



The Hellenic Society Prometheas

Newsletter 22

June 2003

Mark Your Calendars

Our Hellenic Heritage and its Meaning for us young and not so young, Wilmington, Delaware, October 11, 2003 (see at the end of this document for more details)

New chair on modern Greece at Georgetown University

WASHINGTON 14/05/2003 (ANA - T. Ellis)

Greece and the administration of Georgetown University signed an agreement for the establishment of a Greek studies chair, which will be funded by the Greek Culture Ministry to the tune of 500,000 dollars.

The signing ceremony took place at the Greek embassy here and the Greek Ambassador to Washington Mr. George Savvaidis handed Dean Jane Dammen McAuliffe a check for 100,000 dollars, as the first installment of the grant.

The full amount of funding necessary for the maintenance of the seat is 1.5 million dollars, thus the outstanding one million will be collected from other sources.

The chair will have the responsibility of developing a program oriented and relevant to modern Greece.

Young Michopoulos excels

We are always proud to report accomplishments of fellow Greeks from around the world. We are even more proud when it comes to one of our friends and fellow Prometheas' members. George Michopoulos, the 11-year old son of Yianni and Athina Michopoulos, is representing the State of Virginia at a national competition of the National History Day June 15 to 20 with his thesis on "Rights and Responsibilities of the U.S. Involvement in the Greek War of Independence (1821-1828)", not a light subject at this age! [see below the complete article from the School Press Release]

George: we are very proud of you and wish you best of luck. Το μηλο κατω απο τη μηλια θα πεσει!!

George Michopoulos will be representing the state of VA at the national competition of the National History Day (NHD) (see <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org>) at the University of MD College Park MD, on June 15 to 20 2003. George is an 11-year-old sixth grader at the Springfield Estates Elementary School, which is one of Fairfax County's gifted and talented centers at Springfield.

This year's theme was "Rights and Responsibilities". George participated in the "individual exhibit" category he had to conduct research on a subject of his preference that required utilizing primary and secondary sources and come up with an analysis supporting his thesis. His subject was "Rights and Responsibilities of the U.S. Involvement in the Greek War of Independence (1821-1828)". To arrive at the national level competition George's project placed first on his own school's competition, then at the regional competition and placed second at the statewide competition.

George's description of his project in his own words:

"My project focuses on the main characters, the motivation and the means of the U.S. involvement in the Greek war of independence and tries to identify the associated rights and responsibilities of the participants. My research showed that private individuals (i.e. E. Everett and S. Howe) and government related individuals (i.e. T. Jefferson, D. Webster) greatly contributed to the Greek independence war. They believed that it was their personal and moral responsibility to help the Greek cause because they recognized the value of what the Greeks had offered to the western world and they exercised their rights of free speech and assembly to talk, write and pursue fundraisers for the Greek cause. However, the U.S. government never adopted an official policy to aid the Greeks thus recognizing the rights of nations (in this case the Ottoman empire) for sovereignty and self-determination and the de facto state of the political and ethnic status in Europe. This was officially expressed through the Monroe doctrine. An additional reason could have been a trade agreement that the U.S. was seeking to sign with the Ottomans, and finally succeeded in 1830."

George's "most interesting experiences" description in his own words:

"I was so excited to go to the manuscripts division of the Library of Congress hoping to see T. Jefferson's letters to A. Coray with my own eyes. In one of these letters T. Jefferson established the political and cultural context for the right of the Greeks to be independent; he also described the nation-building experiences of the U.S.A. as a lesson of what to repeat and avoid for the case of the new Greek nation that was about to emerge. When I went there with my parents, I sadly discovered that I had to be 18 years old to enter in the library! This was a great disappointment, despite the fact that my father finally made copies of the letters I needed. Also, I would have never expected how useful knowing Greek would turn out to be! I discovered this the hard way when I had to translate some of my bibliographic sources that were originally printed in Greek, into English."

JEFFREY EUGENIDES IS AWARDED THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION BOOK "Middlesex"

New York Times; In this epic novel of ideas about three generations of a Greek-American family, a girl discovers at 14 that she is a boy, or, rather, a hermaphrodite. In naming it one of the seven best books of 2002, the editors of The New York Times Book Review said that it was "colossally curious, shaggy and exuberant." This is his second novel; his first was "The Virgin Suicides."

