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Newsletter

Winter, 2009

Μοῖσα μοι
ἀ(μ)φι Σκάμανδρον
εὐρων ἀρχωμαι
ἀεί(ν)θεν

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. John Balis, *President, AFGLC/IFGLC*



Dear Members and Friends of AFGLC/IFGLC,

As you all know the primary concern of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture is to promote the creation and maintenance of Chapters that work as support structures, in synergy with selected Colleges and Universities, for the contractual establishment in these institutions of Interdisciplinary Centers for Hellenic Studies (ICHS). The ICHS educational model is based largely on the diachronic Hellenic experience, whereby the linkage of Reason and Faith spearheaded the miracle of the American Democracy.

During the past six months, the AFGLC Family, with the assistance of its established Chapters in both the United States and Greece, has continued to make steady progress in advancing the mission of the Foundation. Significant accomplishments are presented in various sections of this Newsletter. Some highlights include the following:

A. Creation of an AFGLC Chapter in the State of New York in Partnership with the Stony Brook University for the establishment of an ICHS at this institution. The above partnership was celebrated at Stony Brook on October 11, 2009 at a very successful cultural event for which I had the privilege of participating actively. This is an important achievement; the arduous fund-raising efforts for establishing an ICHS at Stony Brook University are now well under way and we hope to report more good news to you concerning this effort in the near future. Kudos to the first President, Dr. Stella Tsirka, and to the Administrative Committee of the New York Chapter. The AFGLC Family is proud of them and will enthusiastically support their valiant efforts.

B. Organization of the forthcoming 15th AFGLC- ICHS Forum and Conference (February 19-20, 2010). I wish first to salute Mr. George D. Behrakis, Honorary President of AFGLC/IFGLC, and his wife Margo, both great philanthropists, who have sponsored our Annual Educational Forum/Conference for the last 4 years. The forthcoming educational event is an ambitious undertaking, inspired by Costas Stefanakos; and it is organized with great care in collaboration with the AFGLC Tampa Bay Chapter (*Kudos to Kalliope Halkias, Ourania Stephanides, Alex Stubos, Costas Stefanakos*); evolving partnership with the St. Petersburg College, Tarpon Springs Campus (*Kudos to Provost Dr. Conferlete Carney and his dynamic Executive Committee*); active participation of USF ICHS (*Dr. James Strange and Dr. Joanne Waugh*); as well as the Tri-state Chapter (*Dr. Peter Yiannos*) and corresponding ICHS at RSCNJ (*Dr. Tom Papademetriou*). Four senior members of the recently reorganized IFGLC Athens Center Executive Committee will all (Cont'd on p. 2)

A Message from the President (Cont'd from p. 1)

make presentations at the February Conference. These include *Dr. Manolis Bechrakis, Dr. Emanuel Microgianakis, Dr. Christiforos Haralabakis, and Dr. Athanasios Papadopoulos*. They are all Professors from several prestigious Greek Universities; their participations should promote lines of communication and interaction with Greece.

C. Sharing and Communicating Dreams, Aspirations and Plans with and for the AFGLC Family. We have now the ability to do so via the AFGLC Newsletter (*kudos to Dr. Byron Palls!*); and the AFGLC website (*kudos to Dr. Ulysses Balis*). Moreover, as we continue to evolve and grow as an organization, we expect that these critically important communication vehicles will grow in both the depth and breadth of ways in which we make use of them. It is for this reason that presently, we are actively developing our third generation foundation website, in anticipation of both the

upcoming 2010 Forum and also, the expanded reporting and content dissemination expected to come with the addition of new ICHS chapters.

In closing, the recent level of activity and momentum at the foundation provides for me greatly enhanced confidence that our efforts are more than ever resulting in fruitful outcomes. It is my firm belief that we are building a Foundation that will stand the test of time, bringing value and enlightenment to our Universities, our nation and its citizens and indeed, the world at large. But to be very clear, our work is not done – it is just beginning.

Respectfully,



John U. Balis, MD
Cell: (813) 205-4501
johnubalis@gmail.com



**A NEW AFGLC CHAPTER IS BORN: Εύγε!
Dr. Byron P. Palls**



Dr. Balis congratulates Dr. Stella Tsirka following the official creation of the AFGLC chapter in New York. Dr. Tsirka, a professor of Pharmacology at Stony Brook University, is the first chapter President.



