HCHC Alumni Association Fall 2013 Report

75th Anniversary Jubilee, Sept. 12th-15th
Rearranging our normal Fall meetings to be able to attend and participate in the climactic and concluding events of the 75th Anniversary celebration at the school, our Alumni board met on Wednesday, Sept. 11th and Thursday, September 12th. We had extremely productive meetings with Fr. Jim Katinas, the director of Institutional Advancement, Mr. Kevin Derrivan, the acting Chief Financial Officer of the school, Dr. Demitri Katos, the Dean of Hellenic College, Dr. James Skedros, the acting Dean of Holy Cross, Mrs. Helen Carlos and Mrs. Christine Karavites, members of the board of trustees and co-chairs of the 75th Anniversary committee, Mr. Michael Mercado, the student body president, and Mr. Josh Cole, manager of Marketing and Communication. We then attended the Jubilee Gala Banquet, and several members of the board stayed to participate in the wonderfully educational and inspirational events of the Jubilee weekend. The work of Helen Carlos and Christine Karavites and their committee is to be commended as an inspiration for our Alumni board to give of our time and talents as sacrificially as they, and many other members of the board of trustees have, over the past few years. Well done everyone!

Full Time Alumni Office Director Position
A year ago, our former part-time director of Alumni relations, Greg Floor, was reassigned to work exclusively as Director of Admissions for the school. Since that time the Alumni board has been working with Fr. Jim Katinas and Kevin Derrivan to fill the Alumni office vacancy, while Greg has continued to do what he could when he could for us. At our Fall meeting on Sept. 11, 2013 the decision was made to let Mr. John Papson take over as interim Director of the Alumni Office until May. The board is grateful to have John as acting director since he has been involved with the Alumni for many years while working in various capacities at the school. We are also grateful to Fr. Jim, Kevin, and the Board of Trustees of the school for budgeting for a full-time director of the Alumni office to potentially start in June of 2014. In their words, "No school has been or will be effective without a full-time director of their Alumni Association." We couldn't agree more! We have been assured as well that we will be active participants in the hiring process. The alumni office director's immediate supervisor is the director of Institutional Advancement, though we as the board determine his or her job description and responsibilities, as well. Inquiries should be addressed to Fr. Katinas.

Our Commitment to Increase the Parish Partners Program
One of the ways that we intend to reaffirm to the school that the Alumni office deserves to have a full-time director is by helping the efforts of the Institutional Advancement department with an important project: "The Parish Partners Program." Fr Jim Katinas reported to us that there were currently 97 communities participating in the program. The Alumni Association has committed to raising that number over the next few months to at least 150. To do so, each clergy or lay representative has been asked to sign up 10 new parishes by our next conference call scheduled for October 15. The emphasis is on simply getting parishes to sign up and provide
their contact person's name to the school. The department of Institutional advancement will do the rest. For more information and to download the form to sign up for the program visit: www.hchc.edu/community/administrative_offices/institutional_advancement/parish_partnership_program/

Self-Study Survey Results
During the week of our Alumni board meetings and the 75th anniversary events on campus in September we resent our self-study survey out via email to our Alumni and received another 45 surveys! Our total (150 respondents) is approximately 25% of the total number of Alumni for whom we have email addresses. Our reps will now follow up with the rest of our Alumni by calling those who have not yet completed the survey to get as many as we can before we begin analyzing the results more systematically. We are also currently researching companies that do investigative work to find the contact information for the many alumni for whom we have no way of reaching. If anyone reading this report is an Alumnus/a or knows an Alumnus/a with whom we have not been in contact please help us by sending this information to Mr. John Papson at jpapson@hchc.edu.

Expanding our Number of Board Members
Our board has been functioning for many years without clergy representation from a few Metropolis' of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as well as other Orthodox Jurisdictions and without lay representation from a number of Metropolis' and Jurisdictions. Although the distances and costs are prohibitive we critically need to involve more of our alumni from around the United States and the world. We are, therefore, actively seeking Alumni to participate as representatives even if they are not able to make our bi-annual meetings at the school since much of our work is now done during our bi-monthly conference calls. We call on our Metropolitans and the Hierarchs of the other Orthodox Jurisdictions to help us by assigning clergy and lay Alumni as representatives and by initiating ways to cover more of their expenses should they join us for our homecoming and reunion events each Fall and Spring.

Our New "Plug-in" Committee
One of the results of the self-study survey is the encouraging statistic that the vast majority of our alumni desire to return and visit the school more frequently. We have formed a new committee to facilitate these visits to the school for formal and informal interaction with our current students and faculty. The committee's goal is to "plug-in" as many of our alumni as we can in the upcoming years of the school enhancing the school's ongoing educational and formational efforts. Whether our alumni are guest lecturers in a class, offer their own seminar, address the HCHC community by preaching in the chapel, meet privately with faculty, administrative staff, or students, or simply attend classes, services and functions, their presence on campus will be mutually beneficial to our school community and to the alumni themselves. These alumni will then return to their respective areas of the country and local Church communities as ambassadors for the school sharing their enthusiasm for the school's mission with others. In the meantime we ask that you give your local reps any personal or professional news, pictures, video clips that you would like to share for the upcoming editions of the school's new newsletter.