I was honored and humbled to have been formally installed as the twenty-first President of Hellenic College Holy Cross on Thursday, October 29. The celebration and well wishes exceeded all expectations. Thank you to Dr. Thomas Lelon, the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the staff who worked tirelessly and selflessly to make the event magnificent.

I offer below the text from my inaugural speech.

I further offer my sincere prayers for a Happy Thanksgiving to you, your families, friends, and loved ones. Likewise, I offer sincerest appreciation to all the veterans of the United States Armed Forces, and the brave men and women serving today, who protect and defend our freedom every day.

Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin
President

Nearly half a century ago, I pulled up to the Polemanakos Hall dormitory as an incoming freshman at Hellenic College. No one who had seen me on that day would have suspected that today I would stand before you as this school's new president. It was the 1970s. My hair was down to my shoulders. Naturally, I'd played in a rock band. We called ourselves “Motherly Luv” (OUCH!). Truly, no one could have foreseen this day. Certainly, I did not.

To all of you invested in our school, but in particular to our students, I would say: Hellenic College Holy Cross is a loving, Orthodox Christian community that will transform you, not only during your stay here on campus, but throughout your life, and perhaps lead you, as it did me, to places and positions you can't possibly imagine today.
The founders and builders of this sacred school endured a much more difficult journey than my own. They arrived in this country at the turn of the last century with nothing but the clothes on their backs. What they did possess, however, was an exemplary commitment and faith that enabled them to make the sacrifices necessary to establish the foundations of the future Church in this country. Hence, it is our obligation to honor their legacy by continuing to move this institution forward.

Remember: Hellenic College is the only fully accredited, Orthodox Christian college in the western hemisphere. Holy Cross is now the oldest and largest Orthodox theological school in the Americas. Together, they have had a profound influence upon the life of the Church. Over the decades, thousands of Orthodox Christians have graduated from our schools and have served, or are serving, in leadership positions throughout the world.

Truly, our schools are institutions dedicated to transformation. They take a flicker of faith, kindled by the Holy Spirit, and ignite it into a flame of passionate love for the Gospel of Christ, the Good News that the Messiah has come, that death is overthrown, and that mankind has the unique opportunity to participate and share in the Glory of God for all eternity.

At Hellenic College Holy Cross, we create the leaders who will guide our faithful to the realization of their fullest spiritual potential. Without this school, frankly, there is no hope, there is no future, for our Church in America.

Our mission is biblically based. Our vision is divinely inspired. Our community is devoted to Christ. All the pieces are in place to forge a powerful engine for the future growth of Orthodox Christianity in this country.

In three years we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Hellenic College and 78 years of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. How do we intend to
build on the foundations of those who worked so hard over the years to bring us to these milestones?

For starters, we are committed to expanding the army of spiritual leaders deployed from our campus. We are planning a 10% increase in our student body each of the next five years, extending our reach to all Orthodox Christian jurisdictions. Of course, an increase of students will require an enhanced infrastructure of our campus.

I am pleased to announce that Hellenic College Holy Cross has received the largest single gift in our school’s history, to construct a new, state-of-the-art student center – The George and Angelina Kostas Student Center – appropriately named for our generous benefactors. A new bookstore, online learning classroom, broadcast media facilities, and meditation space are planned.

To date, additional gifts toward this new project include that of the Pappas Family of Houston, Texas, committed to the building of the dining hall in the new facility – and that of Charles and Connie Cotros for a gift of $1.325M in honor of our immediate past President, Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou.

While we conduct geo-environmental tests in preparation for the construction of this exciting new facility, I am mindful that the success of our capital campaign efforts will ultimately determine how soon our students can benefit from this new center. We do not plan to begin until all of the funds for construction, as well as the endowment for the maintenance of the building, have been raised.

Finally, just last week we received a gift of $600,000 from the late Bishop John Kallos to create a new scholarship for a rising senior in the School of Theology.

All this in the last three months.

