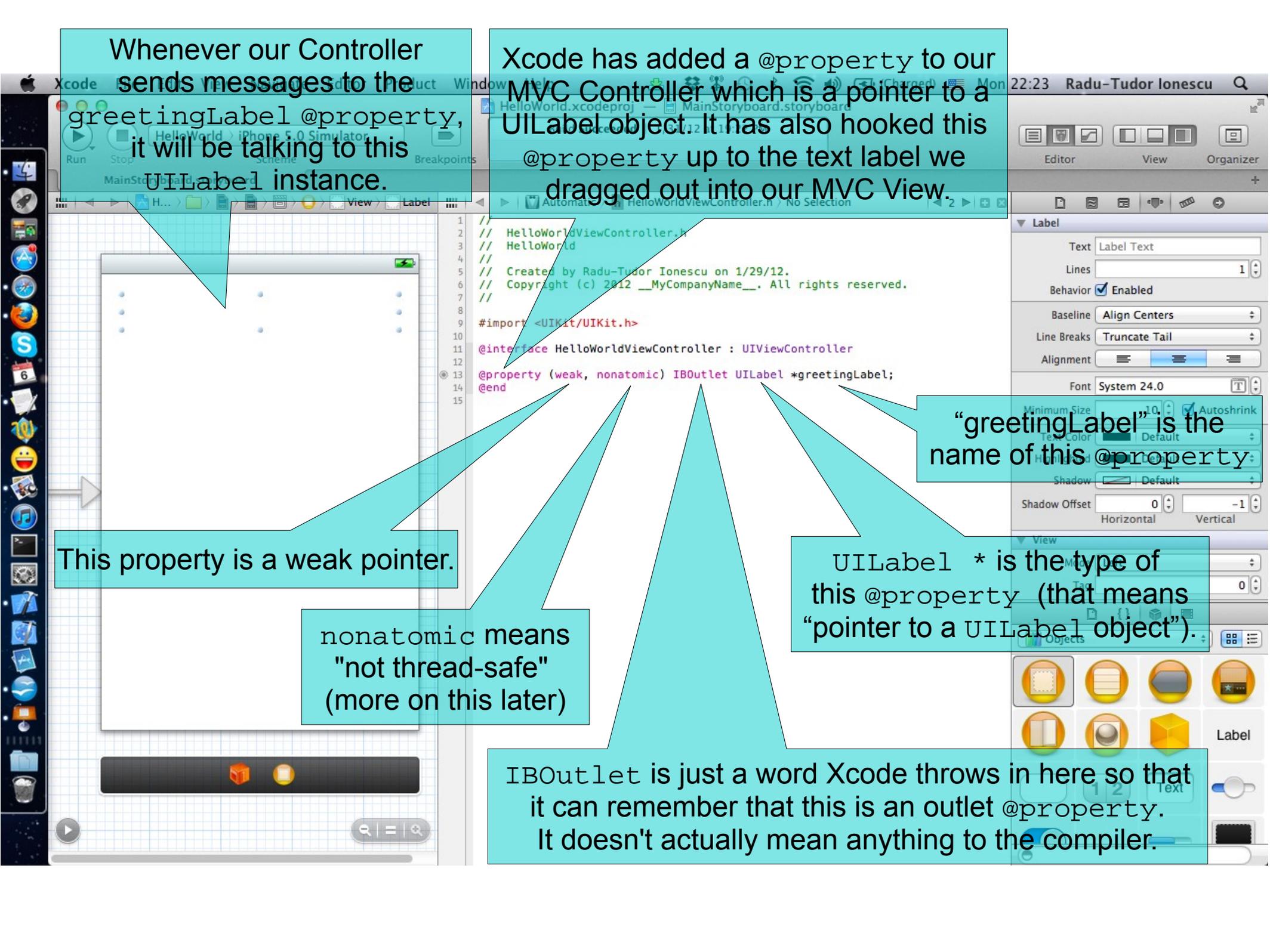
"greetingLabel" is the name of this @property

This property is a weak pointer.

nonatomic means "not thread-safe" (more on this later)

`UILabel *` is the type of this @property (that means "pointer to a `UILabel` object").

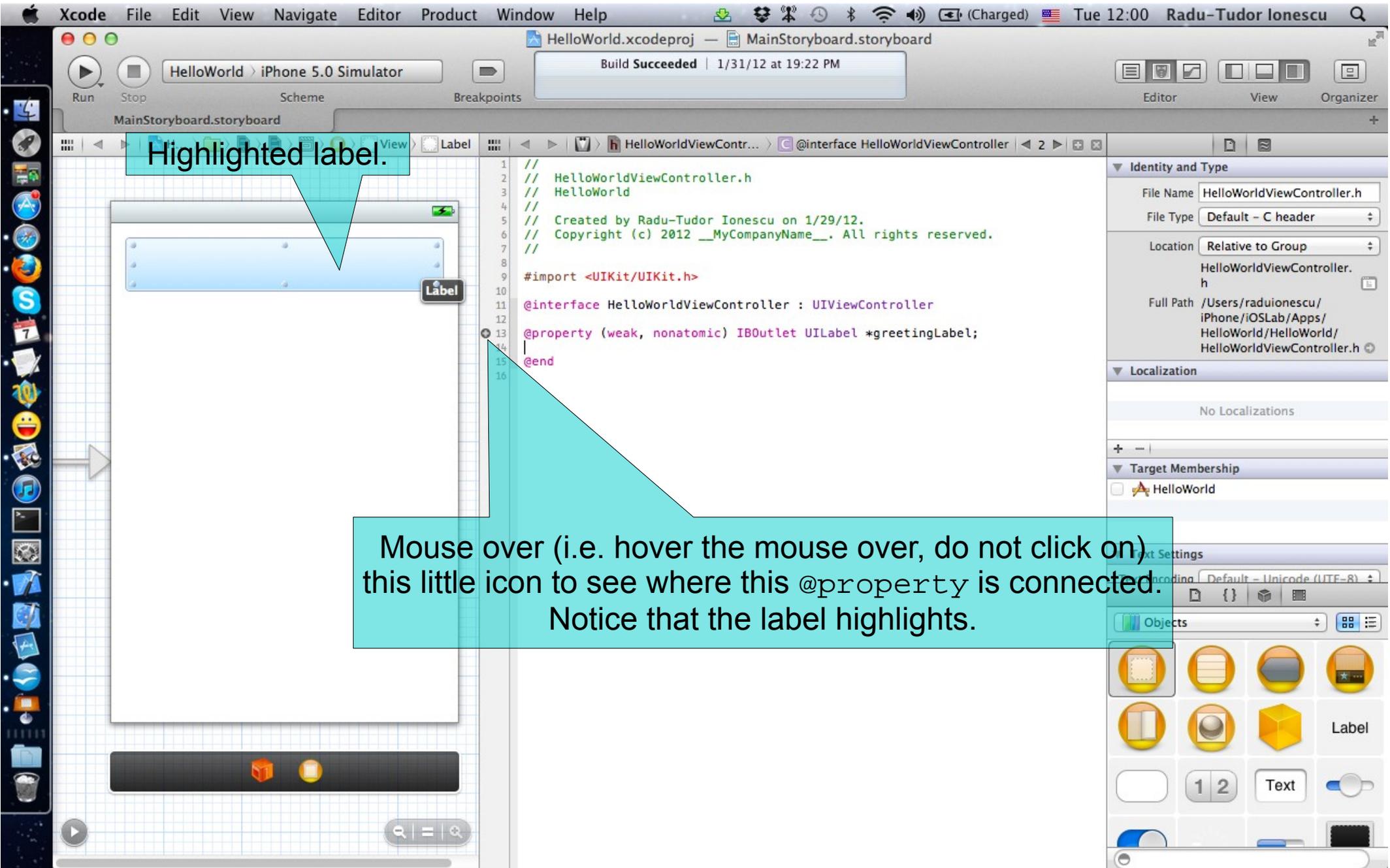
`IBOutlet` is just a word Xcode throws in here so that it can remember that this is an outlet @property. It doesn't actually mean anything to the compiler.

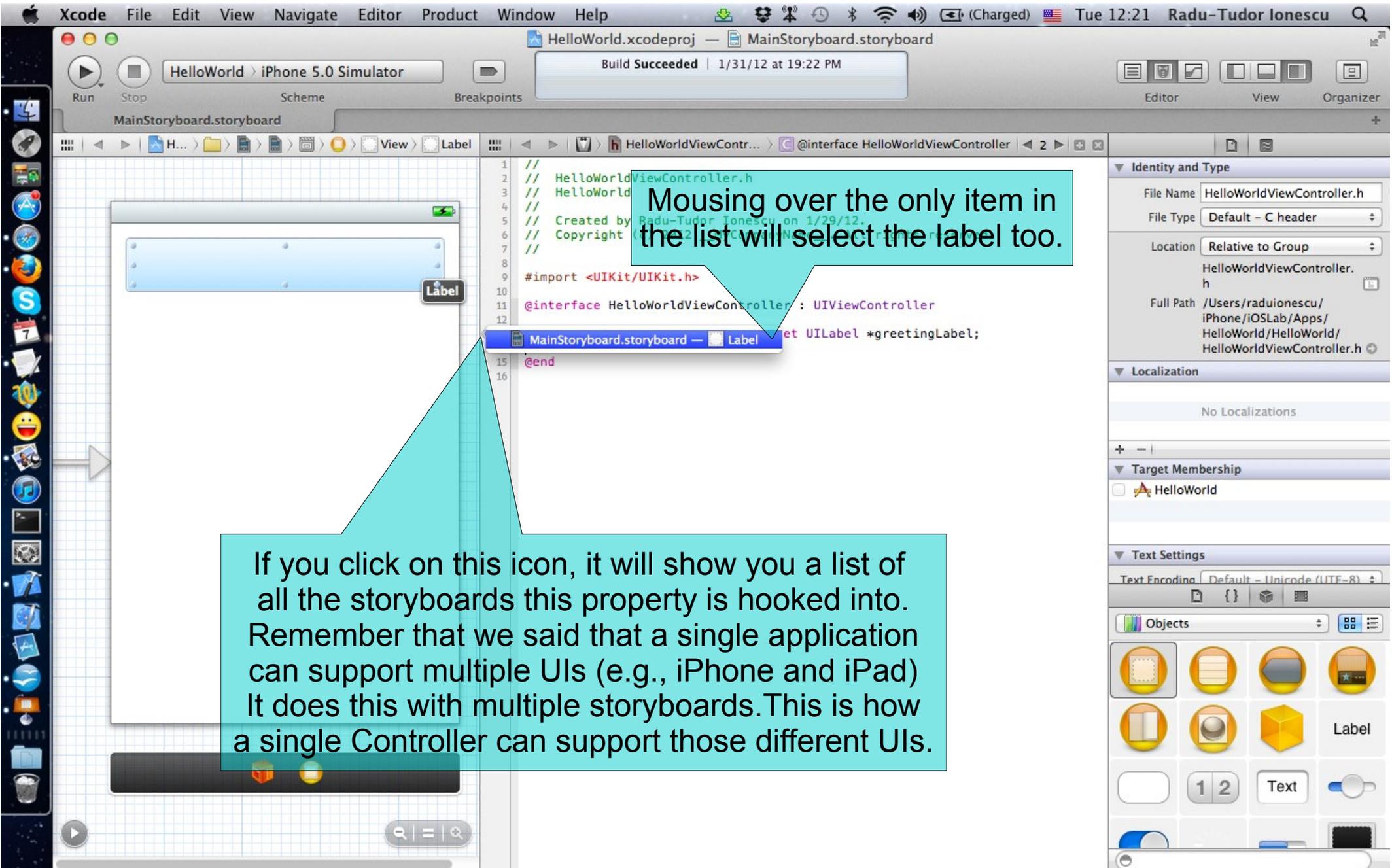


Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

20. Highlight the label to check if the connection is done right.

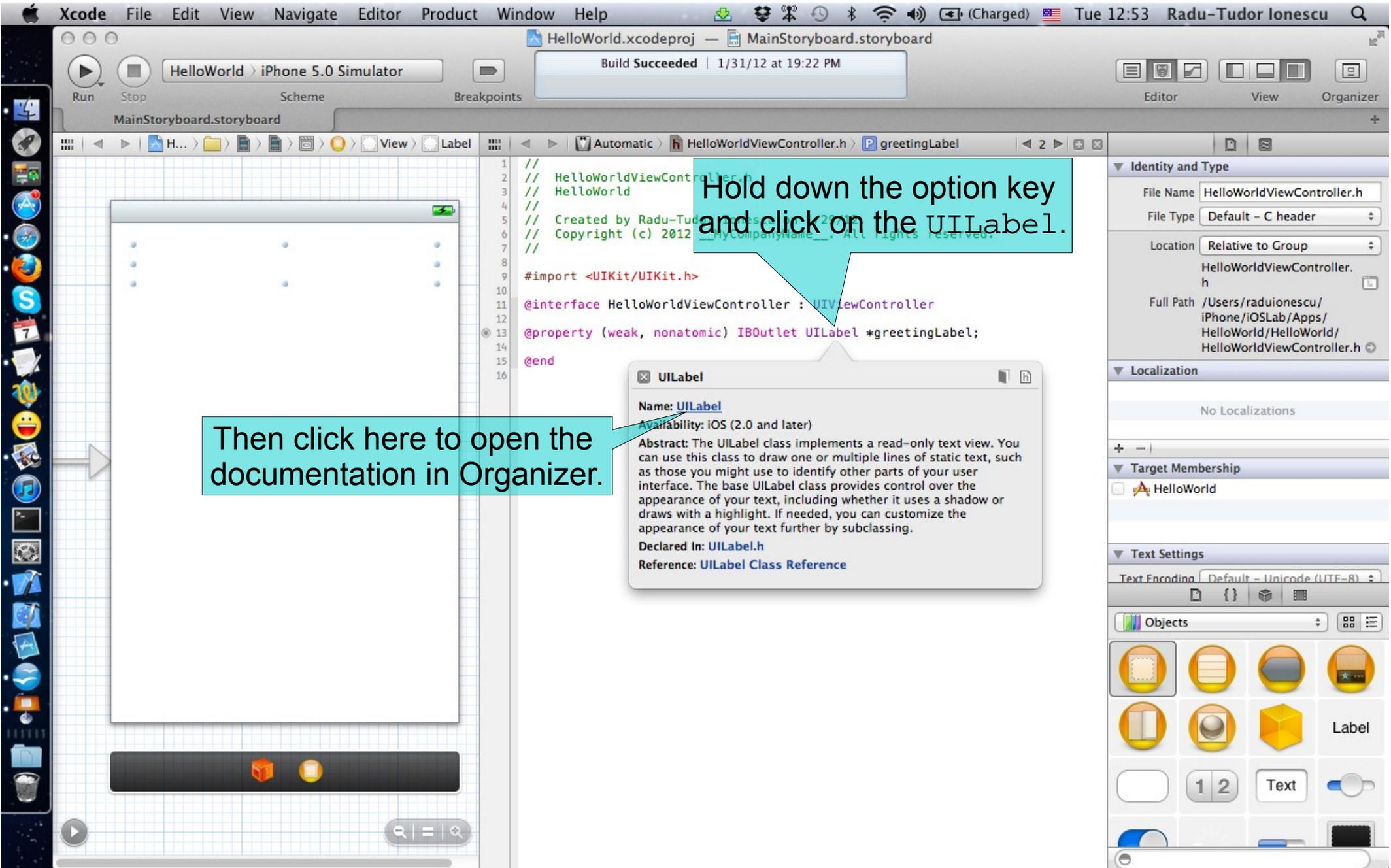




Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

20. Read the documentation of the `UILabel` class. Notice the superclass is `UIView` (all `UIKit` objects inherit from this class).



Then click here to open the documentation in Organizer.

Hold down the option key and click on the UILabel.

UILabel

Name: [UILabel](#)

Availability: iOS (2.0 and later)

Abstract: The UILabel class implements a read-only text view. You can use this class to draw one or multiple lines of static text, such as those you might use to identify other parts of your user interface. The base UILabel class provides control over the appearance of your text, including whether it uses a shadow or draws with a highlight. If needed, you can customize the appearance of your text further by subclassing.

Declared In: [UILabel.h](#)

Reference: [UILabel Class Reference](#)

Task 3

Task: Add a label to display our greeting message to the user.

21. Learn what are the properties of an `UILabel` object. Read the details about the `text` property. We are going to use it later when we will present the greetings on the display.

The superclass of UILabel is UIView.

UILabel Class Reference

Inherits from	UIView : UIResponder : NSObject
Conforms to	NSCoding NSCoding (UIView) UIAppearance (UIView) UIAppearanceContainer (UIView) NSObject (NSObject)
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/UIKit.framework
Availability	Available in iOS 2.0 and later.
Declared in	UILabel.h
Related sample code	iPhoneCoreDataRecipes SimpleFTPSample SimpleNetworkStreams Teslameter URLCache

Overview

The `UILabel` class implements a read-only text view. You can use this class to draw one or multiple lines of static text, such as those you might use to identify other parts of your user interface. The base `UILabel` class provides control over the appearance of your text, including whether it uses a shadow or draws with a highlight. If needed, you can customize the appearance of your text further by subclassing.

The default content mode of the `UILabel` class is `UIViewContentModeRedraw`. This mode causes the view to redraw its contents every time its bounding rectangle changes. You can change this mode by modifying the inherited `contentMode` property of the class.

New label objects are configured to disregard user events by default. If you want to handle events in a custom subclass of `UILabel`, you must explicitly change the value of the `userInteractionEnabled` property to `YES` after initializing the object.

Tasks

Accessing the Text Attributes

- [text](#) property
- [font](#) property
- [textColor](#) property
- [textAlignment](#) property
- [lineBreakMode](#) property
- [enabled](#) property

Sizing the Label's Text

This is the `text` property. Click here to see details about this property.

Scroll down to see all the properties.

See Also

[@property shadowColor](#)

Declared In
UILabel.h

A brief description of the property.

text

The text displayed by the label.

How is this property declared in the UILabel interface.

```
@property(nonatomic, copy) NSString *text
```

Discussion

This string is nil by default.

Since when is this property available.

Availability

Available in iOS 2.0 and later.

Related Sample Code

- [BatteryStatus](#)
- [iPhoneCoreDataRecipes](#)
- [LocateMe](#)
- [URLCache](#)
- [XMLPerformance](#)

It also gives you related sample code.

Declared In
UILabel.h

These are Xcode projects that you can download and look into.

textAlignment

The technique to use for aligning the text.

```
@property(nonatomic) NSTextAlignment textAlignment
```

Discussion

This property applies to the entire text string. The default value of this property is `UITextAlignmentLeft`.

Availability

Available in iOS 2.0 and later.

Related Sample Code

- [BatteryStatus](#)
- [BubbleLevel](#)
- [iPhoneCoreDataRecipes](#)
- [QuickContacts](#)
- [TableViewSuite](#)

Scroll up to top to have a look at the entire organization of this documentation page.

Declared In
UILabel.h

textColor

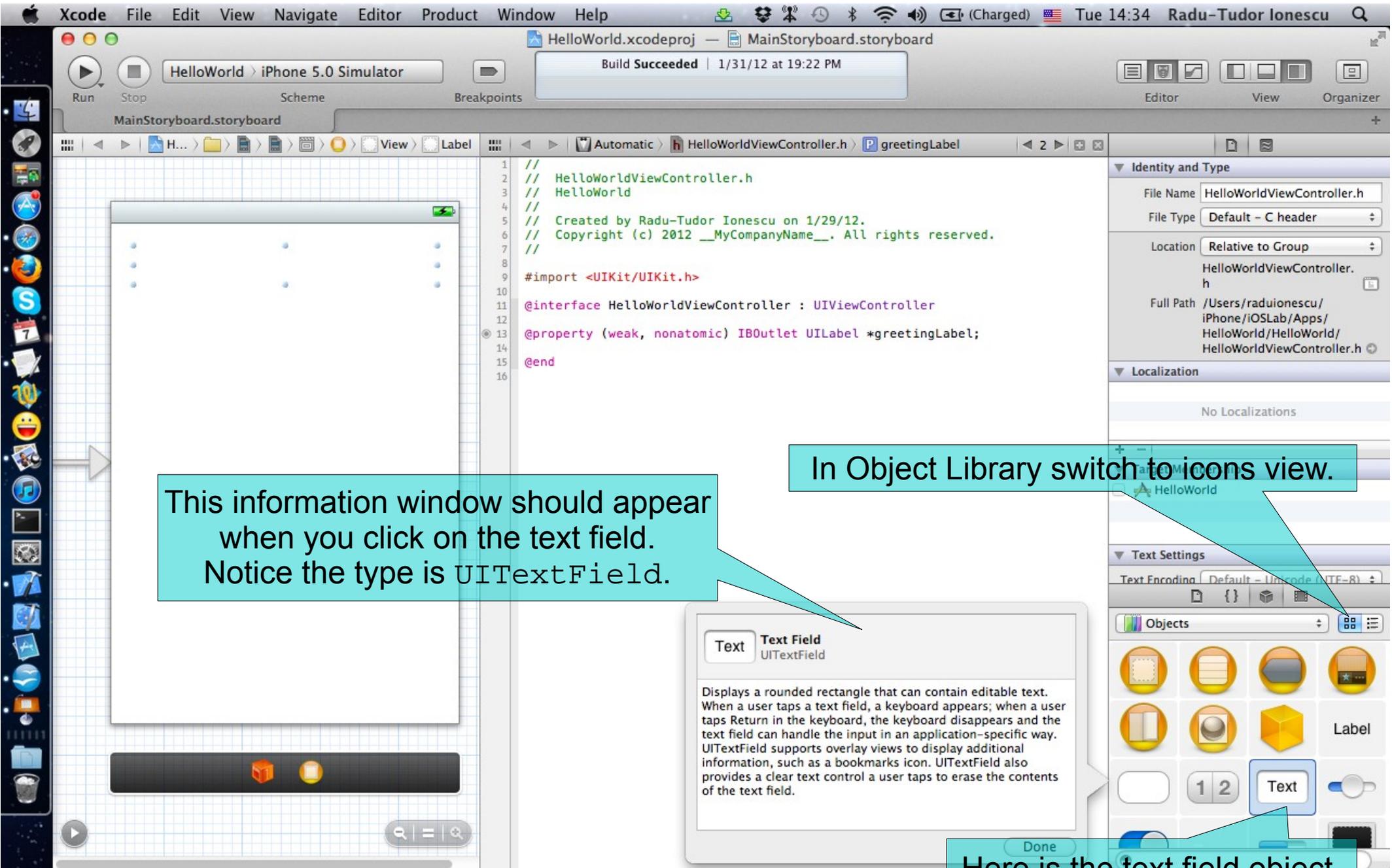
The color of the text.

```
@property(nonatomic, retain) UIColor *textColor
```

Task 4

Task: Add a text field for the user's name. We are going to let the user enter his name in this text field.

1. Look for a text field in the Object Library.



This information window should appear when you click on the text field. Notice the type is UITextField.

In Object Library switch to icons view.

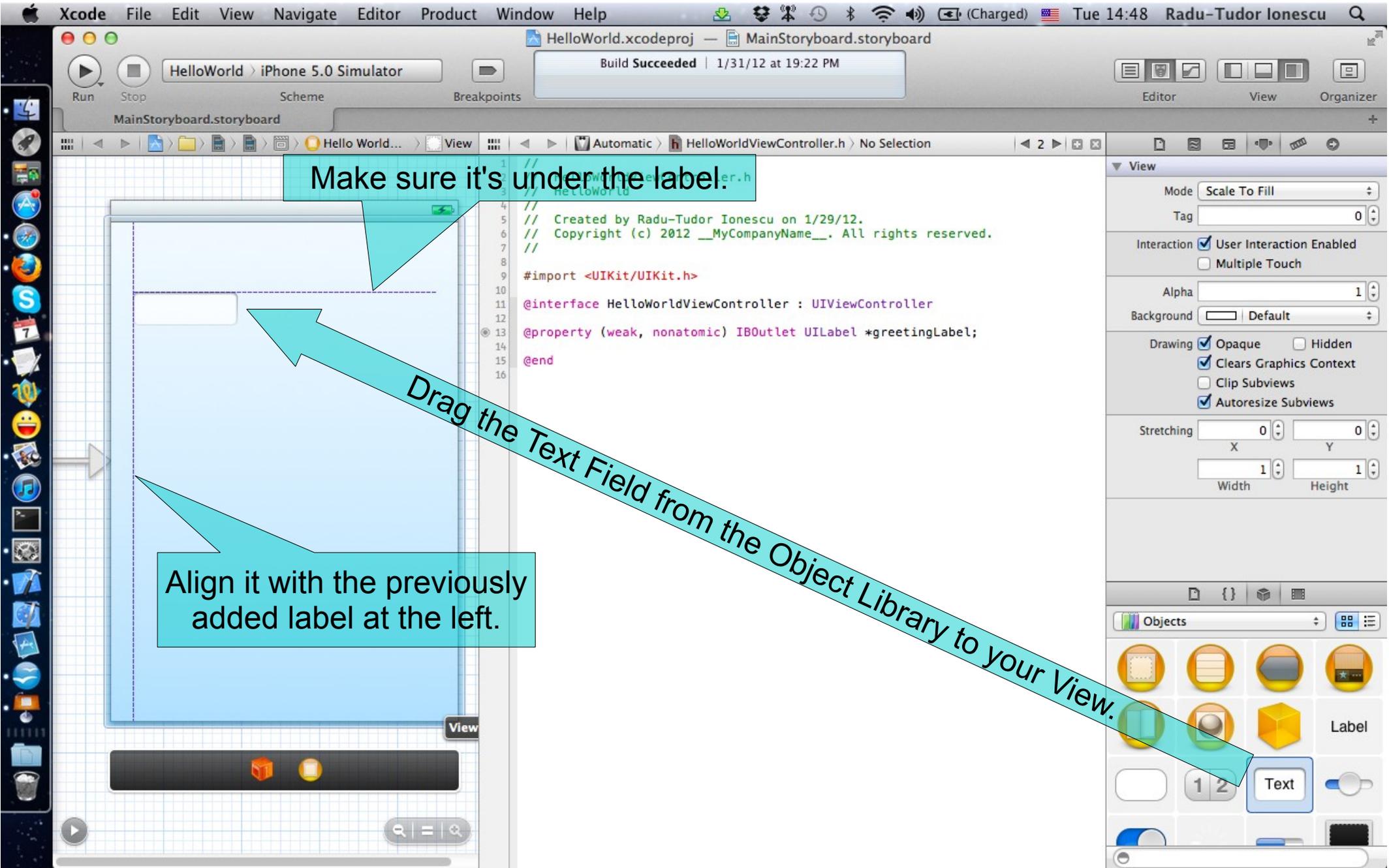
Here is the text field object. Click on it.

Task 4

Task: Add a text field for the user's name. We are going to let the user enter his name in this text field.

2. Drag an `UITextField` from the Object Library to your View.

A `UITextField` object is a control that displays editable text and sends an action message to a target object when the user presses the return button. You typically use this class to gather small amounts of text from the user and perform some immediate action, such as a search operation, based on that text.



Make sure it's under the label.

Align it with the previously added label at the left.

Drag the Text Field from the Object Library to your View.

Task 4

Task: Add a text field for the user's name. We are going to let the user enter his name in this text field.

3. Resize the text field width to 280 pixels.
4. Select the Attributes Inspector in Utilities area.

Make sure Attributes Inspector is selected.

The screenshot shows the Xcode IDE interface. On the left is the storyboard editor showing a white text field on a grid. A tooltip above the text field displays its dimensions: "W: 280.0" and "H: 31.0". A teal callout bubble points to the right handle of the text field with the text "Grab this right handle and adjust the width to 280 pixels." In the center is the code editor for `HelloWorldViewController.h`, showing the following code:

```
1 //  
2 // HelloWorldViewController.h  
3 // HelloWorld  
4 //  
5 // Created by Radu Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.  
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 MyCompanyName. All rights reserved.  
7 //  
8  
9 #import <UIKit/UIKit.h>  
10  
11 @interface HelloWorldViewController : UIViewController  
12  
13 @property (weak, nonatomic) IBOutlet UILabel *greetingLabel;  
14  
15 @end  
16
```

On the right is the Attributes Inspector for the selected text field. The settings are as follows:

- Text: Text
- Placeholder: Placeholder Text
- Background: Background Image
- Disabled: Disabled Background Image
- Alignment: Left (selected)
- Border Style: None (selected)
- Clear Button: Never appears
- Clear when editing begins:
- Text Color: Default
- Font: System 14.0
- Min Font Size: 17
- Adjust to Fit:
- Capitalization: None
- Correction: Default
- Keyboard: Default
- Appearance: Default

At the bottom right is the Objects palette, showing various UI elements including a "Text" button.

Task 4

Task: Add a text field for the user's name. We are going to let the user enter his name in this text field.

5. Set the placeholder text to “type in your name” to let the user know we would like to know his name.
6. Set the text alignment to center.
7. Set the text field correction to “No” so that it will not try to correct the user's input.
8. Change the keyboard return key type to “Done”.

Notice the text field has a text property. We are going to use this property to get the user's input (that is his name).

