



PANHELLENIC  
SCHOLARSHIP  
FOUNDATION

2017 Awards  
Ceremony  
& Gala



2017 Awards  
Ceremony  
& Gala

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*Our Mission is to promote education  
by providing scholarships and  
educational programs to Greek American  
students who, guided by the values of their  
Hellenic upbringing, have the potential to  
become life-long significant achievers and  
contribute meaningfully to society.*

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*Program*

**THE HILTON CHICAGO**

*Waldorf Room*

**VIP RECEPTION IN HONOR  
OF PARADIGM AWARD HONOREE**

John Pappajohn  
Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Business Leader

*Grand Ballroom*

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

*International Ballroom*

**AWARDS CEREMONY**

**WELCOME**

Betty Cantrell  
Miss America 2016, Mistress of Ceremonies

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Yanni A. Valsamas, Director, Board of Directors  
Robert A. Buhler, Chairman, Board of Directors  
Dr. Constantine Georgakis, Chairman, Academic Committee

*Program*

**PARADIGM AWARD PRESENTATION**

*John Pappajohn*

John S. Koudounis  
2016 Paradigm Award Recipient

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Robert A. Buhler

*Grand Ballroom*

**DINNER**

**RAFFLE**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Hellenic Five  
DJ John Grammatis  
Martini Lunch Trio



# *Board Members*

## **FOUNDER**

Chris P. Tomaras (1937 - 2015)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Robert A. Buhler • Chairman

John G. Manos • Treasurer

Athan Tom P. Sotos, Esq. • Secretary

Tassos F. Chronopoulos • Director

John W. Galanis, Esq. • Director

Dimitrios L. Kozonis • Director

Dr. George I. Skarpathiotis • Director

John T. Sotos • Director

Anastasia Svigos, Esq. • Director

Yanni A. Valsamas • Director

## **ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Constantine Georgakis, Ph.D. • Chairman

Thanasis Economou, Ph.D.

Anastasia Giannakidou, Ph.D.

Georgia S. Mitchell, MFA

Anita Skarpathiotis, MA

Christos G. Takoudis, Ph.D.

## **PANHELLENIC ADMINISTRATION**

Angelo G. Bravos, Ph.D.

Allie Clayman



## *Advisory Board Committees*

### **FUNDRAISING**

Identify probable co-branding partners, endowment opportunities, corporate sponsorships, memorial donations, and individual donors, regionally and nationally. Develop strategy for each category.

### **ALUMNI RELATIONS**

Develop alumni opportunities for mentoring, internships, jobs and networking. Arrange (joint) leadership and education programs. Establish website internship/job connections, interview opportunities, and develop interview skill sets.

### **NATIONAL OUTREACH**

Establish Advisory Board Regional Directors in six regions, who will facilitate PHSF education, awareness, and fundraising

### **GALA**

Establish theme, venue, decorations, menu, music, layout, and support help, for annual gala, economically and in an elegant manner.

## *Advisory Board Committees*

### **SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS**

Responsible for scholarship program growth and how it will evolve, while maintaining integrity, and in line with fundraising. Develop relationships with universities, particularly their Humanities, Classics, and Hellenic Studies departments, to enhance schools' awareness of the PHSF scholarship program. Use alumni network to help facilitate.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Develop communications strategy, updated for targeted users, to effectively connect to candidates and donors, regionally and nationally. Focus is for all electronic modes and all paper correspondences, with an economic balance.

### **PARADIGM AWARD**

Establish standards and long-term strategy to identify and secure superb and diverse mix of candidates for this award. Create viable access connections to have meaningful dialogue with candidates.



## PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

***Building a Better America through Education and Hellenism*** is at the core of the Foundation's mission. In that spirit, our scholarship, educational and leadership programs aim to strengthen the civic fabric of society by assisting promising young scholars, and developing enlightened and engaged citizens.

Greek philosophers thought extensively about the purpose of education and its fundamental role in the development of civilization. Aristotle wrote, ***"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."*** The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation carries forth this tradition in Hellenic thought and philosophy by supporting the advancement of higher education for academically outstanding Greek American college students.

The PanHellenic Scholarship Awards recognize students' exceptional academic performance by providing meaningful support to those undergraduates with significant financial need, and to those outstanding students whose achievements merit acknowledgement. Our symbol, Nike of Paionios, represents our efforts to see Greek American youth triumph in life through scholarship, hard work, and determination.

## WHO WE ARE

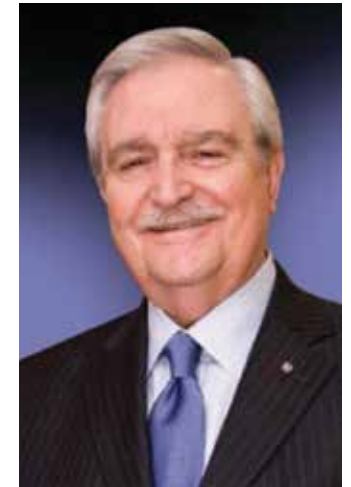
The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) national organization that honors and supports exceptional undergraduate students of Hellenic descent. Chris P. Tomaras established the Foundation in 1998.

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded significant scholarships to deserving students. In recent years, the total amount of awards given annually has grown to \$250,000. Each year, the Foundation awards twenty \$10,000 scholarships based on academic merit and financial need, and twenty \$2,500 scholarships based solely on academic merit. An independent Academic Committee rigorously reviews hundreds of applications and makes the final selection of Award Recipients.

***Including tonight's recipients, the Foundation has honored 408 Greek American college students with scholarships totaling \$2.75 million.***

## *Our Founder*

### CHRIS P. TOMARAS (1937 – 2015)



Mr. Chris P. Tomaras was the beloved Founder and Chairman of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. He will be remembered as a successful businessman and philanthropist who cared deeply about his family and friends, Hellenism, his Greek Orthodox faith, and education.

Mr. Tomaras was born in 1937 in Greece, and moved to the United States in 1957 to attend school at Columbia University in New York. After facing unforeseen challenges upon his arrival in the U.S.,

Mr. Tomaras was forced to forgo his education and moved to Birmingham, Alabama. In Birmingham, Mr. Tomaras held his first job in the food industry, and opened his first restaurant. Mr. Tomaras also met his wife, Nancy, in Birmingham.

In 1965, the couple moved to Chicago, and Mr. Tomaras opened another restaurant, and invented the Kronomatic Broiler for cooking gyros. His new design, a vertical spit, was patented and soon, Mr. Tomaras established Kronos Foods.

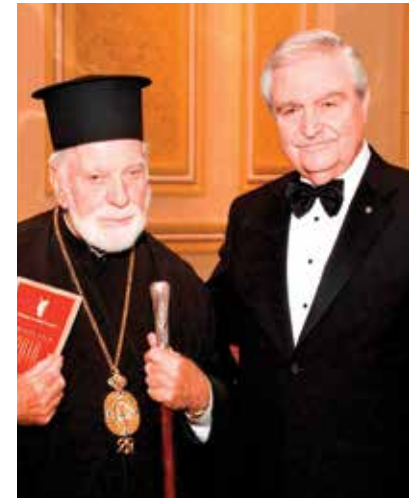
The success of Mr. Tomaras' businesses gave him the means to help others in need. While he was dedicated to many causes and organizations, his passion for education led him to establish the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation in 1998.

Through the PanHellenic, Mr. Tomaras ensured that no deserving Greek American student would have to give up earning their college education due to lack of financial support. He believed Hellenism and education would build a better America and hoped that the Foundation's scholarship recipients would become meaningful contributors to society.

Chris Tomaras will be remembered as a great philanthropist and an inspiring leader. The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation will continue to build Mr. Tomaras' dream by emulating his generosity and compassion, and continuing to support exceptional Hellenic scholars who will carry on Mr. Tomaras' legacy by achieving their own dreams and contributing meaningfully to our world. Through the accomplishments of past and present scholarship recipients, Chris Tomaras' dream is coming true and his legacy lives on.



## HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN IAKOVOS (1928 - 2017)



With the heaviest of hearts and profound sadness, the Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and Academic Committee of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation mourn the loss of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago. As shepherd of our Metropolis, His Eminence passionately spread the Word of Orthodoxy and uplifted our hearts unto our Lord and Savior. From the beginning, His Eminence wholeheartedly embraced the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's education mission. Together with our Founder, the late Chris P. Tomaras, he recognized the value of education and understood its important role in bringing us closer to our faith and culture. He shared our vision, ensuring that Greek American college students had every opportunity to pursue their academic dreams.

