



**T H E H E L L E N I C L I N K , I n c .**  
**Ε Λ Λ Η Ν Ι Κ Ο Σ Σ Υ Ν Δ Ε Σ Μ Ο Σ**

**Member Update - Bulletin**

**Ενημέρωση Μελών, Φίλων, και Συνεργατών του Συνδέσμου**

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**BULLETIN NUMBER 187 MARCH 2021**

***The Legacy of Dr. Dean Lomis***

We are writing to make aware the members and friends of the Hellenic Link, Inc.(HL) of the passing of Dr. Constantine (Dean) Lomis, a long-time member of HL and of its Board of Directors. Dr. Lomis' passing is a real loss for our Association and indeed for the *Omogeneia* in the USA.

He was a founding pioneer of many of HL's initiatives and objectives and an ardent pursuer of their implementation and achievement till the very end of his life. His Obituary, received from Wilmington DE, follows:

“Dr. Dean Lomis (born: Constantine Tsolomitis), age 89, of Newark, Delaware, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 13, 2021. He was a native of Gary, Indiana and the son of Greek immigrant parents Angelo and Helen Tsolomitis. Upon receiving his B.A. degree from Southern Methodist University he entered flight school, after which he proudly served as a U.S. Air Force Officer in Germany and Greece. After earning his M.A. from East Texas State University and Ph.D. from Texas A&M, he and his wife Toula moved to Delaware where they raised their family. As a Professor and Director of the International Center at the University of Delaware, he was actively involved with several committees and associations. Throughout his career Dr. Lomis mentored and influenced generations of students, scholars, and even the current President of the United States, Joe Biden.

His tireless promotion of Hellenism and leadership in the Greek American community is well known, including his role as Chairman of the American Hellenic Institute. He was a prolific writer who was full of ideas, authoring books, numerous articles, and his daily emails. He enjoyed interacting with people, even more when there was music and dancing, and took pride in having traveled to all 50 states and over 100 countries. The dedication to his family, especially his grandchildren, was second to none. All who encountered Dean Lomis understood that he lived his life with purpose and passion.

Dr. Lomis is survived by Toula, his spouse since 1959, sons: Dr. Van Lomis and wife Deme Ann, Dr. Nick Lomis and wife Dimitra and Dr. Mike Lomis and wife Kimberly, and the joy of his life, eight grandchildren: Constantine A, Evan, Luke, Constantine N, Vasilios, Katerina, Alexander and Lindsey, and by his sister and nephew Matina and Evan Spiliotopoulos.

The funeral service was held on Friday, February 19 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 808 N. Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806. Interment took place following the funeral service at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Cemetery, 2504 Cub Hill Road Baltimore, MD 21234.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the traditional Makaria could not be held.

Dr. Lomis' family requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church or to the American Hellenic Institute, 1220 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.”

### **THE LEGACY OF DEAN LOMIS FOR HL**

In tribute to Dean's memory, we dedicate this issue of the Bulletin to him with the following excerpted highlights from his many writings in support of the Hellenic heritage, the language and the culture, as well as the burning ethnic and national Hellenic issues of today; they are all imbued with a fervent and creative spirit, characteristic of him; they all show why we mourn his death, but also the reasons why we celebrate his life.

### **A PANACEA FOR LEARNING GREEK?**

**(DEAR COMPATRIOTS, TAKE A GOOD LOOK!)**

At the urging of a Greek American educator, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki recently established a Modern Greek language summer program that would satisfy the two-year foreign language requirement for college graduation in the United States.

Most college-attending and college-bound students detest having to take a two-year, four- semester, totaling 48 weeks of instruction foreign language. Some of the reasons for their dislike are: they do not want to take a foreign language; if they must take a foreign language, they want to enroll in one of their interest -- Modern Greek, for example -- taught only in very limited universities across the U.S. which, of course, makes it impossible since they attend their own institutions. There are some, few, U.S. universities which *do* provide summer Modern Greek language instruction, but they are usually distant from one's home. An additional difficulty is that they have to pay high tuition rates and high housing and living costs, since perhaps most will be out-of-state. Additional reasons for not wanting to take a foreign language is that it interferes with their major field, it is too time demanding, and due to such obstacles, often results in a lower grade, a serious matter that negatively affects their academic average.

