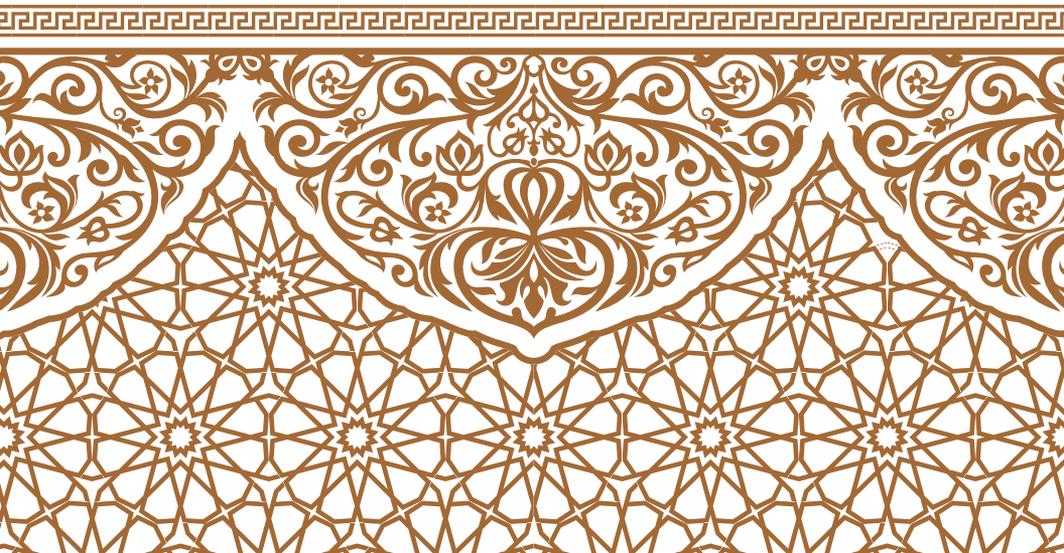


PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

C 2016 Awards
ceremony
and Gala





2016 Awards
Ceremony
and Gala

*Our Mission 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 and
contribute meaningfully to society.*

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Program

THE RITZ-CARLTON, CHICAGO

Concorde Room

VIP RECEPTION IN HONOR
OF PARADIGM AWARD HONOREE

John S. Koudounis, CEO of Calamos Investments

The Promenade

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Grand Ballroom

AWARDS CEREMONY

WELCOME

Kiki Vale, Mistress of Ceremonies

PRESERVING THE LEGACY

Chris P. Tomaras (1937-2015), Founder

Athan Tom P. Sotos, Presenter

Program

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

Yanni A. Valsamas, Executive Director

Robert A. Buhler, Chairman, Board of Directors

Dr. Constantine Georgakis, Chairman, Academic Committee

PARADIGM AWARD PRESENTATION

John S. Koudounis

John G. Manos, Presenter

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Robert A. Buhler

DINNER

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Thomas Dean Bravos

2016 Award Recipient

RAFFLE

ENTERTAINMENT

The Chris Sarlas Orchestra

John Panopoulos, Guest Performer

Board Members

FOUNDER

Chris P. Tomaras (1937 - 2015)

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PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Building a Better America through Education and Hellenism is at the core of the Foundation's mission. In that spirit, our scholarship, educational, cultural, and leadership programs aim to strengthen the civic fabric of society by developing enlightened and engaged citizens.

Greek philosophers thought extensively about the purpose of education and its fundamental role in the development of civilization. Aristotle wrote, ***“All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.”*** The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation carries forth this tradition in Hellenic thought and philosophy by supporting the advancement of higher education for academically outstanding Greek-American college students.

The PanHellenic Scholarship Awards recognize students' exceptional academic performance, by providing meaningful support to those undergraduates with significant financial need and to those outstanding students whose achievements merit acknowledgement. Our symbol, “Nike of Paionios,” represents our efforts to see Greek-American youth triumph in life through hard work, dedication, and determination.

WHO WE ARE

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) national Greek-American organization that honors and supports exceptional undergraduate students of Hellenic descent. Chris P. Tomaras established the Foundation in 1998.

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded significant monetary scholarships to deserving students. In recent years, the amount of the annual awards has grown to \$250,000. Each year, the Foundation awards twenty \$10,000 scholarships based on academic merit and financial need, and twenty \$2,500 scholarships based solely on academic merit. An independent Academic Committee rigorously reviews hundreds of applications and makes the final selection of Award Recipients.

Including tonight's recipients, the Foundation has honored 366 Greek American college students with scholarships totaling \$2.5 million.

STAFF MEMBERS

Yanni A. Valsamas, *Executive Director*

Elaine Sotos, *Executive Administrator*

Allie Clayman, *Scholarships Coordinator*

Aaron Fuerte, *Accountant*

Chairman's Message

PRESERVING THE LEGACY

Welcome to the 2016 Awards Ceremony and Gala!

As I was preparing my greetings for this program book, I remembered the times that my dear friend, Chris Tomaras, would call me to review his message and speech for the annual event. I recall how he carefully chose every word, making his greeting sound warm, friendly, and inviting. He had a way of making you feel welcomed and appreciated.

As the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's new Chairman, I want to continue that legacy of making you feel welcomed and engaged as part of this exceptional organization in our Greek American community that is making a life-changing impact on our future leaders.

It is an honor for me and my fellow Trustees, Treasurer John Manos and Secretary Tom Sotos, along with the members of the Board of Directors, to be carrying forth the mission and preserving the legacy of our Founder, whose vision and commitment to excellence has led the Foundation to be recognized as a leading scholarship institution. We hope not only to preserve Mr. Tomaras' legacy, but to push the Foundation to new heights, and we take these duties very seriously.

...Continued on next page



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



We will build up the Foundation, as I will more specifically highlight tonight, so that it is the national leader in granting scholarships to deserving Greek American college students, in providing culturally enriching educational opportunities, and nurturing leadership skills in our recipients as they become the future leaders of America.

We want to emulate Chris' passion for education and his pride in the scholarship

recipients' achievements. You have our promise that we will work diligently to preserve and grow what has been entrusted to us. You, our most generous donors, play a significant role in helping us achieve our goals. We are grateful to you for your ardent support and look forward to your continued assistance.

Tonight's Awards Ceremony and Gala honors our past and embraces our future. My fellow Trustees, members of the Board, and Executive Director Yanni Valsamas join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to you for spending this evening with the Foundation. We hope that you enjoy the event and we look forward to wholeheartedly embracing the future of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Buhler'.

Robert Buhler

Chairman



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Mistress of Ceremonies

KIKI VALE

Kiki Vale, the woman with “*Kefi*,” has over 25 years of experience in broadcasting and media.

A well-known name in Chicago radio, Kiki was the first female airborne news and traffic reporter at WMAQ & WBBM. Before coming to Chicago, she worked in media in Kansas City. In addition, she has earned Omni Awards for her voiceover work for Evian water and Coca-Cola commercials.

