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A not-for-profit Educational Organization
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Newsletter

Fall-Winter, 2007



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dr. John Balis, *Acting President*



Dear Members and Friends of IFGLC/AFGLC,

Both personally and on behalf of IFGLC/AFGLC I wish you a healthy and Happy New Year. During the past 12 months, our Foundation has demonstrated an impressive recovery, following the leadership crisis in 2006, and we are now looking forward to the New Year with renewed confidence. This Foundation remains committed in its support of Hellenic education in the USA and abroad, with focus on the establishment and maintenance of Interdisciplinary Centers of Hellenic Studies (ICHS) in institutions of higher learning.

The following represent significant accomplishments of our Foundation this year:

1. The creation of a highly successful educational event in March 2007 at the University of South Florida. *Many thanks to the members of the Educational Forum Committee for their important contributions.*
2. The publication of the first IFGLC/AFGLC *Newsletter* followed by one-page Bulletins. *Kudos to the Editor, Dr. Byron Palls, and his editorial committee.*
3. The first AFGLC Dinner-Dance Event on November 16, 2007, at which the AFGLC Family celebrated the awakening of the Foundation. *Many thanks to Ms. Kalliope Halkias and her organizing committee.*

(Cont'd on p. 2)

REPORT FROM THE TAMPA CENTER

By Ms. Kalliope Halkias

The Tampa Bay Center sponsored its First Annual Fall Dinner-Dance on November 16, 2007 at the *Rusty Pelican*, an elegant waterfront restaurant on the Courtney Campbell Causeway. This was a new venue for us and the event was a resounding success with over 140 guests in attendance. We received numerous compliments for the choice of venue and everyone had a wonderful time. We do apologize for the event ending earlier than anticipated because of an error in our contract; we promise to extend the dancing time at our next annual event.



(Cont'd from p. 1)

4. The beginning of a genuine Membership Drive. *Our sincere appreciation to Dr. Bill Yotis and Dr. Fred Ferderigos for their valiant and successful recruiting efforts.*

5. The AFGLC Internet webpage is being updated under the direction of Dr. Ulysses J. Balis (see update later in this newsletter).

6. More recently, the Foundation's Strategic plan is being reevaluated by a subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Marios Stephanides with the spiritual guidance of the Rev. Dr. Stanley Harakas.

7. Finally, a less obvious but very significant accomplishment has been the collective organization of a transparent, united and democratically-run Foundation, which has promoted an environment of trust.

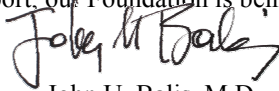
The sustained commitment of the IFGLC/AFGLC family to the noble mission of our Foundation will be fostered next year with the creation of two conceptually-interlinked educational events — both designed to enhance a synergistic effort to support Hellenic education at the national and international levels.

The first of these planned educational events is a Joint AFGLC-ICHS Conference, which will convene at the University of South Florida, Tampa (March 8-9, 2008). The Conference, whose central theme will be "**The Hellenic Legacy through the Ages**," will bring together academics, scholars, and interested individuals who will address primarily: 1) the long term influence of Hellenism in the world; and 2) the ongoing as well as projected educational contributions of Hellenic programs in institutions of higher learning.

The second conference on "**The Hellenic Roots of Modern Civilization**," will be organized as an international educational event by the IFGLC Center of Greece, under the leadership of Dr. Manolis Bechrakis, and will take place at the historic *Zappeion*, in Athens, Greece (June 26-28, 2008). The details of this Conference will be reported to you at a later date.

My friends, with your support, our Foundation is being rejuvenated and rebuilt to last. Thank you.

With warmest regards,



John U. Balis, M.D.
Acting President, IFGLC/AFGLC
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Tampa Center Report

(Cont'd from p. 1)

During this fund raising event, we received numerous donations and we sincerely appreciate your support. With your sponsorship, we were able to invite and pay for several students from the University of South Florida to attend. We especially want to thank Dr. and Mrs. Fred Ferderigos for supporting this dinner dance by bringing many new potential members. We look forward to hosting a Spring/Summer Dinner Dance (more information to follow).

The Tampa Bay Center continues to work on its membership drive and it's encouraging to see new members joining AFGLC. Our sincere appreciation goes to Dr. Bill Yotis for his success in recruiting 18 new members to our AFGLC Family. Please remember to renew your membership for 2007-2008.

The Tampa Bay Center is looking forward to assisting with the 2008 Educational Conference.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay Center we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2008!