Members of the Community, faculty, and students of Stony Brook pose for a photograph to record their presence at the official creation of the NY Chapter.

A new chapter of AFGLC was created officially in New York on October 11, 2009; its goal is to establish an Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies at Stony Brook University. The President of the newly formed Chapter is Dr. Stella Tsirka, a professor of Pharmacology in Stony Brook's College of Medicine. A seminal donation of \$100,000 by Mr. Peter Tsantes, the chapter's first great benefactor, provided the needed impetus to reach the important decision of forming the chapter. AFGLC/IFGLC President Dr. John Balis was present during the inaugural ceremony that was attended by an estimated one hundred eighty persons. Representatives of the administration of Stony Brook University, the community, the faculty of the University, and many students were on hand to rejoice at what promises to be a great AFGLC chapter, eager to take on the difficult task of establishing an ICHS on the Stony Brook campus to keep the Hellenic spirit alive! Indeed, movement in that direction has already begun. Angeliki Contis has written a fine article on the occasion of the inaugural ceremonies to establish the NY Chapter (*National Herald*, October 23, 2009).

We welcome the New York Chapter in our midst and wish its members a most successful journey!



THE NEW YORK CHAPTER REPORT

Dr. Stella Tsirka, President



We are very happy to announce the establishment of the New York Chapter of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC/NY). Following the ideas and aims of the parent organization, we try to promote, support and establish a Center for Hellenic studies at Stony Brook University. We envision the creation of the Center in association with the endowment of a chair for Hellenic studies that will encourage the study of history, language and culture of Hellenes.

The AFGLC/NY is administered by a committee of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers as follows:

Dr. Stella Tsirka, President
 Dr. Vassilis Danginis, Vice-President
 Mr. Peter Tsantes, Treasurer
 Mrs. Maria Syrigos- Kanakoudas, Secretary
Advisory Board: Ms. Kay Gemelas, Mrs. Betty Turner, Ms. Eleni Gonatas, Ms Martha Danginis, Dr. Basil Rigas, Mr. Michael Nicodemou, Ms. Jane MacArthur.

We started our efforts a bit more than a year ago with encouragement by the late Dr. D. Halkias, then member of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC). We got together and discussed how such a Center for Hellenic Studies was a critical and almost overdue responsibility, given the extensive Greek and Cypriot population in our communities on Long Island, NY. With advice and guidance from Dr. John Balis and Dr. Peter Yiannos of the AFGLC (we thank them very much for this, as we would not even know where to start), we formed the NY chapter of this parent organization and abided by the goals and aspirations of AFGLC and are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Greek culture and language in the curriculum of institutions of higher learning in the Americas. In a more focused way, we are promoting such preservation and enhancement of the Hellenic way here at SBU. We tried to reach out to our neighboring communities and were met with great enthusiasm and hope that this effort will succeed.

The University itself, Stony Brook University (SBU), is encouraged by the interest and enthusiasm of the community at large and has started the process to bring its many courses in subjects relevant to the Hellenic Studies together to declare a minor. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Nancy Squires, and Dr. Nicholas Rzhnevsky, Chair of the



Left to right (front): Mr. Michael Nicodemou, Dr. Balis, AFGLC/IFGLC President, Mr. Peter Tsantes, Treasurer, Mr. Vassilis Danginis, Vice-President, and Dr. Tsirka; (rear): Ms. Kalliope Gemelas, Ms. Berry Turner, Ms. Jane MacArthur.

Dept. of European Languages, Literatures, & Cultures have been instrumental in helping us establish a Hellenic minor at the University, and set the stage for eventually creating a major in Hellenic studies at SBU. With the financial support by Mr. Peter Tsantes and the invaluable support of Professor Godfrey we helped re-establish a course of Ancient Greek for academic year 2009-2010. With help from everybody, we will be on our way for success.

To kick off our efforts we had a first cultural and fundraising event at SBU on October 11th. The event featured a musical performance by Grigoris Maninakis and his Mikrokosmos Ensemble. The event was titled 'From Erotokritos to Axion Esti' and presented powerful poems by Giorgos Seferis, Odysseas Elytis, Nikos Gatsos, Yiannis Ritsos, Kostas Varnalis, Rigas Feraios and Vitzentsos Kornaros put to music by great composers, like Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Hatzidakis, Stavros Xarhakos and Christos Leondis. In addition to the performers, young Greek-Americans, high school and college students, participated in the event by introducing the poets and reciting the poems to be sung for the audience. The event was sponsored by the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA). We were honored at that event by the presence of Dr. John Balis of the AFGLC and Dr. Costas Efthimiou of the Hellenic Link, and the presence of other officials and faculty from SBU.

