Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy Laity Assembly's Grand Banquet

By Michalis Kakias

PHOTOS: TNH/STEVE LAMBROU

The Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy Laity Assembly Grand Banquet was held on September 20.

GARFIELD, NJ – The Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy Laity Assembly Grand Banquet was held in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America on September 20 at the Venetian catering hall in Garfield.

During the Assembly, held earlier in the day, with the participation of the clergy, the representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the presidents and members of the parish councils, the presidents and members of the Philoptochos Societies, the principals and teachers of the Sunday and Greek Schools, and a number of official guests discussed Church issues, exchanged views on key concerns of the communities, such as the spiritual and theological education of the members, as well as the continuation and increase of the spiritual progress of the metropolises.

At the same time, members of the communities were honored for their contribution to the Church and for their charitable and social work.

In his speech, Archbishop Elpidophoros welcomed all those present with joy and gratitude.

As he stated, "at this beautiful event we are given the opportunity to be together and celebrate the efforts and achievements of the previous church year. We recognize and honor the selfless contributions of the faithful of the Holy Metropolis, who gladly offer their time and talent in the service of the Church and its mission to the world. We are grateful to you for your continued support and help for the Church without any hesitation. The flourishing of this special relationship gives me great pride and satisfaction. I pray that this celebration will further strengthen the spiritual bond that unites us as a family and with inspiration and dynamism we will continue to provide the ideals of Christianity for many more years. I thank you once again for your unwavering devotion and I wish you a blessed, spiritual and successful ecclesiastical year."

His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medea wholeheartedly wished success in the work of the Holy Archdiocese and the Metropolis and thanked the faithful for their dedication to the sacred mission of the Church. He said, "I feel blessed and proud for all of us and grateful once again to our Archbishop who brought me to you. May we all be well with the blessing of God and always have the protection of the Virgin Mary to continue the work we have undertaken for the good of the Church. I ask God to give many years to our Archbishop to guide us and to make us all safe under his own spiritual guidance."

Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Society President Eleni Constantinides wished the work of the Assembly to contribute to the spiritual and psychic resurrection of the faithful and asked for the participation of all so as to continue the great charitable and social work of the society, which, as she said, despite the adverse conditions due to the pandemic, continues and in fact with greater faith and strength than all the members.

Archdiocesan Council Vice President of the Metropolis of New Jersey Leon Andris also sent a greeting message with his best wishes.

FAITH Endowment Recognizes Greek-American Students for STEM Achievements

THH Staff

FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism is pleased to announce that 62 university students will receive the 2021 FAITH Scholarship for Excellence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) continuation award. Since the program's inception in 2012, over 200 young Greek-American leaders advancing their campuses and communities through innovative and ambitious developments in STEM have received this special recognition and join a broader network of over 600 FAITH scholarship recipients.

From aspiring immunologists and aerospace engineers to future biotechnologists and data scientists, the 2021 FAITH-STEM Scholars averaged a 3.77 GPA and include undergraduates from across the country – such as Vasiliki Frantzis, a mechanical engineer major at Georgia Institute of Technology who completed her second summer interning at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center; Dmitri Morales, a biomedical engineer at Duke University using AI technology to develop a noninvasive method to measure blood pressure; and Sophia Delis, a neurobiology major at the University of California, Berkeley who teaches low-income high school students how to make informed health decisions and spends her summers volunteering as a medical aid at the United Nations refugee camp in Katerini, Greece.

"FAITH's commitment to supporting higher education is truly admirable. I am grateful to be a FAITH-STEM scholar and join a cohort of amazing and bright Greek American college students. I feel blessed to be included in this network," said Peter Jordanides, a sophomore at Ohio State University researching molecular mechanisms of oral carcinogenesis in the pathology lab.

At the recommendation of FAITH Founder Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, the FAITH Scholarship for Excellence in STEM program was established to promote interest in STEM disciplines among young Greek and Hellenic leaders by supporting all four years of candidates' undergraduate studies provided they major in a STEM field, maintain a 3.6 minimum GPA and participate in organizations related to the Greek Orthodox and Hellenic community throughout their college career. In order to be considered, applicants must apply for the FAITH Scholarship for Academic Excellence their senior year of high school.

