



REPORT



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AHI PRESENTATION IN ATHENS FEATURES TOP PR EXECUTIVE



Chryssa Zizos.

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and its Athens Chapter hosted a presentation and reception featuring Chryssa Zizos, CEO/president, Live Wire Media Relations, LLC on December 3 at the Hotel Grande Bretagne. Zizos presented on the topic, “The Process of Electing a U.S. President and the Role of the Media.”

Zizos is an entrepreneur who has rocketed to the top of the public relations industry. Her firm serves diverse business organi-

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AHI FORUM EXPLORES “GREECE MOVING FORWARD”



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney.

AHI hosted a forum entitled, “Greece Moving Forward: Implications and Realities” featuring three panels of experts on October 27, 2015 at the Capital Hilton, Washington, DC.

The forum began with introductory remarks by AHI President Nick Larigakis and a Q&A with Ambassador Christos

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AHIF HOSTS 14TH ANNUAL FUTURE OF HELLENISM IN AMERICA CONFERENCE



Aris Melissaratos and Nick Larigakis with Tom, John and Lou Korologos.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) hosted its Fourteenth Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism in America, keeping the discussion of the promotion and preservation of Hellenism at the forefront of the community. This year’s conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Nov. 20-21, 2015.

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PRESENTATION IN ATHENS FEATURES TOP PR EXECUTIVE

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Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, Ambassador of Greece to the United States, offering closing remarks.



Event attendees at the Grande Bretagne.

zations, Fortune 100 executives and elected officials, counseling them on a broad range of critical public relations issues. With the 2016 U.S. presidential election on the horizon, Zizos has emerged as the go-to source on how the presidential candidates are using the media and social platforms to persuade and influence the public.

In her presentation on the topic, Zizos creatively paired the major 2016 presidential candidates with their Greek tragedy counterparts to include the fatal flaw that could keep them out of the White House. Zizos went on to explain how an American election works, including the primary process. She also discussed presidential campaign strategy to achieve the necessary 270 Electoral College votes needed to become president. In addition, Zizos explored the role that the media plays in electing a U.S. President. A Q&A with the audience followed.

On Sidelines, AHI President Meets with Prime Minister

In Athens, President Larigakis met with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on December 1 on the sidelines of the annual conference on the Greek economy hosted by the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. President Larigakis also met with Minister of Economy, Development and Tourism Giorgios Stathakis and Minister of State Nikos Pappas on the sidelines of the conference.

AHI President Meets with Greek Government Officials

Larigakis met with Greek government officials, including Defense Minister Panos Kammenos on November 30 and Deputy Foreign

Minister Dimitris Mardas on December 3. In addition, President Larigakis met with officials in the ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Michalis Kokkinos, head of the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and Petros Mavroidis, director general for Political Affairs. Mavroidis invited President Larigakis to brief the heads of three directorates: Amb. Dimitris Alexandrakis, director of the A7 Directorate for North America; Amb. Dimitrios Chronopoulos, director of the A4 Directorate for Turkey; and Counsellor Ioannis Papameletioui, acting director of the A2 Cyprus Division.

Larigakis also met with senior Greek military officials, including Lt. Gen. Christos Vaitis, chief, Hellenic Air Force General Staff and Adm. Evangelos Apostolakis, head, Hellenic National Defense General Staff. From the non-governmental side, President Larigakis met with Thanos Dokos, director-general, ELIAMEP and Dr. Fani-Palli Petralia, vice president, International Olympic Truce Foundation. Finally, Vassilis Leventis, leader and founder of the Union of Centrists political party met with President Larigakis on December 2.

AHI CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS

A delegation from AHI successfully completed the organization's annual leadership trip to Greece and Cyprus where it held substantive meetings with high-ranking government, religious, and political officials with the purpose of strengthening relations and addressing issues of mutual concern. The 10-day trip occurred May 18 to 28, 2015.

"We had a very productive series of high-visibility meetings in Greece and Cyprus," President Nick Larigakis said. "We accomplished the objectives we set out to achieve, and the briefings we received on issues of importance to the Greek American community were insightful and informative. We thank all of the leaders who took the time to meet with us to discuss these very important issues."

In Cyprus, the AHI delegation received multiple briefings from Cypriot and American officials on the resumption of settlement talks for Cyprus under UN auspices; Cyprus' efforts to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and the lingering impact of Cyprus' banking crisis. All throughout the delegation's meetings in Cyprus, AHI was commended for its past advocacy and current steadfast efforts to keep the Cyprus issue highly visible with key policymakers in the Obama administration and in the U.S. Congress.

Meetings with Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Alexis Tsipras and President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos and extensive briefings with foreign ministry and military officials were highlights of the delegation's itinerary in Greece from May 22 to 28, 2015. The itinerary also included a day trip to Thessaloniki, May 23, and the 11th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 27.

The delegation visited Thrace. Over the course of the day, the delegation made stops and attended briefings in Thessaloniki, Kavala, Xanthi, Alexandroupolis and Feres.

AHI President Larigakis was accompanied on the trip by AHI

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President of the House of Representatives, Yiannakis Omirou, with the delegation.



Negotiator of the Greek Cypriot community, Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis during a discussion with the delegation.