(Cont'd on p. 8)



THE TAMPA CHAPTER REPORT

Ms. Kalliope Halkias, President



The Tampa Bay Chapter continues to work on increasing its membership and it's encouraging to see new members joining the AFGLC family. Please remember to renew your membership for 2010 (for membership applications please see page 11).

The Tampa Bay Center is working diligently to provide assistance in coordinating the many events of the upcoming 15th Annual Educational Conference/Forum, which will take place February 19-20, 2010. Part of the annual event is scheduled to take place in the Tarpon Springs area. As with any new venue, this presents a number of challenges; however, we are moving forward with full force and are determined to make this one of the best Conferences in the history of AFGLC.

We are honored to be hosting the first of many lectures in the *Dr. Demetrios Halkias Lecture Series on Faith and Stewardship*; it will be given by our Rev. Fr. Dr. Harakas on Saturday, the 20th of February. Fr. Harakas' lecture will be followed by a musical performance in which, Mr. George Skaroulis, a well known musician and native Floridian, will debut his new song "Epiphany." This promises to be a wonderful event and we invite everyone to attend (to purchase tickets for this event, either by telephone or on line, go to p. 8 of this *Newsletter*). In 2009, the Tampa Center hosted several "happy hours" for Bay Area young professionals, opportunities for them to gather, get involved and help support and promote the mission of AFGLC.



THE ATHENS CHAPTER REPORT

Prof. Manolis Bechrakis, President



ΔΙΕΓΠ-ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ

(By Ms. Pota Boubra)

Το ΔΙΕΓΠ-Ελληνικό Κέντρο με το νεοεκλεγέν ΔΣ, ενισχυμένο και με νέα αξιόλογα μέλη (τον καθηγητή Αρχαίας Ελληνικής Ιστορίας Μανώλη Μικρογιαννάκη, τον καθηγητή Γλωσσολογίας Χριστόφορο Χαραλαμπίκη, τον κ. Φωκίωνα Ζαίμη την κ. Μαίρη Αντωνάκου-Μπαλή) πραγματοποίησε τις εξής δραστηριότητες:

Στις 7 Νοεμβρίου, 2009 έγινε μία ξενάγηση στο Μουσείο της πόλης των Αθηνών για τα μέλη και τους φίλους του ΔΙΕΓΠ, από τον πρόεδρο του Μουσείου καθηγητή Μανώλη Μικρογιαννάκη .

Στις 2 Δεκεμβρίου, 2009 πραγματοποιήθηκε στο πολιτιστικό Κέντρο Κωνσταντινουπολιτών μία εκδήλωση για τη ζωή και το έργο του ποιητή Κων/νου Καβάφη με ομιλήτρια την κ. Δήμητρα Προβίδου, δικηγόρο, μέλος του Ελληνικού Κέντρου, η οποία ανέπτυξε το θέμα με πολύ γνώση και γλα-φυρότητα, που ενθουσίασε το κοινό. Ο πρόεδρος του ΔΙΕΓΠ, καθηγητής Εμμ. Μπεχράκης, προλόγησε την εκδήλωση και αναφέρθηκε στο έργο και τις δραστηριότητες του ΔΙΕΓΠ/ΑΙΕΓΠ, ενώ ο καθηγητής Εμμ. Μικρογιαννάκης έκανε μία μικρή εισήγηση για τον .

ποιητή. Το ΔΙΕΓΠ-Ελληνικό Κέντρο κατέθεσε στο ταμείο του Συλλόγου του Νέου Κύκλου Κων/πολιτών υπέρ των πτωχών, το ποσό των 200 Ευρώ. Για τις 5/2/2010 έχει προγραμματισθεί η ετήσια εκδήλωση για την κοπή της πίτας του 2010, η οποία θα πραγματοποιηθεί στην αίθουσα δεξιώσεων «Κωστής Παλαμάς» του Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών.

