



**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**

**Editorial Committee:** Dimitri Dandolos, Alex Economides, Evangelia Georgoulea, Maria Eleftheria Giatrakou, Gerasimos Merianos, Panagiotis Siskos, Stella Tsirka

**Contributing Editor:** Christos Evangeliou

**Acting Editor:** Costas Efthymiou

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**BULLETIN NUMBER 183 NOVEMBER 2020**

**NEWS FROM AND ABOUT OUR ASSOCIATION**

Our Association, The Hellenic Link, Inc. (HL) is currently preparing for the election of a new Board of Directors (BOD). The Election Committee has just presented the list of the candidates nominated by the members. To facilitate the voters by acquainting them with the professional profile of the nominees and with their qualifications to serve the implementation of the charitable, cultural, and scientific objectives of HL: we provide below alphabetically their names together with a short biographical sketch for each one. Our purpose is to enable the voters to cast an informed vote in the forthcoming election. We note that additional candidates may be nominated by members on the ballot at the time of the election. The Editor

**LIST OF CANDIDATES**

**Dimitri Dandolos**

Dimitri Dandolos, MS in Environmental Studies, Public Policy, and International Relations. He is President of EcoLogos, Inc., a consulting company specializing in sustainability and environmental services.

Dimitri has served as President of AHEPA, Wilmington Chapter 95 and is a founding Board Member and Past Board President of Odyssey Charter School (OCS), which was founded in 2006 in Wilmington, Delaware. Since then, OCS has been growing steadily having reached today a student population of almost 2,000 students. As a member of the Hellenic Link Advisory Council, he contributed to the development of integrated curricula of Greek and English in charter schools of Hellenic cultural orientation.

### **Alexandros Economides**

Mr. Alexandros Economides received his bachelor degree in Electronic Engineering from McGill University and in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from the Technological University of Athens (EMΠ) . For a number of years, he worked for the Electric Power Corporation of Greece (ΔΕΗ). For 15 years he practiced as consulting engineer, specializing in Mechanical, Electrical, Electronic Studies & Supervision, Industrial Automation and Application of Electronic Control (central, distributed, & telematic) in Industrial installations. He was also a consulting engineer for the study & specification of hardware and functional software for Industrial Units.

A long standing member of Hellenic Link, he is HL correspondent in Athens and a member of the Bulletin Editorial Committee.

### **Constantine J. Efthymiou:**

Dr. Efthymiou is a microbiologist, member of the Faculty of St. John's University (1964-1998).

*Research:* included probiotic and lactic acid bacteria; bacterial physiology and utilitarian applications; studied the ripening process of Feta cheese, its biochemical determinants and related technology for industrial production; quantitation of secretory immunoglobulin A (slgA) in human colostrum; comparative diagnosis of cervical carcinoma by conventional cytology and serocytology, utilizing autologous serum and immunofluorescence.

One of the original founders of the Hellenic Link, he served as its President since 1998. During his tenure, the purposes of the Association were defined: the collective development of a *Hellenic Educational Plan for America (2005)*; the subsequent gradual implementation of the Plan's recommendations, including the collaborative engagement of institutions of higher learning in the teaching of Greek Language and Culture in the USA, and initiatives taken to support the educational programs of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. Member of the Board of Trustees of Hellenic College/Holy Cross, School of Theology, Brookline, Massachusetts (2012-2018).

### **Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis**

Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis, M.S. in Bilingual Education, PH.D. in Educational Administration and Developmental Psychology. Independent Scholar and learning consultant aiming to produce creative learning in commUNITY. As member of the board of the Hellenic Link, she led the collective development of standards for teaching and learning of Modern Greek. As a member of the Hellenic Link Advisory Council, she led a Task Force of Educators for the collective drafting of standards for teaching and learning of Modern Greek with guidance from the American Council for the Teaching of Modern Language (ACTFL).

**Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou:**

Dr. Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou is Educational Administrator at the Department of Education, Greater New York City Area. PhD in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek History. A Genadius Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. Educational counselor of the U.S. Consulate in Thessaloniki. Taught most recently at Queens College's Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. Author of the book American Accounts Documenting the Destruction of Smyrna, (2005). Co-author in many books and scholarly articles.

