



# THE PANHELLENIC

*Building a better America through Education & Hellenism*

SEPTEMBER 2020

**CONGRATULATIONS 2020 PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**



*"Find the good, ignore the divisions among us, seek the unity." –Aristotle*



2020  
VIRTUAL

*Awards* GALA



# SAVE *the* DATES

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## 2021 Alumni Weekend — June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

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### Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>

**Recipient Welcome Reception**  
6–9pm  
Holland & Knight  
150 N. Riverside Plaza • Chicago, IL 60606

**Private VIP Dinner**  
8–10pm

### Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

**5th Annual Mentorship Luncheon**  
*In partnership with The Hellenic Initiative*  
11am – 2pm  
The University Club of Chicago  
76 E. Monroe St. • Chicago, IL 60603

**Awards Ceremony & Gala**  
\$250,000 in Scholarships  
Doors open at 5pm  
Hilton Chicago  
720 S. Michigan Ave. • Chicago, IL 60605

*Discounted room rates of \$179 +tax will be available at the Hilton Chicago closer to the event date*





## PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL GALA GOES VIRTUAL: OVER 20,000 HAVE TUNED-IN TO CELEBRATE SCHOLARS SINCE JUNE

Chicago, IL – The COVID-19 pandemic did not prevent the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation from awarding \$250,000 in total scholarships to 40 college students of Hellenic descent in 2020; this year the entire weekend of events was held virtually.

Established in 2002 by **Chris P. Tomaras**, the Foundation has provided over \$3.5 million to over 550 students since inception, and has held their Gala each June to celebrate and honor those awarded. Though many charities have canceled their galas and events, the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation was determined to properly celebrate the achievements of the 2020 scholarship recipients.

The PanHellenic Alumni Weekend, June 12-13, 2020, began with a virtual **Welcome Reception** via Zoom for all scholars, sponsored by Elias N. Matsakis, Esq., the Foundation's pro bono legal counsel. The Welcome Reception was an opportunity for all Scholars to get to know one another ahead of the other weekend events, and included ice-breakers, break-out rooms, and warm welcomes by Mr. Matsakis, as well as the Foundation's three Trustees, Robert Buhler, John Manos, and Tom Sotos, who remembered the PanHellenic's Founder, and encouraged new recipients to stay involved as they grow and develop within their careers.

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\$3.5+ Million in  
Scholarships



550+  
Undergraduate  
Scholars



200+ Colleges  
and Universities



PANHELLENIC  
SCHOLARSHIP  
FOUNDATION

On Saturday morning, over 120 current and past scholarship recipients participated in a virtual zoom **Mentorship Luncheon**, held in partnership with The Hellenic Initiative and generously underwritten by Nicholas W. Alexos. This intimate setting (within separate breakout rooms) allowed scholars to receive career advice and guidance by 16 mentors who are leaders in their fields—stemming from business, law, medicine, finance, education, and more. Although recipients and mentors only shared a virtual afternoon, the goal is that these relationships continue year-round, with the majority exchanging information and keeping in touch following the annual event.



## 2020 MENTORS

### Top row (left to right):

1. **Denise Alexopoulos** – OD, FAAO; Assistant Professor, Illinois College of Optometry; Attending Optometrist, Illinois Eye Institute
2. **Nicholas W. Alexos** – Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Univar Solutions Inc.
3. **Kiki Vale** – Founder, Kefi L!fe; Holistic Health Coach, Writer, Broadcaster
4. **George Bovis, MD** – Neurosurgeon, Center of Brain & Spine Surgery; Vice Chairman of Neurosurgery, AMITA Health; Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, Rush University Medical School
5. **Georgia Giakoumis Spear, MD** – Chief of Breast Imaging, NorthShore University HealthSystem; Clinical Assistant Professor of radiology, University of Chicago
6. **Steven Galanis** – Co-Founder & CEO, CAMEO
7. **Angie Kostopoulos Andrews** – Composite Technical Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration
8. **Dr. Evangelos Pappas** – Founder & Chief Scientific Officer, RTsafe; Associate Professor of Medical Physics, University of West Africa

### Bottom row (left to right):

9. **John Koudounis** – Chief Executive Officer, Calamos Investments
10. **Alexandra Mihalas, Esq.** – Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Employee Benefits Division
11. **Mike Manatos** – President, Manatos & Manatos
12. **Doretta Mistras** – Managing Director, Global Investment Banking, Healthcare, Citi
13. **Nicholas Gage** – World renown Author & Investigative Journalist
14. **Maria Spiropulu, PhD** – Shang-Yi Professor of Physics, California Institute of Technology
15. **Stamatis Astra** – Morning Show Co-host, Grecian echoes WNTN-1550 AM Boston; Venture Partner, Innovation Ventures
16. **Dr. Maria T. Lymberis** – Clinical & Forensic Psychiatrist; Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Geffen UCLA School of Medicine



Meet our 2020 Scholars



Meet our 2020 Mentors



Why be a Mentor?