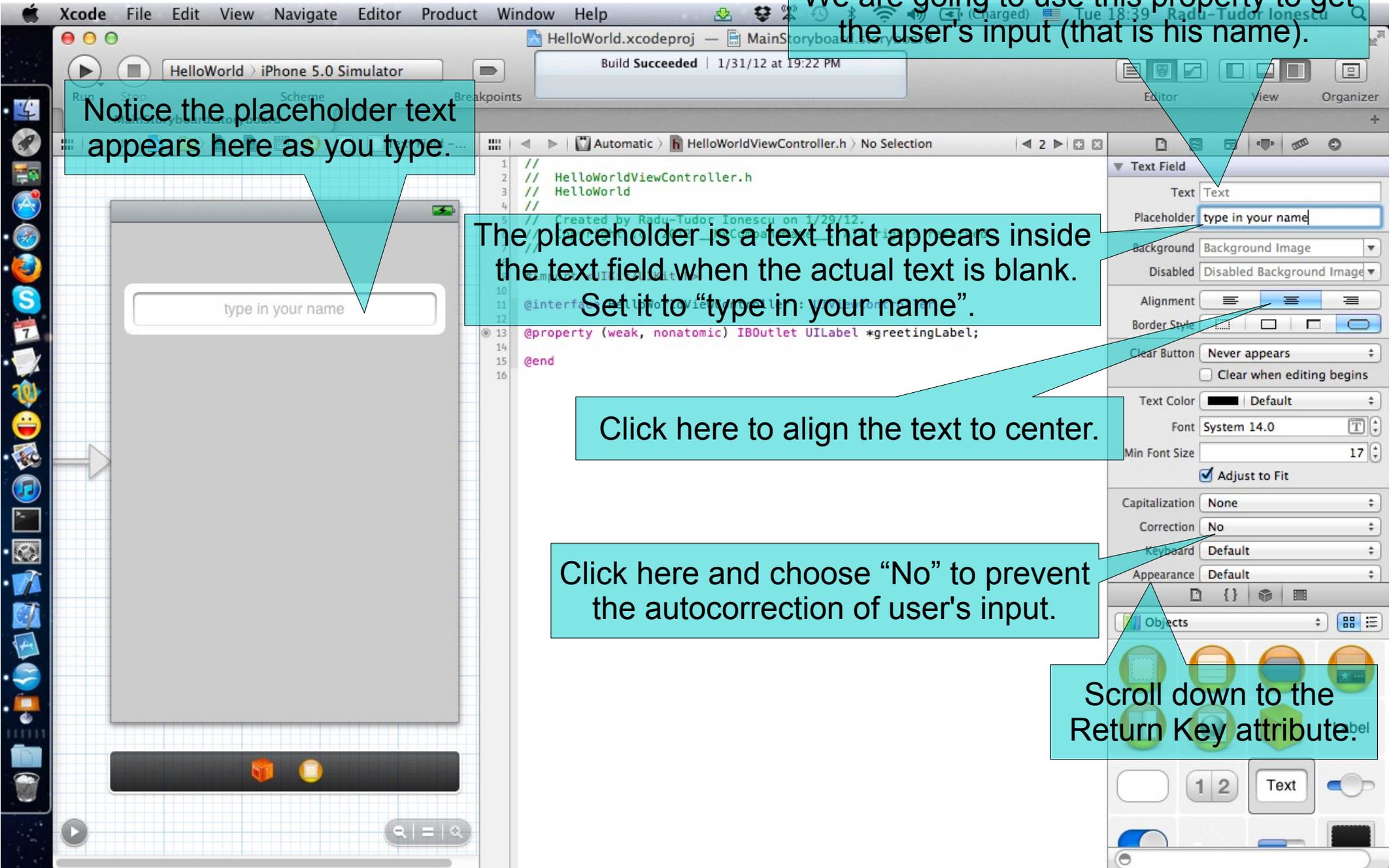
Notice the placeholder text appears here as you type.

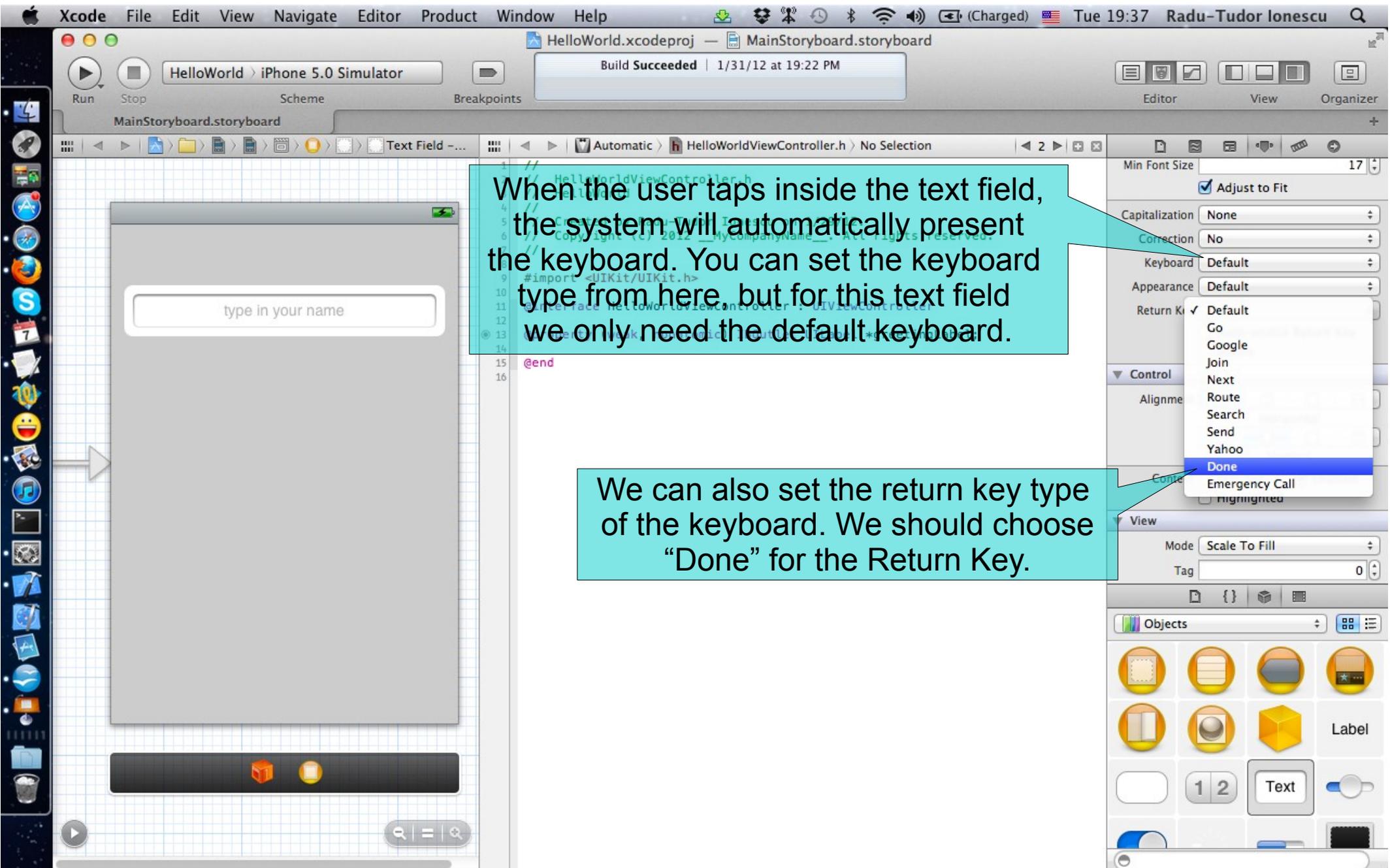
The placeholder is a text that appears inside the text field when the actual text is blank. Set it to "type in your name".

Click here to align the text to center.

Click here and choose "No" to prevent the autocorrection of user's input.

Scroll down to the Return Key attribute.





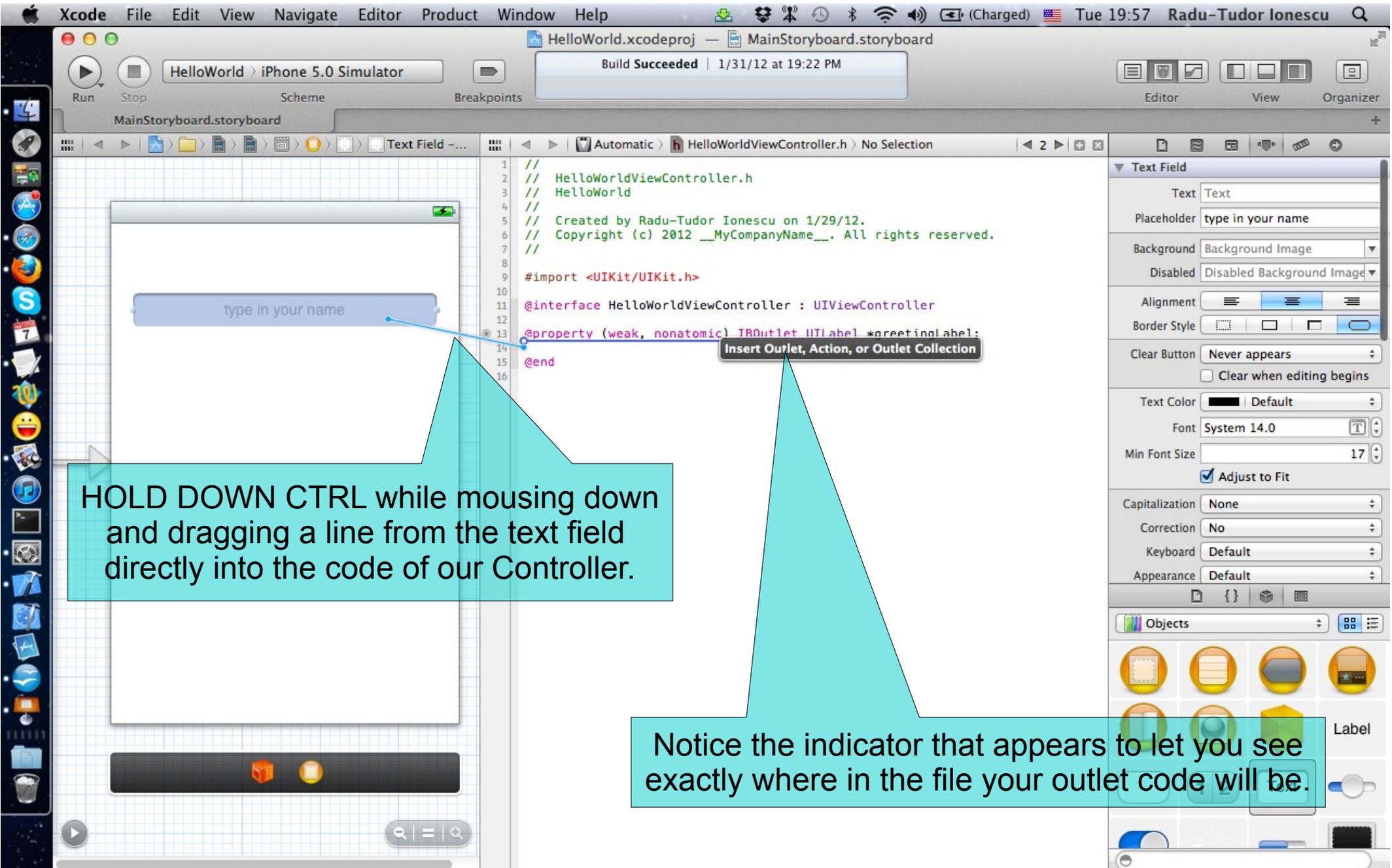
When the user taps inside the text field, the system will automatically present the keyboard. You can set the keyboard type from here, but for this text field we only need the default keyboard.

We can also set the return key type of the keyboard. We should choose "Done" for the Return Key.

Task 4

Task: Add a text field for the user's name. We are going to let the user enter his name in this text field.

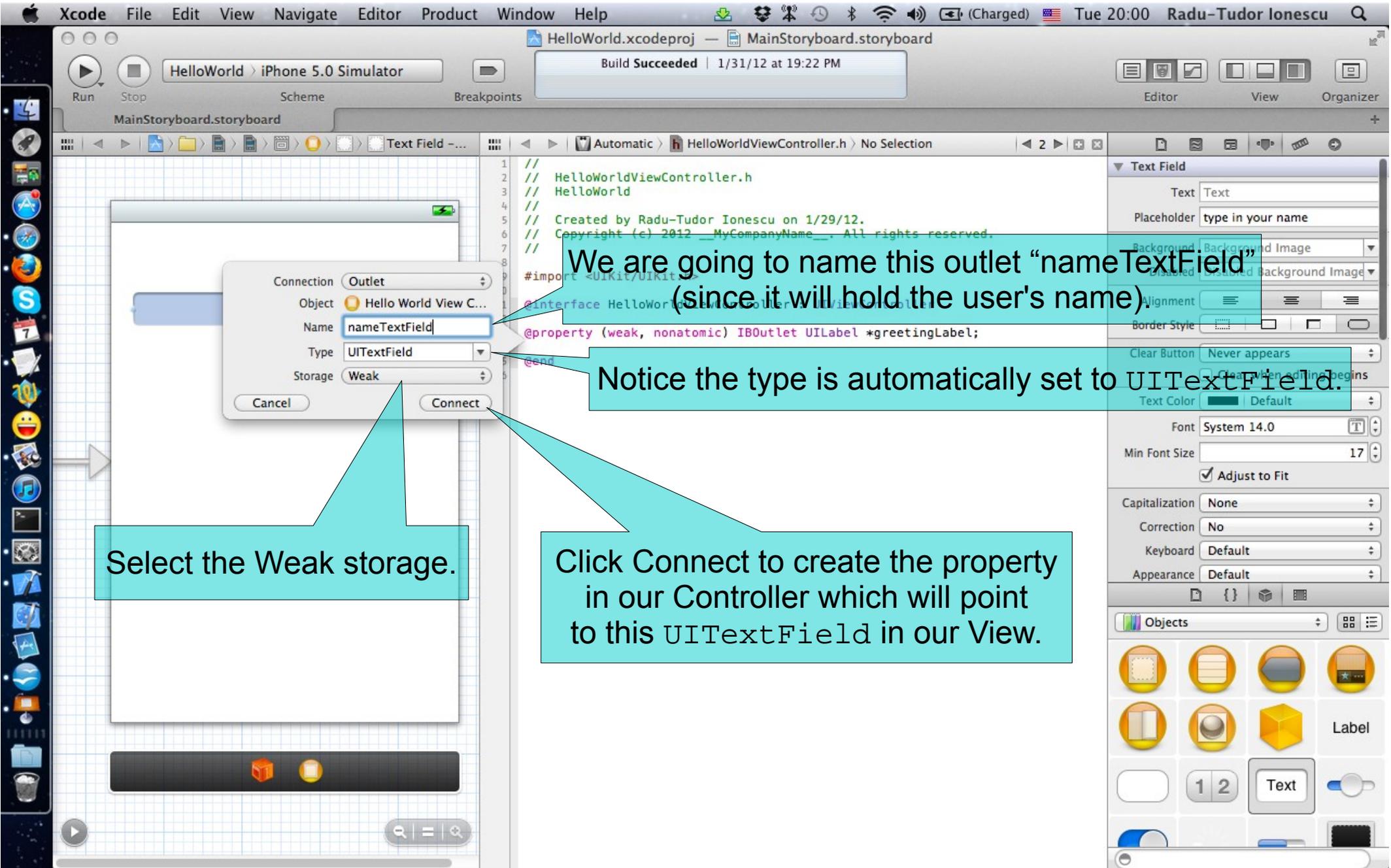
9. Declare a property in the Controller for the added text field. We need to be able to get the user's name from the text field and build the greetings message with his name (e.g. "Hello Steve!"). Make this connection between Controller and View directly with the mouse using CTRL-dragging.

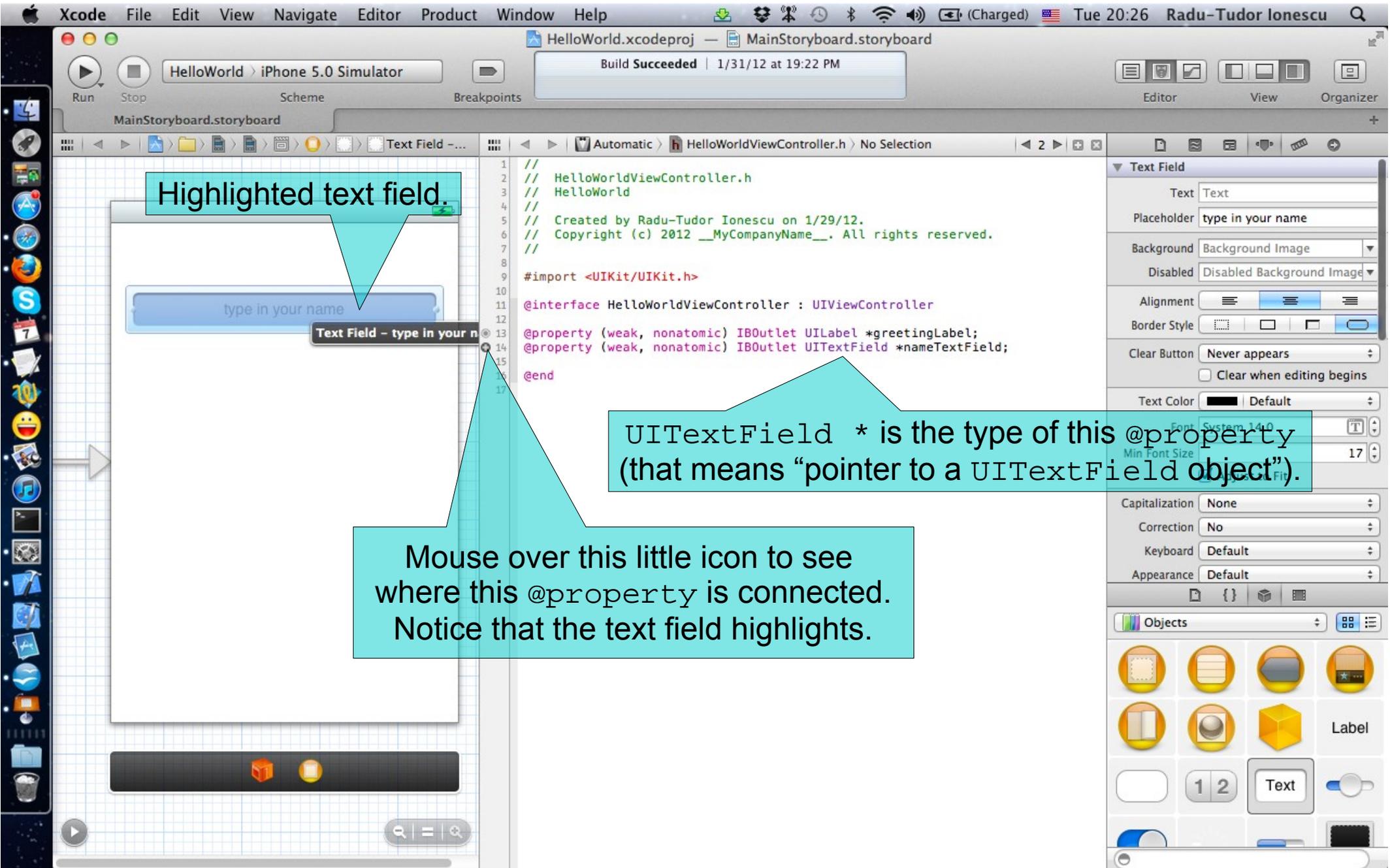


Task 4

Task: Add a text field for the user's name. We are going to let the user enter his name in this text field.

10. Name the property “nameTextField”.
11. Declare it as a **weak** pointer.

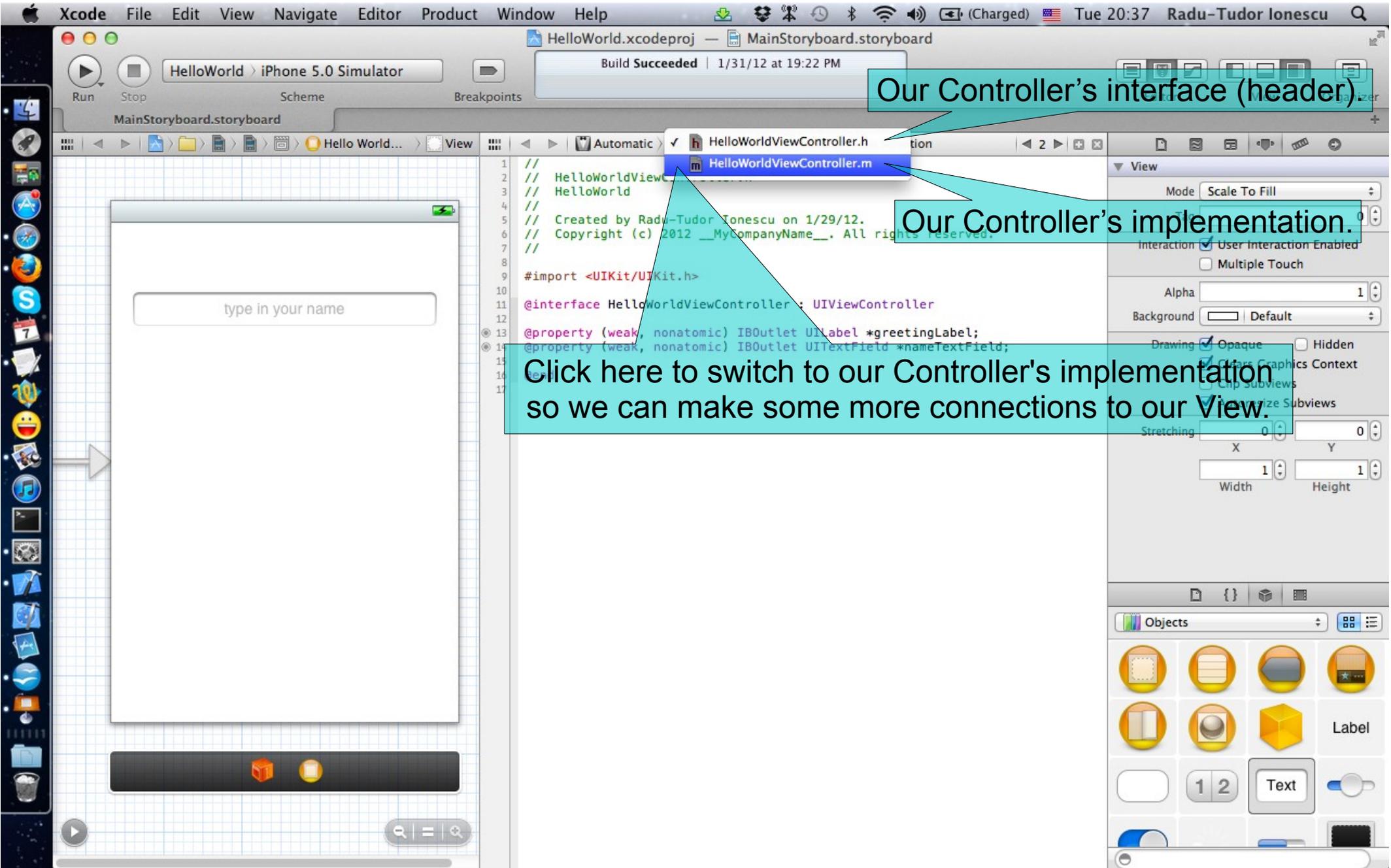




Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

1. Switch to the Controller's implementation.



Our Controller's interface (header)

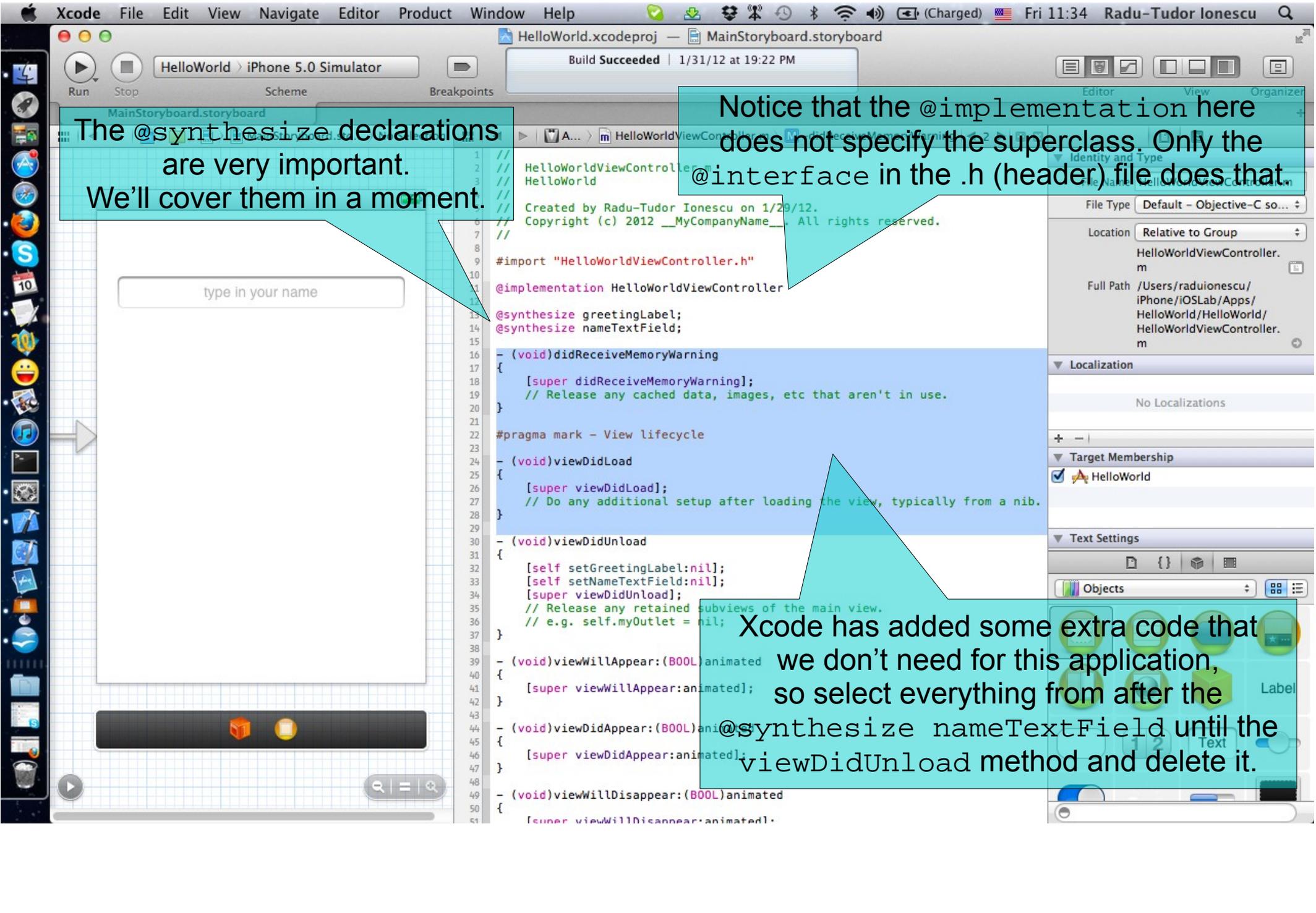
Our Controller's implementation.

Click here to switch to our Controller's implementation so we can make some more connections to our View.

Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

2. Delete the code that we don't need which was automatically added by Xcode. Make sure **NOT** to remove the `@synthesize` declarations and the implementation of the `viewDidLoad` method.



The @synthesize declarations are very important. We'll cover them in a moment.

Notice that the @implementation here does not specify the superclass. Only the @interface in the .h (header) file does that.

Xcode has added some extra code that we don't need for this application, so select everything from after the @synthesize nameTextField until the viewDidLoad method and delete it.

```
1 //
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 //
4 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
5 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
6 //
7
8 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
9
10 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
11
12 @synthesize greetingLabel;
13 @synthesize nameTextField;
14
15 - (void)didReceiveMemoryWarning
16 {
17     [super didReceiveMemoryWarning];
18     // Release any cached data, images, etc that aren't in use.
19 }
20
21 #pragma mark - View lifecycle
22
23 - (void)viewDidLoad
24 {
25     [super viewDidLoad];
26     // Do any additional setup after loading the view, typically from a nib.
27 }
28
29 - (void)viewDidUnload
30 {
31     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
32     [self setNameTextField:nil];
33     [super viewDidUnload];
34     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
35     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
36 }
37
38 - (void)viewWillAppear:(BOOL)animated
39 {
40     [super viewWillAppear:animated];
41 }
42
43 - (void)viewDidAppear:(BOOL)animated
44 {
45     [super viewDidAppear:animated];
46 }
47
48 - (void)viewWillDisappear:(BOOL)animated
49 {
50     [super viewWillDisappear:animated];
51 }
```

Editor View Organizer

File Type: Default - Objective-C so...

Location: Relative to Group

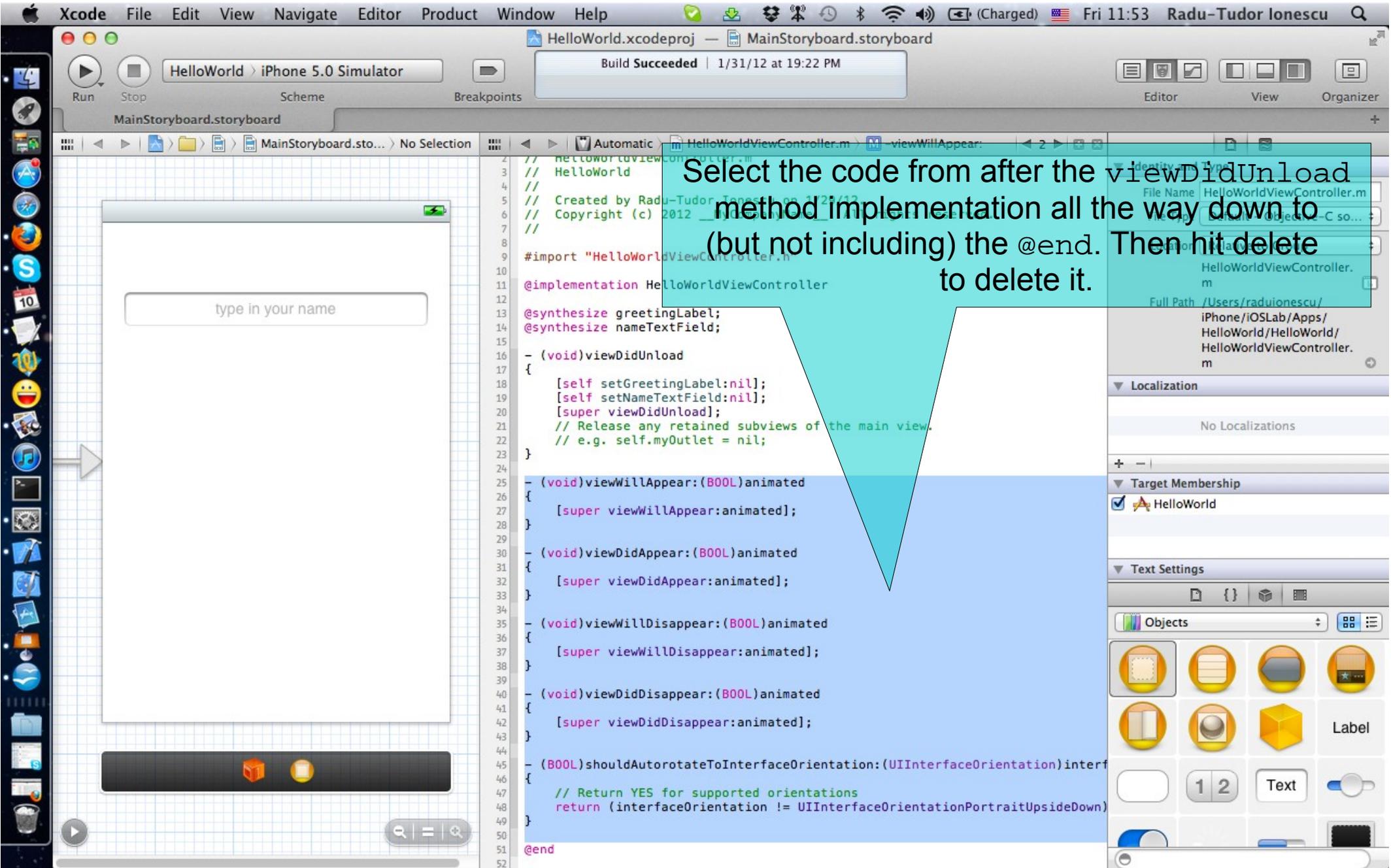
Full Path: /Users/raduionescu/iOSLab/Apps/HelloWorld/HelloWorld/HelloWorldViewController.m

Localization: No Localizations

Target Membership: HelloWorld

Text Settings: {}

Objects: Label, Text



Select the code from after the viewDidLoad method implementation all the way down to (but not including) the @end. Then hit delete to delete it.

```
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 // HelloWorld
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 12/21/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidLoad
17 {
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];
20     [super viewDidLoad];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
23 }
24
25 - (void)viewWillAppear:(BOOL)animated
26 {
27     [super viewWillAppear:animated];
28 }
29
30 - (void)viewDidAppear:(BOOL)animated
31 {
32     [super viewDidAppear:animated];
33 }
34
35 - (void)viewWillDisappear:(BOOL)animated
36 {
37     [super viewWillDisappear:animated];
38 }
39
40 - (void)viewDidDisappear:(BOOL)animated
41 {
42     [super viewDidDisappear:animated];
43 }
44
45 - (BOOL)shouldAutorotateToInterfaceOrientation:(UIInterfaceOrientation)interf
46 {
47     // Return YES for supported orientations
48     return (interfaceOrientation != UIInterfaceOrientationPortraitUpsideDown)
49 }
50
51 @end
52
```

Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

3. Study the `@synthesize` declarations and the `viewDidUnload` method implementation.

The `@synthesize` declarations were added by Xcode when we created the `greetingLabel` and `nameTextField` properties. The `@synthesize` declaration is used to generate accessor methods (setter and getter) for a certain property.

