



# PANHELLENIC AFFAIRS

Building a better America through Education & Hellenism

NOVEMBER 2017



## 2017 PANHELLENIC GALA CONTINUES SUCCESS WITH A RECORD BREAKING TURNOUT

This year's annual Award Ceremony and Gala, held at the Hilton Chicago, broke all previous attendance records with over 570 guests who helped us celebrate forty-two of our very best Greek-American undergraduate scholars. These rising stars of our community received an impressive \$255,000 in scholarship awards in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. The scholars, their parents, and guests enjoyed a beautiful evening that began with cocktails in the Hilton's Grand Ballroom, followed by the awards ceremony in the beautiful International Ballroom, and the evening ended with a wonderful dinner, great music, and Greek dancing.

The mission of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is to promote education by providing scholarships and educational programs to Greek-American students who, guided by the values of their Hellenic upbringing, have the potential to become life-long significant achievers who contribute to society in meaningful ways. The core of our beloved founder's mission, the late Mr. Chris P. Tomaras, was to build a better America through Education and Hellenism. We are proud to announce that as of June 2017 we have laid one more brick in the building of a better America. To date, we have awarded \$2.75 million in scholarships to over 400 undergraduate students of Hellenic descent, making the Foundation one of the leading scholarship award institutions in the United States.

The awards ceremony opened with a joyful welcome and introduction by Mistress of Ceremonies, **Betty Cantrell**. Betty, former Miss America 2016, was born to a Greek family in Warner Robins, Georgia and named after her grandmother, Baciliki. After her introduction, **Yanni Valsamas**, Director on the Board of the PanHellenic, conducted

the Awards Ceremony along with Academic Committee Chairman, **Dr. Constantine Georgakis** and Board Chairman, **Robert A. Buhler**. Before the ceremony, Yanni Valsamas gave a touching tribute to Mr. Tomaras reminding us that it was through Mr. Tomaras' dedication to Hellenism and education that everyone was able to gather that evening to honor our best and brightest.

This year's recipients attend elite schools all across the nation such as Stanford, Duke, Purdue, the University of Illinois, the United States Naval Academy, Temple University, Princeton, University of Chicago, and New York University. Their academic disciplines are diverse with scholars majoring in engineering, biochemistry, journalism, physiology, English, education, art history, archaeology, business, mathematics, political science, music, and the arts.

Each year, the Foundation presents the **Paradigm Award** to a distinguished Greek-American. Since its inception, the Paradigm Award

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PANHELLENIC  
SCHOLARSHIP  
FOUNDATION



\$2.75 Million in  
Scholarships



400+  
Undergraduate  
Scholars



200+ Colleges  
and Universities



Exceptional  
Needs-Based  
Students

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serves to honor a person's outstanding accomplishments and dedication to exhibiting Hellenic values and principles in their life. The paradigm award winner serves as an exemplary role model to our Greek-American youth. Our Paradigm Award honoree for 2017 is renowned businessman and philanthropist **John Pappajohn**. Mr. Pappajohn gave an inspiring speech to our recipients, encouraging them to face adversity with a positive mindset and to repay society by becoming philanthropists themselves.

Closing the ceremony, Chairman Robert Buhler gave some final remarks about the Foundation's 2016-17 year, and its plans for the future. He outlined how the Board has progressed with this year's goals, highlighting the expanded reach of the Foundation through its Alumni network, its new co-branding partnerships, and the newly-installed Advisory Board.

Prior to dinner, Board Trustees **John Manos** and **Tom Sotos**, on behalf of the Foundation, honored the Alexopoulos family, for **Dr. George Alexopoulos'** many years of service as Academic Committee Chairman, and Yanni Valsamas for his years of service as the Executive Director of the PanHellenic. The Alexopoulos family and Mr. Valsamas

were presented a plaque as a token of the foundation's appreciation and gratitude.

After the presentation, guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing, and three individuals won the Grand Raffle cash prizes. Congratulations to Roula Alakiotou, who won the \$1,000 prize; Anastasia Velliotis, winner of the \$5,000 prize, and Maria Lampros, winner of the grand prize of \$10,000!