Following the Mentor breakout rooms, a special panel discussion took place featuring **Mrs. Alexandra Papadopoulou – Ambassador of Greece to the United States of America**. Joining Ambassador Papadopoulou were mentors Steven Galanis, Mike Manatos and Dr. Georgia Giakoumis Spear. The panel discussion was expertly moderated by 2019 scholarship recipients Jordan George and Elena Triantafyllopoulou, who are both active Alumni Board members.



**Ambassador of Greece  
to the United States**  
Mrs. Alexandra Papadopoulou

The weekend culminated with the **Virtual Awards Gala** to honor and celebrate the individuals at the core of the Foundations’ mission—40 exceptional Greek American college students. The Virtual Gala was emceed by broadcast journalist Lou Canellis, and included special messages from past PanHellenic Paradigm Award Recipients James Speros, Peter Diamandis, Frances Fragos Townsend, Dean Karnazes, John Koudounis, and Matina Kolokotronis. Celebrities also joined the celebration to offer congratulations to the 2020 scholars and included Chris Chelios, Billy Zane, Michael Vlamis, Yannis Pappas a.k.a “Mr. Panos” and Coach Peter Giannakis. The Gala was kicked-off with a special message from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, and culminated with the presentation of our 40 wonderful 2020 PanHellenic Scholars. This presentation featured each scholar and a clip from their final interview telling us why their field of study drives them. The Gala concluded with a unique rendition of “Dynata” by Mylos Entertainment of New York, inspiring everyone to strive in making the impossible, possible.

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**Download the 2020 Program Book**



**Watch the 2020 Awards Gala**



A combined total of over **20,000** people have tuned-in via Facebook and YouTube to watch the streaming event since June—and counting. The Virtual Awards Gala was free and open to everyone, and a first for the Foundation. Thank you to everyone who joined the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation on **Saturday, June 13** to congratulate the new class of Scholars.



**SCAN TO MAKE A  
YEAR-END DONATION**

**PANHellenic SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**





Robert A. Buhler, Chairman

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Despite these difficult times, I am pleased to report that the PanHellenic Board of Directors unanimously voted to move forward with awarding \$250,000 in scholarships, as well as properly honoring our 2020 Scholars with a virtual PanHellenic Weekend which took place June 12 – 13, 2020.

By not having a traditional Gala, we were uncertain of how much of a financial burden the PanHellenic would incur. Additionally, like all other nonprofits in the industry, we did not know what a “Virtual” event would entail.

However, uncertainty never stopped our Founder, Chris P. Tomaras, and it was not going to stop our Board. Remarkably, our donors, and specifically our Scholarship Society 200, 100, and 50 members, unwaveringly contributed to our virtual weekend, very generously. Thank you; we are blessed.

I would also like to highlight the PanHellenic’s continued efforts to provide our scholars value well “Beyond a Scholarship” – by continuing to develop our 3 key areas of focus:

**1) Mentoring** - We conducted our 4th Annual Mentorship Luncheon, co-hosted by The Hellenic Initiative, only virtually. Over 125 young Hellenes from the PanHellenic, THI and NHS were coached by a world-class group of 16 Mentors. Thank you to everyone involved.

**2) Alumni Development** - The PanHellenic Alumni hosted a virtual networking “mixer” for our new class of 2020 Scholars. Each of our new 40 Scholars spent time telling everyone about themselves, and were warmly welcomed by all PanHellenic constituents. This was just the beginning of each new Scholar’s PanHellenic networking connection...a value for life.

**3) Internships** - Besides networking with Alumni and strong Mentors, we deeply believe our Scholars need great jobs, once out of school. Good internships help lead to good job offers. As such, last year we began our Internship Initiative, and had 15+ companies supporting our efforts with 1-3 internships available at each company. Though some internships remain, and some are already signed up, several had to furlough this effort, for now, but we will be geared up again for next Spring, 2021.

Speaking of next Spring, let me now formally invite all 2020 Scholars to join our future 2021 Scholars next year at our formal, in-person PanHellenic Weekend, taking place June 18-19, in Chicago, God willing.

Scholars, thank you also for being good sports and allowing us to “interview” you, and then surprise you with the news that you had won. We greatly look forward to meeting you in person next year.

I’d also like to recognize many who have worked on this program directly and have supported our efforts: an amazing Academic Committee, our Virtual Weekend Committee, consultants Tina Manikas, Lexi Chionis, Chris Greene and Fred Frederiksen, as well as PanHellenic Directors Peter Korbakes and Vivian Haritos, who were involved in every aspect of this event. Of course, a special thanks to all our Board of Directors and Advisory Board members, who not only smartly guide us, but who are also our global ambassadors, always passionately representing the PanHellenic.