When a low-memory condition occurs and the current view controller's views are not needed, the system may opt to remove those views from memory. The `viewDidUnload` method is called after the view controller's view has been released and is your chance to perform any final cleanup. If your view controller stores references to the view or its subviews, you should use this method to release those references and set those references to `nil`.

Note the `@synthesize` that Xcode automatically added to our Controller's implementation when it created the `greetingLabel @property` (it did this when we CTRL-dragged to create the `greetingLabel outlet`). This `@synthesize` creates two methods (`greetingLabel` and `setGreetingLabel:`). The method `setGreetingLabel:` is used by iOS to hook the `UILabel` up to the `greetingLabel @property` at runtime (i.e. set the value of the pointer). The method `setGreetingLabel:` is also used by us to put the greeting message in this `UILabel`. `@synthesize` also creates an instance variable to store this pointer.

variable to store this pointer.

`void` is the return type of this method. More about methods in a few moments.

The `viewDidLoad` method sets the `greetingLabel` and `nameTextField` references to `nil` by calling the setters generated with `@synthesize`. This code was also automatically added to our implementation when we CTRL-dragged to create the outlets.

The same happens for this `@synthesize` which creates two methods (`nameTextField` and `setNameTextField:`). As for the `UILabel`, the method `setNameTextField:` is used by iOS to hook the `UITextField` up to the `nameTextField @property` at runtime. The method `nameTextField` is used by us to get the user's name from the text field.

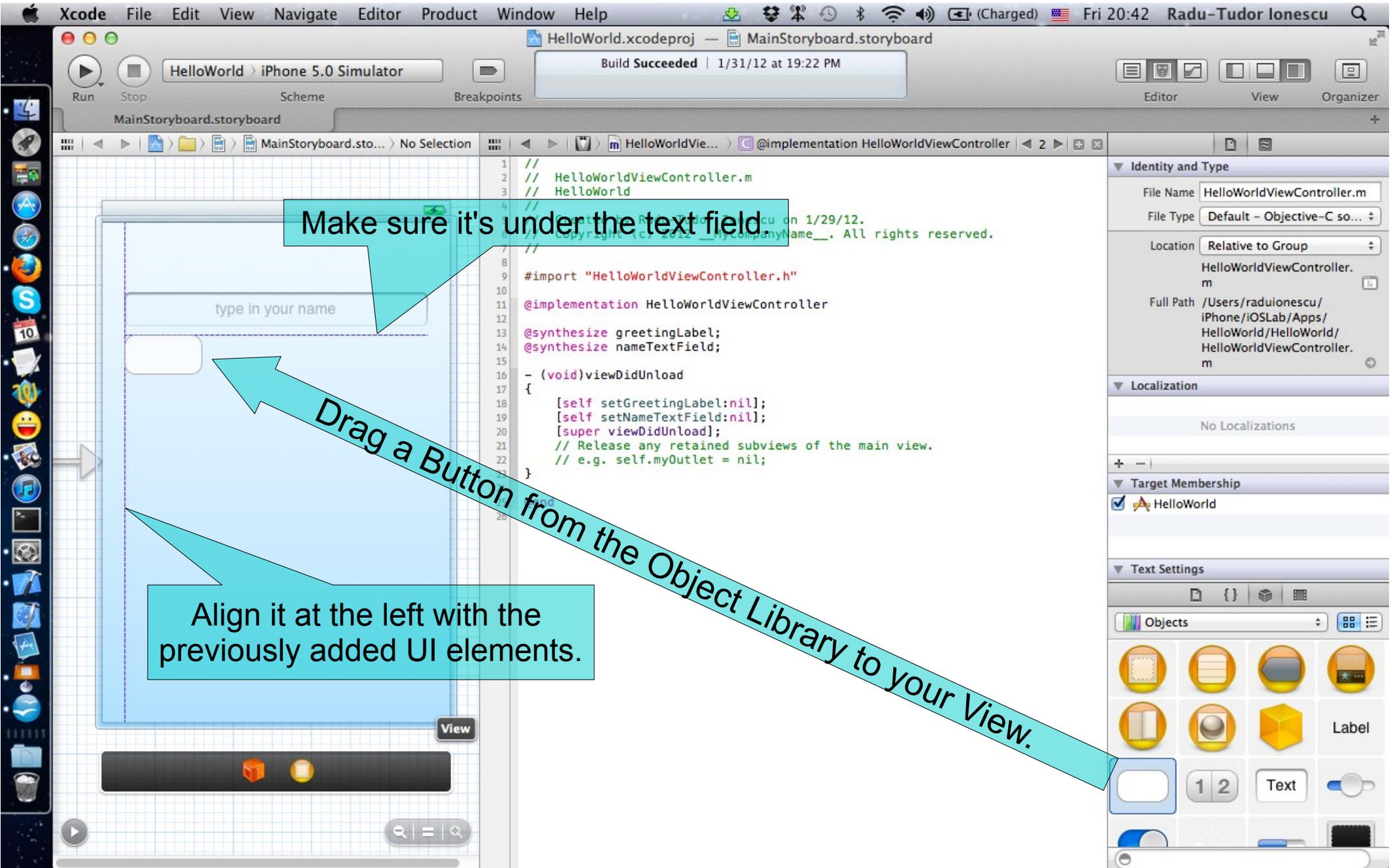
```
1 //
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 //
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidLoad
17 {
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];
20     [super viewDidLoad];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
23 }
24
25 @end
26
```

Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

4. Drag a Round Rect Button from the Object Library to your View.

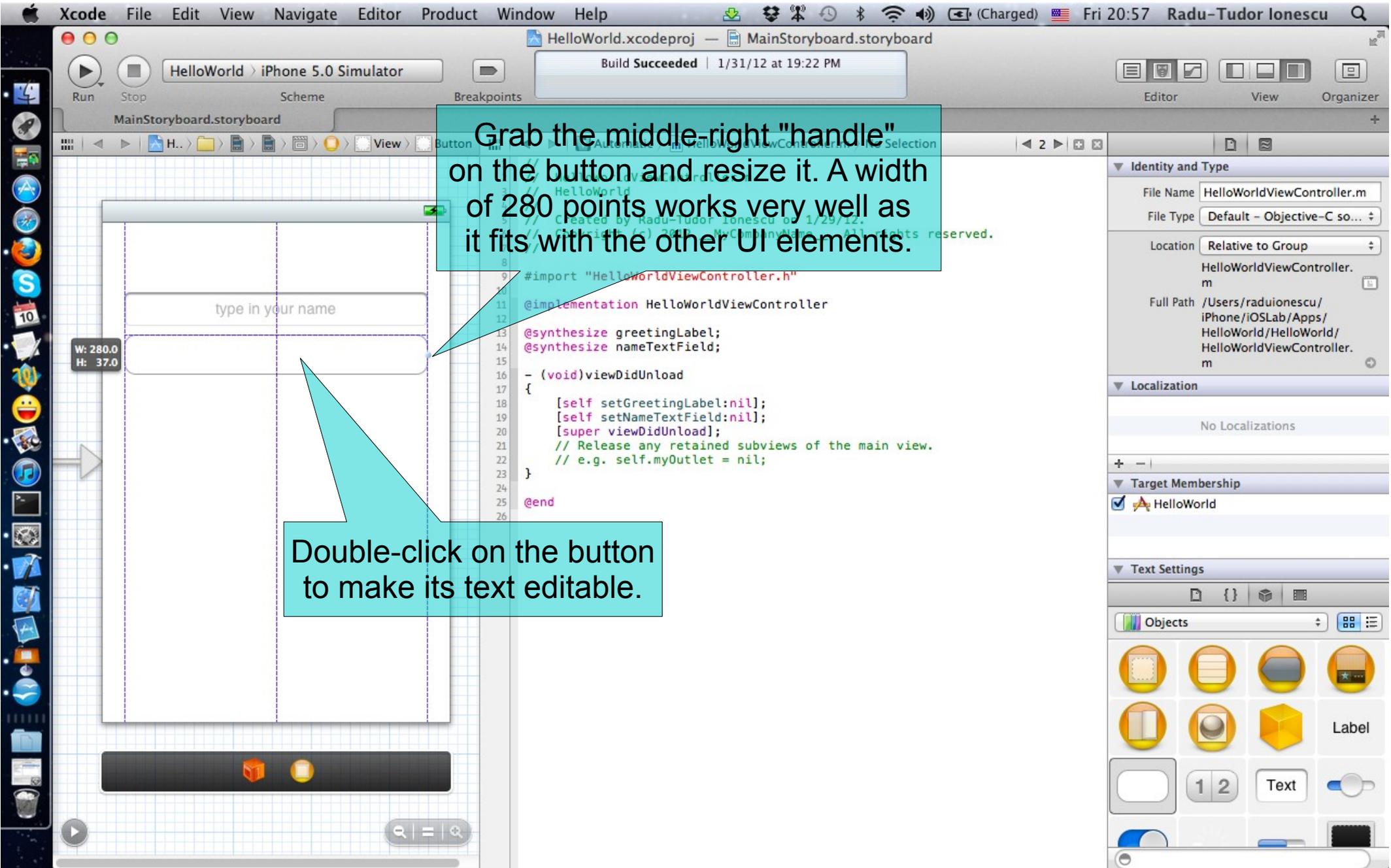
An instance of the `UIButton` class implements a button on the touch screen. A button intercepts touch events and sends an action message to a target object when tapped. This class provides methods for setting the title, image, and other appearance properties of a button. By using these accessors, you can specify a different appearance for each button state.

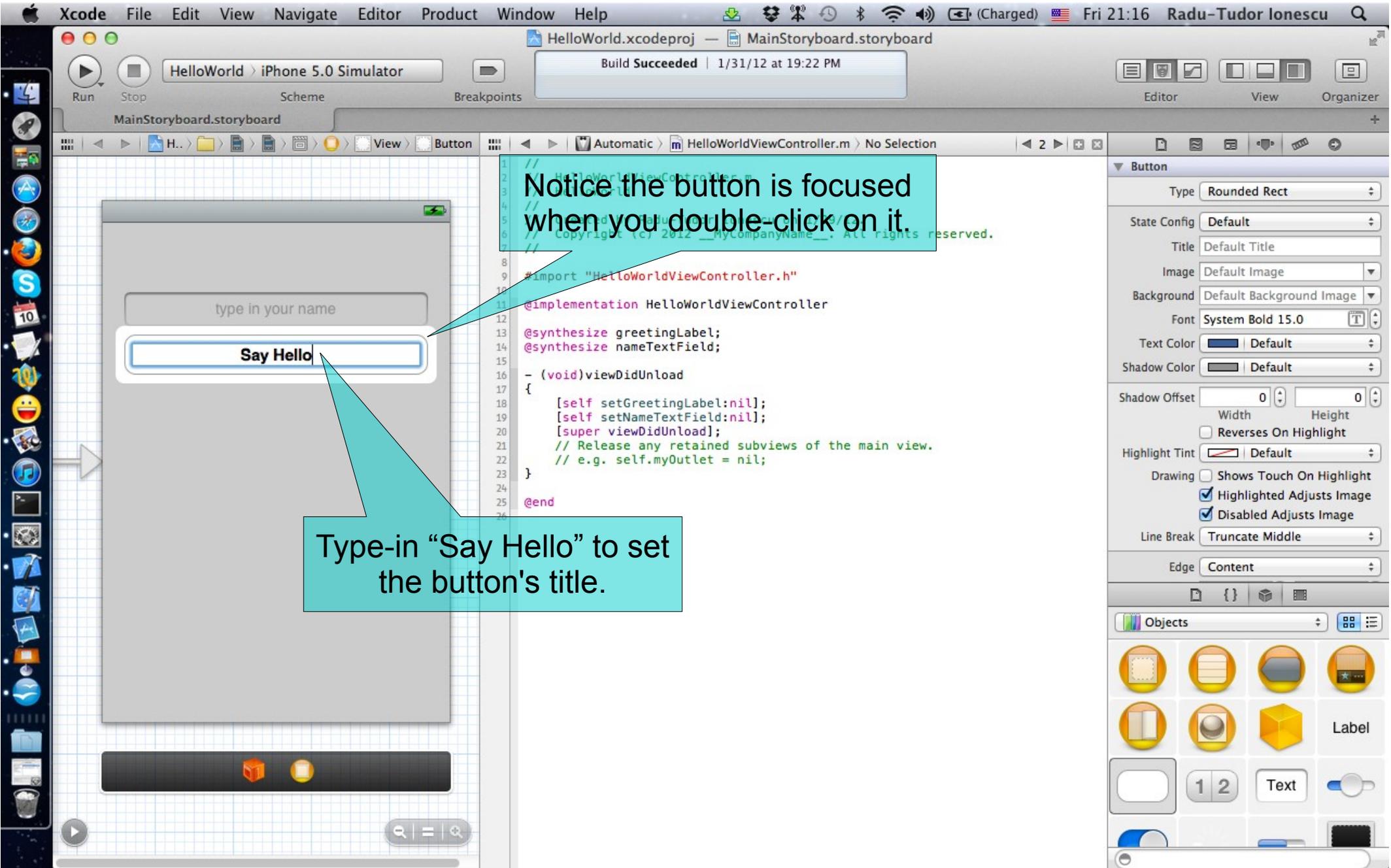


Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

5. Adjust the button width to 280 pixels.
6. Change the button's title to "Say Hello".





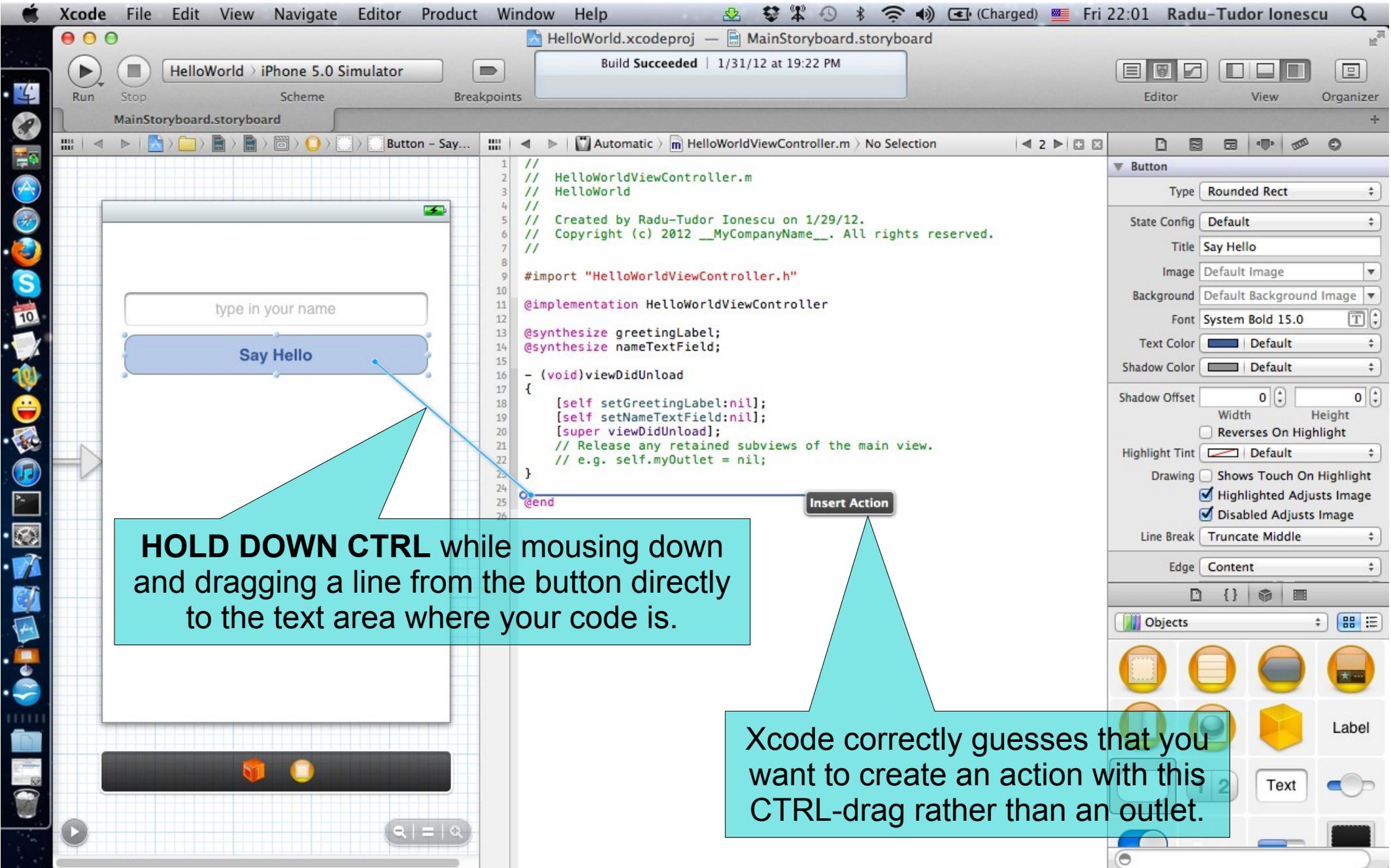
Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

7. Specify the action that our `UIButton` is going to send to our Controller when the user touches it.

Remember that the term **outlet** refers to a `@property` through which we send messages to something in our View from our Controller (for example, `greetingLabel` is an outlet).

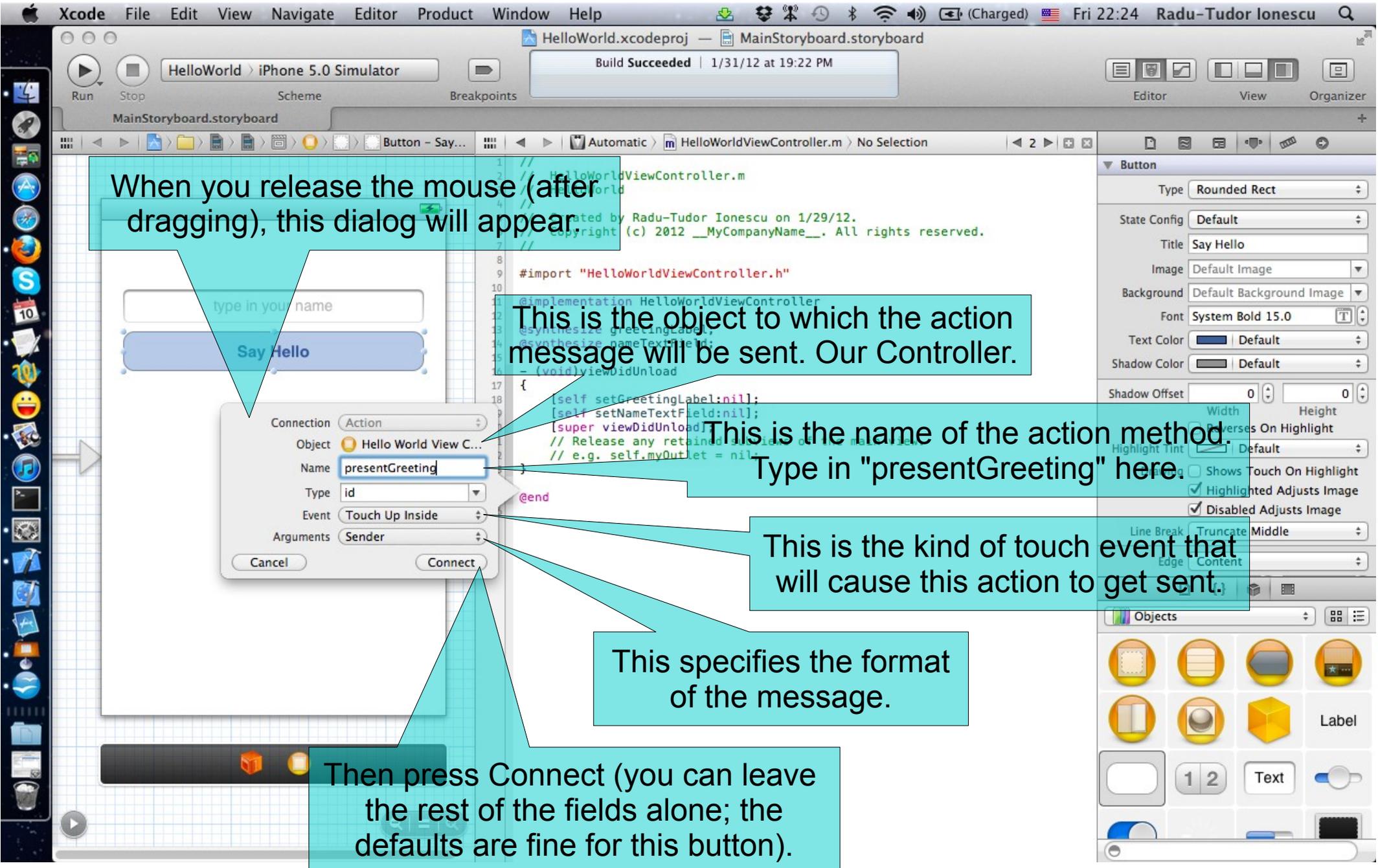
We use the term **action** to mean a method that is going to be sent from an object in our View to our Controller when something interesting happens in the user-interface.



Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

8. Enter “presentGreeting” as the name of the action message (which makes sense since this button is going to be the button that triggers the presentation of the greetings message).



When you release the mouse (after dragging), this dialog will appear.

This is the object to which the action message will be sent. Our Controller.

This is the name of the action method. Type in "presentGreeting" here.

This is the kind of touch event that will cause this action to get sent.

This specifies the format of the message.

Then press Connect (you can leave the rest of the fields alone; the defaults are fine for this button).

```
1 // HelloWorldViewController.m
2 //
3 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
4 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
5
6
7
8 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
9
10 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
11 @synthesize greetingLabel;
12 @synthesize nameTextField;
13
14 - (void)viewDidLoad {
15     [super viewDidLoad];
16     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
17     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
18 }
19
20 @end
```

Inspector and Object Library panels. The Inspector shows properties for a Button: Type (Rounded Rect), State Config (Default), Title (Say Hello), Image (Default Image), Background (Default Background Image), Font (System Bold 15.0), Text Color (Default), Shadow Color (Default), Shadow Offset (0, 0), Width, Height, and various interaction options like 'Reverses On Highlight', 'Shows Touch On Highlight', 'Highlighted Adjusts Image', 'Disabled Adjusts Image', 'Line Break', 'Truncate Middle', 'Edge Content'. The Object Library shows various UI components like buttons, text fields, and labels.

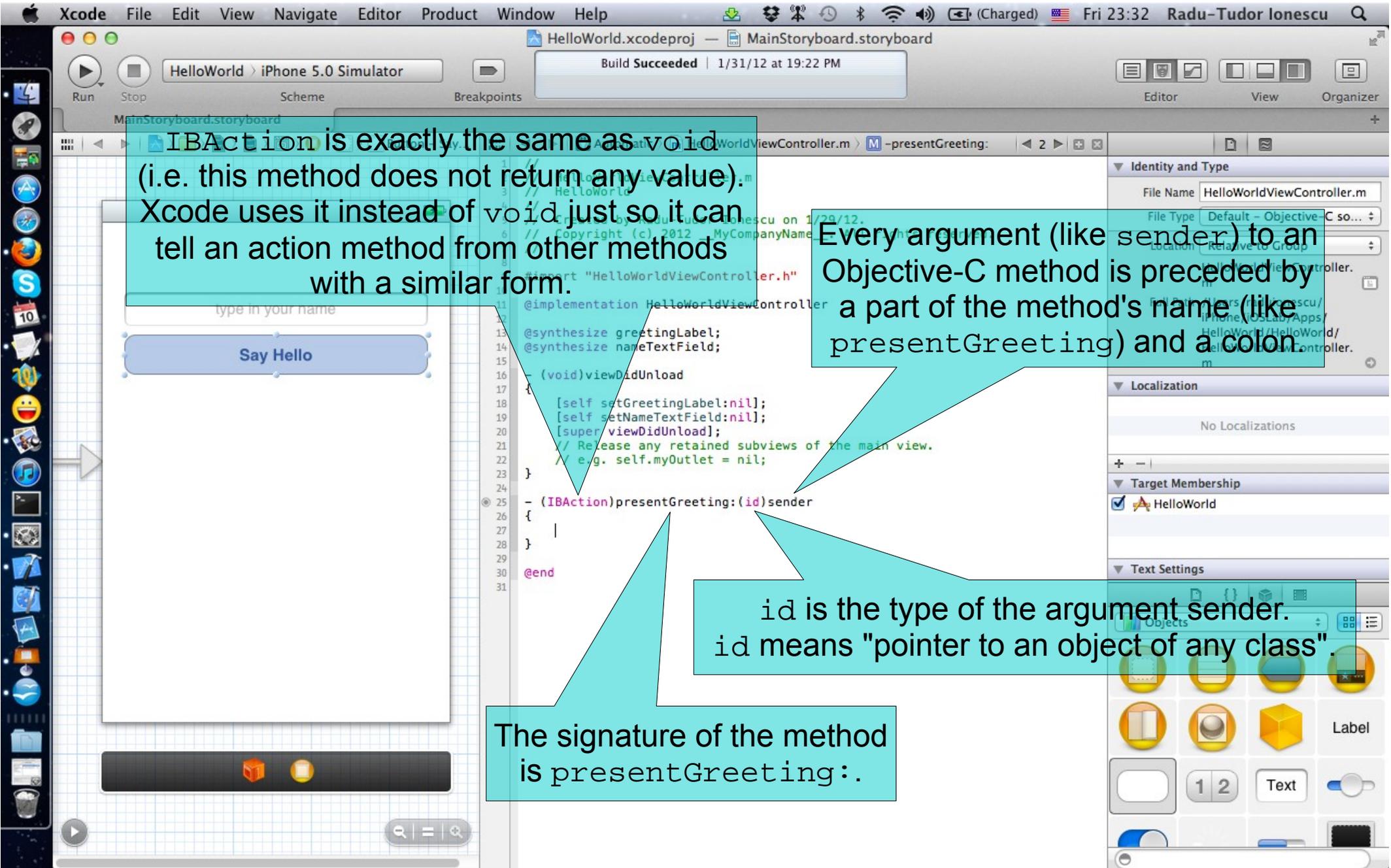
Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

9. Study the `presentGreeting:` method added by CTRL-dragging to the Controller.

Notice the method has a parameter (called `sender`) with `id` type. You might be surprised that this does not read `id *`. But that would make no sense because the type `id` is already a pointer so `id *` would be a pointer to a pointer. The type `id` does not mean "object of any class", it means "pointer to an object of any class". Every time the "Say Hello" button is touched, `presentGreeting:` is going to be sent to our Controller with the `UIButton` itself as the message's `sender` argument.

In general, we want to use the type `id` because either we want to allow any class of object to be passed into a method (uncommon) or because the class of the object is "opaque" (it's like a "cookie").



IBAction is exactly the same as void (i.e. this method does not return any value). Xcode uses it instead of void just so it can tell an action method from other methods with a similar form.

Every argument (like sender) to an Objective-C method is preceded by a part of the method's name (like presentGreeting) and a colon.

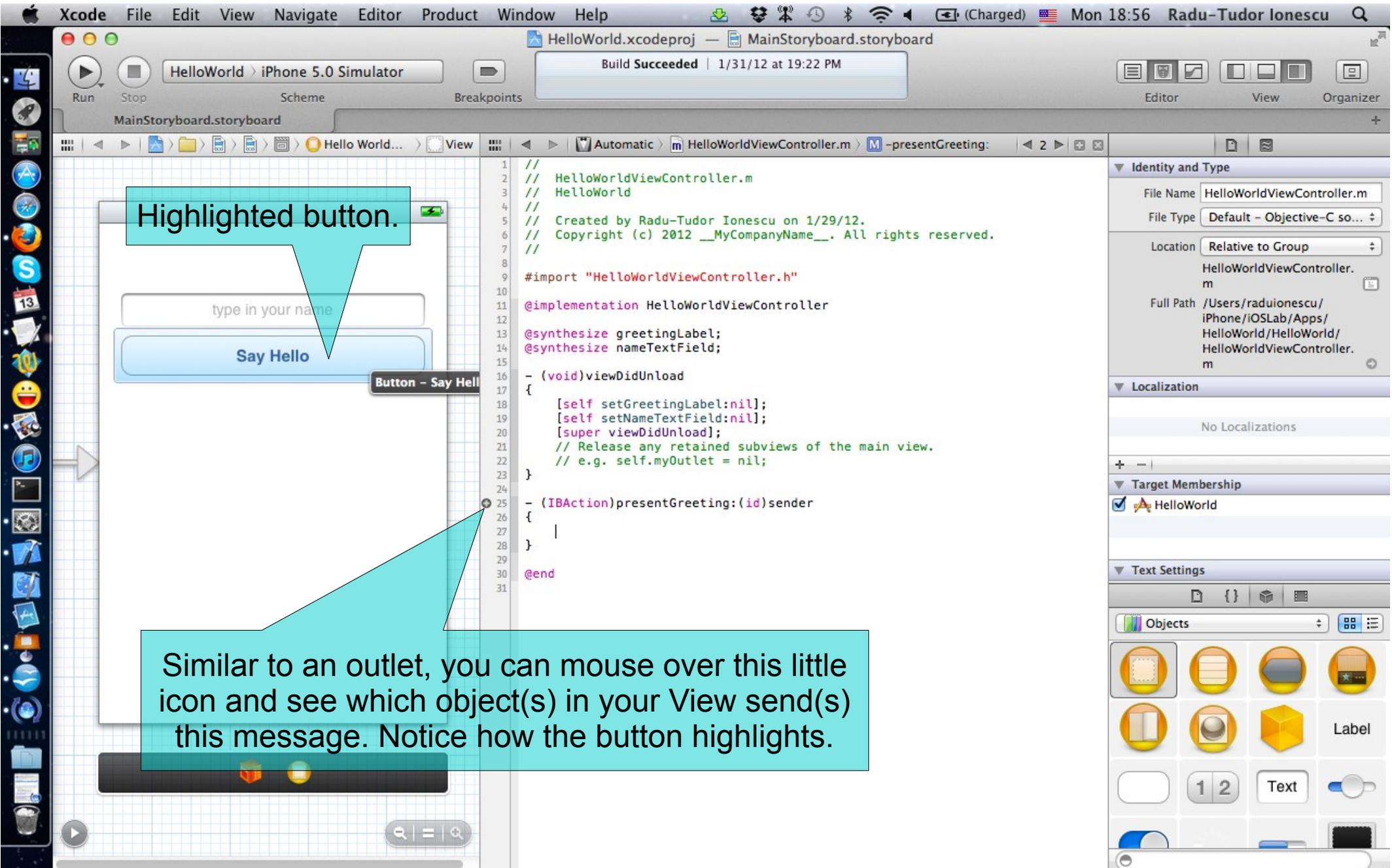
id is the type of the argument sender. id means "pointer to an object of any class".