Chairman Robert A. Buhler, the Board of Directors, Academic Committee, and Board of Advisors once again congratulate the 2017 Scholarship Award Recipients, and express deep appreciation to the guests and donors who made this year's Awards Ceremony and Gala a great success.



For more information about the Foundation and to view photographs of the event, please visit [www.panhellenicsf.org](http://www.panhellenicsf.org).



## DR. DAME EVANGELINE GOULETAS HOSTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS DINNER IN HONOR OF MR. PAPPAJOHN

On Friday, June 16, 2017 **Dr. Dame Evangeline Gouletas** hosted a dinner in honor of our Paradigm Honoree, John Pappajohn, and his family. The dinner was held at her beautiful, scenic restaurant, Citè located at the top of Lake Point Tower which overlooks Navy Pier. Attending the dinner was the Board of Directors and our Academic Committee Chairman. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and a wonderful dinner while enjoying a fascinating view of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline. We would like to thank Dr. Dame Gouletas for her kindness and generosity.

## 2017 PARADIGM HONOREE JOHN PAPPAJOHN

### *The Power of a Positive Mindset*

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation was proud to honor renowned businessman and philanthropist, John Pappajohn as our 2017 Paradigm Honoree. Mr. Pappajohn's life is a prime example of the importance of hard work, a good education, and following one's dreams.

Mr. Pappajohn immigrated from Greece with his family when he was just nine months old, and he grew up in Mason City, Iowa. His father passed away when John was only sixteen. After high school, Mr. Pappajohn worked his way through college, and it took him six years to earn his undergraduate degree in business. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1952.

After graduation, Mr. Pappajohn organized Equity Dynamics, Inc. and Pappajohn Capital Resources becoming one of the first venture capitalists. He has been involved in over one hundred start ups, over fifty IPOs and has served as Director in over forty public companies.

Together with his wife, Mary, they have donated over \$100 million to various philanthropic causes, especially focusing on the promotion of higher education. The Pappajohns have been integral to the support of business schools, entrepreneurial centers, universities, and scholarship funds across the state of Iowa. Not only is Mr. Pappajohn a dedicated supporter of education, but he is an outstanding example of someone who is devoted to the values and principles of Hellenism and Orthodoxy. Mr. Pappajohn is a member of Archbishop Iakovos' Leadership 100, where he served on the Executive Committee from 2001-2004. He has donated to the construction of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has honored Mr. Pappajohn appointing him an Archon of the Order of Saint Andrew.

After the 2017 PanHellenic Award Ceremony, Mr. Pappajohn delivered a powerful speech about his early life, education, and career. During his speech, Mr. Pappajohn emphasized that adversity is a blessing in disguise because it taught him how to make good choices. However, the most important thing, he stated, was a Positive Mental Attitude that helped propel him to success throughout his life. Mr. Pappajohn spoke in depth about how a person must be willing to "pay the price" to be successful, but in order to be successful a person needs to be a dreamer. At the end of his speech, Mr. Pappajohn challenged this year's recipients to be generous philanthropists. He then gifted each recipient \$100, challenging them to give back to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.



## REMEMBERING SOME OF OUR GREATEST FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS...

### *His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago*

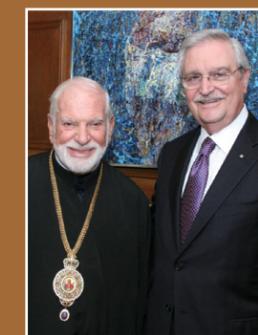
His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos, of blessed memory, was a shining example of how pious and humble Orthodox Christians should lead their lives. His Eminence instilled faith and wisdom on all those he met and was fervent supporter of education. Since its founding, His Eminence wholeheartedly embraced the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's education mission. Together with our late Founder, Chris P. Tomaras, he recognized the value of ensuring that young Greek-Americans had every opportunity to pursue their academic dreams, and understood that it would help bring them closer to our faith and culture.