Meeting with President of Greece, Prokopis Pavlopoulos.



Delegation pictures with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

Board Members Leon Andris and Gus Andy; AHI Central and South America representatives Costas and Sophia Galanis, and AHI Legislative Director Georgea Polizos.

AHI PANEL EXAMINES NEXT STEPS FOR GREECE IN ECONOMIC CRISIS

AHI hosted a panel discussion titled “The Greek Crisis: What is next for Greece and the Eurozone?,” June 10, 2015, at the Cap-



Ambassador David Pearce, ambassador of the United States to Greece.



From left: Nick Larigakis, Constantine Galanis, Dr. Stefanos Gialamas, George Economou, and Ilias Malevitis.

ital Hilton. Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the U.S., provided opening remarks. The expert panel, moderated by Nicholas E. Chimicles, senior partner, Chimicles & Tikellis LLP, examined various aspects of the timely topic.

The panel included: Dr. Athanasios Orphanides, professor of the Practice of Global Economics and Management, MIT Sloan School of Management; Dr. Michael Papaioannou, deputy division chief, Debt and Capital Markets, Monetary and Capital Markets Department, IMF; and Dr. George Tsetsekos, Francis Professor of Finance and Dean Emeritus, Drexel University LeBow College of Business.

“Our aim today is to gain a better understanding of what the current state of negotiations between Greece and her creditors is; what the true drop-dead deadlines for Greece are; and just what the implications of the next moves are to Greece, the Eurozone, and to global financial markets, especially if deadlines are not met,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said in introductory remarks. A Q&A session followed the panelists’ presentations.

FORUM COMMEMORATES BATTLE OF CRETE

AHI hosted a forum titled “The Significance of the Battle of Crete,” featuring Col. Evangelos Papadopoulos, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece, at Hellenic House, June 2, 2015. The forum served to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the 1941 battle between the Allies and Axis forces on Crete. “We were pleased to host such an important presentation about a historically significant battle that is often overlooked by many,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. Col. Papadopoulos weaved various videos and

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PowerPoint into his presentation on the Battle of Crete. The battle is historically significant because of the considerable delays it caused on Operation Barbarossa, forcing the Germans to engage the Red Army in the Russian winter and thus contributing to its eventual failure. He also discussed the strategic importance of Crete's airbases and harbors and provided an account of the battle itself.

AHI-SPONSORED GREEK NIGHT AT PHILLIES GAME A HOME RUN

The AHI-organized Second Annual Greek Heritage Night held in cooperation with Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies, June 17, 2015, at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Pa., was a tremendous success. Approximately 700 persons attended from



AHI President Larigakis prepares to throw out the ceremonial "First Pitch" at the Phillies' Second Annual Greek Heritage Night.



During the middle of the fifth inning, the Phillie Phanatic, sporting an Evzone costume, led The Olympians, a Greek dance troupe from St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church.

the Tri-State Philadelphia area and Baltimore to see the Philadelphia Phillies take on the Baltimore Orioles.

"On behalf of AHI, I sincerely thank the Philadelphia Phillies, especially the unbelievable unwavering effort of the Phillies' Director of Publicity, John Brazer, without whose support the event could not have been a success," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "I am also deeply grateful to the Greek American communities of the Tri-State Philadelphia area and Baltimore who came out in droves to support Greek Heritage Night and proudly displayed their Hellenic pride. Finally, the event could not have been a success without the incredible backing of certain individu-

als and entities that helped to promote it and to sell tickets."

At the baseball game, Greek American Elena Stavrakas sang the National Anthem and AHI President Larigakis threw out the ceremonial first pitch. The popular Phillies mascot, *The Phillie Phanatic*, sported an Evzone costume. During the middle of the fifth inning, *The Phanatic* led *The Olympians*, a Greek dance troupe under the direction of Betty Tsarouchis, from Saint Luke's Greek Orthodox Church, Broomall, Pa., in Greek dancing. A promotional video about Greece, made possible by the Press Office of the Embassy of Greece, was played on the ballpark's Jumbo-tron. Greek Heritage Night also featured a Greek food stand and even a wedding proposal captured on video by *CosmosPhilly*.

AHI MARKS 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS WITH CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING



Event attendees with Ambassador Chacalli, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, Congresswoman Maloney, Nick Larigakis and Greek defense attaché Colonel Papadopoulos.

AHI marked the 41st anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by hosting a congressional briefing to discuss the current state of affairs on the island at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill, July 22, 2015. The briefing's forum allowed members of Congress to share their perspectives on the Cyprus issue, prospects for a solution amid the current settlement talks, and how Cyprus can be advanced on the policy agenda of Capitol Hill.

"For 41 years, the people of Cyprus have endured an illegal occupation and massive violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by Turkey, an ally of the United States," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "The briefing provided us with the viewpoints of Congress's leading authorities on foreign affairs, our leaders of the Hellenic Caucus, and legislators who are deeply concerned about the Cyprus issue. We thank them for their insights on the issue and their support for Cyprus."

The briefing, held in cooperation with the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, featured: U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), former chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance; U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), member, House Com-

mittee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ), member, Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), ranking member, House Committee on Budget; U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA), U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY), as speakers. Also making presentations were Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. George Chacalli and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos. AHI President Larigakis moderated the briefing.

