It’s all about the students!

Dear Co-workers in the Vineyard of our Lord,

I arrived on campus June 1, 2015, to prepare myself to take the helm of our sacred school on July 1st. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my journey to date.

Since my arrival, I have immersed myself in the workings of the college, read presidential transition books, and spoken with countless individuals both face-to-face and on the telephone, all of whom were eager to share their thoughts about the school. One thing became very clear in every one of these conversations: people want to know more about our school. They want to know what is happening, and what we are doing to further this institution of higher learning. This first Presidential Newsletter is my attempt to do just that.

Utilizing a variety of media, I will personally issue these informative newsletters as we begin to roll out short-, mid-, and long-term goals and projects, aimed at fulfilling our strategic plan, whose objective is to most fully realize our vision and mission. I invite you to visit our website: www.hchc.edu, as well as our Facebook page. Informative videos can also be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/HCHCmedia.

New and EXCITING things are happening on this Holy Hill, and I want you to be an integral part of the evolutionary process.

We are here to serve, not to be served. We are about developing servant leaders, who realize that they are servants of a King, and even more importantly, children of a Father, who loves them and cherishes their very being, created in His own image and likeness.

Finally, I ask you to join me in both prayer and effort. You may call me at any time to discuss the daily life and future direction of the school. My direct telephone number is: 617-850-1281.

Remember that, for us, “It is all about the students.”

Joyful reading!

V. Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, D. Min.
President
The Interim (Fifth Year) Report for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is due in August 2016. The report is an opportunity to assess how we are doing as an institution of higher education in terms of the standards evaluated by NEASC. Gathering and analyzing data will be an important part of this process, and your collaboration is essential for guaranteeing its success. I have appointed a steering committee that will report directly to me.

Two external consultants will support us during the process. Dr. Ivan F. Pacheco, who has extensive experience in quality assurance for higher education, will serve as the Director of the Interim Report. Dr. Anthony Bashir, who has helped guide many of these processes since 2012, will serve as co-editor with Dr. Pacheco. Based on the work of the writing teams, Drs. Pacheco and Bashir will consolidate the final report and make sure that the document is written in a single and coherent voice.

The elaboration of this report is an opportunity for us to evaluate how we are doing and to identify opportunities for improvement. Even if you are not a part of any team, your support may be required at some point. Your collaboration and support for this process will be greatly appreciated.

Community Engagement
Many colleges unwittingly perpetuate social injustice by teaching students merely to serve the less fortunate. At HCHC, we teach them how to engage with others and learn from them as we work together to provide valuable services to the local community. Students are assigned to carefully chosen organizations in neighboring Jamaica Plain, which alone has more than 200 non-profit or community organizations. Such opportunities create living connections between academic and community life. We believe that such connections will help our students transform their future careers and occupations into vocations.

Healthcare Management
A new minor and/or concentration in Healthcare Management is being offered this year. This course will be taught by Nick Lord from Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, and courses in non-profit fundraising will be offered by Jen Lammers, a specialist on the topic. Students are eligible for internships at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital and at the VA Boston Healthcare System.

Expanded Career Services
We are working hard to make this one of our priorities and hope to partner with businesses around the United States and the world that are owned and operated by Orthodox Christians. We want our students to graduate with jobs or graduate school positions.

By way of example:

Last year, one of our graduates from the Business Program secured a position in Operations Management at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, and another graduate secured a six-month accelerated Management and Leadership Trainee Program position with BAYADA Home Health Care in New Jersey. One graduate of our Elementary Education Program started teaching in the Boston Public Schools as a substitute teacher, while another was appointed Youth Director of the Boston Metropolis.

Upon graduation, a student in our Human Development program was hired by a research clinic at Boston University. This year, another was accepted to Simmons College for a Master of Social Work degree, while another accepted a position at the Goddard House working with elderly patients suffering from dementia.

100% of our 2014 HCHC graduates are either gainfully employed, using skills learned here, or are continuing their education elsewhere.