Lastly, a thank you to over **20,000** people who have watched our Virtual Awards Gala since it streamed live on June 13—we are honored that you joined us and would be delighted to tell you more about our organization. We hope to see you next year in Chicago.



40 Award  
Recipients



World Premier  
Streaming Event



20,000+  
Views

## CONGRATULATIONS 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Angelica Alexopoulos**  
*Biology, Oakland University*

**Constantine Athanitis**  
*Materials Science and Engineering, Stanford University*

**Floriana Boardman**  
*Political Science, Fordham University*

**Marios Bourtzonis**  
*Economics Computer Science, Trinity College*

**Kyriakos Chatzis**  
*Biology/Pre-Med, Stevens Institute of Technology*

**Nicholas Chatzitsakos**  
*Performance Jazz Composition, Berklee College of Music*

**George Dalianis**  
*Government, Harvard University*

**Katerina Dorian**  
*Political Science & Global Studies, University of Virginia*

**Christo Fosse**  
*Philosophy, Politics and The Public Economics, Xavier University*

**Peter Georginis**  
*Business Administration, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor*

**Vassi Gianitsos**  
*Computer Science, University of Texas at Austin*

**Nicholas Ioannou**  
*Radio, Film, Television, Rowan University*

**Maria Kalogeromitros**  
*Biology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

**Ioanna Karageorge**  
*Environmental Analysis & Policy, Boston University*

**Alexia Kovatsis**  
*Elementary Education Applied Psychology & Human Development, Boston College*

**Dimitrios Kyridis**  
*Organismal Biology, Barton College*

**Sophia Kyrou**  
*Political Science & Human Rights, Trinity College*

**Eleftheria Lambropoulos**  
*Engineering, Harvard University*

**Maria Lysandrou**  
*Neuroscience, University of Chicago*

**Matthew Macrides**  
*Honors Accounting & Information Systems, The Ohio State University*

**Joanna Maniadaki**  
*Clinical Diagnostic Sciences, Oakland University*

**Panagiota Megagiannis**  
*Biology- Pre Med, Long Island University-Post*

**Alexandra Nichols**  
*Piano Performance, Violin Performance, and Music, Rhode Island College*

**Irene Pantekidis**  
*Biology Child Studies & Human Development, Tufts University*

**Katerina Papanikolopoulos**  
*Art History, University of California: Los Angeles*

**Mauretta Patitsas**  
*Marketing, The Ohio State University*

**Evangelia Pelidis**  
*Biology, Seton Hall University*

**Timothy Proctor**  
*English & Philosophy, Drew University*

**Ilia Qato**  
*Astronomy & Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Christoforos Panagiotis Sarris**  
*English Literature, West Chester University*

**Jason Souvaliotis**  
*Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Johns Hopkins University*

**Giorgos Stylianou**  
*Economics, Philosophy, Mathematics  
Indiana University - Bloomington*

**Yiorgos Takoudis**  
*Finance Management, University of Miami*

**Ekaterini Tsampas**  
*Mathematics Teacher Education, Adelphi University*

**Demetrios Tsitsios**  
*Biomedical Engineering, Drexel University*

**John Tsortos**  
*Chemical Engineering, University of California Berkeley*

**Alexa Vaghenas**  
*Psychology, Yale University*

**Aristotle Vainikos**  
*Joint Major Government and Computer Science, Harvard University*

**Ioannis Vandrís**  
*Political Science, Columbia University*

**Dionisia Vassos**  
*Pharmacy, Butler University*







*"The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation has strengthened my bonds to the Greek American community and inspired me to honor my Hellenic heritage in all of my endeavors. My exposure to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation has allowed me to connect with dynamic, like-minded individuals who will represent the next generation of Greek American leaders."*

**-George Dalianis—Government, Harvard University**



*"As a proud Greek American, receiving an award from a Greek American organization like the PanHellenic makes me even more appreciative of my roots. Scholarships like the PanHellenic readily illustrate the extent to which Greek Americans are willing to help out their fellow countrymen. Hellenic Scholarships are emblematic of the intense comradery that is present within the Greek diaspora. The amount of times I have been assisted by fellow Hellenes is countless. Their offers of support have ranged from the mundane—where to find the best gyros in the US—to the significant—writing me a letter of recommendation for my college application. I think it is no surprise that our ethnicity feels this strong sense of allegiance to our fellow Hellenes. After all, isn't comradery one of the integral components of filotimo, the sense of filial piety that all Greeks have within them? When I received the PanHellenic Scholarship, I was once again reminded that I have something unique—an enormous cultural support group, extended brothers and sisters spread across the US who share my beliefs, values and interests. My Greek ethnicity has already given me so much, I will do everything in my power to one day reciprocate the assistance."*