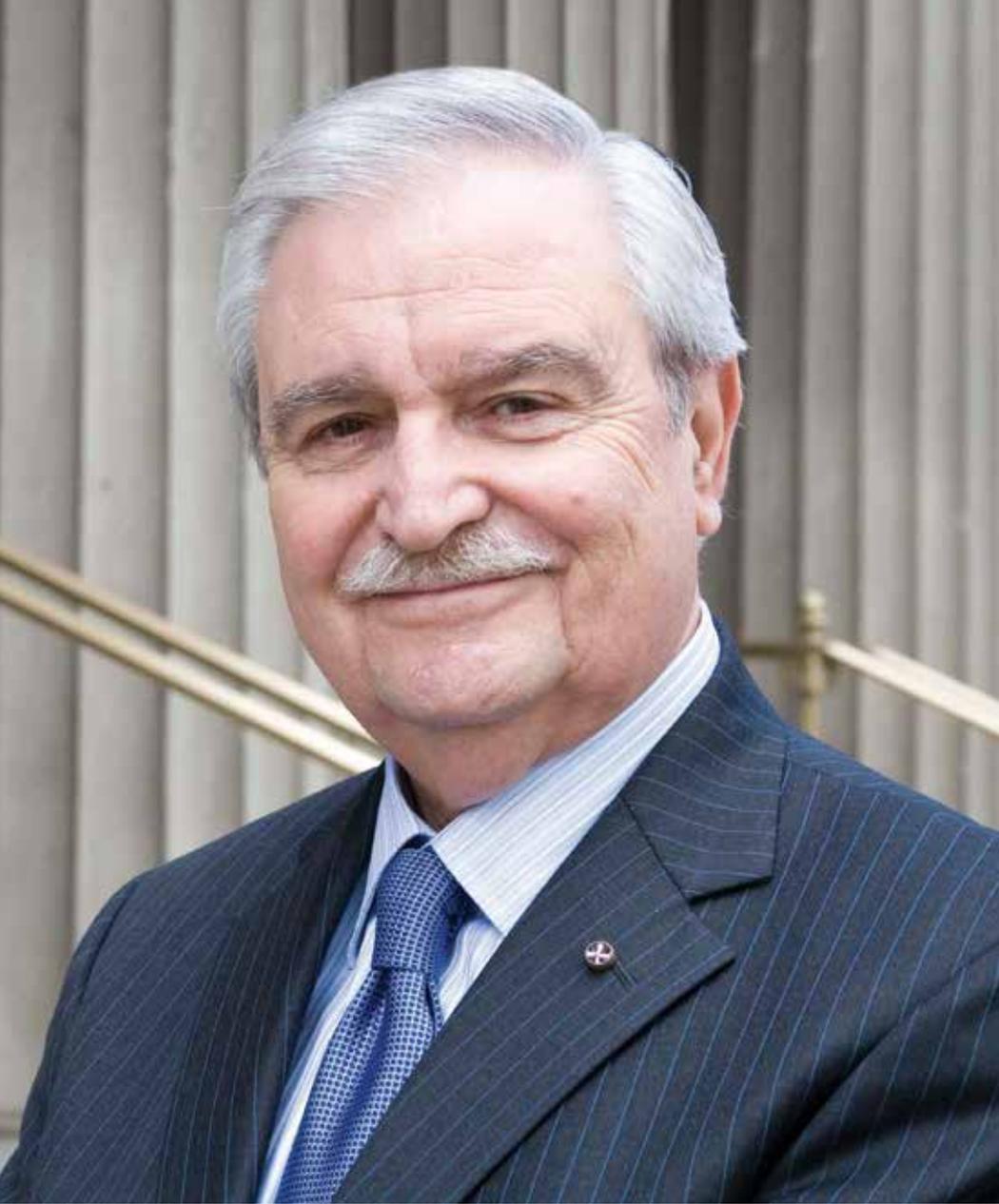
Most recently, Kiki has focused her attention on motivational speaking and writing. She has her own website, www.kikivale.com, and is frequently published in media outlets like *Windy City Greek*. Her highly regarded “*Kefi - That Life Force*” column was published in *The Greek Star*, *Hinsdale Magazine*, *The Doings*, and *Suburban Life* newspapers. She is currently working on her first non-fiction book.

On her website, Kiki promotes her “*Kefi Credo*,” sharing her guidelines for living an energetic and fulfilling life. Kiki recalls how one day with friends, “our conversation evolved into an epiphany that there is significant merit to the Greek word *kefi*, and furthermore, we embodied it!”

The definition of *Kefi* is difficult to translate into English. It is often described as meaning the spirit of joy, passion, and enthusiasm, or when the body and soul need an outlet because they are overwhelmed with exuberance and fervor for life. Kiki promotes *Kefi* in its simplest form, “as a very positive energy that allows one to live life to the fullest.”

Kiki is a born entertainer, but broadcasting is her life’s passion. She has used her public platform to educate listeners about diabetes and promote research about the disease. Kiki has organized ten fundraising walks, and raised close to \$175,000 dollars. In 2011, Kiki was selected to represent Illinois as a diabetes advocate during the Call To Congress Summits in Washington D.C. Kiki and her husband, Brian, live in Hinsdale, Illinois and have four children.





PRESERVING THE *Legacy*

Chris P. Tomaras, the beloved Founder and Chairman of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, will be remembered as a successful businessman and philanthropist who cared deeply about his family and friends, Hellenism, his Greek Orthodox faith, and education. His passion for education led him to establish the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation to ensure that financially and academically deserving students of Hellenic descent would have the means to continue their education.

Chris Tomaras was born on November 9, 1937, in Drapetsona, Greece to Pavlos and Evdokia Tomaras. He grew up with his sister, Helen, and late brother, Michael. In 1946, during the Greek Civil War his mother was killed by a stray bullet. Chris was just 8 years old.



As a young adult, Tomaras was accepted at the Athens Graduate School of Economics and Business Sciences (now the University of Economics), but his father advised him to go to America. In 1957, Tomaras left Greece and arrived in the United States. He planned to continue his studies at Columbia University in New York City.

After facing unforeseen challenges upon his arrival in the U.S., Tomaras was forced to forgo his education. He made his way to Birmingham, Alabama. It was in Birmingham that Tomaras first worked in the food industry. He took a job in a restaurant kitchen, and later opened a small sandwich shop, a cocktail lounge, drive-in, and a pizza restaurant. While in Birmingham, Tomaras also met his wife, Nancy.

Chris P. Tomaras
(1937 – 2015)

Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Inspiring Leader, True Hellene

In 1965, the couple moved to Chicago, and Tomaras opened a sports bar and restaurant. However, Tomaras soon became an inventor and entrepreneur, in addition to restaurateur. He became interested in the process of making gyros, which were growing in popularity. Tomaras improved the gyros cooking process when he invented the Kronomatic Broiler. His new design, a vertical spit, was patented and soon, Tomaras was selling the Kronomatic to Greek restaurants around the country.

Tomaras' invention led to the establishment of Kronos Foods. By 1994, Kronos Foods had 50% of the Greek food product business in America, and Tomaras became known as the "Gyros King." In addition to gyros, the company also offered pita bread, tzatziki sauce, Greek pastries and imported specialty foods. When Tomaras sold the company in the mid-1990s, gyros sales had increased to close to a million pounds per week.

Through Kronos, Tomaras acquired great wealth and achieved the financial security that he had always dreamed of when he moved to America. The success of Kronos also gave him the means to begin helping others in need. He never forgot those who helped him on his own journey. Soon after selling Kronos, Tomaras founded Tomaras Investments, Ltd., and embarked on a new chapter in his life, focusing on private investments and philanthropy.



Tomaras was well known and will be remembered for his generosity, kindness and gratitude. He served in leadership positions in numerous organizations, including three consecutive terms as President of the PanMessenian Federation of the USA and Canada. He also served for five consecutive terms as Vice President of North & South America of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (ΣΑΕ).

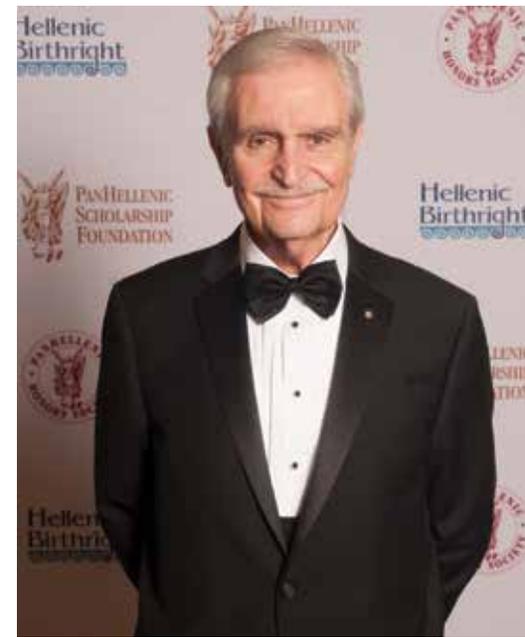
During his life, Tomaras was honored as a "Distinguished Greek American" and recognized with the "Ellis Island Medal of Honor." He was an Archon of the Order of St. Andrews of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and a member of Leadership 100. He served as a member of the Anatolia College Board of Trustees and was a founding member of the American Foundation of

Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University. In 2003, he became an honorary citizen of Panama City, Panama, and in 2004, he was named "Hellene of the Year" by the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois. In 2010, he received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from the Hellenic College-Holy Cross in Boston, Massachusetts.



Throughout his life, Tomaras supported the Church, his home country, and many other organizations and programs. While he was dedicated to these causes, it was his passion for education and ensuring that young Greek-Americans had the opportunity to attend college that led him to create the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation in 1998.

Through the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, Chris Tomaras ensured that no deserving Greek-American college student would have to make the decision to relinquish their college education due to lack of funding. He believed Hellenism and education would build a better America and hoped PanHellenic Award recipients would become meaningful contributors to society. Through the accomplishments of past and present scholarship recipients, his wish is coming true and his legacy lives on through these young Hellenes.



Chris Tomaras touched the lives of many who knew him, and those he never met. He will be remembered as an entrepreneur, a philanthropist, and an inspiring leader. Chris Tomaras leaves a great philanthropic legacy for all to follow and preserve. We are called upon to emulate his generosity, compassion, and strength of spirit by preserving the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.



LETTER FROM DR. ELIZABET TASSIS

2008 Scholarship Award recipient

Since establishing the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, Chris Tomaras received many letters from scholarship recipients, thanking him for his generosity and expressing how the award helped them pursue their dreams. After his passing, the Foundation received the following letter from Dr. Elizabeth Tassis, an award recipient in 2008.

March 9, 2016

Dear Mr. Valsamas,

I first want to express my deepest sympathy for the loss of our beloved Mr. Chris Tomaras. His passion and dedication to his philanthropic missions has impacted so many individuals, including myself, that his legacy will live on forever.