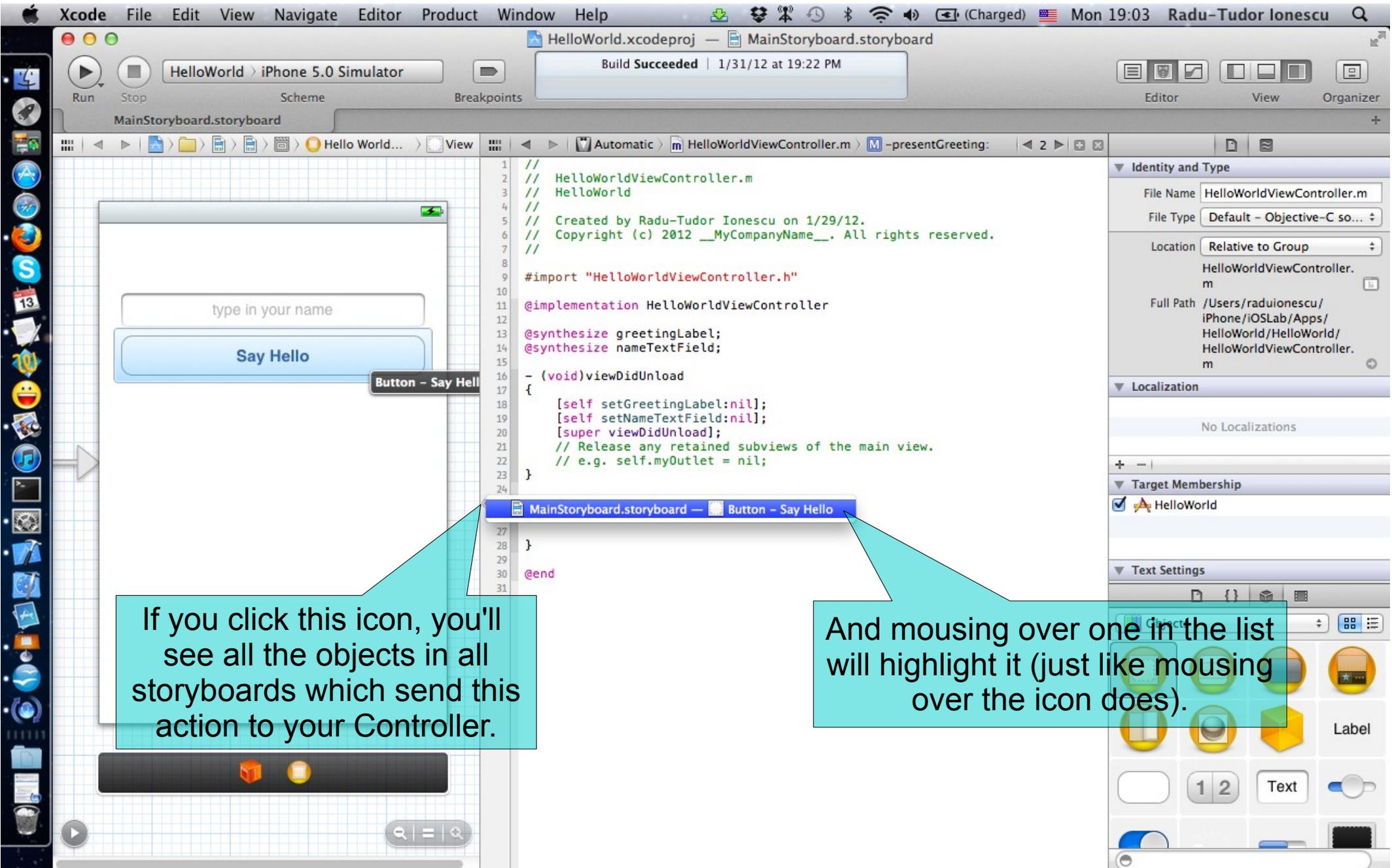
The signature of the method is presentGreeting:.

Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

10. Highlight the button in Interface Builder.





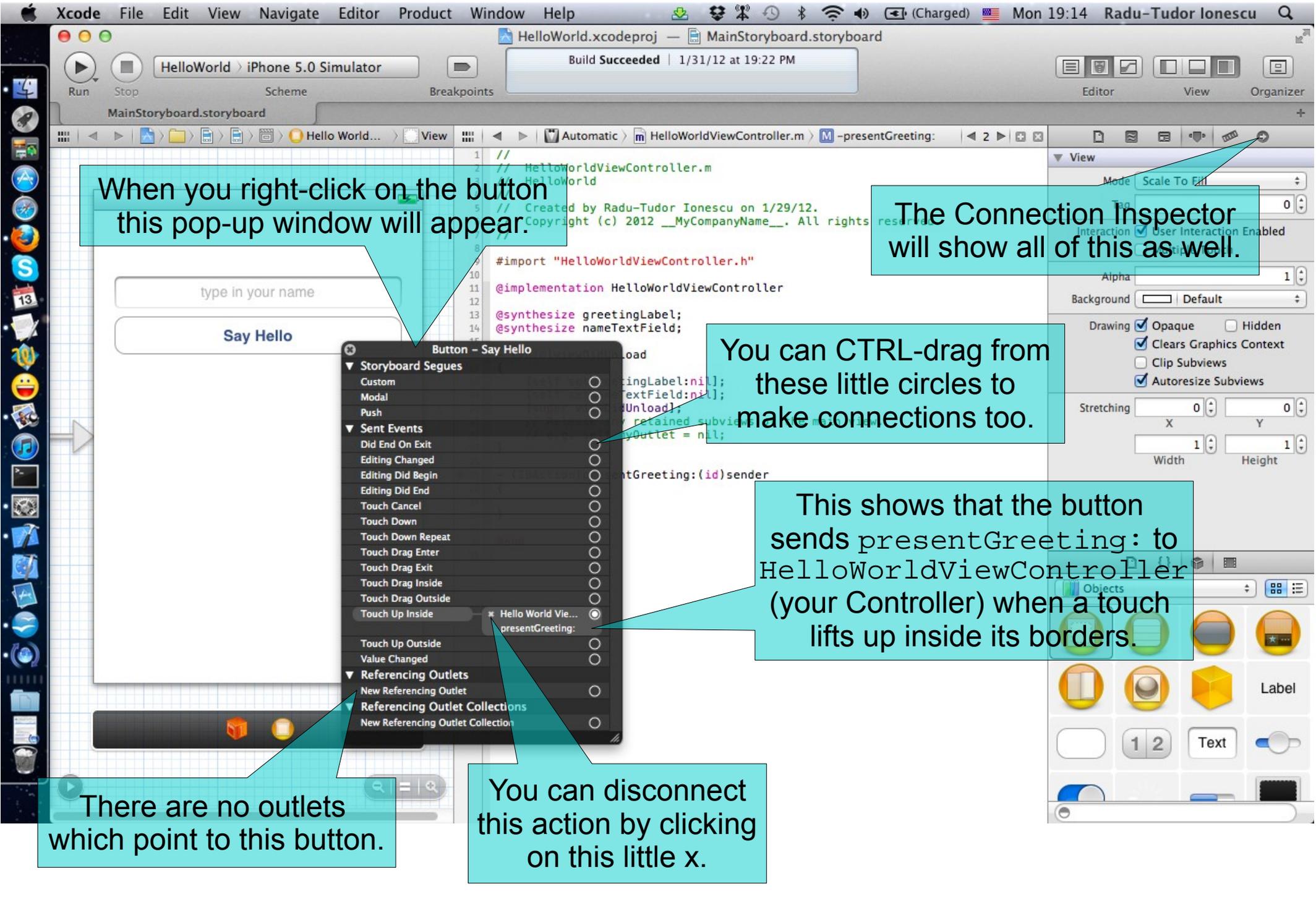
If you click this icon, you'll see all the objects in all storyboards which send this action to your Controller.

And mousing over one in the list will highlight it (just like mousing over the icon does).

Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

10. Right-click on the button to see its connection. When you start building more complicated user-interfaces, it will be very important to be able to see your outlet and action connections. You can do this by right-clicking on any object in your MVC's View.



When you right-click on the button this pop-up window will appear.

The Connection Inspector will show all of this as well.

You can CTRL-drag from these little circles to make connections too.

This shows that the button sends presentGreeting: to HelloWorldViewController (your Controller) when a touch lifts up inside its borders.

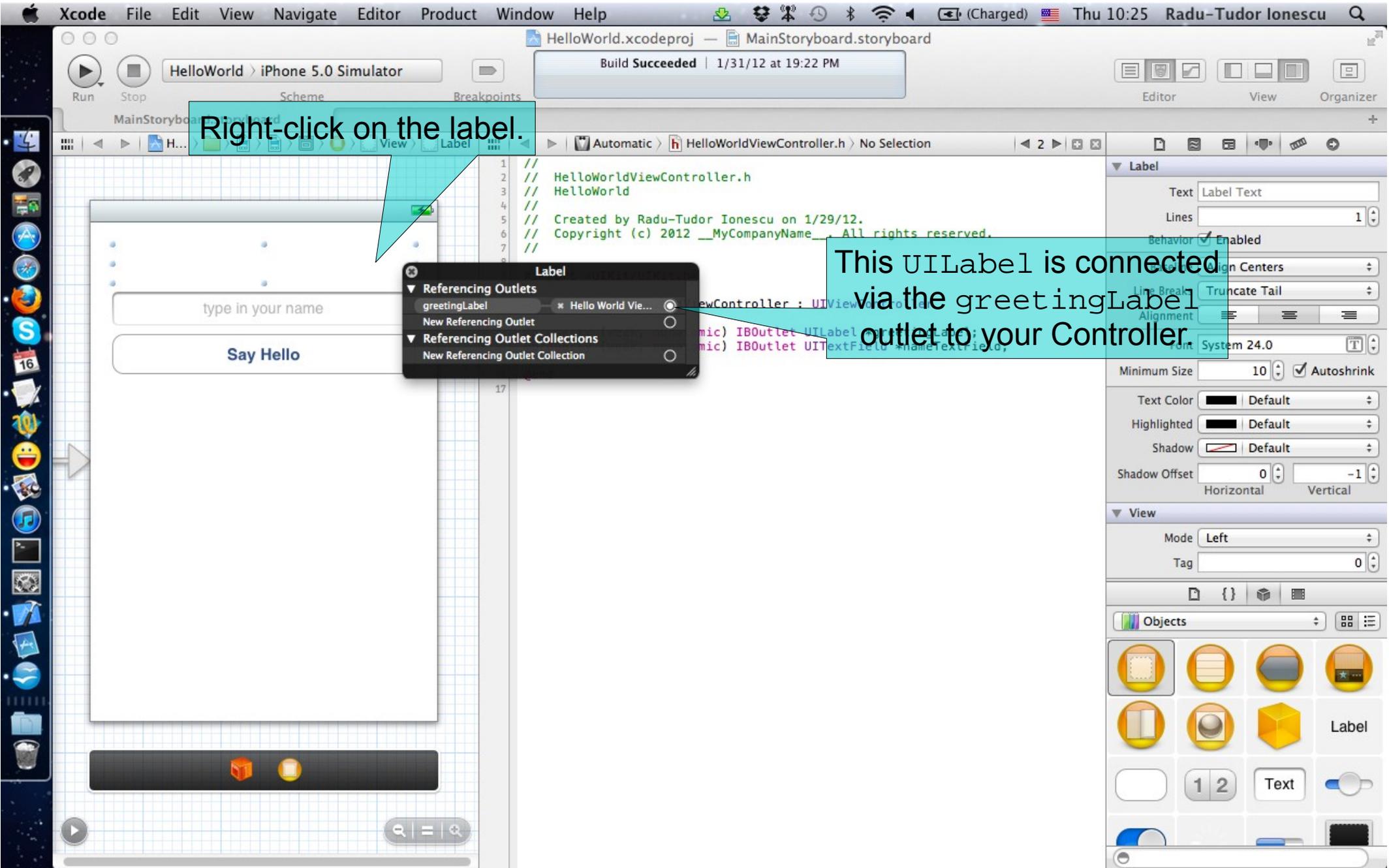
You can disconnect this action by clicking on this little x.

There are no outlets which point to this button.

Task 5

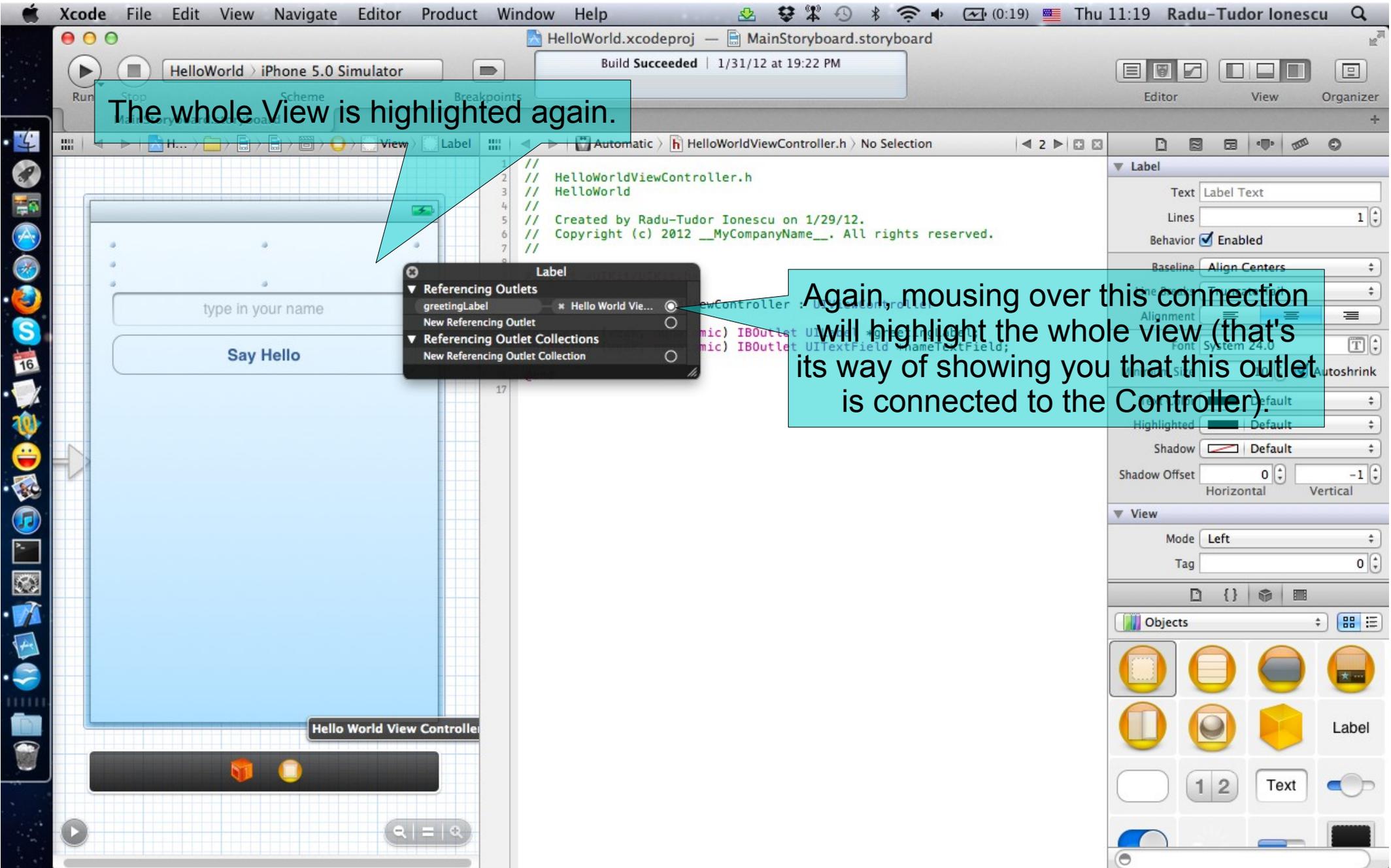
Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

11. Right-click on the `greetingLabel` to see its connection.



Right-click on the label.

This UILabel is connected via the greetingLabel outlet to your Controller



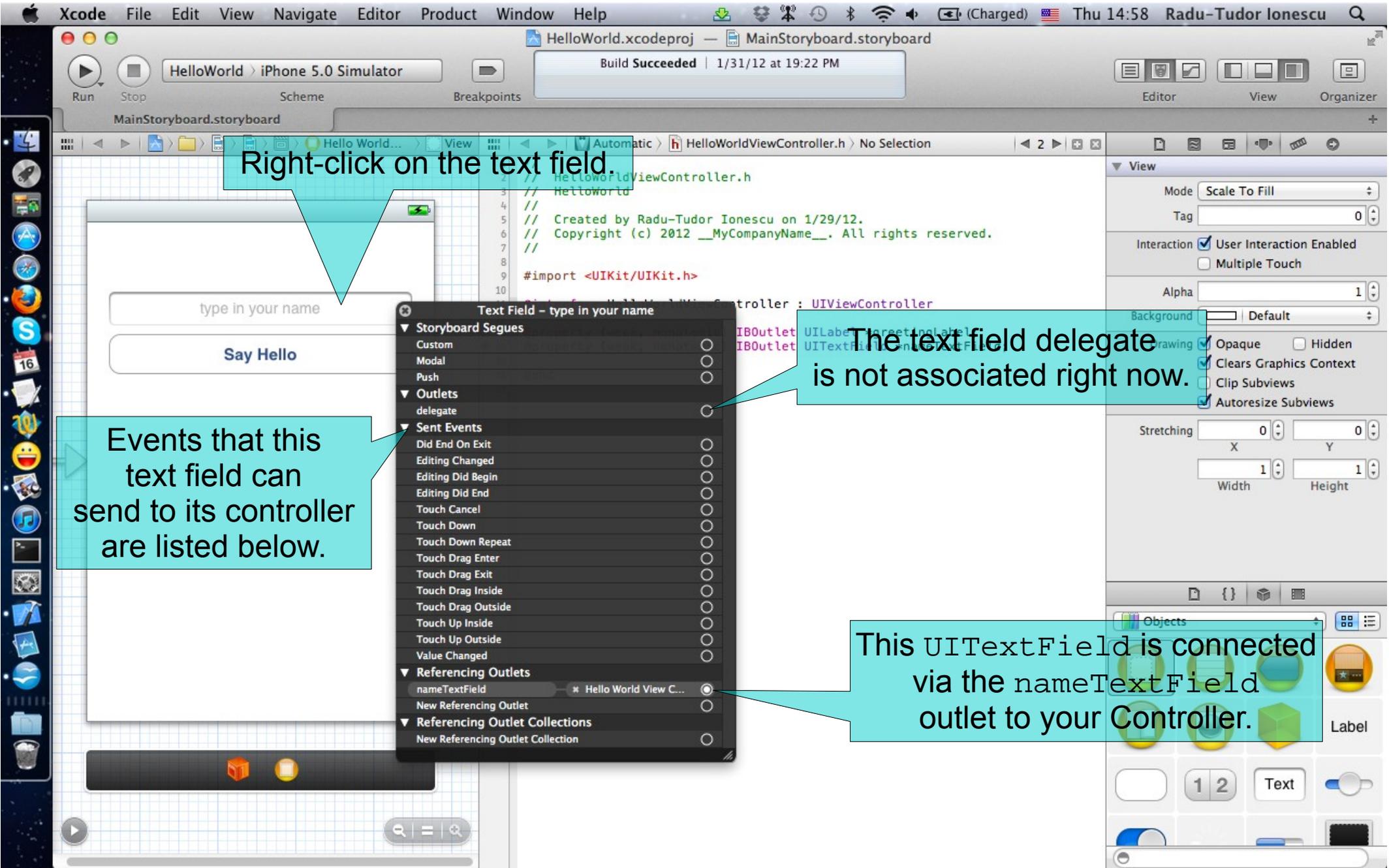
The whole View is highlighted again.

Again, mousing over this connection will highlight the whole view (that's its way of showing you that this outlet is connected to the Controller)

Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

12. Right-click on the `nameTextField` to see its connection.
13. Notice the **delegate** outlet. A text field delegate responds to editing-related messages from the text field. You can use the delegate to respond to the text entered by the user and to some special commands, such as when the return button is pressed.

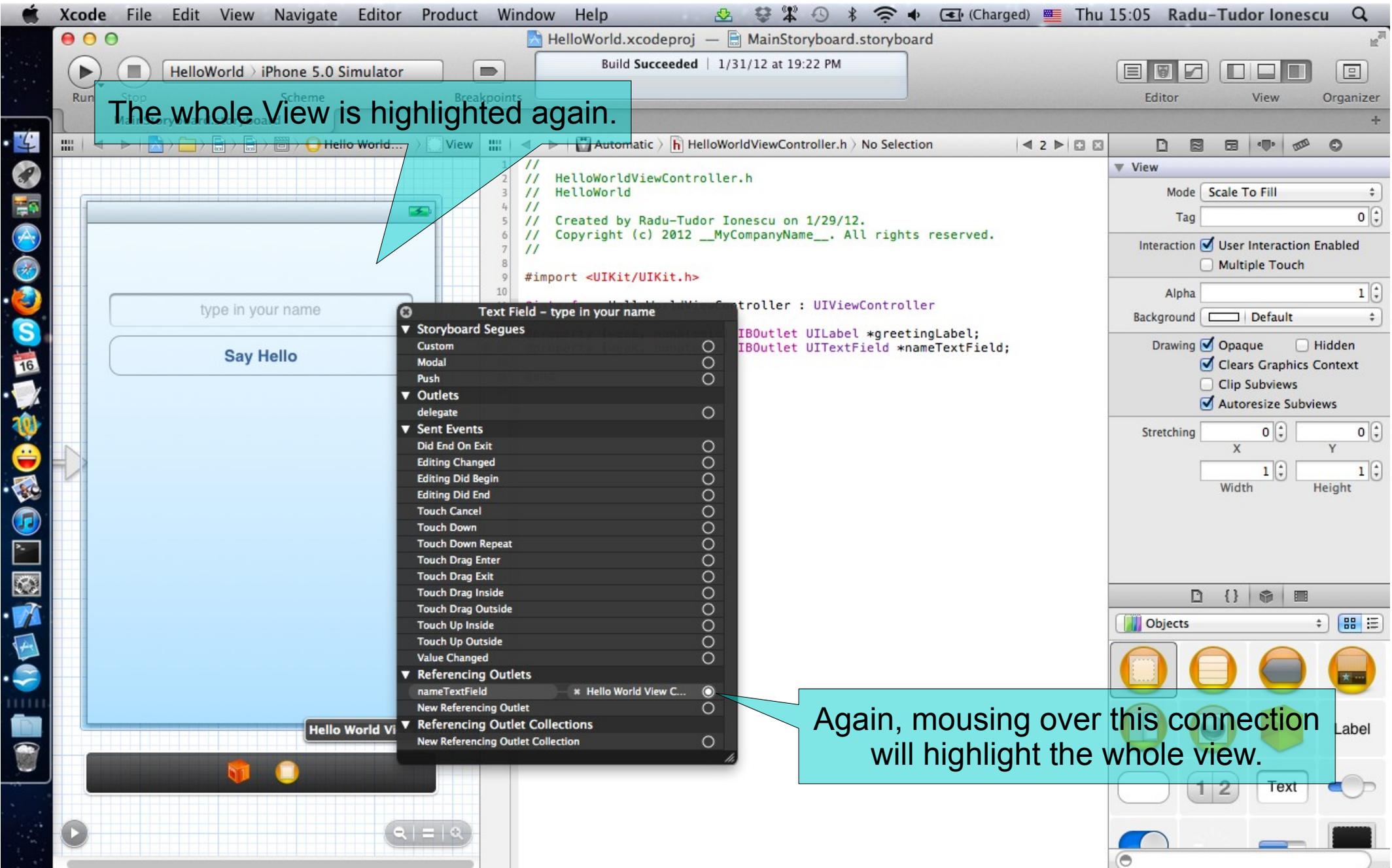


Right-click on the text field.

The text field delegate is not associated right now.

Events that this text field can send to its controller are listed below.

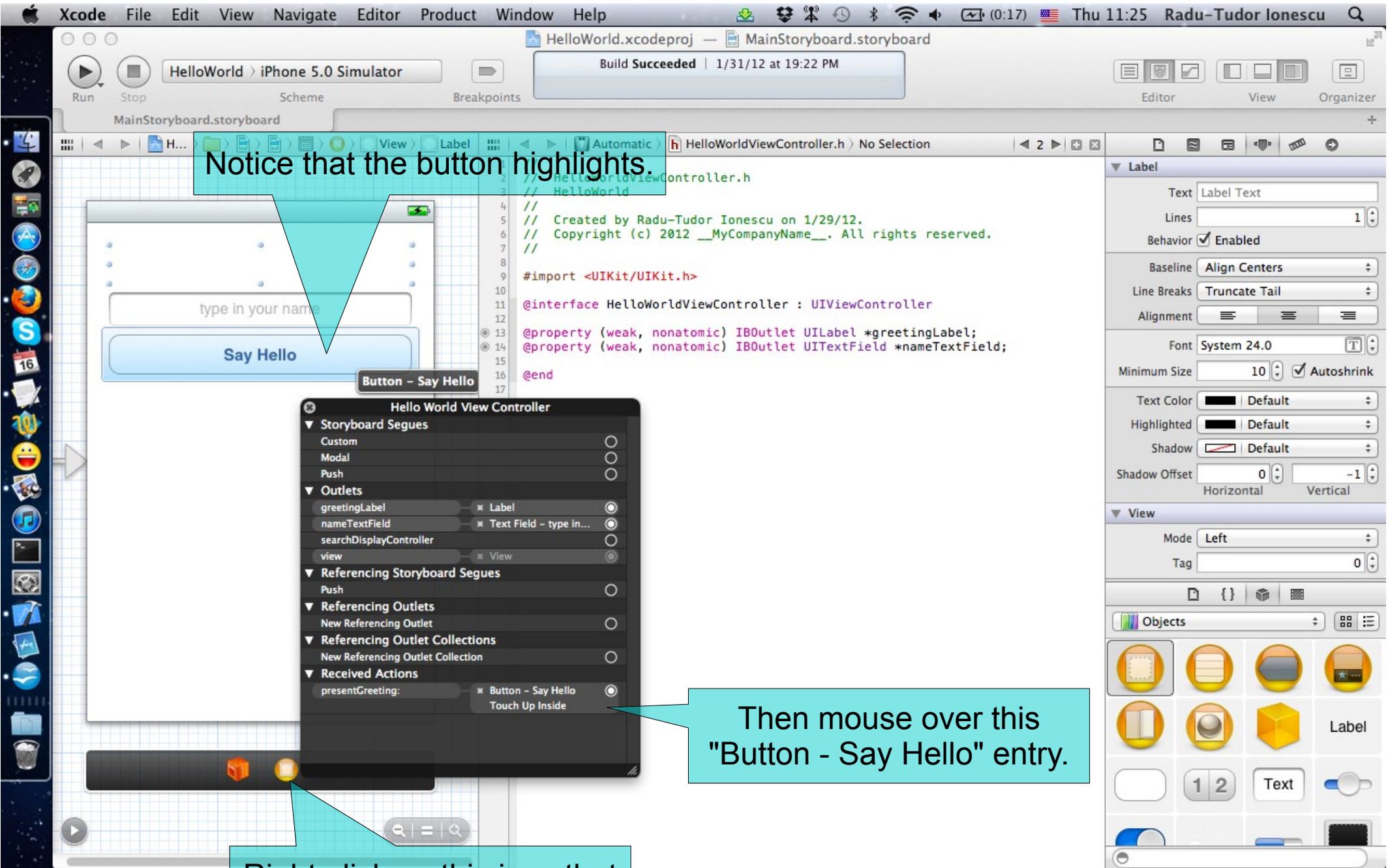
This UITextField is connected via the nameTextField outlet to your Controller.



Task 5

Task: Add a button that will trigger the greeting message.

14. Right-click on the icon that represents the Controller to see its connection.
15. Mouse over the “Say Hello” button entry in the pop-up window.
16. Mouse over the `greetingLabel` outlet in the pop-up window.



Notice that the button highlights.

Hello World View Controller

- Storyboard Segues
 - Custom
 - Modal
 - Push
- Outlets
 - greetingLabel * Label
 - nameTextField * Text Field - type in...
 - searchDisplayController
 - view * View
- Referencing Storyboard Segues
 - Push
- Referencing Outlets
 - New Referencing Outlet
- Referencing Outlet Collections
 - New Referencing Outlet Collection
- Received Actions
 - presentGreeting: * Button - Say Hello
 - Touch Up Inside

Then mouse over this "Button - Say Hello" entry.

Right-click on this icon that represents your Controller.

Notice that the greetingsLabel highlights.

```
1 //  
2 // HelloWorldViewController.h  
3 // HelloWorld  
4 //  
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.  
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.  
7 //  
8  
9 #import <UIKit/UIKit.h>  
10  
11 @interface HelloWorldViewController : UIViewController  
12  
13 @property (weak, nonatomic) IBOutlet UILabel *greetingLabel;  
14 @property (weak, nonatomic) IBOutlet UITextField *nameTextField;  
15  
16 @end  
17
```

Then mouse over this outlet.

Don't worry about this view outlet, we'll explain it later in this course.