**-Katerina Dorian—Political Science & Global Studies, University of Virginia**



*"As a Greek-Cypriot whose family were refugees during the Turkish invasion of 1974, this scholarship means so much to me. This scholarship not only provides the financial stability for my education, but also allows me to continue my passion of teaching my community about Greek-Cypriot culture. Being part of the PanHellenic scholarship community means the world to me, as I will always have this community in my life supporting me through my education endeavors."*

**-Maria Lysandrou—Neuroscience, University of Chicago**

# FROM OUR 2020 RECIPIENTS

**Q: As a Greek American, what does it mean to receive an award from a Greek American organization like the PanHellenic?**



*"I am humbled to be a PanHellenic Scholar. The Greek community who has already given me so much, has provided so much stability in my life, is recognizing me for my accomplishments. I know this scholarship will help me attain my career goals and give back to the community who has given me so much."*

**-Floriana Boardman—Political Science, Fordham University**



*"Personally, receiving an award from the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is an ideal way to combine two different aspects of my identity: my passion for astrophysics and my Greek heritage. It reminds me that while I am lucky enough to pursue my educational goals in the U.S., Hellenism will always define me."*

**-Ilia Qato—Astronomy & Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**



*"As a Greek American, the scholarship I received from the PanHellenic represents years of hard work not only from myself, but from my family as well. I accredit this honor to the many sacrifices my family made so that I could have this amazing opportunity."*

**-Demetrios Tsitsios—Biomedical Engineering, Drexel University**

# FROM OUR 2020 RECIPIENTS

**Q: Financially, how does the scholarship help you pursue your education?**



*"This scholarship has given me the tremendous opportunity to study abroad in Vienna, where there are countless opportunities for me to develop myself musically, including participating in a music research internship, and experiencing the world-class musical performances of the opera houses and the Vienna Philharmonic."*

**-Alexandra Nichols– Piano Performance, Violin Performance, and Music, Rhode Island College**



*"This scholarship is very important to me and my family to allow me to continue my undergraduate studies. Being able to attend a premier American institution is a privilege not everyone gets to have, and doing so with such a generous financial award facilitates the continuation of our Greek heritage in the United States. I have a sibling who also wants to attend a college, and this scholarship will provide financial relief to my family to be able to support both mine and my sibling's future studies. This scholarship is about continuing our Greek legacy in the United States by getting a proper education for generations to come."*

**-Marios Bourtzonis  
Economics Computer Science, Trinity College**



*"Receiving an award from a Greek American organization like the PanHellenic not only makes me proud of my culture, but also makes me appreciative; knowing that the Greek American community is determined to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of its young scholars and support them. The scholarship has helped alleviate the financial burden of pursuing my degree, and in doing so, allowed me to focus on my studies."*

**-Constantine J. Athanitis  
Materials Science and Engineering, Stanford University**



*"It is an honor to have a dedicated group of fellow Greek Americans that I can learn from, that believe in me, and that expand my Hellenic community, because I know they are supporting both my and all my future students' success."*

**-Alexia Kovatsis  
Elementary Education Applied Psychology & Human Development, Boston College**



*The scholarship awarded me my independence - to bridge the difference between "how" and "when"; The PHSF entrusted me with the ability to pursue cultural projects with a foundation of Hellenism guiding me forward."*

**- Katerina Papanikolopoulos  
Art History, University of California: Los Angeles**



*"It was an amazing experience getting to know all the people that run the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, and learn more about the organization and the people. I was inspired by them, and also from my peers. It was exciting to meet students that have the same cultural background as me, being successful in their fields and having great values."*

**-Nikos Chatzitsakos  
Performance Jazz Composition, Berklee College of Music**





*"I am thankful to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation for hosting its annual Alumni Weekend, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 crisis. Although the event was virtual, it was nonetheless a fantastic opportunity to learn from great mentors, meet fellow awardees, and commence my journey as a member of the PanHellenic family. I look forward to meeting everyone again, this time in person, at next year's Alumni Weekend!"*

**-Christophoros Sassaris**  
English Literature, West Chester University



*"I thought the board did a fantastic job of making the Virtual Alumni Weekend as special and memorable as they could considering the circumstances. They ensured all scholars felt welcome and honored, and put on the event as if it were exactly happening. I appreciate all of the hard work that went into organizing this event, and am very excited to celebrate with the 2020 scholars, as well as the 2021 scholars, at an in-person event next year."*

**-Dionisia Vassos**— Pharmacy, Butler University



*"After experiencing an amazing Virtual Alumni Weekend, I'm looking forward to meeting the other talented recipients in person and to celebrating our successes."*

**-Maria Kalogeromitros**  
Biology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte



*"I would love to come back next year to celebrate the in-person event—I want to get to know all the members of this new family I am now honored to be a part of."*

**-Niko Ioannou**— Radio, Film, Television, Rowan University

**Q: How was your Virtual Alumni Weekend experience this year? Would you come back next year to celebrate an in-person event?**