Below are facts you can read more about in our annual report, which is to be mailed out at the end of August:

- Operational cost have averaged $11.0 million annually over the past 3 years.
- General and administrative expenses remain at 20% of total budget--well below comparable institutions.
- 100% of our students receive some form of scholarship or grant towards their cost of attendance, which has helped alleviate and, in some cases, eliminate, the extra burden of carrying federal student loans.
- 75% of our students underwrite their cost of education through alternative means, utilizing financial grants and scholarships.
- Our greatest annual supporters of the school are the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Leadership 100, and the National Ladies Philoptochos Society.
Summer Intensive Greek Course in Collaboration with College Year in Athens
The annual St. Helen’s Pilgrimage and Study Tour added a new component to its course of study during the summer of 2014. The summer travel program connects rising seniors in the School of Theology with their Orthodox and Hellenic roots through visits to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Mount Athos, religious and historic sites in northern Greece, and Modern Greek language instruction at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. During the summer of 2014, an additional four-week intensive language program was added to the three weeks of language instruction. The new four-week language program is offered by College Year in Athens (CYA), the premier independent study-abroad program in Greece. Students spent one week in Athens at the CYA campus and the remaining three weeks on the island of Paros studying Modern Greek. The 2014 program was so successful that it is part of the 2015 St. Helen’s Pilgrimage and Study Tour.

Class of 2014 Updates
Graduates of Holy Cross continue to contribute to the vitality and vibrancy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and other Orthodox jurisdictions and ministries in the United States and abroad. Of the thirty-seven students who graduated in May 2014, twenty-two were seminarians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Twelve of these twenty-two are either ordained or have submitted their names for ordination. Eight students are serving the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese as lay assistants in parishes or in other ministries associated with the Archdiocese or the Metropolises. Of the two female students who earned Master of Divinity degrees, one is currently serving as a pastoral assistant and the other pursuing doctoral studies in pastoral counseling. Five graduates of the Class of 2014 are pursuing further academic studies. One of those students has been accepted into a doctoral program at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. Of the five graduates of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, several are serving their Archdiocese as clergy or pastor assistants, while others are furthering their education.
We completely revamped the cafeteria space and contracted with Chartwells as an outside food service provider. The cafeteria is able to offer many more healthy options for students, as well as a full salad bar, deli bar, and pizza station. The newest student life survey (2015) showed marked improvement in student satisfaction with cafeteria services. In order to increase social space available to students, we instituted a “Late Night Café” in the fall of 2014. This allows students to use the cafeteria as an additional gathering place in the evenings. Pizza, sandwiches, and snacks are available.

We contracted with Longwood Security to enhance the safety of our students. We had a safety presentation by the Brookline Police Department (BPD) for the whole community, and recently conducted a live action drill with the faculty and staff. During this drill, the BPD responded to an active shooter.

We’ve also offered self-defense classes for female staff and students with the BPD. We added “campus climate” questions to our 2015 survey, and students reported a strong sense of safety and security.

We are preparing to welcome our new students in August for Orientation and look forward to seeing our returning students.

“Hellenic College is a community that brings together higher education and our Orthodox faith. Through this combination, scholars find an active and engaged student body, as well as faculty and spiritual leaders who are supportive and encouraging. The community at Hellenic College has become a second family to me and has already provided me with new opportunities, personal growth, and many memories!”

BAILIE HENRY, Owasso, OK
Management and Leadership major | Hellenic College class of 2018

Buildings and Grounds Departments
In addition to maintaining the beautiful campus grounds during the summer months, our Buildings and Grounds crew is busy preparing dormitory rooms and apartments for the arrival of new students. Each room/apartment is inspected, and a punch list is prepared for all that needs to be accomplished. This monumental task is seamlessly completed each year by our dedicated staff.

Improvements for Students
The students are always our primary focus. Accordingly, our priority over the last several years has been to provide new furniture for the rooms in the Polemanakos Dormitory. Thanks to the generosity of the National Philoptochos Society, each room has a new mattress, desk, chair, wardrobe, and chest of drawers, as well as new carpeting. In addition, their donations provided new air conditioning units in our classrooms and cafeteria. The National Philoptochos Society has been instrumental in dramatically improving living and learning conditions on campus for our students!

Cleaner Footprint
We recently replaced the oil boilers in the Administration Building with new natural gas units. This massive project was funded entirely by Mr. Thomas Demakes and Mr. George Behrakis.