Storyboard Segues

- Custom
- Modal
- Push

Outlets

- greetingLabel * Label
- nameTextField * Text Field - type in...
- searchDisplayController
- view * View

Referencing Storyboard Segues

- Push

Referencing Outlets

- New Referencing Outlet

Referencing Outlet Collections

- New Referencing Outlet Collection

Received Actions

- presentGreeting: * Button - Say Hello Touch Up Inside

Label

Text: Label Text

Lines: 1

Behavior: Enabled

Baseline: Align Centers

Line Breaks: Truncate Tail

Alignment: [Left] [Center] [Right]

Font: System 24.0

Minimum Size: 10 Autoshrink

Text Color: [Black] Default

Highlighted: [Black] Default

Shadow: [None] Default

Shadow Offset: 0 Horizontal, -1 Vertical

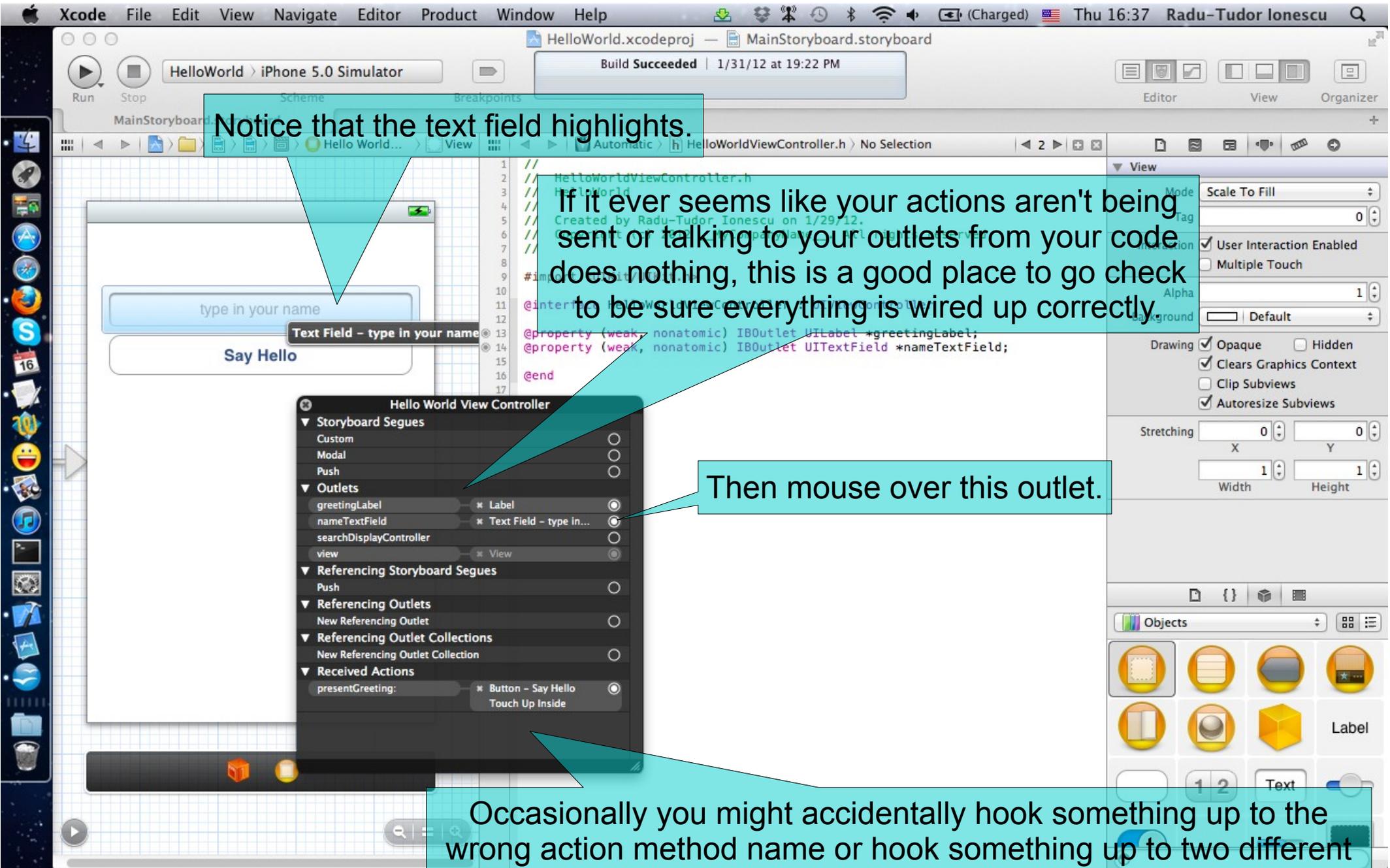
View

Mode: Left

Tag: 0

Objects

- Label
- Text



Notice that the text field highlights.

If it ever seems like your actions aren't being sent or talking to your outlets from your code does nothing, this is a good place to go check to be sure everything is wired up correctly.

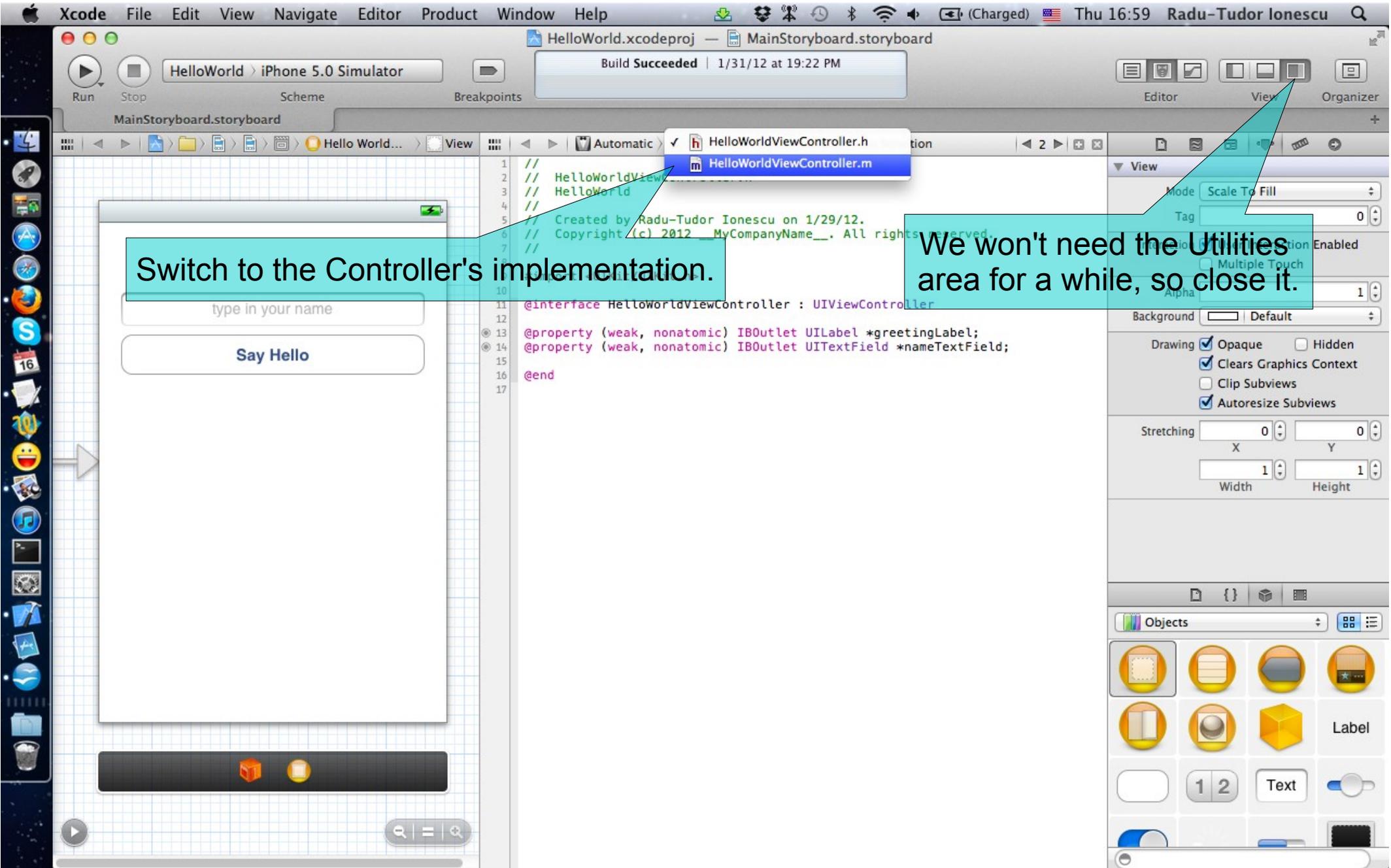
Then mouse over this outlet.

Occasionally you might accidentally hook something up to the wrong action method name or hook something up to two different actions at the same time, so check here if things seem to be acting sort of messed up when it comes to outlets and actions.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

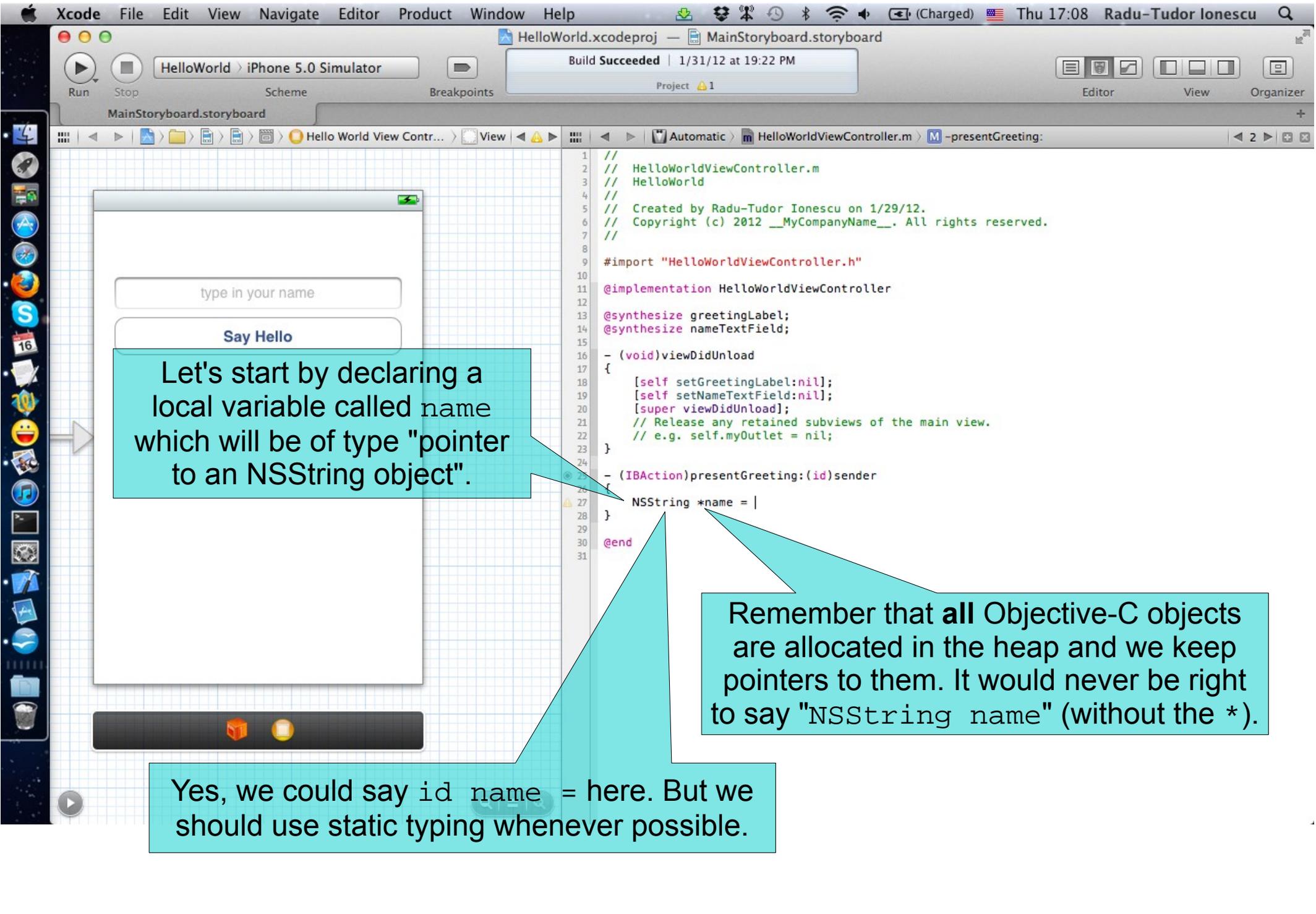
1. Switch back to HelloWorldViewController.m in Assitant Editor.
2. Hide the Utilities area.



Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

3. It is time to write the code inside `presentGreeting:` that will get executed whenever the "Say Hello" button gets touched. Let's start by declaring a local variable that will store the user's name.



Let's start by declaring a local variable called name which will be of type "pointer to an NSString object".

Remember that **all** Objective-C objects are allocated in the heap and we keep pointers to them. It would never be right to say "NSString name" (without the *).

Yes, we could say id name = here. But we should use static typing whenever possible.

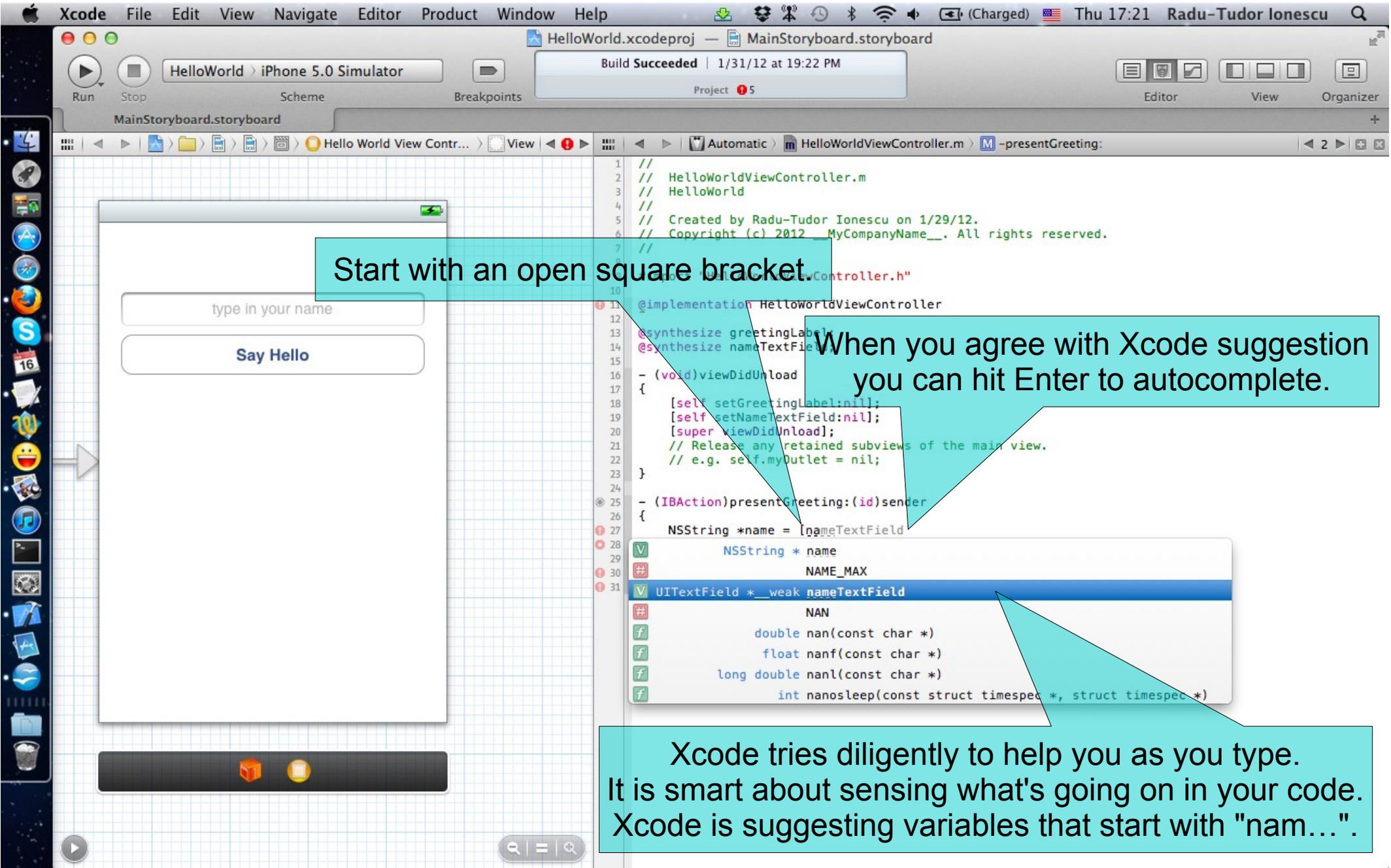
```
1 //
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 // HelloWorld
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidUnload
17 {
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];
20     [super viewDidUnload];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
23 }
24
25 - (IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender
26 {
27     NSString *name = |
28 }
29
30 @end
31
```

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

4. To store the user's name in the local variable you need to get the text inside the text field.

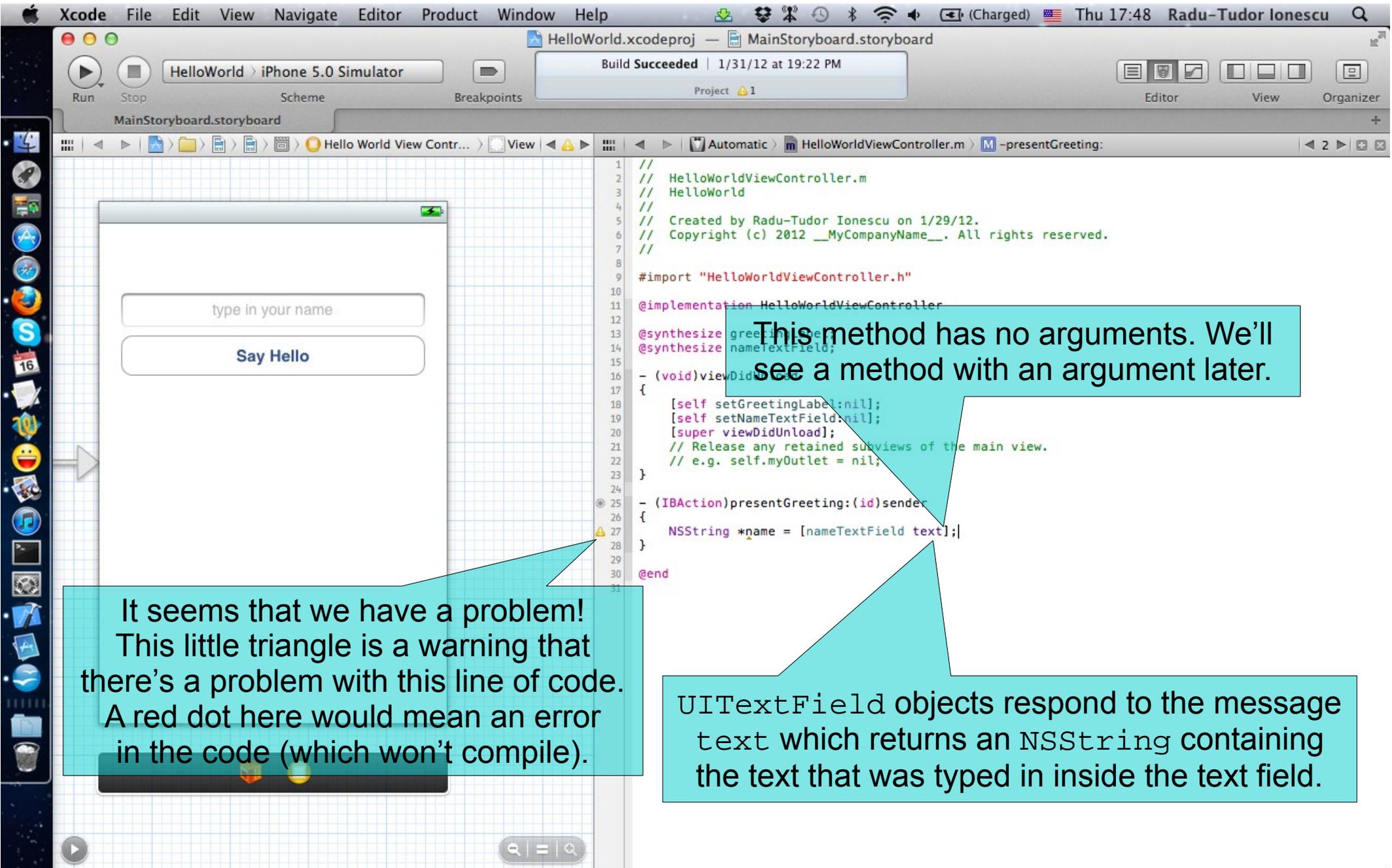
To send a message to an Objective-C object we use a syntax that starts with an open square bracket `[`, then a pointer to the object we want to send the message to (`nameTextField`) then a space, then the name of the message to send (`text`). The message sending syntax ends with a `]` to match the `[` it started with.



Start with an open square bracket.

When you agree with Xcode suggestion you can hit Enter to autocomplete.

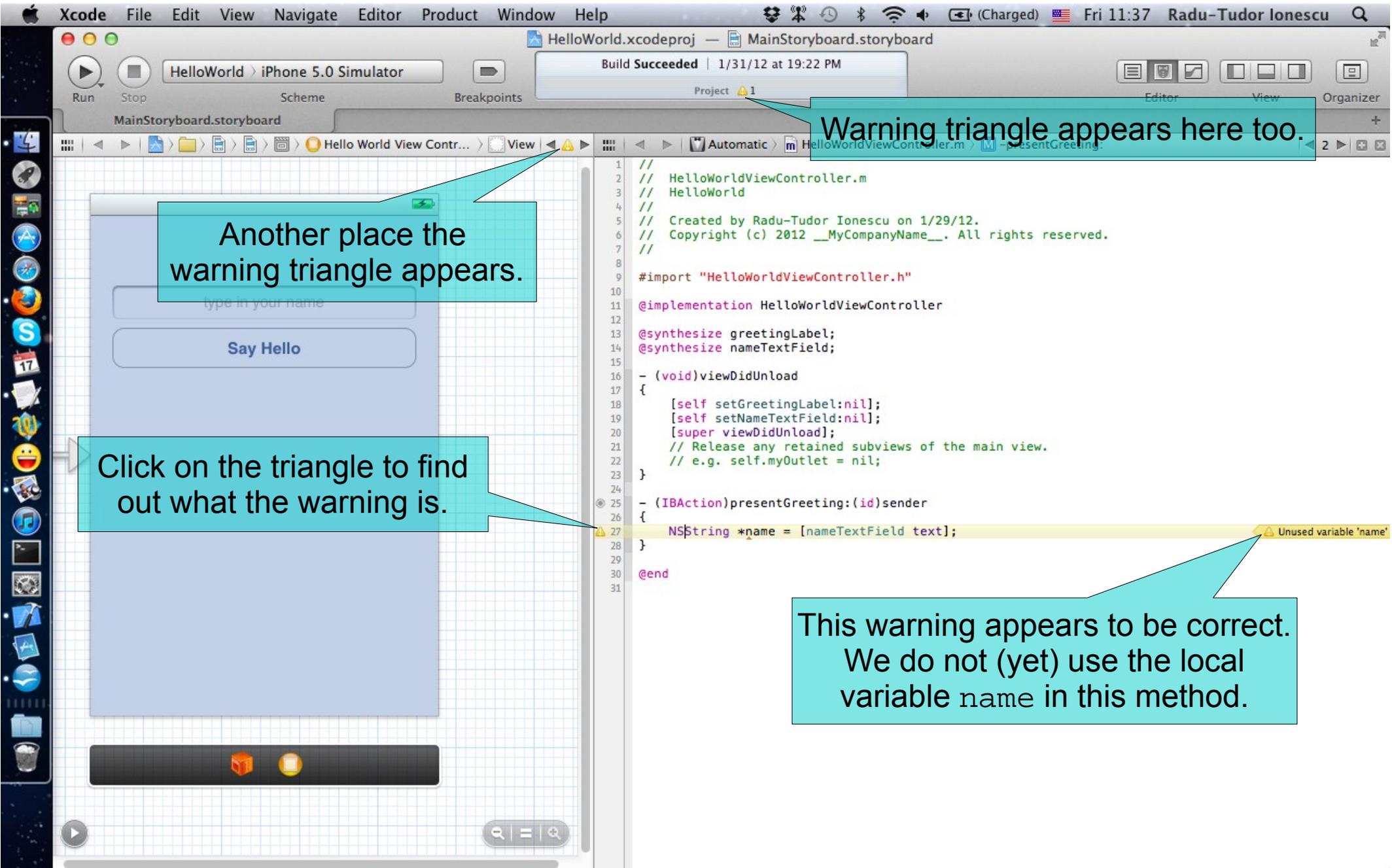
Xcode tries diligently to help you as you type. It is smart about sensing what's going on in your code. Xcode is suggesting variables that start with "nam..."



Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

5. Click on the triangle to find out what warning is generated by our line of code. Warnings and errors show up in Xcode as you write your code. Although Xcode projects can compile even with warnings, it is recommended to eliminate all warnings from your project.



Warning triangle appears here too.

Another place the warning triangle appears.

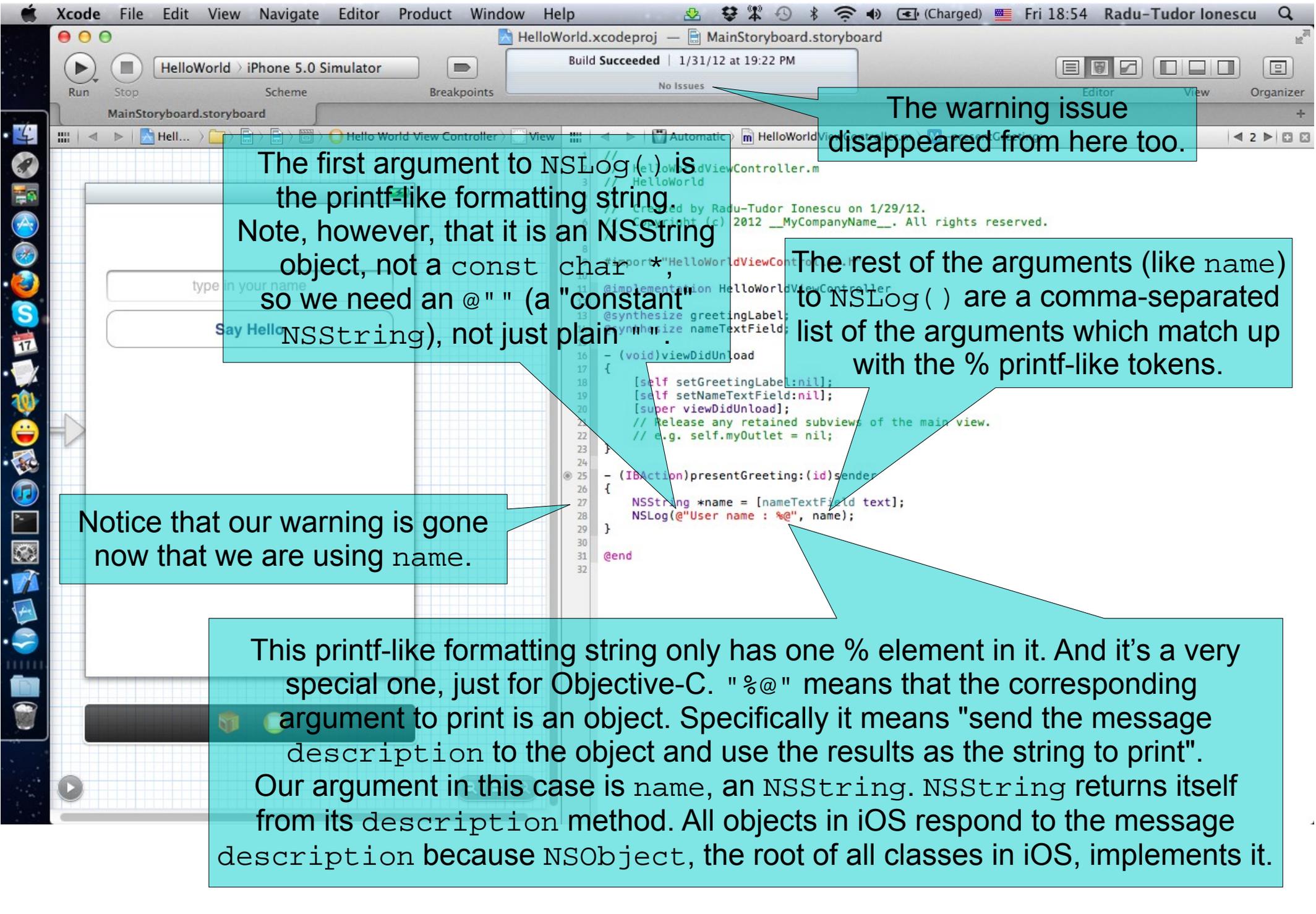
Click on the triangle to find out what the warning is.

This warning appears to be correct. We do not (yet) use the local variable `name` in this method.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

6. Add an `NSLog()` to print the name typed in by the user. A very simple debugging technique is to log information to the console. This is very easy to do in Xcode. There is a printf-like function whose output goes to the console called `NSLog()`.



The warning issue disappeared from here too.

The first argument to NSLog () is the printf-like formatting string. Note, however, that it is an NSString object, not a const char *, so we need an @" " (a "constant" NSString), not just plain " ".

The rest of the arguments (like name) to NSLog () are a comma-separated list of the arguments which match up with the % printf-like tokens.

