Dear friends of HCHC,

Another academic year has begun on the Holy Hill and the campus is buzzing with activity. We are grateful to God for your constant support and interest in this sacred school that means so much to our faith today and our future. In this issue, you will experience some of the key events covered in photographs, especially our first HCHC faculty and staff meeting, as well as our orientation of new students and the welcoming back of our returning students. I must tell you of my excitement to witness all of our work over the summer months coming to fruition as we begin the academic year.

In the bright, young, shining faces of our students, I see the image of Christ and the likeness of Him that we have been entrusted to develop. In our dedicated faculties, I see the wisdom of the Church and their commitment over the course of their careers to do God’s work in educating and molding the young students into warriors of our sacred faith. In the administration and staff, I see their hard work in action and their daily commitment to remembering that everything on this campus is “all about the students.”

Enjoy this issue! If you have questions or suggestions to improve our offerings, please feel free to contact me.

V. Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, D. Min.
President

PS: It has come to my attention that the altar in our chapel, the place where we pray and train our future clergy and lay leaders, is in need of new items, such as candle stands for the altar servers, a new chalice set, and kandilia for the altar table. If you would like to donate any of these items, or if you know someone else who might, please call my office at 617.850.1280.
We welcomed a wonderful new class of students for both the college and school of theology. Our Office of Student Affairs, under the capable direction of Archdeacon Nicholas Belcher, planned an outstanding welcome for our students, assisted by ongoing students and our resident advisors.

This year’s orientation theme, “Bring me to your Holy Hill,” comes from Psalm 43 (42), which calls to mind the traditional nickname of HCHC and beckons both our new and returning students to let God’s light and truth lead them.

Our student leadership team has been hard at work preparing activities for the new students. Some highlights are the “Mocktail Mingle” on the first night and an excursion into downtown using public transportation and dubbed “The Boston T Party.”

The Office of Vocation & Ministry took the new Hellenic College students to Cape Cod for an orientation retreat centering on the theme of vocation (defined as “one’s unique and ongoing response to Christ’s call to love God with mind, heart, soul, and strength, and one’s neighbor as oneself). At the same time, Holy Cross students attended a retreat with Fr. Maximos speaking on “Icons and the Orthodox Spiritual Life” and toured the Russian Icon Museum in Clinton, Massachusetts.

All students were welcomed back to campus for a Florida-themed activity in honor of our new President called “Fr. Chris’ Waterpark Extravaganza,” complete with water slides and a community cookout.

Students have been excited to return to campus and discover improved WiFi in the dormitory, thanks to updates made during the summer. We also have a new set of lockers for commuter students to store belongings on campus. In order to foster more community gathering space, we now have extended hours for the cafeteria between meals so that students can gather for socializing and study groups.

“I came to HCHC ultimately because this is where I believe the Lord wants me to be. Getting to know my fellow students better has been a great joy. I am excited for my classes more than anything else this year. I feel so blessed that I will be getting a quality education taught from an Orthodox Christian perspective. In addition to receiving a strong academic foundation, I hope HCHC will prepare my heart and mind to pursue my vocation in Christ: to answer Christ’s call to love.”

SOPHIA CHRISTINA PETROU, Cranston, RI
Classics major | Hellenic College class of 2019
ORIENTATION 2015

...bring me to Your holy hill...

Psalm 43:3
The 2015 St. Helen’s Pilgrimage was another remarkable success and educational experience in the life of our Holy Cross students. The Pilgrimage, under the leadership of Dr. Timothy Patitsas, Assistant Professor of Ethics, visited the Phanar and had a private audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Students stayed at the Theological School of Halki while in Constantinople. This year’s pilgrimage included a four-day visit to Rome, where students were accompanied by Rev. Dr. Philip Zymaris, Assistant Professor of Liturgics. Students spent three weeks in Thessaloniki, studying Greek and touring various religious, cultural, and historical sites. For the second year in a row, students also participated in a four-week intensive Modern Greek language program sponsored by College Year in Athens. The program was held on the beautiful island of Paros.

For many years I’ve desired to pursue a theological education, and with the support of my family, I have decided now is the time to attend Holy Cross. I am eager to begin my studies, and especially to learn how I can become an even better servant. I’m excited for the chance to study the Church Fathers, and learn more about the original works I’ve mostly encountered in English. I pray for God’s grace and guidance during my time in school and in navigating my calling.”

