



AHI CONDUCTS TRIPS TO GREECE, CYPRUS AND ISRAEL



AHI delegation with President of Greece Dr. Karolos Papoulias.

A delegation from the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) successfully completed the organization’s annual leadership trip to Greece and Cyprus where it held substantive meetings with high-ranking government and religious officials and business

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STUDENTS COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN POLICY TRIP ABROAD



Student delegation with Honorable Yiannakis Omirou, President of the Cyprus House of Representatives.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its fourth year as nine students from across the United States participated in the two-week program held June 13-29, 2012.

During the two-week program, the students were in Athens, Greece June 22-29 for a historic election and in Cyprus, June 16-21, just prior to it taking the helm of the EU Presidency on July 1. They received firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, their relations with

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AHI POLICY FORUM EXPLORES GOALS OF CYPRUS EU PRESIDENCY



View of the Panel (L-R) Ambassador Kurt Volker, Bill Loveless, Dr. Antonio de Lecea, Professor Van Coufoudakis and moderator Paul Glastris, editor-in-chief Washington Monthly.

AHI hosted the policy forum “Cyprus and the EU Presidency: Institutional, Political, Strategic and Economic Challenges” featuring a panel of experts who examined various aspects of the topic on July 18, 2012 at the Capital Hilton, Washington, DC. Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S., Pavlos Anastasiades, provided remarks and participated in a Q&A with the audience.

“It is the first time since Cyprus joined the EU in 2004 that it will hold the EU presidency,” said AHI President Nick Lariagakis. “This historic event presents Cyprus with significant challenges yet great opportunities.”

The panel featured Professor Van Coufoudakis, rector emeritus of the University of Nicosia and dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University; Dr. Anto-

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Meeting with President of Greece, Karolos Papoulias.

the U.S., and the interests of the U.S. in the region. There were meetings or briefings with American embassies, officials from various ministries, including Foreign Affairs; parliament members, religious leaders, think-tank organizations, and members of academia and the private sector of both countries. In Cyprus, the group visited the Turkish-occupied area.

“The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for me to lead such an exceptional group of students to Cyprus and Greece,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “It was rewarding to see them gain firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues that concern U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. The AHI Foundation looks forward to offering this program annually as support for it has grown and student interest remains at significant levels since the program’s inception four years ago.”

The nine students selected to participate were: Stephanos Karavas, Tufts University; Anna Tsiotsias, University of Pennsylvania; Maria Romas, University of Maryland; Alexis Angelo, Trinity University; Christo Galanis, Rutgers University; Evangelia Psarakis, Rutgers University; Manoli Anagnostiadis, University of Maryland; Aletha Vassilakis, University of California at San Diego; and Andrew Pernokas, Boston University.

“This trip was a highly informative one with access to individuals and opportunities that would seldom be available apart from AHIF. Most importantly, the foreign policy trip offers its participants the opportunity to have instilled in themselves the reality that they, as members of the global Hellenic community, have a stake—and thus, an obligation—in the resolution of crucial matters of policy surrounding Greece and Cyprus. It ought to be a game-changer in influencing the participants’ individual professional aspirations,” said Stephanos Karavas.

The program is open to Greek American and Cypriot American college students in good academic standing who are studying political science, international relations, history, and/or foreign affairs.

For a complete review of the program’s complete itinerary, please view press release 57 at <http://ahiworld.org/media-center/press-releases/2012.html>.

PANELISTS EXAMINE MYTHS, REALITIES OF GREECE’S ECONOMIC CRISIS

AHI hosted the policy seminar “The Greek Economic Crisis: Myth & Reality” featuring a panel of experts who examined various aspects of the topic on April 25, 2012 at the Capital



View of the Panel during the Q & A session.

Hilton, Washington, DC. Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis, then-Ambassador of Greece to the U.S., provided closing remarks and participated in a Q&A with the audience.

“With most of the headlines about Greece focusing on its economy and the impact upon the European Union and financial markets worldwide, we wanted to examine just what the realities of the situation are,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “Our expert panelists provided us with their insights and analyses providing us with a better understanding of how and why Greece found itself in the financial position it is in; what exactly is expected of Greece as the recipient of loans from the IMF and the Eurozone; how is Greece’s financial position intertwined with that of other nations; and what—if any—role can the Greek American community play in this complex picture.”

The panel featured: Dr. George P. Tsetsekos, dean, LeBow College of Business, Drexel University; Dr. Miranda Xafa, CEO, E.F. Consulting, former executive board member, International Monetary Fund; Nicolas Véron, senior fellow, Bruegel, Brussels-based think tank, and visiting fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics; and Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., partner, Sfikas & Karambelas and AHI legal counsel. AHI President Nick Larigakis, moderated the panel. Each of the four panelists brought their unique perspective and expertise to the seminar topic.

In response, Ambassador Kaskarelis commended the panelists. He described the problem with Greece is not just economic, but political as well because politicians mismanaged the Greek economy. On Greece, Ambassador Kaskarelis stated the country is at a “turning point” but remains a “prosperous country” that must implement a system to regain credibility and make correct decisions. “I believe we are on the right path,” he said. “I believe Europe is strong.”

AHI RELEASES CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE SURVEY FINDINGS

In late October AHI released the results from its 2012 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire. The questionnaire was mailed in August to the campaign offices of candidates from the two major parties and select independent candidates who are running for congress.

“The questionnaire surveyed the candidates on issues that are of great importance to the Greek American community that involve U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus, as well as developments in southeastern Europe and eastern Mediterranean region,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis.