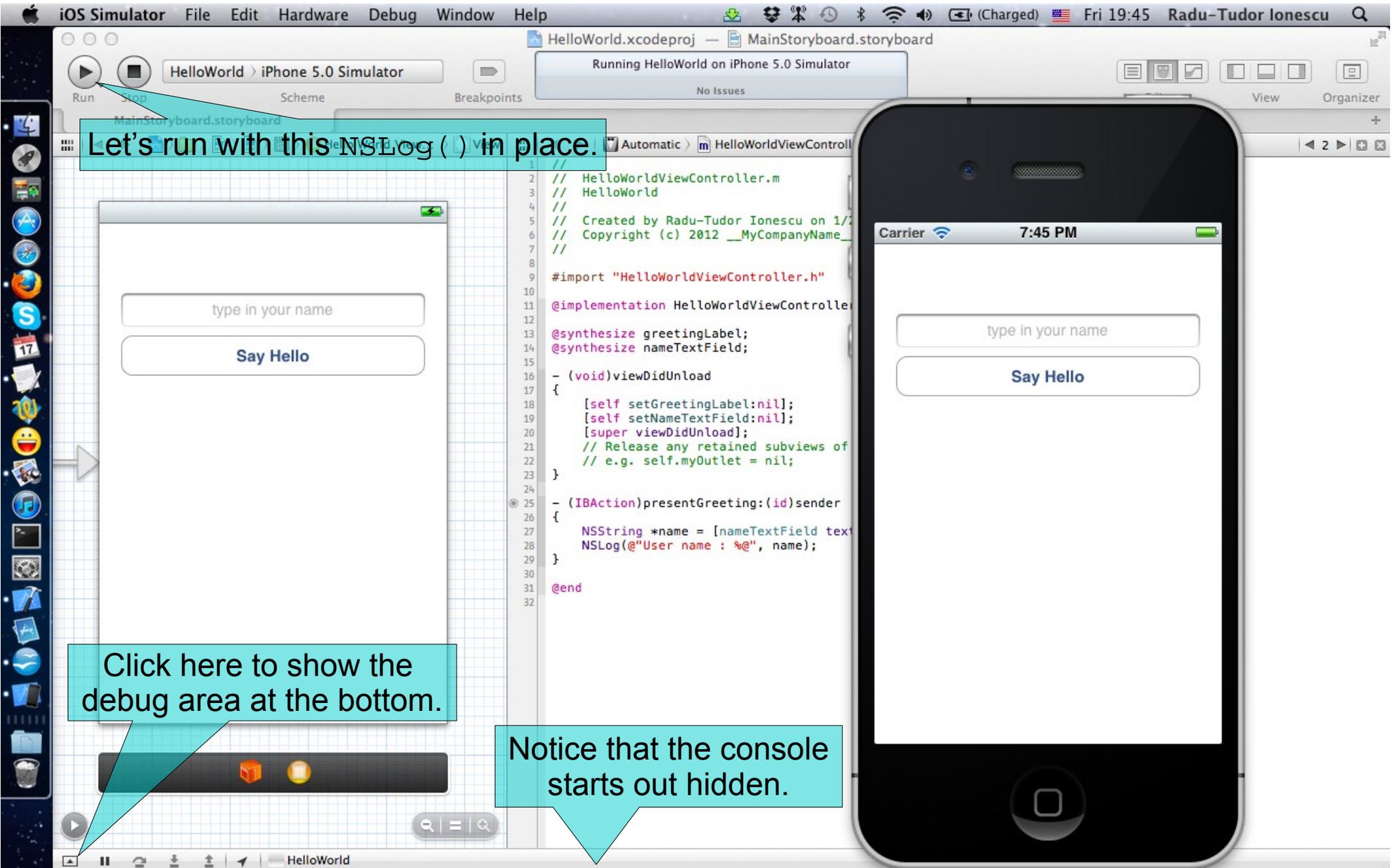
Notice that our warning is gone now that we are using name.

This printf-like formatting string only has one % element in it. And it's a very special one, just for Objective-C. "%@" means that the corresponding argument to print is an object. Specifically it means "send the message description to the object and use the results as the string to print". Our argument in this case is name, an NSString. NSString returns itself from its description method. All objects in iOS respond to the message description because NSObject, the root of all classes in iOS, implements it.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

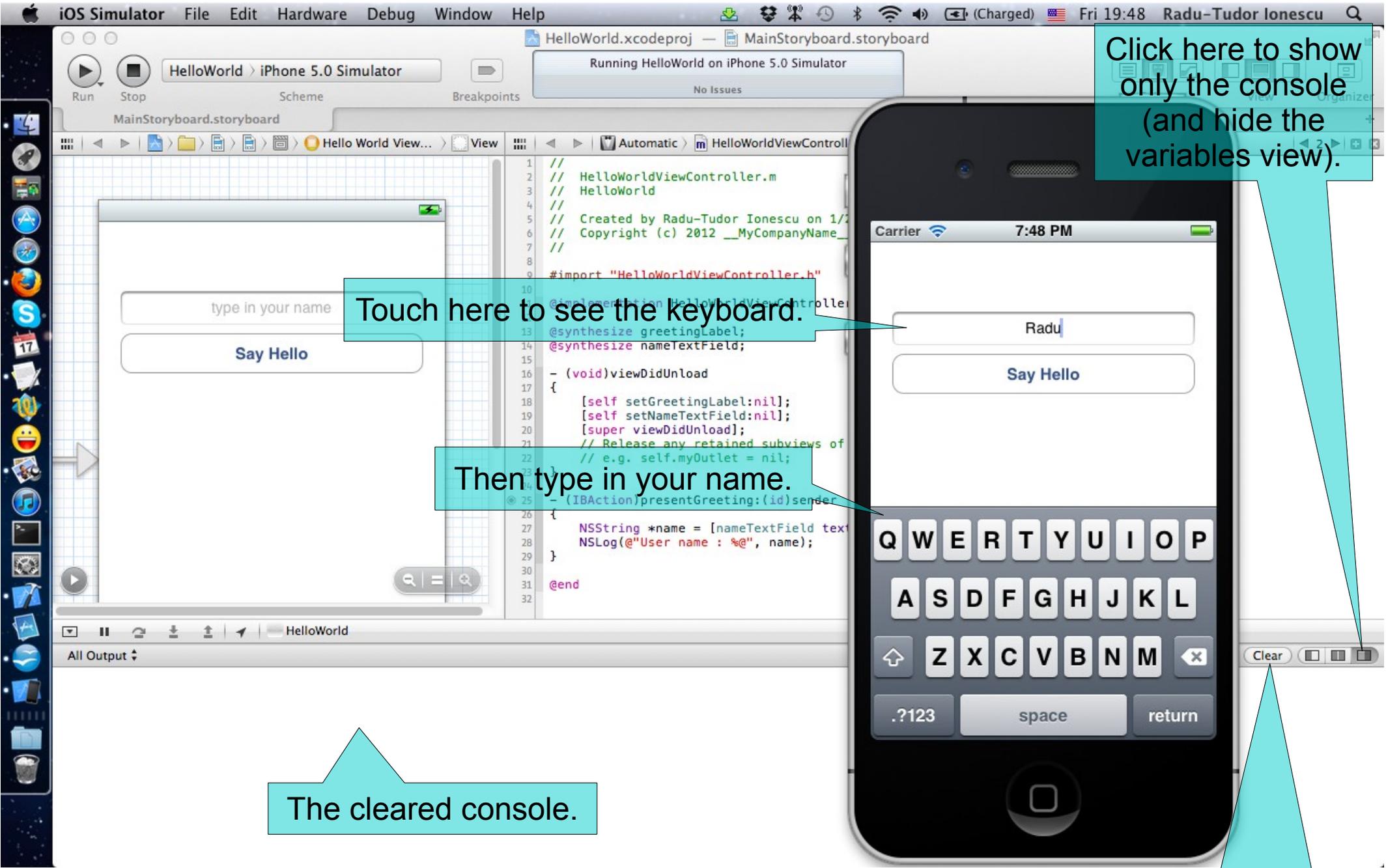
7. Run the application in the Simulator with `NSLog()` in place.
8. Show up the debug area.



Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

9. Hide the variables view in the debug area.
10. Clear the console.
11. Type in your name in the text field.



Click here to show only the console (and hide the variables view).

Touch here to see the keyboard.

Then type in your name.

The cleared console.

Clear the console output.

```
1 //  
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m  
3 // HelloWorld  
4 //  
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/2  
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__  
7 //  
8 //  
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"  
10  
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController  
12  
13 @synthesize greetingLabel;  
14 @synthesize nameTextField;  
15  
16 - (void)viewDidLoad  
17 {  
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];  
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];  
20     [super viewDidLoad];  
21     // Release any retained subviews of  
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;  
23 }  
24 - (IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender  
25 {  
26     NSString *name = [nameTextField text];  
27     NSLog(@"User name : %@", name);  
28 }  
29  
30 @end  
31  
32
```

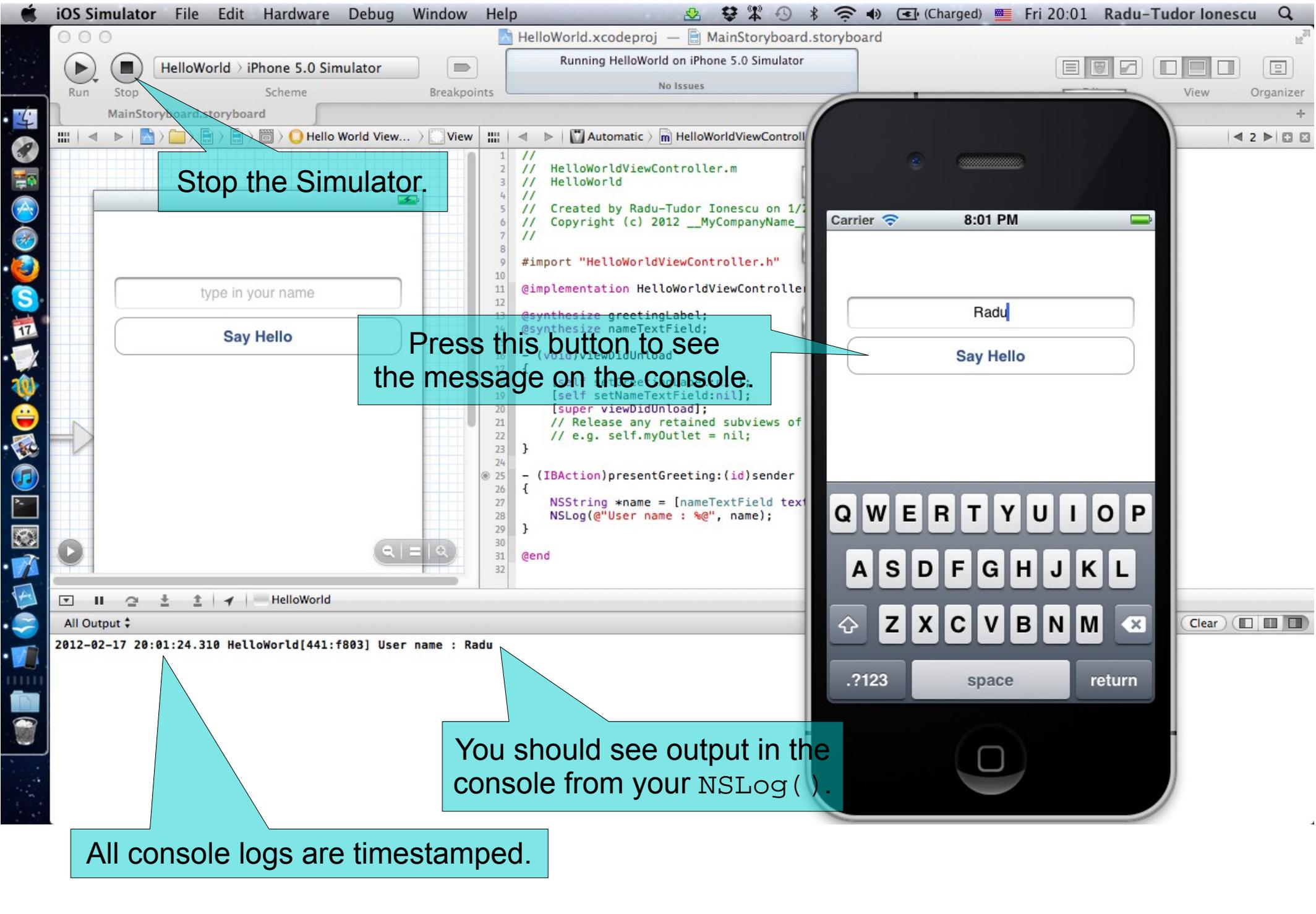


Clear

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

12. Press the “Say Hello” button. Notice the console output.
13. Stop the simulator.



Stop the Simulator.

Press this button to see the message on the console.

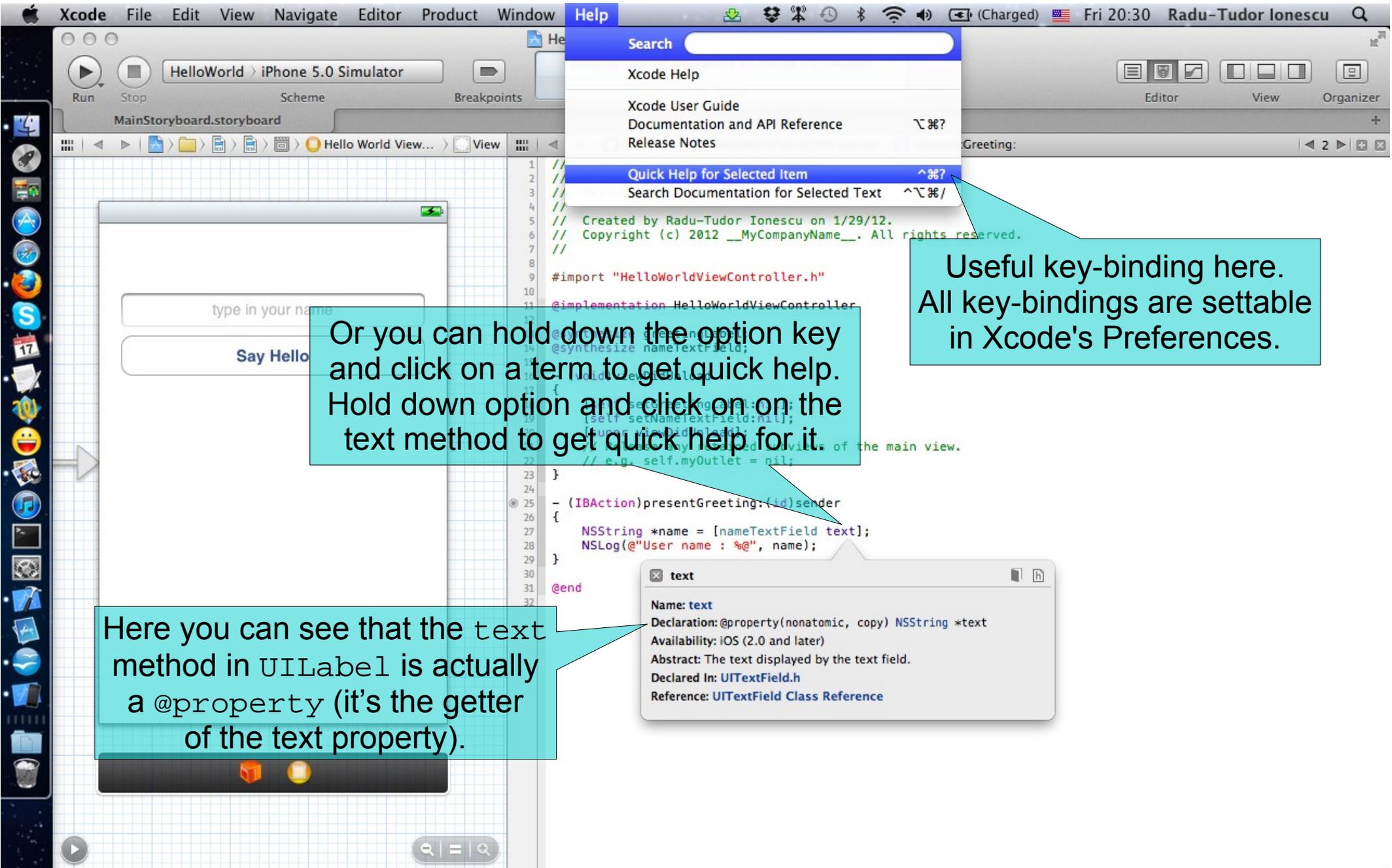
You should see output in the console from your NSLog().

All console logs are timestamped.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

14. Get quick help for the `text` method of the `UITextField`. Xcode contains extensive reference documentation for all methods/classes. A quick lookup can be done simply by selecting a method or class name and choosing "Quick Help for Selected Item" from the Help menu.



- Search
- Xcode Help
- Xcode User Guide
- Documentation and API Reference ⌘⌘?
- Release Notes
- Quick Help for Selected Item ^⌘?**
- Search Documentation for Selected Text ^⌘⌘/

Useful key-binding here. All key-bindings are settable in Xcode's Preferences.

Or you can hold down the option key and click on a term to get quick help. Hold down option and click on on the text method to get quick help for it.

Here you can see that the text method in UILabel is actually a @property (it's the getter of the text property).

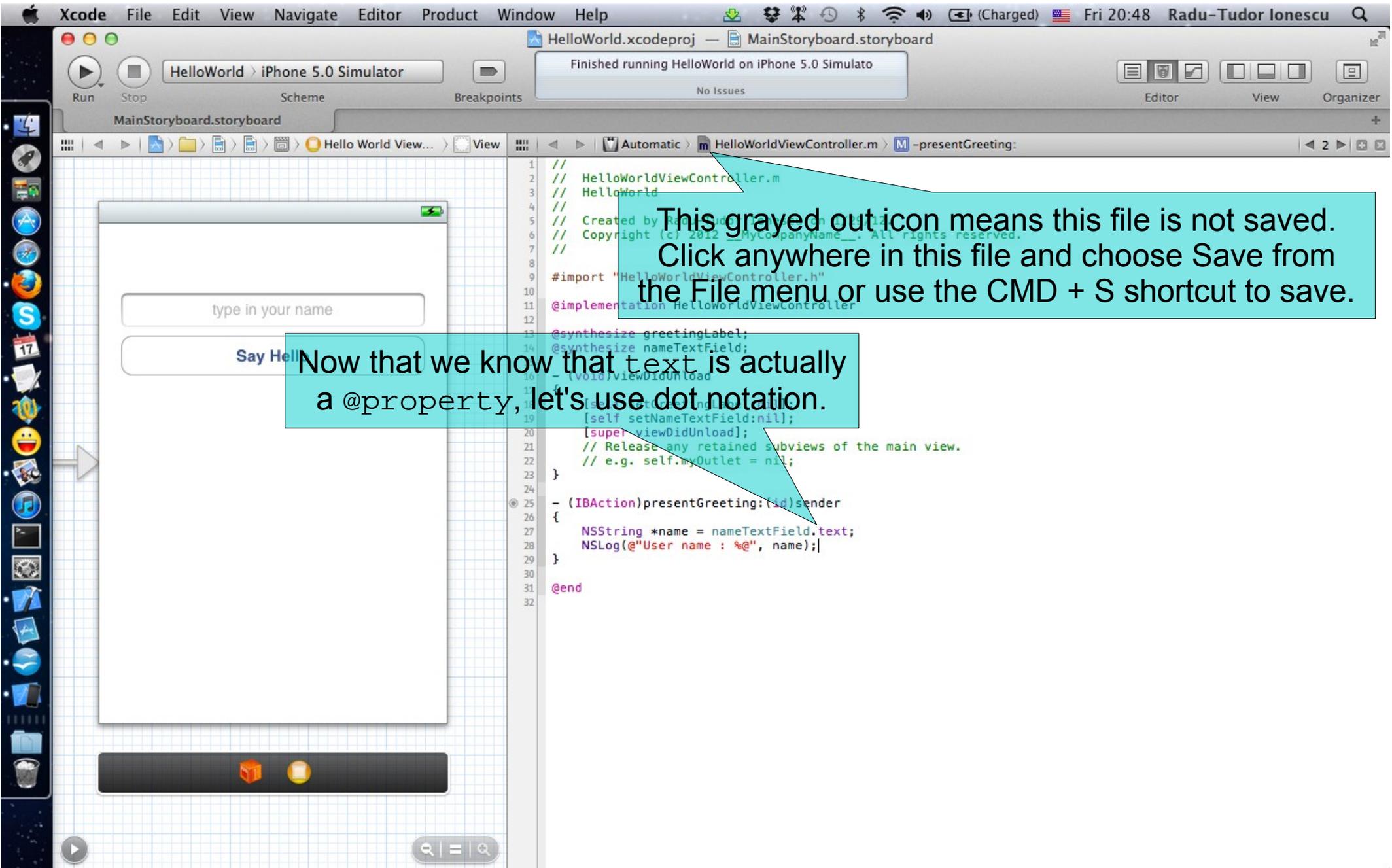
text

Name: text
Declaration: @property(n nonatomic, copy) NSString *text
Availability: iOS (2.0 and later)
Abstract: The text displayed by the text field.
Declared In: UITextField.h
Reference: UITextField Class Reference

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

15. Use dot notation for the text `@property`. It turns out that `@property`s are so important that there is a special Objective-C syntax just for `@property` setters and getters. It's called "dot notation". We can express calling the getter of our `@property` using dot notation instead. These are two syntactically different expressions of **exactly** the same thing.
16. It's a good time to save the implementation file.



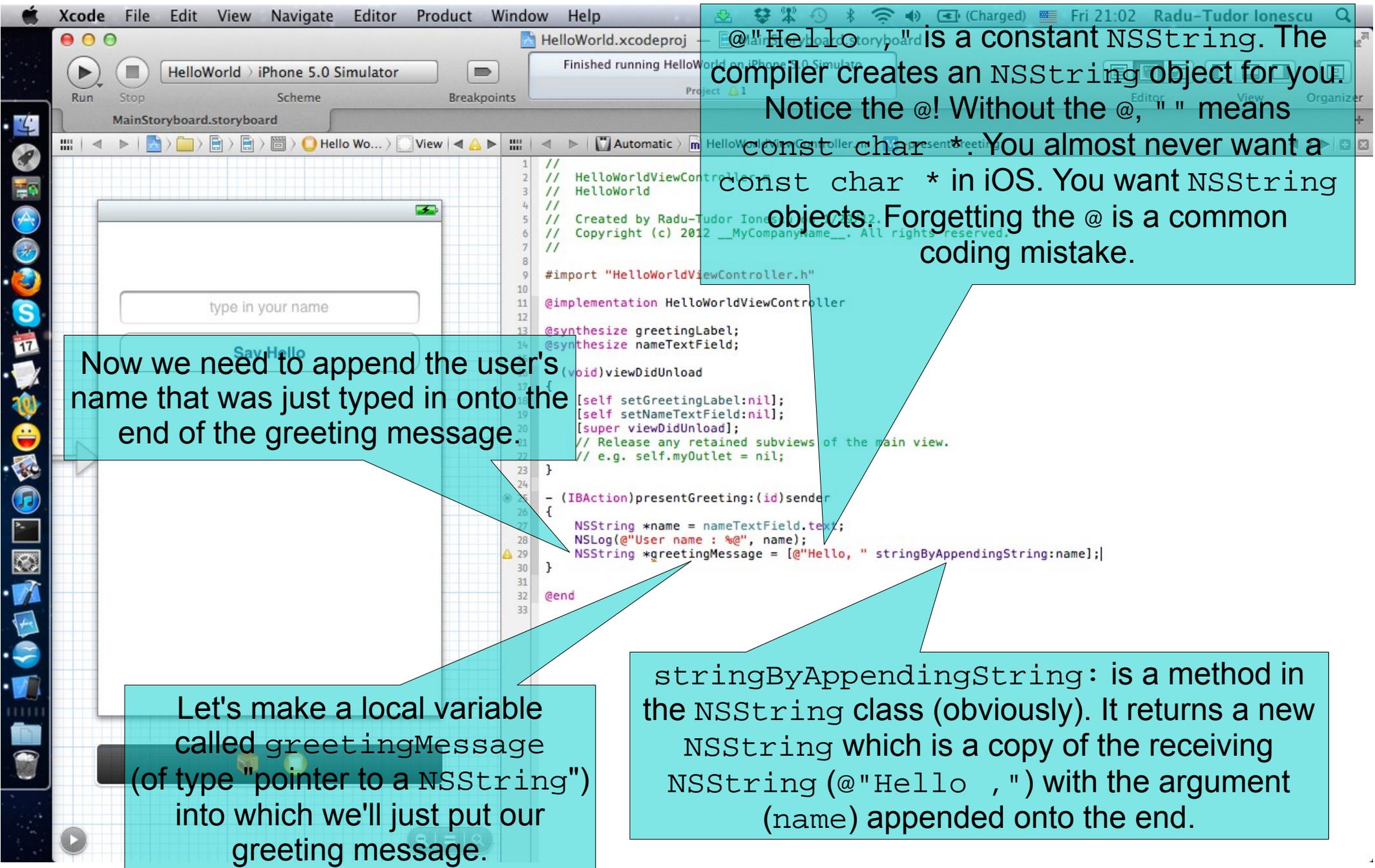
This grayed out icon means this file is not saved. Click anywhere in this file and choose Save from the File menu or use the CMD + S shortcut to save.

Now that we know that text is actually a @property, let's use dot notation.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

17. Build a local `NSString` variable with the greeting message. Now that we have the user's name, we need to update our display with the greeting message. This actually only takes one line of code, but we'll break it down into steps. The first step is to append the user's name to the greeting message.



@`"Hello, "` is a constant NSString. The compiler creates an NSString object for you. Notice the @! Without the @, `" "` means `const char *`. You almost never want a `const char *` in iOS. You want NSString objects. Forgetting the @ is a common coding mistake.

Now we need to append the user's name that was just typed in onto the end of the greeting message.

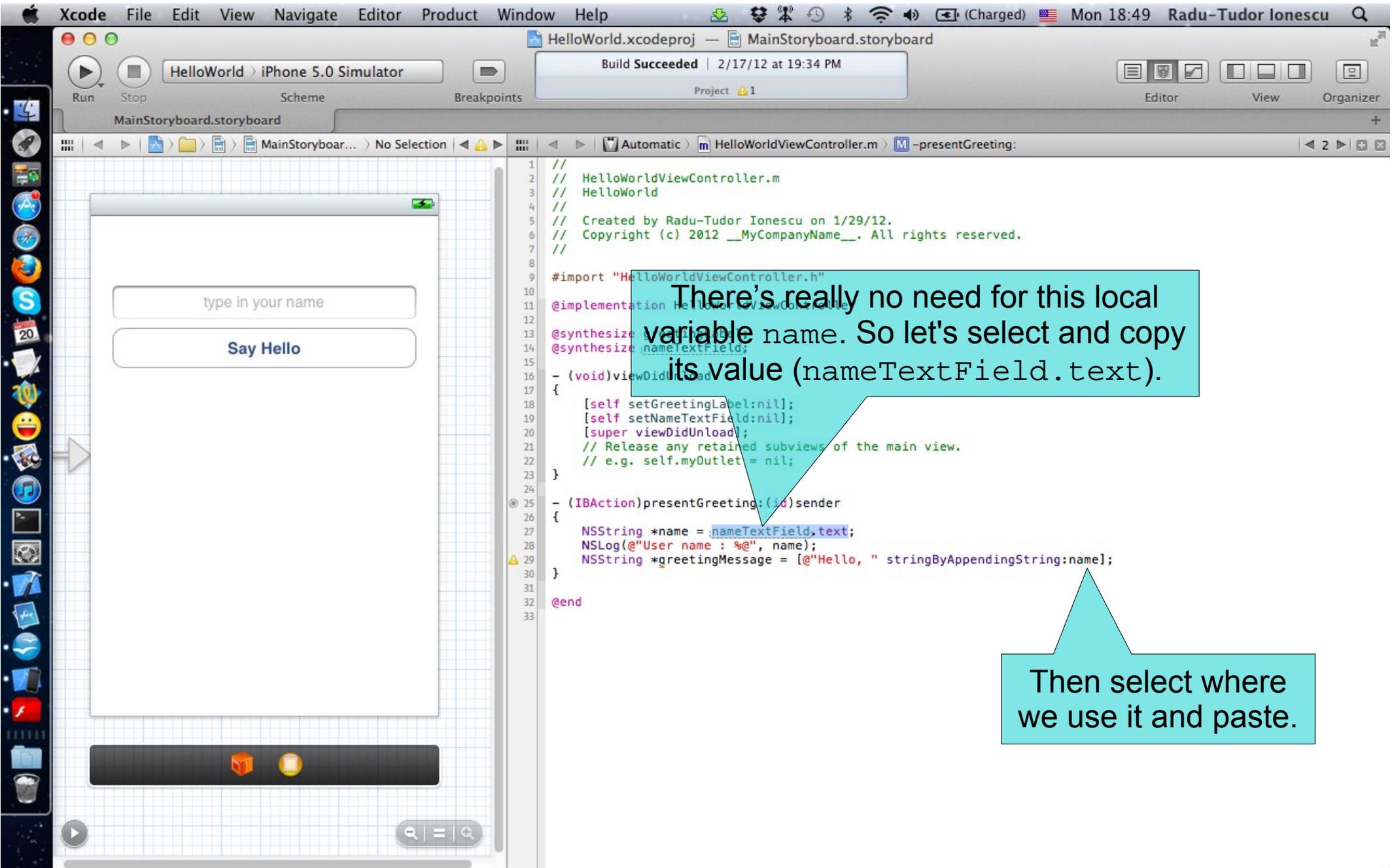
Let's make a local variable called `greetingMessage` (of type "pointer to a NSString") into which we'll just put our greeting message.

`stringByAppendingString:` is a method in the NSString class (obviously). It returns a new NSString which is a copy of the receiving NSString (`@"Hello, "`) with the argument (name) appended onto the end.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

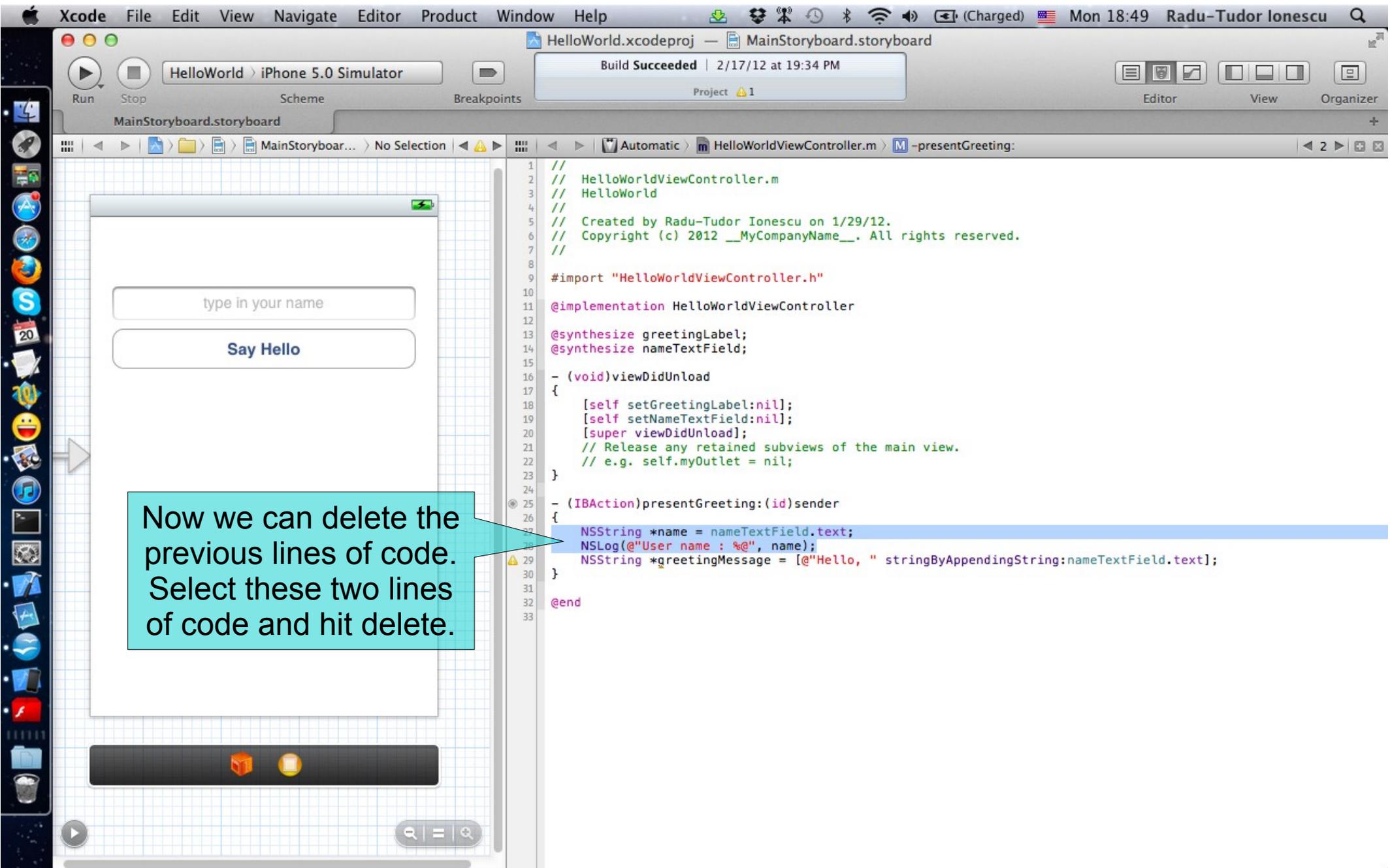
18. Build the greeting message without using the local variable `name` (note that we actually don't need it).
19. Delete the first two lines of code in `presentGreeting`: method.



```
1 //
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 // HelloWorld
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidLoad {
17     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
18     [self setNameTextField:nil];
19     [super viewDidLoad];
20     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
21     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
22 }
23
24
25 - (IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender {
26     NSString *name = [nameTextField.text];
27     NSLog(@"User name : %@", name);
28     NSString *greetingMessage = [@"Hello, " stringByAppendingString:name];
29 }
30
31
32 @end
33
```

There's really no need for this local variable name. So let's select and copy its value (nameTextField.text).

