



ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ

HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

FOUNDED 1936

Visit our website: www.hucphiladelphia.org

OCTOBER 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT



On Sunday, October 3, we had a great turnout for our opening reception, with nearly 100 members at Riverwinds Restaurant in New Jersey. After almost two years of remote meetings, many of us were thrilled to reconnect, share news, and enjoy conversations and camaraderie. However, in my view, the highlight was the announcement of the launch of a new Hellenic

University Club scholarship.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Eleftheria Memorial Scholarship joins the HUC portfolio through \$80,000 in donated funding from local VFW Post 6633. The bequest grants HUC administration of the funds in perpetuity. We will disburse the scholarship annually to deserving college students related to veterans of the post. Its existence at HUC will amplify awareness of the patriotism and contributions of Greek Americans who served in the United States Armed Forces. It also advances our goal to increase our overall scholarship purse to \$1 million within a year.

Post 6633 was established at the end of WWII by Greek Americans from across the Philadelphia region. Its first gathering took place on Sunday, Nov 4, 1945. It officially secured the VFW designation in April 1946 with 98 members. What I find captivating is that the first commander of the post and several members also had been members of HUC:

- That first commander, Frank Rennis, served in battles and campaigns that included Normandy and received commendations including a Bronze Star and a Presidential Unit Citation with five Battle Stars. He was discharged in April 1945 with the rank of Captain.
- Another HUC member was Nick Gianopulos, who entered the Army in June 1944 and served in North Africa, Sicily, and Normandy before his February 1946 discharge. Nick

spearheaded production of a 507-page-long book, Honor and Remembrance, which enshrines the history of Post 6633 from 1946 through 2012. Its narratives of 102 veteran stories took seven years to publish. Its completion is a testament to Nick and the dream of deceased Commander George Baxavaneos.

- Another Post member, the late TV personality George Burlotos of the Greek Spirit program, joined the Navy in 1943 in the Seabee unit. He served in Okinawa and the Pacific theatre, and received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star and the WWII Victory medal. He was discharged as a Petty Officer in April 1946.

Post 6633 is always first in line in the annual Greek Independence Day parade in Philadelphia. Perhaps less known is that the names of Greek American veterans are inscribed onto altars at Lawnview Cemetery in Jenkintown, and Fernwood Cemetery in Lansdowne. At its peak, the post had 115 members; today, it has 27. They meet at St. Demetrios Church in Upper Darby under newly elected commander Nick Pelis, successor to former commander Manny Leventelis.

That these veterans established a scholarship fund years ago reflects the greatest respect for *paideia*.

HUC has a fiduciary and moral duty to preserve the legacy of veterans' personal sacrifice on the battlefield, and later this sacrifice of personal income to help students go to college.

While many worked hard to forge this transfer, **George Roebas** deserves a medal for dedication and perseverance. A longtime HUC member, George is Treasurer of post 6633. We owe him deep thanks for gathering the support that made this possible. Many other HUC members spent countless hours on this, too. At the risk of not mentioning some, I acknowledge the hard work of **Anna Hadgis**, who had several discussions with the VFW post, as well as **Zoe Tripolitis**.

Respectfully,

George Tsetsekos, PhD
President

THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS ELEFThERIA MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP JOINS THE HUC
PORTFOLIO THROUGH
\$80,000 IN DONATED FUNDING
FROM LOCAL VFW POST
6633

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 is pleased to present the following applicant for membership:

Paul Apostolidis

93B Gaisford Street, London, PA NW5 2EG
United Kingdom
Tel: (509) 200-3223
Email: paulapostolidis@gmail.com

Paul earned a PhD in Government from Cornell University and Masters and Bachelor degrees from Princeton. He is Associate Professorial Lecturer, Department of Government, at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Paul is the son of the late Daphne Padis Apostolidis and the grandson of founding members Dr. Nicholas and Mrs. Kively Padis.

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

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!

ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ

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NEW PROGRAM: “YOUNG SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT”



We are excited to introduce a new speaker series, “Young Scholars Spotlight.” The goal of this program is to highlight exceptional Hellenic Young Scholars and learn from their cutting-edge work across a variety of academic disciplines.

Our first invited speaker is **Dr. George Pavlakos**, who will give a brief overview of recent advances in Computer Vision, his work in reconstructing 3D human models from digital images, and the applications that this research can enable.

The talk will take place on Thursday, October 21, 7pm-8pm EST on Zoom. You can find more information about Dr. Pavlakos and how to join the virtual talk in a flyer appended to this newsletter. We look forward to welcoming the current UC Berkeley scholar and Penn graduate, and we hope to see you all at this special inaugural event.

CANCELLED LECTURE

We regret to inform you that the October 27th lecture at the American Philosophical Society has been cancelled. Our speaker, **Dr. Paschalis M. Kitromilides**, was joining us from Greece on his way to the 1821 Pan-California Bicentennial Symposium. Due to COVID complications with travel restrictions between Greece and the United States, that conference has just been cancelled. We are working on the possibility of bringing Dr. Kitromilides to Philadelphia in the spring.

The program committee is working on alternative lectures via Zoom, including a talk by Greek American writer **Joanna Eleftheriou**, who has just published a memoir of homecoming, *This Way Back*. We will keep you posted about specific dates and times. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to read the memoir. For more information, see <https://www.joannaeleftheriou.com/>

LETTERS FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We are always happy to hear from our scholarship recipients and to share their notes with our members. Your generosity to our Scholarship Program allows us to continue helping our youth realize their academic goals.

