Alumni Resource Packet
Dear CrossRoad Alumni of 2013,

Welcome to the Alumni Family!!

A small group of us serve on the CrossRoad Alumni Advisory Board, dedicated to ministering to the over 400 CrossRoad alumni. In that spirit we developed the following mission statement:

The CrossRoad Alumni Advisory Board strives to develop leadership by harnessing alumni skills and talents in order to form a sustainable Orthodox community beyond the CrossRoad Summer Institute. The Board will promote spiritual growth through the theological exploration of vocation by:

- Maintaining and cultivating alumni relationships through networking and mentoring
- Serving alumni and their families in all walks of life
- Empowering alumni for local ministry
- Supporting the CrossRoad Summer Institute through sustainability initiatives

Our of our first initiatives was to gather words of wisdom from older alumni on what has served them in their post-CrossRoad lives. Included in this booklet, you will find the responses to the question "What sources and materials have inspired you along your way after CrossRoad?"

We hope that these suggestions will reinforce the lessons that you learned at CrossRoad and will help you feel more connected to the larger CrossRoad family. Please reach out to the Board with any thoughts you may have of how we can better serve you.

In His Service,

The CrossRoad Alumni Advisory Board
Asimina Boutzoukas (June 2008), Anastasia Chaus (June 2011), Xrista Christopoulos (June 2011), Gabriella Christy (July 2012), Timothy Daly (June 2012), Nikoletta Evangelatos (June 2011), Julia Goussetis (June 2012), Nikolia Hasiakos (2004), Katherine Katsivalis (June 2011), Anna Kyritsis (2005), John Maletis (2004), John Mellas (July 2009) and Michelle Torski (2005)
2004

John Maletis
Newsletter Down the Road

Nikolia Rallis Hasiakos
Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives, Elder Thaddeus
“Stars,” Switchfoot
“Meant to Live,” Switchfoot

2005

Michelle Torski
“That’s Why I Pray,” Big & Rich
“Do Everything” Steven Curtis Chapman

Danielle Hillas Burikas
Ancient Faith Radio

I did not start reading theological texts until I attended the seminary because I found them confusing and overwhelming. However, I loved stories about Orthodox people or faith based writings. Here are a few of my favorites.

The Mountain of Silence, Kyriacos Markides
The Gurus, the Young Man and Elder Piasos, Dionysios Farasiotis
Mother Gavrila, The Ascetic of Love, Nun Gavrilia
Pearl of Great Price, Sergei Hackel.
The Way of the Pilgrim, Author Unknown
Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis
Chronicles of Narnia, C.S. Lewis

2006

Andre Ahee
Mystagogy
Christ the Eternal Tao

Jason Oneida
For Life of the World, Alexander Schmemann
The Great Divorce, C.S. Lewis
The Problem of Pain, C.S. Lewis
Wild at Heart, John Eldredge
On the Human Condition, St. Basil the Great
Spiritual Struggle, Elder Paisios of Mount Athos
Prayer at the Beginning of the Day by Metropolitan Philaret

2007

Stefan Ahee
Involvement in OCF locally and nationally was a huge guide. It was because of CrossRoad that I got involved with OCF! What also helped was meeting other Orthodox friends from around the country through various conferences (i.e. college conference and the youth conference in Constantinople in 2007, etc.).
2008

Miltiadis Constantine

“Strengths quest was a nice way to self-evaluate ourselves.”

Mari Diveris

“My journal!”

Chloe Melchert

♥ Prayer at the Beginning of the Day by Metropolitan Philaret

“O Lord grant me to meet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal Your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul and with firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will teach me to pray, pray You Yourself in me. Amen.”

Caroline Kouretsos

“Prayer has become a huge part of my life. After attending CrossRoad, saying my prayers was a way of connecting myself with God, knowing He was listening to me and granting my prayers slowly, but enlightening. As Dr. Rossi says, Prayer is an intimate conversation with God. Christ is everything- the whole enchilada.”

Ivan Plis

📕 Mere Christianity, CS Lewis’
📕 The Long Loneliness, Dorothy Day
📕 Pearl of Great Price, Sergei Hackel
📕 The Irresistible Revolution, Shane Claiborne
♥ The prayers and services of the Dormition Fast

“The dogged and persistent quest for community, and the principle of mindfully and joyously inhabiting the place and situation where God has brought you. That is not a quote, that is just a description of a thing that has kept me sane.”

Aalin Bellinger

📕 God’s Path to Sanity, Dee Pennock
📕 The Psalter According to the Seventy

Stephan Anagnostos

_wifi Field Pancake
okedex Man of Steel

Rebekah Anne Stuck

📕 Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
📕 Radical Christianity

Asimina Boutzoukas

벰 Staying involved in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival annually has helped me to stay connected and read new educational material for various topics.

Reading the lives of the saints always provides inspiration to me.