*"I would definitely come back next year! I can't wait to meet in person the people that I connected with through the Zoom Meetings and get to know them even better! PanHellenic offered me new connections with people that I plan on keeping in touch."*

**-Joanna Maniadaki**—Clinical Diagnostic Sciences, Oakland University



*"I would definitely come back next year to celebrate an in-person event, as this is a great opportunity to meet other high-achieving Greek American students and potentially make lifelong connections."*

**-Yiorgos Takoudis**—Finance Management, University of Miami



*"While the Virtual Alumni Weekend was supremely impressive, I am looking forward to joining next year's celebrations to meet everyone in person. I loved getting to know everyone in my award year over Zoom and I can't wait to elevate those relationships and actually meet face-to-face. As well, it will be even better when we get to combine the personnel of two award years and I can double the amount of fellow Greek Americans I get to connect with!"*

**-Ioanna Karageorge**—Environmental Analysis & Policy, Boston University



*"The Virtual Alumni Weekend was incredible! Even though everyone was spread out across the country, we all instantly connected with one another. I look forward to coming to the gala in 2021 to meet everyone in person!"*

**-Angelica Alexopoulos**—Biology, Oakland University

# Scholarship Society

## GIVING WITH PURPOSE

Each year, the PanHellenic drives a sustainable campaign with our **Scholarship Society** efforts, where members make a commitment to fund 5, 10, or 20 scholarships over a period of time. There are many worthwhile benefits to joining the Scholarship Society, most notably: getting to know a scholar on a more meaningful level and developing a life-long bond. Learn more about the Scholarship Society by contacting Vivian Haritos at 312.357.6432 or emailing [vharitos@panhellenicsf.org](mailto:vharitos@panhellenicsf.org).



Download the  
**Scholarship Society**  
Brochure



### Scholarship 200: \$200,000

Ted & Demetra Argeroplos\*\*  
The Nicholas J. & Anna K. Bouras Foundation  
Dimitri & Eleni Bousis Family  
Robert A. & Violetta Kapsalis Buhler Family  
Tassos F. Chronopoulos –  
The Tassos Group LLC  
The John & Mary Pappajohn Foundation  
Dr. George & Anita Skarpathiotis Family  
The Demetra & Eric Vassilatos Foundation



*"One of the main reasons we give and support the PanHellenic (and is very dear to our hearts) is for the youth. It's our dream to help support our youth because they are the leaders of tomorrow. PanHellenic's [mission] does that throughout the country with really top-notch academic scholars, along with philanthropy, and just a wonderful group that we want them to be part of. When they become a part of our Honors Society, we help elevate them through internships and mentorship programs, and beyond. We will always be there to help our youth through our own networks and connections, as they are the next generation of leaders."*

**-Ted & Demetra Argeroplos**



### Scholarship 100: \$100,000

Nicholas W. Alexos & Family\*\*  
Devanco Foods – Peter Bartzis Family  
Fresh Farms International Market –  
The Svigos Families\*  
Peter & Catherine Fountas Family & Friends  
Demetrios & Chrysoula Kozonis Family  
John Koudounis Family  
Dr. Peter J. Pantou  
Perry C. Siatis  
Takis & Elaine Sotos & Families



*"I want to congratulate all 2020 recipients on what looks like a bright future for every single one of you. Two years ago, I lost a son to a very rare blood disease. My son Joey, or "Solar Joe" as he was called, was in the sustainability field—a fantastic young man and superstar—and I've had the pleasure of honoring him through a memorial scholarship. For the last two years I've been able to select my scholarship recipient, and this year's recipient is also someone I will be able to mentor as I have the previous two years. I would love to continue to mentor every Scholar that is the recipient of the **Joseph Peter Bartzis Scholarship Award.**"*

**-Peter Bartzis**



### Scholarship 50: \$50,000

Dr. Thomas & Dina Adams  
Roula Alakiotou\*  
The Harold V. Anagnos Charitable Fund\*\*  
Constantine & Maria Danos\*\*  
Barbara Kariotis Javaras  
Joseph & Anna Kokolakis  
John & Elena Manos\*  
The Renaissance Fund\*\*  
Drs. William & Georgia Spear  
The Michael Skoubis Foundation  
The Ted G. Spyropoulos Family\*\*



*"Anna and I were incredibly proud to be a part of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's 2020 Annual Gala. We were especially honored to sponsor this year's award in architecture, engineering and construction—Kokolakis Contracting has been in business for nearly 50 years, and to us it's something near and dear to our heart to help cultivate and develop young Greek Americans in the fields of engineering and construction. Congratulations to this year's recipients for all their dedication and their hard work. Και Σανώτερα!"*

**-Joseph & Anna Kokolakis**



# Thank You to the PanHellenic Virtual Gala Committee:

*"Our goal is always to focus on our exemplary students. After our Board decided we would not interrupt our tradition of awarding annual scholarships, we also took the risk of trying to create a virtual event to honor our PanHellenic Scholars. Uncertain how to proceed, and how our donors might react, we formed a Virtual Gala team comprised of several board members, as well as several superb outside consultants."* **-Robert A. Buhler, Chairman**