ANGELO MAGINAS, Irvine, CA
MDiv, Seminarian | Holy Cross class of 2018

We are pleased to share with you that a generous donor and board member of the OCN has decided to assist the students of our school in learning how to use media to enhance their ministry, whether as priests or as laity. A classroom has now been dedicated for this purpose with the donation and purchasing of eight 27-inch Apple iMac computers, as well as flat-screen televisions to assist in the production of video materials.

In addition, five work study positions have been created in the lab, which will not only give the students the hands-on training they need but also assist them financially as they continue to pay for their education. It is our hope that this laboratory will also lead to the beginning of for-credit classes in the area of communications for our students. The OCN and HCHC community extends its gratitude to the James and Joanne Mitchell Foundation for their generosity.

Make sure you drop by to see the lab in action! The lab will open on October 1.
CROSSROAD SUMMER INSTITUTE

CrossRoad 2015 completed two sessions, with 63 participants from 26 states. Orthodox Christian rising or graduating high school seniors came to the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross for ten days to “take the challenge” and their first steps toward servant leadership. They wrestled with their vocation by delving into Orthodox theology and Scripture with seminary, college, and university faculty members, and by stepping outside their comfort zones to encounter Christ in the face of their neighbor in team-building activities and service projects.

On the last full day of the June session, the CrossRoaders were welcomed into board of trustee member George Alex’s home on the South Shore for a day of fun and fellowship at the beach!

The CrossRoad program is selective and by application only. To date, more than 500 Orthodox Christian students have participated. For more information, please visit www.crossroadinstitute.org.

KALLINIKEION INSTITUTE

The Kallinikeion Institute at Hellenic College Holy Cross completed another year of intensive Modern Greek language summer instruction. This is the only program of its kind in the nation. The program is sponsored by the Kallinikeion Foundation and offers two courses in Modern Greek, one at the beginning (Beginning Modern Greek I) and one at the intermediate level (Intermediate Modern Greek I&II). Each course meets for an average of five hours per day, Monday through Friday, for four weeks, offering up to 102 hours of instruction in Modern Greek and six credits towards graduation. The Kallinikeion Institute also provides students with opportunities to explore Greek culture, music, and literature, through museum visits, traditional Greek music concerts, Greek poetry recitation, and other educational events.

A select few Kallinikeion Community Scholarships are available to U.S. college students to cover tuition and on-campus room and board. Credits earned at Hellenic College are eligible for transfer to other colleges and universities. For more information, please visit www.hchc.edu/academics/summer_courses.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

I am delighted to report that no fewer than three of our beloved undergraduate students have won this year’s distinguished PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation “most exceptional scholars award,” and have been inducted into the PanHellenic Honors Society. Each of them also received a $10,000 scholarship, which eliminates their need to take out student loans.

Congratulations to Alexandra, Theofanis, and Theophania!

ALEXANDRA DRECHSLER
Alexandra is studying Elementary Education and Religious Studies at Hellenic College Holy Cross. She graduated from high school cum laude scholar, AP Scholar of Distinction, and Indian Prairie Scholar. She was a four-year varsity letter winner in cross country and a chamber orchestra member. Alexandra loves Orthros, chant classes, and the beautiful Orthodox community at HCHC. In the future, she hopes to serve the Church as a missionary or teacher.

THEOFANIS RAUCH
Theofanis is majoring in Religious Studies at Hellenic College Holy Cross, and hopes to complete the seminary and be ordained an Orthodox priest. Theofanis is also a talented electric bass player who has performed with several musical groups. He has volunteered as a peer mentor for severely autistic children, and has maintained an almost perfect GPA throughout his high school and college career.

THEOPHANIA VAN SICKLE
Theophania is a sophomore at Hellenic College Holy Cross, pursuing a major in Religious Studies and a minor in Modern Greek. Theophania was a high school ambassador, member of the National Music Honors Society, Sunday school teacher, and four-time Project Mexico participant. In her free time, she enjoys studying Byzantine chant.
The Institutional Advancement team is hard at work planning for a very exciting year designed to expand philanthropy at all levels. The primary focus of the office is to foster the philanthropic gifts we need to attract and retain the best students to our campus so that we can educate and prepare them for Christ-centered service in the Church and society.

That’s why your generous financial contributions have been so appreciated and why we need your continued help as we endeavor to expand our donor base through the annual giving program, increase the amount of giving to the Presidential Scholarship program, foster gifts that enhance and endow academic programs, and improve our campus facilities.