Longstanding member of the Hellenic Link Board, participated in the developments of the programs of the Advisory Council on Hellenic Education, including the editorship of teaching guides.

**Vassilis Karasmanis:**

Dr. Vassilis Karasmanis, Professor Emeritus, taught Ancient Philosophy at the National Technical University of Athens. Taught at University of Oxford and the University of Cyprus. He has served as President of the EKP Philosophical Society (2011-2012); European Society for Ancient Philosophy (1994-2005) and as member of the steering committee of FISP (International Federation of Philosophical Societies). Author and co-author of four books (two co-authored). Edited 10 books of which one was published by Oxford University Press and one by Cambridge University Press.

**Taxiarchis Koliass:**

Taxiarchis Koliass, PhD., former Director, Institute of Historical Research, National Research Foundation (EIE). He rendered a vast array of services to Hellenic Education. Professor Emeritus of Byzantine History at the University of National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (ΕΚΠΑ), visiting Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Centre of Byzantine, Neohellenic and Southeastern European Studies), Paris (2006) and at Nakai University, Tianjin, China (2016); member of the editorial board of International Journals: *Byzantinoslavica*, Prague (2009-2020); *Journal of Medieval and Islamic History*, Cairo (2010-2020); *Jahrbuch der Osterreichischen Byzantinistik*, Vienna (2010-2020); *Rivista di letteratura comparata, italiana, bizantina e neoellenica*, Pisa- Rome (2017-2020).

He oversees the development of a Hellenic Link teaching guide on the cultural contributions of the Asia Minor Hellenes.

**Michael G. Papaioannou:**

Dr. Michael G. Papaioannou serves as TA Expert-Advisor and Visiting Scholar at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and is Senior Visiting Scholar and Professor at the LeBow College of Business, School of Economics, Drexel University. He was a Deputy Division Chief at the Debt and Capital Markets Instruments, Monetary and Capital Markets Department of International Monetary Fund until July 2017. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and an MA in Economics from Georgetown University.

**Penelope T. Salmons:**

Ms. Penelope T. Salmons, educated at the University of Florida (BSc in Computer Sciences) and at Harvard University (Master's degree in Public Administration with a Minor in Business Administration), has served for three decades in executive positions with global company leaders in both the high tech and capital markets, where she facilitated business transformations through monetizing hard and soft business assets (IBM, Informax, New York Strategic Banking firm). In 2020, she has been voted as the president of the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce of Florida. Interested in participating in the Hellenic Link's outreaching activities to the community.

**Panagiotis Siskos:**

Panagiotis Siskos, Ph.D. retired Professor of Environmental Chemistry at the University of Athens (ΕΚΠΑ). Published 90 papers in refereed journals of the field and 80 technical and review papers in the fields of analytical chemistry and environmental analysis. Mentor of 120 research students (BSc., MS., and PhD). Research focused on Atmospheric Chemistry and Environmental Pollution, human exposure, risk assessment, environmental management, and Green Chemistry-Sustainable Technology.

Professor Siskos serves as coordinator of the HL Section in Greece.

**Elias Stefanakos:**

Dr. Elias Stefanakos is Professor and Director of the clean energy research center, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Published over 200 journal papers, relative to clean energy, hydrogen economy, sustainability, and materials for energy-efficient buildings. Participated in the Greek company "Ecological Support Hellas". Collaborated with scientists at the scientific center "Demokritos", Athens, Greece.

**Karlene Stefanakos:**

Karlene Stefanakos, M.S.C.C. President of the Speech Team ([www.speechteam.com](http://www.speechteam.com)). Experienced in acute care, rehab SNF facilities. Developed Deep Pharyngeal Neuromuscular Stimulation (DPMS) dysphagia treatment. Trained in DPNS speech pathologists in the U.S.A, Ireland, England, Australia and China. Interested in the development of charitable medical outreach activities by the Hellenic Link.

**Angelos Tsanklanganos:**

Dr. Angelos Tsanklanganos is Professor Emeritus of Accounting at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki. Retired Professor of Accounting at Neapolis University, Pafos, Cyprus. He taught economics at NYU, Columbia and Temple University. Author of multiple professional articles. Served as President of the Productivity Center in Greece. Consultant to the Ministry of National Economy and the telephone company (OTE).