AHI LEGAL COUNSEL'S FIRM ESTABLISHES PUBLISHING COMPANY; RELEASES FIRST PUBLICATION

AHI is pleased to announce that Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq. who is a partner in Sfikas & Karambelas LLP and volunteer legal counsel to AHI, has founded Tribonian Publishing LLC. The publishing company's first publication is an e-book entitled, "A Guide to the Legal Aspects of Doing Business in the United States for the Foreign Business Person". The e-book is available for use on computers and mobile devices. The purpose of this e-book is to provide foreign business persons, attorneys, accountants and business advisors with a starting point towards understanding those business laws of the United States that affect commerce. Commerce between and among nations has become integrated. International commerce is becoming even more integrated as massive free trade agreements such the Transpacific Trade Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) take effect. "The United States is a hugely lucrative market. It has particular potential for Greek business persons during these trying times," Karambelas said. "It is also a daunting, diverse, overwhelming, and even a mysterious place to do business. We hope as this e-book evolves that it will provide at least the initial step through the port of entry into the United States market."

AHI WELCOMES WHITE HOUSE DISCUSSION ON GREECE

AHI participated at a White House-hosted discussion on Greece at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on August 6, 2015. AHI Legal Counsel Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., who is a partner in Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, represented AHI.

"We thank the Obama Administration for organizing this important and timely discussion on Greece's current situation," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "By all accounts, it was a productive discussion. We look forward to participating at future meetings and contributing our expertise to help the administration and the Greek American community reach its mutual goals in support of our longstanding ally and friend, Greece."

Karambelas, who is an international trade expert, brought up items such as the need for a bilateral investment treaty between Greece and the United States. "We don't have one," he said in a post-discussion interview with *The National Herald*. Karambelas added that the current tax treaty is obsolete.

Also, Karambelas raised the prospect of utilizing the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), an independent United States government agency that "mobilizes private capital to help solve critical development challenges" that helps to "advance U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives." AHI was encouraged that administration officials had explored utilizing OPIC, but expressed that more follow-up and perhaps legislative action is needed to secure the agency's engagement.

AHI MOURNS PASSING OF MAJOR BENEFACTOR, GREAT HELLENE GEORGE SPYROPOULOS

AHI mourns the passing of Mr. George Spyropoulos, a long-standing, major benefactor to AHI and proponent of Hellenic causes. He passed away in Greece at 102 years old.

"George Spyropoulos was a proud and exceptional Hellene," AHI Founder Gene Rossides said. "Without George's generous contributions and steadfast support and belief in AHI's mission, especially in the early years, the Institute would not be where it is today. Our deepest sympathies, thoughts, and prayers are with his family as we take a moment to reflect and celebrate his full life."

Rossides added that Spyropoulos was AHI's first membership supporter in 1974, and he donated the seed money for AHI to purchase Hellenic House, where AHI currently is headquartered in Washington, DC.

"George Spyropoulos will always be remembered fondly by the American Hellenic Institute and its members for his unwavering devotion to AHI and to Hellenism for which we are deeply grateful," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "His love for Greece and Hellenic ideals was ceaseless, and we will do our best to carry on his passion for years to come. May his memory be eternal."

AHI HOLDS 12TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC; PANEL DISCUSSION



Golf tournament participants.

On October 19, 2015, AHI hosted its Twelfth Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Va. Over 60 golfers participated. Celebrity appearances were made by George Wallace, sports director, *WTOP Radio*, Christine Brennan, journalist, *USA Today*, and Tommy Greene, Comcast studio analyst and former pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies, who appeared at a morning sports panel to discuss current events and issues affecting the sporting world. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos

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Investments. Peter Bota served as Tournament Chairman.

The first place team was comprised of: Peter Bota, Mike Gleeson, Dave Riddle, and Mike Matthews. Second place honors went to: Tommy Greene, Alex Sands, Christopher Lipscomb, and Scott Nickel. The third place team included: Peter Marketos, Thomas Pellicane, Brian Valladares, and Brandon VanBuskirk.

“We especially appreciate the support of tournament sponsor Calamos Investments under the leadership of CEO John Calamos; Gold Crust Bakery, which sponsored the breakfast and sports panel discussion; and the participation of George Wallace, Christine Brennan and Tommy Greene, who took the time from their busy schedules to present an enjoyable panel discussion,” said President Larigakis.

In addition, Larigakis expressed appreciation to Tournament Chair Peter Bota and to Golf Coordinator Adriana Sifakis, who organized the tournament. Additional sponsors included: Hole Sponsors—Atlanta Bread Company, Capital Hilton, Circle Management Company, Courembis Companies, Gold Crust Bakery, James H. Lagos Company, Inc., LaMer Beachfront Inn, Market Development Group, Metro29, National Hellenic Society, SigmaPharm Laboratories, Tysons Corner McLean Hilton. Golf Cart Sponsors—Axela Government Relations LLC, John Marshall Bank, Chimicles & Tikellis LLP.

AHI PRESIDENT HONORED BY GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF FALLS CHURCH, VA.



Nick Larigakis being presented with the award by parish council president Jim Stoucker and Father Costa Pavlakos.

The Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church community of Falls Church, Va., honored AHI President Nick Larigakis with its Community Service Award at its Annual Dinner Gala on November 8, 2015. Father Konstantinos A. Pavlakos and Jim Stoucker, Parish Council president, presented Larigakis, who currently serves as vice president of the Parish Council, with the award.

“In thought, deed and action, Nick has devoted his life to the advancement of Orthodoxy, Hellenism and the defense of freedom and democracy...as well as an articulate advocacy of the rule of law as it pertains to Greece and Cyprus. We are proud to honor his service to the community as a champion of Orthodoxy, our heritage and the Diaspora,” Stoucker said.

In acceptance, Larigakis paid homage to his parents whom he credited for instilling the importance of education, hard work,



Nick Larigakis with his family (from left): brother Constantine, mom Kiki and daughter Panayiota.

and good citizenship in his life. He also acknowledged their sacrifices as well as the sacrifices of his brother, Constantine, a caregiver to his parents; and his daughter, Panayiota, over the years. “Without the support and sacrifices of others, I could not be where I am today,” Larigakis said.

Approximately 220 persons attended, including former American Ambassador to Greece Tom Miller, Christine Brennan, journalist, USA Today, representatives from the Embassies of Greece and Cyprus, and several local parish priests.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[AHI Responds to Correct the Record on Kissinger, Cyprus](#)

AHI released two letters to the editor it submitted to The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Times recently. The first letter was a response to a September 20, 2015 article titled, “Kissinger the Freedom Fighter” by Niall Ferguson. In his letter, AHI President Nick Larigakis rebuts the author’s claim that Kissinger’s idealistic analysis to foreign policy still applies today. Instead, Larigakis points out, it was Kissinger’s realpolitik approach to foreign policy that still lingers painfully today. The second letter to the editor was a response to an October 6, 2015 article titled, “In Cyprus, hopes for a thaw in a long-frozen conflict” by David R. Sands. In his letter, AHI President Larigakis expresses dismay at two inaccuracies in the article. First, Sands references the Turkish-occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus as the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (TRNC). Secondly, Sands refers to Mrs. Emine Colak as the “the foreign minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.” “Such inaccuracies only embolden the “TRNC’s” separatist policy and hamper negotiations,” Larigakis wrote. He also sets the record straight about Turkey’s two-phase invasion of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leadership’s declared establishment of the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” as an illegal and invalid act by the international community.

AHI IN THE NEWS

[AHI Legal Counsel’s Commentary in Ekathimerini Presents Legal View of Greece’s WWII Occupation Loan to Germany](#)

Ekathimerini published a commentary authored by AHI volunteer legal counsel and director Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq.,

titled “A legal view of Germany’s wartime occupation loan,” June 6, 2015. During World War II, Germany forced Greece to “lend” money to it supposedly to help with its occupation of Greece otherwise known as an “occupation loan.” Karambelas argues that the remedy for Greece’s occupation loan to Germany is restitution and not reparation because the occupation loan was not a commercial loan, but rather an unlawful taking of property, the legal term of which is “conversion.”

“Greece’s legal rights with respect to the occupation loan depend on whether the loan is characterized as a commercial loan or as an unlawful taking of property under the guise of a commercial loan,” Karambelas, who is a partner at Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, writes. “To be a commercial loan, it must have the attributes of a commercial loan. There must be a voluntary lender, a voluntary borrower, terms for repayment, and an interest rate.”

Karambelas argues the occupation did not have a voluntary lender and did not carry an interest rate.

Karambelas concludes the Greek government’s current efforts to resolve the matter via diplomatic channels is the most practical way for Greece to obtain restitution.

[AHI Legal Counsel Appears on NPR’s “The Diane Rehm Show” to Discuss Greece’s Debt Crisis](#)

Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., volunteer legal counsel for AHI and partner, Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, appeared on *National Public Radio’s* “The Diane Rehm Show,” June 23, 2015, to discuss “The Greek Debt Crisis and the Threat to the Eurozone.” The show aired on WAMU 88.5 FM in Washington, DC.

Karambelas explained the impact of the economic crisis on the people of Greece, including how it affects the middle class, and of course, the unemployment rate, which is nearly 50 percent among young persons. He also explained the importance of pensions to Greek families, noting that Greece has one of the most elderly populations in Europe and that entire families often live off a pension and not just an individual.

In response to a question about whether he sees the crisis as a Euro crisis or a Greek crisis, Karambelas said, “So Greece is, in a lot of ways, a symptom rather than a cause of the euro crisis.”

Scheherazade Rehman, professor of International Business and International Affairs at George Washington University and director of the university’s European Union Center, and Tom Nuttall, Brussels correspondent and Charlemagne columnist for *The Economist* joined Karambelas on the panel.

[AHI President, Legal Counsel Interviewed on Greece’s Debt Crisis, Referendum Vote](#)

AHI representatives appeared in separate interviews to discuss Greece’s debt crisis and the ramifications of the Greek referendum vote, which took place July 5, 2015. AHI President Nick Larigakis participated on a three-person interview panel held by *China Central Television (CCTV) America*. Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., AHI volunteer legal counsel, and partner, Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, appeared on *National Public Radio’s* “The Diane Rehm Show,” which aired on WAMU 88.5 FM in Washington, DC, as part of a four-person panel. Both interviews occurred July 6, 2015.