To the Metropolitan, education was something to live by and every moment was a teaching moment. In addressing our scholars at the annual awards ceremonies, he encouraged and inspired them to be their best, to honor their heritage, and to live their faith. He reminded us that our identity was rooted in our heritage and our spirituality. While his loss is a great one, we take comfort in knowing that he will always be praying for us, the Foundation, and the larger Greek-American community.

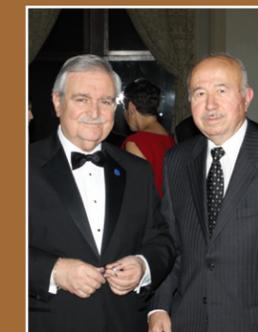
### *Dr. George Alexopoulos*

Through his commitment to education and his love of teaching, Dr. George Alexopoulos, former Academic Committee Chairman from 2002-2015 and Chairman Emeritus since 2015, represented the true ethos of the Hellenes. When our beloved late Mr. Chris P. Tomaras established the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation he asked Dr. Alexopoulos to serve as the Chairman of the Academic Committee. Every year, with great dedication and energy he led a rigorous selection process that awarded some of the very best and brightest undergraduate Greek-American scholars with PanHellenic scholarships. Dr. Alexopoulos was a distinguished academic and dedicated educator.

Dr. Alexopoulos' other great passion was the advancement of Hellenism. Besides being our Academic Committee Chairman, he was integral to the establishment of the Hellenic Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago and was the founder of the Hellenic Link-Midwest. We will remember Dr. Alexopoulos as a dedicated educator and Hellene who was integral to the success of PanHellenic.



*May their memory be eternal!*



## A NEW TRADITION: PANHELLENIC'S FIRST ANNUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND

In an effort to more efficiently support our alumni and create great networking and mentoring opportunities for our scholars, this year marked the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's first, what will now be annual, **Alumni Weekend**. Past recipients and current recipients came together on the weekend of the gala to not only celebrate, but to reunite and forge new bonds. We hope this new tradition will help our scholars advance their careers and retain a strong connection to the Greek-American community.

The first event of our Alumni Weekend started off with a welcome reception at the Holland and Knight Law Office in the Chicago Loop. Recipients and alumni had a great evening of connecting and reconnecting while enjoying appetizers and drinks. The welcome reception was generously hosted by our pro-bono General Counsel, **Mr. Elias Matsakis** who had this to say about the night, "This year we introduced a 'scholars alumni' reception as part of the gala weekend, which I was pleased to host. The enthusiasm and excitement of both recipients and alumni alike, that night, suggests that we are building powerful connections that will be an ever renewing resource which will support their future success."

Co-branding and teaming up with other likeminded organizations in our community is a great way for us to help support our scholars. On the day of the gala, we co-sponsored a networking and mentor luncheon with **The Hellenic Initiative**. Held at the Racquet Club of Chicago, this year's recipients and past recipients enjoyed a spectacular lunch and had a great opportunity to receive mentoring from prominent Greek-American professionals in their area of interest. Students had an opportunity to learn from: **Dr. Alexander G. Alemis**, founder of Family Dental Care Group; **Nicholas Alexos**, Managing Director and Co-founder of Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC; **Eunice Buhler**, attorney at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP; **Konstantine Buhler**, Vice President at Meritech Capital Partners; **Hon. Peggy Chiampas**, Associate Judge on the Circuit Court of Cook County; **Melanie Delianides**, Director of Business Development for Knoll Inc.; **Dean Gregory**, President of Medical Devices for Fresenius Kabi; **Stephen Livaditis**, Senior Managing Director of Eastdil Secured, LLC; **Alanna Loukas**, Banker at J.P. Morgan; **Chris P. Kallos**, Partner at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP; **Michael Konidaris**, Senior Economic Analyst at Macroeconomic Advisers; **John Koudounis**, CEO of Calamos Investments; **Doretta Mistras**, Managing Director at Goldman Sachs; **Evonne Sepsis**, founder of ESC Advisors; and **Endy Zemenides**, Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council. Attendees then listened to a compelling presentation on the economic crisis in Greece by Michael Konidaris and how the country may recover.

