HCHC Alumni Association Spring 2014 Report

For: Archbishop Demetrios, the Metropolitans, Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou, Dr. Thomas Lelon, the Alumni Board representatives, the Deans Katos and Skedros, and Fr. Jim Katinas.

As you are all well aware, these past few years have seen many substantial additions and changes in the administration of Hellenic College Holy Cross, in the improvement of its facilities, and in the increased effectiveness in the functioning of its various departments, offices, and ministries. The Alumni Association applauds the work of the Board of Trustees and all those involved, and welcomes this maturation of the institution with anticipation and enthusiasm. Below is a brief listing of some of our humble efforts and initiatives to further the mission and purposes of the school.

1. Full Time Director. Having submitted a job description and budget for the upcoming school year to the CFO of the school, Kevin Derrivan, we look forward to the hiring of a new full-time director of the office of Alumni Relations by the end of the summer. This is the first time in the history of the association that a director of the Alumni Office will not have other responsibilities at the school, though he or she will also be a part of the Department of Institutional Advancement team and under the direct supervision of Fr. Jim Katinas. We see this decision and step as an endorsement from the school’s administration of the importance of the work of the Alumni and of our board’s desire to serve the needs of the school.

2. Parish Partners. Our goal this past year was to double the number of parishes who were signed up and participating in the parish partner program. There were approximately 90 parishes in the Fall of 2013. As of graduation this past Spring another 60 parishes had come aboard. We anticipate that by the end of the Clergy Laity Assembly we will have over 200 parishes enlisted. Every clergy and lay representative of our board in attendance at the Clergy Laity will be actively recruiting partners amongst the parishes of their own region and the school’s booth in the exhibit hall will be offering incentives for parishes to participate.

3. Improving our Alumni Data Base. As a part of our ongoing gathering of information for our self-study, we are hiring an internet company called Alumni Finder which will be instrumental in our getting in contact with over half of our Alumni for whom we currently have little or no contact information.

4. Expansion of our Current Board. We are contacting each of the Metropolitans and the Archbishop to encourage them to elect/appoint both clergy and lay representatives for their respective Metropolis/Jurisdictions. We are also encouraging each Metropolis/Jurisdiction/District to find ways to cover the travel costs of their representatives for homecoming and reunion week, which has been a crucial obstacle to greater participation.
5. **More Effectively Utilize Clergy Laity Assemblies.** The biannual Clergy Laity Assemblies are by far the largest gatherings of our Alumni. Although in an informal and organic manner our Alumni reunite and are strengthened at the assembly, we hope to have more organized functions and programs to engage our Alumni in the ongoing life of the school while attending Clergy Laity. In addition to our Distinguished Ministries award presentation during the HCHC Wine and Cheese Reception, this year we will have a roaming reporter and cameraman who will be interviewing Alumni about their years at the school and how they benefit from their formative years at their alma mater in their current vocations and ministries, while gathering important current contact information from them.

6. **Interconnectedness of the Alumni with the School.** The plug-in committee is currently planning, in conjunction with the Office of Vocation and Ministry, one event a semester to bring Alumni back to campus to interact with the students and then to return as enthused ambassadors of the school for their communities and local churches. We are discussing several other means of connecting the Alumni more directly into the life of the school and see the potential that having a fully "wired" campus will have for the ongoing educational opportunities for both Alumni and students. We are even beginning to consider the development of an HCHC Alumni "app" which will act as the doorway for their accessing the school's resources through their smart phones and other electronic devices.

7. **Student Recruitment.** Through our active involvement with the Enrollment Management Committee of the Board of Trustees we hope to better assist, in the near future, in the recruiting of potential students, in mentoring them while they attend the school, and in helping with job placement or internships once they graduate. In this and other ways we hope to become more integrally involved in the work of the various other committees of the Board of Trustees.