AHI received 18 responses of which six candidates stated that they do not complete surveys or questionnaires. Twelve candi-

dates did submit responses, including U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), a senior member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, who submitted a detailed campaign statement that addressed issues pertaining to Greece, including the Aegean Sea boundary and FYROM; Cyprus, religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and U.S. policy toward Turkey. To view his statement, please visit www.aheworld.org.

“We thank the candidates, especially Senator Menendez, for taking the time to respond to our questionnaire; however, we are extremely disappointed with the poor overall response,” said Larigakis. “Although we contend the poor response rate is due to a lack of community activism at the grassroots level that must be addressed if we are to make strides, we do believe the Greek American community deserves better.”

The overwhelming majority of the 12 respondents were in agreement with each of the 14 policy positions taken by AHI.

CYPRUS DOCUMENTARY SCREENED AT 24 METROPOLITAN VENUES

AHI’s series of “Town Hall Screenings” of the one-hour documentary “Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure” continued with events held at multiple venues throughout 2012, bringing the total number of cities across North America in which the documentary has been viewed to 24.

In Plymouth, Mich., Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church hosted the town hall screening on May 6, 2012. AHI hosted the event in cooperation with the American Hellenic Congress and the American Cyprus Association of Michigan. AHI President Nick Larigakis led the discussion, which was moderated by Maria Psilis, chairperson, American Hellenic Congress. Psilas, a chief organizer of the event, is the niece of Andrew Kassapis, a 17-year-old American citizen who was in Cyprus during the summer of 1974 and went missing for 24 years before his remains were discovered in Cyprus in 1998. A host of organizations and individuals also contributed to the screening’s success in Plymouth, including: Pan-Macedonian Association of Michigan, Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, Peter and Litsa Drossos, Dr. Demetri and Irmgard Pallas, Dr. Demetrios and Dina Demetriou, Fay, Paul and Melina Mili; Costas and Eleni Kassapis, Andy and Irene Psilis, Fr. James Stathakios, Fr. Michael Varlamos, Angie Pallas, and Kosta and Cathy Kyriakou. More than 100 persons attended.

Boston Screening

The Maliotis Cultural Center at Hellenic College served as the venue for the May 9, 2012 screening in Brookline, Mass. The event was held in cooperation with AHEPA Athens Chapter 24, Boston and Sons of Pericles Hub Chapter 27. A discussion about the documentary and the Cyprus issue featuring AHI President Nick Larigakis followed. AHI is grateful for the contributions of Mr. Peter Vergados, who organized the event and moderated the discussion. Also in attendance were: Ilias Fotopoulos, consul general of Greece; Dr. Lee Tamis, executive

director, Maliotis Center; Demetrios G. Vidalis, president, AHEPA Athens Chapter 24; and Jason Vergados, president, Sons of Pericles Hub Chapter 27.

AHEPA National Convention

A screening of the documentary was also held at the Monte Carlo Hotel in Las Vegas on July 25, 2012, for the 90th AHEPA Supreme Convention. The screening was held on the convention floor.

“I want to thank AHEPA, and its leadership, for taking the time from its convention business schedule and affording us the opportunity to show the documentary to the convention body,” said President Larigakis. “Also, many of our town hall screenings throughout the country have been held in cooperation with local AHEPA chapters. It was a pleasure to work in cooperation with them, and we thank all those individuals who helped to make the screenings a success.”

Atlanta Screening

On September 20, 2012 a town hall screening was also held in Decatur, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta. The event was held in cooperation with AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter 1, Atlanta, which hosted the screening at the AHEPA One Home, a residential complex for senior citizens. Past AHEPA Supreme Governor Sandy Papadopoulos, who moderated the town hall discussion; AHEPA Chapter 1 President Pete Pappas, and Dr. Victor G. Polizos helped organize the event which drew an audience of 110 persons. Rev. Father Paul Kaplanis, dean of the Annunciation Cathedral and Lambros Kakissis, consul of Greece, attended.

Stamford, Connecticut Screening

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Stamford, Conn., hosted a screening on October 12, 2012. The event was held in cooperation with Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and AHEPA Chapter 99, Stamford. AHEPA Past Supreme Governor Nick Nikas, Vasilis Diakogeorgiou, Larry Karipides, Arthur Kiratsous and James W. Cocolis helped organize the event which drew an audience of 75 persons, including from the surrounding areas of Danbury, New Haven, Bridgeport and Rye, N.Y.

“We are deeply grateful to the outstanding support provided by the Greek American communities of Plymouth, Boston, Atlanta, Stamford, and the AHEPA,” said President Larigakis. “It was a pleasure to work in cooperation with community leaders, and we thank the individuals who attended and expressed a commitment to raising awareness about the Cyprus issue in the community. Our goal is to encourage communities to urge their PBS affiliates to air the documentary.”

AHI, AHEPA HOST LUNCHEON FOR NEW GREEK AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

AHI and AHEPA came together to host a luncheon welcoming Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, Ambassador of Greece to the United States, to Washington on October 17, 2012 at Kellari Restaurant in Washington, DC.

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AHI Founder Gene Rossides, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos, AHEPA Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides and AHI President Nick Larigakis.

“It was beneficial for AHI and AHEPA to come together to formally welcome Ambassador Panagopoulos to Washington,” AHI President Larigakis said.