**Perry C. Siatis, Committee Chair**  
Board of Directors

*"It was truly an honor to work with the Virtual Gala Committee and thank all the members for their passion, dedication, and expertise. The teamwork exhibited by the committee, as well as the alumni, to put together a fantastic virtual weekend was incredibly impressive. We believe we may have even created a new platform to use in the future--perhaps in tandem with the annual in-person Gala or as an additional way of reaching a more national audience."*



**Tina Manikas**  
President, FCB/RED Agency

*"Pandemic times call for making a pivot, getting creative and being all-in. The Virtual Gala Committee amazingly did just that. Leading and crafting a reimagined virtual experience that celebrates the students, captures the joy and draws supporter involvement and new audiences was both gratifying and humbling. I was blown away."*



**Ted Argeroplos**  
Board of Directors



**Robert A. Buhler**  
Trustee & Chairman of the Board of Directors



**Lexi Chionis**  
Senior Producer, We are the Times Agency



**Fred Frederiksen**  
Frederiksen Film



**Vivian Haritos**  
Director of Development



**Peter C. Korbakes**  
Director of Scholarships



**John Manos**  
Trustee & Treasurer



**Anastasia Svigos, Esq.**  
Board of Directors



**Yanni A. Valsamas**  
Board of Directors



**Jordan George:** *"The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is a unique and impactful organization committed to the success of the Greek community through its educational support of our Hellenic youth. It has been amazing to work with and learn from many successful Greek-Americans as well as meet Greek American peers who share my commitment to education. Upon witnessing the Foundation's objectives firsthand as a 2019 recipient, I knew it was an organization I wanted to help support going forward as a member of the Alumni Board! Working with the Board and the Alumni Weekend and Gala Committee this year was a great experience and it was amazing to be able to play a part in putting the events together and engaging with PanHellenic staff and directors, fellow alumni, as well as this year's recipients!"*



**Helen Tasho:** *"Having had the privilege to receive a PanHellenic Scholarship and attend the Alumni Weekend events in 2019, I experienced first-hand the dedication of the Foundation to its recipients and their success. I am so thankful to be a part of this larger Greek community that only wants the best for one another, so I want to pay it forward and help other Greek Americans experience the benefits that I have experienced; I thought that the best way to do that was as an Alumni Board member, and I was not mistaken!"*



**Elena Triantafyllopoulou:** *"When I applied to the PanHellenic Scholarship, I could have never imagined I would also become a member of such an inviting and empowering Greek-American community. I felt honored to have been selected as a recipient in 2019, so staying connected and active within the Foundation came naturally. From attending last year's events to being an active Alumni Board member this year, every aspect of this experience has been one which I am very grateful for and will continue to cherish."*



**Erini Kamarinos:** *"After being honored as a recipient in 2019, I wanted to be part of the alumni board to be part of such a welcoming group of individuals. Peter, Vivian, Eunice and the executive board put in so much effort in order to make the Alumni Weekend amazing for my class. The weekly virtual committee meetings held during quarantine became a happy routine. All board members were really determined to make Friday night and Saturday morning fun and celebratory, and I was glad to be part of such an incredible group."*



**Eunice G. Buhler, Committee Chair, '07 recipient:** *"The Gala and Alumni Weekend Committee is a shining example of how the PHSF is an organization fueled by and completely committed to scholars and alumni."*

## FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD: GALA & ALUMNI WEEKEND COMMITTEE DELIVER A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE FOR 2020 RECIPIENTS

Upon the end of the Alumni Weekend in 2019, many of us recipients left feeling that this was only the beginning of our involvement with the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. The entire mission and spirit of that weekend showed us the meaning and purpose of this organization that is truly making an impact on the lives of Greek-American students across the nation. When we signed up for the Alumni Board, we never imagined how involved and impactful our role would be in making the weekend come to life. With the rise of the pandemic, our interactions took a new form, granted us new responsibilities, and brought us closer than we thought we could become across our screens.

Four of us – Jordan George, Irene Kamarinos, Elena Triantafyllopoulou, and Helen Tasho – became members of the Alumni Weekend and Gala committee under the guidance and leadership of Eunice Buhler. Unaware of the full role of an Active Member on the Alumni Board, many of us had the expectation that we would be a sounding board of volunteers to assist the Executive Board members. However, to our surprise, this was not the case; we played a crucial role. Our committee was immediately thrust into action, working to plan and eventually execute Friday's Welcome Reception and Saturday morning's Mentorship Luncheon. We each played integral roles in the weekend which included the following: identifying and contacting mentors, finding innovative ways to collect participant information, and informing, organizing, and fine-tuning the structure of the newly-virtual events. Our advice and input was taken into account and implemented each step of the way. We were even asked to showcase our updates to the Board of Director committees. We were truly "active" members as we worked to organize the virtual weekend's events and ensure that this year was just as special for the 2020 recipients as it had been, in person, for all of us the year before.