The Aristotle University program will meet the U.S. foreign language requirement via attendance of two six-week summer sessions, for a total of 12 weeks, rather than the 48 required at home.

Tuition for the two-three week (six weeks total) sessions will be 600 Euros, an approximate equivalent of about \$750. Attending an American university for two summer courses will cost about \$3,000.

**Presented below is information provided by the Aristotle University, as well as syllabi for the two three-week courses which students will need to submit to their home institutions after receiving application materials from Thessaloniki.**

*Interested students and parents should also consider the several additional advantages of this program. The instruction will be in a total immersion situation, the students will converse in Greek off the campus into the Community, will make bonds with both Greek American fellow students and with locals in the City, and will be exposed to enormous cultural opportunities, as the program will include excursions to such sites as the region of Alexander the Great and his predecessors, to Meteora, to Mount Athos, and to the various Byzantine sites found all over the City of Thessaloniki.*

***It is strongly recommended that contacts be made early, from this Fall, for first-year arrangements to be met. Interested students and parents are advised to communicate directly with the Aristotle University program and request application materials.***

The charge for our Hellenic Link members, indeed for everyone who cares about the future of the Hellenic Cultural Heritage in America, should be that if each one recruits just one student to attend the initial year of the program, the program shall materialize. Like all other successful "study abroad" programs, returning students become the best advocates and advertisers for future attendance. **Let us go out and recruit just one student each. Just think what one-year's success will do!**

Dean C. Lomis, Ph. D.

Professor of International Education, Emer.

University of Delaware, Newark DE

Member, Advisory Council on Hellenic Education of the Hellenic Link, Inc.

After extensive efforts made by HL in support of the above program and a rather tepid response by the Greek Community, Dean Lomis wrote in a letter to the President of HL:

"..... I don't know what else you can do. If the Archdiocese were to comprehend the necessity and the value of this program and openly support it and provide for it, it would be an instant success. Look at the success of the Ionian Village which, unfortunately, has no positive after-effect because it is not a really true Greek experience. But as far as attendance, there is no issue.

This is the weakness of the Greek American Community: no supportive interaction among the multitude of programs developed and offered.

I have nothing else to add. You have done your very best as the leader of the organization. Yet, even that membership does not really get out and work for the program.

Let's hope that the few contacts which express interest will make it reality and success. We'll have to wait. I have waited for two full years and two months since my initial contact with Thessaloniki. Now that I see the light at the end of the tunnel I want to see if that light is Olympic spirited and produced or if it is with limited and diluted fuel that will run out rather quickly.

Whatever the future, you have done the work, deserve the satisfaction, even if the Community does not respond as it must.

Be proud!  
Dean

**On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary from the establishment of the Odyssey Charter School (OCS):**

“Over 10 years ago, a great AHEPAn, Wilmington, Delaware past Chapter President, past District 5 Governor, and past -- and present -- volunteer in projects of and for the Order of AHEPA, Mr. George Righos, had a vision. Respecting the Hellenic Education knowledge that the Founding Fathers of our Country possessed in the development of our 'Empire of Reason' based on the 'Age of Reason' of the Classical Greeks, he believed that there must be a Hellenic Education program both for the continuity of the Greek American heritage and for all Americans to become aware of the Hellenic roots, and to become participants in the development of our American Character. Mr. Righos developed a proposed plan, invited Community members to assist him in presenting it to the Delaware State Education Director, and proposed for the Wilmington AHEPA Chapter #95 to make the initial financial investment. On September 24, Mr. Righos' noble ideal will be celebrated at the 10th Anniversary of the School's operation, along with the beginning of the first Class of High School (9th grade) to graduate in 2020. The entire Delaware Community is proud and honored of Mr. Righos' 'Grand Design,' and wish for him and to him a most memorably deserving Anniversary Celebration.