Our first alumni weekend was an amazing success, uniting all alumni, building lifelong friendships, and promoting participation in our Greek-American community. The PanHellenic would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Elias Matsakis** and **Holland and Knight** for Friday night's reception; **Nicholas Alexos**, **Eunice Buhler**, **John Koudounis**, and **The Hellenic Initiative** for organizing and hosting a wonderful, engaging luncheon; and past recipients, **Evanthia Arianas** and **Melpomeni Arianas** for helping to organize such a wonderful weekend.

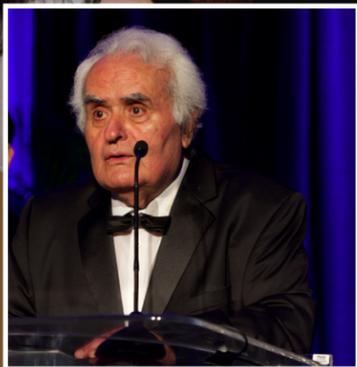


# FIRST ANNUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND





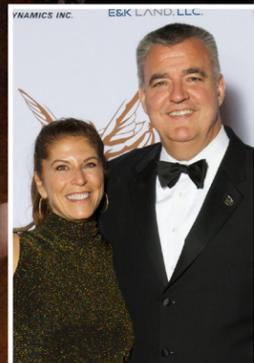
# 2017 Awards Ceremony & Gala



# 2017 Awards Ceremony & Gala

## 2017 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Alexander Alatsis, The Ohio State University
- Aspasia Amiridis, University of South Carolina
- Peter Charalambous, Dartmouth College
- Thomasina Chirgott, Robert Morris University
- Alexei Christodoulides, University of California, Los Angeles
- Giana Damianos, Indiana University
- Plato Deliyannis, Cornell University
- Thalia Dimitriou, Florida State University
- Nikoletta Economou, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Fotios Emery, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Maria Ganiou, The University of Akron
- Jenna George, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- Gregory Grigoropoulos, Loyola University Chicago
- Vasilios Ikononou, Widener University
- Paraskevi Kakares, Illinois Wesleyan University
- Vasiliki Karahalios, University of Utah
- Ioannis Karakozis, Princeton University
- Maria Kollaros, University of Chicago
- Marisa Kometas, University of Oklahoma
- Basil Kyriacou, University of California, Berkeley
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- Vasiliki Mitsakis, New York University
- Maria Palivos, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Demi Panagopoulos, Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis
- Georgia Pappas, DePaul University
- Christina Paris, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Katerina Paulos, University of Utah
- James Phyrillas, Temple University
- Andrew Pierropoulos, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Alexandros Psichas, United States Naval Academy
- Sophia Reagan, University of Florida
- Elizabeth Reichert, Stanford University
- John Sakaleros, Earlham College
- James Sellas, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Athena Sofides, Smith College
- Stephanie Sotiropoulos, Purdue University
- Evyenia Spencer, Kent State University
- Nicholas Staviski, University of Texas at Austin
- Angeliki Sykiotis, University of Illinois at Chicago
- John Touloupis, University of Mississippi
- Athina Vrosgou, Duke University
- Antigone Xenopoulos, Stanford University



570+  
Guests



42 Award  
Recipients

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN "Building the Dream"

Last year, I reported that we had significant transitional work to do in order to further build on our beloved founder's dream, and this year I am happy to announce that we are well on our way in its construction. A result of our hard work towards building the dream was the tremendous success of this year's, once again, SOLD-OUT gala on June 17, 2017. Over 570 guests came to celebrate 42 of our best and brightest young Hellenes. We have now awarded \$2.75 million in scholarships to over 400 exceptional undergraduate students. Our success would not have been possible without our generous partners and donors. On behalf of the Foundation, I express our deepest appreciation for your belief in the Foundation's mission, and for your contributions and support. Thank you, most sincerely.

Our success is also due to the progress we made in areas that we previously decided to focus on last year. These areas are: co-branding, networking and mentoring opportunities for our alumni, and enhancing our advisory resources.