On *CCTV America’s* “The Heat” segment, “The Heat discusses Greece’s Eurozone future,” Larigakis discussed the outcome of Greece’s referendum vote. “In my opinion, it was more of an emotional vote...a reactionary vote to the anti-austerity policies of the European Union perpetrated against Greece from the past five years with no end in sight,” he said. Larigakis also provided his insight based upon his meetings with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who stated to Larigakis that Greece does not want to come out of European Union, or exit the Euro, but that the Greeks were “being squeezed and strangled” by the Europeans.

On *NPR’s* “The Diane Rehm Show” segment, “The Economic Crisis in Greece and Implications for the Eurozone,” Karambelas provided his analysis of the outcome of the referendum vote, noting that each side, the Europeans and the Greeks has made its point.

“...the banks are closed. The Europeans can show what can happen if you don’t negotiate properly. The Greeks have shown their national dignity and defiance,” he said. “And what I hope will happen is, okay, we’ve both made a point. Now, let’s sit down and do serious negotiating,” said Karambelas.

[AHI Legal Counsel’s Article Published in Politico](#)

Politico, a political journal that covers the issues, ideas and personalities behind politics and policy in the United States and in the global arena, published an article authored by Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq. Karambelas is a partner in Sfikas & Karambelas, LLP and volunteer legal counsel and AHI board member. The article is entitled “Greece’s Century-Long Subjugation.” It appeared in the September 18, 2015 edition of *Politico* magazine. Published before the September 20, 2015 elections in Greece, Karambelas writes that Greece has endured economic adversity arising from foreign borrowing going back to its founding in 1830. Karambelas traces the history and reasons for Greece’s borrowing in the context of the century old national policy to expand the borders of Greece to include Greeks who lived in the Ottoman Empire, referred to as the Great Idea. He concludes that the way forward is for the European institutions to dispense with punishing Greece and that Greece dispense with viewing every reform as an infringement on national sovereignty.

AHI FOUNDATION NEWS

[Seventh Annual AHIF Foreign Policy Trip to Greece, Cyprus a Success](#)

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its seventh year as ten students from across the United States participated in the two-week program held June 17 to July 3, 2015.

“The trip provided a wonderful opportunity to once again lead such an exceptional group of students to Cyprus and Greece,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “It was rewarding to see them gain firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues that concern U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. The AHI Foundation looks forward to offering this program annually as support for it has grown and student interest remains at significant levels since the program’s inception.”

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Students meeting with Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus.



Students tour the Greek Parliament chambers.



Phil Kosnett, Director, Office of Southern European Affairs at U.S. Department of State, meeting with students at the Department of State along with Cyprus desk officer Amy Dove and Greece desk officer Nicole Lima Nucelli.



Yanni Metaxas aboard the NMIOTC training frigate.



Students at a desecrated church in the occupied part of Cyprus.



President Pavlopoulos with the students.



Government Spokesman Nicos Christodoulides meets with students.

The student participants were: **Zoe Andris**, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology at Kenyon College;

Corinne Candilis, a junior at Swarthmore College who is pursuing an Honor's degree in Economics with a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies; **Jerry Christodoulatos**, a recent graduate of Villanova University who received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Classical Studies and History; **Kristina Demolli**, who is currently a senior at the University of California, Santa Cruz, pursuing a double major in Human Biology and Economics; **Orlando Economos**, a rising junior at Tufts University who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in International Relations and Film Studies and Production; **Elias Gerasoulis**, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts double major in government and history at the University of Pennsylvania; **Yanni Metaxas**, a junior at Boston University who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics with distinction in Arts & Sciences and a minor in Modern Greek Studies; **Niko Piperis**, who is a rising junior from Omaha, Nebraska pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Philosophy at Boston College; **Peter Tsetsekos**, a pre-junior at Drexel's LeBow College of Business pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration; and **Elizabeth Vasilogambros**, who is a sophomore at Butler University pursuing her Bachelor of

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Arts double major degree in Political Science and Strategic Communication with a minor in sociology.

During the program, the students received firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, their relations with the U.S., and the interests of the U.S. in the region. Meetings or briefings were held with American embassies, officials from various ministries, including foreign affairs; parliament members, religious leaders, think-tank organizations, and members of academia and the private sector of both countries. In Cyprus, the group visited the Turkish-occupied area.

“The AHIF Foreign Policy trip gave me an unforgettable learning experience, one that would have been impossible to attain from any textbook or lecture...Not only was this trip educational and informative, but it also reinforced my pride as a Greek-American. Learning about the social, political and economic challenges of both countries strengthened my ties and affinity towards my heritage and culture,” said participant Zoe Andris.

“The AHIF Foreign Policy Trip is an incredible experience for any Greek-American. The work that AHIF is doing is of paramount importance to Greeks and philhellenes everywhere. Going abroad and being exposed to the foreign political apparatus of Greece showed me a side of the country that you rarely see on summer vacation on the islands. I cannot recommend this program highly enough, and would have every young Greek-American participate if it were possible,” said Orlando Economos.