REPORT FROM THE IFGLC ATHENS CENTER

The Athens Center accomplished a very successful one-day trip to the archaeological site of Mycenae; it was guided by the Vice-President of the Athens Center, Professor of Historic Archeology, Dr. Athanasios Papadopoulos, who explained spherically and precisely the culture and historic role of Mycenae.

[Editor's note: two additional members of the Executive Committee met with the Center's officers prior to the visits of Dr. Palls and Dr. Balis: Dr. Elias Stefanakos had an opportunity to exchange views with President Manolis Bechrakis while visiting Greece in mid-summer; and Dr. Demetrios Halkias managed a short visit with members of the Center's Executive Committee during the first week of September, and left promising to send information about how university professorships are developed—which he did.]

On October 10, 2007 Dr. Byron Palls visited the Athens Center and had a meeting with members of the Executive Committee, characterized by warmth and mutual cordiality. Athens Center President Prof. Manolis Bechrakis and Dr. Palls exchanged views on ways to improve relations between Tampa HQ and Athens. Among the areas discussed were funding, the upcoming Conferences in Tampa and Athens, the possible support role of the Greek Government and the need to cooperate with other foundations of like involvement as the IFGLC/AFGLC. Athens leadership pointed out the need to improve significantly our Internet site, our "window to the world." Dr. Palls' request was that the Center communicate with Tampa more frequently. Of much importance was an overview of the steps that had been taken so far to fill the unexpected leadership vacuum

of the Foundation; the changes that had taken place were well-received by the Athens Center.



On October 21, 2007, a visit was realized by members of our Athens Center to the National Archeological Museum of Athens, led by Prof. Papadopoulos. Archaeologist Mr. Konstantinos Pashalides, Commissioner of the Museum, guided us with exceptional care on a tour of the Museum's Prehistoric Mycenaean Collection, as well as to the exhibit of the sculpture of Praxiteles which was lent to the Museum from Paris.

On October 29, 2007, the Board of Trustees along with Dr. John Balis, Acting President of IFGLC/AFGLC, visited Mr. Stephen Gialamas, Vice President of the Athens Center, on the premises of the American Community School (ACS) and discussed various organizational concerns.

With regard to the preparations of the international Conference, which is expected to take place in Athens between the dates of June 26 and 28, 2008, contacts have already been initiated by President Bechrakis and other members of the Board of Trustees, for the purpose of soliciting the financial support of Governmental entities (the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture), for the Conference in particular and for IFGLC/AFGLC in general.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!!

The members of the Board of Trustees of IFGLC/AFGLC are hereby requested to come to a meeting that will take place on the 10th of January, 2008 in the conference room of the School of Engineering of the University of South Florida campus, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting is of paramount importance! Given the recent changes in the leadership of the Foundation, the Trustees will hold this meeting for the purpose of filling two key administrative positions, namely:

- 1) a new President of the Board of Trustees; and
- 2) a new President of IFGLC/AFGLC.

It is imperative that all current Board of Trustee members attend this meeting! The decisions that will be reached will be published promptly in a Bulletin, to follow shortly thereafter.



REPORT FROM THE AFGLC TRI-STATE CENTER

By Dr. Peter Yiannos, President



PROGRESS AND RELEVANT COMMENTS:

As a refresher to our readers, the five professorship contracts for specific fields within that Center have been funded through AFGLC donors. Since the opening of the Stockton ICHS center took place on June 19, 2003, the following key accomplishments have been made:

- The Peter and Stella Yiannos Professorship in Greek Language and Literature, held by designee Professor Dr. David Roessel.
- The Constantine and Georgiean Georgiou Hellenic History Professorship (Modern Hellenism), held by Professor and Designee Director of the ICHS Center, Dr. Tom Papademetriou.
- The Clement and Helen Pappas Byzantine Civilization and Religious Studies Professorship, held by Distinguished Professor Rev. Dr. Demetrios Constantelos. The College is in the process of hiring a suitable replacement for the “irreplaceable” Fr. Constantelos who has announced his retirement.
- The Petros and Despoina Tsantes Family Professorship in Greek Philosophy, in memory of Katerina H. Batuyios, held by Designee Professor Dr. Lucio Privitello.

The still un-named (but funded) AFGLC for Hellenic Culture Professorship, held by Professor Dr. Fred Mench, the first director of the ICHS Center, who is in the process of retiring. Dr. Papademetriou is the new Director Designee and the College has hired a suitable replacement for the Latin and cultural responsibilities of Dr. Mench. In fact, the replacement is a Latin professor of Hellenic Background.

