



IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

AFGLC EDUCATIONAL FORUM AT USF ADDRESSES HELLENISM AND WORLD PEACE

Tampa, Florida

Professor John U. Balis, executive vice president of the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture, AFGLC, and chairman of the Annual Educational Forum, proudly announces the twelfth annual forum to be held March 3-5, 2005 on the campus of the University of South Florida in Tampa. The theme this year will be “**Hellenic Paideia: Educating for Democracy and World Peace.**” The 2005 AFGLC Forum is sponsored by **George and Margo Behrakis** of Boston. The Forum is free of charge and the public is invited to attend.

FEATURED SPEAKERS THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

Dr. John Erickson, Peter Gramowics Professor of Theology and Church History and dean of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary. He is a graduate of Harvard College, Yale, and St. Vladimir’s Seminary. The author of innumerable articles and books, Dr. Erickson will address “Democratic Institutions in the Byzantine Patristic and Canonical Tradition.”

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 “Platonic *Paideia* and European Culture.”

Dr. Lily Macrakis, dean of Hellenic College in Massachusetts. She received her doctorate from Harvard, had served as professor of history and chair of History Department at Regis College, and has taught as a visiting professor in several universities including Harvard, Boston College, and University of Crete. She will speak on "The Evolution of Democracy in Modern Greece".

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. She has

also edited and annotated books on ecclesiastical life and music. Ms. Rouvelas will offer a look at “The Orthodox Tradition of Inner Peace and the World Community.”

Dr. Richard Rubenstein, professor of Conflict Resolution and Public Affairs at George Washington University. Dr. Rubenstein is the author of the recent Aristotle’s Children: How Christians, Muslims and Jews Rediscovered Ancient Wisdom and Illuminated the Ages, and other books. He is a graduate of Harvard College, Oxford University (Rhodes Scholar) and Harvard Law School. Dr. Rubenstein will deliver the keynote address Thursday evening on “How Aristotle Can Help Resolve the Conflict of Cultures.” He will also discuss on Friday “Peace, Education and Conflict Resolution.”

Mr. Robin Waterfield, British classicist, author and translator. Mr. Waterfield has translated more than a score of texts of ancient Greek philosophers and is the author of Athens: A History from Ancient Ideal to Modern City. A graduate of Manchester and Cambridge Universities, he is writer in residence at Sussex University. He will speak on “The Creation of Democracy in Ancient Athens: An Unseemly Scrabble for Power?”

Friday audiences will hear sessions on various subtopics of the theme, including “Contributions of Hellenic Thought to Emerging Democracies”, “Hellenic *Paideia* and Democratic Institutions as Instruments for Social Development and World Peace”, and “The AFGLC-ICHS (Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies) Concept: ICHSs’ Accomplishments and Plans”. Sessions will be moderated by **Reverend Dr. Stanley Harakas**, professor emeritus and former dean of Holy Cross Orthodox Seminary, **Dr. Joanne Waugh**, of the USF Philosophy Department, and **Dr. Ippokratis Kantzios**, Gus and Mary Stathis Assistant Professor of Greek Language and Literature at USF.

Panel discussions of topics will include the participation of the speakers above, plus **Dr. Michael Gibbons**, of the Department of Political Science at USF; **Drs. William and Suzanne Murray**, director of the ICHS at USF and program director of the USF Study Abroad to Greece, respectively; and **Drs. Fred Mench** and **Tom Papademetriou**, respective director and associate director of the ICHS at Stockton College in New Jersey.

Drs. Peter Yiannos and **Niki Kantzios**, presidents of the local chapters of AFGLC in Pennsylvania-Jersey-Delaware and Tampa Bay, respectively, will participate in a panel discussion with their counterparts from Athens, **Dr. Dennis Koutras** and **Ms. Ioanna Tzanoudaki**; **Drs. Demetris Halkias** and **Kimon Valavanis** of USF will moderate.

On Saturday **Professor Chris P. Tsokos**, president of the AFGLC, will be the moderator of a session on “The AFGLC Strategic Plan”. **Dr. Ulysses J. Balis** from Harvard University will be the key speaker on “AFGLC – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.”

Dr. Peter Yiannos, president of AFGLC Tri-State Center will be the moderator of a session “Strategies for the Support of AFGLC Educational Mission”. Panel participants will include **Mr. George D. Behrakis**, president of Gainesborough Investments, **Mr. Manny Rouvelas, Esq.**, chairman of Preston Gates Rouvelas and Ellis, a Washington, D.C., law firm; and **Mr. E. J. Elliott**, president and CEO of Gencor Industries.

Additional distinguished guests during the Forum will include **Dr. Judy Genshaft**, 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; **Dr. Renu Khator**, provost of USF; **The Honorable Leonidas Raptakis**, state senator from Rhode Island; and **Dr. Vasilios Protopsaltis**, vice-president of the American College of Greece.

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) 980-1161 or (813) 962-0708.