A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT

By: Dr. John U. Balis, Acting President, IFGLC/AFGLC HQ

Dear Members and Friends of AFGLC,

I wish to express, both personally and on behalf of the AFGLC, our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Chris Tsokos, Distinguished University Professor at USF and President of AFGLC from May, 1992 to January, 2007, for his enormous contributions to the development and growth of AFGLC. I am hopeful that, in spite of his undisclosed difficulties and increasing academic responsibilities, Dr. Tsokos will find time to support future meritorious AFGLC projects.

I have had the privilege of functioning as Acting President of our Foundation for the past nine months, in accordance with the Bylaws of AFGLC, given the inability of Dr. Tsokos to participate actively in any of the AFGLC meetings or handle any AFGLC business, discussed and approved by the HQ Executive Committee. On January 30, 2007, our Board of Trustees concluded that the inexplicable absence of the President from his legitimate role as the leader of the Foundation since the summer of 2006 is not consistent with the AFGLC Bylaws and, subsequently, formally appointed me to serve as Acting President. Furthermore, the Trustees revised the AFGLC bylaws, requiring that, henceforward, all AFGLC HQ Executive Officers be elected every 3 years.

While the duration of my appointment as Acting President will be determined by the Board of Trustees, I do expect that this appointment will be completed by no later than July 2009. During this period, I will work full time to promote the noble mission of our Foundation, with focus on the goals outlined in my communication to the Board of Trustees on February 3, 2007:

“The aim will be to address pressing current problems; establish good working relationships with the ICHS at USF; closely interact with the IFGLC Athens Center and the Tri-state Center to establish integrated strategies for the promotion of the AFGLC mission and agenda; actively pursue multiple fund raising strategies; foster communication and transparency within the AFGLC Centers and the corresponding ICHSs; bring up to date the AFGLC website; establish an upgraded AFGLC Newsletter; expand the membership drive in the Tampa Bay area in collaboration with the AFGLC Tampa Bay Center; and establish a fiscally sound Gala. All above projects require enthusiastic participation of the entire AFGLC family in close collaboration with the ICHS faculty and administration.”

Meaningful progress in some of the above goals has already been achieved as a result of collective leadership, the guiding force of my administration since July, 2006. The impressive success of our annual Educational Forum last month is an irrefutable testimony that, together, we continue to build a Foundation to last.

With warmest regards,

John U. Balis
Acting President, IFGLC/AFGLC
813-962-0708
Jbalis1@tampabay.rr.com
March 2-3, 2007 saw another successful celebration of the Hellenic Spirit: the 12th annual Educational Forum of AFGLC, held on the campus of the University of South Florida. This year’s central theme was “Hellenic Models of Excellence: Their Modern Relevance.” Credit for this successful event goes directly to its organizers, Dr. John U. Balis, USF Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology Emeritus, and Dr. James Strange, Distinguished USF professor and Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies (ICHS) at USF.

The cost of the Forum was defrayed by philanthropists and AFGLC benefactors George and Margo Behrakis of Boston, MA. The Forum enjoyed the full support of the administration of USF; Dr. Judy L. Genshaft, President of USF, Dr. Renu Khator, Provost, and Dr. John Skvoretz, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, gave an enthusiastic welcome to the participants and extolled the many benefits that the university community derives from having an ICHS on the USF Campus.

Working in tandem with Drs. Balis and Strange were additional members of the Forum Committee (Rev. Dr. S. Harakas, Mr. N. Maroulis, and Drs. B. Balis, D. Halkias, B. Palls, E. Stefanakos, G. Arsenis, M. Gibbons, and W. Yotis), who helped organize the many facets of the Forum, from deciding on the theme, to securing speakers, to planning ceremonies to honor outstanding Hellenes, to arranging for food and entertainment, to solving dozens of logistical problems and ensure the success of the Forum. (Cont’d on p. 6)

REPORT FROM THE AFGLC TAMPA CENTER

By: Kalliope D. Halkias, MPH, President

AFGLC Tampa Center sponsored its Third Annual Dinner Cruise aboard the StarLite Majesty Yacht on February 24, 2007, in Clearwater, Florida. This successful event was attended by 30 members and friends of AFGLC, who enjoyed a wonderful evening of fine food, fun and fellowship. It was the consensus that we continue this emerging fundraising tradition and host the cruise again later on this year (more information on this later).

The Center had an active supportive role in this year’s very successful Twelfth Educational Forum: Ms. Tina Manolakos, Esq. and AFGLC attorney, presented information on the AFGLC Bylaws, and Ms. Kalliope Halkias discussed options for a Membership Drive and reported on the activities of the local Young Adults group. Of paramount importance and a high priority of the Center is how to sustain and increase its membership in the Tampa Bay Area. We hope that all current members will continue to renew their membership annually, as the dues help support our everyday activities. We invite everyone to work with us to promote our Mission (see p. 7)
Refreshing your memory, the Tri-State organization consists of AFGLC members highly committed to its purpose, who represent people from the business, academic and government sectors.