In addition to their academic achievements, FAITH-STEM Scholars use their talents and skillsets to expand their philanthropic endeavors and invest in their Greek communities. Tatiana Pavlides, a biomedical engineering major at Case Western Reserve University, is leading an initiative to make her parish more sustainable. Maria Tangalos, a pharmaceutical development research assistant studying engineering at the University of Southern California, leads weekly science experiments for underprivileged students in the Los Angeles school district. Anna Smith, a nursing major at Loyola University, is a translator and patient educator in COVID-19 vaccination clinics and Evangelos Barous, a research assistant and electrical engineer major at Northeastern University, designs devices with Enabling Engineers that provide greater independence for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.

> The FAITH Scholarship for Excellence in STEM program was established at the recommendation of FAITH Founder Dr. P. Roy Vagelos.

"I use the additional motivation and belief that FAITH has instilled in me to be the very best not only for myself, but also for the Hellenic community," said Gregory Kostakis, an electrical engineer major at Oakland University who founded the Engineers for a Sustainable World Club to implement hands-on sustainability projects across campus.

Since its inception with additional support from its members, FAITH has proudly awarded over 1,720 grants and scholarships to the best and brightest young leaders of the Hellenic American and Greek Orthodox community through its prestigious FAITH Scholarships for Academic Excellence, FAITH-STEM scholarships, Fulbright-FAITH Scholarship collaboration and more. Last year, FAITH launched the Strategic Leadership for Transformative Action (SLTA), an executive education certificate course in non-profit management to cultivate clergy and lay leaders of the community in partnership with The Fletcher School at Tufts University.

"The Founders of FAITH are proud to support this important initiative to inspire the best and brightest young people to become future leaders within our community and their professional fields. Furthermore, a background in STEM subjects will be critical for obtaining graduate training and jobs in science, technology and engineering in the future. Our nation needs, and will need, people well-trained in these fields in order to remain globally competitive," said Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, FAITH founder and program chair.

In addition to announcing the 62 recipients of FAITH Scholarships for Excellence in STEM, FAITH has also announced another 82 recipients of the FAITH Scholarships for Academic Excellence, making this year's class of FAITH Scholars the largest since the Endowment's inception.

For more information visit thefaithendowment.org or email info@thefaithendowment.org.

American Philhellenes Monument Dedicated in Wilder Park, Aurora, IL

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AMERICAN PHILHELLENES SOCIETY

At the unveiling and dedication of the American Philhellenes Monument on September 25, left to right: Michael Poulakidas, Illinois State Senator Linda Panagopoulos Holmes, Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, American Philhellenes Society President Panagiotis Nikolopoulos, Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin, and Alex Alexandrou.

TNH Staff

AURORA, IL – On September 25, the American Philhellenes Monument was dedicated in Wilder Park in Aurora with the leadership and members of the American Philhellenes Society (APS) present as well as Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, Illinois State Senator Linda Panagopoulos Holmes, and Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin, among others.

APS President Panagiotis Nikolopoulos said:

"On behalf of the Directors and Advisors of the American Philhellenes Society, let me welcome you to Wilder Park in Aurora, Illinois and express our thanks for your encouragement and support throughout the years.

"For over two decades, the American Philhellenes Society has worked to cultivate and sustain the spirit of philhellenism that nurtured the love of democracy and support for the enslaved Greek nation. People of the arts, historians, politicians and common citizens provided worldwide ethical and material support. Some supported from a distance; some fought on Greek soil; some gave their life for these beliefs.

"Perhaps George Jarvis said it best: 'Do not let America remain an indifferent spectator, among many nations, to the fearful but not hopeless battle.'

"Since our founding in 2002, we have worked to develop and maintain the friendly relationship and common aims of Greece and the United States that have existed and continue for 200 years and more. We have presented numerous programs and exhibits.

American Philhellenes Society President Panagiotis Nikolopoulos.

"We identified and installed a monument to Lucas Miltiadis Miller, the first Greek-American to serve in the United States Congress.

"Today, here in Aurora, Illinois we are proud to unveil and dedicate this monument to all American Philhellenes who supported, fought and shed their blood as Greece fought for her freedom and rebirth.

"I want to thank Peter Zouras and Z3 Solutions for their tireless efforts to bring this monument from drawings to reality… Thank you for joining us today," concluded Nikolopoulos.

