



*13<sup>th</sup> Annual AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Study Trip: DC, Greece & Cyprus*

## STUDENT BIOS



**Michael Arianas** is a rising 3L at The George Washington University Law School, where he is concentrating in International Business Law. Prior to his legal education, he undertook his graduate studies in the United Kingdom at the University of St Andrews, where he graduated with a Master of Arts (Honours) Degree in International Relations and Modern History in 2019. Michael prides himself on being geographically mobile, nearly nomadic in a way, having interned in three American states and three European countries, for firms ranging from the medical advertising field to the wills, trusts, and estates legal fields. All of these experiences have prepared Michael for a career in cross-border corporate law, where he hopes to help Greek business expand their reach into American markets and vice-versa. Currently learning Russian and French, Michael hopes that one day, America won't be the only legal market he helps Greek entrepreneurs expand into.



**Sophia Athan** is a rising junior, National Merit Scholar, Benacquisto Scholar, and Dean's List student at the University of Florida. She is majoring in Political Science and International Studies with a concentration in Europe. Sophia has been recognized as a Gator of Tomorrow, a high honor that distinguishes her as one of the top 25 student leaders in the 6,500-person class of 2023. Sophia served as a Recruitment Intern for the U.S. State Department during the 2020-21 academic year. On campus, Sophia is the President of the Mock Trial Team and also serves as the Director of Special Projects for the Bob Graham Center for Public Service. Sophia is a dancer for the Aferoma Greek Dance Troupe, a student of Orthodox Christian Fellowship, and a member of the Greek-American Student Association chapter at UF. Combining her passion for European affairs and her Greek heritage, Sophia hopes to pursue a Juris Doctor and eventually work in the European Union to preserve and protect Greek culture in EU cultural policy and law.



**Sophia Axiotis**, a first-generation and provost list student, a rising sophomore at Chapman University in Orange, California studying History and Philosophy with a minor in English. As a writer, Sophia is represented by Scenario Literary Agency, who took her on at age 16 as the youngest individual represented. She was a recipient of the Angelo L. Pappas Scholarship for graduating high school seniors. Sophia is also the co-president of the Classics Club at her university and is studying the Attic Greek language. Sophia's studies of Classical Greece and her inquiry into the circumstances surrounding her father's adoption in Greece have made her acutely aware of the importance of foreign policy. This project would allow her to learn more about the multifaceted nature of Greek-Cypriot-U.S. relations. In the future, she plans to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship and receive her Masters in International Relations.



**Stratis Bohle** is a rising sophomore and Dean's List student at Virginia Tech, where he is studying Political Science with a minor in History. He was involved with the St. Katherines GOYA, where he attends church service. He competed in extemporaneous speaking during his sophomore through senior years in high school. He was also the announcer of the sporting events at Centreville High School, where he also performed the morning announcements. In the summer of 2020, he worked for the Fairfax County Republican Party. He plans to attend law school after the completion of his undergraduate degree. He looks forward to the opportunity to have a broader understanding of US-Greek-Cyprus relations through the AHIF student trip to Greece and Cyprus.



**Xenia Evangeloulis**, a George Washington University Presidential Academic Scholarship Recipient, a consecutive Dean's List recipient, and Civic House Cohort Member, is a sophomore studying Psychology and minoring in both statistics and organizational science. She was also selected as a Dean's Council member, and is an active member of the Hellenic Student Association at GWU. Her internships have included learning more about Greek-American relations through the American Hellenic Institute, as well as working with the start-up Last Call For Food which works to eliminate food insecurity and waste in the D.C. area. Her future plans include obtaining a PhD in Industrial Organizational Psychology to eventually work in the field of Human Resources Data Management. Through the Foreign Policy trip, Xenia hopes to further contribute to advocacy for Greek-American policy in D.C.



**Nicholas Dean Iliadis** is a graduate of La Salle University majoring in Political Science with experience in public policy and constituent relations. In the fall he will attend Widener Commonwealth School of Law. Recently, he participated in grassroots voter campaign as a coordinator and served in the office of New Jersey State Assemblyman Herbert Conaway assisting citizens to identify services available to them. He is a lifelong member of St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church and served in various capacities in the church services. He graduated from the afternoon Hellenic school and participated in GOYA including the Metropolis of New Jersey Olympics as well as the Sights and Sounds arts festival. He attended the GOA Ionian Village summer camp as well as the IV reunion stateside. Additionally, he is a 4-year NCAA Division I Rower for La Salle Men's Rowing team. During his crew training and competitions, he witnessed firsthand pollution's impact on the environment. This observation, combined with his interest in law and policy, has prompted him to pursue a law career with an emphasis on environmental and land-use policy. As Greece recognizes the invaluable natural resources she has, he hopes to pursue his interests and passions in environmental issues to help protect her priceless gifts.



