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## *IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE*

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### **AFGLC EDUCATIONAL FORUM AT USF ADDRESSES HELLENIC PAIDEIA AND CHALLENGES TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

Tampa, Florida

The Forum Chair of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture, Professor John U. Balis, is pleased to announce the AFGLC Annual Educational Forum to be held March 2-4, 2006 on the campus of the University of South Florida in Tampa. The central theme this year will be “**Hellenic Paideia: Challenges to Higher Education.**” As in 2005, the sponsors of this year Forum are **George and Margo Behrakis** of Boston. The Forum is free of charge and the public is invited to attend.

The Opening Ceremonies of the Forum will take place on Thursday evening of March 2 at the MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry). It will involve, as a reflection of their educational partnership, the active participation of Provost & Vice President Renu Khator from USF, President of MOSI Wit Ostrenco, the Honorable Andreas Psycharis, Consulate General of the Hellenic Republic, and the AFGLC President, Chris P. Tsokos, Distinguished University Professor at USF.

After the Opening Ceremonies, **Dr. J. Peter Euben**, will deliver the keynote address "Hellenic Paideia: Socrates in the Streets". Dr. Euben is Professor of Political Science and Classics, Duke University, and Kenan Distinguished Fellow in Ethics. He is the author of numerous books and articles on ancient and modern democracy, and his areas of specialization include ancient and modern political thought, literature and politics, political education, democratic culture and the politics of morality. His talk will be followed by the Grand Opening of an incredible documentary: GREECE: SECRETS OF THE PAST.

#### **FEATURED SPEAKERS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY INCLUDE:**

**Dr. Barry Strauss**, Professor of History and Classics, Cornell University. He is the author of numerous articles and books on ancient Greek military history, including "*War and Democracy: a Comparative Study of the Korean War and Peloponnesian War*"; and "*Salamis: The Naval battle That Saved Ancient Greece - and the Western Civilization*". The latter topic will be the subject of his talk.

**Dr. Christos Evangeliou**, Professor of Greek philosophy at Towson University. He is the Author of *Aristotle's Categories and Porphyry*, among other works. Dr. Evangeliou is a graduate of the University of Athens and Emory University. He will speak on "The Fall of Constantinople and the Rise of Renaissance. The case of the Platonic Philosopher Pletho".

**Dr. Vigen Guroian**, Professor of Theology and Ethics at Loyola College in Baltimore. He is the author of ten books and numerous articles on a range of subjects including Orthodox theology, liturgy and ethics, marriage and family, children's literature, ecology, genocide and medical ethics. Several of his books have received national press and media attention including *Inheriting Paradise: Meditations on Gardening* (1999), " and *Rallying the Really Human Things: The Moral Imagination in Politics, Literature, and Everyday Life* (2005). He will speak on "Paideia, Christianity and the Meaning of Culture".

**Dr. Takis Poulakos**, Associate Professor in the Rhetoric Department of the University of Iowa, teaches both undergraduate and graduate rhetoric courses. He has served as President of the American Society for the History of Rhetoric, and has received numerous grants and awards for his scholarship on classical rhetoric and the history of rhetoric. His publications includes two books, *Speaking for the Polis: Isocrates' Rhetorical Education and Greek Classical Rhetorical Theory*"; one edited volume, *Rethinking the History of Rhetoric*; and two co-edited volumes *The Philosophy of Communication*, and *Isocrates and Civil Education*. He will speak on "Hellenic Paideia: The Relevance to Modern Citizenship".

**Dr. James F Strange**, Distinguished University Professor USF. Beginning in summer of 1982, he has initiated and directed major archaeological excavations at the once great city of Sepphoris (Eirenopolis), which was rebuilt by the king Herod Antipas and made it his capital following the death of his father, Herod the Great, at about 4 B.C. He will speak on "Hellenic Artifacts in Eirenopolis, 'City of Peace', Near the Birthplace of Christ".