AHI Foundation Study Abroad Student’s Account Published by The National Herald

Niko Piperis, a junior at Boston College, and participant on the 2015 AHI Foundation Study Abroad program, had his experience published recently on the op-ed page of *The National Herald*, a leading Greek American weekly newspaper, Dec. 19-25, 2015 edition. Piperis’ piece, “As We Ponder Solutions to ‘A Simple Twist of Fate’” recounts his time on the trip in Cyprus, and specifically, the student group’s visit to Turkish-occupied Cyprus. He grapples with calls by many to move on from the past thus tolerating injustice for the sake of compromise.

In addition to Piperis’ piece being published in the newspaper, two additional student accounts will be published on *The National Herald’s* website, <www.thenationalherald.com>.

AHI Foundation Study Abroad Student Interviewed by Ivy School’s Daily Newspaper

Elias Gerasoulis, a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, and participant on the 2015 AHI Foundation Study Abroad program, had his experience published in his university’s newspaper. The article, “In the midst of a financial crisis, Penn student meets the president of Greece,” appeared on the front page of *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, Oct. 5, 2015.

Gerasoulis recounted what it was like to be in Greece during a critical time in its history to *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, the independent daily student newspaper of the University of Pennsylvania. The article reported on the many meetings Gerasoulis and his fellow students had with dignitaries and government officials, including President of Greece Prokopis Pavlopoulos. It also

shared a few of his personal and memorable moments as Gerasoulis was able to connect with relatives living in Greece with whom he’s had little or no contact.

Two Former AHI Foundation Study Abroad Students’ Works Published

Two former AHI Foundation Study Abroad participants had their recent works about Cyprus published. Leah Barkoukis, a features editor for Townhall.com who participated on the 2010 American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Program, authored a piece titled “Europe’s Last Divided Capital Remembers Anniversary of Turkish Invasion,” which was published in Townhall.com, July 20, 2015, the 41st anniversary of Turkey’s invasion of the Republic of Cyprus. Barkoukis received a Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Classical Studies from the College of William and Mary.

Alexcia Chambers, a 2013 participant of the AHIF Foreign Policy Program, had her e-book titled, “Cyprus: Perfectly Blue Waters Hiding Politically Explosive Gas,” published in April 2015. The e-book is available on all mobile platforms: iStore, Google Play, and Amazon (through the Diplomatic Courier app). Alexcia is currently interning at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia.

NOON FORUM

AHI Book Presentation Commemorates 93rd Anniversary of Smyrna Catastrophe

AHI hosted a noon book presentation to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Smyrna Catastrophe in Asia Minor that featured Professor Lou Ureneck of Boston University, Oct. 7, 2015, at Hellenic House.

Professor Ureneck presented his new book, *The Great Fire: One American’s Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20th Century’s First Genocide*, published earlier this year by Harper-Collins Publishers. Professor Ureneck is a Professor of Journalism and directs the Business and Economics Journalism Program at Boston University.

Professor Ureneck explained that Smyrna was the final episode in the 20th century’s first genocide, the concerted extermination of Asia Minor’s native Christians by Turkish forces, which began with the Armenians and Assyrians and ended with the Greeks. He highlighted the important roles played by three Americans: Mark Bristol, Halsey Powell, and Asa Jennings. Bristol, the U.S.’s High Commissioner for Turkey and highest-ranking naval officer in the region, made the tragedy worse than it needed to be by favoring commercial interests over humanitarian ones and stalling U.S. efforts to aid the refugees trapped in Smyrna before, during, and after the great fire. Powell, a charismatic U.S. Navy Commander, defied orders to overcome Bristol’s foot-dragging. Jennings, a humble Y.M.C.A. official, called on audacity and strong religious convictions to organize the flotilla of ships that eventually rescued the hundreds of thousands of survivors of the tragedy.

Following Professor Ureneck’s presentation, President Lariagakis moderated a Q&A session and offered closing remarks.

AHI STATEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[AHI Applauds U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's Call for Halki Seminary to Reopen](#)

AHI applauds the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) call for the Turkish government to reopen the Greek Orthodox Theological School of Halki in a statement the Commission released November 24, 2015. "Without the seminary, the Greek Orthodox community cannot educate in Turkey the next generation of clergy to lead their congregants in worship, observance, and practice," said USCIRF Chairman Robert P. George. "The failure to reopen the Halki Seminary is a stark example of the Turkish government's failure to uphold its international obligations to protect and promote the freedom of religion or belief."

"We applaud the Commission's statement which calls on the Turkish government to reopen Halki Seminary," President Nick Larigakis said. "We call on Congress and the Obama Administration to continue to exhaust its resources to ensure the seminary reopens."

[AHI Applauds Enactment of Defense Authorization Act](#)

AHI applauds the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (NDAA), which President Barack Obama signed into law on November 25, 2015. The act includes a provision aimed to assess the security relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus via a report that will include an analysis of the effect of the United States' arms embargo on Cyprus upon the security relationship. U.S. Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) and U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) initially crafted and introduced the provision as an amendment which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in May.

The provision authorizes the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees "a report on the security relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus." The two secretaries are to submit the joint report no later than 120 days after the NDAA is enacted.