We are indeed very proud and appreciative to all those families who made the above five Professorships possible at Stockton in a relatively short time. They have left a real legacy for themselves and their families.

The Tri-State Contribution to the ICHS Center of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

At the October 7 of 2007 annual meeting of the Hellenic Friends for Stockton (HFS), local organization in support of the ICHS Center at Stockton, the President of the College Dr. Herman Saatkamp, as in past meetings, reviewed the above professorships of the Center and cited its real contributions to the College. More specifically, here is an AFGLC relevant summary by Tom Papademetriou, the Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies (ICHS), from that meeting : {The Provost Dr. David Carr, and President, Dr. Herman Saatkamp offered greetings, highlighting the College’s commitment to educating young people and the value of Hellenic Studies to a liberal arts education. President Saatkamp also received several donations that day, one for \$10,000 from Dr. Peter Yiannos of Wilmington, DE, on behalf of the Tri-State American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC) to support the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies. Dr. Yiannos, with his wife Stella, previously personally donated \$100,000 for the Peter & Stella Yiannos Endowed Professorship in Greek Language and Literature. Other benefactors who were present were Dean and Zoe Pappas (The Clement and Helen Pappas Endowed Professorship in Byzantine Civilization and Religion), Mr. Constantine Georgiou (The Constantine and Georgeian Georgiou Endowed Professorship in Greek History), and Mr. Petros Tsantes (The Petros and Despoina Tsantes Endowed Professorship of Ancient Greek Philosophy in honor of Katerina Batouyios). Yiannos explained the AFGLC itself sponsored the fifth endowment on Greek Culture, but “we are still looking for a Nouno”!}

The Publishing of the book “Hellenism Through the Ages” The second accomplishment by the Tri-State AFGLC, worthy of bringing to everyone’s attention, is the publication of the book “Hellenism Through the Ages by Father Dennis Michelis of North Canton, OH. Here is a summary from the preface of the book as to why the Tri-State AFGLC chose to fund the publication of this manuscript:

“The American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture of the Tri-State Region is pleased to sponsor the publishing of this unique and excellent summary on the origins of Hellenism and its contributions to western civilization. This highly readable book combines elements of modern and ancient Greek history with the fascinating biographies of extraordinary achievers both secular and religious who exemplify the contributions of Hellenes throughout the world. To young readers the book can be a source of pride as well as inspiration in further study. The book is indeed a summary of the continuing harvest of Hellenism by the civilized world.

Tri-Center Report (Cont'd from p. 4)

We hope that individuals and organizations will give the book as a gift to educate and inspire their youngsters, relatives and friends. The intent of the book is not financial gain, but educational and cultural enrichment. For information on ordering the book please contact the Tri-State Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (Tri-State AFGLC) at caliopey@comcast.net. The book may also be ordered from the publisher <http://www.seaburn.com/>.

The Foundation is indebted to the specific sponsors, namely, Dr. James G. and Catherine Faller, Mr. Constantine Georgiou and Dr. Peter N. and Stella Yiannos, all of Wilmington, Delaware, whose financial and editing support facilitated the publishing of the book. In addition, the valuable help in proof reading and editing the final manuscript by Mrs. Maria George is also gratefully acknowledged. The content and format of the book remains that of the author, who, in our opinion, has done an outstanding job in depicting the Hellenic mind and expressing it in an inspirational manner. The Cornucopia of the Hellenic Culture is Overflowing for All to Partake !”



Please plan to order the book for yourselves, family members, friends and school libraries.

PLANS BEYOND STOCKTON IN THE TRI-STATE AREA:

We have a challenge: to generate the needed money for the next ICHS Center in the general Tri-State area. An outstanding and proven philanthropist has promised to contribute one and possibly two professorships, if we secure the rest!! May we hear from some others out there?

The AFGLC opportunity has been developed to the point that it does not need “reinvention of the wheel”. The only thing that is needed is ENERGY. Money is the motive force that, when it supports the noble goal of Hellenic education at the college level by committed people, it can do miracles.

Sponsoring an AFGLC professorship at a college or university can be each family’s legacy. Otherwise, a few years after our death, there will be nothing for our individual or group remembrance, and no one will ever know that we passed through here, either as individuals or as Hellenic Americans.