In 2008, I was a recipient of a \$10,000 dollar scholarship. I flew out to Chicago and was honored at the Annual Awards Gala. It was fascinating to see Greek Americans from all over our nation come together to support and admire the accomplishments of the young selected students chosen for the award. While at the Gala, a night that I will always cherish, I recall telling Mr. Tomaras that "I hope one day I would become a successful Hellene and be able to support this very same foundation that is honoring me tonight."

I have not forgotten that promise I made to Mr. Tomaras that magical night. As the years passed, in 2012 I graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with degrees in Chemistry and Entrepreneurship & Management. This past May, I graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy. Immediately after graduation, I began working as a registered pharmacist, helping the community with the management of their medications and chronic diseases.

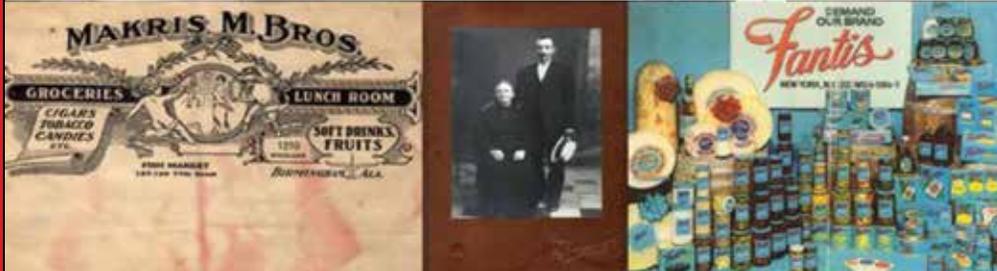
The Pan Hellenic Scholarship Foundation holds a special place in my heart. It not only supported my studies financially, but it also gave me the emotional support and determination to strive for greatness. As a young working professional, I am now in the position to give back to the community and fulfill the promise I made to Mr. Tomaras. For this reason I am writing this letter. I am saddened that he is not here today but I know he is with us in spirit. I would like to enclose a donation for the upcoming 2016 scholarship award as I become a benefactor of the foundation in support of future young Greek-Americans. I challenge all past recipients who have completed their studies and are working professionals to do the same. I hope that this and my future donations can help students achieve their dreams, the same way that award I received in 2008 helped me reach mine.

With all my love,

Dr. Elizabeth Katerina Tassis



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Academic Committee

The Foundation extends a special thank you to the members of the Academic Committee. Every year, the committee members spend countless hours reviewing hundreds of scholarship applications, ultimately selecting students who are most worthy of the PanHellenic Scholarship Awards. We are deeply grateful to each of our Academic Committee members for their dedication and commitment to upholding the high academic standards of the Foundation and its scholarship recipients.

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Humanities Collegiate Division
University of Chicago

Georgia Sfondouris Mitchell, MFA

Music Educator and Music Director

George Alexopoulos, D.A.

Chairman, Emeritus



*PanHellenic
Honors Society*

Congratulations

to the 2016 Award Recipients

for being distinguished as

this year's most exceptional

scholars, and for being

inducted into the

PanHellenic Honors Society.

2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

JOSEPH GEORGE ADES

Joseph George is a Philosophy major at George Washington University, with the goal of attending law school. He was awarded the university's Presidential Academic Scholarship and is on the Dean's List. Throughout high school, he maintained high honors, was a member of the Spanish Honors Society, and volunteered as a peer tutor. Joseph George continues to provide tutoring services as an undergraduate.

DANAE ARGYROPOULOU

Danae is an honors student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, majoring in Biomedical Engineering and Pre-Health. She graduated high school as salutatorian with an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma, and she earned the National Merit and FAITH Scholarships. She is currently on the Dean's List, enjoys competitive Greek dancing, and is a member of the Georgia Tech Hellenic Society.

MARIANNA KATERINA BABIOLAKIS

At only 19 years old, Marianna is a senior at Florida International University in Miami, majoring in Psychology. She was recently accepted into the distinguished pre-medical program at the University of Virginia, where she will begin in the fall. She is an AP Scholar, on the Dean's List, recipient of the Academic Excellence Scholarship, and a research assistant for the Psychology Department. She is also an accomplished dancer.

THOMAS DEAN BRAVOS

Thomas is a junior at Illinois Wesleyan University, where he is studying Contemporary Music and Arts Administration. He graduated high school with High Honors, and is currently on the Dean's List. He works in the Music Admissions office, and sings with the top ensembles at Illinois Wesleyan. He has been awarded the Tyler Brett Caruso Memorial Scholarship and the St. Sophia Philoptochos Scholarship.

2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

MARIA BROUARD

Maria is a sophomore at Harvard College majoring in Biomedical Engineering, with minors in Chemistry and Modern Greek. She hopes to attend medical school and become a pediatrician. She is a middle school soccer referee, and plays in the Harvard Wind Ensemble and Band as a clarinetist. She was awarded a National Achievement Scholarship and was a New Jersey Scholars Program Finalist, as well as an AP Scholar with Distinction.

CHRISTIANOS ALEXANDER GEORGE BURLOTOS

Christianos is a sophomore studying Civil Engineering at the University of Notre Dame. He hopes to pursue a career in development engineering, and is specifically interested in designing sustainable infrastructural models for developing nations. He is a member of the Kellogg International Scholars program, where he works to advance financial literacy and home ownership in Haiti.

JULIA STELLA JANE CONSTANTELOS

Julia is a junior at Tufts University where she studies Political Science and History. She is a recipient of the Tufts University Class of 1959 Scholarship. Julia is also a National Merit Commended Scholar, and is a member of the National Honor Society. Julia has received the National Hellenic Society scholarship to study in Athens, and recently returned from a semester studying at the University of Seville. She plans to work in law or policy development.

CHRISTINA GEORGIA FITSALOS

Christina is a freshmen majoring in Vocal Performance and Business Administration at Illinois Wesleyan University. In high school, Christina was involved in choir and theater, and played the lead role in her senior year musical, Pirates of Penzance. Christina is a Dean's List student, an active member of her community, and is the secretary of her sorority.



2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

KASSANDRA SOFIA FOTIADIS

Kassandra is a sophomore at Brown University, studying Public Policy and International Relations, with plans to become a human rights attorney. She is captain of her Mock Trial team and is Founder and President of the student organization *Safe House: Students Against Domestic Violence*. She has been awarded a U.S. State Department Merit Scholarship, for study in Turkey, and a National Merit Scholarship Commendation.

THEODORA P. FRANGAKIS

Theodora is a junior at the George Washington University, majoring in English and Spanish. Along with being an active participant in student theater, she is the Founder and President of the Hellenic Student Association, and the host of WRGW District Radio's "Passport Playlist." She is passionate about exploring different cultures through music and language. She aspires to be a writer and producer for film and television.

BASILIOS SOTERIOS FRENTZAS

Basilios is a freshman James Scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying Mathematics. He graduated with highest honors from high school, where he was the marching band drum major and honor society president. At U of I, he plays in the jazz and basketball bands, is in the Actuarial Science Club, competes on the club track team, and interns at State Farm. He hopes to become an actuary and saxophone instructor.

ELIAS YINAN GERASOULIS

Elias is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, studying Government and History. Elias has political experience as a Congressional intern. He has also been a student delegate to Greece and Cyprus for the American Hellenic Institute (AHI). He has also been a keynote speaker at AHI's annual "Future of Hellenism" conference. After graduating, Elias plans to attend law school.

2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

EFTHIMIOS GIANITSOS

Efthimios, "Tim," is a sophomore at The University of Texas (UT) majoring in Computer Science with minors in Business and Mathematics. In high school, he was a National Merit Commended Scholar, varsity football player, varsity wrestler, and an active member of GOYA. At UT, he is an Honors student and a member of Mobile App Development. Tim interns as a software developer during the semester and plans to attend graduate school.

MARIA HARTAS

Maria attends the University of Illinois at Chicago as a student at the Honors College. She is majoring in Political Science and Economics, and aspires to study maritime law. She is a member of the National Honors Society, the Golden Key International Honor Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She has been honored as an Illinois State Scholar and is a student on the Dean's List.

JASON CHRISTOPHER HOUSIANITIS

Jason is an Honors sophomore at Old Dominion University studying Elementary Education. His desire to teach elementary school students has been solidified by more than 100 hours of teaching experience in local schools. He graduated from high school with high honors and was the Orchestra President, the Madrigals Student Director, and an AP Scholar with Distinction. He serves as a Cantor and Acolyte Mentor at his church.

ALAINA RENEE KAFKES

Alaina is a junior at Northwestern University studying Computer Science and Chemistry. She devotes her time to engaging women in technology as an executive member of Women in Computing, and she teaches high school health classes in the Chicago Public School system. She also started a local chapter of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at Northwestern this past school year.



2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

EUGENIA IOANNOU KAKADIARIS

Eugenia attends Rice University and studies Bioengineering. She plans to attend medical school. Eugenia mentors in urban schools, and is fundraising chair of her Volunteers Around the World chapter. Since founding Adopt-A-Greek School in 2013, she has raised over \$30,000 to help disadvantaged schools in Greece. She received the Fred Iconos Memorial Scholarship from AHEPA and a scholarship from the Hellenic Professional Society of Texas.