Representing AHI with President Larigakis were: Founder Eugene Rossides; Board Member and Legal Counsel Nicholas Karambelas, Esq.; Board Member Leon Andris; AHI Members Ambassador and former U.S. ambassador to Belgium Tom Korologos; Paul Glastris, editor-in-chief, *Washington Monthly*; Tim Maniatis, executive director, National Hellenic Society; Paul Kotrosios, who is president of the Hellenic American National Council; John Courembis, Peter Bota, and AHI Legislative Assistant Georgea Polizos. Many community leaders, including several clergymen from the Washington, DC area, were also in attendance.

SMYRNA CATASTROPHE COMMEMORATED AT U.S. ENVOY'S GRAVESITE



The ceremony attendees at George Horton's gravesite.

AHI hosted a memorial to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Smyrna catastrophe in Asia Minor at the gravesite of U.S. Consul General George Horton, whose book *The Blight of Asia* provided a firsthand account about the destruction of Smyrna and the plight of the Greeks of Smyrna. The memorial was held October 22, 2012, at Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC. The ceremony, which included a wreath-laying, a prayer, and brief remarks about Consul General Horton in appreciation of his telling account, received coverage in *The Washington Times*.

In remarks, AHI Board Member James Marketos described the beauty of Smyrna at the time, the tragic ramifications upon Smyrna and the Greek people as a result of the catastrophe and

the important role Consul General Horton played as witness and recorder of history.

“Thanks to George Horton, we know the truth about what happened in those dreadful days in Smyrna ninety years ago,” said Marketos. “But Horton’s testimony is useful not only for learning what happened in the past, and it is relevant beyond Greeks and Armenians. His experience is obviously dated, but it speaks directly to the problems that plague us today.”

Also providing remarks were: AHI President Nick Larigakis, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos and Greece’s Defense Attaché Col. Evangelos Papadopoulos.

AHI INTERNS MEET MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, RAISE ISSUE AWARENESS



Cady Papageorgiou, Congresswoman Yvonne Clarke and Nick Larigakis.

Interns from AHI met with their members of Congress in July to discuss issues of importance to the Greek American community. AHI President Nick Larigakis accompanied the interns to the meetings on Capitol Hill.

Intern Dimitri Dimitriou (University of California, Berkeley) visited U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) on July 11, 2012. Dimitriou raised awareness about developments in the eastern Mediterranean pertaining to cooperative efforts between Cyprus and Israel, Egypt, and Lebanon to explore for hydrocarbon reserves within Cyprus’ exclusive economic zone (EEZ). He also informed Congressman Rohrabacher about Turkey’s various intimidation tactics in the eastern Mediterranean directed toward Cyprus and Israel. In addition, the congressman expressed interest in H.R.2597, “The American Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act.” He also re-affirmed his position that reopening the Halki Seminary School is important, and he expressed concern regarding other religious freedom violations in Turkey.

AHI Intern Cady Papageorgiou (SUNY, Geneseo) met with U.S. Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY) on July 20, 2012. Congresswoman Clarke welcomed the opportunity to become informed on the issues especially because she was familiar with members of the Greek American community of New York. Papageorgiou raised awareness about the Cyprus issue and the latest developments regarding Cyprus with regard to the exploration of hydrocarbon reserves. Congresswoman Clarke offered that the Turkish invasion and occupation by Turkish troops is not behavior that any NATO alliance country should display.

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The meeting also provided an opportunity for H.R. 2597 “American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act” to be discussed.

AHI MARKS PRESIDENT LARIGAKIS’ 25TH YEAR AT ORGANIZATION

In August, AHI President Nick Larigakis completed his 25th year at AHI, an achievement for which many AHI stakeholders are grateful.

“It was clear from the beginning that Nick was a bright, intelligent and hard-working individual who continued to develop his skills, and he quickly became an asset to the point where he became the Institute’s executive director,” said AHI Founder Gene Rossides. “Because of his leadership abilities, dedicated work ethic and vision, I selected Nick to be my successor as president of AHI. His rise has been extraordinary, and the Greek American community is fortunate to have him leading AHI.”

AHI hired Larigakis in August 1987, and five years later, he became the organization’s executive director. In January 2011, AHI announced his promotion to president. Larigakis received numerous accolades from AHI Board Members, which can be viewed at www.aheworld.org.

AHI PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES AT MARINE CORPS EXECUTIVE FORUM



The attendees with the Marine Corps Commandant, General James F. Amos.

AHI President Nick Larigakis participated at the Marine Corps Executive Forum (MCEF), July 13, 2012. Hosted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps or his direct General Officer Representative, this one-day program allows senior business leaders from a diverse cross-section of industry to familiarize themselves with the Marine Corps’ key interests and initiatives, while meeting with senior officials at the Pentagon and Quantico and examining Marine Corps operations throughout the world.

“My experience at the Marine Corps Executive Forum was truly an amazing and unique one,” said Larigakis. “I gained an increased awareness about the workings of the Marine Corps and a deep appreciation for how invaluable it is to the defense

of our country. I would also like to thank the director of the Marine Corps Executive Forum, Lt. Col. Peter Markakos of the U.S. Marine Corps, who invited me to attend this worthwhile program. He did an excellent job serving as the program’s leader for the day.”

AHI HOSTS 9TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC



All of the AHI Golf Tournament Participants.

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted its Ninth Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Va., Oct. 15, 2012. Celebrity appearances were made by Larry Michael, Voice of the Washington Redskins, and Christine Brennan, sports columnist, *USA Today*, both of whom appeared at a morning panel discussion about current events and issues affecting the sporting world. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments.