Then select where we use it and paste.

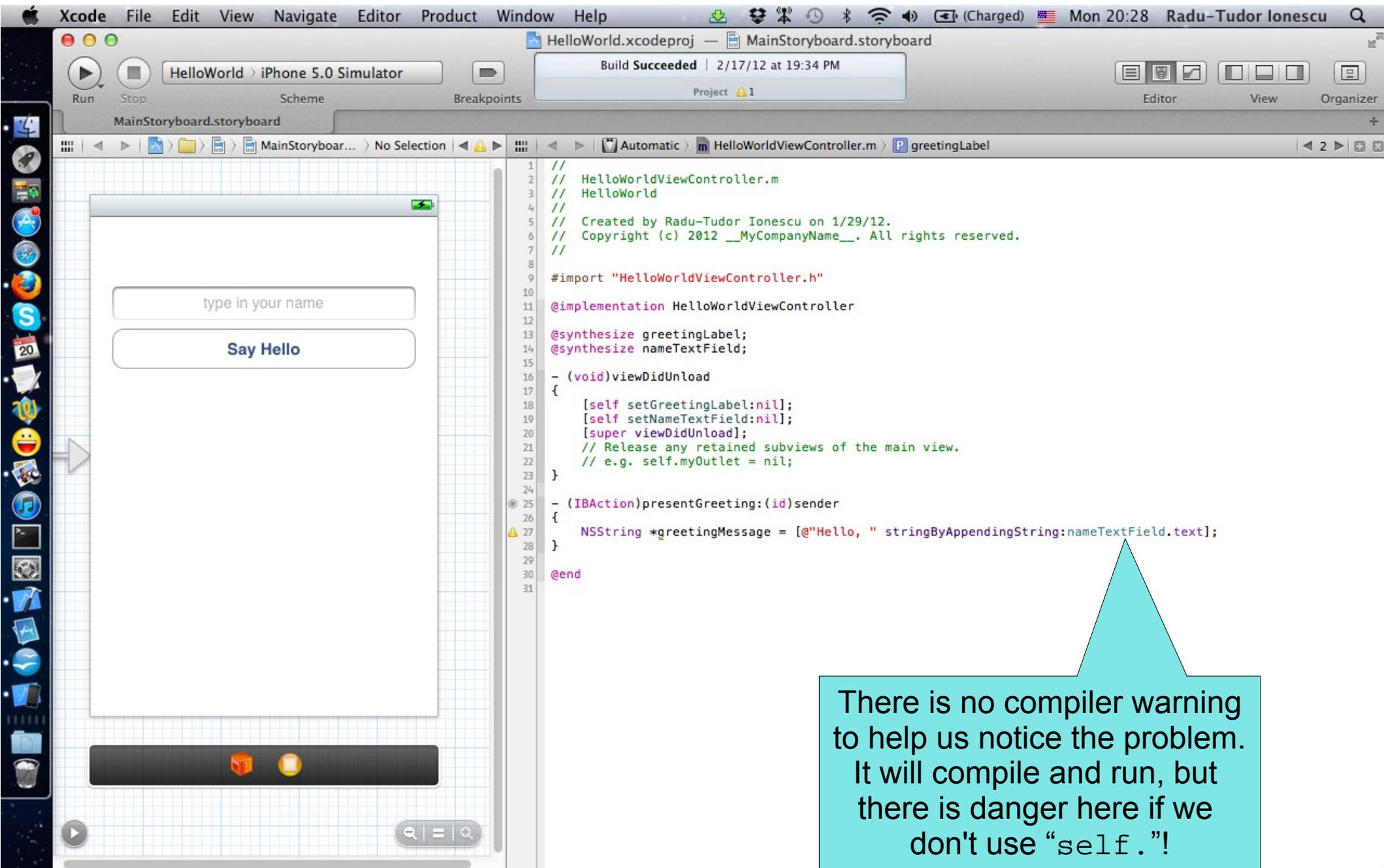


Now we can delete the previous lines of code. Select these two lines of code and hit delete.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

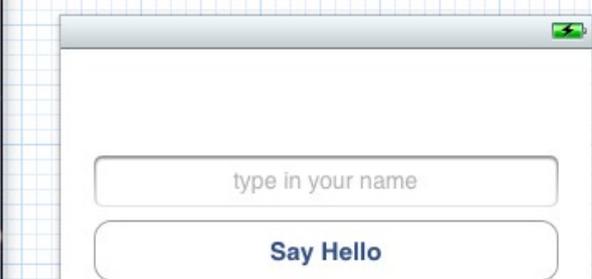
20. Rename the instance variable of the `nameTextField` `@property` by adding an underscore. Accessing the synthesized instance variable directly (and thus not calling the getter) is bad. There is no compiler warning to help us notice that, but changing the name used by `@synthesize` to create its instance variable will make it very clear when we accidentally forget to use the getter.
21. Also rename the instance variable of the `greetingLabel` `@property`.



```
1 //
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 // HelloWorld
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidLoad
17 {
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];
20     [super viewDidLoad];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
23 }
24
25 - (IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender
26 {
27     NSString *greetingMessage = [@"Hello, " stringByAppendingString:nameTextField.text];
28 }
29
30 @end
31
```

There is no compiler warning to help us notice the problem. It will compile and run, but there is danger here if we don't use "self."!

We can avoid this potential accident by having @synthesize use a different name for its instance variable than the name of the property. We do that using this equals-sign syntax.



```
1 //
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 // HelloWorld
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel = _greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField = _nameTextField;
15
16 -(void)viewDidUnload
17 {
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];
20     [super viewDidUnload];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
23 }
24
25 -(IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender
26 {
27     NSString *greetingMessage = [@"Hello, " stringByAppendingString:nameTextField.text];
28 }
29
30 @end
```

Click here to see the error details.

Prefixing the property name with an underscore is the most common naming convention for an instance variable created by @synthesize.

Notice that there are errors now when we access the instance variable directly.

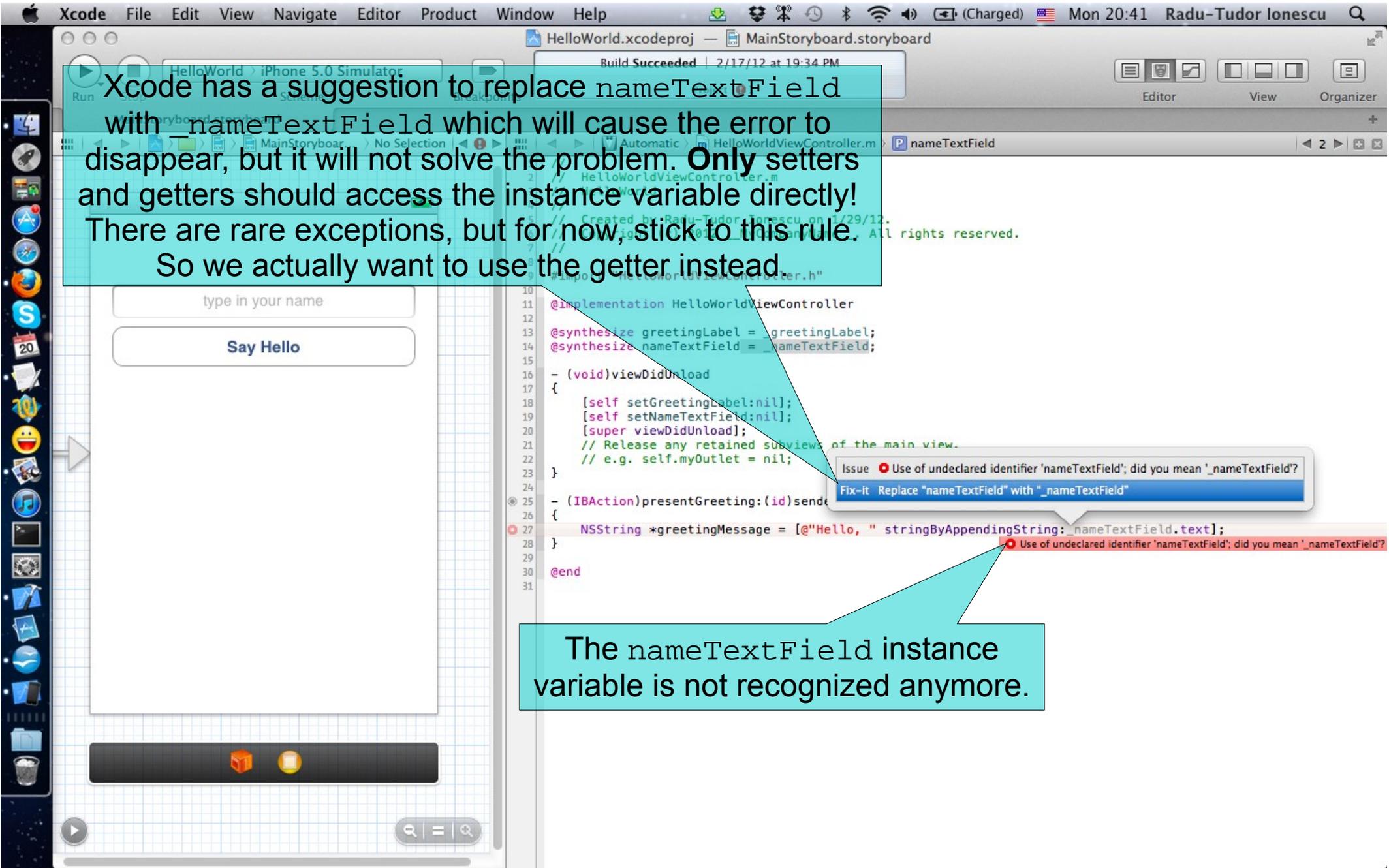
Xcode has a suggestion to replace `nameTextField` with `_nameTextField` which will cause the error to disappear, but it will not solve the problem. **Only** setters and getters should access the instance variable directly! There are rare exceptions, but for now, stick to this rule. So we actually want to use the getter instead.

```
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel = _greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField = _nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidLoad
17 {
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];
20     [super viewDidLoad];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
23 }
24
25 - (IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender
26 {
27     NSString *greetingMessage = [@"Hello, " stringByAppendingString:_nameTextField.text];
28 }
29
30 @end
31
```

Issue Use of undeclared identifier 'nameTextField'; did you mean '_nameTextField'?

Fix-it Replace "nameTextField" with "_nameTextField"

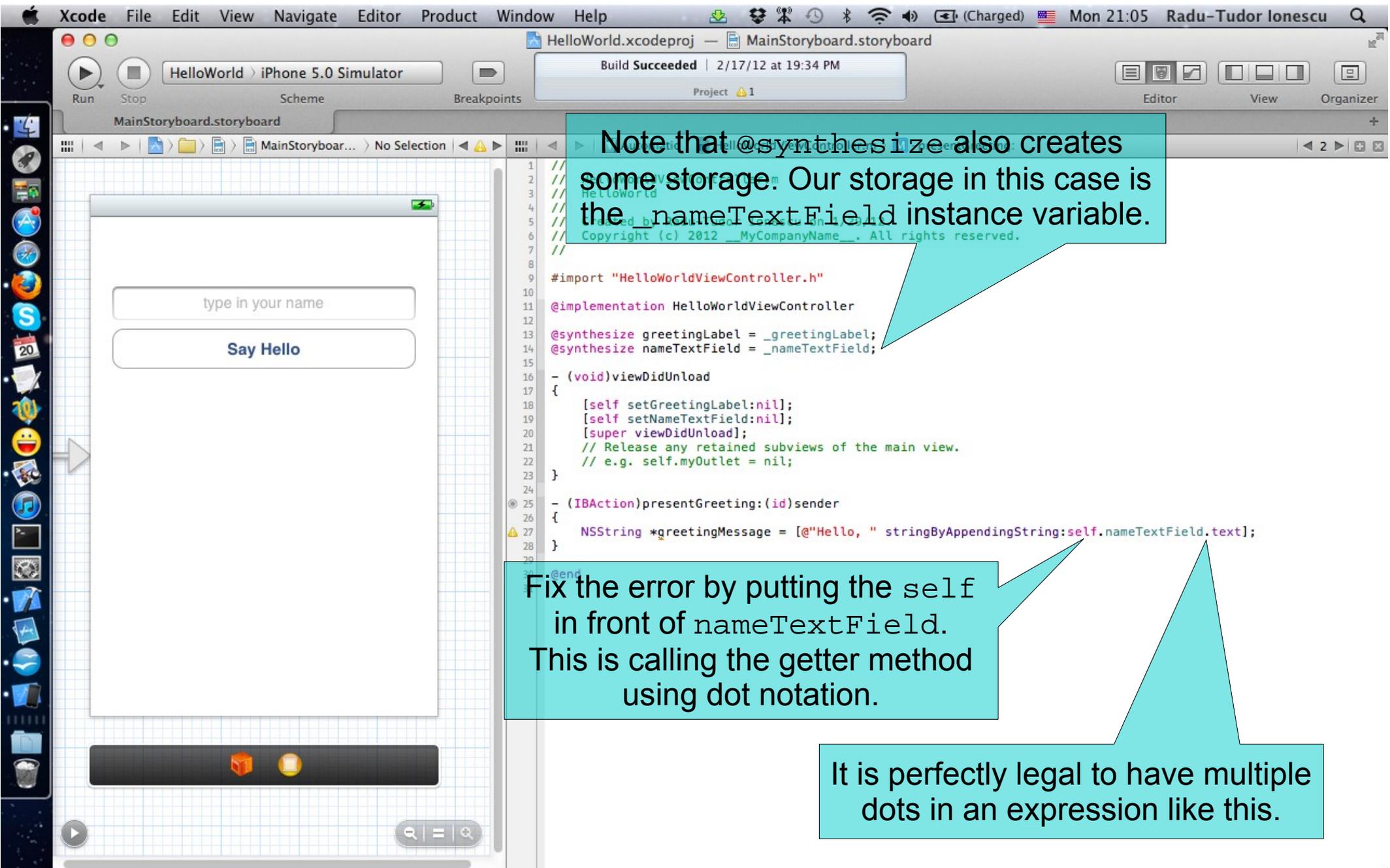
The `nameTextField` instance variable is not recognized anymore.



Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

22. Fix the error by using the getter to access the `nameTextField` `@property`. A `@property` is nothing more than a setter method and a getter method. The setter method will be called by the system at run-time to wire this outlet up.



Note that `@synthesize` also creates some storage. Our storage in this case is the `nameTextField` instance variable.

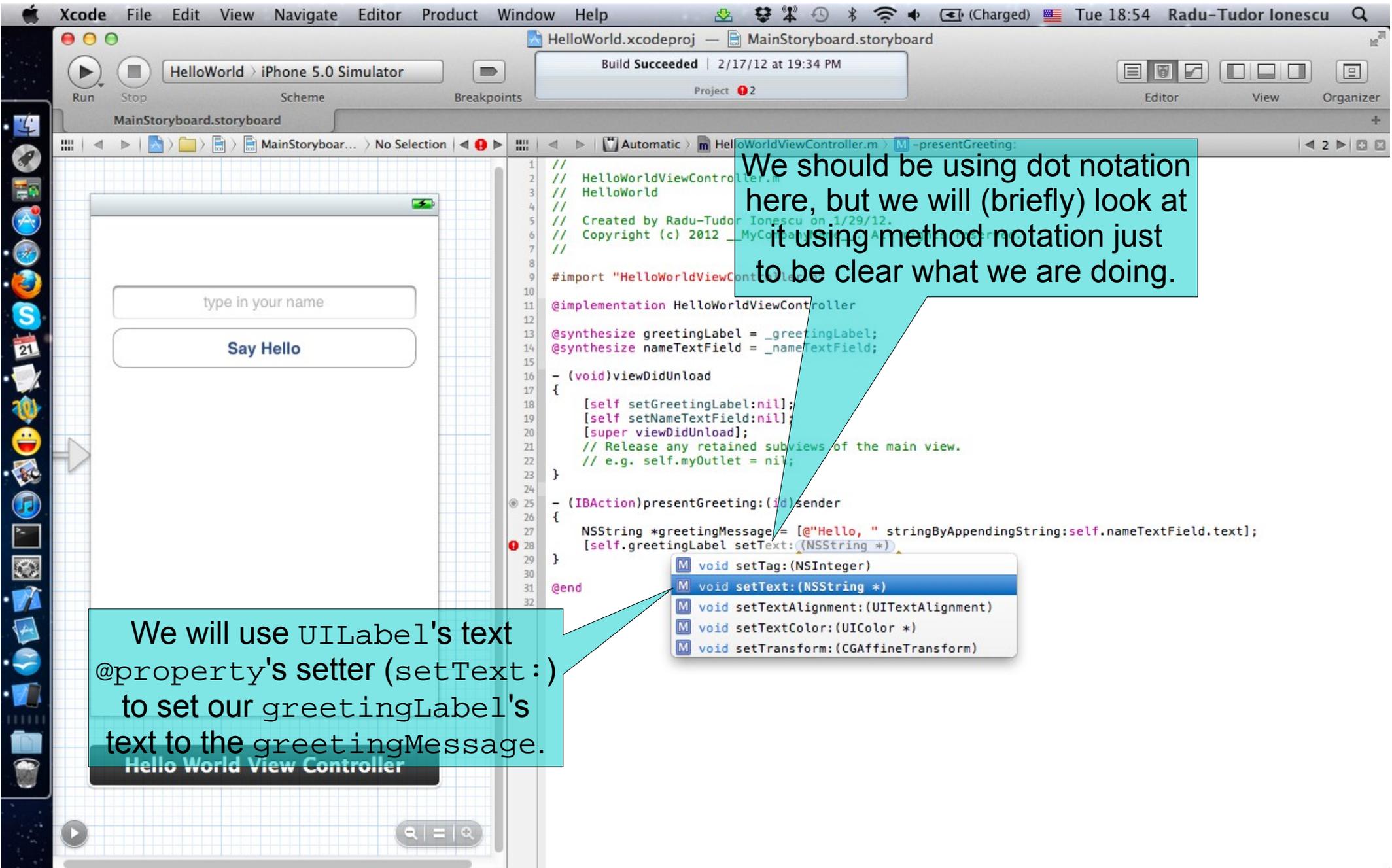
Fix the error by putting the `self` in front of `nameTextField`. This is calling the getter method using dot notation.

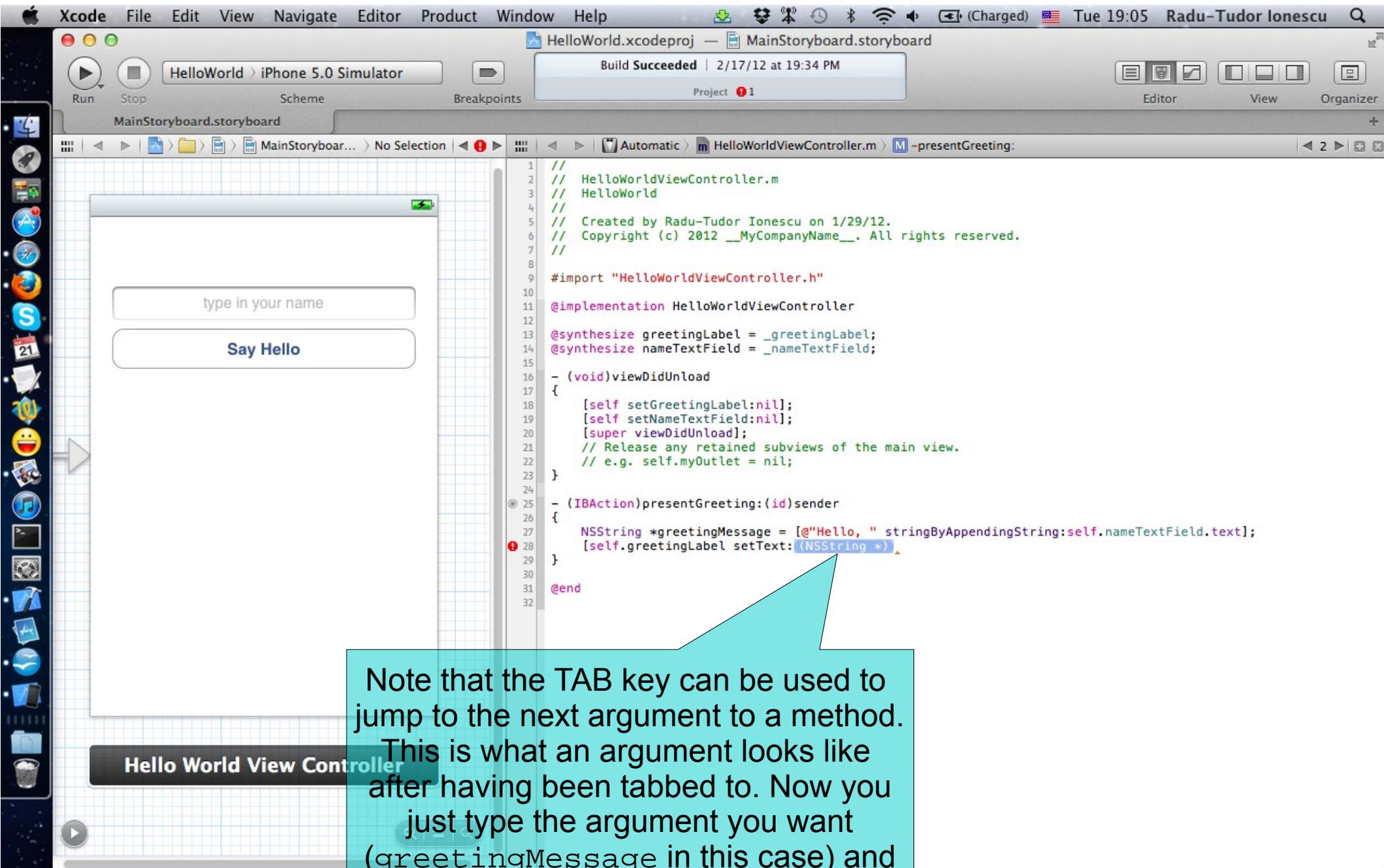
It is perfectly legal to have multiple dots in an expression like this.

Task 6

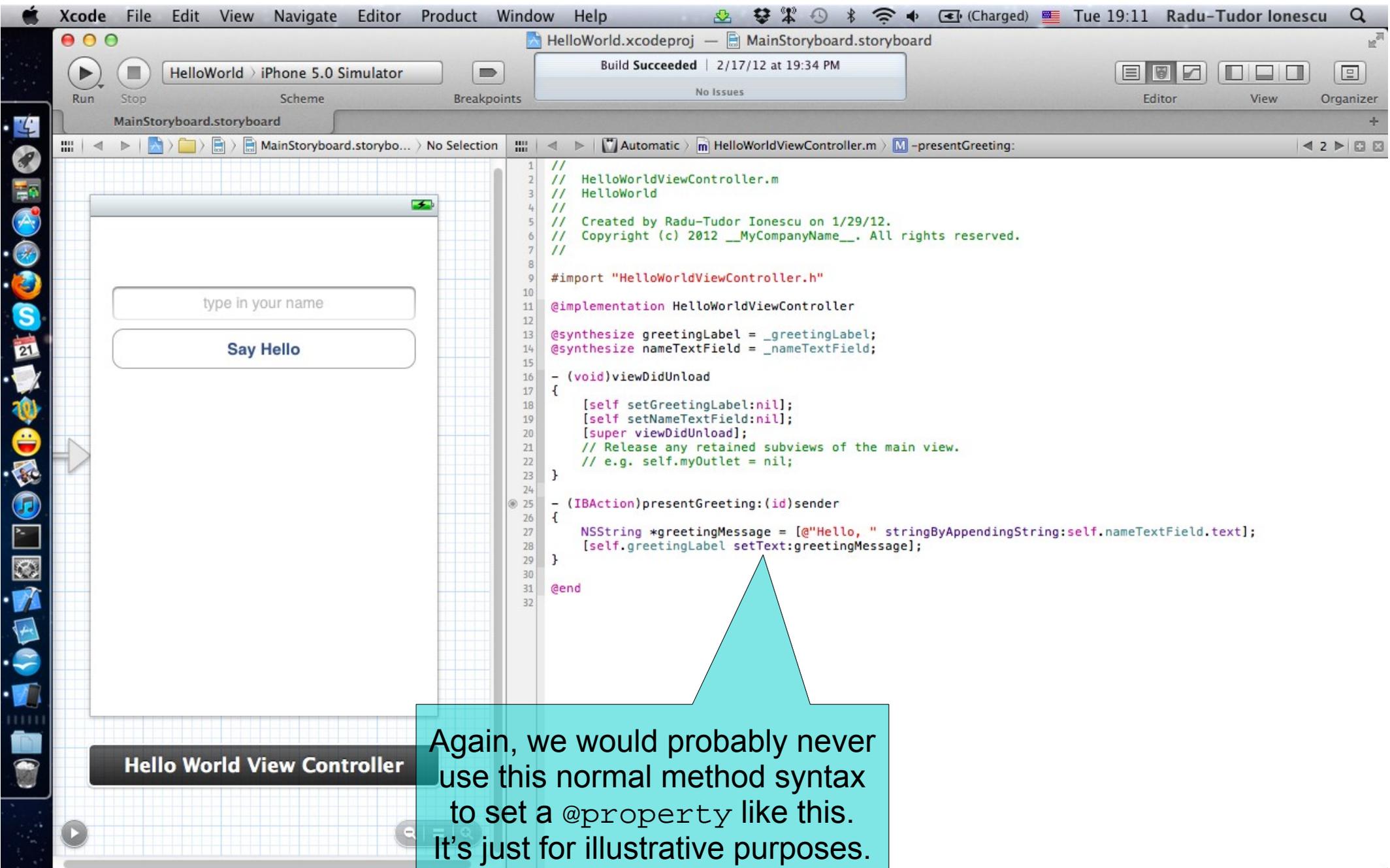
Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

23. Set the greeting message as the label's text using normal method notation.





Note that the TAB key can be used to jump to the next argument to a method. This is what an argument looks like after having been tabbed to. Now you just type the argument you want (greetingMessage in this case) and it will replace the (NSString *).