2009

Nicholas Bessinas

“Gabriel Cremeens’ daily quote emails from the fathers of the church.”

Melissa Likiardopoulos

📕 The Book of James
📕 The Book of Proverbs
📕 The Book of Sirach

Eleni Patitsas

📕 The Mountain of Silence, Kyriacos Markides
📕 Wounded by Love by Elder Porphyrios

2010

Demetri Constantine

📕 The Orthodox Church
📕 The Orthodox Way by Timothy Ware
📕 A small prayer book with 2 prayers per day called
“The Lords Prayer” from Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Monastery in Ellwood City

**Anthony Jonas**
- *The Orthodox Way*, Timothy Ware
- *The Orthodox Church*, Timothy Ware

**Mike Henry**
- Ancient Faith Radio

**John Mellas**
- “The way of the Pilgrim”, Author Unknown
- *The Young Man, the Gurus, and Elder Paisios* by Dionysios Farasiotis
- The CrossRoad reunion

**Erika Laudermilt**

> “While I was away at college, looking over my crossroad info from that week would put a smile on my face!”

**Sophia Linebaugh**

> “I recently attended an OCF event and came across some works written by people I’d met through CrossRoad, such as Dr. Rossi, and it immediately triggered memories of the great things I learned and awesome experiences I had at CrossRoad.”

**Catherine Watson**

> “Crossroad had a profound effect on me as a teenager - for the first time, I finally met other teens who were both Orthodox and involved in their churches! “Church kids”, I thought. Meeting 29 other “Church kids” blew my mind, and I have never forgotten my fellow CrossRoaders or the blessings CrossRoad provided for me. I have encouraged and watched many of my friends attend CR after me, and I think I was almost as excited as they were, that they were going! After CrossRoad, I can say there were/are several materials/sources that impact my life and my spirituality.

Services: Firstly, I think the Paraklesis service is a beautiful and very spiritually helpful tool for we Orthodox youth, especially in times when we feel like there is a lot of stress and little hope. Saying the Paraklesis together with others for a friend who was going through a hard time, has had a huge affect on me, and I have seen it help those we prayed for.

Prayers: Throughout my teen years and now in my twenties, the consolation for everything in my life is that “God’s Will will be done.” My favourite prayer, out of all the CDs, services, hymns, etc. that I know, is the one line from the Lord’s Prayer: “Thy Will be done.” It always assures me that no matter how hard things seem, if we place everything in God’s hands, He will turn things for our benefit and often our comfort. I have experienced this every single day of my life.

Music: Another amazing tool that I have been blessed to be involved in is the Sacred Music Institute, where I have connected with other Orthodox Youth who have a passion for Chanting/Church Choir singing, and making these close friends provided me with the constant Orthodox support that keeps me encouraged and grounded in my faith through fun times and hard ones. It also encouraged me in my love for learning Church Music, and I am blessed to be able to say that meeting other chanters has taught me to be a better chanter.

Finally, a quote that impacted me dramatically: six months ago, my Grandfather passed away, and I remember my Khouriye saying to me, “God takes us at the exact time that maximizes our Salvation.” This seemed to make a light go on in my mind. God loves us THAT much, that not only does He guide, forgive, and bless us here on earth, but He also does everything He possibly can to grant us Life. That one sentence from my Khouriye changed my perspective on death (and I had already grown up with a very Orthodox perspective on death!). “A helper and protector is He unto me for salvation” - Valaam Brotherhood Choir. Glory to God!”

**Jason Ioannides**

> “OCF, quiet Time, church participation is crucial, and getting to know the parish. Books on lives of the saints and holy elders, short essays on the faith, MONASTERY trips are vital, at least once a year if you can make it. The Jesus Prayer and prayer rope. Having a friend to hold you accountable.”

**Joanna Christakis**
- Klaus Kenneth
- Rap song -- It’s really, really good. It’s called “God’s Earth” by Cassidy. Something unique to find in the rap world.
- “Everyday Saints and Other Stories” by Archimandrite Tikhon (Shevkunov).

> “To love another person, is to see the face of God.” - Jean Valjean (Les Miserables)
2011

Nikoletta Evangelatos

“Wounded by Love”, Elder Porphyrios

Quote: “When things don’t come the way you want them, want them the way they come”

Markella Patitsas

Conference Calls

Evangelia Pagones

C.S. Lewis - The Abolition of Man,

♫ learning new songs and troparia from St. Anthony’s monastery (http://www.stanthonysonastery.org/music/Menaion.htm)

Michael Takes

“If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?” - Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, The Gulag Archipelago 1918-1956

Fiona Sterling

“Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives” Ana Smiljanic

“Everyday Saints” Archimandrite Tikhon Shevkunov

“Kassiana” Nikolai Velimirovich

Nektaria Papadopoulos

SimplyOrthodox, an orthodox blog on tumblr. So informational and the blog runner seems like an exemplary Christian.