The first place team was comprised of: Peter Bota, Dennis Garbis, Mike Gleeson and Dave Riddle. Second place honors went to: Kay Tyler, Mimi Hoffman, Lisa Schlesinger and Janice Calomiris. The third place team included: John Courembis, Louis Courembis, Alexander Courembis and Walter Chuda.

AHI is grateful to Tournament Chair Leon Andris, Golf Coordinator Adriana Sifakis, and all the golfers who participated.

NOON FORUM

AHI Forum Discusses Think Tank’s Report on Turkey

AHI hosted a noon forum discussion on the topic of “The Council on Foreign Relations Independent Task Force Report on Turkey” featuring Ambassador Patrick Theros (ret.), former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar and president and executive director of the U.S.-Qatar Business Council. Ambassador Theros is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. The discussion forum was held July 23, 2012 at AHI.

“The United States has not had a serious review of policy with Turkey for probably the greater part of my career,” said Ambassador Theros.

According to Ambassador Theros, Turkey is one of the few foreign countries that understands how the American foreign policy process works. With respect to the Independent Task Force Report on Turkey produced by The Council on Foreign Relations, he stated that it was probably the first such policy review

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in the United States on the relationship with Turkey that originated in the United States. He added the Task Force was composed of a large number of people, many of who were familiar with Turkey or were Turkish Americans. However, Ambassador Theros noted that two main factors with regard to Turkey caused the United States to look at Turkey with a more critical eye. The factors are: AKP's coming to power with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan coupled with the diminished power of the Turkish military and the end of Turkey's relationship with Israel.

For a complete account of Ambassador Theros' presentation, please visit www.aheworld.org.

VISITORS TO HELLENIC HOUSE

AHI Welcomes New Greek Ambassador to U.S. to Hellenic House



Eugene Rossides, Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, and Nick Larigakis at the Hellenic House.

Greece's new Ambassador to the United States, Christos Panagopoulos, visited AHI's Hellenic House on October 5, 2012. "We were honored to welcome Ambassador Panagopoulos to Hellenic House," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We appreciated the substantive discussion we had on issues of importance to the community about Greece. We look forward to growing our relationship in the effort to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece and in the pursuit of our common goals and objectives." AHI Founder Gene Rossides joined Larigakis for the meeting with Ambassador Panagopoulos. Ambassador Panagopoulos presented his credentials to President Barack Obama on September 19, 2012.

Outgoing, Incoming Greek Defense Attachés Visit AHI



AHI President Larigakis is flanked by Greek Defense Attachés Sardellis (left) and Papadopoulos (right).

The outgoing and incoming Greek defense attachés of the Embassy of Greece visited AHI's Hellenic House on September 19, 2012. After several years of service at the Defense Attaché's Office at Embassy of Greece, Defense Attaché Col. Taxiarchis Sardellis has completed his post in Washington. Col. Sardellis' replacement, Col. Evangelos Papadopoulos, accompanied him on the visit to AHI.

"We wish Colonel Sardellis all the best in his future endeavors," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We will miss working with him, and we appreciated his interest in AHI initiatives and programs. We look forward to fostering the same level of cooperation with Colonel Papadopoulos that we have enjoyed with the defense attaché office over the years, and we wish him the best in his new post."

Newly Confirmed American Ambassador to Cyprus Meets with AHI



(L-R) Gene Rossides, US ambassador to Cyprus John Koenig, US State Department Cyprus Desk Officer Lindsay Coffey.

The newly confirmed American Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus John Koenig visited AHI's Hellenic House on August 9, 2012 as part of his preparations before departing for his new post.

"We were honored to have Ambassador Koenig visit Hellenic House," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We appreciated the substantive discussion we had on issues of importance to the community about Cyprus. We look forward to growing our relationship in the effort to strengthen U.S. relations with the Republic of Cyprus and in the pursuit of our common goals and objectives, which are in the best interests of the United States."

The discussion included initiatives to strengthen U.S. relations with Cyprus, the Cyprus issue and the current status of settlement talks, the destruction of Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage, and the importance of increased American investment in Cyprus, especially with the discovery of hydrocarbon reserves in Cyprus' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

AHI Founder Gene Rossides, AHI Board of Directors Secretary and Counsel Nick G. Karambelas, and AHI Media Relations Director and Research Analyst Demetra Atsaloglou met with Ambassador Koenig.

Government Officials from Cyprus Visit AHI

Cyprus Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou and three mayors representing cities located in Turkish-occupied Cyprus visited AHI's Hellenic House on June 8, 2012 in separate

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Visiting AHI Headquarters: The Mayors from three occupied cities (left to right) Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades, Glafkos Cariolou—Kyrenia, Mr. Gene Rossides, Alexis Ghalanos—Famagusta, Michalis Pilikos—Lefkonicoi, Nick Larigakis.

meetings. The Honorable Alexis Ghalanos, mayor of Famagusta; the Honorable Glafkos Cariolou, mayor of Kyrenia; and the Honorable Michalis Pilikos, mayor of Lefkonicoi, were the three mayors who visited AHI. They were accompanied by Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Pavlos Anastasiades.

“We were honored to have these dignitaries from Cyprus visit with us,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “We welcomed their perspectives on the current situation on the island. We also reviewed our recent trip to Cyprus and shared our thoughts and observations.”

Three-time Olympic Champion Visits Hellenic House



Pyrros Dimas visit to the Hellenic House: (L-R) Nick Karambelas, Pyrros Dimas, Nick Larigakis, Demetrios Koutoulas.

Three-time Olympic Champion Pyrros Dimas visited AHI's Hellenic House on April 25, 2012.