We are especially grateful for our Parish Partners! These are parishes throughout our Archdiocese that have voluntarily chosen to help advance HCHC by (1) spreading awareness of its vital mission, (2) identifying prospective students, and (3) making an annual gift. This year, we will be expressing our gratitude to all of our contributing Parish Partners by sending them thank-you gifts of an outstanding book and a wonderful CD. In addition, we look forward to recognizing publicly all Parish Partners who make contributions by November 1, 2015, by listing their names and recognition levels in the December Orthodox Observer. Is your parish one of our 278 Parish Partners? If not, we invite you to become one and look forward to our partnership in the gospel (cf. Phil 1:5).

Last but not least, we are planning Presidential Engagement Gatherings around the country in which you can meet Fr. Christopher Metropulos, hear firsthand about the exciting developments at HCHC, and help advance our school and our Church. Please contact Stephanie Skedros at 617-850-1268 (email: sskedros@hchc.edu) so that we may help you plan a Presidential Engagement Gathering in your city or town.

It is with heartfelt regret that we announce the retirement of Rev. Peter Chamberas, Chaplain, and James Karloutsos, Chief Operations Officer, effective August 31, 2015.

Father Peter has served Hellenic College Holy Cross for more than a decade in a most profound and sacrificial way. His priestly demeanor, constant presence, liturgical offering, and confessional guidance have influenced a generation of men and women, most especially those who are engaged in priestly and ecclesial ministry.

An alumnus of Holy Cross and a former Boston Public Schools principal, Jim has selflessly and exceptionally served our community for 14 years. Jim has led efforts to maintain and upgrade buildings, grounds, and operational procedures. At the same time, Jim has succeeded in persuading a core of individual and organizational donors to fund these countless improvements generously. Jim’s untiring efforts and friendliness endeared him to all on the campus.

Our community of faith and learning continues to be a place where those who love the Lord come to serve those who will serve His people. We have been blessed by the presence, hard work, and contributions of both Fr. Peter and Jim. We pray that our Lord God will grant them long and healthy lives and all of His blessings in their retirement.
Howard Thomas is the Supervisor of HCHC’s Buildings and Grounds staff. He has been employed by Hellenic College Holy Cross for over a quarter of a century and serves as the driving force behind the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the school’s buildings and grounds. From last winter’s record snowfalls to the current frenzy of office reassignments, his leadership has consistently provided the HCHC community with quality service and quick turnaround, all delivered in a professional and courteous manner.

Away from the college, Howard spends much of his spare time with his wife Joy, daughters Kasey and Kori, and grandchildren Sean and Liam. Howard is also an avid hunter and fisherman.

We are grateful to have such a skilled colleague on our campus. Howard is truly an outstanding mentor for the Buildings and Grounds team and a very valuable member of the HCHC community.

Rev. Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Professor of Church History and Historical Theology, continues his academic and pastoral work in the area of ecumenical dialogue through his upcoming participation in the first International Orthodox Women’s Conference sponsored by the Coptic Orthodox Church. The conference will take place from September 11-13, 2015, at Heythrop Christian College, London, UK.

Fr. FitzGerald has been active in Orthodox-Oriental Orthodox discussions and has written extensively on this dialogue. To learn more, please consult the following work: Thomas FitzGerald and Emmanuel Gratsias, eds, Restoring the Unity in Faith: The Orthodox-Oriental Orthodox Theological Dialogue (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2007).

Fr. FitzGerald has been on the faculty at HCHC since 1978 and most recently served as Dean of Holy Cross.

The focal point of all we do at HCHC is the Holy Cross Chapel, built decades ago through the generous donations of GOYANs around the country. In visiting the chapel and praying in the Holy Altar, I noticed that we are in need of new items to adorn the altar and to assist in the serving of the various services - new candle stands, censers, and a new chalice set, just to name a few. In the place where the future priests of our Archdiocese and of other jurisdictions learn their vocation, we must provide them with every tool necessary. If you feel you would like to contribute to assist us in this sacred project, please contact my office directly at 617.850.1280.

**WISH LIST**

**HELENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS**

**JOIN US** on Saturday, September 26, 2015, for a Fall Open House! Get an exclusive look at our Orthodox Christian college and graduate school of theology, located just minutes from downtown Boston. Tour the campus, attend a mini-class, meet with faculty and staff, and have lunch with members of the Hellenic College Holy Cross community.

Register online at [www.hchc.edu/openhouse](http://www.hchc.edu/openhouse) or by phone at 617-850-1260.

**PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2015**
We are here to serve and not be served. We are about developing servant leaders who realize they are children of a King who loves them and cherishes their very being. Remember that, for us, “It’s all about the students.”

Our mission is biblically based. Our vision is divinely inspired, and the community is devoted to Christ.

We are about advancing Orthodox Christianity in America. Thank you for your support.

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