*Dean C. Lomis”*

**“In Loving Quest For The Rudiments Of Our Culture “**

**‘ KYRIE ELEISON’**

Dean C. Lomis, Ph.D.

“Three years ago this coming summer, in July 2010, I attended in Williamsport, Pennsylvania the Roman Catholic funeral of a ninety-five year old elderly grandmother. Being Greek Orthodox and not knowing any other than the immediate family, I sat at the last row of the Cathedral’s pews witnessing the solemn ceremony.

Somewhere in the middle of the service I felt jolted when I heard the priest chant: “Kyrie Eleison.” About a quarter of the service later he repeated the chant, as he did near the end also. After the funeral and during the ensuing -- “makaria”-to-us- Greek-Orthodox -- meal, I inquired of the Roman Catholic priest

regarding the use of the Greek Orthodox “Kyrie Eleison” in a Roman Catholic Mass. His explanation was that the ‘Anglican’ version of the verse does not provide the real meaning of the prayer. He went on to inform me that the Roman Catholic Church was in the process of making revisions to be called “Missal,” a new text to be used during Mass intended to be closer to the Faith using New Words of Worship in the “liturgical Latin” used centuries in the past. As we may now know, of course, the new “Missal” has been put into practice as of a few months ago.

Shortly after returning home a couple of days later, I looked into our Greek Orthodox Liturgy Book and realized that I went to a Roman Catholic Church to hear the Greek Orthodox version of a prayer which in my Greek Orthodox Church I hear it in the Anglican version, when chanted in English. That is, I noticed that when “Kyrie Eleison” is chanted in English it becomes “Lord Have Mercy.” Immediately I recognized that we have a serious difference with the Anglican version, for the words “mercy” and “eleison” are not compatible, lacking identical meanings. Also, searching deeper into the terminology, it became apparent that the Roman Catholic Greek Orthodox version was correct because it is not possible to translate “Kyrie Eleison” correctly.

Looking up “mercy” we find the meanings of ‘forgive, don’t punish anymore, have pity,’ etc. However, “eleison” goes beyond the punishing and asking-for-forgiveness state; “eleison” includes ‘blessing, grace, assistance, help, guidance,’ which “mercy” does not. Why then should we Greek Orthodox not have our own “Missal” by *always* using the all-inclusive Greek Orthodox “Kyrie Eleison” rather than the restrictive Anglican “Lord Have Mercy?.....”

### **A Genuine and Articulate Patriot**

Dean Lomis was keen on national Hellenic issues and, when there was a threat against the country’s sovereignty and historical rights, an ardent defender of Greece.

Excerpt from his article on:

#### **[“The Historical Solution to the FYROM/Macedonia Dilemma”](#):**

“.....The Yugoslavia Federation was established after World War I – originally as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, known as “Kraljevina Srba, Hrvatal Slovenaka”. If a “Macedonian” **nation** had existed, it would have been the Kingdom of Serbs, Slovenians and Macedonians. However, no such nation existed. The Kingdom was dissolved in 1941 at the German invasion. If, therefore, World War II had not occurred, or if after the War the Communist Party had not ruled, there would not be a “Macedonian” issue today.”

For the conclusion of the same article, he wrote: “ It is therefore of immense and utmost importance that the world’s powers, especially the industrialized societies of Europe and America, (not to mention their own national interests), instruct, convince, and lead present-day FYROM to adhere to international law by which it was “provisionally” admitted to the United Nations under the “**temporary**” name of FYROM ,

until a suitable name “in agreement with Greece” would be found. It is ultimate in FYROM’s best national interests to compromise in line with the stipulation it accepted to become a provisional U.N. member.”

Editor’s Note: Dean Lomis expressed clearly his conviction on the issue of Macedonia also in another extensive, solidly documented, article under the title: MACEDONIA, THEREFORE, IS GREECE – INDEED!