Maria Brown

CrossRoad not only reaffirmed my faith, but realigned my being, reminding me that our earthly pleasures pale in comparison to eternal life. Armed with new priorities and knowledge, I knew I left CR a different person, a different Orthodox Christian than the one who arrived just a few days before. But it wasn't until a month or so after CR that I realized how much of an impact CR had on my life. I became an active member of my church by becoming the Greek Dance director, helped teach Sunday school, and directed PreK to 2nd graders in singing before communion. I also said I would be in charge of leading the Myrophorae during Pascha. My most recent involvements include starting an OCF chapter at my college, help lead Vacation Bible School, and starting a young adults group for Orthodox in the city of Omaha.

Now after facing many challenges my first year of college, I know that what I discovered at CR is how I remained strong. I found myself constantly reading my CR journal, participating in Small Complines, chanting, and praying. I discovered that I didn't become involved in the church because I was forced to, but because it is the only way I constantly feel connected to Christ and answering His call.

I've always been told to follow my passion and I believe that my passion is serving the church, I pray every night that Christ will send me to Hellenic College to study. I am still uncertain about my future but I will remain grounded in CrossRoad's motto: that "life is not about a title. Life is about a person." And God-willing, I will reflect and love Him in all that I do now and for years to come.

Gabriella Christy

Way of the Pilgrim Author Unknown

Growing in Christ by Mother Raphaela

Dimitri Konstantinou

“Just reading over the notes I took at CR truly brings me back to the Holy Hill and it feels as if I am right back at CR.”

Christina Alexandres

The bible, church hymns,

Fr. Arseny, Alexander

Paul Murray

Probably the biggest thing is a book of quotes from Elder Paisios on Spiritual Struggle.
David Fait
The definition of vocation. I found that when I actually analyzed it, it made so much sense. Quote: "Happiness is only real when shared."

I really enjoyed Father Arseny at the recommendation of 2012 staff member and CR Alum Nick Lionas. I have read and re-read my journal and thought about things we talked about and used it as a source in papers I've written.

"Writing in my journal every day was probably the best thing I could've done."

James Murphy
My Journal that I kept while I was at CrossRoad

Nicholas Kondoleon
After CrossRoad, I tried to keep or recreate the euphoric "spiritual high" that was experienced while attending the session. By reading quotes and attending local summer orthodox camps, I was able to remember all that CrossRoad has taught me.

Themio Christy
Ionian Village has influenced my life greatly! I met many people, many who I had not known before but lived at least 5 minutes from my house, who are all my friends now.

Andrianna Papadimitriou
Prayer: Prayer of Saint Ephraim

Julia Goussetis
Many of the CrossRoad staff members would make references to "Wounded By Love" by Elder Porphyrios so after CrossRoad I picked up the book and so many things traced back to items I learned at CrossRoad. My favorite line- “When Christ unites us, distances don’t exist.” Great read!

Artem Timofeev
Reading the Bible, Other camps. Such as St. Tikhon’s Summer camp in Waymart, PA.

Nathaniel Sweigart
- Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis
- Ancient Faith Radio
- Antiochian Village summer camp

Anastasia Shestakova
Memorable film clips and quotes

Lauren Weita
There are so many things. But here are my recent top few.

Song: Fort Atlantic - There Is Love Official. The last line is... "Let joy be the theme of your song," Love it! Podcasts: Kh. Krista West’s podcasts. All of them but Beauty is more than skin deep, 10 reasons I love teenagers, and Where is your peace?... have been really had an impact. Just learning to remember to live daily. Everyday I wake up and I choose to be a christian. I choose to love God with my heart, soul, mind, & strength today!

Georgianna Sandilos
The most invaluable resource for me after CrossRoad, has remained my own journal. Please encourage future CrossRoad participants to write down as much as possible. Additionally, the DVD sent out by CrossRoad of session clips has been extremely helpful.

Youth Ministry: Also, the Archdiocese young adult ministry (Y2AM) and REAL videos and pages have been wonderful. Above all, remaining in contact with fellow CrossRoadies and counselors has helped me the most in terms of reinforcing what I had learned, especially during trying times such as the transition to college.

Sophia Lalli
Hymn: “Being a Christian means being crucified”

Demetria Panopoulos
Books bought at CR, phone calls and skyping with CrossRoad friends.

Maximos Salzman
Orthodox Way was great, keep that one
Please join the CrossRoad Facebook group: https://www.facebook.comgroups/391776544260713/
This is a great way to keep in touch with the other alumni! The Board will be posting about our
upcoming initiatives here to get your feedback.

Join the LinkedIn Group: http://www.linkedin.com/groups/CrossRoad-Alumni-4371720/about. You
can use LinkedIn to see where your fellow Alumni ended up and harness that network!

If you have any questions at all, you can reach the Board at any time at CrossRoadAlumni@hchc.edu.