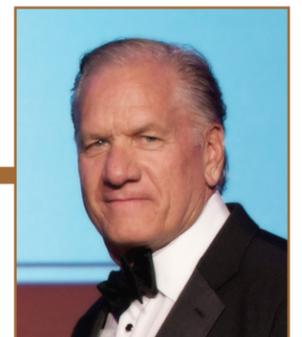
We are proud to renew partnerships with the Hellenic American Women's Council, AHEPA, and The John C. Kulis Foundation, and we are excited to report that we have four new partners: The Hellenic Foundation, The Michael Skoubis Foundation, the John and Mary Pappajohn Foundation, and The Hellenic Initiative. The Foundation looks forward to continuing these partnerships and forming more.

We are very pleased with success of our alumni weekend which gave past recipients and current recipients an opportunity to bond and network. We would like to thank our pro-bono General Counsel, Mr. Elias Matsakis for hosting the welcome reception at the offices of Holland & Knight. We also would like to extend our gratitude to The Hellenic Initiative for co-sponsoring and hosting the mentoring and networking luncheon at the Racquet Club in Chicago. We hope the alumni weekend will become a great tradition that will benefit our young people for years to come.

We are now enhancing our advisory board and organizing it to help support specific aspects of the Foundation. We would like to thank those who served on the gala subcommittee for their advice and input.

Brick by brick we will continue to build PanHellenic, and together with your help, we will continue to honor and support outstanding students who represent the very best of the Greek-American community.

**Robert A. Buhler**





**Yiannis Karakozis, 2017**

"I connected with many of the other recipients and with some of the previous recipients. It was particularly refreshing to meet fellow Greeks who truly embrace our Hellenic culture. The Hellenic Initiative Scholarship Recognition Luncheon was of particularly high quality. Learning how hard work is the only true currency from our mentors and listening to a truly unique and insightful presentation on the Greek financial crisis led to a particularly rewarding experience.

## FROM OUR RECIPIENTS & ALUMNI



**Demitra Giannaras, 2007**

"The PHSF-THI Mentorship Luncheon was an outstanding event, brilliantly executed. During the reception and the luncheon, I was able to meet numerous mentors that are known experts in their respective fields and expand my professional network. It was very inspiring to see so many successful Hellenes who want to share their knowledge and guide the next generation of Greek young professionals. I hope that the Mentorship Luncheon becomes a recurring event- I'd attend again in a heartbeat."



**Sophia Reagan, 2017**

"The collection of events that the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation hosted through the weekend offered a plethora of opportunities to not only network with other accomplished Greek-Americans, but to also have fun and see Chicago! The cocktail party, held in the heart of downtown Chicago, allowed me to connect with alumni and hear about what they have achieved with help from the foundation. The delicious luncheon

*Reagan continued...*

provided me with the opportunity to hear about the Greek economic crisis from a respected economist, shedding light on an issue that I understood vaguely before this event. Finally, the gorgeous gala was a perfect conclusion to the weekend where I was privileged to meet the sponsors behind my generous scholarship and celebrate with a live band. Overall, I left the weekend feeling like I was a welcomed family member to all who were, and are part of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation."

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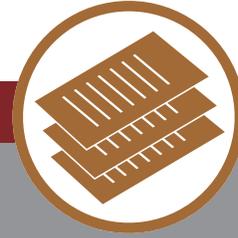
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# SCHOLARSHIPS



## THE 2017/18 PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS NOW AVAILABLE! NOW ELECTRONIC!

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is elated to announce that the 2017/18 scholarship application is now available and can be completed online!

*This year, the Foundation will once again distribute \$250,000 in scholarship awards.*

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, applicants must:

- Be US Citizens or US permanent residents.
- Be of Hellenic descent.
- Be a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited 4-year university in Fall 2017.
- Have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA.

The Foundation will accept applications from eligible college students through **January 31, 2018**. The scholarship application and the qualification criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at [www.panhellenicsf.org](http://www.panhellenicsf.org).

If you are an undergraduate of Hellenic descent, we encourage you to apply for the scholarship awards!

For any questions or inquiries, please email [pkorbakes@panhellenicsf.org](mailto:pkorbakes@panhellenicsf.org) or call our office at (312) 357-6432.

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