### ***His Tenacious and Successful Pursuit of a Tertiary Education Engagement***

As the readers of the Bulletin well know, a distinctive development in the effort of HL to build an infrastructure for the nurture of Hellenic Education in the USA, became a reality through the engagement of tertiary education, thanks to the insight and a series of proposals of Dean Lomis.

We referred above to his proactive support of summer programs teaching the Greek language and culture specific for American university students by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). This was only the beginning. Soon, it was followed by the entry of AUTH in the American educational scene to play an important role in partnership with Stony Brook University and the University of Delaware, the Department of Education of Delaware, and the Greek American community: the thoughtful establishment of a collaborative Program of Certification of Greek Teachers, the successful smooth integration of US and Greek curricula in charter schools of Hellenic cultural orientation (Odyssey Charter School) served tangible pivotal needs of the educational system that were direly essential.

A distinctive action of the HL’s endeavor to upgrade the infrastructure of Hellenic Education in the USA was the achieved engagement of tertiary education through the enlightening insight and relevant proposals of Dr. Dean Lomis.

Following his initiative for the summer program of Modern Greek, specific for US students, at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, this educational institution was assisted to establish partnerships with Stony Brook University and the U. of Delaware: Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were concluded and ushered in programs of faculty and student exchanges, the establishment and operation of a collaborative Training Center for Certified Greek Teachers to teach in US primary and secondary schools, and the expert integration of US and Greek curricula for such schools; they were all parts of a persistent endeavor to upgrade the infrastructure of Hellenic Education in the USA.

It has been a great privilege and fortune to have had such a charismatic, inspiring and productive colleague among us, instrumental in decisively contributing the quality, size, style and tempo of progress during his lifetime. This has been the legacy Dean Lomis has left to his surviving colleagues. We wish them to continue to build on it in similar manner and effect for the benefit of Hellenism.

May Dean Lomis’ Memory be Eternal!

CJE

**ΑΠΘ: Παράρτημα του Σχολείου Νέας Ελληνικής Γλώσσας στις ΗΠΑ**

*Το ΑΠΘ ενισχύει τον διεθνή χαρακτήρα του*



**Σύμφωνο Συνεργασίας (Memorandum of Understanding- MOU) υπογράφηκε τη Δευτέρα 4 Φεβρουαρίου 2019, στην πόλη Γουίλμινγκτον (Wilmington) των ΗΠΑ από τον Πρύτανη του ΑΠΘ, Καθηγητή Περικλή Α. Μήτκα και τον Πρόεδρο του Πανεπιστημίου Delaware, Καθηγητή Dennis Assanis (Διονύση Ασσάνη).**

## The University of Maryland Interacts with the Greek Community

As is well known, there are universities in USA, which follow the guidelines of the founding fathers of the Republic, delve in research, and offer educational programs in Hellenic Studies. They do that in the conviction that the Hellenic Classical Civilization is still pertinent to use as compass to the noblest learning and for navigation of its students and society toward «ευ ζην», a happy life, away and out of problems and menacing internal and external conflicts that seem to be amplified more and more with the passage of time. It is remarkable that under the present stifling epidemiologic and economic conditions, while some of these universities, as all, are under pressure to curtail “nonessential” academic programs, they opt with no hesitation to continue to uphold the teaching of the principles and best methods for individual and social living, developed and exemplified by the ancient Greeks. Two such exceptional universities are the University of Maryland at College Park and Stony Brook University with their Programs of Modern Greek Studies.

We deem quite informative and significant for our readers to apprise of communications we received from the universities explaining the scope of educating their students in the Greek language and culture, while simultaneously projecting to the community the applicability of the historical Hellenic experience and accomplishments to our modern social and national circumstances. They also point out plainly and candidly that the nature and size of the institutions’ educational undertaking, for its long-range sustenance, requires resources that can be obtained only from the community, particularly its most concerned segment, the Greek American community.

