



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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FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE

THE YEAR 2021 IN REVIEW

To say that the past year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, was marred globally by the great turmoil in public health, social functions, political and economic life, education, culture, and practically in every aspect of human affairs, would be an understatement.

Focusing on the schools, their regularly scheduled operation in the United States, as everywhere, was severely hampered; the use of distant teaching helped to cope with the problem but proved to be not as effective as in-person teaching.

In this educational environment, which also affected cultural activities, the Hellenic Link, Inc, (HL) and similar organizations had to make extraordinary efforts to achieve organizational progress. In the case of HL, such efforts had to be made in a state of tested transition, as a new board of directors, elected shortly before the onset of the pandemic, assumed the administration of our Association in a chaotic environment.

In this issue, we review the activities HL was able to muster in 2021.

[Bicentennial Anniversary of the 1821 Revolution](#)

Pursuing its commitment to nurture the appreciation of Hellenic Culture by its members and the community, the HL celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the onset of the Revolution for Independence. Despite constraints imposed by the pandemic, HL paid extensive tribute with its media to the heroes and their feats in battle, to the long and most costly in lives struggle, but also to those who prepared the nation psychologically for the uprising, as well as to the foreign philhellene participants and spectators who watched the on-going Hellenic drama actively contributing to its victorious catharsis. Thus, the *HL Bulletin* publicized, among other activities, the remarkable series of 21 public lectures offered throughout the year by the National and Capodistrian University of Athens (ΕΚΠΑ; **Issue No. 188**); it focused on the luminous teachers who, under the brutal yoke of the ottoman occupiers, wisely guided the enslaved Hellenes in the path towards liberty (**Issue No.186**); the *Bulletin* focused on a contemporary virtual Conference organized by the Modern Greek Program of the University of Maryland, in interactive cooperation with the Greek community, on the Greek Revolution and of its comparative significance for Western Culture (**Issues Nos. 187 & 188**). One of the protagonists in the sea warfare of the Revolution was Konstantinos Kanaris. HL bulletin **Issue No. 189** reported a detailed scholarly article on his incredible feat to destroy the flagship of the Turkish fleet with all hands aboard including the Ottoman admiral at the island of Chios in 1822 (as is known, this fact was followed by a widespread slaughter of the islanders by the enraged Turks); importantly, the article elaborated on Kanaris' contributions to the establishment of a democratic system of government in post-revolution Greece, efforts that were extended over several decades. Last but not least, tribute ought was made to the philhellenes particularly those in the English-speaking world who offered outstanding support to the Greek war effort: the *Bulletin* and the website of HL presented for the first time ever the Greek translation of the long poem “**Greek Evenings**” by Thomas Moore, the national poet of Ireland, friend and literary associate of Lord Byron (**Issue No.189**); Moore wrote this ballad to depict folklore scenes of the fighting Greeks ,and used it in a theatrical show format to collect funds from the public in England in order to support and strengthen the Greek cause.

[Hellenic Education](#)

The Greek American community, when apprised, sees with satisfaction the fruition of the agreement between the University of Delaware and the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki (**Bulletin issue No. 156**) in establishing and operating jointly an academic program aimed at training teachers of Modern Greek to be taught as second language. The program is essential for bringing teachers abreast of the need to integrate smoothly the Greek and US curricula in schools

offering Modern Greek studies. Under the pandemic circumstances, in this first full year of operation, the program was understandably affected, but the all-important consideration is that it has been institutionally structured and implemented.

As reported in our Bulletin (**Issue No. 191**), the teaching of the Greek language was placed in sharp focus at the 3rd Annual Educational Conference organized under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America by its High Council for Greek Education. In it, didactic innovations for Modern Greek were introduced by a large complement of competent speakers. We are pleased that members and co-workers of HL contributed papers in the proceedings. We believe that the utilization of professional resources in USA as well as in Greece will greatly strengthen the productivity and increase the durability of Archdiocese's major system of primary and secondary Hellenic Education in the country.