ELENA M. KARAVASSILIS

Elena is a junior at Queens College, CUNY, and is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Psychology. She is on the Dean's List as well as the Principal's Honor Roll. She represented the Greek American community of Katerini in the 2013 Greek Independence Beauty Pageant of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York, and is also a volunteer Sunday School teacher at St. Nicholas Church.

SOPHIA EFROSINI KARNEGIS

Sophia is studying Public Relations at the University of Florida, with minors in Classical Studies and Business Administration. She is the Vice President of UF's Greek American Student Association, and a member of the Greek Dance Troupe. She works as an intern in editorial and social media, and is an assistant account executive at a student public relations firm. She also received the Nicholas & Katie Kontaridis Scholarship.

DEMOSTHENIS KATSAROS

Demosthenis is a freshman at the University of Rhode Island studying Pharmacy. His goal is to become a dermatologist. He graduated 8th in his high school class, and was Class Historian, Varsity Tennis Captain, and a GOYA Basketball player. He was awarded the Walpole Co-op Bank Scholarship and the Katis Scholarship for academic excellence, and the Kariotis Basketball Scholarship for sportsmanship and leadership.

2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

GEORGE A. KONTOS

George is a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He studies Civil and Environmental Engineering, with a concentration on energy-water-environment sustainability, with a minor in Business. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is a Project Lead for Engineers Without Borders. He hopes to use engineering to promote the Earth's health with sustainable advancements.

BILL KOSMIDIS

Bill is a freshman at Dartmouth College. He is a double major in Government and Economics, with a minor in Public Policy. He participates in Mock Trial, Model United Nations, the Dartmouth Investment and Philanthropy Program, and the Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network. He serves as the Event Coordinator for OneDartmouth, the inter-school networking organization connecting Dartmouth's graduate and undergraduate students.

ELENI ZOE LEVENTOPOULOS

Eleni currently attends the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, where she is an Entrepreneurial Studies major. She has worked as both a performing and visual artist in various arts programs at Marwen in Chicago. Eleni has sold much of her artwork. She has also worked at the Art Institute of Chicago, spent a summer as an intern at the Spudnik Press, and as an IntuiTeen with the Intuit Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art.

ARTEMIS MARIA MAGLIVERAS

Artemis studies at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where she is majoring in Chemistry, with a minor in Innovation. She was a valedictorian of her high school class, and is a Dean's List student at UF. She received the "Make It Happen" award for prototyping "FoodBudds," a recipe database app. Her goal is to conduct research in Food Chemistry, focusing on food quality and safety.



2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

IRIS MARIANNA MARGETIS

Iris is a freshman at Kent State University with a double major in Applied Mathematics and International Relations. She aspires to work for the United Nations or for a non-governmental organization, like the Red Cross. She graduated from high school with honors, and is a President's List student at Kent State.

DEMETRIOS PETER MAROUTSOS

Demetri is a freshman at the University of Illinois, studying Molecular and Cellular Biology, with plans to study medicine. He plays in the orchestra and volunteers at Carle Hospital and the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children. He graduated with honors from high school, where he was the Vice President of the orchestra, President of the Hellenic Club, and Captain of the Varsity Science Olympiad Team.

MARIA NICOLOULIAS

Maria is a senior at The Ohio State University studying Communications and Modern Greek. She received the Frank J. Tate Scholarship in Journalism for outstanding achievement in newspaper reporting. Maria is a member of Sigma Epsilon Phi fraternity for Greek Orthodox students, Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women and The Public Relations Student Society of America. Maria will be attending law school in the fall.

GREGORY GABRIEL PANDELIS

Gregory is a freshman at the University of Michigan majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He received University Honors in 2015. Gregory maintained high honors throughout high school. He was a member of the National Honor Society and President of GOYA. He received the AHEPA Medal of Scholastic Excellence in the study of the Greek language, and was a Greek school teacher his senior year of high school.

2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

ANASTASIA PERREAU

Anastasia is a freshman at Babson College. She plans to focus her studies in Accounting or Finance and to use her skills to develop businesses, which simultaneously strive to succeed and benefit society. Anastasia is a Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and is involved in the performing arts on campus.

MARIA PETROPOULOS

Maria is a junior at Adelphi University, studying Nursing. She hopes to become a Registered Nurse in a Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit. She is on the Dean's List, is a member of the National Student Nurses' Association, a Ronald McDonald House-Greek Division volunteer, and a volunteer at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Maria is also a member of the Messinian Association's Traditional Greek Folk Dancing Troupe.

PANAGIS DIMITRIOS SAMOLIS

Panagis is a junior at Boston University majoring in Electrical Engineering, concentrating on nanotechnology. He is involved in research on wide band gap semi-conducting devices, and is part of an optics laboratory that works on optical fibers and communications. Panagis also volunteers as an altar boy and at Sunday School at his parish. His other interests include Byzantine music and Greek folk dancing.

VASILIKI IRENE SAVVIDES

Vickie is a freshman at the Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College, majoring in Accountancy, with minors in New York City Studies, Philosophy, and Spanish. She is the editor of two school newspapers, webmaster of the Gastronomy Club, and Senior GOYA advisor. Her hobbies include writing, archery, volleyball, and most importantly, cooking.



2016 PANHELLENIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

ANASTASIA CHRISTIANNA SELBERIS

Anastasia is a junior at the University of California - Berkeley, majoring in Peace & Conflict Studies, and concentrating on National Politics, International Institutions, and World Order. She graduated with honors from high school, where she was Greek Club Founder, three-time award winner at the OC Film Festival, a Greek Folk Dancer, and President of Maids of Athena. Anastasia was previously awarded the AHEPA and Maids of Athena Scholarship.

IRENE ANASTASIA SNYDER

Irene is a junior at Elizabethtown College studying Mass Communications and Sociology & Anthropology. She has received multiple awards, including the Sophomore Distinguished Student Award and the Leader on the Horizon Award. Irene was also the Judge's Choice for the Eastern Archdiocese Oratorical Festival. She hopes to pursue a career as a broadcast news reporter.

JOHN ANASTASIOS STAVROPOULOS

John is a freshman at Northern Illinois University, with a double major in Finance and English. He graduated from high school Magna Cum Laude. In college, John manages the Honors College website, presides on the Investment Association Executive Board, and is a school tour guide. He has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship and is a National Merit Commended Scholar.

VASILIOS JOHN STEFANIS

Vasilios is a junior at Loyola University of Chicago with a double major in Chemistry and Biology, with a Theology minor. He is in Loyola's Honors program and conducts biochemical research on cancer therapy. Vassilio is the treasurer of the American Chemical Society, a volunteer at Lutheran General Hospital, and plays the trumpet. He received the Loyola Presidential Scholarship Award and is on the Dean's List.

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KELLY THEODORAKIS

Kelly is a freshman at the College of Staten Island in the Macaulay Honors Program. She studies Biology in the pre-med program. Kelly hopes to ultimately study Veterinary Medicine. She is an Honors Academy graduate from her high school and volunteers in her Greek Orthodox Church's fundraising events. Kelly also participates in Cretan and Chiotan Cultural Clubs. She is very dedicated to academics, service, and her heritage.

ANDREA ELISA TSATALIS

Andrea is a junior at the University of Toledo, majoring in Biology with a minor in Business and Chemistry. In high school, Andrea participated in student government, the Optimist International Organization, and Maids of Athena. In college, Andrea served as a Presidential Scholar and national OCF Student Leadership Board Member. She has volunteered 1200+ hours, and has published analytical chemistry research.

JOHN PETER TSATALIS

John is a freshman at the University of Miami in the Honors Pre-Medicine Program. He is majoring in Biology, with minors in Chemistry and History. He graduated 3rd in his high school class, where he was Treasurer of the Senior Class, a Cross Country Varsity athlete, IT/Computer Lab Director at the Annunciation Greek School, and Acolyte Captain. He was also a dance troupe member for thirteen years.

POLIXENI ANDRIANA TZIOUVARAS

Polixeni is a junior at the Manhattan School of Music (MSM), studying Classical Vocal Performance. She has served as President of the Dos Pueblos Theater Company. Polixeni is a competitive Greek Folk dancer. Her recent roles have included the Marquis de LaBlurette in the MSM Senior Opera, Delibe's *Le Roi La Dit*, Nerone in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with MSM's Junior Opera Theatre. She also sang in her first solo recital in New York.



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THEODORE VASILIADIS

Theodore is a junior at Temple University studying Biophysics. He conducts cardiovascular research at the Temple School of Medicine, is president of the Temple Chess Club, and is a math tutor for adults in continuing education programs. He hopes to one day become a medical doctor and make a meaningful contribution to the understanding of the human body.