His spiritual guidance has had a profound effect on the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. His Eminence was instrumental in helping Mr. Tomaras realize the fullness of the Foundation's mission. He delighted in celebrating the academic accomplishments of our scholarship recipients. In their eyes, His Eminence saw the future of Hellenism and Orthodoxy. When addressing our recipients at the annual awards ceremonies, he encouraged and inspired them to be their best, to honor their heritage, and to live their faith. He reminded us that our identity was rooted in our heritage and our spirituality.

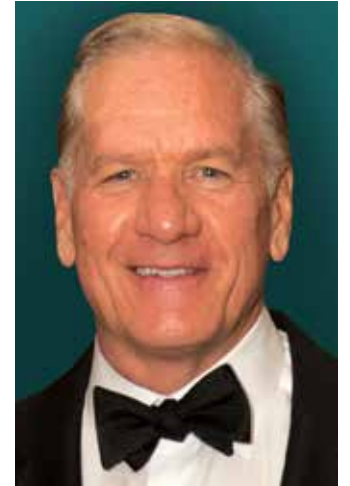
In his thirty-eight years as the Metropolitan of the Metropolis of Chicago, His Eminence left a lasting impression and a rich legacy as our spiritual leader. We were blessed to have the privilege to work alongside him. Thank you for your unwavering love and support to our Founder, our Scholarship Recipients, and our Foundation.

*In Memory of  
Our Spiritual Leader*

## BUILDING THE DREAM

### Welcome to the 2017 Award Ceremony and Gala!

Several years ago, Mr. Chris P. Tomaras founded the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation in order to fulfill his dream. He wanted to help pay educational expenses for the best and brightest Greek American college students from across the United States. Tonight, we celebrate the academic achievements of forty-two exceptional undergraduates of Hellenic descent. These young scholars are the future leaders of our community and our country. In honoring them, you are helping achieve the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's vision, and helping these amazing students achieve exceptional futures.



This evening we are also honoring the great success and remarkable accomplishments of the 2017 Paradigm Award Honoree, Mr. John Pappajohn. Mr. Pappajohn is a dedicated philanthropist and admirable role model for our scholars, and his success story is a true inspiration.

It is an honor for me, along with the members of the Board of Directors, the newly-installed Advisory Board, and our Academic Committee members, to be furthering the mission and building the dream of our Founder. This year, in addition to our signature scholarship program, we are proud to have initiated new engagement and educational opportunities for our current and former scholars. Our Alumni Board planned its first PanHellenic Alumni Weekend to connect and engage former scholarship recipients with one another. Earlier today, the Foundation partnered with The Hellenic Initiative to host a mentorship forum and luncheon for our scholars. With these new opportunities, we hope to encourage all of our scholars and alumni to pursue their dreams and aspirations, and ensure that the Foundation continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of deserving young Hellenes from across the country.

## *Chairman's Message*

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation would not be able to provide these important opportunities and experiences if not for your continued generosity and commitment to our mission. We are fortunate to receive your support, and could not be more grateful for it. Thank you.

My fellow Trustees and members of the Board join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to you for spending this evening with the Foundation. We hope that you enjoy your time with us. We look forward to building the dreams of our Founder, and encouraging the dreams of our scholars, as we continue to fulfill our mission and embrace the future of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.

Robert A. Buhler  
Chairman



**John Bertakis**  
**Andy Eliopoulos**  
**John G. Manos**

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*Corporate Sponsor*

# *Mistress of Ceremonies*

## BETTY CANTRELL

Baciliky Andris, “Betty,” Cantrell is an American beauty pageant titleholder from Warner Robins, Georgia, who was crowned Miss Georgia 2015. On September 13, 2015, she was crowned Miss America 2016.



Cantrell is of Greek and German descent and was named after her Greek grandmother, with the name Baciliky (Βασιλική). She attended Wesleyan College for her freshman year, and then transferred to Mercer University, where she studied vocal performance.

Cantrell entered her first pageant in late 2013. She was one of 38 qualifiers who competed in the 2014 Miss Georgia pageant. She was named second runner-up for the 2014 state title. Cantrell entered the Miss Georgia pageant once again in 2015, and won the competition on June 20, 2015. She earned more than \$15,000 in scholarships from the state pageant. Cantrell also received scholarship awards for winning the talent, evening wear, and on-stage question portions of the competition. As Miss Georgia, her activities included public appearances across the state of Georgia.

Cantrell was Georgia’s representative at the Miss America 2016 competition held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in September 2015. Her platform was “Healthy Children, Strong America,” a reflection of her childhood spent growing up on a farm in Georgia, and of her parents who are physical therapists. She was crowned Miss America 2016 in September 2015. Along with the title of Miss America, Cantrell also won a \$50,000 scholarship. Cantrell is only the second Miss Georgia to win the Miss America title.

As Miss America, Cantrell served as the official National Goodwill Ambassador for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Additionally, Cantrell appeared as a presenter at several high-profile music award shows.

After passing on her crown at the 2017 Miss America pageant, Cantrell announced that she was engaged to her long-time boyfriend, Spencer Maxwell. The pair recently moved to Nashville, Tennessee for Cantrell to pursue a country music career.

# *Academic Committee*

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Foundation extends a special thank you to the members of the Academic Committee. Every year, the Committee members review hundreds of scholarship applications, and ultimately select the students who are most worthy of the Scholarship Awards. We are very grateful to our Academic Committee members for their commitment to upholding the high academic standards of the Foundation and its scholarship recipients.

**Constantine Georgakis, Ph.D., Chairman**

Distinguished Service Emeritus Faculty  
Department of Mathematics  
DePaul University

**Thanasis Economou, Ph.D.**

Research Professor  
Laboratory for Astrophysics and Space Research  
The Enrico Fermi Institute  
University of Chicago

**Anastasia Giannakidou, Ph.D.**

Professor of Linguistics  
Department of Linguistics  
Humanities Collegiate Division  
University of Chicago

**Anita Skarpathiotis, M.Arch./M.A.**

Lecturer of Modern Greek  
Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Georgia Sfondouris Mitchell, M.F.A**

Music Educator and Music Director  
Founder and Director of the Hellenic Choral Society

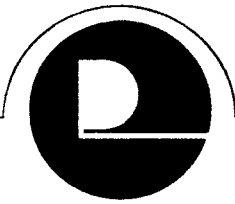
**Christos G. Takoudis, Ph.D.**

Professor of Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering  
College of Engineering  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**George Alexopoulos, D.A.**

Academic Committee Chairman & Chairman Emeritus  
(2002-2015) †

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*PanHellenic  
Honors Society*

## *Congratulations*

to the 2017 Award Recipients  
for being distinguished as  
this year's most exceptional  
scholars, and for being  
inducted into the  
PanHellenic Honors Society.

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### ALEXANDER WILLIAM ALATSI

Alexander studies Electrical and Computer Engineering, with a minor in Computational Sciences and Engineering, at The Ohio State University (OSU). He is a Maximus Merit Scholar and Honda-OSU Scholar, and has maintained his place on the university-wide and College of Engineering Dean's List every semester. Alexander has interned with Procter & Gamble, Lyondell Basell, and Texas Instruments.

### ASPASIA ARIADNI AMIRIDIS

Aspasia is a Biochemistry and Cellular & Molecular Biology major in the Honors College at the University of South Carolina. She plans on attending a doctoral program, and hopes to eventually specialize in either anesthesiology or obstetrics and gynecology. She would also like to continue her research in biochemistry. She was the valedictorian of her high school class and is on the President's List at USC.

### PETER CHRISTO CHARALAMBOUS

Peter is a freshman at Dartmouth College, where he studies government and history. In high school, he was the captain of the Speech & Debate team and Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper. At Dartmouth, he is a member of the Mock Trial team, a staff writer for the school newspaper, *The Dartmouth*, and a volunteer for Students Fighting Hunger, a community organization that cooks meals for local residents.

### THOMASINA PAULETTE CHIRGOTT

Thomasina is a junior nursing student at Robert Morris University. She has made the School of Nursing Dean's List every semester. Thomasina has been accepted into the Cleveland Clinic's prestigious Nurse Associate Externship for the Summer of 2017. She joined the Association of Women's Health Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses with plans to become an obstetric nurse, and eventually become a women's health nurse practitioner.