Also, we are currently involved in a feasibility study that will allow us to assess our buildings and create a master plan for the campus. We plan to host many new conferences that will help us fulfill our mission of becoming the true intellectual, educational, and spiritual center of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, and the world.

We are also dedicated to completing the iconography of our Holy Cross Chapel, to render it a jewel of Orthodox sacred art gracing our campus.

For our esteemed faculty, the backbone of our educational mission, we will be seeking greater resources and support, including an increase in the number of endowed chairs in both the College and the School of Theology.

Regarding our curricular offerings, we will be assessing the College’s current majors, as well as our graduate programs, in light of changing student demographics and career opportunities. We are looking to develop courses of study for a new generation of learners, and seek partnerships with other universities and seminaries, both here and abroad.

Continued on page 4

Truly, our schools are institutions dedicated to transformation. They take a flicker of faith, kindled by the Holy Spirit, and ignite it into a flame of passionate love for the Gospel of Christ, the Good News that the Messiah has come, that death is overthrown, and that mankind has the unique opportunity to participate and share in the Glory of God for all eternity.
We will revitalize Holy Cross Press, the Greek Orthodox Theological Review, and our Bookstore, with the goal of positioning them as a premier Orthodox publishing outlet in the world. This will allow us to offer more resources, not only to our faculty and students, but also to our alumni, and the faithful worldwide.

No consideration of 21st-century education in developing student potential would be complete without addressing the role of emerging technologies. By extending our reach into the virtual world, we will be able to invite visitors to take advantage online of all we have to offer physically on campus.

We have already begun the work of creating an online learning and continuing education component for the school. This effort has been encouraged, and now blessed, by the Eparchial Synod. Of particular importance will be the creation of a Continuing Education program for our clergy and training for our laity, who stand side by side with our clergy day in and day out in parishes across the country. We must adjust our teaching methodology to reflect the demands of parish life, today, and in the changing future.

These are bold and exciting plans for the future; projects and programs that will be among my top priorities as incoming president, and they will take time to develop. But I am well aware that the success of our plans cannot depend on human effort alone. There must also be inner work, an unwavering commitment and willingness to open oneself to the life of the Spirit. We may construct new buildings, but “unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Ps 127:1); for “no other foundation can be established and built on, than Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 3:11), because we “are living stones, being built up as a spiritual house for a spiritual priesthood... acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 2:5).

As we cultivate our inner spiritual essence, the outer physical means will naturally follow; and as we grow in our likeness to Christ, our truest goals and priorities will emerge with greater and increasing clarity.

My friends, I would argue there has never been a more important time to invest in the future of our school, and in the education of the future leaders of our faith.
The 21st century presents the next generation with unprecedented challenges that, unlike those faced by our school’s founders, are not primarily about building churches and facilities, but rather about kindling a faith in Christ within a culture that has lost its adherence to absolute truth, and instead embraces the relative.

Our purpose, therefore, is to prepare students –seminarians and collegians – who, as the priests, teachers, parents and lay leaders of tomorrow, will make available the treasures of Orthodox spirituality not only to future generations of the faithful, but also to those who have been alienated from formal, or religious institutional practices, and left bankrupt by the pervasive culture of relativism in which we live.

Once again, a most sincere, soulful thank you to all of you here today, as well as those of you watching online. You have not only honored me, you have honored the sacred work of this sacred school.

I especially want to thank the members of my immediate family, our relatives, the parishioners of my former parish of St. Demetrios in sunny Ft. Lauderdale... I will be thinking of you this February!

I ask for your prayers to help me accomplish this sacred task. I invite you to walk with me on the challenging, yet glorious, road ahead. Truly, there is no greater journey than the one we have begun today. We begin it together; let us join hands to insure we finish it together.

This is our home. This is our school. This is our Church—established by Jesus Christ our Lord and God.

Our bright future awaits. It begins today.

Thank you.
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

October 29, 2015
It is an honor to work at Hellenic College Holy Cross, and I’m thankful to Fr. Christopher, the Senior Staff, and the entire HCHC community for welcoming me into my new position and assisting in my transition.

