



College of the Holy Cross Class of 2002

April 23, 2008

Hello Friends,

One of my cousins is in her junior year of high school which can only mean one thing - the college search is on. She's a bright kid. She takes all the AP Classes, three sport athlete, does all the extra curricular activities, great SAT scores, etc. She's visited Harvard, Brown, BC, PC, BU among others. I saw her couple weeks ago and asked how the college search was going. She liked all the campuses she had visited and liked what she heard, but nothing seemed to jump out at her that said, "This is where I want to go!"

So, being a HC alum I talked her ear off about Holy Cross for twenty minutes or so. I couldn't talk it up enough. I loved my time on the hill and I'd go back in a heart beat. But talk is talk. I told her she needed to visit the campus herself.

So she called me this past weekend to tell me about her visit. Sure enough - no lie - she had fallen in love. The campus was beautiful. She couldn't believe how nice everyone was on campus. During her campus tour several students had stopped along the way because they knew the tour guide and these students were so happy to offer up their take on HC. They answered all the questions from the tour group. They seemed so happy to be part of HC she said it was kind of like a scene from *The Stepford Wives*. She didn't know if it was real or if they were all "plants". I had to assure her that it was all real!

I think that Holy Cross students and alumni are from a different breed. You'd be hard pressed to find a student on campus that wasn't proud to be at HC. And when you're proud to be part of a community like Holy Cross, you want other future students to have that same pride. Same goes for HC alumni. I get excited when I see another car on the road with a Holy Cross sticker. All of this separates us

from other colleges. It helps explain why 53.2% of alumni gave back to the college last year. 53.2%!!!

In case you haven't heard, this year's fund year brings a new challenge. Most of us have heard of J.D. Power and Associates, but did you know that Dave Power is from the Holy Cross Class of '53? Mr. Power has put forth a participation challenge for the alumni of Holy Cross during this fund year. Let's call it a Holy Cross alumni satisfaction survey/challenge (kind of like a J.D. Power and Associates consumer satisfaction survey). If 55% of all alumni give to Holy Cross by June 30th, Mr. Power will contribute \$500,000 to the college to establish paid internships for Holy Cross students to get business experience in Worcester-area organizations. That's a pretty sweet deal if you ask me.

Typically in a post reunion year, like ours (don't you wish our 5th year reunion was *this* June?!?!?), alumni participation in the fund drops off. Tom, Lauren and I want to turn that trend around!!! I'm not asking you to empty your wallet, I'm asking for a buck. Because if our class does our part we're one step closer as a college to achieving Mr. Power's challenge and getting that \$500,000. So do me a favor, click on this link and donate a buck today:

<http://holycross.edu/alumni/support/gift.html>

Did you know that HC tuition this year including room and board is over \$45,000?!? That's over \$10,000 more than when *we* were freshman. To put this \$45,000 into perspective, my buddy Brian's son just turned one a couple weeks ago. He wanted to start a college fund for his son so he met with his financial planner. His financial planner asked him to pick a college so that they could estimate what college tuition would be when it was time for his son to go to college. Now don't hate, but Brian is a BC alum so he told his financial planner to base it on BC's tuition. Boston College and Holy Cross have similar tuition rates. When Brian's son is 18 the tuition at BC is estimated at \$92,000/year. \$92,000!!! If tuition is going to be \$92,000 that can only mean one thing - the cost of running a college is going to rise dramatically. That's where you come into play! Your donations help future HC students!

Alright, enough number crunching. It's time to fill you in on what our class has been up to.

I was reading over the class letters from the last year and it looks like I never shared my news and what's going on in my life. That's pretty bad being a class chair and all. Well, I got engaged in March 2007 while I was on vacation in Ireland with my now fiancée, Andrea Richard. There's a picture of us at the Cliffs of Moher in the emailed version of the letter. It was our first day in Ireland and the weather was beautiful, it had to be 60 degrees and sunny - uncommon in Ireland in March. We're getting married this August 16th in Weymouth, MA at the same church my parents were married in. My good friend **Mike Pagniucci** is in the wedding and hopefully I can convince him to write the next class letter!

In other wedding news:

On December 23, 2007, **Michael Ballway** and **Karen O'Sullivan** were married at HC. The reception was held at Union Station. Mike works as the editor of the Times and Courier - a weekly newspaper in Clinton. Karen now works at Auburn High School teaching chemistry and general science. They reside in the three-family home they bought in Worcester.