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### ALEXEI CHRISTODOULIDES

After only three years as an undergraduate, Alexei will graduate from UCLA with a degree in Molecular Biology at just nineteen years old. Throughout his undergraduate career, Alexei has conducted research in oncology, taught AP Biology, volunteered, and explored photography. Alexei is currently applying to medical school with hopes of pursuing a career as a trauma surgeon.

### GIANA ARIEL DAMIANOS

Giana is a sophomore at Indiana University where she is double-majoring in Economics and Psychology. She is on the Dean's List and is a member of the Mock Trial Team and the Hellenic Student Association. Giana spent her summer studying abroad in Athens and hopes to return soon. After graduating, she aspires to attend law school or graduate school.

### PLATO ALEXANDER DELIYANNIS

Plato is a freshman at Cornell University, where he studies mathematics, physics, and economics. He plans to become an aeronautical engineer or a research astrophysicist. Plato is a National Merit Finalist and AP scholar of distinction. He has studied the violin for 13 years and was the concertmaster of his high school orchestra, including at their performance at the renowned John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C.

### THALIA MARIE DIMITRIOU

Thalia is a sophomore at Florida State University majoring in Music Therapy. She is very involved in the Hellenic community as Chapter President of the Maids of Athena, as well as being a member of OCF, and Greek Dance groups. Thalia is also the Vice President of the Alpha Mu Alpha Music Therapy Fraternity, and Secretary of the Swing Dance Club.





## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### NIKOLETTA MARIE ECONOMOU

Nikoletta is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison pursuing majors in Business & Marketing or Broadcast Journalism. She aspires to become the CEO of a large company or a live sports reporter. In high school, Nikoletta was on the High Honor Roll and a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and as an undergraduate at UW, she is on the Dean's List.

### FOTIOS EMERY

Fotios is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Electrical Engineering. In high school, Fotios was an AP Scholar with Distinction, and this year was awarded the Frawley, Dorothy Marshall Scholarship and Freshman Academic Achievement Award. Loyal to his Greek heritage, he volunteers in the summers with the Aggii Theodori Association of Firefighters on the Island of Samos. Fotios is an accomplished fencer and speaks five languages.

### MARIA NASTASIA GANIOS

Maria is a junior at the University of Akron majoring in Biochemistry, with plans to attend pharmacy school. She was the valedictorian of her high school class, is on the University of Akron's Presidential List and Dean's List, and is a Julius Muehlstein Scholarship recipient. Her special interests include baking, traveling, and volunteering.

### JENNA MAGDALENE GEORGE

Jenna is double-majoring in Elementary Education and Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She loves writing and photography, and has won awards for her journalism. She is an avid basketball player for her church, and has participated in monthly GOYA meetings since before high school.

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### GREGORY GRIGOROPOULOS

Gregory is a pre-medical, Exercise Physiology student at Loyola University Chicago. Gregory has maintained his Dean's List status every semester of his undergraduate career, and was recently inducted into Alpha Sigma Nu, an honors society awarded to the top 5% of students in each school. Gregory also conducts research relating to movement patterns in children with disabilities, and is an avid marathon runner.

### VASILIOS C. IKONOMOU

At just nineteen years old, Vasilios is a sophomore psychology student at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania. He is an Honor Student on the President's List, and leads a supervised research project in the Psychology Department. He is also the Vice President of his local AHEPA Chapter 445, and is the Youth President & Head Dance Instructor at the Pontian Society "Akritai" of Philadelphia.

### PARASKEVI VOULA KAKARES

Paraskevi is a freshman at Illinois Wesleyan University. She is majoring in English, with a minor in Spanish. Paraskevi works for University Communications and will be working as a writing tutor in the fall. She graduated from high school in the top 5% of her class as an AP Scholar and a member of NHS. She also made the Dean's List her first semester at Illinois Wesleyan. Paraskevi has also been a member of the Orpheus Dance Troupe for four years.

### VASILIKI KARAHALIOS

Vasiliki attends the University of Utah Honors College and studies art history and archaeology. Vasiliki graduated high school with an International Baccalaureate Diploma and works as an art history research assistant under Dr. Christine Jones, who she assists in her Honors course. Vasiliki made the Dean's List during her first semester of college, and is also an accomplished swimmer.

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### IOANNIS CHRISTOS KARAKOZIS

Ioannis is a sophomore at Princeton University, majoring in Computer Science and pursuing a certificate in Statistics and Machine Learning. Once he graduates, he hopes to enter the start-up world and work on high-tech impact-oriented ventures. Ultimately, Ioannis aspires to transfer his experience to Greece so he can help foster entrepreneurship there. His primary areas of interest are exponential and emerging technologies and mobile app development.

### MARIA ELENI KOLLAROS

Maria is a sophomore studying political science at the University of Chicago. She plans on pursuing a law degree and becoming a practicing attorney. Maria excels in her academics while working part-time on campus. She is on the Dean's List, is a recipient of the Odyssey Scholarship, and is an AP Scholar. She enjoys traveling and working on an on-campus literary magazine.

### MARISA LEIGH KOMETAS

Marisa attends the University of Oklahoma and studies Biology and Economics, with honors in both majors. She also is a Chemistry minor. She graduated from high school with high honors and received both an International Baccalaureate diploma and the Superintendent's Diploma of Distinction. Upon graduation, Marisa will attend dental school. She enjoys tutoring and writing poetry.

### BASIL DEMETRIOS KYRIACOU

Basil is a pre-medical student at the University of California-Berkeley, and is a member of the Sigma Alpha Pi National Honor Society. In high school, he was a member of the Cum Laude Society, and was an Illinois State Scholar and an AP Scholar. He also won the State Championship for Congressional Debate. Basil enjoys playing viola and sailing.

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### ALEXANDROS ODYSSEAS LAMBROPOULOS

Alexandros is an Economics student at Drexel University in Philadelphia. He has been on the Dean's List since 2013. He is very passionate about startups and technology, and recently started his own business, MentorMe, with the mission to mentor Greeks who wish to pursue their academic studies abroad.

### VASILIKI MITSAKIS

Vasiliki attends New York University, with plans to double-major in Politics and Media Culture & Communication. She works as a United Nations Youth Representative for a women's rights NGO, and is a host, producer, sound engineer, and the head of Social Media Outreach at Cosmos FM.

### MARIA ANNA PALIVOS

Maria is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Political Science and Legal Studies, and she plans on attending law school after graduation. She is a member of the University's Letters and Science Honors Program, is on the Dean's List, is an Illinois State Scholar, and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Excellence. Maria works as a legal writing intern at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

### DEMI PANAGOPOULOS

Demi is a freshman Honors student at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), majoring in pre-nursing. She hopes to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. She is on the Dean's List and she is also a Chancellor's Scholar. In high school, Demi earned several awards for her art, and she was a member of Interact Club. She was also a member of the National Honors Society and she graduated high school with Academic Honors.

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### GEORGIA ELAINE PAPPAS

Georgia is a freshman at DePaul University's School of Music, studying Vocal Performance with an emphasis on Opera Singing. Her goal is to get her Master's degree at the Julliard School of Music, and from there return to perform at the Ryan Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Georgia plans to pursue a minor in education as she is passionate about working with students and would love to teach music.

### CHRISTINA MARIE PARIS

Christina is a freshman at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia. She is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. Christina is actively involved with the RoboJackets robotics team and co-founded FIRST Robotics Team #5571 at her high school. She is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, and the Student Government Association.

### KATERINA FRANK PAULOS

Nina is a student at the University of Utah majoring in Entrepreneurship, and is a student in the School of Business in the Upper Division. After earning her business degree, she hopes to one day start her own.

### JAMES ANTHONY PHYRILLAS

James is a freshman at Temple University. As a member of Temple's Honors Living Learning Community, he plans to major in Economics with a minor in Communication Studies. He has written over 100 articles for a county-wide newspaper, performed in numerous community theatre productions, and created mashup videos on YouTube. One of his videos captured the attention of Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda.

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### ANDREW JOHN PIERROPOULOS

Andrew is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is currently studying in the College of Business with the intent to major in Accountancy. In high school, Andrew was a four-year High Honor roll student and was named an Illinois State Scholar in 2016. He previously served as a Greek school teaching assistant and youth athletics coach at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church.