I echo the words of Fr. Christopher in his address to the Board of Trustees in the fall 2015 semiannual meeting this past month: “The Time is Now.”

Never before has there been such promise and opportunity to advance the great potential of our school. To this end, the Senior Staff and HCHC community have been hard at work on short and long-term advance objectives.

First, following the feedback from a successful community town hall meeting in September, designs for a potential 38,000 sq. ft. student center were revised. These revisions include a 300+ seat student dining area, an expanded bookstore including a student-operated café, a pan-Orthodox online learning classroom, and one of the world’s most advanced Orthodox Christian multimedia/broadcast centers that will educate our students to advance the Gospel to all ends of the earth.

As a first step toward physical construction, successful geotechnical and geoenvironmental tests took place on our campus this month. The results of these tests will allow us to calculate costs more accurately and access further construction possibilities. With God’s blessing and the continued generous support of donors, it is our hope to break ground formally for the new student center in 2016.

Second, Holy Cross Bookstore has been reassessed as a vehicle for new events, products, and student services. This past month we were pleased to present a successful symposium on the life and veneration of St. Demetrios by Dr. James Skedros, Dean of Holy Cross.

As a second special event, Holy Cross Bookstore also sponsored a screening of the PBS documentary “A Path Appears” and a panel discussion on human trafficking in the United States. The panel included our own Dr. Timothy Patitsas, Sarah Durfey of Abolitionist Network, and the Sisters of All Saints Greek Orthodox Monastery.

A special thank you to Drs. Skedros and Patitsas for their after hours time and continued enrichment of our Orthodox faith.

Thank you also to Ephraim Eric Roberson, our new Holy Cross Bookstore Manager, and all of his student workers, for their continued outstanding work.

Third, the HCHC website has been repositioned for mobile devices. Viewers will now more clearly be able to browse HCHC content, including this newsletter, on their smartphones and tablets. A favicon has also been added, allowing viewers to add the site to their home screens for easy access.

Thank you to Jamil Samara, Maria Constantine, and the entire staff of the Department of Internet Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese for their work and continued support. Thank you as well to Melanie Pappas, Senior Designer and Webmaster, for her daily diligence of our site and social media.

Lastly, a new student Outdoor Sports and Recreation Club was formed in October. On October 18, I had the great pleasure to lead a group of nearly twenty students on a hike of Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire. Future hiking, rafting, skiing/snowboarding, and sporting events are being planned, all to augment the daily spiritual and academic enrichment of our campus environment. All are welcome to join and participate!

Thank you to Sebastian Mot and his dedicated Executive Committee for their organization and vision of this new campus organization, and all of our student leaders and clubs, putting into action Fr. Christopher’s slogan – “It’s all about the students!”

Working closely with Fr. Christopher and our Senior Management Team, I hope in the months ahead to announce new initiatives and operations efficiencies that will continue to advance the student experience and limitless faith-based potential of our school.

I welcome your comments and feedback, and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Remembering always the brave men and women who have served and are serving in the Armed Forces, and wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Kevin N. Kovalycsik
Chief of Staff
On October 23, the feast day of St. James, the brother of our Lord, the HCHC community gathered in the early evening at Holy Cross Chapel for a rare and remarkable service: the Liturgy of St. James. Seldom celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox, this service is of Apostolic origin, preserved in a form dating back to the fourth century. It took its shape in the Church of Jerusalem, later being adopted by other churches in the Middle East and the Syrian (Jacobite) Orthodox Church, where it is celebrated to this day.

The service was unusual from its first moments, which began outside the Chapel, with clergy then leading the faithful inside. Fr. Philip Zymaris, who served with Fr. Nicholas Belcher, Dean of Students, explained: “The way we celebrate it tonight retains some of the practices of early worship, such as the entrance of all the people with the clergy.” Inside the Chapel, all faced the middle of the nave, where the amvon (pulpit) was placed. There were many other striking departures from more familiar services, all illuminated by Fr. Zymaris for the rapt congregation. Holy Communion was, in the words of Fr. Zymaris, “distributed much the same way it would have been in most of the Eastern liturgical families until the ninth century...The laity communed exactly as the clergy do to this day, receiving the body in hand and the blood from the chalice.” The Liturgy ended as it began, with clergy and laity departing together, all moved by this shared sacred experience.