“We were thrilled to have Mr. Dimas visit with us,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “He is a world champion, a national hero of Greece, and he represents all that is great about the fortitude of Greece.”

Dimas is considered one of the greatest weightlifters of all-time. In addition to being a three-time Olympic Champion, Dimas is a three-time World Champion. He won Olympic Gold at the 1992 Barcelona Games, 1996 Atlanta Games, and 2000 Sydney Games. Dimas is famous for shouting "Gia tin Ellada!" following his clean and jerk lift, dedicating his victory to Greece in 1992.

President Larigakis, Board of Directors Secretary Nick Karambelas, and Demetra Atsaloglou, director, Media Relations and Research Analyst, attended the discussion which focused on raising awareness and funds for a Greek school in Himara.

Demetrios Koutoulas, president, Panepirotic Federation of America, accompanied Dimas.

AHI IN THE NEWS

AHI's commemoration of the Smyrna catastrophe at the gravesite of U.S. Consul-General George Horton was covered in *The Washington Times'* October 30, 2012 Embassy Row column by James Morrison. Under the heading “An Envoy Remembered,” the columnist wrote: “Most historians blame Turkish forces for torching the city and killing tens of thousands of Greeks and Armenians, beginning on Sept. 9, 1922, at the end of the Greco-Turkish War. Hundreds of thousands of Smyrna's residents crowded the city's waterfront, desperate for evacuation as U.S. and other allied warships lay at anchor. Some historians say the allies had orders not to interfere with the destruction of the city.”

Antenna TV Journalist Thanassis Tsitsas interviewed AHI President Larigakis about the November 2012 election in the United States. The interview took place September 12, 2012 in Washington.

Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., legal counsel for AHI, appeared on *National Public Radio's* “The Diane Rehm Show” on Mon., June 18, 2012, to discuss the “Results of the Greek Elections and the Future of the Euro Zone.” Susan Page guest hosted the show which aired on WAMU 88.5 FM in Washington, DC. Karambelas explained the results of the Greek election, including the lack of any one party to win a mandate to govern and offered his thoughts on the ability of the Greek political parties, led by leading vote-getter New Democracy, to form a governing coalition.

Letters to the Editor

The Washington Post published a letter to the editor on Monday, July 23, 2012 submitted by AHI. AHI's letter authored by President Nick Larigakis was written in response to the July 8, 2012 opinion piece “Old Cyprus feud snares tour group,” by Hershel Shanks, editor, *Biblical Archaeology Review*. Shanks's organization, the Biblical Archaeological Society, chose to enter Cyprus via an illegal port of entry when it embarked on a tour of Cyprus' religious sites despite efforts by AHI and other entities to educate the Society about the detriments of such an action. Larigakis corrected inaccuracies and noted omissions in Shanks's piece about Cyprus. Larigakis also noted that Shanks excluded mention of the destructions of Cyprus' religious and cultural heritage. Additionally, Larigakis' letter emphasized the importance of adhering to the rule of law when traveling to Cyprus and clearly defined the legal manner to enter the Republic of Cyprus. In closing, Larigakis asserted that Shanks has taken an irresponsible position and has done a disservice to his colleagues by “embracing convenience at the expense of international law...”

Also, AHI submitted Letters to the Editor of *The Washington Post* on the topic of President Barack Obama's effort to build a special relationship with Turkey on June 8, 2012 and to the *New York Times* on Turkey's posture toward the museum community on October 4, 2012.

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Op-Eds

“For Greece...Damn It!”

By Nick Larigakis, June 11, 2012. Appearing in *The National Herald*, *Neo Magazine*, *The Hellenic News of America*, and *Greek News*.

“Obama or Romney: Does it make a Difference?”

By Nick Larigakis, October 22, 2012. Appearing in *The National Herald* and *The Hellenic News of America*.

For complete versions of the referenced items in “AHI In the News,” please visit AHI’s web site at www.aheworld.org/press_releases/.

STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AHI Releases 2012 Policy Statements

On May 8, 2012 AHI announced the release of its 2012 Policy Statements. The policy statements discuss issues affecting the Greek American community as they pertain to United States relations with Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey.

“We strongly urge everyone to utilize the policy statements to their full potential, educating policymakers and creating awareness of the issues to the greater community at-large,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “The positions presented in the document are in the best interests of the United States. We also sincerely thank the record number of organizations that have endorsed the policy statements.”

The policy statements are approved by several membership-based organizations including: AHEPA; American Hellenic Council of California; Armenian National Committee of America; Cyprus Federation of America; Evrytanian Association of America “Velouchi”; Hellenic American National Council (HANC); International Coordination Committee-Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA); Pancretan Association of America; Pan-Pontian Federation of U.S.A and Canada; Panepirotic Federation of America; and United Chios Societies of America and Canada.

AHI Statement: 38th Anniversary of Cyprus Invasion

AHI issued a statement on July 20, 2012 in remembrance of the 38th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974. The statement begins:

“Today we remember the solemn 38th anniversary of Turkey’s brutal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus with the illegal use of U.S.-supplied arms and equipment in violation of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the United Nations Charter, the NATO Treaty, and customary international law. Turkey occupied about four percent of Cyprus during the initial phase of its invasion. Turkish pilots flying American planes dropped American-made bombs, including napalm bombs, on Greek Cypriot communities.”

In addition to the tragic results of the Turkish invasion, which included the deaths of innocent civilians, forced removal of

170,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes, and mass destruction of Cyprus’ cultural and religious heritage, AHI’s statement also cited Turkey’s recent threats to Cyprus’ efforts to explore within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and Cyprus’ contributions as a friend of the U.S. on issues of counterterrorism and security in the region.