Hellenic *Paedeia* (Education and Culture) with its eternal values, is a prerequisite for both individual and institutional life, if we are to avoid the evils of fanaticism and other extremism in our society.

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[Editor’s note: Dr. Yiannos’ comments in the next to the last paragraph remind us of *Lázaro*, a character in Miguel de Unamuno’s philosophical novella *San Manuel Bueno, Mártir*, who comforts his sister *Angela* on the death of her priest-mentor *D. Manuel*: “D. Manuel will continue to exist as long as there are people alive to remember him; and only when the last one to remember him dies, will D. Manuel die forever.”]

A NOTE FROM THE WEBMASTER

Dr. Ulysses J. Balis, Director



This winter 2007 update comes at a particularly busy time for our organization's restructuring of its web presence and electronic media strategic plan. After a long hiatus from our organization's even having immediate access to our own website, the foundation has now regained full control of its web content and servers and is aggressively pursuing ameliorative actions with respect to both content and formatting, along the following major thrusts:

1. Comprehensive editorial review of all posted content for:
 - Accuracy
 - Currency
 - Proper Organizational placement
2. Reactivation of the archival area with placement of full archival materials; (*this aspect, present with our original website of 2000, was regrettably lost when web authoring was consigned to an outside party*).
 - ◆ The website from that era can be still retrieved via the Internet Archive tool:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20011128183317/http://www.afglc.org/>
3. Addition of online search capabilities
4. Activation of online e-commerce capabilities for online donation.

Many of you may have already made note of the deletion of a number of figures that had potentially misleading information. This editorial process is ongoing, and we expect to add much more new content in equal measure to the content that ultimately is redacted.

In addition to the above major projects, the editorial team has a very full list of tasks to complete for the 2008 year including the following:

- Completion of independently stewarded website sections for:
 - ◆ AFGLC Centers (presently Tri-state Center and Tampa Center)
 - ◆ Interdisciplinary Centers for Hellenic Studies (ICHS) — at Richard Stockton College and USF
- Completion of a new, fully independent website for the Athens center and the associated International Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (IFGLC).
- Integration of all the aforementioned resources into a singly-searchable AFGLC/IFGLC repository, which will serve in the furthering of all the organization's missions.

AFGLC SCHOLARSHIPS

IFGLC/AFGLC is fortunate to have members who understand the importance of helping struggling scholars achieve their potential and are actively involved in providing financial help to them. Three scholarship funds have been established so far; they are:

1. The *Peter and Sophia Kourmolis Scholarship*: This is a composite of ten scholarships of varying amounts, being distributed annually to communities in Florida and Ohio, as follows:
 - Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Canton, Ohio;
 - Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, Ohio;
 - St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Canton, Ohio;
 - St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Tampa, Florida;
 - St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, Winter Haven, Florida; and
 - St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Massillon, Ohio.

Each community has been given autonomy in determining the criteria for the scholarships.

2. The *Dr. Demetrios G. Halkias Scholarship*: This scholarship is awarded to two students annually (see opposite page);
3. The *Dr. John Balis Scholarship*: This scholarship is set to begin being awarded this year (2008).

One may create a scholarship fund with just **\$25,000**. All scholarship funds are structured in such a way as to allow for only a percentage of interest to be awarded, thus preserving the initial deposited amount and allowing for modest growth as well. In so doing, each scholarship fund will exist *in perpetuity*, and so will the name of its donor/benefactor!

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship fund, we are ready to offer you our assistance.



THE AFGLC / DR. DEMETRIOS G. HALKIAS SCHOLARSHIP

Give a chance to today's students to become tomorrow's leaders"

Two scholarships will be given annually to two graduate or undergraduate students majoring in the sciences or enrolled in a pre-medical program of study. To be considered, applicants or their parents must be Orthodox Christians and must submit their application and transcripts of their academic work by August 30, 2008. The scholarships will be awarded at the exclusive discretion of the Scholarship Committee, not by Dr. Halkias.

The Scholarship Committee's evaluation of all applications will be based on:

1. Course work during the semester prior to the Application.
2. Complexity of courses taken.
3. Grade point average, for the course work completed and overall.
4. Time spent outside the classroom, working to pay for own expenses.
5. Membership and time spent in school-related organizations.
6. Volunteer work in school or church activities.
7. Commitment to and participation in church organizations.
8. Proof of financial need (if appropriate).