BASIL SAMUEL VETAS

Basil is a senior at the University of Utah majoring in Mathematics and Economics. He served as editor of the school's political science journal, interned for three months in Kenya, and most recently won the JPMorgan "Code for Good" hackathon. Basil was also a youth camp councilor at the Metropolis of Denver's Camp Emmanuel, and competes annually in a Greek men's basketball league and as a Greek Folk Dancer.



ROBERT THOMAS ZIPP

Robert Zipp is a sophomore at Swarthmore College. He is interested in Educational Studies, Political Science, and English, with a concentration in Creative Writing. Bobby is an admissions tour guide, the Chair of Academic Affairs for Swarthmore's Student Government, a student officer in the Office of Development, the Opinions Editor of the Swarthmore Phoenix, and a student academic mentor.



MARIA ELENI ZOLLO

Maria is a junior at the Mannes Conservatory, studying under the famed Metropolitan Opera soprano, Amy Burton. She has participated in many music festivals, both in the US and in Italy. Maria is fluent in both Greek and English, and has studied extensive Italian, French, and German. Maria is currently the organist and choir director of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saints Constantine and Helen in Brooklyn, New York.



John Bertakis
Andy Eliopoulos
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Essay Prompt

Describe the life, education, and what you believe to be the most important contributions of National Poet Dionysios Solomos to Modern Greece.



GEORGE KONTOS

Dionysios Solomos is revered and glorified as the national poet of Greece because he is the one responsible for the words that we sing so proudly when we hail Greece and pledge our allegiance to her. These words are the first two stanzas of Solomos' Hymn to Liberty, which when set to music by Nikolaos Mantzaros became the national anthem of Greece in 1865. But the story and significance of the legend that is Solomos extends far beyond just being credited with writing the Greek national anthem, which in of itself is honorable, it encompasses the man and everything that led up to him writing such a masterpiece. Solomos came from what can be described as a difficult and troubled beginning, but his ability to overcome the shortcomings of his family and find success, culminating in Hymn to Liberty, exemplifies the spirit of Greece and should be a point of great pride for all Modern Greeks.

Dionysios Solomos was born in Zakynthos in 1798 as the illegitimate child of a wealthy count, Nikolaos Solomos and his housekeeper, Angeliki Nikli. Nikolaos and Dionysios' mother didn't get officially married until the day before Dionysios' father died on February 27, 1807, making Dionysios legitimate and co-heir to his father's estate. After the death of his father, Dionysios came under the custody of count Dionysios Messalas, while his mother remarried to Manolis Leontarakis on August 15, 1807, further complicating Dionysios' home situation. The absence of a consistent father figure proved to affect Solomos greatly, finding its way into his writing.

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Then in 1808, Messalas sent Solomos to Italy to study law, yet it was there that Solomos got a taste for his true passion, poetry. He traveled there with his Italian tutor, abbot Santo Rossi, and became enrolled at the Lyceum of St. Catherine in Venice, but the transition and adjustment proved to be too difficult for Solomos. In response, Rossi took Solomos to his hometown of Cremona where Solomos finished high school in 1815. Despite following up with graduation from Pavia's University's Faculty of Law in 1817, the young Solomos, who showed a great interest in Italian literature, along with being fluent in Italian, began to write poems in Italian. Thanks to his affinity for and aptitude of Italian literature and culture, Solomos found himself quickly accepted into Italian literary circles within which he became a revered poet of the Italian language.

Such an act of defiance and conviction for one's own dreams, as displayed by Solomos, is an ideal that we should all try to follow. I believe that one of the contributions to Modern Greece made by Solomos is through his service as a model. By doing what he was truly passionate about and not what he was told to, Solomos was able to excel so greatly at his craft and create a legacy that has lasted long after his death. As a Modern Greek, I find great pride in the hard work of the many Greeks, such as Solomos, that have come before and have created such a rich history and reputation for Greece. It comes as added motivation for me to make a name for myself as well in this world, as a proud Greek, paying homage to my ancestors.

After ten years of studies in Italy, though, Solomos finally returned home to Zakynthos in 1818 where he then began to write his poetry in Greek. This proved to be a difficult task for Solomos, as his education in Greek was minimal, yet at the same time, it worked in his favor. By keeping himself free of these scholarly influences, which may have led him to write in Katharevousa, considered a "purist" language and he instead wrote in a language common to his people. One of his biggest contributions to literature and subsequent writers was his gathering of a collection of the best samples of the use of the demotic dialect in Modern Greek literature from which he studied. This became the first extensive body of

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literature written in this demotic dialect. Around this time, Solomos' fame began to grow and spread wide around Zakynthos and in 1822 he met Spyridon Trikoupi, a famous Greek in his own right, who helped Solomos in his Greek poetic studies. This meeting resulted in a turning point in the Greek works of Solomos with his first accomplishment being Hymn to Liberty which was completed in May 1823. This poem was inspired by the Greek revolution which began two years earlier in 1821.

After being published in Mesolongi and then in Paris in 1825, the fame of this Greek poet was able to extend beyond the Greek borders with his work getting translated into French and other languages. Solomos then moved to Corfu which was the most prominent intellectual center of the Ionian Islands in those years. Corfu reflected certain aspects that Solomos desired, including a more stimulating environment as well as the necessary isolation that he required to conduct his work. Despite his fame, this move is a testament to how humble Solomos was, neither requiring nor wanting the spotlight, being more concerned with his work than anything. Solomos garnered the respect and admiration of many intellectuals on Corfu and even became the mentor to a circle of students known as the "solomian poets". By 1851, serious health problems began to crop up for Solomos, who suffered a number of strokes before dying in February 1857 from apoplexy. With the fame of Solomos so great, the outcry in response to his death was equally so, widespread to all the areas he had touched with his words.

Just as his legend reigned on then, so too does it now, living on most especially through his most famous work, Hymn to Liberty. The origin of this poem and the meaning behind its creation makes it all the more special every time we sing its words when our flag is raised. Whether it is upon winning a medal at the Olympics or any other occasion, we as Modern Greeks should feel proud to sing its words because it inspires historical remembrance that we too often forget. Solomos was inspired to write this piece by the struggle of his fellow Greeks for independence from Ottoman rule after centuries of occupation. For a war, a true revolution, that lasted 11 years and resulted in the freedom of Greece, these events live on

Exceptional Essays Continued

forever in the beautiful poetry of Dionysios Solomos and there's nothing more fitting for us to sing. It is there that resides his greatest contribution to Modern Greeks, it's his call to our history, a call to our origins and where we come from, without which we wouldn't be able to identify ourselves as true Greeks.



DEMETRI MAROUTSOS

Born at the crux of affluence and poverty, Dionysios Solomos [Διονύσιος Σολωμός] became a revolutionary in modern Greek nationalistic thought and expression through poetry and music. Dionysios Solomos was born on the cusp of the Hellenic Revolution from the Ottoman empire, and emerged as one of Greece's heroes. In 1798, Rigas Feraios [Ρήγας Φεραίος] martyr to the revolution, uttered his last words—I have sown a rich seed; the hour

is coming when my country will reap its glorious fruits—the same year when the seed who was Dionysios Solomos drew his first breath and began to grow (Karamountzos). Solomos grew up to become the Greek national poet with his jeweled piece, Hymn of Freedom” [Υμνος της Ελευθερίας], and grew up to father modern Greek poetry. On the little island of Zakynthos, a small yet powerful poet was born, who unknowingly had the capacity to unite the Greek people not by the power of the sword, but by the power of the pen.

Dionysios Solomos was born to extenuating circumstances that helped shape his life. Dionysios Solomos's father, count Nikolaos Solomos, was the wealthy owner of a tobacco company who had roots in Crete as his family came as refugees during the Ottoman takeover of Crete (PEOF Thessaloniki). Dionysios's mother Aggeliki Nikli was a housekeeper of count Nikolaos Solomos, and had Dionysios as an illegitimate child. On the day before count Nikolaos' death, Nikolaos and Aggeliki married, making Dionysios legitimate.

Exceptional Essays Continued

Dionysios was born on April 8th, 1798 on the island of Zakynthos and after his fathers' death, Dionysios was orphaned. Upon the death of his father, Dionysios was raised in his familial home, under the direct supervision of Father Santo Rossi, an Italian refugee who lived in Zakynthos. Santo Rossi decided to follow in the footsteps of many nobles on the Ionian islands and travel to Italy for schooling. Originally, Dionysios Solomos was transported to Venice, Italy to continue is lyceum studies at St. Catherine's School. However, Solomos was having difficulties adjusting to a school with strict rules and schedules, and he eventually moved to Cremona, Italy. Cremona was the hometown of Fr. Santo Rossi, and is where Dionysios Solomos finished his high school education in 1815 (Dimirouli). Dionysios Solomos's upbringing in the Italian school system helped shape him to Italian language culture and values that influenced him later in life. After High School, Solomos continued on to Law School in Pavia, Italy where he graduated in 1817. Solomos' education in Italy influenced his love of poetry and the literary arts. He spoke Italian fluently and was an expert craftsman of poems in Italian. During this time of intellectual growth for Solomos, he was able to develop his poetry writing skills with other Italian literary giants and truly emerge as a talented poet in the Italian language.