For the remainder of the statement, visit www.aheworld.org.

AHI Lauds Foreign Affairs Chair’s Commentary

AHI lauds a commentary titled “Time for Turkey to leave Cyprus in peace” by U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which was published in *The Washington Times* on June 15, 2012.

Chairman Ros-Lehtinen writes: “By its occupation, Turkey is ‘guaranteeing’ nothing but a creeping annexation. It is time for Turkey to withdraw its military troops, end all support for illegal immigration to Cyprus and let the true inhabitants of the island determine their own future. Only then will the long-suffering Cypriot people finally enjoy the peace and security they have been trying so desperately to achieve for decades.”

In her commentary, the congresswoman correctly cites examples of the consequences of Ankara’s detrimental policies toward Cyprus and its people, added Larigakis.

AHI Requests Presidential Campaigns to Engage with Community

AHI sent letters to the presidential campaigns of President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney requesting that the two campaigns each issue a campaign statement to the Greek American community on issues of importance to the community.

A condensed version of AHI policy statements on Greek American issues addressing five policy areas accompanied each letter to the candidate and examples of campaign statements issued by previous presidential candidates of the same political party.

Moreover, AHI and the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) issued a joint statement calling on the two presidential campaigns to engage with the Greek and Armenian American communities.

AHI Applauds Committee Passage of Halki Resolution

AHI applauded passage of a congressional resolution by the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs that calls upon the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay. U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, introduced the resolution, which passed the committee with unanimous consent in June. The legislation enjoyed strong bipartisan support, including from House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ranking Member Howard Berman (D-CA). In addition, AHI welcomed a statement by U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which conveyed support for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

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AHI Announces New Legislative Hire



Georgea Polizos.

AHI announced the hire of Georgea Polizos as its legislative assistant in September. “We are fortunate to have Georgea join our staff,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “Georgea’s international affairs policy background will be a tremendous asset to our outreach efforts to Capitol Hill.”

Georgea holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Georgia and a Master of Arts in International Affairs from Florida State University, where she focused on the Balkans. Prior to beginning her graduate studies, Georgea spent two years working with Greek and Eastern European college students as the Student Life Coordinator at the American Farm School in Thessaloniki, Greece. As a graduate student, she interned at the Greek Embassy and AHI, and with the latter, she attended the Student Foreign Policy trip in 2010. Additionally, Georgea spent a semester in London studying the European Union and ethno-national conflicts. While abroad, she also interned with Seeds of Peace, an organization focused on developing educational programs for students from conflict-ridden areas. Polizos replaces AHI’s Media Relations Director and Research Analyst Demetra Atsaloglou, who left to pursue graduate studies at Columbia University.

AHI Applauds Legislators’ Statements on 38th Anniversary of Cyprus Invasion

AHI applauded members of Congress who submitted remarks for the congressional record to mark the somber 38th anniversary of Turkey’s illegal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus.

“We appreciate the members of Congress who took the time to observe the tragic events of July 20, 1974, when Turkey illegally invaded the Republic of Cyprus, and to this day, continues to illegally occupy 37 percent of the island nation,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis.

The public statements of U.S. Reps. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney, co-chairs, Congressional Hellenic Caucus; U.S. Reps. John Sarbanes (D-MD), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Ed Royce (R-CA), and Niki Tsongas (D-NV) are available at www.aheworld.org.

AHIF Chair of Fellows Appointed Head of Hellenic Educational Agency

AHI and American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) congratulated Dr. Van Coufoudakis, chairman, AHI Foundation Board of Fellows, on his appointment as President of the Council of the Hellenic Quality Assessment Agency. The HQAA/ADIP is an independent agency created in 2005 under Greek law and EU regulations. The agency’s mission is the quality assessment of Greek universities and TEI (technical institutes). The agency also submits recommendations to the minister of Education on the restructuring of the Greek higher education system.

When asked about his latest appointment, Dr. Coufoudakis,

who has been an active AHI member since 1974, focused on his agency’s mission, which is aimed to improve Greek higher education to the benefit students, faculty and Greek society at large.

AHI Rebutts Congressman’s Floor Statement Recognizing Turkey

AHI issued a statement in rebuttal to U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield’s (R-KY) statement on the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives that praised the Republic of Turkey on May 9, 2012. Congressman Whitfield is a co-chair of the Congressional Turkish Caucus. The statement began:

“Congressman Whitfield’s statement in praise of Turkey, which was entered into the Congressional Record, is off-base on many accounts,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “First, the congressman commends Turkey for standing continuously with the United States ‘in our efforts to promote democracy and freedom throughout the world’ as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). AHI has consistently maintained that Turkey is an unreliable ally of the United States, which is clearly evident in Turkey’s actions not just in the present day but throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century. This was clearly evident on numerous occasions during the Cold War as Turkey undermined NATO’s efforts by actively aiding the Soviet military to the serious detriment of the United States and continued with Turkey’s refusal to allow the United States to use bases in Turkey to open a northern front against the Saddam Hussein dictatorship in 2003.”

To read the entire statement, please visit www.aheworld.org.

AHIF Study Abroad Student’s Op-ed Published in Tufts University Newspaper

Stephanos Karavas, a senior at Tufts University who participated on the 2012 American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Program, authored an op-ed titled “The Greek economic crisis in proper perspective,” which was published in *The Tufts Daily*, the university’s independent student newspaper on September 10, 2012.