Dear Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia,

Thank you so much for honoring me with the Goldie S. Vastardis Memorial Scholarship! I'm so proud to represent St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in this way. I'm looking forward to putting down new roots in the Greek Community of D.C.

Sincerely,

Theodora Greco
Theodora Greco



Dear Hellenic University Club,

I wanted to express my appreciation for the scholarship that I received. I really appreciate all of your support with financially helping me to pay for school. I am so excited to start college and learn about Early Education. I hope that I will exemplify Theresa A Chletcos's virtues as a teacher when I finish college. I will surely use my knowledge to help children learn and pay forward your kindness.

Thank you so much.

Love,
Sophia Papacristos
Sophia Papacristos



Hello,

This is Demi Poulathas and I wanted to thank you again for awarding me the Chios Koraes scholarship. I will continue to work hard in the present and in the future so I can give back to the Greek community in the future in the same way HUC has done for me.

I will be reaching out to my HUC mentor soon, and I look forward to connecting with her.

Thank you again for the Hellenic University Club's generosity.

Thank you,
Demi Poulathas
Demi Poulathas

OPENING RECEPTION

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, a wonderfully large group of members and friends kicked off our year with the annual Opening Reception. As promised the event was full of excitement as members reconnected in person with each other and new friends experienced our Club for the first time. Riverwinds Restaurant was a wonderful venue, with sweeping views of the water, the Philadelphia skyline, and a plentiful buffet. We couldn't have asked for better weather as members mixed and mingled on a beautiful veranda or inside an adjoining banquet room.

President George Tsetsekos opened the event with a warm welcome and offered a brief outline of his priorities this year for our nearly century-old Club. He stressed the importance of both, growing membership and boosting our scholarship fund to an unprecedented \$1,000,000. HUC continues to be a leader in our community and this year the board is committed to further strengthening that with these two objectives, which have long been cornerstones of our mission. One of the evening's highlights was a presentation of appreciation for Past President **Zoe Tripolitis**. Zoe has worked tirelessly for many years but truly went above and beyond the past two years in the role of President during a global pandemic. Under her leadership our Club remained strong and active. Her skill, vision and dedication will forever remain a pivotal plot point in our Club's history.

The future is bright with our members and their enthusiasm for our Club. We were delighted to receive new applications as a result of the social and are doing our best to plan a full schedule of lectures and events despite logistical obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to see all of you often and perhaps continue introducing new members to the Club as well.



More photos from the Opening Reception on the next page.



HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

YOUNG SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT



NEW PROGRAM: “Young Scholars Spotlight”

WHO: Dr. George Pavlakos, Ph.D., Scholar in Computer and Electrical Engineering.

WHAT: Dr. Pavlakos will discuss advances in computer vision that allow smartphone apps to scan images of people and reconstruct them into 3D human models. What are the challenges, and how might this emerging technology be used in the future?

WHEN AND WHERE: Thursday, October 21st, 7pm-8pm EST on Zoom.

ABOUT DR. PAVLAKOS:

Georgios Pavlakos is a Postdoctoral Researcher at UC Berkeley advised by Angjoo Kanazawa and Jitendra Malik. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer and Information Science from the University of Pennsylvania and a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens. He has studied at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, in Tübingen, and with Facebook Reality Labs in Pittsburgh.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85679427524?pwd=bFVuTTlNZTJPN0NJVDJXbydqLzhUdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 7942 7524

Passcode: 001921



AHEPA Camden Chapter 69 & The Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia
Virtual College/Career Panel Networking Event

A great opportunity for students to learn more about specific college majors and careers, available scholarship opportunities while networking with local professionals

When: Saturday, October 23rd,
 Approximately 9:30am-3:30pm.

[Zoom Registration Link](#)



Where: Zoom (see registration link)

Who Should Attend; Any students in high school and college (parents also welcome) and any young professionals interested in being a panelist (see Panelist sign up link).

[Panelist Sign up link](#)
 (spots may be limited)



Schedule (Subject to Change)

9:30-10:15	Intro/ Special Topic Discussion: <i>Financing your Degree and other College Planning</i>
10:15-11:00	Panelist Discussion: <i>Education</i>
11:00-11:45	Panelist Discussion: <i>Business, Finance & Media</i>
11:45-12:30	Panelist Discussion: <i>Medicine & Health Sciences</i>
12:30-1:15	Special Topic Discussion: <i>Soft Skills & why they're important</i>
1:15-2:00	Panelist Discussion: <i>Law</i>
2:00-2:45	Panelist Discussion: <i>Engineering & Sciences</i>
2:45-End	Open Topic Discussion: <i>Students' Choice</i>

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUNG SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT

Computer Vision and Learning to Reconstruct 3D Humans

Dr. George Pavlakos

Thursday, October 21st, 2021

TIME: 7:00pm, via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85679427524>

HUC/AHEPA VIRTUAL COLLEGE/CAREER PANEL NETWORKING EVENT

Saturday, October 23, 2021

TIME: 9:30am-3:30pm

WHERE: Zoom

(see registration link on flyer appended to this newsletter)

Open to any students in high school and college (parents also welcome).

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