Solomos returned to Zakynthos in 1818 with a strong thirst for poetry. Luckily for Solomos, Zakynthos was the cultural hub for literary arts, as it was the center for pre-Solomian poetry. Solomos quickly became integrated in the circles of the leading Hellenic poets of that time, although for a time his Italian influenced reigned and he continued to write poems written in Italian. At the Greek literature circles he met many friends and performed impromptu poetry with them. Solomos' natural talents in poetry made him stick out compared to his peers, and a small fame began to follow him. Eventually, many of his improvised poems were published, making them the only ever published poems during his life. It is in his return to Zakynthos where a fundamental change occurred that changed his life.

Dionysios Solomos wanted to begin writing poetry in Greek, but there were many hurdles before him that made his goals difficult. Solomos' was unfamiliar with the Greek language

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and he was also unfamiliar with Greek poetry styles as well as having a slight disconnect from being so far away from his mother country. There was a serious lack of poetry for Dionysios to study in the vernacular language, so he decided to extend his research into an unforeseen source—folk music. Folk music became an excellent platform for Solomos to introduce a new style of poetry composed completely in the vernacular.

Spiros Trikoupis, a leader in the Hellenic Revolution, spoke to Solomos in regards to his talents as he said, “your poetic genius grants you a sure position in the Italian Parnassus. But the first seats are already filled. The Hellenic Parnassus still does not have its Dante.” Dionysios Solomos became the single-handedly most influential Greek poet in history; within himself awakened a strong, primal, force of Hellenism that drove him towards greatness.

Dionysios Solomos was crucial in giving the Greek nationalists a voice. The revolution was in no ways an easy battle, thousands of Greeks sacrificed their homes, families and their lives for their country. Solomos responded to them with sheer genius, through the voice of lady liberty herself (translation by Rudyard Kipling, Aivaliotis.com):

*We knew thee of old,
Oh, divinely restored,
By the lights of thine eyes
And the light of thy Sword*

*From the graves of our slain
Shall thy valor prevail
As we greet thee again-
Hail, Liberty! Hail!*

Here, Dionysios Solomos personified the feeling of victory and freedom, and gives liberty a sense of longing. What was truly revolutionary about Dionysios Solomos is that because he was writing in the vernacular, his messages about nationalism and freedom

Exceptional Essays Continued

transcended class lines. Before, poetry and the linguistic arts were only for the elite because of the sophistication of language used, but now with this new style of poetry—Greece was united in one voice. Dionysios Solomos was pivotal in giving every Hellene, no matter their education, class, or where they were located, one voice in which to unite them.

There are many aspects of Dionysios Solomos’ life that can apply to the lives of Greeks all around the world even until today. Dionysios shares something with me, a love for my home country, Greece. Solomos, despite living in Italy, was able to overcome a language and cultural barrier and because of his talents, he was able to give the Greeks a voice, and become the nationally recognized poet. I was born and raised in Chicago, and sometimes it truly pains me that I am not in Greece, suffering along with my ethnic brethren, but Solomos teaches a way to still contribute to Greece and its glory—by example, and through my own talents. Each and every day I work as hard as I can, knowing that to others I represent not only my family, but my culture as well. Just as Dionysios Solomos contributed to Greece by writing poetry, he was able to be more effective than if he were fighting on the front lines. Solomos was not afraid to challenge the status quo and create something novel.

Dionysios Solomos’s most important contributions to Greek society today, is not only the national anthem, and a collection of beautiful poets, but also a story of adversity, of blazing one’s own trail, and a love story with one’s mother country. Dionysios Solomos serves as a model to the Greek diaspora around the world, because he proves that through love of your mother country and your personal talents, you can make a difference in the world in your own way and by your own means. Think of, Maria Callas who shared with the world her beautiful opera music, or George Papanicolaou who saves thousands of women’s lives each day with his pap smear procedure, and the late esteemed Mr. Chris P. Tomaras who empowers the youth of today with scholarships and sends kids to Greece to visit their mother country—all of these individuals help spread the glory of Hellenism just as Solomos did almost two hundred years ago. Dionysios Solomos died on February 9th, 1857 on the island of Corfu, but his voice still echoes on every time the Greek flag is raised, a salute to the poetic genius who was able to unite a country of heroes.



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ELENI LEVENTOPOULOS

"Poems, the patterns in poems, show us not just what somebody thought or what someone did or what happened but what it was like to be a person like that...That's why poems can seem at once so durable, so personal, and so ephemeral, like something inside and outside you at once."
- Stephen Burt, Ted Talk in June 2013

As more and more programs face being shut down due to educational budget cuts, the importance of a well-rounded education comes jolting into view. Programs like visual and performing arts, music and creative writing are the first on the chopping block. All programs that are vital to becoming a global citizen. Among these, is poetry; a subject whose importance should never be doubted. Poetry can build communities, promote literacy and cultivate emotional resilience like no other form of writing. The rhyme and rhythm draw in people of all demographics and allows them to form a community otherwise missed. The importance of poetry demands our attention and the significance, both historically and literarily, of the works and life of Dionysios Solomos, the National Poet of Greece, cannot be overlooked.

Solomos was born in Zakynthos in 1798 when the modern state of Greece did not yet exist. After Constantinople fell in May of 1453, Greece remained under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. Crete fell in 1669, the same year the Solomos family migrated to Zakynthos and were honoured with titles of nobility by the Venetian ambassadors in Crete. Solomos was born a bastard, as his mother was the household maid. By age seven, he was under the instruction of Santo Rossi, an Italian priest living in exile due to his liberal views. It was Father Rossi who taught Solomos the Italian language he would use throughout his life.

Solomos father, Count Nicholas, and mother, Angeliki Nikli, were married on the Counts deathbed in 1807 in order to legitimize Solomos birth. He remained in Greece for another

Exceptional Essays Continued

year before he and Father Rossi went to Italy where Solomos could receive a systematic education. He was able to study Latin and Italian philology, liberal ideas, Romantic aestheticism and was introduced to his literary influences: Leopardi, Dante, and Petrarch, the Father of Humanism. He began writing in Italian and wrote his first verse in 1812 at the age of 14.

By 17, Solomos began studying law at the University of Pavia in Italy. Despite this, he discovered his overwhelming passion was for literature. He returned home to Zakynthos in August of 1818 where he discovered a new challenge. Italy had a cultural intensity that did not yet exist in Greece. He continued writing, his poetry full of Romantic influences. It was not until his meeting with Spyridon Trikoupis that he began to work with the Greek spirit that he would later define.

Trikoupis was a politician of the time in Greece and a relative of the Greek leader Alexandros Mavrokordatos. Their meeting in 1822 was Solomos call to action. During their time together, Solomos read an Italian ode, *Ode Per Prima Messa*. After hearing this ode in Italian, Trikoupis told Solomos “Greco, tu farai dimenticare il nostro Monti” (Greek, you shall forget our mountains). Solomos rose to the challenge, determined to stay true to his Greek roots and write with his people’s voice.

Despite never having joined the fight against the Ottoman Empire, he was motivated to foster his patriotic feelings and write with Greek themes. This was the most important moment in Solomos writing career. Here he made the choice to no longer write in Italian, but to write in Greek. Rather than continuing the tradition of writing in Katharevousa, the purist language that was heavily influenced by Ancient Greek, he wrote in the Greek of the people. His devotion led him to single-handedly create demotic Greek. His use of demotic Greek throughout the rest of his life’s work gave the language a dignity lasting through the ages.

Completed in May of 1823, the 158 quatrains that make up *The Hymn to Liberty*, remain his most famous work. This poem documents the Greek War of Independence and speaks

Exceptional Essays Continued

of the glory of Greece and their noble fight for freedom from oppressive Turkish rule. The first stanzas of *The Hymn to Liberty* remind current Greeks and the world of the bravery, strength and determination of the Greek people as these stanzas serve as the National Anthem of Greece. Solomos words were set to music by Nikolaos Mantzaros and replaced the Greek translation of the Bavarian National Anthem that was being used in 1864.

This propelled a new phase of Solomos work as he now had a mastery of Greek allowing him to experiment with form. He worked again with the theme of language, in his work *O Dialogos* (*The Dialogue*) in 1824. Through this poem, he spoke of the importance of language. Solomos supported a literary language based on the spoken language of the people. Influenced by the French Age of Enlightenment, *O Dialogos* begins with an appeal to rational reason defending demotic Greek and ending with the raw passion that fueled Solomos. *O Dialogos* remains the prose work of his that survives and illustrates the influences from Cretan and folk poetical ideas.