Mr. Eugenides, who is 43, lives in Berlin with his wife and daughter.

Books of Interest

"Ask me Again Tomorrow", autobiography of Olympia Dukakis

"Alexander the Great's Art of Strategy" by Partha Bose, published by Gotham

"The Peloponnesian War" by Prof. Donald Kagan published by Viking. Prof. Kagan (Sterling Professor of Classics and History at Yale University) retells the story in a narrative capturing its political forces, military tactics and gigantic personalities – including legendary figures like Pericles, Demosthenes and Alcibiades – and reminds us how closely the disturbance of ancient world resemble those of today.

"Greece and Turkey after the End of the Cold War", edited by Christodoulos K. Yiallourides and Panayiotis J. Tsakonas, published by A.D.Caratzas, New York and Athens, 2001

"Greece's Economic Performance and Prospects" edited by Ralph C. Bryan, Nicholas C. Garganas and George S. Tavlas, published by Brookings Institution and the Bank of Greece, Washington DC and Athens, 2001

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AND PARENTS
HELLENIC HERITAGE PROGRAM BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - MARK YOUR
CALENDARS

Please Cancel All Other Engagements for Saturday,
October 11, 2003 !!!
*A Unique, Not To Be Missed, Entertaining and Educational Hellenic
Heritage Program*

WHAT: A PROGRAM ON OUR HELLENIC HERITAGE AND ITS MEANING

FOR US, YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG

WHERE: AT THE HELLENIC CENTER OF THE HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY OF
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

WHEN: THIS ALL-DAY (9:30AM - 3:30 PM) INTERACTIVE PROGRAM IS

SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003. TO BE

FOLLOWED WITH AN EXTENDED SOCIAL HOUR WITH FOOD AND

MUSIC

FOR WHOM: THE PROGRAM IS PRIMARILY TARGETED, BUT NOT LIMITED,
FOR OUR YOUTH OF THE WILMINGTON AND NEIGHBORING
COMMUNITIES. WE HOPE TO HAVE MANY
YOUTH OF GOYA, SONS OF PERICLES AND MAIDS OF
ATHENA, AND ANY OTHER HELLENE AND PHILHELLENE FROM THE
NEIGHBORING STATES. IT IS, INDEED, A FAMILY PROGRAM

HOW: THE PLAN IS TO HAVE WELL-KNOWN, MOSTLY YOUNG, TALENTED

HELLENES AND PHILHELLENES FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY TO TALK AND INTERACT WITH OUR YOUTH ON GENERAL

AND SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF OUR HELLENIC HERITAGE AND OUR
LIVES. THE FORMAT IS TO BE A MIX OF INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION
WITH SOME PRESENTATION SESSIONS, WITH MANY BREAKS IN
BETWEEN FOR ENTERTAINMENT, REFRESHMENTS, AND SOCIAL
INTERACTION. AS SUCH, A SIMPLE, BUT PLENTIFUL LUNCH WILL
BE PROVIDED. AN EXTENDED SOCIAL HOUR AFTER THE PROGRAM
WITH MUSIC AND FOOD IS ALSO BEING PLANNED.

NOTE: *THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO THEATRE NEFELI: A 32*
young people creative Hellenic Theatrical Group from Toronto, performing
for us their lively Olympic and Greek Immigrant theme play "Children Of
The Flame", already proven to be a hit, is to be part of this key event. Also,
many dignitaries, including the Governor of our State, are likely to attend.
More specifics on the program a little later.

SPONSORSHIP: AHEPA WILMINGTON CHAPTER 95 OF DISTRICT NO. 5

**IS SPONSORING THE WHOLE PROGRAM FOR ALL OF
OUR YOUTH, IN LIEU OF ITS REGULAR SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM. WE MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL EXTERNAL CO-
SPONSORS AS WELL. THE PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ALL AND
THERE IS NO CHARGE.**

NOTE: For additional information, please call Father Anastasios Bourantas
(302-654-4446), or Peter Yiannos, AHEPA Scholarship and Education Chairman
(302-475-7607), caliope@voicenet.com).