APPLICATION

1. Name: _____
(first) (middle) (last)
2. Address: _____
(no/street) (city) (state) (zip code)
3. Telephones/Email: _____ ; _____ ; _____
(home) (work) (e-mail)
4. Date of Birth: _____ ; Year graduated from High School: _____
5. Parents' Full names: _____ : _____
(father's) (mother's)
6. Are you being considered for a similar scholarship at another institution? Yes _____ No _____.
7. Is this the first time you are applying for the *AFGLC/Dr. D. Halkias Scholarship*? Yes _____ No _____.

Please, attach ...

- official transcripts of your academic work from HS and college/university;
- a letter of recommendation from your parish priest;
- a letter of character reference from a competent authority;
- A paragraph in which you explain why you should be awarded the scholarship.

2007 AWARDEES:

The winners of the *AFGLC / Dr. Demetrios G. Halkias Scholarship* for the year 2007 are (in alphabetical order):

Ms. Eugenia Coutras (of Tampa, Florida): \$1,500.
Ms. Christina Lagos (of Dunedin, Florida): \$1,500.

MEMBERSHIP

Dear Members and Friends of IFGLC/AFGLC,



The mission of our Foundation is to preserve and promote Hellenism, our Language and Culture through universities and institutions of higher education in the United States and abroad. As is the case with all non-profit organizations, we depend totally on the contributions of those who share our dream to carry out our noble mission; we also conduct fund-raising activities and membership drives. While membership dues are only a tiny percentage of the funds needed to support IFGLC/AFGLC, they are significant in that they are a tangible show of support for our Foundation's aspirations and an encouragement to all those who donate countless hours of their time to ensure that it remains an influential entity in the service of Hellenism. Won't you please renew your membership today? If you have not been a member, won't you consider joining hands with us and helping us achieve this goal?

The annual membership donation is \$50 and it is tax-deductible. All donors get:

1. An elegant organizational pin depicting the logo of the Foundation.
2. A semi-annual Newsletter with recent AFGLC news plus information on upcoming events pertaining to the Greek Language and Culture.

Το Διεθνές / Αμερικανικό Ίδρυμα για την Ελληνική Γλώσσα και τον Πολιτισμό έχει σκοπό την διάσωση και προώθηση του Ελληνισμού, της ελληνικής γλώσσας και παιδείας, μέσω των Πανεπιστημίων. Όλες οι συνδρομές εκπίπτουν από το φόρο εισοδήματος (tax-deductible). Η ετήσια συνδρομή δωρεάς είναι \$50, και οι συνδρομητές λαμβάνουν:

1. Αρχικά, ένα έμβλημα με το σήμα του Ιδρύματος.
2. Ένα εξαμηνιαίο δελτίο με νέα του Ιδρύματος, μελλοντικές εκδηλώσεις και συναντήσεις σχετικά με την Ελληνική Γλώσσα και Πολιτισμό.

Please, cut our the form below and send it, together with your check for \$50 (made out to "AFGLC") to:

Σας παρακαλούμε να ενισχύσετε τιν προσπάθειά μας στέλνοντας προσωπική ή ταχυδρομική επιταγή σας για \$50, στο
AFGLC, 10413 Butia Place, Tampa, FL 33618-4117

MEMBERSHIP DONATION FORM

ΕΝΤΥΠΟ ΣΥΝΔΡΟΜΗΣ ΜΕΛΩΝ

NAME / ΟΝΟΜΑ: _____

ADDRESS / ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ: _____

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

Immortality is something that preoccupies only humans; animals—as far as we know—are not able to conceive of the element of Time. The Greeks thought that they could achieve a degree of immortality through either children (which carry on the family name) or deeds (which keep reminding people of their creators). When a person contributes a certain amount of money to the Foundation, that amount will be matched by a university and will fund a professorship in one of five areas of Hellenic studies; what's more, the professorship will be named after the donor or his/her designee: i.e., the *Papadopoulos Professor of Hellenic History*. Every professorship is so structured as to be guaranteed existence in perpetuity! And, together with the professorship, the name of the person who made it possible! At the same time, the creation of such a position is of enormous help to the Foundations whose noble mission is to promote Hellenism through Centers of Hellenic Studies in colleges and universities across the United States and abroad. If you or someone you know might wish to explore this further, please let us hear from you.

This Newsletter is being brought to you through the efforts of Dr. Byron P. Palls and Ms. Kalliope Halkias.

Editor: Dr. Byron P. Palls.

Individual contributors have been duly acknowledged. Please send news and other items of interest for possible inclusion in this Newsletter directly to the editor at:

bpalls@verizon.net