Στο Συνέδριο που θα διεξαχθεί στην Τάμπα, στις 19-20 Φεβρουαρίου, θα παραστούν από το ΔΙΕΓΠ-Ελληνικό Κέντρο, εκτός από τον Πρόεδρο και την Ταμία κα. Πότα Μπούμπα-Μπαλή, ο καθηγητής Μανώλης Μικρογιαννάκης, ο καθηγητής Χριστόφορος Χαραλαμπίκης, και ο καθηγητής Αρχαιολογίας Αθανάσιος Παπαδόπουλο, οι οποίοι και θα μιλήσουν. Θα είναι μία καλή ευκαιρία να γίνει ανταλλαγή απόψεων και σχεδίων και η συνεργασία των δύο κέντρων να καταστεί στενότερη και αποδοτικότερη.

Εντός των επομένων εβδομάδων, θα εκδοθούν και τα πρακτικά του συνεδρίου που πραγματοποιήθηκε στην Αθήνα το έτος 2008, τα οποία βίσκονται πλέον στο στάδιο της τελικής διόρθωσης. Γίνεται προσπάθεια να είναι έτοιμα μέχρι το προσεχές συνέδριο του Ιδρύματος, τον Φεβρουάριο 2010, στην Τάμπα .

SAVE THE DATE!!

A general Assembly Meeting has been called for Thursday, February 4, 2010, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Perkins Restaurant, 2626 Gulf to Bay Blvd. , Clearwater, FL. Everyone is welcome to attend!!



THE TRISTATE CHAPTER REPORT by Dr. Peter Yiannos



Here are a few items worthy of note in our Tri-State AFGLC Center in the past few months:

On 11-1-09, the Hellenic Friends for Stockton Organization (HFS) had their annual meeting at the College. It was a successful meeting and was followed by a reception for the whole group graciously given by Stockton College President Mr. Herman Saatkamp and his wife Dorothy at their home. It was at this annual meeting that the Tri-State AFGLC presented the president with a donation of \$10,000.00 for the benefit of the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies (ICHS). The comments of this specific part of the program by Tri-State AFGLC President are reproduced here for the benefit of the readers of this newsletter:

"- Will our esteemed President Herman Saatkamp come up to the podium, please?

Also, our Tri-State AFGLC Financial Committee, Gus Georgiou, Demetrios Faller, Dean Pappas, and George Vassilatos (absent today)

-Mr. President, Congratulations to you, your staff and your academic faculty on a well run college that has high standards and aims for a superior education for our youth. Stockton as we understand it is now ranking in the top 10 Public Master's Level University in the Northeast!

-It is these high academic standards that attracted our American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture a few short years ago. Thus, our investment in establishing 5 Hellenic professorships in what is known as Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, a.k.a. ICHS Center. As such, we are delighted to continue investing at Stockton College. At least 600 students out of the 7,000 total enrollment take a Hellenic course at any time!

- Congratulations are also due to you and your staff for a great vision and Master Plan for the growing school and especially for the student center that is being built. We are confident that within this vision, there will be some space for meetings, books, electronic teaching, and reference materials in support of the Hellenic Center.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, for those of you who may be new to the Stockton College and the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, we all came together in 2002 with the excellent work by Provost David Carr, Rev. Dr. Demetrios Constantelos, Dr. Fred Mench, President Vera King Farris and many other good people at Stockton. President Saatkamp

came in at that time and with his fabulous philosophy background, not only embraced the idea for the ICHS Center but put his own stamp on it and has been a solid supporter ever since.

- Mr. Saatkamp knew well that no institution of higher learning can be considered excellent without the strong elements of Hellenic Paedeia - the right kind of Liberal Arts Education. He knew well that Hellenic paedeia, rediscovered in the time of Renaissance, is part and parcel of any good university and college. He knows that the Hellenic Paedeia of any institution has as its goal to educate a person to develop his/her personal character and be an overall balanced educated person to live and contribute to the society. It is not difficult to comprehend what the absence of character does to a society. These ancient Greeks also said that an educated professional, without good character can be dangerous to the society. It is time that many colleges and universities imitate the paradigm of Stockton College. Hellenic Studies took the world out of the Dark Age and the absence of such education will get us back into it - and all of us should take note of it!

- Dr. Tom Papademetriou, the Director of ICHS, tells me that now we have a goal for an endowment fund for the ICHS, which will help the Center to augment its annual budget to fulfill its aims. So, as all of us, members or not of the wonderful Hellenic Friends for Stockton, will be hearing more about this opportunity, let us make the extra effort to make it a reality. I urge you to think about it and do your part.