### ALEXANDROS VASILIS PSICHAS

Alexandros is a freshman at the United States Naval Academy, with plans to major in Operations Research, with a Spanish minor. After graduation, Alexandros will commission as an Officer in the United States Navy, and will then return to school to earn an MBA. He enjoys collegiate policy debate and loves to cook. He received a Congressional Principal Nomination to a service academy, and won the AP Scholar with Distinction award in high school.

### SOPHIA ALEXANDRA REAGAN

Sophia is a senior at the University of Florida (UF). Her major is Health Education & Behavior, with a minor in Greek Studies. Her career goal is to become a Physician's Assistant. She has received an AHEPA Scholarship, Kontaridis Scholarship for Greek Studies, College of HHP Dean's List, Cassas Scholarship in the Greek Language, and CLAS Dean's Office Scholarship.

### ELIZABETH CHRISTY REICHERT

Elizabeth is a freshman at Stanford University, where she plans to study Management Science & Engineering, as well as Music & Voice Performance. As a top scholar and an accomplished vocalist, dancer, and musical theater actress, she hopes to use her scientific and analytical background and creativity to become an effective leader and contributor both in the biotechnology sector and in the arts.

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### JOHN MICHAEL SAKALEROS

John is a freshman at Earlham College in the pre-medical program, majoring in Biochemistry. He graduated from high school Summa Cum Laude, and was an AP Scholar with Distinction. He was also a 2016 Archimedes Next Generation STEM Scholar semi-finalist. He has earned the Earlham College Founders Scholarship and the Edwards Chemistry Scholarship, and currently plays basketball on the Earlham College basketball team.



### JAMES ANGELO SELLAS

James is a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the James Scholar Honors Program. He studies history with a minor in global labor studies, and hopes to ultimately pursue a career in human resources. Outside of the classroom, James is a board member on the Chancellor's Committee on Access and Accommodation and Vice President of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship.



### ATHENA MARIA SOFIDES

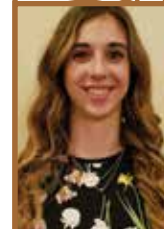
Athena is a sophomore at Smith College, majoring in Environmental Science & Policy. Athena is a Dean's List student, Posse Scholar, and member of her region's OCF. In high school, she served as President of the National Honor Society, School Secretary, Editor of the Student Newspaper, and Founder of the Women's Empowerment Club. Athena is the founder of PJ's for Patients, an organization that collects pajamas for children and young adults undergoing cancer treatments.



## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### STEPHANIE MARIE SOTIROPOULOS

Stephanie is as a student at Purdue University Northwest. She is majoring in Biology and her career goal is to become a cardiothoracic surgeon or pediatrician. She plays for the women's soccer team at Purdue and is also a student in the Honors College. Stephanie currently maintains a perfect GPA and was on the Fall 2016 Dean's List.



### EVYENIA ALEXA SPENCER

Evyenia is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Nursing at Kent State University. Her goal is to attend graduate school to become a Nurse Anesthetist. Evyenia has been awarded Kent State University's Trustee Scholarship, Virginia James Scholarship, George T. Pappas Scholarship, and the Ohio Girls Golf Association Scholarship. She was also on the Dean's List and President's Scholar List in the Fall of 2016.



### NICHOLAS GRIGORIVICH STAVISKI

Nicholas Staviski is a junior Honors Petroleum Engineering student at the University of Texas at Austin. He is External Vice President for Delta Tau Delta, Treasurer for the Society of Petroleum Engineers, and an active Sunday School teacher. Nick closely identifies with his Greek heritage and loves traveling to Greece. He has spent the past two summers interning and plans to counsel at the Ionian Village in 2018.



## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

### ANGELIKI SYKIOTIS

Angeliki is a sophomore studying architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her interests in mathematics, photography and drawing lead her to pursue an architecture degree, as it combines her passion for both art and science. She has been the recipient of several scholarship awards and educational distinctions.

### JOHN THEOPHILUS TOULOUPIS

John is a freshman in the Honors College at the University of Mississippi, pursuing a dual degree in Economics and Broadcast Journalism, and is on the Chancellor's Honor Roll. In high school, John was Student Body President, and played varsity soccer and basketball. He was also a United States Senate Youth Program National Semifinalist, an AP Scholar with Honors, and he received the Archangel Michael Award from the Metropolis of Atlanta.

### ATHINA VROSGOU

Athina is a pre-medical sophomore at Duke University, majoring in Cultural Anthropology with Biology and Chemistry minors. She loves singing in Duke's oldest female a cappella group, Chorale, and Chamber Choir. She is a C.V. Starr Scholarship and Dean's List Honor recipient, a volunteer in the Cancer Patient Support Program, a research assistant at the Jordt Lab of Anesthesiology, and a past intern at SBU's Cancer Prevention Center and Vascular Laboratory.

### ANTIGONE XENOPOULOS

Antigone Xenopoulos is a freshman at Stanford University. She has a background in political debate, writes for the Stanford Review, and is avidly interested in foreign policy. Antigone plans to double-major in Computer Science and History on the Global Affairs track. With this expertise, she hopes to specialize in government use of technology in order to alleviate humanitarian crises.



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*Exceptional Essays*  
*by 2017 Scholarship Award Recipients*

*Essay Prompt*

***How has your Hellenic heritage influenced your life and contributed to your understanding of the world around you?***



**SOPHIA REAGAN**

I pull forward, my pigtails dancing in the wind while my short legs grind the gravel on the sidewalk underneath them in an attempt to break free. But my Yiayia keeps a tight grip on my small hand with the tips of my fingers turning white with the loss of circulation. “These crazy people will not stop for you Koukla!” she calmly says to me. But my eyes are locked on the koulouri stand across the street while my mouth waters from the smell floating though the air. My mother lags behind as she digs for a few euro to hand to the guy on the corner selling lotto tickets on a towering stick. Papou is already four blocks ahead scouting out a cool bench in the shade.

Simple memories like this one are priceless to me because it has been three years since leukemia has taken my Yiayia. Although I dearly miss her, that tight grip on my hand has not lessened any since she has left us, because she was a major component of the mosaic that makes up my Greek cultural identity, and that still has a comforting hold on me.

Many people have seen the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, and while some parts (such as the miracle that is *Windex*) are not true to my Hellenic story, most of it is! My father, born in Toledo, Ohio was the first to break the blood lineage in my mother’s family of a Greek marrying another Greek. They met in college, and he was my mother’s first boyfriend. He took steps to impress my mother’s family by attending night classes at the local Greek Orthodox Church to learn the Greek language. My mother, unlike my father, was born

## *Exceptional Essays Continued*

and raised in Athens, Greece. She was brought to America at the young age of 13 to escape the chaotic and dangerous collapse of the military junta. She learned English while taking classes in school, and still struggles with pronouncing some words since the Greek tongue twists in ways that makes certain letters challenging. After a few years, my father won my mother and her family over and they got married in a Greek Orthodox Church. My older sister and I followed seven and eleven years later.

Most every other summer, my family would make the voyage to Greece to visit my mother's side of the family. We usually spend 6 weeks in Greece, going from Parga to Athens to Corfu to Rhodes, in order to cover the family tree that is scattered across Greece. In total, I have spent about 6 months in Greece with family that shower me with food and take me fishing in the Aegean Sea, bussing to monasteries way up in the tranquil mountains, descending into family wine cellars to witness the huge barrels holding gallons of fermenting grapes, and cooking in hot kitchens as I scramble to record family recipes that have been passed down through generations. None of my family is wealthy, but all are rich in culture. The variety of lifestyles that I have been exposed to while visiting them has been quite eye-opening.

My Papou lives in Athens, close to the heart of the city. The hustle and clashing of noises at night comes as a dramatic contrast to the quiet sounds I hear while staying on my great aunt's farm in Corfu. Being able to experience the city and farm life and exploring parts of Greece that some tourists never see is what gives me an authentic, true understanding of the Greek culture and lifestyle that my mother was brought up with, and is what she has passed onto me.