**Sophia Kapogiannis** is a junior in the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. She is pursuing a BS degree in Public Health with minors in Nutrition and Sociocultural Anthropology. As an advocate for food security and maternal health, she aspires to attend law school and work in health policy. Sophia's involvement in her church's Greek dance and Greek School programs have inspired her to join her university's Hellenic Student Association, where she is on the executive board as a Financial Officer. In 2017, Sophia spent a summer volunteering at the Souda refugee camp in Chios, Greece. Additionally, she founded the Arlington Care Closet, a nonprofit organization that provides hygiene products to

low-income students. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, she spent the summer assembling self-care kits for at risk youth and worked with a local school district to distribute weekly meals to more than 150 local food-insecure families. She hopes that this immersive experience will provide her with a greater insight of how governments collaborate to mitigate region-wide issues, especially concerning population health.



**Andreas Papoutsis** is a rising senior at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he is majoring in economics with a minor in public affairs. His interest in economics was first realized when he developed a fascination with the complexities of economic and foreign policy during the Greek Debt Crisis. As an economics major, Andreas joined the Undergraduate Economics Society, where he now serves as co-president. After traveling to Chios to work with refugee children as part of a service trip with the Greek America Foundation, he decided to further pursue his interests in foreign policy. He has since joined UCLA's foreign affairs magazine as a staff writer and the Hudson

Institute's Center for Political-Military Analysis as an intern. Andreas currently serves as the co-founder and treasurer of UCLA's Hellenic Student Association. Drawing from the entirety of his experiences, he hopes to work in the national security arena where he can influence American policy towards the Eastern Mediterranean.



**Orestes Rellos** was born in Westchester County, New York to parents who are naturalized U.S. citizens, and who emigrated to the U.S. from Greece as adolescents. Orestes is the recipient of the Athanasiades Cultural Foundation Scholarship and is awarded Dean's List distinction every academic term. A third-year undergraduate student at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Orestes is studying Political Science and International Studies with a concentration in the European Region. As a Pre-Law student, it is Orestes' career goal to practice International and Sovereign Law. He has volunteered extensively to non-profit organizations and has travelled widely to

developing parts of the world in learning/service travel programs. Orestes is fluent in the Greek language and has keen awareness of the political systems of Greece and Cyprus and of geopolitical issues confronting both states. His goals are through a rigorous education, global learning and service experiences, and the study and practice of law to strengthen the stability and interconnectedness of the European region and to seek fairness and betterment for global society.



**Leonidas Tsirigotis** is a rising junior pursuing a Bachelors and Masters in Accounting at Loyola University of Maryland. Leonidas has a passion for history and is a recipient of The Kent Walker History Award. He is fluent in Greek and conversational in German. Leonidas served as head acolyte and a 3-year Goya Board member at St. George Greek Orthodox Church. He also served as an assistant instructor in the Hellenic martial art of Pammachon and is active in promoting Pammachon in the United States. As a “Fast Track to CPA” student, Leonidas aspires to intern at a Big 4 accounting firm. At Loyola University Maryland, Leonidas is active as the current treasurer to the university’s political club, and a member of Loyola University of Maryland’s Hellenic Society. Leonidas hopes to apply his degree in the field of international business and finance.

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The *AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Study Trip: Washington, DC, Greece & Cyprus* is a leading travel abroad program aimed to help Greek and Cypriot American college students better understand the importance of US-Greece-Cyprus relations and foreign policy issues important to the Greek American community. During the eighteen-day program, the students will have the opportunity to experience firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, their relations with the U.S., and the interests of the U.S. in the region. Prior to their departure, students meet in Washington, DC where they attend meetings and briefings with officials at Greek and Cypriot embassies, the State Department, Congress and think-tanks. While in Greece and Cyprus the students attend briefings with officials at the American embassies; various ministries, including Foreign Affairs; military; members of Parliament; religious leaders; think-tanks, and members of academia and the private sector. In Greece, the students will also take a day-trip to visit Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Crete, where they will tour the NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) and receive a briefing.