- Mr. President, on behalf of the Tri-State AFGLC and in support of the Interdisciplinary Center at Stockton, please accept a check of \$10,000.00. It is tangible evidence of our continuing commitment to invest at Stockton.

The Envelope..."



Dr. Peter Yiannos with President Herman Saatkamp



AFGLC SCHOLARSHIPS

Ms. Kalliope Halkias, Chair



The AFGLC/Dr. Demetrios Halkias Scholarship

On December 27, 2009, AFGLC was excited to present three \$1,200.00 scholarships to deserving students; admittedly, the scholarship committee was very challenged, having to select the best three from among seven outstanding applications received.

The recipients were: Ms. **Sarah Lamby**, a junior at the University of South Florida majoring in Psychology and Health Sciences and pursuing a career as a Physician's Assistant; Ms. **Katerina Zambetakis**, a freshman at University of Chicago, majoring in Biological Sciences, pursuing a career as a Veterinarian; and Ms. **Olympia Potaris**, a first year medical student at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, pursuing a career as a Physician of Osteopathic Medicine.

We are very proud of all the applicants and we are excited to be able to award three scholarships this year in memory of Dr. Halkias, to continue his legacy. We know that Dr. Halkias would be very proud of their accomplishments.

The Halkias Family sincerely appreciates the numerous donations that were made in 2008 and 2009 to this scholarship fund in honor of Dr. Halkias, which made possible the award of a third Scholarship.



AFGLC/Dr. Halkias Scholarship: The 2009 recipients, surrounded by the members of the Selection Committee and the Halkias family (L to R): Dr. Byron P. Palls, Ms. Kalliope Halkias, Chair, Ms. Sarah Lamby, Ms. Katerina Zambetakis, Ms. Olympia Potaris, Mrs. Engie Halkias, and Dr. Marios Stephanides.

The AFGLC/Peter & Sophia Kourmolis Scholarship

In 2009, ten \$1,000.00 scholarships were awarded to deserving students from various Tampa Bay communities as well as from communities in the Canton/Akron/Massillon Ohio area. An equal number of scholarship chairs and committees (all designated by the late Mr. Kourmolis) have helped in the selection process for the awards. The scholarships were awarded at different times throughout the year. In 2010, the Scholarship committees are hoping to make June the month in which to present all ten scholarships in both states. The monies for the scholarships were received in September 2007 and have been invested, and only the interest accrued is what is awarded as scholarships. In this way, the Scholarship will remain in perpetuity in honor of the late benefactor, Mr. Peter Kourmolis, who believed in the mission of AFGLC.

The 2009 Recipients are as follows:

St. John Greek Orthodox Church Tampa, FL: **Demetrios Konstas**, second year Medical School, Florida State University, with a BS in Chemical Engineering and an MBA, both from the University of Tampa; and **Deborah Doucas**, Senior at the University of South Florida, w/dual major in Political Science/International Studies, who will start Stetson Law School in September 2010; St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, Winter Haven, FL.: **Teresa Rowe**; St. George Greek Orthodox Church Massillon, OH: **Nicole Snyder**; Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Canton, OH: **Samantha Callas**, **Erica Kalagidis**, and **Hannah Greenbaum**; Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH: **Scott Hall** and **Elya Horattas**; St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Canton, OH: **Peter Gaitanos** and **Bill Poulos, III**.



AFGLC/Peter & Sophia Kourmolis Scholarship: The Tampa Bay Area recipients, surrounded by the members of the Selection Committee (L to R): Dr. Byron P. Palls, Ms. Kalliope Halkias, Chair, Ms. Deborah Ducas, Ms. Mary Ann Konstas (accepting for her husband Demetrios who was unable to be present), and Dr. Marios Stephanides.

For other scholarships awarded to deserving Greek-American students, see AHEPA Awards (p. 8)



**A BOLD STEP FORWARD:
THE 15TH ANNUAL FORUM/CONFERENCE
February 19-20, 2010
Dr. Byron P. Palls**



This year, AFGLC will hold its 15th annual Forum/Conference on February 19 and 20. It will be another opportunity to celebrate our Hellenic Heritage and share thoughts and information on how much Hellenic thought has influenced nearly every field of knowledge known to man. One may not study Philosophy or Physics or Astronomy or Music or Mathematics or Theater or Poetry or History or Medicine, Rhetoric, Architecture, even Computers (yes, computers), and more without finding out that the Greeks had already established the rules! And, let's not forget the great gift of Democracy that they bequeathed to humanity. Perhaps, the most significant gift of the ancient Greeks was the development of the first modern alphabet, 9th C. B.C.! The Latin and Cyrillic alphabets are simple extensions of the Greek, used today by 180+ languages. The Hellenic presence is felt everywhere!