Kristen Vassallo married O'Rey Warren on April 19, 2008 in Rye, New York. The couple then headed off to Florida for their honeymoon. Several Crusaders were in attendance at the wedding: **Mike & Karen (O'Sullivan) Ballway, Tom Cadigan, Jim Conley, Phil Dardeno, Tim O'Coin, Denine Pagano, Donna Pagano, Melissa Pierre, and Caitlin Ryan.**

Taylor Connolly and **James Groom** will be married on May 24, 2008 at the Skaneateles Country Club in Skaneateles, New York.

Sara Lajoie and **Joseph Tomasello** will be getting married in New York on May 23, 2009. Other Holy Cross alums in the wedding party include **Lauren Buonome, Taylor Connolly, Lauren Conway, Alexandra Liolin, Karen Cesary, Brendan Mooney, Bryan Gallagher, Sean Colvin '03, and James Colvin '04.**

Gina King married Bryan Nelson on June 23, 2007, at the Red Lion Inn in Cohasset. The couple live in Minneapolis, where Bryan is the regional sales director for Columbia Management, the assets management division of Bank of America. Gina is a communication consultant for United Health Group

Donny & Maggie (Coghlan) Regan, along with big brother Ciaran Jameson, welcomed Colin Seamus to their family on February 27. Donny is still working in sales at Goldman Sachs, and Maggie is a stay-at-home mom. Check out the picture of the Regan family in the emailed version of this letter!

Luis Soto was recently featured in "Worcester Magazine." Luis is a judo instructor and owner of the Worcester Martial Arts Academy (www.worcesterjudo.com), as well as an instructor and performer with the Salsa Storm dance studio. To read the magazine feature, just visit the Web site: www.worcestermagazine.com/content/view/2506/

Tim O'Coin is working as a producer for WPRI/Channel 12 News in Providence, RI. Tim produces the Monday-Friday morning newscasts. He recently moved to Providence, and is desperately trying to track down the Griffin family from "The Family Guy."

Carolina Argiz is the founder and owner of ZeroStress, a personal concierge service in the Miami, Florida-area. Hailed as the "super-hero to the super-busy," check out Caro's Web site at: www.zerostress.us.

Rebecca Smith recently won the lightweight single event at the U.S. Rowing National Selection Regatta in NJ. Here's a short update (from the HC Web site): <http://goholycross.cstv.com/sports/w-rowing/spec-rel/040908aaa.html>

Mike Rogers, S.J., finished his MA (Research) in philosophy and has begun teaching at Boston College High School.

On their one-year wedding anniversary, **Meaghan Messner** and her husband, Larry, ventured to Siem Reap, Cambodia, for a year of volunteering. Larry, a pediatric nephrologist, is volunteering at the Angkor Hospital for Children. Meaghan is doing community development work for an NGO, which also allows her to complete her Master's degree in International Public Service and Development. If any classmates find themselves in Cambodia, Meaghan and Larry have an extra bedroom in their home. To read about their work, Meaghan writes on meagsindevelopment.blogspot.com.

Patrick Emmerling earned his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo in December 2007. He is currently enrolled at the William E. Simon Graduate

School of Business at the University of Rochester where he is working towards his MBA. Patrick plans to work in the pharmaceutical industry after graduation in June of 2009. Also, Patrick and Annie Delegianis '03 will be married on July 6, 2008 in Garden City, NY.

Naomi (McMicken) Miller and her husband Michael , welcomed their second addition to the family on December 10th, 2007. Samantha Joan Miller was born at 11:02 pm weighing in at a hefty 8 lbs 6 oz. Naomi is currently living in Indianapolis working at Eli Lilly as an analytical chemist. She and her husband bought a house last year and are settling in and getting to know the neighborhood. **Rachel Adams** went out to visit Naomi last year and caught up on all the HC news.

Paul Lange was named coordinator of the Pittsfield Prevention Partnership, a coalition of human service providers, law enforcement, educators and citizens focused on youth substance abuse prevention. He has worked in the social services field for five years, most recently as a behavioral case manager for Berkshire Meadows, a residential school for developmentally disabled children.

That's all the green slips for this go around. Don't forget to send in *your* news because we love to hear from you! I'm sure I'll see some of you around Fenway this season!

Enjoy the spring!

Sincerely,

Pete McLean '02
Class Co-Chair