A dispute with his brother in 1828 lead Solomos to move to Corfu. Here he began to study German romantic philosophy and literature such as the work of Schiller, Hegel, and Goethe. His own work in Corfu like *O Kritikos* (*The Cretan*, 1833), *Eleftheroi Poliorkimenoï* (*The Free Besieged*, 1845) and *O Porfyros* (*The Whale*, 1847) are regarded as the most mature and complete of his writings as *The Hymn to Liberty* is the only fully completed poem. On Corfu, Solomos helped the growth of modern Greek poetry. The “Solomian Poets” were a group that formed on Corfu full of well-educated liberals with a thorough knowledge of the arts and progressive ideas. This group of intellectuals included the likes of Nikolaos Mantzaros, Ioannis and Spyridon Zampelios, Ermannos Lountzis, Niccolò Tommaseo, Iakovos Polyas, Ioulios Typaldos, and Gerasimos Markoras, the last three becoming Solomos’ students.

With Greek poetry flourishing, Solomos began writing once again in Italian, ten years before his death in 1857. In contrast to his first years in Corfu, this part of his life is considered the most incomplete. The now reclusive poet became an extreme perfectionist destroying as

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many manuscripts as he completed. At the time of his death, he had established a society of modern Greek poets who would go on to influence poets like Andreas Mustoxydis, Petros Vrailas Armenis, and Andreas Laskaratos. Solomos' death was mourned throughout Greece.

Dionysios Solomos words bring to life the feelings of the people during the fight for freedom from Turkish rule. His work truly illustrates the determination and strength of the Greeks. He will forever be remembered by the Greek Orthodox Church for his religious values and writings, by the conservatives as the spirit of the disciplined artist, by the leftists for documents the struggles of the oppressed and the youth for his energetic, patriotic verse. History will remember him as the poet who supplied the people with a voice and a language, a true pioneer of Hellenic values and a key influence on the shaping of the modern state of Greece.

*From the Greeks of old whose dying
brought to life and spirit free
now with ancient valour rising
let us hail you, oh Liberty!*

The Hymn to Liberty, Greek National Anthem translated, Dionysios Solomos




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JOHN S. KOUDOUNIS

John S. Koudounis is one of today's most prominent leaders in the banking and investment fields. He has earned the distinction of being the youngest Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on Wall Street during his tenure as the head of Mizuho Securities USA, Inc., a subsidiary of Japanese holding company Mizuho Financial Group.

As a highly sought after business executive, Koudounis was recently appointed CEO of Calamos Investments. He regularly appears as a commentator on such financial news programs as Fox Business, CNBC, CNN, Bloomberg Television, and many others.

Koudounis was raised in Chicago, Illinois, and Forbes journalist Antoine Gara describes him as a "gregarious Chicagoan of Greek descent." His grandparents emigrated from Sparta, Greece in 1900 and sold hot dogs outside of Wrigley Field. His father, George, eventually expanded the family business by opening a drive-in called George's Old Town Red Hots.

Koudounis attended Niles West High School in Lincolnwood, where he was class president and played basketball and football. He was awarded several scholarships for football and ultimately chose to attend Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.



At Brown, Koudounis double-majored in International Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs and Economics, while playing football. He also interned for the late Senator John Chafee and for U.S.-based securities firm, Kidder, Peabody & Company. After graduating in 1988, Koudounis began his financial career with Merrill Lynch. Later, he worked for ABN AMRO North America as the company's head of fixed income for twelve years.

In 2010, Koudounis became the youngest CEO of any Wall Street firm when he was appointed President/CEO of Mizuho Securities USA Inc. at age 44. He was responsible for the firm's activities in trading, sales, and investment banking. As well as having direct management responsibilities in the Americas, he served on Mizuho's global management team in Tokyo. During Koudounis' leadership of Mizuho USA, his department annually exceeded the entire firm's financial expectations.

Koudounis is a board member of the National Hellenic Museum and the Hellenic Initiative. He is also a Leadership Council Member of the Concordia Summit. He is married to Joanne and has twin daughters, Constance and Demi.

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- Chris P. Tomaras

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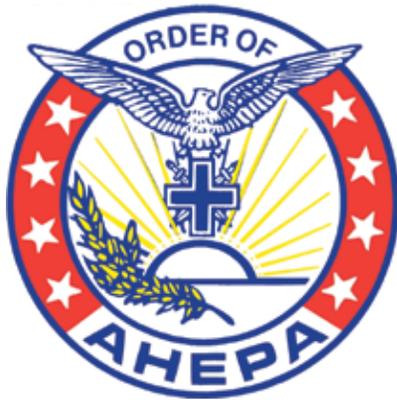
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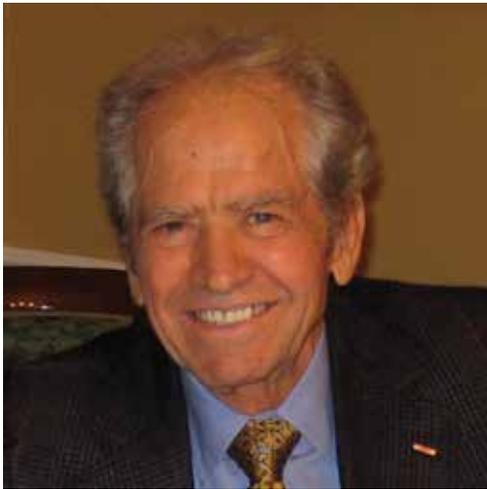
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is to follow in your footprints.

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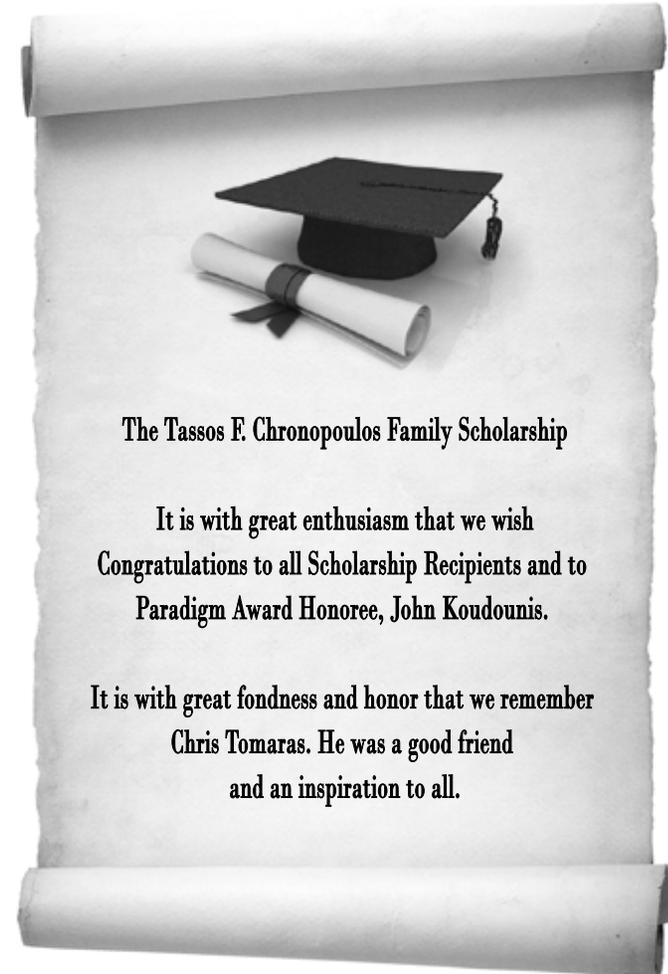
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The Tassos F. Chronopoulos Family Scholarship

It is with great enthusiasm that we wish
Congratulations to all Scholarship Recipients and to
Paradigm Award Honoree, John Koudounis.

It is with great fondness and honor that we remember
Chris Tomaras. He was a good friend
and an inspiration to all.



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The Devanco Foods Scholarship

In Memory of
Michael N. Skoubis



Devanco Foods is proud to sponsor and support the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. We believe education is the strongest stone in the foundation of life. My dear mentor and friend Chris Tomaras elevated and encouraged Hellenism through his tireless efforts that will be felt for generations to come.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients! Today you are being honored for your scholastic achievements and my hope is that someday when you attain your dreams, you will honor the youth that follows in your footsteps.

Peter Bartzis



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The John Peter Fountas STEM Scholarship



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John's family and friends

John Peter Fountas lived a life of insatiable curiosity, intense determination and hard work, and remarkable warmth, love and generosity towards others.

With a passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, John valued life and learning and was motivated by his vision of making a difference in the world.

Our congratulations to all scholarship recipients for your academic achievements. We encourage you to appreciate your blessings and follow your dreams.



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The Fresh Farms International Market Scholarship

“Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.”

- Malala Yousafzai





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The Dimitri Pachewlys HAWC Scholarship

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**the late Maria Pachewlys
of the HAWC Southeast Region**

HELLENIC AMERICAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL



Dimitri Pachewlys was a journalist and ardent supporter of women's rights. His sister Maria was introduced to HAWC by her friend, Dr. Dame Evangeline Gouletas, who founded and has led both the Southeast and Great Lakes Regions of HAWC.

The Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) is a national 501(C)(3) organization for professional women of Hellenic heritage. The purpose of the organization is to raise female leaders! We promote professional women within their individual fields of endeavor and assist them to achieve leadership positions at all levels.