Our committee had to work around the global pandemic and the unprecedented situation. While COVID-19 presented challenges and prevented complete replication of all aspects of the in-person events, we worked diligently to emulate the environment and value of the weekend, virtually. As a result of the virtual nature, the list of available mentors was no longer limited by travel restraints or conflicts, opening up the types of experts available to engage with the new recipients. Additionally, recipients were still able to form strong bonds with each other and alumni across the weekend since many who were in a group on Friday found themselves in the same mentor group the next morning. All four of us served as hosts during the break-out groups on Friday and in mentor sessions on Saturday with many of the same recipients. As a result, we witnessed firsthand the recipient and mentor-mentee connections form.

Further, in facing the adversity head-on as an Alumni Board and especially as a committee, we consequently grew closer. Prior to this year, board meetings were held over conference calls. Conversely, the massive growth and ease of group video-calls made meetings more engaging and personal as we could see everyone on the other end of the line and speak face-to-face. It made meeting easier as we all came together from different parts of the country with the click of a link. We were able to continue to grow the bonds we had initially formed a year ago at our 2019 Alumni Weekend, while also fostering the growth of the foundation and the development of the 2020 Virtual Alumni Weekend.

Ultimately, working with everyone on the committee and the board as a whole was seamless as we all proved to be highly motivated and hard-working individuals. It was definitely unlike many other group experiences; everyone was willing to help one another, everyone had amazing input and ideas, and everyone got everything done with excellence. As a result, we had a successful weekend and were a part of ensuring the recipients and all others involved had a great experience at this year's events. Even with the pandemic preventing us from celebrating like we usually do, we remained committed to excellence and creating a memorable weekend for the 2020 PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation Recipients!

## FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



**Treasurer & Fundraising Committee Chair,**  
**John Secaras**



**Fundraising Committee Member,**  
**Sophia Zervas**



### **Q: As a PH Alum, what motivated you to get involved with the Alumni Board?**

**John:** “Receiving a scholarship from the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation in 2012 afforded me the opportunity to continue my education and pursue my career goals, but more importantly it introduced me to an entirely new community of alumni, mentors and generous donors. From mentorship opportunities, to networking events and so many other resources, the PHSF provides community members with the chance to stay involved with some of the best and brightest individuals around the world. Having reaped the benefits of these resources myself, I decided to become a member of the Alumni Board in order to secure support for future PHSF activities so that we could continue to welcome even more students, mentors, donors and others into our ever-growing network. I will forever be grateful for the resources PHSF has provided me throughout my education and career, not just financially but even more so socially. PHSF gives everyone the chance to connect with other successful, driven individuals who are eager to further their education and stay involved with the Greek community.”

**Sophia:** “As a 2019 PanHellenic Scholarship recipient, I was immensely grateful to receive the financial support of the PHSF and build meaningful friendships and professional connections within the Greek community. Last year’s alumni weekend and scholarship gala were highlights of my summer, and when I returned home from Chicago, I was eager to stay involved and give back to the Foundation. Being part of the alumni board provided the perfect opportunity to do so.”

### **Q: Why is it important for you personally to try and raise an alumni scholarship each year through the #AlumniChallenge?**

**John:** “These invaluable opportunities are why I choose to give back to such an important organization through my position on the Alumni Board, and I decided to focus on fundraising specifically because I appreciate the importance of PHSF being able to provide scholarships to incredibly deserving recipients each year. I was fortunate to complete my undergraduate education and go on to attend law school because of the support I received from the PHSF, and I want to give other students that same opportunity.”

**Sophia:** “The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is about more than just one weekend and 40 scholarship recipients. Being part of the Foundation places the recipients in a community comprised of previous classes and ones to come, building an incredible network of Greek Americans nationally and across many disciplines. In order to see the mission of the PanHellenic continue and to actively support the academic goals of future PanHellenic cohorts, I personally believe that it is important for the alumni to join together and raise a scholarship in the alumni name each year. It represents not only our gratitude for those who went before but also our commitment to supporting future recipients and Hellenism in America.”

### **Q: Did Covid bring us closer together and/or what other takeaways do you have from doing this virtually? What did you miss from the in-person events; what do you think we gained?**

**John:** “Even in a year where unprecedented global challenges prevented us from being able to gather for in-person events and ultimately celebrate our scholarship recipients at our annual gala, I felt that our Alumni Board and other members of the PHSF family worked together even more than in past years to put together an incredible virtual gala on an even shorter timeline. I thought this experience was indicative of the global community that PHSF has cultivated—no matter where in the world we are, members of the PHSF network are able to come together at a moment’s notice to help each other and the organization achieve important goals. This commitment to excellence is why I initially decided to get involved in PHSF, and I am eager to see what the future holds for this incredibly important organization.”