My Greek culture is what drew me to the Greek Studies minor that is offered at the University of Florida (UF). The opportunity to acquire this knowledge means becoming closer with my mother's side of the family and gaining a deeper appreciation for my own cultural identity. I have successfully earned A's in classes like Modern Greek I and II, The Greek Experience, Myths of the Greeks and Romans, and Modern Greek Literature

## *Exceptional Essays Continued*

Since the 1830s. These courses have provided an overview of the timeless achievements of the Greeks, putting special emphasis on the continuity of the Greek civilization. This formal education that I have received adds onto my personal understanding of Greece that I have witnessed on my many visits. I am honored to have completed my minor in Greek Studies at UF.

As a Greek, I must say that I have always been proud of my heritage. No matter the financial situation or the extremist political groups that make the news over seas and back at home, I proudly acknowledge the Greek half within me. The world has altered its view on Greeks in the past few years due to the financial crisis and the upset in the European Union. To many, Greeks are now seen as selfish, unappreciative, lazy people who want their government to hand them everything on a platter with less work involved. While the world may currently hold this viewpoint of Greece, my viewpoint of the Greeks and the world around me has only grown. I have not forgotten the rich history that Greece holds in its marble monuments, or the revolutionary ideas of democracy that has shaped much of our world today. The Greeks led the way in innovative thinking, philosophies, and buildings which have stood the test of time and still are spoken, practiced, or are standing today. These foundations in all Greeks is what drew me into the police office in Athens to get my official Greek citizenship (Greek ID) this summer.

My understanding of the world around me continues to develop. However, my upbringing that embraced my Greek heritage has provided me with a unique set of priorities that I find lacking in the American lifestyle. I appreciate good food and good company. Keeping family close, even living in the same building is something I aspire for my own family to have in the future. I work to live my life to the fullest, and not live to work like many other Americans do. I take time out of my chaotic days to sit and have a cup of coffee with friends. I am always proud to bring up my Greek blood and the successes of the Greeks before me. This common thread that runs through all Greeks in the lifestyle and culture we share is not only comforting to be a part of, but a privilege. Like my Yiayia's grip on my hand, I will always feel the comforting grip of my Greek heritage within me.

## *Exceptional Essays Continued*



IOANNIS KARAKOZIS

Although I was born in the US and I am currently studying in the US, I have barely been affected by the intense pressure that its multicultural and highly consumer-focused society places on the individual to blend their culture with that of others, and alter their values for the sake of more materialistic desires. I have been able to withstand this pressure because of the values and life teachings I have embraced through the respect for my Hellenic heritage that my parents passed on to me, the distinct nature of the Greek culture that I have grown to cherish and highly appreciate, and the strong debt I feel to

Greece for everything it has offered me while I was growing up, which has translated into a strong sense of duty of returning and giving back to my country. It is because of these three elements that I have remained true to my sense of duty of never doubting the abilities and potential of any individual, no matter how insignificant they might seem at first glance, of prioritizing people and human relationships over material goods and personal success, and of always giving back to anybody that has benefited me.

Throughout my childhood and teenage life, my parents made sure I was aware that people of Hellenic descent, although originating from a small nation, have been the master minds behind remarkable and historically significant endeavors with wide reach and social impact. They have been doing so by pointing to me instances of great Hellenic benefactors to the global community. A prime example is Georgios Papanikolaou, a medical researcher whose work has saved millions of female lives from cervical cancer by developing an effective way of early diagnosis for it: the well-known Pap Smear Test. They pointed me to the example of globally acclaimed entrepreneurs of Hellenic descent, like Jeff Bezos, founder and current CEO of Amazon, whose work has automated transactions and has made the lives of millions significantly easier.

## *Exceptional Essays Continued*

As this list grew larger, my appreciation for what Greeks before me have done grew stronger, thus reinforcing my respect for my national heritage. In other words, the nurture that my parents gave me convinced me that, despite our small size as a nation, we, the people of Hellenic descent, are blessed with many virtues, as evident of the examples of so many leaders of Hellenic descent in almost all professional fields. It is because of this that I felt proud of my Hellenic heritage and realized that the collective of people of Hellenic descent are a force to be reckoned with, able to stand out among the crowd both individually and in groups, as evident from our rich cultural past of professional, diplomatic, and military achievements.

It is not just respect and pride that I take in my Hellenic heritage. I am also defined by a strong sense of appreciation for the Greek culture that has been passed onto me from my parents and grandparents. The celebration of Easter, of Christmas, of the name days of the Saints, of the days in honor of our national heroes have always been much anticipated events for me and my two younger brothers. Although the fact that schools are closed on most of those days might have been one reason for that, what has truly made me cherish those celebrations is the fact that, on those days, I could witness my Hellenic culture through its unique customs and fascinating narrations of the history of our nation that my grandparents made sure accompanied the festive family meals.

What has fascinated me the most about those days has been the simplicity and human-centered nature of those celebrations that has truly led to my admiration for those milestone days for the people of Hellenic descent around the world. It is the fact that Greeks celebrate without the need for exorbitant decorations and excessive amount of projection of their culture to the rest of the world. It is the fact that Hellenic celebrations are not oriented around items that provide physical pleasure, but are centered around family and friends gathering together to enjoy each other's company, narrate stories about their life, and express their gratitude for the Saints and national heroes for ensuring our modern freedom and opportunity to pursue a happy life. Because of this unique identity of Hellenic celebrations that does not resemble any of the customs and festivities of other European and





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## *Exceptional Essays Continued*

American communities, which are characterized by far more florid setups, I have grown to esteem my Hellenic culture very highly because it has taught me to prioritize the people in my life and human relationships over any sort of material good or materialistic opportunity.

By this point, it must be evident that I am defined by strong sentiments of respect for what my ancestors have achieved and of appreciation for the customs defining my Hellenic culture. I have grown to respect the elderly who have more experience than me and I have learned that it is important to never doubt someone's abilities and potential. This is because no matter how small they can seem at first, like Greece might compare to other, larger nations of the world, they might be destined for greatness, as thousands of Greeks have proven over time. Finally, I have grown to appreciate human relationships so much more than material goods and I have learned that what matters in life is not necessarily what you achieve, but who is accompanying you in this trip towards success and how many lives you benefit or tear apart with the actions you take to reach that goal.

However, the combination of the above two attributes have given rise to a third strong sentiment within me in the last few years. Because of the current financial crisis and political instability of Greece, people back in Greece have been suffering due to the lack of employment opportunities and the welfare system is deteriorating. Clearly, action is needed to turn this situation around. And the most qualified people to initiate this action are nobody else than the people who grew up with a strong appreciation for their national heritage, people who were fortunate enough to have an opportunity to study at prestigious institutions, young people of Hellenic descent who are grateful for what their country and ancestors have secured for them and have the tools to give something back. This is nobody other than people like me. Thus, given my deep understanding of my debt towards Greece that took great care of me while I was growing up, I am ready to answer my nation's call for help once I complete my studies and have collected all the tools necessary to support my country. In simple terms, my Hellenic upbringing has created in me a strong sense of duty to aid my fellow countrymen when they need it the most. This will be a defining element in my future professional life, in my endeavor towards rebuilding an environment of protection of growth for the current and future people of Greece, like the one I experienced while I was growing up there.

## *Exceptional Essays Continued*



### JENNA GEORGE

I can confidently say that being Greek Orthodox is my greatest blessing. Being a part of such a tight-knit community has made me realize how lucky I am to be a part of something so beautiful. Because of Greek Orthodoxy, I have had the opportunity to open up my eyes to the world around me which has undoubtedly made me a more self-aware, well rounded person in this unpredictable world. As important as that is, being so involved with church has also greatly opened up my eyes to sports and leadership and helped shape me into the leader that I am today. Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Chicago, Illinois has

provided me with a loving, supportive family outside of my biological family and I will be forever grateful. My experiences and my religion have deeply impacted my life in positive aspects and have granted me a better understanding of how our world works.

Some of my earliest memories take place at Saint Demetrios. There, I learned not only how to use my manners, but I learned to do so in Greek and in English. A typical Saturday morning consisted of a bowl of honey nut cheerios with ice cold water to drink. Every Saturday I asked my mom to miss Greek School because what eight year old wanted to go to school on Saturdays? She never went for it though, so I went, learned, and looking back on it, I realize why it was so important to attend Greek School. Without it, I would not only be unable to speak Greek, but I would not have a reason to be proud of where I am from. I never would have been granted the opportunity to see what a blessing it is to be a part of the Greek-American community.