The Board members expressed feeling reinvigorated by the institution’s allocation of additional resources to enhance alumni relations and activities. Rev. Dr. James Katinas, Director of Institutional Advancement; Kevin Derrivan, CFO; Stephanie Skedros, Director of Annual Giving; Beth Anders, Database Manager; and Nicole Meaney, Development Associate, met with the Alumni Board to help facilitate collaboration leading to the attainment of strategic goals and plans. Improving the social network of HCHC alumni, engaging in career mentoring, increasing the number of alumni volunteers, and promoting HCHC Parish Partners are some of the identified goals. Chief among the immediate strategic goals is to expand and build the HCHC alumni database to encompass all alumni. Reaching this goal will ensure effective outreach to all alumni, beginning with preparations for class reunions taking place in May 2016. The 2006, 1991, and 1966 classes will be celebrating their 10th, 25th, and 50th reunions, respectively.

The Board enjoyed spending time on our beautiful campus and reminisced about their fondest memories as students. They enjoyed fellowship with current students at the annual Columbus Day football game and even challenged the students to a basketball game later that evening in the gymnasium. They graciously invited the entire HCHC community to an ice cream social, which was enjoyed by all!

If you are an HCHC alum, please update your contact information at alumni@hchc.edu.
On September 28th, the Community Engagement class visited the local Boston neighborhood of Jamaica Plain with Prof. Alice McIntyre and site coordinator Presvytera Chrysoula Kourkounti. The students were instructed to observe the daily activities of people within a community, take observational notes, and write a reflective essay in preparation for their service placements in local non-profit organizations. As Prof. McIntyre notes, the students “engaged in the community with the awareness that they were entering in shared spaces with others...they did it with an open mind, open heart, and a willingness to embrace the messiness and beauty of the human condition.”

On October 20, Hellenic College students attended the Job and Community Resource Fair hosted by Fenway Community Development Corporation at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston. The job fair gave students an opportunity to learn about entry-level employment opportunities in the Boston area.

On October 23, Prof. Kathleen Ryan spoke to first-year students and transfer students about how best to choose a major that fits their academic interests and goals in life. For more information about career services at Hellenic College, please contact Presvytera Chrysoula Kourkounti at ckourkounti@hchc.edu.

The third Boston Byzantine Music Festival highlights the influence of Byzantine music on modern and contemporary music in the East and West. On Friday, November 13, Holy Cross St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir joins the Boston Choral Ensemble in The Angel Cried: A Concert of Eastern Orthodox Sacred Music, a concert of works inspired by the rich chant tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Post-Byzantine ecclesiastical compositions by Petros the Peloponnesian will be performed alongside contemporary works by John Tavener, Arvo Pärt, and Ivan Moody.

On Saturday, November 14, Rebetoparea and acclaimed singer Gregory Maninakis will perform From Constantinople through Smyrna to Piraeus: A Night of Byzantine Chant and Rebetika Songs, featuring selections from all periods of the genre’s history. Holy Cross St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir will showcase the pre-history of rebetiko, which is intimately connected to the ecclesiastical music of medieval and post-medieval Constantinople.

Fr. Ivan Moody and Panayotis League will present this year’s lectures and workshop. For a full description of events, information about times and venues, and tickets, please visit www.BostonByzantineMusic.org. Sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture with the New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor.
Calling all high school juniors and seniors!

CrossRoad is a ten-day summer program for college-bound, Orthodox Christian students pausing at an important crossroad in life to reflect upon their ultimate aspirations and ambitions. Students will study with renowned professors, worship in Orthodox churches of the Boston area, and participate in fun activities and meaningful service projects.

For more information, please visit our website at www.crossroadinstitute.org. The new priority deadline is February 1, 2016.