Please use this award to fulfill your dream.



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The Paul Basil Javaras Memorial Scholarship

Given by
Barbara Javaras





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The George Koudounis Memorial Scholarship



Given by
John Koudounis Family

Chris Tomaras inspired many with his philanthropy and love of education.

I am honored to be this year's Paradigm Award honoree, and hope that I, too, am an admirable example for the 2016 Scholarship Recipients. Congratulations to all of these exceptional scholars.



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The Kozonis - Hatzis Scholarship

In honor of Chris P. Tomaras –
a friend, leader and visionary
whose belief in the power
of scholarship and Hellenism
continues to change lives.

**Demetrios L. Kozonis
& Thomas Hatzis**



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The Dr. John C. Kulis PanHellenic Scholarship



In honor of the memory and charitable works of Chris Tomaras.

May his philanthropy be an inspiration to each scholarship recipient.



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The Lewis Fresh Market Scholarship

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Congratulations to the 2016
Scholarship Recipients.

We commend you for your
academic achievements, and
wish you continued success in
your education and careers.



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The Drs. A. Tom & Katherine Petropulos Scholarship

Congratulations to all
Scholarship Recipients.

We're proud of your hard
work and perseverance.

We wish you kali hygeia
and continued academic
and personal success.



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The Andreas Proimos Family Scholarship

Congratulations
to John S. Koudounis
for being honored with
the Paradigm Award.

Best wishes
to all 2016 scholarship
award recipients.



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The Yiannis and Anna Skarpathiotis Memorial Scholarship

Given By
**Dr. George Skarpathiotis
Family**

Congratulations
to the 2016 Scholarship
Award Recipients!

You are all bright examples
of academic excellence.

Αἰέν Ἀριστεύειν



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The Takis J. Sotos Memorial Scholarship



Given by
**Elaine, John, Nikol, Tom, Bessie
Helene, Panayiotis, Evelina,
Chrissa & PJ Sotos**

With deep sorrow we say goodbye to a distinguished Helene whose zest for life and all things possible were only surpassed by his most humble nature.

Professionally, personally and philanthropically, Mr. Chris Tomaras poured every ounce of energy he had everyday to accomplish his goals. He seldom rested, many times saying, "Boys, there's more work to be done..."

His greatest quality was the respect he had for the opportunity to succeed. It was this commitment to excellence that paved the way towards each of his opportunities and eventual successes.

Mr. Chris Tomaras frequently spoke of the PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION as his most prized effort.



His presence is sorely missed and his absence will pain us for many years.

Κύριε Χρήστο, we miss you dearly and will mourn you forever as we move tirelessly forward towards the fulfillment of your legacy.

This is our greatest honor.

With eternal love,

The Sotos family



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The Svigos Asset Management Scholarship



"It is not in the stars to hold our destiny, but in ourselves."

- William Shakespeare
Julius Caesar

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In Memory of Steve and Michael Balourdos

Congratulations to the
Scholarship Award Recipients
and best wishes for continued
success in your pursuits.

**John, Arthur,
and Michael Balourdos**

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To all of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation scholarship recipients, we offer our warmest best wishes and congratulations on the exceptional achievements you have attained. Your academic accomplishments require untiring commitment and dedication to the rigors of education and a deep desire to achieve one's highest potential. Also, your leadership credentials and sense of civic responsibility require the highest moral values and a recognition that serving others is both a privilege and a fundamental principle of our Hellenic heritage and the Holy Orthodox Faith. We commend all of you and have the highest hopes that you will continue to be a pride to our heritage.

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In Memory of Our Beloved Friend, Chris P. Tomaras

*Benjamin Franklin once said,
"An investment in knowledge pays
the best interest."*

Your admirable investment in the
education of our young people made
you a worthy role model, a dedicated
Hellene, and a great friend.
You will be truly missed.

Anna Giannoulis and Family

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In Loving Memory of Ted G. Spyropoulos



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I cannot believe that so many months have already passed since my dear brother was here with us. I miss his gentle and giving spirit, his energy, and his dedication to helping others.

Chris' devotion to his friends and family, to the Greek American community, and to those in need inspired all who knew him. His commitment to giving young students the opportunity to earn an education through the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation was unparalleled.

I will always remember the precious times my beloved brother and I spent together, and treasure the memories I have with him. No one can replace my brother, but we will ensure that his dream is carried out and his great legacy fulfilled, forever.

We will miss him always.

Helen Tomaras

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**In Memory of our Beloved Uncle
Nicholas J. Corolis**

**Dr. Nicholas &
Melanie Chionis**



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Friend, Chris Tomaras.**

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**In memory of our cherished
friend Chris P. Tomaras.
You will always be missed.**

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**In Memory of Chris P. Tomaras,
a very special man.**

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**In Memory of our Cousin,
Chris P. Tomaras**

Chris, your kindness, your love, and the precious times we spent together is going to be missed. You will live forever in our hearts.

**Your Cousins from Greece,
Takis and Rena Kritikos**



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and virtue lie in good education"*
- Plutarch 45AD/120AD



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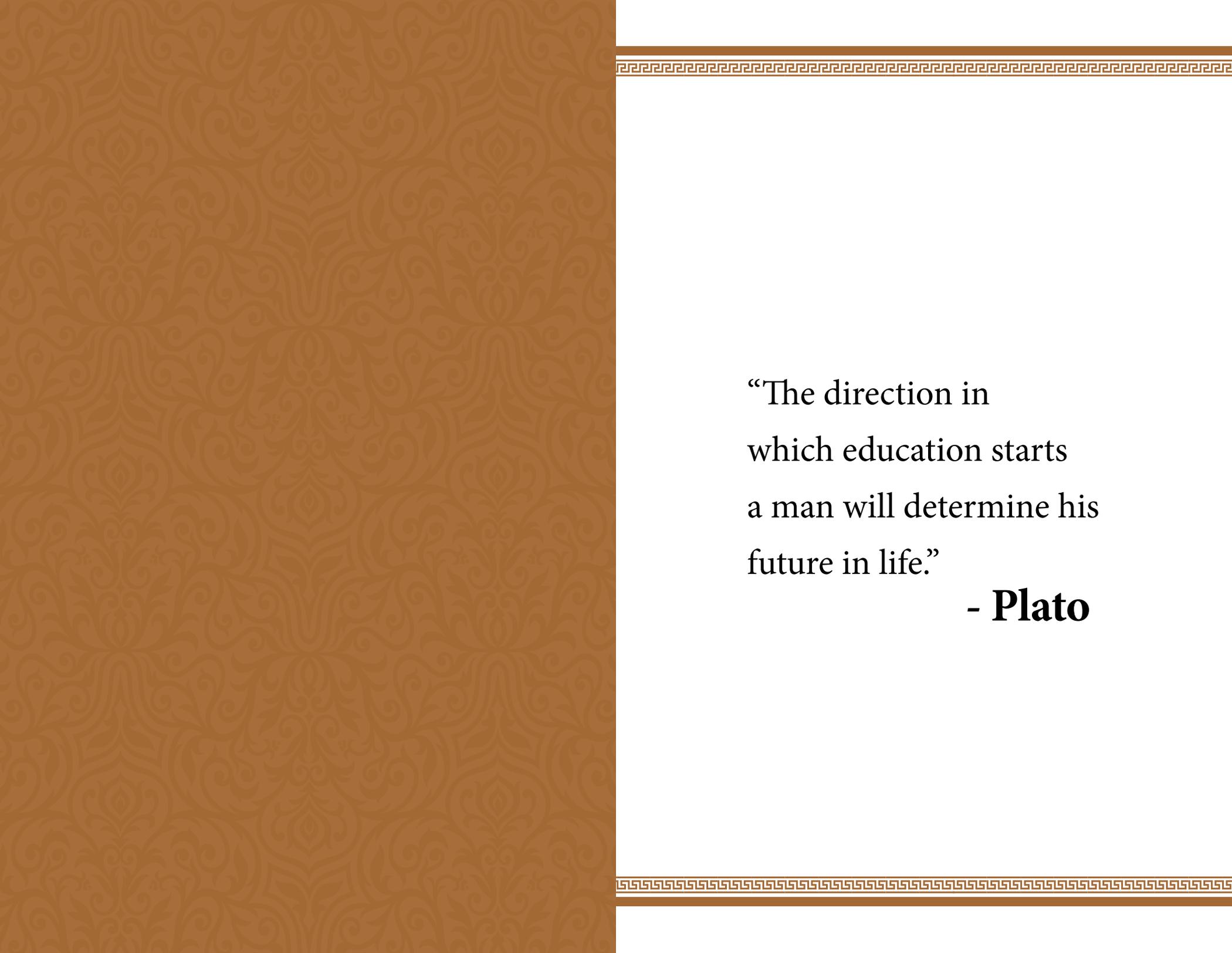
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“The direction in
which education starts
a man will determine his
future in life.”

- **Plato**



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