President of the 'Greece 2021' Committee Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki sent a letter of greeting for the event, writing, "American philhellenes contributed to the Greeks' Struggle for Independence financially, as well as through volunteering in person and ensuring political support. The work of the American Philhellenes Society contributes to maintaining the friendly relationship of the two peoples intact, which is reflected in the monument inaugurated today; the monument, installed in Democracy Square in the Municipality of Aurora, Illinois, embodies not only the philhellenic spirit of the past, but also the dynamic presence of Greeks in the U.S. and the strong friendship and collaboration between the Greek and the American people."

United States Senator Richard J. Durbin also sent a letter in honor of the event, noting that, "this gathering is a special opportunity to recognize the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution, the great work of the City of Aurora, and these great organizations involved. For decades, The American Philhellenes Society and Greek Metropolis of Chicago have provided the community with excellent historical and cultural programming. I applaud your commitment to bringing together the Hellenic community and keeping history alive through monuments like this one. Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to today's attendees for your dedication to the Greek-American community. Congratulations on all your work and achievements, and I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors."

SAINT ELEFTHERIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
359 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011

GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL

The Greek School of **Saint Eleftherios Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan** is once again offering **Greek Classes, Weekday Afternoons and Weekends for the Academic Year 2021-2022.**

Classes are being offered in person as well as some sections remotely via Zoom.

Just as in past years, St. Eleftherios Greek School offers a comprehensive program of Greek education for beginners and advanced students and we accommodate children of all ages as well as adults.

Lessons conducted by a Greek educator with over 30 years of teaching and administrative experience in Greece.

For more information you may call our Director of Education Konstantina Gerolymatou at (917) 539-3075 or email the church at: Saint.eleftherios.greekschool@gmail.com

ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

Congratulations!

TO THE 2021 FAITH-STEM SCHOLARS

The FAITH Endowment awarded 62 university students the 2021 FAITH Scholarship for Excellence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields, honoring young Greek American leaders using their talents and skillsets to advance their STEM fields and serve their Hellenic-American and Greek Orthodox communities.

"FAITH's commitment to supporting higher education is truly admirable. I am grateful to be a FAITH-STEM scholar and join a cohort of amazing and bright Greek American college students."

- Peter Jordanides,
2021 FAITH-STEM Scholar

FAITH
An Endowment for Orthodoxy & Hellenism

Promoting Hellenism, supporting the Greek Orthodox faith and celebrating excellence in education for future generations. Founded in 2004 by a group of ten visionary Greek American leaders and philanthropists, *FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism* is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that supports the development of innovative educational, cultural, and scholarship programs that promote Hellenism, an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith, and the relationship of the two to America's history and multicultural landscape for young people.

Visit *thefaithendowment.org/scholarships* for more information or email *info@thefaithendowment.org*. To stay updated on scholarship news, follow *facebook.com/faithendowment*.

2021 FAITH-STEM SCHOLARS OF SPECIAL DISTINCTION

The following FAITH-STEM Scholars receive special recognition for demonstrating extraordinary achievement in their academic endeavors and contributions to their respective professional fields.

Evangelos Barous; Engineering, Northeastern University; Soph.
Christina Bourantas; Physics, DePauw University; Sr.
Julianna Conley; Pre-Health Studies, University of Notre Dame; Sr.
Sophia Delis; Neurobiology, University of California, Berkeley; Jr.
Mariana Frangos; Mathematics, Stanford University; Jr.
Vasiliki Frantzis; Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology; Sr.
Elisavet Gallou; Aerospace Engineering, Rutgers University; Jr.
Christian George; Computer Science, University of Michigan; Jr.
Peter Jordanides; Biomedical Science, Ohio State University; Jr.
Jacob Kaminsky; Aerospace Engineering, University of California; Soph.
Dmitri Morales; Biomedical Engineering, Duke University; Soph.
Tatiana Pavlides; Biomedical Engineering, Case Western University; Sr.
Callie Saric; Biomedical Engineering, University of Wisconsin; Soph.
Alexander Shah; Biology, University of Texas; Sr.
Alexander Sietsema; Mathematics, Michigan State University; Sr.
Anna Smith; Nursing, Loyola University Chicago; Jr.

