

AFGLC'S Proposal:
HELLENIC STUDIES
at
St. Petersburg College--Tarpon Springs Campus

The *American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture* (AFGLC) proposes to establish a program for teaching Modern Greek Language and Culture at yet another institution of higher learning.

AFGLC was founded in 1992 by a group of professional Hellenes who were concerned that our younger generations would be deprived of Hellenic ideas and thought that provided a “road map” of sorts to most fields of knowledge we possess today. The not-for-profit Foundation has its headquarters in Tampa, Florida and its primary goal is to establish chapters in cities throughout the United States which, in turn, work with benefactors and local colleges and universities to establish *Interdisciplinary Centers for Hellenic Studies*. These Centers, through their unique academic programs, preserve and promote Hellenism by educating American college students about the seminal contributions of Greece to Western civilization. Currently, there are chapters located in Tampa, New Jersey, New York, St. Louis, Athens, and Bogotá; and Centers at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, Richard Stockton College, New Jersey, and Stony Brook University, New York.

Today, AFGLC has an opportunity to establish an academic program on the Tarpon Springs campus of St. Petersburg College, Florida. The Administration of the College has been very receptive to setting up courses similar to those offered at other Centers. However, in order to make *Hellenic Studies* a reality, an endowment fund must be created and dedicated solely to defray part of the expenses related to this program. Only the interest generated by the fund will be used annually which--together with student tuition--will sustain each course. We are seeking to raise a total of \$180,000 to support this effort, or \$60,000 for each of three courses. It should be noted that the benefactor who contributes the amount required to fund a course will get to name the professorship of that course, regardless of who teaches it in the future: i.e., the *Pappas Professor* of Greek Culture or the *Smith Professor* of Greek Philosophy. The benefactor may be a person, a family, or an organization. In the event of several small donors, the one with at least ½ the fund required will have the honor of naming the professorship. Since the principal of the donation will never be touched, the donor's name will be identified with the course in perpetuity.

Please, help us with any donations you are able to make for this noble cause. Ms. Alexandra Lazides of Hudson, Florida has already stepped forward with a \$10,000 donation. While substantive amounts are highly desirable, any amount donated will be deeply appreciated, for it will signal that you also wish to keep the Hellenic spirit alive. By participating in the effort to establish this program, you will become instrumental in passing the torch of our Hellenic patrimony to present and future generations. When the program becomes a reality, it will be a day of immense pride and joy, worthy of celebration!

Please, make your checks payable to “AFGLC” and mail to:

AFGLC, Inc., 10413 Butia Place, Tampa, FL 33618-4117

For additional information, feel free to write to bpalls@afglc.org or call 727-449-9189.

To learn more about AFGLC, please go to our website at: www.afglc.org. Thank you!

Ulysses J. Balis, M.D.
President, AFGLC

Byron Palls, PhD
Immediate Past President, AFGLC

The Partnership and Vision with St. Petersburg College--Tarpon Springs Campus

For fourteen years, the AFGLC partnered with the University of South Florida to host its annual conference in the Tampa Bay area. Then, in 2009, Dr. John Balis envisioned a even stronger connection with the Greek community in Pinellas County in general, and Tarpon Springs in particular. This expanded connection would be based on a partnership between the AFGLC, the *Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies* (ICHS) at USF-Tampa, the Tarpon Springs Campus of SPC, and the citizens and students in Tarpon Springs and surrounding areas.

Dr. Balis' vision resulted in the 15th Annual Conference/Forum in 2010, being shared between USF and the Tarpon Springs Campus of St. Petersburg College, with USF hosting the Friday sessions and Tarpon Springs hosting the Saturday sessions. The program at Tarpon Springs that year was a dramatic success, drawing students, faculty, international scholars, and community members and leaders. The format of a shared program was repeated in 2011, under Dr. Byron P. Palls, and the Tarpon Springs campus attracted even greater participation and generated more excitement.

To further develop the relationship with the AFGLC and with the immediate community, at the request of the AFGLC President, following in the footsteps of Dr. Balis, the Tarpon Springs Campus of St. Petersburg College initiated a pilot *Hellenic Studies* program in our curriculum, based on the AFGLC's *Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies* model. There are four courses in the initial offering:

Ancient Greek Mythology	A long-standing offering
Introduction to Greek Philosophy	Spring, 2012
Introduction to Greek Culture	Spring, 2012
Modern Greek Language	Fall, 2012

We have established a liaison with University of South Florida's ICHS Program to build course reciprocation between the programs, so that a student taking the above courses at SPC can have them transferred into certain programs at USF.

St. Petersburg College's leadership, and the academic and campus leadership of Tarpon Springs Campus, are excited about the program's potential and fully committed to the growth and expansion of these course offerings. We view the pilot as the beginning of a unique cultural and academic center at Tarpon Springs Campus, a new Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies.

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