Over time, I soon became accustomed to life at the church. At a young age, I learned that you are not allowed to eat or drink before taking communion. I was following the rules of the religion before I knew how to multiply big numbers and that was something to be proud of. I learned how different my religion was than my friends from American school. They

## *Exceptional Essays Continued*

all went to Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and learned about similar things as me, however, they all went together and nobody from my American school went to my church. I considered myself lucky; I was well-rounded and had a lot of friends. I was young still, yet my heritage had already influenced my life so much. I valued my Greek friends in a different way than my American friends. I valued how well we related because of all of our similarities. It was nice to have friends to complain with about school on Saturdays, opposed to complaining to people who had never actually experienced it. With my Greek friends, I never had to explain what it meant to give a “ποιήμα” because they all had to do the same thing. Needless to say, I appreciate my American friends too, but it did not take me long to realize how lucky I was to be Greek-American. It didn’t take me long to fully understand why I had such an amazing childhood. My Hellenic heritage was already doing wonders for me and I knew from the very beginning that I would never take that for granted.

My Greek friends definitely helped provide me with a better understanding of the world around me. However, there was more to it than just friendships. Early on, basketball was a very important part of my life. The best part about Greek School on Saturdays was the fact that basketball followed. I began my career on the same court I finished it on. I do not like to talk myself up, but I have always been somewhat talented on the court. In middle school, I was playing on three basketball teams and made church ball a priority. It definitely was not the most competitive, but it was the most fun. I was with girls that I had been playing with for years and I was playing against girls with similar backgrounds. I started playing on the women’s team, which consisted of mostly high school girls, when I was in 5th grade. In the beginning, I did not get much playing time. That was, until Junior Olympics that same year. I played on a co-ed team and I was one of two girls. The coach did not have a choice but to put me in because it was a rule that you needed to have one girl on the court at all times. He was not happy about it, trust me; George Kouriabalis liked to win, however, I surprised that man. I hit some crucial shots and we ended up winning the gold medal that year. When he realized I could play, he became coach for the Saint Demetrios girls team and that was when my playing time shot up. By the time high school rolled around, I was a crucial part of that team and still being younger than most, I did my best to carry the team. I learned leadership skills and helped girls, even older girls, with necessary skills.

## *Exceptional Essays Continued*

My senior year, I was now the oldest but we had a very young team. There were five high schoolers, the rest fell between fifth and seventh grade. I took on a new responsibility that year; now I was not just refreshing older girls minds, I was teaching a whole new game to these children, and they looked up to me. Being a part of my church basketball program not only made me a leader, but it made me understand the value of being a teacher, and the value of being a good role model.

Without this important part of my life, I never would have had the epiphany that I wanted to major in education. This realization was especially important because I knew I always loved children. But this program made me realize why it was so important to see their eyes light up when they finally made a basket. It was so important for me to watch them grow as not only players, but as people, too. They filled my heart with joy and happiness and provided me with a family outside of my family.

But this was more than just with the players. My coaches, George Kouriabalis and Michael Skoubis, shaped me into being the player that I was. They pushed me harder every single practice and always had a back up play when the time was running out on the clock. They were there for a lot of my basketball career, which is why when I heard the news that Michael Skoubis passed away of a heart attack, the sport would never be the same. It was hard to explain to people the role he played in my life. "He was my basketball coach" did not do it justice, simply because Michael Skoubis was much more than just a basketball coach. He was family outside of my family. He cared about winning, but not nearly as much as he cared about school work. He cared about the love for the game, but if we were injured, we were on the bench. He had the biggest heart and he helped me open my eyes. He was a big part of my success, and he turned me into the leader that I have grown to be. Without him, and George, my success would not have been success. It would have simply been a failure. These men made me see something greater; they opened up my heart to a second family and without the Saint Demetrios basketball program, none of that would have been possible.

## *Exceptional Essays Continued*

My Hellenic heritage undoubtedly makes me who I am today. I can fluently speak two languages, I am an avid church-goer when I am home from school, and I consider myself a good leader and role model. My Hellenic heritage has provided me with friends I would have never had otherwise, and it has given my heart the opportunity to love more than I ever thought possible. I have met wonderful people with beautiful souls and I have slowly but surely learned to understand that the world around me is a dangerous, scary place; however, with the right church and the right people, it can also be the most miraculous and safe place. Because of my Greek Orthodoxy, I have learned that not everybody is the same, but everybody is worth taking a chance on. Without my participation at Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois, my understanding of the world around me would not be what it is today, and I thank God every night for the amazing life and opportunities he has granted me with.



## Hellenic Initiative Letter

  601 Lexington Ave, Floor 35  
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info@thehellenicinitiative.org  
www.thehellenicinitiative.org

May 19, 2017

Dear PanHellenic Scholar Alum,

Congratulations on your recognition as a PanHellenic Scholar. You have achieved a great many successes, and you have also been recognized as an important member of the Hellenic community. The Hellenic community here in the United States of America has wonderfully acculturated while having preserved the unique attributes of Hellenism in the minds of most Americans. Given the relatively small percent of us here in America, who trace our heritage to Greece, it is remarkable how significant our presence is in business, law, medicine, sciences, social affairs, government, etc.

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, founded by Mr. Chris P. Tomaras, continues his legacy by investing in education, supporting young leaders and providing recognition to those who seek to excel in all aspects of life and community: "Building a Better America through Education and Hellenism." The Hellenic Initiative is an international organization that seeks to ignite economic and social improvement in Greece. The Hellenic Initiative was founded by a group of individuals who were compelled to find simple solutions for profound changes in Greece. The Hellenic Initiative has supported thousands of Greek people with food and medical aid, business training, and the opportunity to raise funds from international investors.

## Hellenic Initiative Letter




The PanHellenic Foundation and The Hellenic Initiative are partnering to offer you a very special invitation. On the evening of June 17, 2017 this year's recipients are being recognized at the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation Gala at the Hilton Chicago. New PanHellenic Scholarship recipients and alumni of the awards are invited to a special luncheon that same day. At this unique lunch, you will be joined with notable leaders in the community to learn about career development that may be unique to your interests. You will also hear about the challenges in Greece and the broader economic environment. The luncheon will be held at The Racquet Club of Chicago (1365 N. Dearborn), and the dress code is jacket and tie for men and business dress for women. The luncheon will start promptly at 11:15 am, and will conclude by 2:00 pm. Valet parking will be available.

This is not a fundraising event. The only purpose of this event is to recognize that you are the future leaders of the Hellenic community and should therefore be provided the best resources, ideas and support to achieve the notable goals that you are establishing.

We ask you fill out the attached survey and reply as noted at the bottom. The leadership of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation and The Hellenic Initiative thank you for your commitment to excellence, and encourage you to nurture your privileges and instincts.

Oli Mazi – All Together!

---

    
Nicholas W. Alexos Eunice G. Buhler John Koudounis  
Scholarship Recognition Luncheon Meeting Committee



## *Paradigm Award Honoree*

### **JOHN PAPPAJOHN**

Mr. John Pappajohn is one of today's most successful leaders in investing, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy. As one of the early venture capitalists and one of the most charitable Greek Americans in the country, Mr. Pappajohn's life and achievements represent the importance of education in reaching one's dreams.

Mr. Pappajohn immigrated from Greece with his family when he was just nine months old, and he grew up in Mason City, Iowa. His father passed away when John was only sixteen. After high school, Mr. Pappajohn worked his way through college, and it took him six years to earn his undergraduate degree in business. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1952.

After graduation, Mr. Pappajohn became one of the preeminent, national venture capitalists when he founded Equity Dynamics, Inc., a financial consulting entity, and Pappajohn Capital Resources, a venture capital firm in Des Moines, Iowa. Since then, Mr. Pappajohn has been involved in over one hundred start-ups and over fifty IPOs, and has served as a Director in over forty public companies.



Mr. Pappajohn and his wife, Mary, are passionate philanthropists, and are dedicated to supporting education and the arts. Over the years, they have gifted more than \$100 million to various causes, and have been particularly invested in promoting education. The Pappajohns have been integral to the support of business schools, entrepreneurial centers, universities, and scholarship funds across the state of Iowa.