AFGLC has proudly celebrated the genius of the Hellenic mind for the past 14 years on the campus of the University of South Florida. Sadly, not many members have attended, perhaps because they are working or they live too far, but perhaps also because they are intimidated by the academic cloak that surrounds this event. All this is about to change, thanks to Mr. Kostas Stefanakos whose idea it was to "take this event to the people!" The Executive Committee of AFGLC, after much deliberation, decided to split the affair into two halves. So, this year, the first half (Day One) will be held on the USF campus as before, and will feature papers and round-table discussions more academic in nature; the second half (Day Two) will be held on the St. Petersburg College, Tarpon Springs campus (off US 19) and deal more with Greek language and culture, featuring a number of topics guaranteed to generate interest and engage the general public in a way that will lead to an even better appreciation of our cultural heritage.

Taking the Conference to the people has never been more exciting. A number of prominent persons from all walks of life, from very high profile Florida political figures, to teachers and professors, to entertainers, from both the United States and Greece, will be on hand to share what they know with those attend-

must be nothing less than a complete success!

The umbrella theme for this 15th Annual Forum/Conference is "Hellenic Vales in a Global Civilization: Engaging the Colleges, Universities and Citizens." The two-day event is sponsored by a great Hellene, philanthropist George D. Behrakis who, with his wife Margo, have been the Foundation's benefactors for many years. You will recall that, last year, AFGLC honored Mr. Behrakis by bestowing upon him the title of *AFGLLC/IFGLC Honorary President*, in recognition of this support!

The diversity of topics at this year's Forum is absolutely astounding! There is something for every taste and interest. Here is just a sample: "The Ideal Constitution According to Pericles;" "From Kalkagathia to Philotimo;" "The origins of Philosophy: Why the Greeks?" "Tarpon Springs Folk Life and Fold Art;" "Exposure of Students to Greek Music;" "Hellenic Paedia: College-level Education for HS Student;" "Knowing our Past: Overview of the Greek-American Story;" "Teaching Greek Language and Culture;" "The Legacy of the Greek Immigrants: Will it endure?" "The Byzantine Angle" and dozens more, all promising to satisfy the intellect and instill pride—especially in the young—of our Hellenic roots.

On Friday evening, a Reception will be held at the Embassy Suites (USF). Dr. James Strange, Distinguished USF Professor and Director of USF's ICHS, will deliver the Keynote Lecture on Hellenism; his topic, based on his own archaeological digs, will be: "Nazareth and Sepphoris: The explosive birth of Christianity on a Hellenized Hebrew Hilltop." On Saturday evening, after brief remarks from Mr. George Behrakis, the Rev. Dr. Stanley Harakas, Former Dean and *Archbishop Iakovos Professor Emeritus of Orthodox Theology* of Holy Cross School of Theology, will deliver the first ever *Dr. Demetrios Halkias Lecture on Faith*. The day will close with a special musical presentation by George Skaroulis, in memory of Dr. Halkias and Dr. Bayzar Erkman-Balis.

We are counting on your support! Please attend with your family, your friends and your neighbors!

(An overview of venues & times is provided on p. 8)

TARPON SPRINGS TO HONOR AFGLC

We have been informed that, on February 16, Mayor Biliris and the City Commission of Tarpon Springs, FL will proclaim February 20, 2010, 2nd day of the Forum/Conference, to be "AFGLC DAY" .

The New York Chapter Report (con't from p. 3)
Dr. Stella Tsirka

The event was quite successful, both from the standpoint of bringing together the communities around SBU and making people aware of the effort that has been put forth, and from the point of making the first big financial step towards the sought-after Endowed Chair thanks to a generous contribution by Mr. Tsantes.

We are continuing our efforts with a second event that will serve as a tribute to the day of Greek Letters and the Three Hierarchs, and will take place on January 24th 2010; it's a presentation of the book "Lost to the West: The Forgotten Byzantine Empire That Rescued Western Civilization" by Lars Brownworth.