2021 FAITH SCHOLARS FOR EXCELLENCE IN STEM

Demetra Alikakos; Statistics, DePaul University; Sr.
Antigone Antonakakis; Public Health, The College of New Jersey; Soph.
Fotis Antonatos; Computer Science, Binghamton University; Jr.
Nikole Ciulla; Biochemistry, University of Massachusetts; Soph.
William Cumbelich; Plant Biology, University of California, Berkeley; Jr.
Peter DeBassio; Biology, University of Saint Joseph; Sr.
Kendall Defelippi; Bioengineering, Santa Clara University; Sr.
Sophia Ganios; Biochemistry, University of Akron; Jr.
Anastasia Gregory; Biochemistry, New College of Florida; Sr.
Stelios Halioris; Mechanical Engineering, University of Rochester; Jr.
Reece Hughes; Wildlife Sciences, University of Georgia; Soph.
Theodore Kapogiannis; Biometry & Statistics, Cornell University; Sr.
Vivian Karamitros; Statistics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Sr.
Nicholas Karayianis; Architecture, University of Virginia; Soph.
Liza Khutsishvili; Global Public Health, University of Virginia; Jr.
Ariana Kiriakou; Biology, Kent State University; Jr.
Gregory Kostakis; Electrical Engineering, Oakland University; Jr.
Penelope Kovakas; Chemical Engineering, Auburn University; Soph.
Julia Krantz; Kinesiology, Michigan State University; Soph.
Georgia Leon; Nursing, Quinnipiac University; Soph.
Andrew Manatos; Mathematics, Villanova University; Soph.
Luke Mehl; Human Biology, Michigan State University; Soph.
Sophie Mehl; Materials Science, Michigan Technological University; Sr.
Athanasios Michalakis; Psychology, Loyola University Chicago; Jr.
Melina Mitsogiorgakis; Integrated Engineering, Lehigh University; Sr.
Dimitri Orfanos; Chemical Engineering, Northeastern University; Jr.
Katerina Orfanos; Environmental Geoscience, Boston College; Jr.
Joanna Papaioannou; Biochemistry, University of Pennsylvania; Soph.
Demetrios Petrou; Biomedical Engineering, University of Rhode Island; Soph.
Amanda Pollakis; Environmental Studies, Texas A&M University; Soph.
Elefteria Qatipi; Neuroscience, University of Maryland; Soph.
Constantinos Skevofilax; Computational Engineering, University of Texas; Soph.
Ashley Spirrison; Biomedical Engineering, Trine University; Sr.
Maria Tangalos; Biomedical Engineering, University of Southern California; Jr.
Valassia Theocharides; Pharmacy, Rutgers University; Jr.
Mary Tsahas; Computer Science, Princeton University; Soph.
George Tsakalakos; Physics, Emory University; Jr.
Eleni Tsaras; Biochemistry, Oklahoma State University; Jr.
James Tsatsaros; Math & Computer Science, Brown University; Sr.
Victoria Valasiadis; Behavior & Health, Boston University; Soph.
Melina Varlamos; Microbiology & Modern Greek, University of Michigan; Jr.
Vasiliki Xenos; Nursing, University of Kentucky; Soph.
Ioannis Ypsilantis; Computer Science, Stevens Institute of Technology; Soph.
Kalliope Zervas; Chemical Biology, University of California, Berkeley; Sr.
Diamanda Zizis; Biology, Bucknell University; Jr.
Anastasia Zygouras; Nursing, Simmons University; Jr.

Congratulations!

TO THE 2021 FAITH SCHOLARS

FAITH IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 82 RECIPIENTS OF THE 2021 FAITH SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS, COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

Since 2004, *FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism* has awarded academic scholarships to the Greek-American community's brightest and most promising graduating high school seniors. This year's scholarship recipients join a diverse network of over 600 FAITH Scholars from across the U.S. who are leading their campuses, career fields and communities with their talents, intellect and humanitarianism.

Please join us in celebrating these remarkable young leaders as they embark on their university studies!