Mr. Pappajohn has also been the recipient of many awards and sat on various boards. For many years, he has been associated with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; the National Gallery of Art, also in D.C.; and the Whitney Museum, in New York City. Mr. Pappajohn has also been a recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Award, Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award. The Pappajohns currently live in Des Moines, Iowa, and have a daughter and son-in-law, Ann and R.J. Vassiliou.

Mr. Pappajohn's success in business, dedication to philanthropic endeavors, support for educational causes, and great respect for his Greek heritage make him an ideal example and an inspiring role model for our scholarship recipients.

# Corporate Event Sponsors

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation expresses its appreciation to our Corporate Event Sponsors whose generosity has helped to make the annual Awards Ceremony and Gala another outstanding success. The Foundation is truly grateful for their support in making this event a memorable evening for the best and brightest Greek American students in the nation.

*We thank you for supporting our mission!*

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The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation expresses its gratitude to you, our faithful contributors, for your continued generosity. Your support confirms your commitment to the Foundation's mission of excellence in education, and our award recipients will be forever grateful for your generosity. Your gift will have a great impact on a young student's life.

***We thank you for supporting our noble cause.***

# *Endowment Benefactor*

## **The Chris P. Tomaras Scholarship**



**Chris P. Tomaras (1937 - 2015)**

“Morfofis (education) is the most important ingredient of the human existence which, together with the values instilled in our students by their families, delivers leaders and significant contributors to society.”

- Chris P. Tomaras



# Endowment Benefactor

## The Georgia Sfondouris Mitchell Music & Arts Scholarships



Given by  
**George and Angela Paterakis**



George and Angela Paterakis established a \$500,000 endowment for the Foundation in January 2015. The endowment will annually fund two \$10,000 scholarships in perpetuity. The awards are reserved for exceptional music and arts students, and named for their close friend, Georgia S. Mitchell.



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The Order of AHEPA  
and Past Supreme President John W. Galanis



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## The George Alexopoulos Memorial Scholarship



In Loving Memory of

## Dr. George Alexopoulos

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation  
Academic Committee Chairman  
& Chairman Emeritus  
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# *Premier Benefactor*

## **The Alvin J. Borenstine Memorial Scholarship**



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# Premier Benefactor

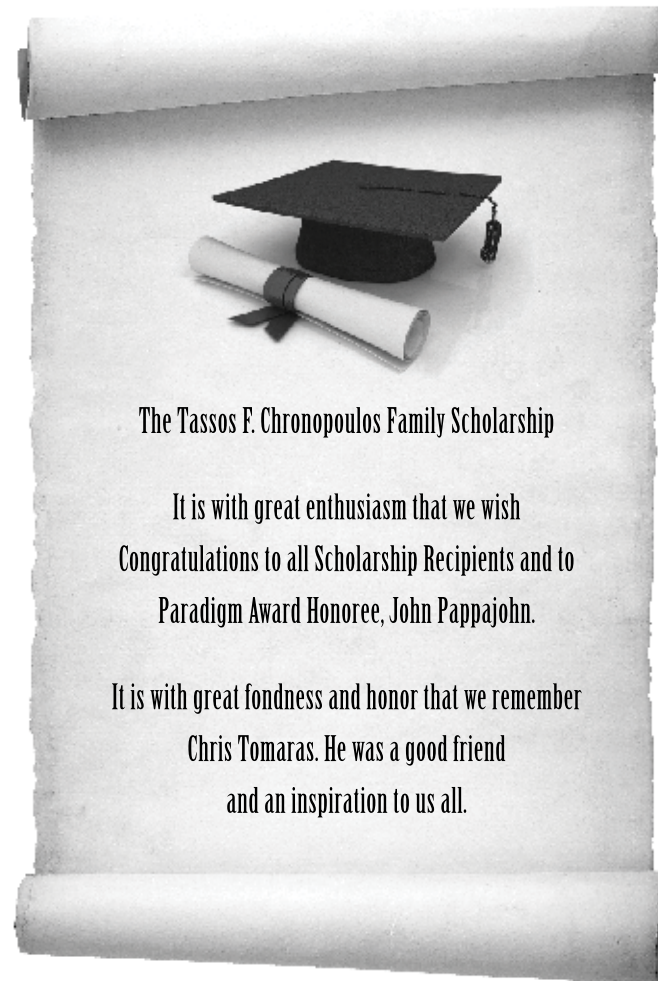


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It is with great enthusiasm that we wish  
Congratulations to all Scholarship Recipients and to  
Paradigm Award Honoree, John Pappajohn.

It is with great fondness and honor that we remember  
Chris Tomaras. He was a good friend  
and an inspiration to us all.



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## The Danos Family Scholarship



Given by  
**Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Danos**

In honor of the memory of  
**Mr. Chris Tomaras.**

May his philanthropy be an  
inspiration to each scholarship  
recipient and to all attending  
the PanHellenic Scholarship  
Foundation gala.



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## The Devanco Foods Scholarship

In Memory of  
**Michael N. Skoubis**

Devanco Foods is again proud to sponsor and support the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. My dear mentor and friend Chris Tomaras not only was successful in business but also excelled in Philanthropy once he decided to retire.

Chris always believed that education was the foundation from which all dreams are created. His goal in retirement and his vision and establishment of the P.H. Scholarship Foundation was to promote Hellenism and Education. It was his wish that children of Hellenic decent had the opportunity to afford a college education and attain their dreams and goals, just as he was able to as a first generation immigrant.

Today, we salute all of the recipients and hope that when you've attained your goals, you too will come back to support and mentor the future students that will follow your path in the years to come.

**Peter Bartzis**





# Premier Benefactor

## The John Peter Fountas STEM Scholarship



Given with love by  
**John's Family and Friends**

John Peter Fountas lived a life of insatiable curiosity, intense determination and hard work, and remarkable warmth, love and generosity towards others.

With a passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, John valued life and learning and was motivated by his vision of making a difference in the world.

Our congratulations to all scholarship recipients for your academic achievements. We encourage you to appreciate your blessings and follow your dreams.



# Premier Benefactor

## **The Peter Charles Fountas Mathematics Scholarship**



**Given with love by His Family**

Our father, Peter Charles Fountas, instilled in his children pride in Hellenism and a passionate belief in the value of an education. He had a gift for mathematical thinking and understood the importance of hard work and perseverance.

We are pleased to provide a scholarship to a young mathematics student in his memory. We congratulate all 2017 scholarship recipients and encourage you to take pride in your heritage, to persevere, work diligently and pursue the highest levels of education so that you can make a valuable contribution to society.



# *Premier Benefactor*

## **The Fresh Farms International Market Scholarship**



To the  
2017 PanHellenic Scholarship  
Award Recipients:

We applaud you for your  
academic excellence and wish  
you continued success.

**Congratulations!**



# Premier Benefactor

## **The Dimitri Pachewlys HAWC Scholarship**

Given by  
**the late Maria Pachewlys  
of the HAWC Southeast Region**

HELLENIC AMERICAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL



Dimitri Pachewlys was a journalist and ardent supporter of women's rights. His, sister, Maria was introduced to HAWC by her friend, Dr. Dame Evangeline Gouletas, who founded and has led both the Southeast and Great Lakes Regions of HAWC.

The Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) is a national 501(C)(3) organization for professional women of Hellenic heritage. The purpose of the organization is to raise female leaders! We promote professional women within their individual fields of endeavor and assist them to achieve leadership positions at all levels.

**Please use this award to fulfill your dream.**



# Premier Benefactor

## The Hellenic Foundation Scholarship



## Collaborative Partners



The Hellenic Foundation's Mission is to fund the development and support of programs and projects benefiting Greek American and Orthodox Christian organizations in the Chicagoland area.

Collaboration among organizations will ensure that our community will benefit from many innovative and effective programs. The Hellenic Foundation proudly supports the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. Together, we will cultivate future leaders, and mutually perpetuate the mission of both foundations.