Additional plans are scheduled and added to our agenda little-by-little. We are excited to be part of this push for the establishment of a Center for Hellenic Studies at SBU, and be part of the big family of AFGLC.

AHEPA AWARDS

Mr. Jimmy Makris, an AFGLC member and the District #2 AHEPA Treasurer, has informed us that AHEPA awarded a number of \$500-\$1,000 scholarships to Florida Greek-American students at the close of 2009. In deference to an organization with which we share common goals, it is our pleasure to recognize these deserving students in our *AFGLC/IFGLC Newsletter*.

The Awardees were:

Jennifer Aiello	Panayiota Makis
Joseph Aiello	Dean Makris
Michael N. Arafas	Maria Manolis
Steven Arafas	Michael Manolis
Kimberly Ferris	Sophia Mavres
Kristen Hamilton	John McCormick
Matthew W. Hamilton	James Merkel
Jared Kennedy	Elizabeth Pallas
Stefanie Kostakis	Olympia Potaris

Jason Varounis



After 104 Years of Epiphany Celebrations in Tarpon Springs, The Theme Song Is Finally Ready.



Pianist George Skaroulis will be performing a live concert in Tarpon Springs and will premier his new song *Epiphany* on February 20, 2010. The concert is Sponsored by and benefits: The American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture.

Called "*The Greek God with the Velvet Piano Touch*," Skaroulis has released 13 albums on his own record Label, Evzone Music (www.evzonemusic.com) and is currently based in Atlanta. Skaroulis was born and raised in Clearwater FL.

His romantic & ethereal piano style has captured the attention of piano lovers across the globe, and has been featured and aired nationally on 3 PBS productions including "Visions of Greece, Visions of Italy, and most recently "Brava Italia". His Music is also heard on Sirius Satellite, XM Radio, Martha Stuart Living radio, and is a popular find on I Tunes. Although he doesn't read a note of music, he recently released his first two volumes of sheet music to anxious fans in December 2009.

This will be the first performance for Skaroulis in Tarpon Springs in nearly 20 years. "My dad was born in Tarpon, and it was my playground as a kid -I have very fond memories of the Epiphany celebrations so many years ago, and one of the many highlights for me as a child was always the symbolic release of the white dove, and the Glendi celebration at the old sponge exchange." George's father, Mike Skaroulis, captured the cross in 1955. "This year I will be there to re-capture the spirit of this important occasion, as my new song *Epiphany* is in it's final stages of production." Epiphany will finally have a theme song, and I am proud to be part of it."

Saturday, February 20, 2010, 8 P.M.

Spanos-Pappas Community Center

348 North Pinellas Ave. Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Advance Tickets \$15 -Available online at:

www.evzonemusic.com

By phone: 404-816-6372

George will be on hand after the concert to sign CD's and meet the audience.

(Proceeds to benefit *The Dr. Halkias Annual AFGLC Lecture on Faith & Stewardship*)



NEWS FROM THE WEBMASTER

Dr. Ulysses J. Balis



In the last year, and in the brief remaining time leading up to this year's very ambitious 2010 AFGLC Forum/Conference, preparations have been underway for the release of the third major version of the AFGLC Website.

Efforts to date have allowed us to both identify and update outdated content on the existing website and similarly, post new and timely content reflecting the current, very active status of the Foundation, which literally is seeing substantive developments on a monthly—if not weekly—basis.

By the time of the Forum, we anticipate being able to share our new Website entry portal, site-wide search engine and simplified information access model in support of the large repository of Foundation archives, which went largely off-line with the advent of the second website's deployment (due to technical difficulties with the externally-contracted web design).

This current third-generation website design has been entirely generated internally with our maintaining full operational knowledge, ensuring that it will serve the Foundation and its mission for years to come, with both simplicity of function and scal-

able performance to meet both current and anticipated educational needs.

For example, the long-awaited ability to stream video and audio educational content directly from our Foundation's website will go active with this version upgrade, with our anticipating that we will be able to distribute content generated from this year's Forum/Conference within a week of the event itself, thus leveraging our intellectual content in a timely manner that should further the reach of our message and our mission to create additional ICHS's.