**Dr. Styliani-Anna (Stella) Tsirka:**

Dr. Styliani-Anna (Stella) E. Tsirka is a SUNY Distinguished Professor and the Miriam and David Donoho Endowed Professor of Pharmacological Sciences and Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University (SBU). Her *research* focuses on interactions between the central nervous system (CNS) and the immune system, exploring the function and activation of microglia, the immunocompetent cells of the CNS, in the context of models of neurological or neuropsychiatric diseases, including ones for multiple sclerosis, glioma, epilepsy, and more recently major depressive disorder. She has published >125 papers, and mentored >50 graduate and undergraduate students. She received the Chancellor's Award for Faculty Service and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She spearheaded the instruction of Modern Greek Language at SBU, the creation of a Minor in Hellenic Studies and the establishment of the SBU Center for Hellenic Studies for which she serves as the Director, organizing lectures, events and a film weekend to promote Hellenism. She currently serves as the vice president of the Hellenic Link, Inc. and as chairperson of the Advisory Council on Hellenic Education.

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## *Interaction with Institutions of Higher Learning*

### *The University of Maryland case*

Our readers have become aware by now of the excellent virtual conference held by the Modern Greek Studies Program of the University of Maryland on October 24,2020 (see Bulletins 181 and 182).

In the sequel of this event, we are pleased to present here an exchange of letters between our Association and the academic authorities that organized the conference.

We believe that the Greek American community should not remain apathetic observer of the new reality of interactions between US. universities and society, but take action to nurture a mutually desirable and useful relationship, a broader and deeper collaboration that would educationally elevate the status of the Hellenic patrimony in the country by imbuing its studying youth with the noble ideals of our civilization. The Editor

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31 October 2020

Dr. Lillian E. Doherty, Professor and Chair  
Department of Classics, 1210 Marie Mount Hall  
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Dr. Doherty:

On behalf of myself and the members of the Hellenic Link, Inc. I wish to express our warmest congratulations to you, to Dr. Polyvia Parara, and to the participating student-speakers for the 4<sup>th</sup> UMD Modern Greek Studies Conference on **Ancient Greece and the Shaping of Modern Greek Identity**, which you organized and presented.

We admired the depth and extent at which the scheduled themes were covered, the mature conviction of the presenters, and their command of both languages, English as well as Greek, shown in presentation and in answering questions from attendees.

We are grateful for this masterful and objective testimony of the diachronic endurance of the Hellenic Identity. The major example cited, "Gerostathis", was prominently featured in the Program. The Hellenic Link, Inc. acknowledging in appreciation your inspiring sagacity is offering the enclosed "trilogy" of Gerostathis, reprint of the original Greek publication (acquisition of the University of Ioannina Library), for the enrichment of the Reference Library of the Modern Greek Program of your Department. This teaching aid, as you well know, has nourished the Greek youth educationally in the latter part of the 19th century and for a good part of the 20th with its ideals of perennial value. It did strengthen the Hellenes to withstand successfully major threatening crises they have faced in the intervening years till our time.

Hoping that the educational value of this historical resource generated by Leon Melas will be reiterated in Modern Greece, we are sure that it will continue to inspire the students of your Program in their journey in life.

We look forward to enjoying similar cultural manifestations of College Park in the future.

Sincerely yours,  
Constantine J. Efthymiou, PhD  
President, The Hellenic Link, Inc.  
UMD Alumnus: MS (1958), PhD (1961)

P.S. Will you please let us know when the content of the teleconference will be available online?



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Department of Classics  
1210 Marie Mount Hall  
College Park MD 20742

November 13, 2020

Dr. Constantine Efthymiou  
President, The Hellenic Link, Inc.

Dear Dr. Efthymiou,

We thank you most sincerely for your kind letter and your very thoughtful gift of the three copies of Ο Γεροστάθης! I just received them today: we have not been coming in to the office regularly (we are teaching from home on Zoom) and this was my first visit since the conference. Dr. Parara has not been in the office either, so I'll let her know about your gift. We have a departmental library, and the copies will find a home there and will certainly be used by our students of Modern Greek.

We promise to let you know as soon as the recording of the conference becomes available.

Thank you again for your kind words about our program and your gift of the copies.

Ευχαριστούμε παρά πολύ!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lillian E. Doherty".

Lillian E. Doherty  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Classics

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

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