*“Dear Editor of the Hellenic Link Bulletin:*

*Good morning, I hope my message finds you well. Wednesday, March 3, is #GivingDayUMD, the university's annual 24-hour online fundraising event.*

*I am writing to you this friendly note for your consideration to support the Modern Greek Studies Program at UMD. In this program, we promote Hellenism's values to the Greek American Community and the entire world! I strongly believe that today the world needs Hellenism again, a New Renaissance for more democracy, collective spirit, and autonomy.*

*Please visit the following website excerpt for more information:*

*(Donations are tax-deductible)*

*Thank you in advance for considering my note with the hope for you to respond to this call to support our efforts to enhance Hellenism at the academic level.*

### **Our Story**

The Modern Greek program is preserving and extending the Hellenic tradition. Housed within the Classics Department, it offers seven Modern Greek courses each year from introductory through advanced, and students can earn a minor in the language. Last fall, Professor Polyvia Parara inaugurated an exciting new course in English on “The Modernity of Athenian Democracy.” She also organized an online conference with her Modern Greek class students on “Ancient Greece and the Shaping of Modern Greek Identity.” She is already planning the 5th UMD Modern Greek Studies conference for this spring in celebration of the Bicentennial anniversary of the Greek War of Independence.

**Multiply your gift x2!** Thanks to the generosity of The Hellenic Society Prometheas, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000

Your support of our modern Greek program is vital to its continued success. Our students are passionate about preserving the Hellenic heritage and they—and the whole department—thank you for your generosity.

Cordially  
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The Student/Faculty team of the Modern Greek Studies Program of the University of Maryland, who presented the brilliant virtual Conference on "Ancient Greece and the Shaping of Modern Greek Identity" in October 2020.

The above message was a call to action addressed to all our readers and, significantly, to those who are members and officers of the numerous fraternal Greek organizations in the USA, linked culturally with their geographic localities (ιδιαίτερες πατρίδες) in Greece and Cyprus; in our judgement, it is a trumpet-call to patriotic duty of Greeks to mobilize and directly act. What is at stake? The continuous and most effective support of Hellenic Heritage in America by the academic community. We presume that this support is a primary goal of all cultural associations of the Greeks in the country. Then: «**Ιδού η Ρόδος ιδού και το πήδημα!**»

We do endorse and reinforce the appeal from the leading academic institutions of the State of Maryland and New York on the basis of the rationale presented above; and additionally, for the consideration of their collaborative Modern Greek Studies Programs as they strive to jointly organize and carry out events in which teams of their faculty and students will competently present the eternal values of Hellenic culture to the nation and the world! For the sake of the future of our studying youth and for the best interests of Hellenism, let us all become enthusiastic **sponsors, whether small or great**, of these most beneficial efforts of the academic community!

The Editor

The Giving Day for the Center for Hellenic Studies at Stony Brook University is on April 21<sup>st</sup>,

## Center for Hellenic Studies



Hellenic influence touches many aspects of modern society, philosophy, political thought, arts and architecture, and medicine. The Center for Hellenic Studies is a hub of activity that serves as an academic leader and community resource in providing tools, emphasizing issues, seeking to solve current challenges, and promoting education and research in Hellenism and cultural events on the local, regional, national and international levels.

Your donation will enable us to provide support to the instruction and dissemination of Greek language and culture, our students' activities, social/networking events, lectures, panels and invited speakers, and the exchange of scholarship and scholars between Stony Brook University and Greece.

Make a gift to provide important funding for the Center for Hellenic Studies, including support of student activities and instruction, and Center events.

The current Hellenic fundraising challenge is that 25 donors will help our Center unlock a \$1,000 gift from Stella Tsirka and Mike Frohman. The link for the fundraising is:

<https://givingday.stonybrook.edu/o/stony-brook-university/i/stony-brook-giving-day-2021/s/center-for-hellenic-studies-jwhgkpf2>

**HELLENIC LINK, Inc**  
**A Non Profit Cultural And Scientific Association Of Hellenes And Philhellenes Incorporated In Delaware**

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