



ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ

HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

FOUNDED 1936

Visit our website: www.hucphiladelphia.org

NOVEMBER 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT



My first four months as president of HUC have been a whirlwind. There is much I have learned, much to say, much to praise, and much I am still learning with the help of HUC veterans and their invaluable Club insights. But for this month's letter, I wanted to crystallize some early reflections and issue a call to action. Consider me, in this note, both a cheerleader of an

already impressive group, and a coach who needs your help to build an even greater one.

HUC relies on volunteers and has a rich history of selfless service by many members who have made possible the growth and success of this organization. It is a challenge to serve on committees, especially for younger members striving to balance professional career aspirations and emerging-family obligations. And yet, a new generation serving HUC are doing exactly that, as our Oct. 23rd Career Panel and networking event exemplified. To that end, I cannot help but single out **Konstantinos Vrontis** for praise.

Kosta organized this joint HUC-AHEPA event for the second year in a row while also immersed in a career at Merck. He assembled two dozen panelists presenting useful advice on professional development topics for careers ranging from Medicine and Law to Business and Engineering. This was no small undertaking. We are grateful.

In the same spirit of volunteerism, another HUC offering that surfaced in just the past few years, our Mentorship Program, has been an invaluable addition to how we help our scholarship recipients advance their growth while still young scholars. Spearheaded by retired Widener University Dean **Nick Hadgis**, I can say with conviction as his Co-Chair that the

program has become embedded in our Club's ongoing work to promote educational achievement and fellowship among Greek Americans.

We need more brilliant assists such as these. Many more. Our nearly century-old Club is at a crossroads. We could use your help to grow our internal systems so that they match our high ambitions and the digital age.

Our committees on fundraising, archives and nominations require chair leadership and strategic planning vision. Several other committees would also welcome new members and the insights they could share. On the operations side, there is an urgent desire to streamline what we do and how we do it.

WE NEED MORE BRILLIANT ASSISTS SUCH AS THESE. MANY MORE. OUR NEARLY CENTURY-OLD CLUB IS AT A CROSSROADS. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP TO GROW OUR INTERNAL SYSTEMS SO THAT THEY MATCH OUR HIGH AMBITIONS AND THE DIGITAL AGE.

I am looking to import professional expertise to improve our operations systems, including in the areas of centralized digital document management; web design and development; and organizational work flow tools to help officers and board members with Club communications and all other work through the year. We also welcome assistance with budgets and reimagining membership application processes so that we adopt platforms that marry the best of low-touch consumer technology with our Club's in-house member engagement tools.

Should you have ideas or be interested in serving HUC in these areas, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or to reach out to one of the committee chairs.

We are on an ambitious growth track and have a strong legacy to propagate for generations to come. We can achieve our goals only with you, our members, in the huddle with us on the soccer field.

Respectfully,

George Tsetsekos, PhD
President

ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ (*PAIDEIA*) is the ancient Greek word for learning or education. The lifelong pursuit of *PAIDEIA* was set by our Founders as the Club's main objective; eighty-five years later this ideal continues to inspire us.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors welcome our newest member, **Paul Apostolidis**. Καλώς ήρθες!

Additionally, we are pleased to present the following six applicants for membership:

Vivian Hionas

3302 Baring Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104
Tel: (215) 771-3333
Email: hios3@aol.com

Vivian earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Marketing from Drexel University. She and her husband Alex Ljachin are the parents of a daughter Yianna.

Eva McGrath

3124 Woodland Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090
Tel: (267) 949-7076
Email: evammcgrath@gmail.com

Eva earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Drexel University. Eva is a past HUC Scholarship recipient, the daughter of member Betsy McGrath, and the niece of Past President Zoe Tripolitis.

Helena Polites

2002 White Horse Road, Berwyn, PA 19312
Tel: (610) 608-3638
Email: hpolites@gmail.com

Helena earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Ad-

ministration from University of Mary Washington. She works as Vice President of Polites Florist and is the daughter of HUC members Chris and Kathy Polites.

Lorena Sako

2408 South Carlisle Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145
Tel: (610) 203-7514
Email: elenisako21@gmail.com

Lorena graduated from the National University of Athens with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Mass Media. Lorena also holds an MBA with a specialization in Human Resources. Lorena works as a Human Resources Professional for the City of Philadelphia.

Magdalen Tzimoulis

56 Stratton Lane, Sewell, NJ 08080
Tel: (856) 693-4653
Email: magtzim@yahoo.com

Magdalen received her Bachelor of Science degree from UMDNJ – School of Osteopathic Medicine. She is presently working as a Career Coach. She and her husband Demetrios have 2 sons, Peter and Michael.

Santina Zouras

1436 Telegraph Road, West Chester, PA 19380
Tel: (484) 995-6390
Email: santinazouras@gmail.com

Santina earned a Bachelor's degree from Villanova University. She works as Communications and Customer Experience Specialist with TE Connectivity.

The above applicants shall be considered elected unless written objection is filed with the Corresponding Secretary **Maria Panaritis** (mariapanaritis@gmail.com) within 10 days of publication.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **John Roebas** who has reached Emeritus status in the Club.

Emeritus membership is granted to individuals who have been members for 50 years or more. We thank John for his many years of membership, support and service, including two terms as Treasurer. Emeritus members are exempt from paying annual dues.



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MEMBER HIGH HONORS

On October 31, 2021 members **Elias Iliadis, MD**, and **Anastasios (Tom) Papademetriou, PhD**, were initiated as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew. The investiture took place following the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City. Also initiated was **Frank Catrickes**, son of members **James and Pauline Catrickes**.