**Sophia:** “Although nothing can replicate the experience of the wonderful in-person PanHellenic gala, I was nevertheless encouraged by the solidarity, creativity, and commitment of the administration and alumni board to making the event impactful and memorable despite the current situation. I was impressed by the imaginative approach to the virtual gala and enjoyed the fact that people were able to tune in from all over the world. One of my favorite parts of the gala was the final song of the night, Δυνατά. Listening to the refrain—τίταν όλα δυνατά τ’αδύνατα—I was struck by its relevance in these unprecedented times. The message echoed the strength of the PanHellenic community to adapt, overcome, and support the brightest young Greek Americans even in the face of difficulty, and for this, I am grateful.”

The following individuals accepted the #AlumniChallenge, collectively awarding one scholarship in the Alumni name through their contributions:

- Fotini Anastopoulos
- Sophia Andricopulos
- Evanthia Arianas
- Amanda Burdick
- Michael Burns, CPA
- Eunice Buhler
- Thomasina Chirgott Pfeifer
- Nicole Christakes
- Giana Damianos
- Zaharias Fountas
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- Helen Tasho
- Thomas Topalis
- Elena Triantafyllopoulou
- Panayiotis Vandris
- Andreas Vassilakos
- Evangelos Zarkadas
- Sophia Zervas



## FROM OUR NEWEST ACADEMIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**Sharon E. J. Gerstel, PhD**

Director, UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture

George P. Kolovos Family Centennial Term Chair in Hellenic Studies

Professor of Byzantine Art & Archaeology

*"Students who apply for the PanHellenic Scholarships are young men and women with tremendous intelligence, talent, and passion for their Greek heritage. The scholarship is a tribute to their hard work and their commitment to their community, but also an acknowledgement of their potential as leaders. It was a tremendous honor to get to know the students through their essays, the thoughtful recommendation letters written on their behalf, and also through our interviews with them. Truly, it made me hopeful that the next generation will change the world! In the course of the interviews—where we revealed to students that they had been awarded the scholarships—we could sense the boost of confidence, the pride, the relief, and the understanding that each was now part of a select group. The virtual gala—which was seen all over the world—was a moment of enormous pride for the selection committee. In particular, I loved hearing the story of each family who supports a scholarship and to see that family connected to a young person of merit. I can think of no better way to ensure a bright future than to pave the way for our youth. Participation in the selection process was a bright moment in a difficult period for all of us. I couldn't be prouder of all of the scholarship recipients. Many congratulations to the families and communities who supported and continue to support these outstanding students!"*



**Yiorgos Anagnostou, PhD**

Professor and Director of the Modern Greek Program  
The Ohio State University

*"When I joined the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, I joined a community which promotes Greek American citizenship through education. As an educator, I saw it as my responsibility to contribute to its mission. I also have personal experience of the impact of scholarships. As a struggling student in the 1990's, I benefitted enormously from a Greek American scholarship, which proved vital for the continuation of my studies. I enjoyed my first year of service very much. One of the benefits is that I got to know the students via their personal essays. I also enjoyed interacting with them in the zoom interviews that were necessary due to Covid. Working with the academic committee and the administrators has been a joy. This is team work at its best."*

## ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**Tassos Malliaris, PhD - Chairman**

Walter F. Mullady Senior Professor  
Department of Economics / Quinlan School of Business  
Loyola University Chicago



**Lia Alexopoulos, MA**

Lecturer in Art  
Lake Forest College



**Thanasis Economou, PhD**

Research Professor  
Laboratory for Astrophysics and Space Research  
The Enrico Fermi Institute  
University of Chicago



**Anastasia Giannakidou, PhD**

Professor of Linguistics  
Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies  
Co-Director of the Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language  
University of Chicago

A special thank you to the members of the Academic Committee. Each year, Committee members review hundreds of scholarship applications, taking months to review each and every application carefully, fairly, and with integrity. We are grateful to all our academic committee members for their commitment to upholding the high academic standards of the Foundation and its scholarship recipients.



**Georgia Sfondouris Mitchell, MFA**

Music Educator & Music Director  
Founder & Director of the Hellenic Choral Society  
The Georgia Sfondouris Mitchell Endowment for Music & Arts Scholarships, Given by George & Angela Paterakis



**Gregory Prastacos, PhD**

Dean of the School of Business  
Professor of Management Science  
Stevens Institute of Technology



**Anita Skarpathiotis, M.Arch, MA**

Senior Lecturer of Modern Greek  
Department of Classics & Mediterranean Studies  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
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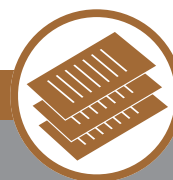
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- Be a US Citizen or US permanent resident
- Be of Hellenic descent
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