An arms embargo, enacted after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, prohibits the transfer of US-supplied arms to Cyprus. AHI has advocated that the arms embargo be lifted and not reviewed. "To be clear for the record, the law requires only that the security relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus be assessed," Larigakis said. "The law does not lift the U.S. embargo, but it is an important first step." He added, "We thank Congressmen Cicilline and Bilirakis for spearheading this policy initiative."

[Administration Effort on Greece Appreciated, More Would Be Welcomed](#)

In July, AHI applauded the Obama Administration's effort to address Greece's debt crisis, but the Institute stated it would welcome more tangible actions. "We appreciate the recent active participation of President Barack Obama and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew as evidenced by public statements this week," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "However, we would also welcome more

tangible acts from the administration through certain federal agencies that can offer financial aid packages or initiatives that would increase investment and growth in Greece."

For example, in late April, President Larigakis wrote to the head of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), an "independent" government agency that provides financial products, such as loans or guaranties; or support for investment funds that help American businesses expand into foreign markets. "AHI strongly believes that it is in the best interest of the U.S. for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to organize an Investment Mission to Greece at this time, an endeavor for which we hereby request your kind support," Larigakis wrote in an April 30, 2015 letter to OPIC President, CEO and Board Chair Elizabeth L. Littlefield. In the letter, Larigakis noted that OPIC is able to do business in Greece, but OPIC has been mostly inactive in the country. Larigakis also notes that there is precedent for OPIC to operate its programs in EU countries when economic conditions and policy reasons support the need, citing OPIC's work with Portugal and Malta along with Northern Ireland and other central European countries. A copy of the letter along with a cover letter was sent to President Obama.

[AHI Condemns Turkey's Violation of Greek Air Space](#)

AHI condemns the egregious violation of Greek airspace by six Turkish fighter jets on July 15, 2015. According to Kathimerini, the formation carried out a total of 20 transgressions which led to one dogfight as two of the aircraft were armed. Greek aircraft chased off the Turkish jets.

"As advocates for the rule of law, we condemn this egregious act perpetrated by one NATO-member country upon another," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "And although these violations are unfortunately nothing new, the degree of escalation of this specific incident was extraordinary, especially given the challenges Greece is facing with regard to its debt crisis. It is completely unacceptable for one NATO ally to take advantage of another NATO ally's domestic situation in order to act with hostility which creates instability between two neighbors."

[AHI Issues Statement on 41st Anniversary of Invasion of Cyprus, Expresses Cautious Optimism on Current Settlement Talks](#)

On July 20, AHI remembered the solemn 41st anniversary of NATO member Turkey's brutal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus with the illegal use of U.S.-supplied arms and equipment in violation of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the United Nations Charter, the NATO Treaty, and customary international law. Turkey occupied about four percent of Cyprus during the initial phase of its invasion. Turkish pilots flying American planes dropped American-made bombs, including napalm bombs, on Greek Cypriot communities. Furthermore, on August 14, 1974, three weeks after the legitimate government of Cyprus was restored, Turkey launched the second phase of its invasion of Cyprus. As a result of its two-phase invasion of Cyprus, Turkey grabbed 37 percent of Cyprus's

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sovereign territory, killed innocent civilians, raped women ages 12 to 71, forced 170,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and properties, and committed mass destruction of Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage, including an estimated 500 churches and religious sites belonging to Christian and Jewish communities.

For the remainder of the statement, visit www.aheworld.org.

AHI Commemorates 75th Anniversary of Oxi Day

On October 28, AHI commemorated the 75th anniversary of Oxi Day. "On the 75th anniversary of Oxi Day, we remember the heroism of the Greeks, led by Greece's Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas, who issued a defiant call against fascism," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "In a watershed moment, the Greeks demonstrated bravery, defeating Mussolini's army and thereby altering the outcome of World War Two by forcing Hitler to change his strategy. World leaders from FDR to Churchill took notice, and the Greeks reinvigorated the will of others to fight the Axis powers." Larigakis added, "The brave actions of the Greeks also inspired the Greek American community to mobilize. The Greek American War Relief Association formed ten days after Mussolini's attack on Greece."

AHI Applauds Senior Foreign Affairs Committee Member's Report on Hellenic Issues

U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, issued a Congressional Report on Hellenic Issues in late October to AHI President Nick Larigakis. Rep. Sherman is also a longtime member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. In his report, Rep. Sherman outlines his position on three key issues: 1) Cypriot Reunification, 2) Support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, and 3) Support for Greek Cypriot Rights in the Exclusive Economic Zone. He also conveys his support of a "strong U.S.-Greek relationship."

"We applaud Congressman Sherman for his strong, unwavering support of issues that are important to the Greek American community," President Larigakis said.

AHI Applauds Hellenic Caucus Initiative Seeking DHS Assistance for Greece

AHI applauds the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, led by Co-chairs U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), for taking the initiative to urge assistance for Greece as it endures the brunt of the refugee crisis. On October 28, Reps. Bilirakis and Maloney, along with 30 of their colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson that calls for Homeland Security to explore ways it, and other agencies, can provide technical assistance and guidance to assist with the crisis.

LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

AHI Raises Policy Issues to Secretary Kerry on Eve of Greece, Cyprus Visit

On November 19, AHI sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry as the secretary prepared for his upcoming visit to Cyprus

and Greece in December. In the letter, AHI President Nick Larigakis raises several policy issues to Secretary Kerry. On Cyprus, Larigakis congratulates Secretary Kerry's ongoing interest in the Cyprus settlement talks, but reminds the secretary that Turkey's actions prevent stability in the region and harm U.S. interests. Larigakis also presents AHI's position on a settlement to the Cyprus problem and how the United States can play a constructive role by pressuring Turkey to not manipulate the current settlement talks or restrict Turkish Cypriot Leader Mustafa Akinci's ability to negotiate. On Greece, Larigakis stated AHI's appreciation for the Obama Administration's support of NATO ally Greece during its debt and refugee crises. Larigakis adds that despite these unprecedented two crises, Greece remains a steadfast contributor to the defense efforts of NATO and to the projection of U.S. strategic interests in the eastern Mediterranean via NSA Souda Bay, Crete.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The Kalis Companies awarded \$2,250 in 2015 to students at Catholic University's Real Estate Development Graduate Studio who were asked to create a new vision for Warrenton Town Centre, Warrenton, Va. NICHOLAS KALIS, founding president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of AHI, is the president of Kalis Development Corporation.

Acclaimed businessman, philanthropist and AHI member, GEORGE D. BEHRAKIS received an honorary doctorate from the Medical Faculty of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens for his contributions to science, and for his extensive humanitarian endeavors, Dec. 11, 2015.

14TH ANNUAL HELLENISM IN AMERICA CONFERENCE

Continued from page 1



From left: Nick Larigakis, Nitsa Morekas, Aris Melissaratos.

Featuring nearly 20 prominent speakers from across the country, conference presentations analyzed key issues including the future of Greek American organizations, the political process and lobbying, religious and ethnic identity, promoting Hellenic values through business, Greek education, and perspectives from young Greek Americans. Speakers also identified how Hellenism could be promoted in the future through these various channels.

Continued on page 12

AHI FORUM EXPLORES “GREECE MOVING FORWARD”

Continued from page 1



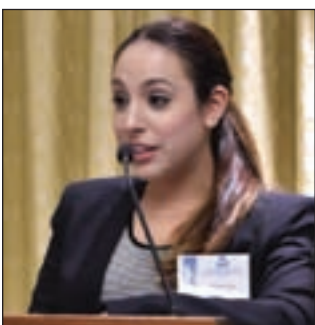
From left: Alan Ronkin, Aris Melissaratos, Amb. Loucas Tsilas, James Marketos.



Senator Paul Sarbanes, addressing the panel during the Q&A.

AHIF held a dinner on the eve of the conference, November 20. There, AHI President Nick Larigakis officially opened the conference. Welcome remarks followed from Conference Chairman Aris Melissaratos and greetings from Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Andreas Akaras served as Master of Ceremonies. U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) provided the evening’s keynote address. Longtime Baltimore community supporters and members Nitsa Morekas and the Korologos brothers, Tom, John, and Lou, received AHI’s Hellenic Heritage and Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism in America.

The AHI Foundation hosted the conference in cooperation with the National Hellenic Society (NHS) and SigmaPharm Laboratories LLC sponsored it.



Paulina Likos.

“We sincerely appreciate the generous sponsorship of SigmaPharm Laboratories, which is under the leadership of Dr. Spiro Spireas,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “Without its support, the Conference on Hellenism would not be the successful event that it was.”



Diana Doukas.

Panagopoulos, ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the U.S. In his remarks Ambassador Panagopoulos thanked AHI for taking the lead and initiative to bring the contemporary issues affecting Greece to the forefront. “This is of great value for us,” he said. “It is important for Greece’s voice to be heard.”

The first panel featured U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Caucus; Diana Doukas, director, White House Business Council; and Philip Kosnett, director, Office of Southern European Affairs, U.S. Department of State. President Larigakis moderated the panel. Each of the three panelists brought their unique perspective from the legislative and executive branches of U.S. government.

The second panel featured Lena Argiri, Washington correspondent, *Greek Public TV*; and Katerina Sokou, Washington correspondent, *Kathimerini*. James Marketos, Esq., partner, Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, LLP and AHI board member, moderated the panel. Argiri addressed the role of the Greek media in covering the events and developments of Greece’s debt crisis. Sokou presented on the role of the international media.

The third panel featured Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., partner, Sfikas & Karambelas LLP and AHI legal counsel; Ambassador Patrick Theros, principal, Theros & Theros LLP; Nicholas E. Chimicles, senior partner, Chimicles & Tikellis LLP and AHI board member; and Dr. Harry Dinellas, professor, U.S. Army Command & General Staff College. Serge Hadji, Esq., moderated the panel. Karambelas presented on the topic “The Third Memorandum: Austerity versus Reality.” Ambassador Theros addressed the topic “Inches of Reforms in a World that Requires Miles of Reform.” Chimicles presented on the topic “Reforms and their Impact on the Greek Citizen.” In the panel’s final presentation, Dr. Dinella examined the topic “Greece: Linchpin of U.S. and NATO Security in the Eastern Mediterranean.”

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