The Programs of Modern Greek Studies of the University of Maryland and Stony Brook University held virtual conferences on Hellenic themes this year. HL supported actively these academic activities that had a strong characteristic of outreach towards the Greek community. The programs have considered joint activities on the occasion of celebration of anniversaries of Hellenic historical events. The U. of Maryland Program celebrated the Greek Independence 200th Anniversary with an impressive conference of its faculty and students on the theme "***Greek Democracy and Western Liberalism***" (see Bulletin issue Nos 187 & 188).

The Board of Directors has renewed HL's commitment to achieve official approval of the proposal of Standard Modern Greek teaching in US schools. The proposal submitted to ACTFL years ago remains in abeyance. The Board is currently assessing how experts of the US and Greek academic communities may aid for the successful conclusion of the project.

Loss of a Dear Colleague and Friend: the Legacy of Dean Lomis

Early in the year (February 13th), HL mourned the departure of Konstantinos (Dean) Lomis, Professor Emeritus of International Education, University of Delaware, from its midst. Our late colleague was a leading charter member of HL who influenced to a great extent the course of our Association in several activities, especially those for Hellenic Education. He served with distinction the steering committee which guided the collective study and publication of "***A Hellenic Education Plan for America***"; he had a vision and bright ideas, which he pursued with wisdom and tenacious ability until brought to reality. He was the pioneer Director of HL, who enticed the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) to establish special courses of Modern Greek and Hellenic culture for American students, giving them credit in foreign language for completion of their baccalaureate study at their US academic institution; he also prepared the

ground for the agreed cooperation between AUTH and the University of Delaware for joint programs, such as the training of Greek teachers to satisfy the exacting demands of current bilingual education, thus upgrading the infrastructure of Hellenic Education in USA.

To this genuine educational reformer, HL paid grateful tribute in its Bulletin/website, **March issue No. 187**. May his exemplary life and deeds shine and guide to progress the Greek American community forever!

With the above themes and additional activities on issues of ethnic concern, such as the neo-ottoman threats against the sovereignty of Greek territories, the desecration of St. Sophia in Constantinople, and the sacred inauguration after completion, with our Patriarch Bartholomew officiating, of the national shrine Church of St. Nicholas in New York City, HL pursued its testimony of Faith and love of our ethnic cultural heritage in this difficult year

With renewed confidence and fortitude, HL looks forward to completion of on-going projects and the development of new ones In the year 2022 soon to arise.

UPCOMING EVENTS—ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 23RD ACADEMIA HOMERICA

EDITOR'S NOTE: We warmly recommend to our readers the literary and cultural Convention which offers a rich program of lectures and activities in the enjoyable and hospitable environment of the island of Chios in the Aegean sea. Students and others in all walks of life would benefit exceedingly from its attendance. The 3-day event could be the ideal high-quality supplement to a summer vacation in Greece. For detailed information and guidance click on the link: [23rd Academia HomERICA](#)

MODERN GREEK CHAIR INAUGURATED: RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are pleased to inform the members and friends of HL that the Odysseus Elytis endowed visiting professorship has been inaugurated at the Modern Greek Program of Rutgers University. Dr. Marinos Pourgouris, Professor of Literary Theory and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Cyprus, was awarded the professorship. Professor Pourgouris delivered the Nikos Mouyaris Memorial Lecture at his new position: "***The Reception of the Greek***

Revolution of 1821 in Cypriot Literature during the British Colonial Period” on Saturday December 11th, 2021. We congratulate our colleagues for establishing the endowed professorship, and wish to the new faculty member productivity worthy of the great Odysseus Elytis.

For more information on this development, see the Announcement, clicking on the link: <https://elytis.rutgers.edu/>

UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEK LANGUAGE

35^ο Διεθνές Συνέδριο

Ανθρωπιστικών και κοινωνικών Επιστημών

με θέμα

Ελληνική Γλώσσα

18-20 Μαρτίου 2022

Το συνέδριο θα πραγματοποιηθεί **διαδικτυακά** μέσω Zoom και θα μεταδοθεί ζωντανά στο κανάλι του Ι.ΠΟ.Δ.Ε. στο **Youtube: ipode gr** για ελεύθερη παρακολούθηση.

Δηλώσεις συμμετοχής μέχρι 11 Μαρτίου 2022
Πληροφορίες στην ιστοσελίδα: <http://ipode.gr/35conference/>
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