At this time, in addition to the national AFGLC supportive organization, the Tri-State Center organization consists of:

**HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- The Honorable Joseph Biden, *U.S. Senator*
- The Honorable Tom Carper, *U.S. Senator*
- Dr. Nicholas Pappas, *Retired DuPont Executive*
- Mr. Constantine Caras, Esq.
- Dr. George Hadjipanayis, *The Richard B. Murray Professor of Physics, U. of DE*
- Dr. Vera King Farris, *President Emeritus, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey*
- Mr. Andreas P Economou, *Chairman and CEO, Unifruitti of America*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Dr. Peter Yiannos, *President*
- Dr. George Vassilatos, *Vice President*
- Mr. Costantine Georgiou, *Treasurer*
- Mr. Antonis Mistras, *Senior Financial Advisor*
- Mrs. Stella Yiannos, *Secretary*
- Dr. Theodore Michell, *Senior Advisor*
- Mr. Paul Kotrotsios, *Public Relations Advisor*
- Dr. George Tsakumis, *Academic Advisor*
- Mr. George Christy, *AFGLC Representative to Stockton College*

**MISSION**

The mission, goals and objectives of the Tri-State AFGLC are similar to those of the parent organization, with the aim of establishing Interdisciplinary Centers for Hellenic Studies (ICHS) in its area. In this regard, we are aiming to use the “cookie cutter” approach, thus, minimizing re-inventing the wheel, so-to-speak, but always mindful of the need for adaptation for any local variations and idiosyncrasies.

**PROGRESS AND RELEVANT COMMENTS**

Since the opening of the Stockton ICHS center took place on June 19, 2003, the following key accomplishments have been made:

The five professorship contracts for specific fields within that Center, funded through AFGLC donors, are:

1. The still un-named (but funded) AFGLC for Hellenic Culture Professorship, held by Professor Dr. Fred Mench, the Director of the Center. Dr. Mench is in the process of retiring and Dr. Papademetriou is the new Director Designee; the College is also in the process of hiring a suitable replacement for this specific discipline.

2. *The Peter and Stella Yiannos Professorship in Greek Language and Literature*, held by Designee Professor Dr. David Roessel.

(Cont’d on p. 4)
3. **The Constantine and Georgiean Georgiou Hellenic History Professorship (Modern Hellenism)**, held by Professor and Designee Director of the ICHS Center, Dr. Tom Papademetriou.

4. **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.

5. **The Petros and Despoina Tsantes Family Professorship in Greek Philosophy**, in memory of Katerina H. Batuyios, held by Designee Professor Dr. Lucio Privitello.

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.

In the October annual meeting of the Hellenic Friends for Stockton (HFS), a local organization in support of the ICHS Center at Stockton, the President of the College, Dr. Herman Saatkamp, reviewed the above professorships of the Center and cited its real contributions to the College. The President also took the opportunity to announce that Dean Pappas, co-sponsor of the Clement and Helen Pappas Byzantine Civilization and Religious Studies Professorship, was selected and appointed to serve as trustee of the College by the Governor of the State.

In a recent Christmas event by the Hellenic University Club of Wilmington, three of the professorship benefactors expressed some powerful messages worth repeating here:

- **Dean Pappas**: …The interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies (ICHS) at the Stockton College of New Jersey where I was recently appointed as a trustee, is doing very well and proves the wisdom of its establishment.

- **Gus Georgiou**: ….Twenty or twenty five years from now, no one will care or remember what kind of home I was living in or what kind of car I was driving, but I hope that some students that take Greek History at Stockton College will enjoy it and be inspired by it as much as my wife and I did sponsoring the AFGLC professorship.

- **Peter Yiannos**: …Σας υπενθυμίζω ότι η ελληνική παιδεία είναι το ορφανό της εποχής μας και χρειάζεται όλους μας. Είναι όμως το ισχυρό μας χαρτί για ένα καλό μέλλον. Ι remind you that Hellenic Paedeia is the orphan of our time and needs all of us. However, it is our strong card for a promising future. Let us support it and use it.

**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.

(Cont’d on p. 5)

[www.afglc.org](http://www.afglc.org)

[caliopey@comcast.net](mailto:caliopey@comcast.net) / 302-475-7607
IN MEMORIAM:

On March 5, 2007, the total community of Delaware, the AFGLC organization and all those who knew Georgiean Georgiou experienced the great loss of her passing to eternity. Georgiean, wife of our Tri-State AFGLC Treasurer Constantine Georgiou and sponsors of the Greek History Professorship at our Hellenic Center at Stockton College, was a dynamo of a person and an example of a cultured personality who absorbed and practiced the best of her Hellenic and American cultures.