“We are pleased that Stephanos was able to author an opinion piece about the Greek economic crisis based upon his experience from our study abroad program and share it with his peers and professors at Tufts University,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said.

ACTION ALERTS

April 26, 2012

AHI chapter presidents, congressional contact team leaders, members, and friends were asked to contact their U.S. representatives and urge them to co-sponsor H.Res.627, a congressional resolution on the FYROM name recognition issue.

May 11, 2012

AHI chapter presidents, members, and friends were urged to contact the Biblical Archaeological Society to convey the severe effects of its travel program’s entry into the Republic of Cyprus via illegal ports of entry in the Turkish-occupied area.

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May 14, 2012

AHI chapter presidents, congressional contact team leaders, members, and friends were urged to contact their U.S. Representatives to urge them to co-sponsor H.Res.650, a stronger congressional resolution on the FYROM name recognition issue.

June 5, 2012

AHI chapter presidents, congressional contact team leaders, members, and friends were asked to contact House Foreign Affairs committee members and urge them to co-sponsor a resolution calling for the reopening of Greek Orthodox Halki Patriarchal School of Theology without delay.

July 13, 2012

AHI chapter presidents, congressional contact team leaders, members, and friends were asked to contact the Senate Foreign Relations committee in advance of the confirmation hearing for John M. Koenig, US Ambassador-designate to the Republic of Cyprus, and urge them to submit AHI's recommended questions to Mr. Koenig.

July 20, 2012

AHI chapter presidents, congressional contact team leaders, members, and friends were asked to contact their U.S. representatives and urge them to oppose H.R.2362, a pro-Turkey trade/investment bill.

August 1, 2012

AHI chapter presidents, congressional contact team leaders, members, and friends were asked to contact their congressional candidates to urge them to complete AHI's candidate questionnaire.

IN MEMORIAM

The American Hellenic Institute mourns the passing of the following AHI members and supporters.

PERRY P. MICHAEL passed away June 7, 2012. During World War II, he fought as a guerilla fighter in the Greek resistance during the German occupation. Mr. Michael immigrated to the U.S. in 1955 eventually settling in Silver Spring, Md. He was past president of the Pan-Laonian Federation of the U.S. and Canada as well as AHEPA. Mr. Michael was active in the Free Cyprus coalition and was instrumental in the establishment of the Hellenic Center of the Washington area, located in Bethesda, Md. His later years were spent in charitable endeavors involving education and the promotion of Greek Culture. At the age of 88 he wrote and published a book of Greek proverbs and sayings. He was the father of AHI member Larry Michael, the "Voice of the Redskins."

ALKETAS PANAGOULIAS passed away June 18, 2012. Mr. Panagoulas was a prominent Greek soccer player and manager. He coached the U.S. Olympic Soccer team for the 1984 Olympics and Greece's national soccer team. Mr. Panagoulas

was a member of the USA Soccer Federation Hall of Fame. In addition, he also was a public servant having been elected a member of Thessaloniki's city council.

PETER YIANNOS passed away July 2, 2012, following a battle with thyroid cancer. He arrived in the United States on May 2, 1951 as a displaced person via the Truman Doctrine because of Communist uprising resulting in his mother's death and destruction of their village home. Mr. Yiannos was a civic minded person who never skipped voting since 1956 when he became a U.S. citizen. In addition to being an AHI member, he was a member of AHEPA, Hellenic University Club, and the American Foundation for Greek Language & Culture (AFGLC).

ROOSEVELT NICHOLAS LARIGAKIS of Delran, N.J., passed away November 8, 2012. Roosevelt was the father of AHI President Nick Larigakis. He was 89. Roosevelt was the beloved husband of 55 years to Kiki Larigakis; devoted father of two sons, Nick of Alexandria, Virginia; and Constantine of Delran, New Jersey; and devoted grandfather of Panayiota. Roosevelt was born on the island of Skopelos, Greece and was always very proud that he was named after a U.S. president, Teddy Roosevelt. ■

AHI CONDUCTS TRIPS TO GREECE, CYPRUS AND ISRAEL

Continued from page 1

leaders with the purpose of strengthening relations and addressing issues of mutual concern. The two-week trip, which occurred May 21 to 31, 2012, also included a leg to Israel.

Israel: AHI Works to Build Relations



AHI delegation with Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem at the Greek Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

From May 21 to 23, AHI visited Israel to conduct meetings with Israeli government officials, including members of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), and business leaders in addition to Greek government officials. Topics of discussion centered on the evolving relationship between Israel and Greece and Cyprus as well as U.S.-Israel relations.

The delegation met with Ambassador Pinhas Avivi, political

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director, Multilateral, Global and Strategic Affairs, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Col. Dr. Eran Lerman, deputy national security advisor for foreign policy and international affairs, Israeli National Security Council; Dr. Einat Wilf (Haatzma'ut), member, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee; Ambassador Kyriakos Loukakis, ambassador of Greece to Israel; and representatives from the Israeli Defense Ministry. A meeting with Mr. Binyamin Zomer, director, Corporate Affairs-Israel, Noble Energy Mediterranean Ltd., centered on the firm's efforts to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in the eastern Mediterranean.

In addition, AHI took an emotional tour of Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority on May 21 and traveled to Haifa to tour an Israeli Defense Force Naval Base and a naval vessel on May 22. In addition, the delegation received a briefing from a public affairs naval officer while at the base.

AHI also attended a dinner in honor of His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem at the King David Hotel on May 22 hosted by a visiting group of Archons. AHI had a separate audience with His Beatitude on May 23. The Israeli leg concluded with a dinner-lecture on Israel-U.S. relations hosted by Ambassador Yossi Ben-Aharon, former director general (chief of staff), Prime Minister's Office.