Facilities Assessment Services
In response to the request of the Real Estate Committee, the Office of Operations is gathering proposals for facilities assessment services for HCHC. The RFP was sent to multiple firms, with July 20th as the deadline for proposal submissions.
There have been three significant accomplishments in the Information Technology area:

**Fiber Optics Network and Internet Connection**
The campus is now connected to the Internet via fiber optics connections that offer the bandwidth, speed, and stability required for modern higher education.

**Advanced Scanning, Printing, and eDocuments Solutions**
The school has implemented an advanced, multi-functional printer solution that makes scanning and online storage of papers, class materials, and other documents easily available. Our community was quick to adopt this solution, and our paper printing has been reduced significantly.

**Cloud-based Voice Over IP Telephone System**
The new converged communications solution takes advantage of the latest cloud technology, high definition voice over IP, video conferencing, and mobile platforms.

---

**ENROLLMENT**

HCHC hired Oscar J. Mayorga to conduct a complete review of its enrollment management structures, policies, and practices. The goal of this project was to determine how to increase the enrollment of HCHC. In order to achieve this goal, the review aimed to answer the following questions:

- Who are the students attending Hellenic College and Holy Cross?
- Why are students choosing (or not choosing) to attend Hellenic College and Holy Cross?
- What is the target population for each institution?
- What strategies, policies, and practices could be implemented to recruit and enroll students to the college to increase the total enrollment?

The Board will be reviewing the report, and a committee will be established to address this issue directly.

---

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

“*The loving community, rigorous academic standards, and opportunities for spiritual growth at HCHC provided a rich and formational college experience and prepared me for my future career, studies, and life in the church.*”

NIKOLETTA EVANGELATOS, Portsmouth, RI  
Human Development major | Hellenic College class of 2015
HCHC Finance Department New Projects:

**Endowment Tracking Software**
During FY 2015, HCHC began its subscription to FUNDIVER, a web-based endowment administration application that allows us to easily generate monthly status reports to the donors of the 250+ endowed funds the school maintains. The system is very intuitive and allows us to customize donor statements and management reports as required, while providing good stewardship for our donors.

**Endowment Scholarship Matching Software**
Using Zengine, a cloud-based database platform designed for non-technical staff, the HCHC Finance Department created a scholarship matching application for HCHC students. The system matches existing endowments to students by various criteria and allows the tracking of earmarked funds as well as actual amounts awarded.

**Campus-wide ID System**
Thanks to a very generous donation from the National Philoptochos Society, HCHC recently purchased a comprehensive magnetic photo ID card system from Heartland Campus Solutions, Inc. The cards will be issued to all members of the HCHC community and initially used to monitor and control the distribution of cafeteria meals. Over time, additional features that monitor access to campus buildings, campus services, and events will be integrated.

**Facts about Our Auditors**
Our auditors, AAFCPA (Alexander, Aronson, Finning & Co., P.C.), are hired to conduct an independent audit of Hellenic College. The auditors begin their audit by assessing risk factors in such areas as investments and contributions that have donor-imposed restrictions, whether temporary or restricted.

**Investments**
The auditors will tie out the cost basis, market value, earnings, and fees for the year. This includes any funds added to the investments and all withdrawals made with signed approval. They then reconcile the balances to our endowment funds and ensure that all the endowed funds are accounted for properly.

**Restricted Contributions (Temporarily or Permanently)**
Two types of restricted contributions are received: those that are "temporarily restricted" and are fully spendable for a certain purpose, and those that are "permanently endowed" and may be spent only from earnings based on our spending policy.

With donor-imposed restrictions, the auditors look at various contributions and match them to the donor letters/checks with stipulations. They may also send letters to certain donors to confirm their donations/contributions and the purpose of each contribution.

Additionally, they may test how we spend funds based on donor restrictions, (e.g., a donor who gives for scholarship funding may be selected by the auditors and reviewed to ensure that the scholarship was given to a person who matches the donor's specific criteria).

The auditors may also test how we calculate our spending policy and/or how the endowed funds are appropriated for the restricted purposes they serve. The spending policy is recommended by the Investment Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Overall, the auditors are thorough and thoughtful when auditing our investments and donor contributions.
The firm of Jerold Panas, Linzy & Partners is one of the nation's most highly regarded firms in the field of financial resource development. Since its founding in 1968, the firm has guided over 3,500 charitable institutions to fundraising success.