Αιώνια της η Μνήμη - May her Memory be Eternal -Ω

AFGLC: A Global Voice for Hellenism

The informative and inspiring DVD you saw at our 2004 Forum, about the noble Mission of AFGLC, is now available for sale to individuals and groups. Buy one for your family and an extra copy for your grandchildren, your Church, or your non-Greek neighbors, and help AFGLC defray part of its operating expenses while, at the same time, you reinforce your children’s pride in their Hellenic heritage and help explain to your non-Greek friends what we are all about.

The suggested donation of $10 per DVD is also tax deductible, so order one or more today! Cut this form and send it and with your check to: Fern Cliff Ave, Tampa, FL 33617.

Please send me ______ DVD(s).
I enclose my check for $_______ (make checks payable to “AFGLC”).
Name______________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City______________________________________________
State_ _________________________________ZIP _______

AFGLC/IFGLC WEBSITE UPDATE!

Dr. Ulysses J. Balis, Director

By fall of this year, there will be a number of modest but very useful enhancements to our current AFGLC website.

1. **ICHSS integration**: Links and current activities for our ICHS's will be prominently featured on the homepage, thereby simplifying access to our various chapters.

2. **Archival material**: With the conversion to our new website format several years ago, much useful archival and historical content was not fully mapped to the new page structure. This is being rectified with the expectation that all AFGLC/IFGLC archival documents will be available via a newly expanded archives section.

3. **Membership** section with on-line membership renewal and donation capability: Recognizing the need to provide for on-line membership activity, the website is being retooled to offer these features.
The final session of the Forum, “The AFGLC Family Speaks: Thoughts, Constructive Criticism and Recommendations,” moderated by Dr. Demetrios Halkias, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology Emeritus, USF, was another panel discussion. The panel was made up of Ms. Kaliope Halkias, MPH, Associate Director of the Infectious Diseases Institute, Inc.; Ms. Tina Manolakos, Esq., AFGLC attorney; and Prof. William Yotis, Professor Emeritus, Loyola University of Chicago and Clinical Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, USF. It proved to be a candid appraisal of AFGLC’s strengths and weaknesses, and also explored possible ways to ameliorate the latter in order to continue its extraordinary role as a torch bearer of the Hellenic Spirit. Prof. J. Balis, signaled the .
Tampa Center, Cont’d from p. 2

and to bring new friends into our AFGLC Family. To renew your membership or to become a member, please see the Membership Form on the back of this newsletter. We also encourage you to give us your email address since it not only allows for a fast and efficient way to communicate, but also helps us realize savings by not having to pay for postage.

A special “Thank you” goes out to Dr. Byron Palls who is the new Editor of the AFGLC Newsletter. Thanks again, Dr. Palls, for your countless hours of volunteer service.

Young Adult members of the Tampa Center: jot down and save the date of the next Social Hour, to be held at the Bahamas Breeze, on the Courtney Campbell Causeway, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 17, 2007.

Remember to bring a friend!

For more information, please contact Kalliope Halkias at (813)-789-4134

Forum (Cont’d from p. 6)

closure of the Forum with an appropriate summation and due acknowledgements

On the eve of the Forum, those attending had an opportunity to see several ethnic dances performed by USF students from countries along the route of Alexander the Great, from Greece to India. Adding to the delight, was a buffet of wonderful international foods donated by Tampa Bay area restaurateurs. The event was organized by the Hellenic Society of USF, which also delighted many with a performance of Greek folk dances during Saturday’s lunch break.

The Forum would not have been complete without a special event given in honor of two outstanding Hellenes and attended by the Executive Committee and members of AFGLC and the Forum speakers. The special reception-dinner was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Tampa; it got underway with the National Anthems of the United States and Greece, sung by Ms. Joanna Hills. During the dinner, Prof. Klasko introduced Prof. Constantine Papadakis, President of Drexel University, Philadelphia, who delivered this year’s keynote address “The Contributions of Ancient Greece to Technology,” a powerful reminder of the many ways in which our forefathers influenced all spheres of human activity. Another Hellen present at the reception, Mr. John T. Baglaneas, Executive Editor & Managing Director of The Hellenic Voice, made a moving speech in support of the AFGLC mission and delivered a letter of support from Mr. Behrakis together with the phil

(Forum)

anthropist’s generous donation of $25,000 to AFGLC. The culminating moment of the evening came when Dr. Balis awarded special citations to Dr. Papadakis and Mr. Baglaneas, for their unfailing support of the Greek American community and for promoting Hellenism in the United States.