Similarly, with the creation of a new AFGLC Center at Stony brook, and the hopeful creation of it's ICHS, there will be an even larger plurality of sources for educational content available to the Foundation. The revised Website structure is well-suited to handle dissemination of such content originating from these multiple sources.

The Foundation looks forward to showcasing this new Website functionality next month and similarly, is counting on you, its membership, to provide critically-needed feedback so that we can make the site even better in the coming months, as development continues.

FORUM/CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

15th Annual AFGLC-ICHS Forum/Conference, February 19-20, 2010

“Hellenic Values in a Global Civilization: Engaging Colleges, Universities and Citizens.”

Friday, February 19

8:30 AM-5:00 PM

University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL
Marshall Center, Room 2708

Friday Evening:

Reception and Educational Event
6:00 PM-9:00PM
Embassy Suites at USF (on Fowler Avenue)
37 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa, FL

Saturday, February 20

Scheduled Sessions
8:30AM-5:00PM
St. Petersburg College, Tarpon Springs Campus
Lyceum Building
600 Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL

Saturday Evening:

Educational Event, Reception and
George Skaroulis Concert* 5:30PM-9:30PM
Spanos-Pappas Community Center
348 North Pinellas Avenue
Tarpon Springs, FL
*Dr. Demetrios Halkias Keynote Lecture
on Faith and Stewardship*
Concert: Dedicated to the Memory of
Dr. Demetrios Halkias and
Dr. Bayzar Erkman-Balis

Tickets: \$15.00

*(proceeds to benefit the Dr. Demetrios Halkias Annual
AFGLC Lecture on Faith and Stewardship)*
Online at: www.evzonemusic.com
By phone: 404-816-6372, or 813-961-0309

*(more information on p. 8)



MEMBERSHIP DONATION FORM



The mission of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture is to preserve and promote Hellenism (our Language and Culture) through Centers for Hellenic Studies in American Universities. The suggested yearly membership donation is \$50 and all donations are tax-deductible. Donors receive:

1. An organizational pin depicting the logo of the Foundation.
2. A semi-annual Newsletter with AFGLC news pertaining to the Greek Language and Culture.
3. Periodic Bulletins with information on events which require immediate publication.

Please join us in this endeavor and send your check or money order in the amount of \$50 to: **

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____; E-MAIL: _____

Έντυπο Συνδρομής Μελών

Το Αμερικανικό Ίδρυμα για την Ελληνική Γλώσσα και τον Πολιτισμό έχει σκοπό την διάσωση και προώθηση του Ελληνισμού, της ελληνικής γλώσσας και παιδείας, μέσω πανεπιστημιακών Κέντρων Ελληνικών Σπουδών. Όλες οι συνδρομές είναι αφορολόγητες. Η ετήσια συνδρομή δωρεάς είναι \$50. Οι συνδρομητές λαμβάνουν:

1. Ένα έμβλημα με το σήμα του Ιδρύματος.
2. Μία εξαμηνιαία εγκύκλιο με νέα σχετικά με την Ελληνική Γλώσσα και Πολιτισμό.
3. Περιοδικά δελτία με πληροφορίες που απαιτούν άμεση δημοσίευση.

Σας παρακαλούμε, ενισχύσατε την προσπάθειά μας στέλνοντας προσωπική/ταχυδρομική επιταγή για \$50 στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση**:

ΟΝΟΜΑ: _____

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ: _____

ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: (_____) _____ E-MAIL: _____

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

AFGLC depends on the contributions of its members and friends to defray its operating expenses—which are many. In order to achieve its noble mission, it also depends on the generosity of philanthropists, Hellenes and Philhellenes, for establishing Interdisciplinary Centers for Hellenic Studies (ICHS) in various Universities. Please send your contributions directly to your local AFGLC chapter. For those without local chapters and those residing in the Tampa Bay area, please send your contributions to the address shown above. ** We are grateful for your financial support, regardless of amount!

Newsletter Editor: Dr. Byron P. Palls.

Editorial Board: Dr. John Balis, the Rev. Dr. Stanley Harakas, Dr. James Strange, Dr. William Yotis, Ms. Kalliope Halkias, and Mr. John Krinos.

Publication: Ms. Kalliope Halkias,

Contributors: All contributors are duly noted under the titles of their respective contributions.

Readers are invited to submit news and items of interest to the AFGLC/IFGLC membership to the editor at: bpalls@bpalls.com. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all articles submitted whenever the available space is limited.