Our Board of Trustees authorized them to conduct a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of our development options, activities, and advancement programs in order for the Board of Trustees and Senior Management to chart a course for the future strength of the school. The report examined the following areas and produced an extensive report that will be shared in due time with the entire Board of Trustees for implementation.

**Priorities were to:**

- Determine the school's positioning and staffing for optimal fundraising in the future.
- Create more effective relationships between the school and many extraordinary constituencies.
- Encourage a significant increase in the role of the advancement program from our Board of Trustees.
- Enable the school to significantly increase annual fundraising revenues.
- Increase the effectiveness and production of major and planned gifts.
- Enhance the platform for a possible campaign program.

The report noted that, while significant improvements remain to be made in the overall operation of the school, a spirit of cooperation is evident among all staff. In essence, there is a passion for our mission and a unified spirit prevails.

Our mission is biblically based. Our vision is divinely inspired. The community is devoted to fulfilling its Christ-centered mission.

**“I love Hellenic College Holy Cross because it is the rock of Orthodox Christianity in the United States. I receive both the academic and spiritual knowledge I need so that one day, God willing, I will be able to be ordained a priest in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.”**

**DIMITRIOS KONSTANTINOU, Williamsburg, VA**
Religious Studies major | Hellenic College class of 2017

**CLOSING NOTE**

So now that you have read our first newsletter, please let me know what you think. I welcome your feedback. What information did you find helpful? What would you like to see, and know, more about?

Remember, GET INVOLVED! HCHC is the only school of its kind in the western hemisphere. For the sake of our faith and our families, let us work to ensure that it not only survives, but THRIVES!

Will you join me and give of your time, talent, and treasure to this sacred endeavor?

I know we must first gain your trust. You have my word that I will strive daily to make this happen.

In His Service,

**V. Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, D.Min.**
President
Of the 300 million Orthodox Christians in the world, it is estimated that around three million—one percent—reside within the United States. As an eparchy of the First Throne of Orthodoxy, the Mother Church in Constantinople, our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese has long insisted that its future leaders, whether lay or ordained, male or female, undertake a pilgrimage to Constantinople, Greece, and related sites in Western Europe or the Balkans, in order to locate their ministries within the global context of Orthodox Christian life.

The St. Helen’s Pilgrimage has evolved over twenty-five years of experimentation and improvement in order to offer a transformative overseas experience to the seminarians of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Part A of the Pilgrimage is five weeks, and includes one week as the guests of His All Holiness at the Phanar and on the island of Halki, three weeks of intensive Modern Greek language study in the New Testamental city of Thessaloniki, and a week of excursions to cultural and spiritual sites in places like Albania, France, or Italy. One weekend, the men journey to the Holy Mountain, and the women to one of the renowned convents in Northern Greece.

The highlight of these first five weeks is certainly our annual audience with His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew I. Every year His All Holiness sets aside time to receive the students officially, to listen to their reports on life at the School and in the United States, and to express his hopes and wishes for the progress of the Church in the Greek Archdiocese. Although His All Holiness is of course the spiritual leader of all Orthodox Christians, responsible for catalyzing the conciliar unity of the Church under Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, he so clearly cares for the spiritual growth and stability of each parish and person within his jurisdiction.

Part B of the Pilgrimage is organized by College Year in Athens, probably the single most respected and admired study abroad organization in Greece. It consists of four weeks of intensive Modern Greek Language study, with three cultural excursions per week. The first week of Part B is held in Athens, and the entire breadth of Greek and Orthodox history is touched upon, including visits to the New Acropolis Museum and the Greek Parliament. The final three weeks of Part B are spent on the island of Paros, where again there are four to six hours of Modern Greek study per day, and multiple cultural and spiritual excursions. This year students visited the oldest functioning Church in Greece, built by St. Helen upon her return from the Holy Land in the fourth century, the island of Aegina and St. Nektarios’ monastery, and the resting place of Elder Philotheos Zervakos.

The St. Helen’s Pilgrimage is an experience designed to complete what a student has learned and will learn at Holy Cross. It is demanding and tiring, but many participants feel that it forms an essential linchpin in their preparation for future ministry.
JOIN US FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE

V. Rev. CHRISTOPHER T. METROPULOS, D.Min.

AS PRESIDENT OF HCHC

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Everyone is welcome for this special event!

DETAILS TO COME