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2021 FAITH SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

Peter Anast; Finance, Indiana University
Despina Anastasiou; International Relations, Colgate University
Zaharias Avgoullas; Computer Science, Adelphi University
Michael Azar; Biology & Music, Messiah University
Peter Bambakidis; Pre-Med, St. Olaf College*
Peter Bazianos; Physics, University of Pennsylvania
Maia Beaudry; Neuroscience & Behavioral Biology, Vassar College
Emilio Biagioli; Political Science, University of Michigan
Daphne Bower; Health Sciences & Pre-Pharmacy, University of Miami
Sophia Canfield; Liberal Arts, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Agathe Catechis; Industrial Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Anastasia Chibucos; Biology & Math, University of Notre Dame*
Stephen Christ; Sport Management, University of South Carolina
Tyler Church; Political Science, Youngstown State University
Theophilos Cockrell; Mechanical Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University
Anastasia Coclin; Psychology & Human Development, Boston College
Stavros Constantinou; Finance, University of Massachusetts
Yianni Constantinou; Finance & Business, University of Connecticut
Peter Coutros; Chemical Engineering, Virginia Tech University
Thomas Cumbelich; Classical Civilizations, University of California, Davis
Zoe Delis; Finance, University of Illinois
Andriana Detsis; Mechanical Engineering, University of Florida
Katherine Diavatis; Liberal Arts, Appalachian State University
John Douveas; History & Business, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Louisa Foisy; Biology, Northeastern University
Chrysanthe Frangos; Earth Systems, Stanford University
Jessamy Gaetanos; Kinesiology, Oglethorpe University
Anastasia Georganas; Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Sophia Georgopoulos; International Business, Marist College
Jean Gilbride; Health Policy, Providence College
Janicia Gonzales; Psychology, University of Dallas
Alexandra Gougousis; Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Elli Gurguliatos; Biology, Wellesley College
Calliope Hartofilis; Political Science, Northeastern University
Alexandra Hatzis; Nursing, James Madison University
Alexander Howard; Liberal Arts, University of Michigan
Bram Johnson; Computer Science, Northeastern University
Glykeria Kalogeromitros; Business, University of North Carolina
Michael Kamenis; Biology, University of California, Berkeley*
Christiana Kapetaneas; Biochemistry, University of Michigan
Nicole Kolitsas; Theatre, Molloy College
Dorothy Kostopoulos; Biology, University of North Carolina
George Koutras; Physics, University of Richmond
Michael Kyriazi; Business, University of Michigan
Athena Lansdell; Motion Pictures, Belmont University
Julia Love; Special Education, University of Pittsburgh*
Jenna Magas; Mechanical Engineering, Villanova University
Peter Markopoulos; Architecture, University of Illinois Chicago
Alexia Marriott; Neuroscience & Behavioral Biology, Emory University
Benjamin Martin; Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Nikoletta Michalakis; Education, Michigan State University
Lorenzo Munzi; Undeclared Sciences, Colgate University
Efstratia Nicholson; Government, Dartmouth College
Katherine Panagakis; Civil Energy, Wentworth Institute of Technology
Christina Panagiotopoulos; Nursing, University of Massachusetts
Nicholas Papakirk; Sport Industry, Ohio State University
Alexia Papanastasiou; Biological Sciences, North Carolina State University
Stamatia Papazis; Computer Science & Health, Stony Brook University
Constance Paris; Business Administration, University of Georgia
Steven Poulopoulos; Biology, Ohio State University
Konstantinos Prevas; Sports Management, Grand Canyon University
Jonathan Rosenberg; Biomedical Sciences, California Baptist University
John Sarantou; Biology & Computer Science, Duke University
Maritina Sardis; Nursing, Stony Brook University
Evonne Siampos; Engineering, Missouri University of Science & Technology
Michael Sikaras; Computer Science, Northeastern University
Naomi Solomon; Chemical Engineering, Stanford University
Stergios Sotiropoulos; Biology, Louisiana State University
Rothanthi Souris; Environmental Engineering, Ohio State University
Sophia Stamos; Health Sciences, Quinnipiac University
Barbara Timmerman; Neuroscience, Tulane University
Mary Touloupis; Fashion Design, Drexel University
Anthony Travlos; Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame
Grace Trumpy; Music Education, The College of New Jersey
Maria Tsakalakos; Business, Emory University
Peter Tsatalis; Biology, University of Toledo
Marina Tsimisiris; Biochemistry, Binghamton University
Stephanie Vagelos; History, Georgia Institute of Technology
Panayiota Veronis; Elementary Education, Salve Regina University
Alexander Viar; Economics & Computer Science, University of Virginia
Maria Vrakas; Chemistry & Art, University of Richmond
Eleni Yannias; Biology, University of Utah

**FAITH Scholars of Special Distinction*