In addressing the Archons, His All-Holiness stated, “the titles of archons conferred on you and henceforth borne by you, represent significant public and ecclesiastical ministries and offices in the history of the Eastern Roman Empire and our Orthodox Church. They presuppose education, legal knowledge, diplomacy, linguistic skills, high intelligence and, above all else, devotion to the sacred mission of the Church and our People’s sacred traditions,” according to an account by the National Herald.




After the Divine Liturgy and the investiture of the Archons, the congregation witnessed the elevation of **Archimandrite Christoforos Oikonomidis**, Chancellor of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey and priest of St. Thomas Church, Cherry Hill, NJ, to the office of Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne.

Congratulations to all the worthy recipients of these high honors!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership Renewal notices for the 2021-22 fiscal year have been mailed to all members. Kindly remit your dues to HUC Membership Renewal, PO Box 42199, Philadelphia PA 19101 as soon as possible. For your convenience, debit/credit card payments may be made online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/huc-annual-dues-2021-2022-tickets-164148222753>

STAY CONNECTED

-  Facebook: www.facebook.com/hucphiladelphia
-  Instagram: @HUC_Philly
-  Twitter: @HUCPhilly

If you have photos from any of our events that you think might be good for social media, message them to any of our social media accounts!

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to report the passing of Emeritus Member Mary Bertas Rennis on October 15, 2021. Mary joined the Hellenic University Club in 1945. She served as Recording Secretary and was on the Board of Directors. Mary and her late husband Frank supported the Hellenic University Club for many years and attended many of our programs and social events.

She was honored with all the other Emeritus Members at the 2005 Dinner Dance for her loyalty and service to the Club.

To her sister, Anne Bertas Trivelis, her daughters, Deborah (William) Hartnett, Esq., Denise Rennis-Finney, Ph.D., and HUC Past President Jamie (Ray) Rennis-Hurtado and their families we extend our sincerest sympathy.

Services were held at Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, Pa., with burial at Fernwood Cemetery. May her memory be eternal.

LETTER FROM A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We are happy to share this thank you note received from our Paideia Scholarship recipient:

Dear Scholarship Committee of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia,

I am honored to be the recipient of the *Paideia* Scholarship of \$2500. Your generous contribution will provide assistance for me to pursue my undergraduate degree at University of Pittsburgh.

As you know I currently plan to major in Biomedical Engineering. I will work hard to maintain good grades and will become a strong member of this profession. I look forward to the upper class studies in this interesting field.

I appreciate this opportunity that the Club has provided me to support my education. I look forward to meeting everyone in person soon and to help the causes and mission of this wonderful Club.

Sincerely,

Theodore Fooskas
Theodore Fooskas

Christmas at Longwood



On Saturday, December 11, 2021, members and friends are invited to a guided tour of “A Longwood Christmas,” celebrating the beautiful contrast of Fire & Ice at Longwood Gardens! The afternoon begins with a guided tour and plenty of free time to enjoy the whimsical wonderland that is Longwood during the holiday season. We hope you come along.

“From inviting, warm fire pits to gather around, to thousands of colorful poinsettias, cyclamen, and other horticultural splendor that wows, to an invigorating stroll through half-a-million outdoor lights that dazzle, a Longwood Christmas is the quintessential holiday experience,” in the words of organizers of the extravaganza at the 1,100-acre botanical landmark in Kennett Square, PA.

DATE: December 11, 2021

COST: \$33 per person (\$30 for seniors age 62+ and students)

STARTING TIME: 12:15 P.M.

RSVP DEADLINE: November 30, 2021*

ADDRESS: 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite: <https://huclongwood.eventbrite.com>

A flyer attached to this HUC newsletter shows how to pay by check and contains additional event details. The grounds and 4.5-acre conservatory should make for a refreshing and safe event.

**November 30th is the final RSVP deadline. All tickets must be purchased two weeks in advance.*

CAREER FAIR SUCCESS

Last month’s virtual college and career/networking panel, co-hosted by our Club with AHEPA Chapter 69, was a huge success. More than 24 speakers participated in the now-annual event, which marked its second year. The real-time, online gathering drew more than 20 attendees, including students and parents. We are grateful for the generous donation of time and energy by so many prominent Greek Americans, who shared professional insight and networking opportunities to students from across the Philadelphia region.





Please join
HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA
 for
“A Longwood Christmas”

FIRE, ICE, and everything NICE...
 This holiday season, A Longwood Christmas will showcase
 the dramatically beautiful contrast of fire and ice

Saturday, December 11, 2021

- 12:15 pm Meet at Visitors Center
1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348
- 12:30-1:30 pm Guided tour
- 1:30-3:00 pm Lunch at Cafe (pay on your own)
- 3:00-5:00 pm Enjoy Longwood Gardens at your leisure

Adults: \$33 per person; Seniors (age 62+) and Students: \$30

RSVP deadline: November 30, 2021

Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite: <https://huclongwood.eventbrite.com>

HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

A Longwood Christmas

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Name(s): _____

Email or telephone number: _____

_____ Number of reservations \$_____ Total

Please make checks payable to: Hellenic University Club, C/O Georgia Chletcos
 135 St Laurence Road, Upper Darby, PA 19082





UPCOMING EVENT

A LONGWOOD CHRISTMAS

Saturday December 11, 2021

Time: 12:15 p.m.

1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square, PA 19348

Members and friends are invited to a guided tour of
“A Longwood Christmas,” celebrating the beautiful contrast
of Fire & Ice at Longwood Gardens in Chester County.

Cost: \$33 per person (\$30 for seniors age 62+ and students).

See the enclosed flyer for more information.

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