

**Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak, Director of Alumni and Recruitment**  
**Alumni E-News • January / February 2011**

Dear Friends,

Greetings from St. Vladimir's and your SVOTS Alumni Board. The beginning of the year has been a very busy one full of great blessings here on the SVOTS campus. Among those blessings, at least for all the children on campus, was the four or five major snowstorms of late December and early January. Those of you who remember the grand old tradition of sledding down the North Dorm hill on cafeteria trays will be happy to know that the tradition has returned!

**SCHMEMANN LECTURE WEEKEND AND ST. MATTHEW PASSION CONCERT**

At the beginning of February the seminary, with the support of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, and The St. Gregory the Theologian Charity Foundation, produced Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev's *St. Matthew Passion* concert. The concert was the largest and most successful off-site event St. Vladimir's has ever organized. Over 1,000 people attended the U.S. English-language premiere of the opus. Not only was it a fundraising success for the seminary, but it also provided a venue to present the work of the seminary to a new audience. Please find a full treatment complete with photos [here](#).

His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, a member of the seminary's Board of Trustees, also gave the annual Father Alexander Schmemmann Memorial Lecture on Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup>. The lecture, *The Meaning of 'Icon' in the Orthodox Church*, can be heard at Ancient Faith Radio (AFR) [here](#). We would like to thank John and Tonya Maddex at AFR for making this available to us.

On Sunday the entire seminary community traveled to the Church of St. Nicholas, of the Moscow Patriarchate, for the Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating were Metropolitan Jonah, Metropolitan Hilarion, Archbishop Justinian (MP), and Bishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh. This was the first time the seminary community has been invited to serve and sing responses at St. Nicholas. Please click [here](#) for a photo gallery from the Divine Liturgy.

**WOMEN'S DORM FUND—WEEKEND WORK EVENT AFTER CONFERENCE**

The St. Vladimir's Alumni Board had decided to take on the task of rehabbing the women's dormitory on campus. We hope to rehab seven rooms at a cost of \$700.00 per room. The desire of the Alumni Board is to have the funds raised by commencement this year so that it may be a tangible sign to the new graduates that the Alumni Association is engaged and active in the life of the seminary. In the next week you will receive a special mailing regarding this effort. We hope you will consider donating whatever you can to this most worthy project. You may even think about having your parish donate an entire room.

In conjunction with this project and the summer conference, *Women Disciples of the Lord* (June 17–19), the Alumni Association will have a two-day work project (June 19–20) to paint the women's dormitory. Please consider coming back to campus for what is shaping up to be a most excellent conference and to do a little work for our current and new students.

**SAVE THE DATE: CHICAGO SUMMER 2011 ALUMNI GATHERING**

The Alumni Association is currently in the process of planning an alumni gathering in Chicago during the last week of July. More information will be forthcoming in the next month.

### **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

This year we will have three members of the Alumni Board retiring their membership. Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, Matushka Alexandra Safchuk, and Fr. David Barr. In the late spring we will have elections as we have previously. We ask that you please submit your nominations for new board members to the association president, Fr. David Barr, by March 31, 2011: [frdavidbarr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frdavidbarr@sbcglobal.net).

### **LISTENING TO YOU**

Since beginning my tenure as the Director of Alumni Relations I have spoken to many of you asking how St. Vlad's can continue to support your particular work in and for the Church. In planning our summer programs we have taken into account your feedback and have tried to organize projects and programs that will fit your needs. To that end we are planning a two-day workshop titled *Internet Pornography and Chastity* to be lead by Dr. Albert Rossi, a workshop on Missiology and Evangelism focusing on outreach to African heritage and Spanish speaking cultures, and a conference titled "*Women Disciples of the Lord.*" We are hopeful that portions of these events will be offered on-line in real-time. To learn more and to register for these events please click [here](#).

### **THE SVS VINE**

By now you should have received your St. Vladimir's Seminary Annual Report, *The SVS Vine*. We hope that you enjoy receiving the annual mailing and that it helps keep you connected to our SVOTS community. *The SVS Vine* is just one more avenue for SVOTS to share its work with the world. We would like to send you a box of *The SVS Vine* for you to distribute amongst your parishioners and your fellow Orthodox clergy and laity in your area. If you would like to receive a box please send me an email at: [jmatusiak@svots.edu](mailto:jmatusiak@svots.edu).

### **VITAL SIGNS**

**Archdeacon Kirill Sokolov ('05) and his wife Sophia ('04)** are parents of a new daughter, Juliana Rose, who was born on Wednesday, January 19, weighing 8 lbs 2 oz and was 21 1/8 long. May God grant many years to all the members of the Sokolov family!

**Priest Aaron Warwick ('07)** and his wife Gwen are parents of a new daughter Simone Lucia, who was born on Wednesday, February 9. May God grant many years to all the members of the Warwick family!

Congratulations to **Deacon Jeff Wickes ('05)** who has recently received a Junior Fellowship in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C. for the 2011–12 Academic year. Please send your vital signs to [jmatusiak@svots.edu](mailto:jmatusiak@svots.edu).