AHI Works to Address Many Issues Facing Cyprus



Working lunch at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (L-R) Argyros A. Antoniou, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director- Division of Overseas and Repatriated Cypriots, Kostas Alexakis, Gus Andy, Minister of Foreign Affairs Erato Kozakou-Markoulli, Nick Larigakis, Petros Eftyhiou, Permanent Secretary, Leon Andris and Amb. Andreas Kakouris, Director, Division of Cyprus Question and Turkey.

The AHI delegation received multiple briefings from Cypriot and American officials on the status of the ongoing direct talks for a Cyprus settlement held under UN auspices, Cyprus' upcoming EU Presidency and Cyprus' efforts to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). All throughout the delegation's meetings in Cyprus, AHI was commended for its past advocacy and current steadfast efforts to keep the Cyprus issue highly visible with key policymakers in the Obama administration and in the U.S. Congress.

During its stay in Cyprus, May 24 to 26, 2012, the delegation met with: Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Erato

Kozakou-Marcoullis during a working luncheon session that she graciously hosted, Cypriot Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou, President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou, and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs of the House of Representatives Averof Neophytou. Also attending the luncheon session with Foreign Minister Kozakou-Marcoullis were Minister of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Petros Eftyhiou, Ambassador Andreas Kakouris, director, Division of Cyprus Question and Turkey; Minister Plenipotentiary and Director-Division of Overseas and Repatriated Cypriots Argyros A. Antoniou, and Androula Laniti, director, Press and Information Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also in Cyprus, Mr. Miltos Miltiadou, senior press and information officer, Press and Information Office of the Republic of Cyprus, hosted the delegation for a dinner on May 24.

Athens: AHI Holds Meetings with High-level Officials



The honorees receiving their awards. (L-R) General Michalis Kostarakos, Ilias Malevitis, George Economou, Nick Larigakis, Angeliki Frangou and George Economou.

An audience with President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias and Greece's Interim Prime Minister Panagiotis Pikrammenos and extensive meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were highlights of the delegation's busy itinerary in Greece from May 27 to 31, 2012. The itinerary also included the 8th Annual AHI Athens Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 30.

AHI met with President Papoulias, Interim Prime Minister Pikrammenos, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Petros Molyviatis all on May 30. Also that day, the delegation met with several directorates of the ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for various countries and regions, including: Ambassador Yannakakis (Cyprus), Ambassador Touloupas (Turkey), Mr. Kostelanos (FYROM), and Ambassador Aleiferi (North America). Present at these meetings were ministry officials with expertise in aeronautical matters and energy. On May 31, the delegation met with Minister of Defense Fragkos Fragkoulis. As with the delegation's meetings in Cyprus, the appreciation for the hard work and dedication of AHI to Hellenic issues was conveyed by Greek government officials.

U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel B. Smith hosted the delegation at his residency on May 29. Larigakis commended the work of Ambassador Smith and welcomed the ambassador's perspective on issues of importance to the community.

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Amb. Smith Keynotes AHI-Athens Awards Gala



U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel B. Smith offering remarks during the 8th Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner.

U.S. Ambassador Smith delivered the Keynote Address at the Eighth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner where he reported that Greek-American relations are “as strong as they have ever been.” The awards dinner was held May 30, at The Grande Bretagne.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Smith stated Greece faces significant challenges; however, he expressed optimism that the path of reform taken by the Greek people will “ensure a more prosperous future.” The ambassador reaffirmed the United States’ support for Greece’s reform efforts, cited the importance of Greece’s continued partnership and cooperation to NATO, and acknowledged the important role the Greek American community plays in support of the cooperation between the United States and Greece.



(L-R) Demetra Atsaloglou, Gus Andy, Leon Andris, Nick Larigakis, Yiannakis Omirou, President of the House of Representatives, Kostas Alexakis and Antonis Mandritis, Counselor-Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“As we continue that effort, we will look to you and other pillars of the Greek American community for support,” Ambassador Smith said. “For decades, you have constituted the ballast which has kept the bilateral relationship on a steady course, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.”

In this spirit, Ambassador Smith expressed appreciation for the work of AHI.

“I appreciate the exceptional work that the American Hellenic Institute does to preserve and enhance the ties of friend-



(L-R) Gus Andy, Kostas Alexakis, Dr. Eran Lerman, Deputy National Security Advisor for Foreign Policy and International Affairs-National Security Council, Nick Larigakis and Alan Schneider.

ship and cooperation that exist between the United States and Greece,” he said. “AHI members care deeply about the United States’ relationship with Greece and our shared devotion to the ideals of freedom and democracy.” ■

FORUM EXPLORES GOALS OF CYPRUS EU PRESIDENCY

Continued from page 1

nio de Lecea, minister for Economic and Financial Issues, Delegation of the EU to the U.S.; Bill Loveless, host, *Platts Energy Week*; and former Ambassador to NATO Kurt Volker, managing director and senior fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS-Johns Hopkins University and executive director, McCain Institute for International Leadership, Arizona State University. Paul Glastris, editor-in-chief, *The Washington Monthly*, moderated the panel.

During the forum’s Q&A session, the topics of EU-Turkey relations and the Cyprus-Israel gas relationship were discussed. Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Pavlos Anastasiades also provided a response during the Q&A session and commented on energy issues and the Cyprus issue during his response. ■

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Published by the American Hellenic Institute, Inc.

Membership Information: 1-202-785-8430

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