In retrospect, it must be noted that the presenters and panelists engaged the audience with their highly informative, enlightening, often humorous papers and insight. The consensus of all those who attended was that this was a memorable Forum, indeed, a feather in the caps of those whose indefatigable work made it possible. You are invited to read about this remarkable event in a front-page article of the Hellenic Voice entitled “AFGLC holds 12th
The Athens Center has been very active, organizing a number of interesting cultural events that have been supported by our members as well as by friends of the Center who value the goals and aspirations of our Foundation. Worthy of mention among these events, are the following:

On November 15, 2006 the Center held a meeting at the Conference Hall of the Athens Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which was made available to us by its President, Mr. Konstantinos Michalos. Our guest speaker was the Pianist Ada Karmiri, an active member of our Center, who spoke on “The Effects of Music on People.” It proved to be a thorough and lucid presentation, greatly enhanced with medical data interjected by our President, Professor Manolis Bechrakis, to the delight of the audience. The meeting ended with a Q&A session, which was to respond to questions and to settle doubts.

A well-attended, day-long excursion to the archaeological site and museum of Acrocorinth took place on December 16, 2006, organized by our Vice President, Professor Athanasios Papadopoulos, who also served as our guide. The recent archeological finds and the detailed presentation of Dr. Papadopoulos, an archeologist who is participating in the current excavations conducted by the American Archeological School, were most impressive and revealed the importance of Corinth during the Ancient, Hellenistic and Roman periods.

On February 1, 2007, the members of our Center and their friends were invited to attend a presentation on “Hellenic Culture without Borders,” at the National Research Institute of Athens. Speakers at this remarkable event were Greek and foreign archeologists, who have been conducting excavations in Mediterranean countries as well as in areas between the shores of the Caspian Sea and India. Among the speakers was Dr. Papadopoulos, Professor of Prehistoric Archeology, who is presently conducting excavations in Jordan.

We cut our traditional Christmas Pita on February 5, 2007.” Mrs. Ada Karmiri, graced us with her presence and piano music. Also honoring us with her presence was Ms. Jenny Manoussaki, internationally renowned pianist. Ms. Manoussaki has given numerous concerts repeatedly at Carnegie Hall and the largest concert halls of Europe. Her outstanding performance took us for a while to the magic world of Beethoven, Bach and Kalomirri. Mrs. Nelly Parastatidou, an art painter and art historian, also a new member of the Foundation, was kind to donate a beautiful painting for a raffle, in order to raise money with which to fund essential goals of the Foundation. Part of the event’s proceedings was used to purchase history maps and CD’s of Greek folk dances for the Greek School of Baltimore, Maryland.

Finally, on April 16, 2007, the painter-artist and historian Nelly Parastatidou gave a very informative lecture on “The Architecture of Parthenon and its sculptures.” The event took place in the “Pnevmatikon Kentron Enoseos Constantinopolit,” which provided the use of the hall with the assistance of Mrs. F. Pagouropoulou, one of our members.

We are looking forward to two more cultural events, a visit to the archeological site of Mycenae, guided by our Vice President, Dr. Papadopoulos, and a lecture by Dr. Mousa on the “Astrolavo of Antikythera.”

The Athens Center would like to extend its warm thanks to the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Athens (and in particular to its former President Mr. D. Fountoukakos and current President Mr. Michalos of the EBEA), for its generous contribution of €5,000 (Euros) to the Center.

The President and the Executive Committee of the Athens Center, after the normalization of the situation at the Headquarters in Tampa, are very hopeful and optimistic about the future of the IFGLC. They’ll embark with greater enthusiasm and effort to accomplish the productive goals of the Center. The goals and the objectives must become the source of inspiration and should overcome egoistic and personal ambitions. On the contrary, sincere personal ambitions should become the means by which to accomplish the goals and objectives of the IFGLC and become its foundation.
Announcing!

THE AFGLC / DR. DEMETRIOS G. HALKIAS SCHOLARSHIP
“Give a chance to today’s students to become tomorrow’s leaders”

Two $1,250.00 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, 2007. 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 applicable).

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.
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 the Universities. All donations are tax-deductible. The suggested yearly membership donation is $50 and all donors get:

1. An 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.

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

NAME: ______________________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________________
PHONE: (______) _______________________; E-MAIL: ______________________________

Please send your contributions directly to your local AFGLC Center. For those without local Centers and those residing in the Tampa Bay area, please send your contributions to the address shown above. **

Thank you very much!

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

Please note.
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 Phil Hellenes for establishing Interdisciplinary Centers for Hellenic Studies, ICHS, in various Universities.

Please send your contributions directly to your local AFGLC Center. For those without local Centers and those residing in the Tampa Bay area, please send your contributions to the address shown above. **

Thank you very much!

This Newsletter has been prepared by 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