Both Friday and Saturday sessions address a total of six subtopics of the central theme:

THEME 1: "Hellenic Paideia: Modern Uses for Ancient Wisdom" involves a panel discussion format and is moderated by Prof. J. Peter Euben. Panel participants of Theme 1 include the following speakers:

**Ms. Marilyn Rouvelas**, author of the best-selling *Guide to Greek Customs and Traditions in America*. She is a graduate of American University, a former public television researcher, prominent Orthodox layperson, and philanthropist.

**Dr. Peter Yiannos**, President of AFGLC Tri-State Center, is a dynamic leader of AFGLC, and a philanthropist, who during the past several years has made important contributions for the establishment of the ICHS (Interdisciplinary Center of Hellenic Studies) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

**Dr. Aristotle Michopoulos**, is Professor, Director of Greek Studies Program and former Dean at Hellenic College in Brookline, MA. He is the author of a number of books and numerous articles, published in professional journals, in both Greek and English.

THEME 2: "Hellenic Milestones and their Modern Relevance" is moderated by **Prof. Aristotle Michopoulos** and includes the talks by Profs. **Barry Strauss** and **Christos C. Evangeliou**, followed by General Discussion.

THEME 3: "Education for Virtue: The concept of Citizenship" is moderated by **Reverend Dr. Stanley Harakas**, Dean Emeritus and Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Orthodox Theology, Hellenic College. It includes the two talks by Profs. **Vigen Guroian** and **Takis Poulakos** followed by a panel discussion, in which Prof. **John H Erickson**, together with the above speakers, also participates. Dr. Erickson, a graduate of Harvard College, Yale, and St. Vladimir's Seminary, is a Peter Gramowics Professor of Theology and Church History and Dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary, and the author of innumerable articles and books.

THEME 4: "Professional Activism in the Postmodern Electronic Era for the Promotion of the AFGLC Mission" is a panel discussion moderated by **Prof. Ulysses J. Balis**, Director of Pathology Informatics at MGH, Harvard University. Panel participants include **Dr. George Carayannopoulos**, Founder of the AFGLC Dallas Center, and now President of the recently established AFGLC Center in New York; **Ms. Kalliope Halkias**, President of the AFGLC Tampa Center; and **Dr. Christina Balis**, a graduate from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and the co-editor of "Visions of America and Europe", 2004.

THEME 5: "AFGLC Educational Plan and its Support" is a panel discussion moderated by **Dr. John U. Balis**, Emeritus Professor, USF, Forum Chair and Executive VP of the IFGLC/AFGLC. Panel discussants include **Mr. Emmanuel J. Elliott**, President and CEO, Gencor Industries Inc.; **Mr. Emmanuel Rouvelas, Esq.**, Chairman, Priston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds LLP; and the President of IFGLC/AFGLC **Dr. Chris P. Tsokos**, Distinguished University Professor at USF.

THEME 6: "The Mission of AFGLC and the Media" is the last but not least panel discussion theme of Forum 2006. It is moderated by **Dr. Chris Tsokos**, and includes as panel participants **Mr. Stephen Glain**, Contributing Editor of Newsweek International, and author of "Mullahs, Merchants and Militants: The Economic Collapse of the Arab World"; **Mr. Pavlos Kotrotsios**, a Journalist and Publisher of Hellenic News of America, Philadelphia; **Mr. Nick Larigakis**, Executive Director, American Hellenic Institute, Washington, D.C., and **Professor Michael T. Gibbons**, Department of Government and International Affairs, USF.

Additional distinguished guests during the Forum will include **Dr. Renu Khator**, Provost and Vice President of USF; **Dr. John Skvoretz**, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, USF; **Dr. Herman Saatkamp**, President of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

As in previous years, the Forum concludes with a black-tie gala dinner-dance, to be held on Saturday evening at the new Renaissance Tampa Hotel, at which recognition will be paid to those who have served the cause of Hellenism and the mission of AFGLC in a signal way. For additional information about the free Forum, call (813) 962-0708.