Again, we would probably never use this normal method syntax to set a @property like this. It's just for illustrative purposes.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

24. Switch to using dot notation to set the `UILabel`'s text @property.

The screenshot displays the Xcode IDE interface. The top menu bar includes 'Xcode', 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Navigate', 'Editor', 'Product', 'Window', and 'Help'. The status bar at the top right shows the time as 'Tue 19:23' and the user as 'Radu-Tudor Ionescu'. The main window is split into two panes. The left pane shows a storyboard for 'MainStoryboard.storyboard' with a simulated iPhone 5.0 interface. It features a text input field with the placeholder text 'type in your name' and a button labeled 'Say Hello'. The right pane shows the source code for 'HelloWorldViewController.m'. The code includes comments, an import statement for 'HelloWorldViewController.h', and an implementation of the 'presentGreeting:' action. A callout box points to the line `self.greetingLabel.text = greetingMessage;` in the code, explaining that dot notation for setters is identical to that for getters, with the difference being the placement of the equals sign.

```
1 //
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 // HelloWorld
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel = _greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField = _nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidUnload
17 {
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];
20     [super viewDidUnload];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
23 }
24
25 - (IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender
26 {
27     NSString *greetingMessage = [@"Hello, " stringByAppendingString:self.nameTextField.text];
28     self.greetingLabel.text = greetingMessage; // [self.greetingLabel setText:greetingMessage];
29 }
30
31 @end
32
```

type in your name

Say Hello

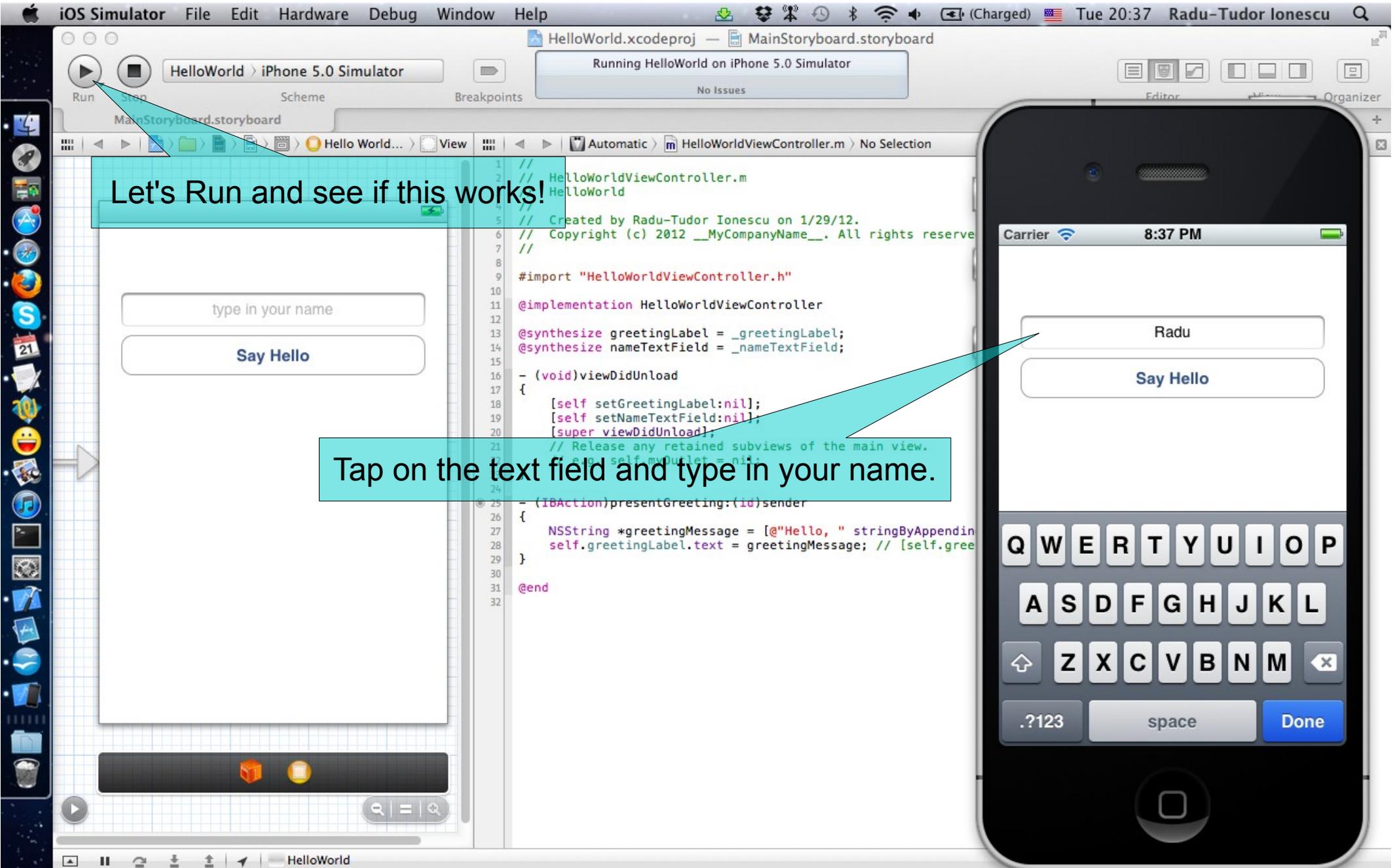
Hello World View Controller

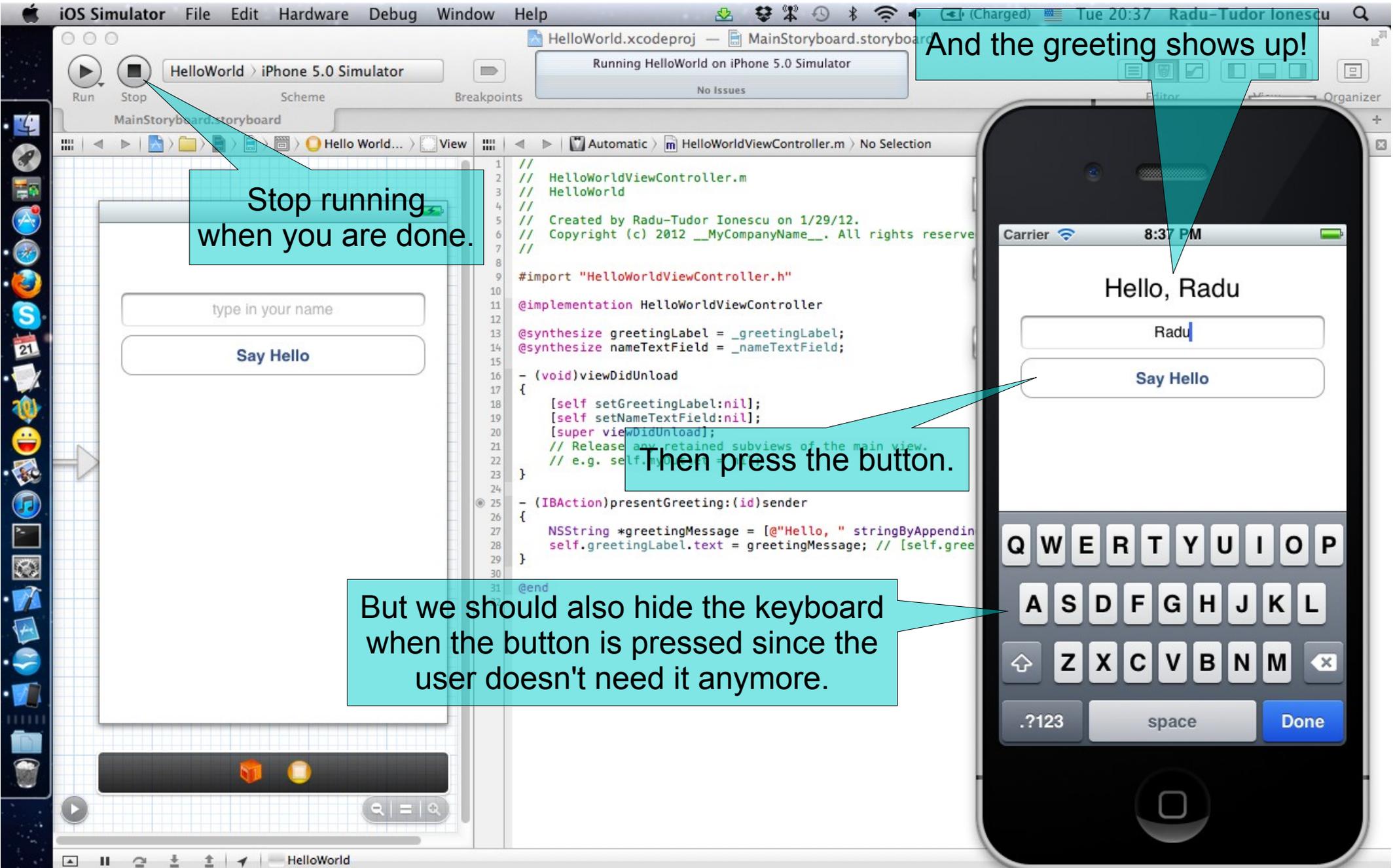
Dot notation for setters is exactly the same as dot notation for getters, it's just that they appear on the left-hand side of equals signs rather than the right-hand side.

Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

25. Run the application in iOS Simulator to test it.





Stop running when you are done.

Then press the button.

But we should also hide the keyboard when the button is pressed since the user doesn't need it anymore.

And the greeting shows up!

```
1 //
2 // HelloWorldViewController.m
3 // HelloWorld
4 //
5 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
6 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
7 //
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize greetingLabel = _greetingLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField = _nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidLoad
17 {
18     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
19     [self setNameTextField:nil];
20     [super viewDidLoad];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.greetingLabel, etc.
23 }
24
25 - (IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender
26 {
27     NSString *greetingMessage = @"Hello, " stringByAppendingString:
28     self.nameTextField.text; // [self.greetingLabel.text = greetingMessage;
29 }
30
31 @end
```

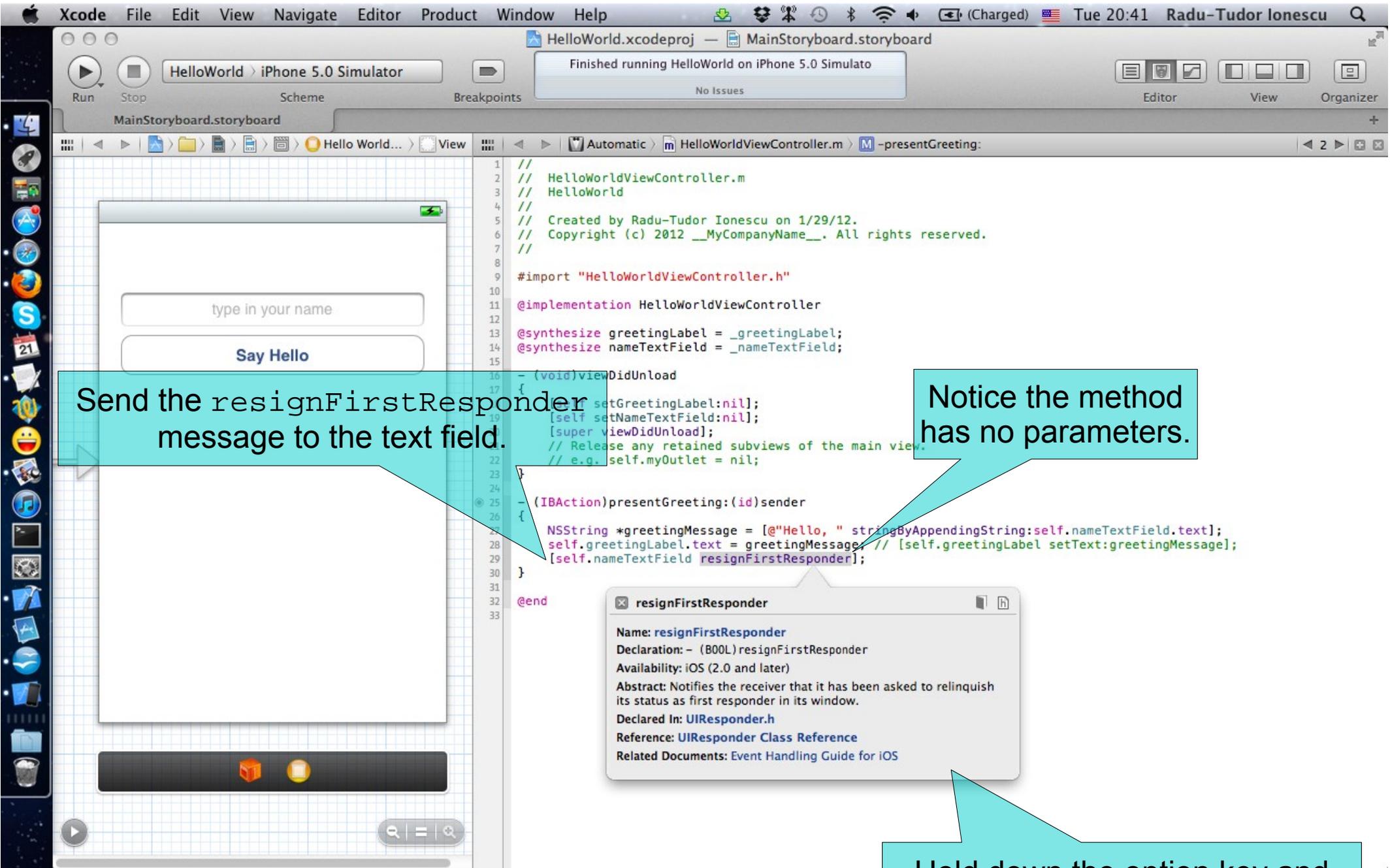
Task 6

Task: Implement the button action so that our application displays the greeting message on the screen.

25. Dismiss the keyboard when the button is pressed. When the user taps in a text field, that text field becomes the first responder and automatically asks the system to display the associated keyboard. It is your application's responsibility to dismiss the keyboard at the time of your choosing.

In general, you might dismiss the keyboard in response to a specific user action, such as the user tapping a particular button in your user interface. You might also configure your text field delegate to dismiss the keyboard when the user presses the "return" key on the keyboard itself. To dismiss the keyboard, you must send the `resignFirstResponder` message to the text field that is currently the first responder. Doing so causes the text field object to end the current editing session and hide the keyboard.

26. Test if the keyboard hides when the button is pressed.



Send the `resignFirstResponder` message to the text field.

Notice the method has no parameters.

resignFirstResponder

Name: [resignFirstResponder](#)

Declaration: `- (BOOL)resignFirstResponder`

Availability: iOS (2.0 and later)

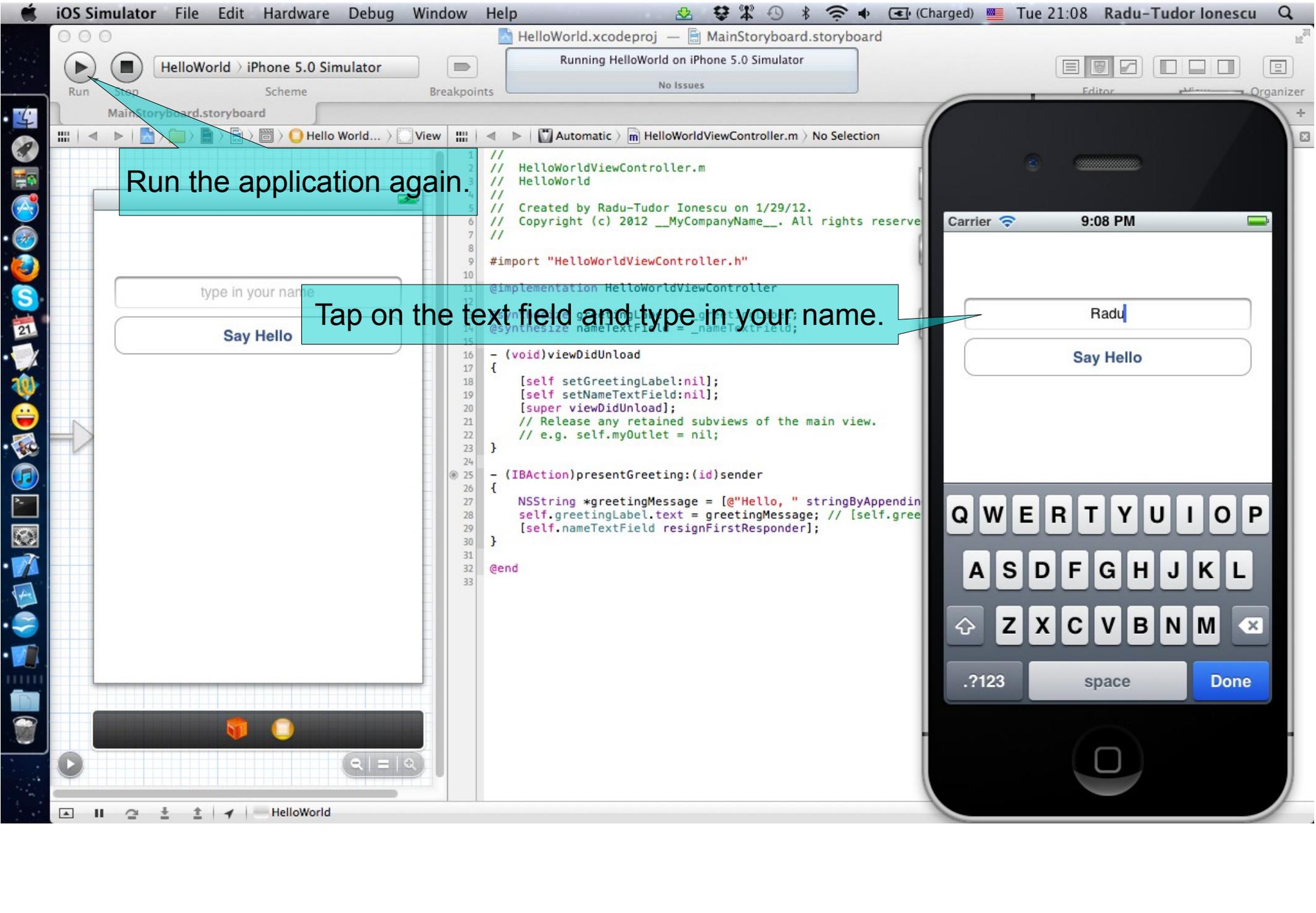
Abstract: Notifies the receiver that it has been asked to relinquish its status as first responder in its window.

Declared In: [UIResponder.h](#)

Reference: [UIResponder Class Reference](#)

Related Documents: [Event Handling Guide for iOS](#)

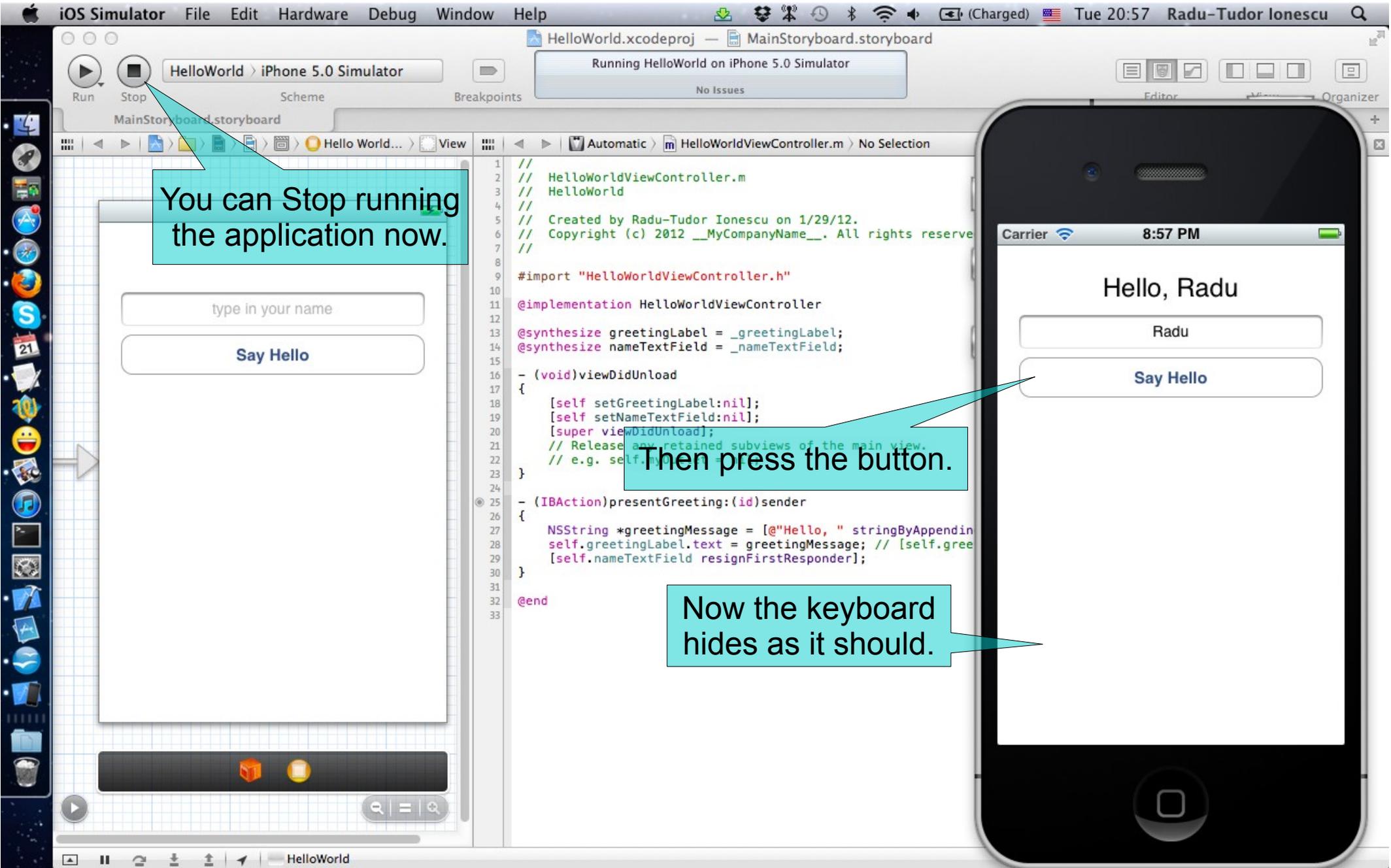
Hold down the option key and click on the method to get details.



Run the application again.

Tap on the text field and type in your name.

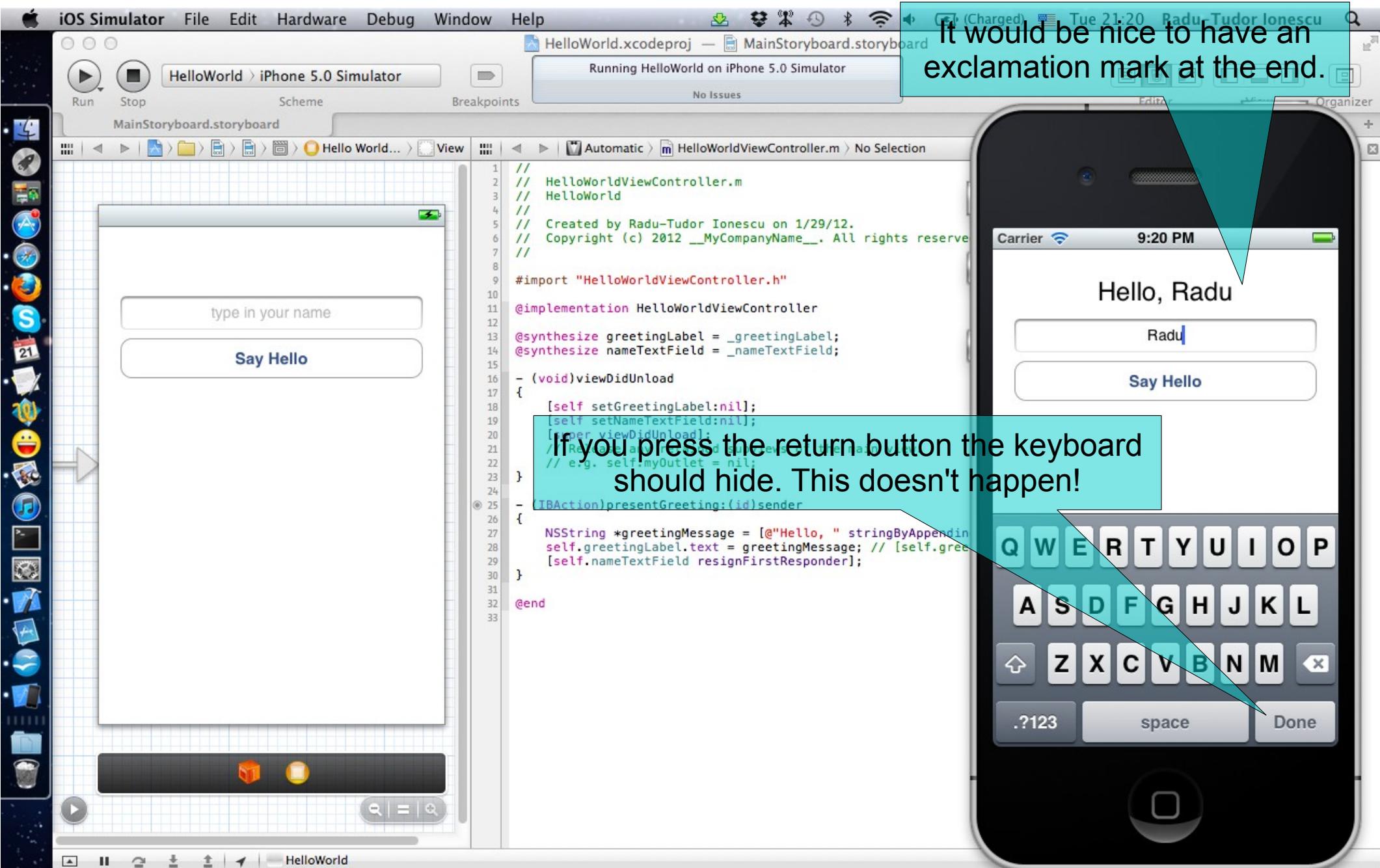
```
1 // HelloWorldViewController.m
2 // HelloWorld
3 //
4 // Created by Radu-Tudor Ionescu on 1/29/12.
5 // Copyright (c) 2012 __MyCompanyName__. All rights reserved.
6 //
7
8
9 #import "HelloWorldViewController.h"
10
11 @implementation HelloWorldViewController
12
13 @synthesize nameLabel = _nameLabel;
14 @synthesize nameTextField = _nameTextField;
15
16 - (void)viewDidLoad
17 {
18     [self setNameTextField:nil];
19     [self setGreetingLabel:nil];
20     [super viewDidLoad];
21     // Release any retained subviews of the main view.
22     // e.g. self.myOutlet = nil;
23 }
24
25 - (IBAction)presentGreeting:(id)sender
26 {
27     NSString *greetingMessage = @"Hello, " stringByAppendingString:
28     self.greetingLabel.text = greetingMessage; // [self.greetingLabel
29     [self.nameTextField resignFirstResponder];
30 }
31
32 @end
33
```



Task 7

Task: Find out if the application has any problems that should be fixed.

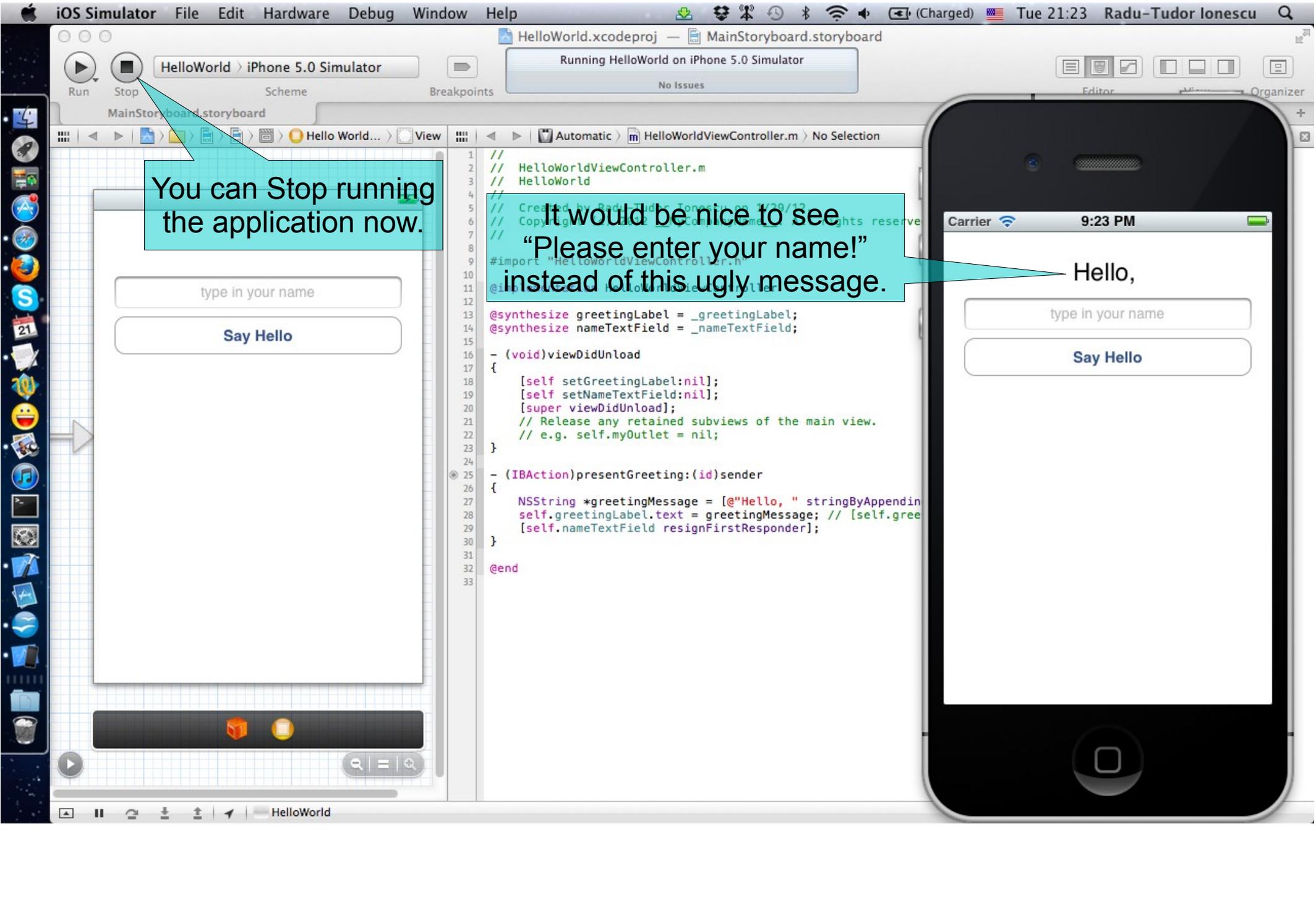
1. Notice we can't dismiss (hide back) the keyboard when the return key ("Done") is pressed. The normal behavior is to dismiss the keyboard when the return button is pressed.
2. The greeting message would look nice with an exclamation mark at the end. At this moment the application doesn't look finished.



Task 7

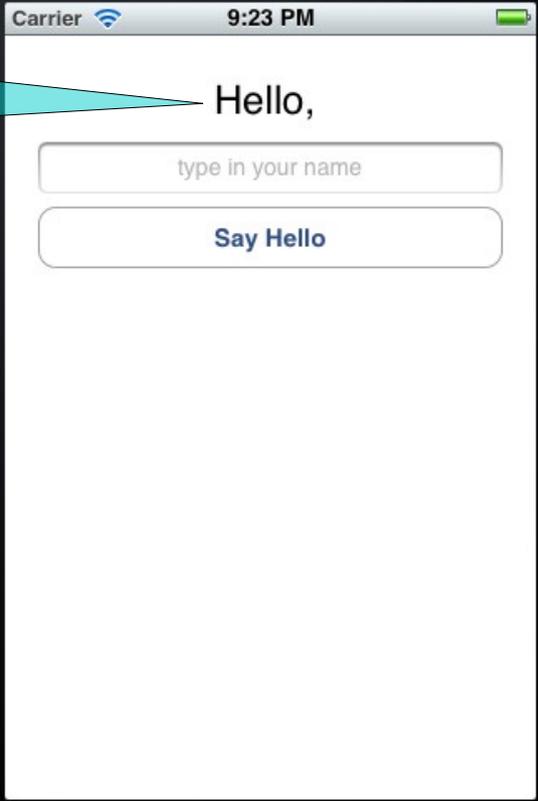
Task: Find out if the application has any problems that should be fixed.

3. If the user chooses not to type in his name, the application will display an ugly message “Hello, “. In this case we should display a friendly message (“Please enter your name!”) to ask the user for his name.



You can Stop running the application now.

It would be nice to see "Please enter your name!" instead of this ugly message.



Assignment 1

Assignment: Change the application behavior to hide the keyboard when the return button is pressed.

Hint: Search for the “Did End On Exit” event of the `nameTextField` (right click on the text field in Interface Builder). Set the `presentGreeting:` action to this event. Note that you can set the same action for two or more events (generated by different UI elements).

Assignment 2

Assignment: Add the exclamation mark at the end of the greeting message.

Hint: There are at least two possible solutions. You can either use the `stringByAppendingString:` method twice or you can use the `NSString`'s `stringWithFormat:` class method. Check the `NSString` documentation and look for `stringWithFormat:`.

Here is an example of how to use it:

```
NSString *aString = [NSString stringWithFormat:
    @"A string-%@. A float-%.2f",
    @"abc", 3.14159265];

// aString is "A string-abc. A float: 3.14"
```

Assignment 3

Assignment: Check if the user name is blank and put the “Please enter your name!” message in this case.

Hint: Use the `isEqualToString:` method (for `NSString` objects) to test if the `nameTextField`'s text is equal to `@""` (a blank string). Look up this method in the `NSString` class documentation. Set the label's text to `@“Please enter your name!”` if the name is blank.

Congratulations!