

AFGLC - Dr. Demetrios Halkias' Annual Lecture on Faith and Stewardship



Spanos-Pappas Community Center

Thursday, March 28, 2013

This program was established in June 2008 to honor the late Dr. Demetrios Halkias, a founder, Vice-President and Treasurer of the American Foundation of Greek Language and Culture (*AFGLC*) at the University of South Florida (*USF*), Tampa.

The purpose of the lectureship is to honor the memory of Dr. Demetrios Halkias for his life of service, his tenure as Treasurer of the *AFGLC*, his labors for the advancement of the *AFGLC*, his devotion to the Greek Orthodox Church, particularly the Church of St. John the Baptist, Tampa, FL, and to perpetuate his values relating to Hellenism and Greek Orthodoxy into the future.

This lectureship seeks to juxtapose the values of faith & Hellenism with the moral, spiritual, cultural and financial support of these values throughout the community. It is broad-based in its appeal, including the academic, the ecclesial, and the larger Tampa Bay area community.

This year's lecture will be presented by

His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas of Dardanellia

Metropolitan Nikitas, the son of Constantine and Kalliope Lulias, was born on June 22, 1955, in Tampa, Florida where he was raised with his brother, John. A member of Savant, the University of Florida Honors Society, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) from the University in 1976. He is listed in the Who's Who of American Colleges and Universities in 1975 and 1979. His Eminence attended Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Brookline, MA) and received his Master of Divinity, with Honors, in 1980.



He was a Rotary International Graduate Scholar from 1980 - 81 and a Graduate Scholar, Ministry of the Exterior, Greece, from 1981 - 82. He pursued his graduate studies at the University of Thessaloniki, Greece, until November, 1982. He further studied the Russian language at the St. Petersburg Theological Seminary, St. Petersburg, Russia from late 1992 through mid-1993.

His Eminence Nikitas' first assignment, upon ordination, was Associate Pastor at SS. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Merriville, Indiana. He remained at the Cathedral until 1987, at which time he became the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Chicago, Illinois.

During his tenure as Chancellor from 1987 to 1995, he was involved in numerous educational, community service and interfaith activities including:

- Lecturer in Orthodox Christianity
- Teaching theology at Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, from 1988 to 1991
- Member, Board of Directors, the Hellenic Foundation (1989 - present)

- Member, Board of Directors, the Hellenic Museum (1991 - 1992)
- Teen Living Program Volunteer (1990 - 1992) and Volunteer of the Year, Teen Living Program (1992)
- Member, Executive Committee, National Workshop - Relations between Christians and Jews (1991)
- Member, Steering Committee, 32nd Biennial Clergy - Laity Congress

In 1994, he was appointed Director of Development for the International Orthodox Christian Charities and on July 1, 1995, he became Pastor of St. Demetrios Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois.

On Saturday, December 14, 1996, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas was consecrated a Hierarchy and named Metropolitan of Hong Kong and South East Asia. This historic event took place in the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George the Great Martyr, Phanar, Istanbul. He was enthroned as the first Metropolitan of Hong Kong and South East Asia (the Exarchates of China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore) on Sunday, January 12, 1997 at the Cathedral of St. Luke the Evangelist in Hong Kong.

In March of 2007, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas was appointed Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, California.

His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas is fluent in English, Greek and Russian and has a working knowledge of Latin, Church Slavonic and Spanish.

Demetrios G. Halkias, Ph.D. August 6, 1932-April 19, 2008

Demetrios G. Halkias was born in 1932 in Kosma, Kynourias, Greece to George and Kalliope Halkias. His father, a physician, died in 1935 and Demetrios, along with his mother, brother and two sisters survived the difficult years of World War II.

In 1950, he was admitted to the Superior School of Commerce and Economic Sciences and in December 1951 immigrated to the US. He settled in Chicago and worked as a dishwasher, laundry man, and short order cook. He attended night school to learn the English language.

In February 1953, he entered the University of Illinois and graduated in 1957. He then continued his graduate studies at the Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University where he obtained an MS and PhD in Medical Microbiology. In 1962, he married Evangeline Paraskevas. They have four children, George, Kalliope, Christos and Evangelos (Angelo) and two grandchildren, Demetrios and Thanasi.

His professional career began at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE where he taught medical, dental, and graduate students. In 1972, he left Creighton as Associate Professor and moved to *USF*, College of Medicine obtaining the position of charter faculty member and later, Chief of Microbiology who supported the James A. Haley VA Hospital. In 1978, he was promoted to Professor of Pathology and Medical Microbiology.

Dr. Halkias was involved in research, teaching and served as a chair for a number of doctoral candidates. He trained numerous residents in pathology, performed basic research, and published a number of papers and book chapters. He participated in numerous University and VA committees and devoted many years to the Admissions Committee at the *USF*, College of Medicine.

Dr. Halkias' service to the Greek community in the Tampa Bay area is renowned. He was the President of the Parish Council at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church for several years and served as the second Psalti (Cantor). Since 1984, he actively participated in the planning and establishment of the Greek Studies Center at *USF*. He was a benefactor of the Interdisciplinary Chair of Byzantine History and Orthodox Christianity at *USF*. An *AFGLC* Lectureship in Faith has been established in his memory by his family, friends and many admirers.