ATTENTION HCHC PARENTS!

Hellenic College Holy Cross has just announced the establishment of a new program for parents of students. The Hellenic College Holy Cross Parent Partners are a group of committed volunteers who support HCHC by attending local and regional events, helping with admission efforts, strengthening communication between parents and HCHC, and supporting the Annual Fund.

Parents are invited to become active members of the HCHC community. Here are some ways you can help:

- **Spread** the great word about HCHC to friends, colleagues, and prospective students and their families.
- **Recruit** future students to HCHC from their local communities.
- **Welcome** new families to the HCHC community through welcome phone calls.
- **Attend** HCHC engagement events across the country.
- **Inform** HCHC of available internships and jobs at your company or a local business.
- **Show** your support of HCHC by making an annual gift to the Annual Fund.

All parents of current students are encouraged to join the Parent Partner group! Please forward your contact information and your student’s name to parents@hchc.edu. A member of the Office of Student Life will follow up with parents regarding upcoming HCHC news and Parent Partner events.
Admissions Open House

The second annual Admissions Open House for prospective students and their families took place Saturday, September 26. Participants enjoyed a full day of fact-finding and information-gathering about HCHC's academic, spiritual, and social offerings, as well as admission procedures and financial aid programs. Everyone had the opportunity to tour the campus, participate in classes, and meet current students, faculty, and staff. The turnout was tremendous and resulted in several new applications to both Hellenic College and Holy Cross.

Scouts Camp at HCHC

HCHC was the place to be for over one hundred Boy and Girl Scouts and their parents over Columbus Day weekend. From the Eastern Orthodox Commission on Scouting of NY and NJ, the Scouts pitched their tents on HCHC's soccer field and made it their home for two fun-filled days. The weekend was supervised by HCHC Student Ambassadors and included Orthodox Life Sessions, prayers with our community, and a variety of other activities. From the comments we overheard, we fully expect many of these Scouts to return to HCHC as future students!

Hamptons GOYA Visit

Fifteen students and chaperoning parents from the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church in Southampton, NY, participated in a retreat at HCHC October 9-10. The group walked the historic Freedom Trail, attended Liturgy in nearby Weston, and participated in Orthodox Life Sessions led by Holy Cross students Cassandra Garibaldi and Efstratios Magoulias.

West Coast Admissions

There is no rest for the weary in the HCHC Admissions Office! Not only do we invite visitors to our campus, often we personally visit potential students on their turf. Stephanie Couchell, Hellenic College graduate and new HCHC Enrollment Counselor, traveled to San Francisco, CA, to attend the Metropolis of San Francisco's GOYA Volleyball Tournament, attended by over 250 high school students. Stephanie conducted an information session about HCHC, providing potential students with key information about the school. Equipped with a suitcase full of catalogs and four years of firsthand experience, she's the perfect ambassador to provide information in person to interested students. Stephanie also visited students from the area who expressed interest in attending HCHC.

“With the recognition of God’s will, and the acceptance of it, I now find myself in one of the most comfortable environments I have ever been in. My experiences so far at HCHC have been nothing short of blessed. The faculty is wonderful in every facet, the students that I encounter on a daily basis are warm and receptive, and our new President, Father Chris, has been a positive presence on campus. I thank Jesus Christ every day for leading me here.”

NICHOLAS MATARAGAS, Chicago, IL
Master of Divinity, Seminarian program | Holy Cross class of 2019
The “New” Holy Cross Bookstore will be accepting **ONLINE PRE-ORDERS** for **NEW** merchandise beginning **Tuesday, November 10th** at www.holycrossbookstore.com.

Can’t decide? Holy Cross Bookstore Gift Certificates are available in any dollar amount and make the perfect holiday gift!

Check out our new line of athletic and casual wear by **Under Armour** and **American Apparel** made exclusively for Hellenic College Holy Cross!

Order these and other great **gift items in time for Holy Nativity**!

**Can’t decide?**

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**Don’t delay. Order today!**

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