# *Premier Benefactor*

## **The Paul Basil Javaras Scholarship**



Given by  
**Barbara Javaras**

In Loving Memory of

**Paul Basil Javaras**



# Premier Benefactor

## The Gus S. Kapsalis Memorial Scholarship



Given by  
**Robert & Violetta Buhler Family**

In Loving Memory of

## **Gus S. Kapsalis**

who viewed education as  
the key to achieving the  
American Dream

Congratulations  
2017 PanHellenic  
Scholarship Recipients

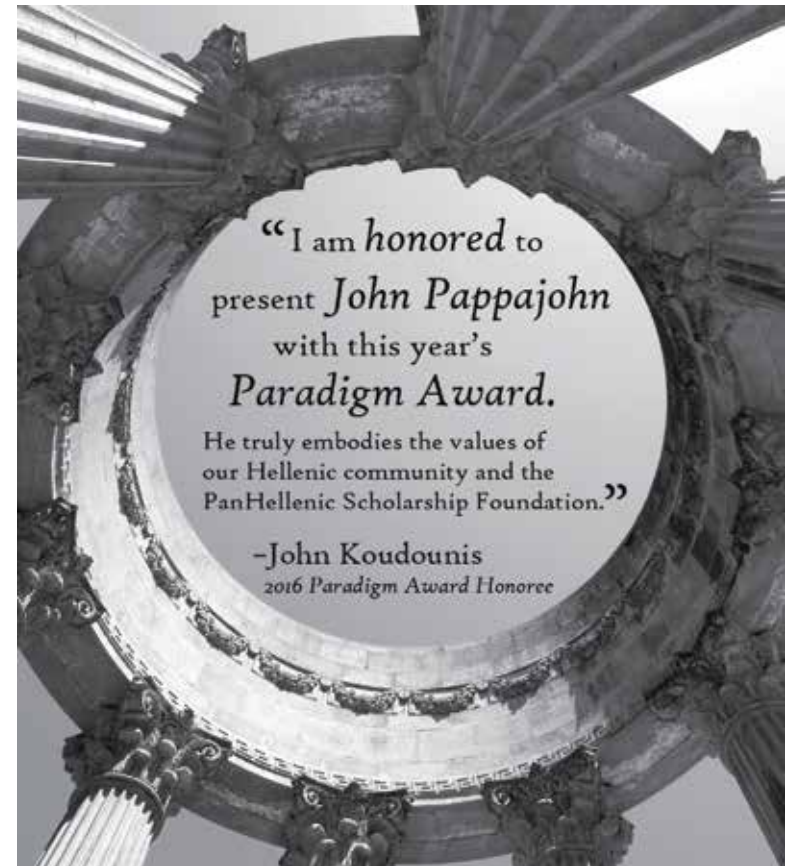


# Premier Benefactor

## The George Koudounis Memorial Scholarship



Given by  
**The John Koudounis Family**







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## The Kozonis-Hatzis Scholarship

Given by  
**Thomas and Georgia Hatzis &  
Demetrios and Chrisoula Kozonis and Family**

In Loving Memory of  
**His Eminence  
Metropolitan Iakovos**



Our spiritual father, leader, and mentor who faithfully blessed our metropolis and guided us all for thirty-eight years.

His kindness, faith, and generosity had no boundaries, and he forever touched all he interacted with.

May his memory be eternal as he rests among the Just and the Saints.



# Premier Benefactor

## **The Dr. John C. Kulis PanHellenic Scholarship**



In honor of the memory and charitable works of Chris Tomaras.

May his philanthropy be an inspiration to each scholarship recipient.



# Premier Benefactor

## The Lewis Fresh Market Scholarship

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Congratulations to the 2017  
Scholarship Recipients.

We commend you for your  
academic achievements, and  
wish you continued success in  
your education and careers.



# *Premier Benefactor*

## **The Pappajohn Foundation Scholarship**



Given by  
**John and Mary Pappajohn**

Congratulations to the  
2017 Scholarship  
Award Recipients!

We commend your academic  
achievements, and hope for your  
continued success as you pursue  
your aspirations.



# Premier Benefactor

## **The Drs. A. Tom & Katherine Petropulos Scholarship**

Congratulations to all  
Scholarship Recipients.

We're proud of your hard  
work and perseverance.

We wish you *Καλή Υγεια*  
and continued academic  
success.



# *Premier Benefactor*

## **The Andreas Proimos Family Scholarship**

*Best wishes*  
to all 2017 scholarship  
award recipients.

*Congratulations*  
to John Pappajohn  
for being honored with  
the Paradigm Award.



# *Premier Benefactor*

**The Anna and Ioannis  
Skarpathiotis Memorial  
Scholarship**

Given By  
**Dr. George Skarpathiotis  
Family**

In Loving Memory of  
**Anna and Ioannis  
Skarpathiotis**

**Αἰέν Ἀγιστεύειν**



# Premier Benefactor

## **The Michael Skoubis Foundation Scholarship**

We proudly join the Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation in recognizing the academic achievement, community service and leadership of young men and women in our community.

We sincerely hope that our contribution will assist them on achieving their goals, striking a path characterized by faith, discipline, respect, hard work and good sportsmanship; virtues that Michael instilled in his players as a coach and a mentor.

THE  
*Michael Skoubis*

FOUNDATION





# Premier Benefactor

## The Takis J. Sotos Memorial Scholarship



Given by  
**Elaine, John, Nikol, Tom, Bessie  
Helene, Panayiotis, Evelina,  
Chrissa & PJ Sotos**

## In Loving Memory of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos

Our spiritual Father and Hierarch served with faithfulness and devotion to God and his Church for the entirety of his life.

## In Loving Memory of Chris P. Tomaras Founder, PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation



Mr. Chris Tomaras was a distinguished Helene whose zest for life and all things possible were only surpassed by his incredibly humble nature. He frequently spoke of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation as his most prized effort and greatest success.

*With Eternal Love to Two Pillars  
of Our Community,*

**The Sotos Family**



# Premier Benefactor

## The Svigos Asset Management Scholarship



In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, we congratulate the 2017 PanHellenic Award Recipients.

*Grand Benefactor*

**Anonymous**

*Grand Benefactor*

**In Memory of  
Steve and Michael  
Balourdos**

Congratulations to the  
2017 PanHellenic Scholarship  
Award Recipients  
and best wishes for continued  
success in your pursuits.

**John, Arthur,  
and Michael Balourdos**

# Grand Benefactor

To all of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation scholarship recipients, we offer our warmest best wishes and congratulations on the exceptional achievements you have attained. Your academic accomplishments require untiring commitment and dedication to the rigors of education and a deep desire to achieve one's highest potential. Also, your leadership credentials and sense of civic responsibility require the highest moral values and a recognition that serving others is both a privilege and a fundamental principle of our Hellenic heritage and the Holy Orthodox Faith. We commend all of you and have the highest hopes that you will continue to be a pride to our heritage.

Our beloved Metropolitan Iakovos of blessed memory so often commented that Orthodoxy and Hellenism were intertwined in so many beautiful and inseparable ways. May you keep his eloquently meaningful words and the radiance of his memory in your hearts always.

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I cannot believe that almost two years have already passed since my dear brother was here with us. I miss his gentle and giving spirit, his energy, and his dedication to helping others.

Chris's devotion to his friends and family, to the Greek American community, and to those in need inspired all who knew him. His commitment to giving young students the opportunity to earn an education through the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation was unparalleled.

I will always remember the precious times my beloved brother and I spent together, and treasure the memories I have with him. No one can replace my brother, but we will ensure that his dream is carried out and his great legacy fulfilled, forever.

We will miss him always.

*Helen Tomaras*

# *Benefactor*

**In Memory of our Beloved  
Uncle Nicholas J. Corolis**

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Melanie Chionis**



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**Congratulations  
to the Honorees.**

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Congratulations to this year's Paradigm Award Recipient,  
John Pappajohn, and all of the Scholarship Award Recipients!

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Chris P. Tomaras  
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Congratulations  
to Paradigm Award Honoree,  
Mr. John Pappajohn, and to the  
2017 Scholarship Award Recipients.

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"Dean" Karnazes**

# *Patrons*

**In Memory of our Cousin,  
Chris P. Tomaras**

Chris, your kindness, your love, and the precious times we spent together is going to be missed. You will live forever in our hearts.

**Your Cousins from Greece,  
Takis and Rena Kritikos**

**Mr. Steven M. Laduzinsky**

**Neo Kyma Messinias**

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We thank our many volunteers for graciously offering their time and talents to make this 2017 Awards Ceremony and Gala a success.

**Thank you!**

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Orest Xherija



“Education is the  
kindling of a flame, not  
the filling of a vessel.”

- **Socrates**

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## **PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation**

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**Chicago, Illinois 60602**

**[www.panhellenicsf.org](http://www.panhellenicsf.org)**

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