

May 19, 2010

## The NHSa Spring 2010 Convention Report

On April 23-25, 2010 the National Hellenic Student Association (NHSa) of America convened in New Jersey and officially celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> NHSa Birthday.

One year ago we were proud to announce the re-establishment of NHSa of America with the vision that this organization would become the Voice of all Hellenic Students in the U.S.

This goal required us to establish a strong structure with cross-functional teams that cooperate over a variety of projects and events throughout the U.S. and in Greece. First and foremost we had to determine who we are and build the NHSa Scope according to the NHSa Identity; *we are carriers of Hellenism and Paideia (Education), two identical concepts for us.*

Thus we have been developing *a Learning Organization* that allows its members to share and allocate the precious resources found at the American Universities, while promoting *mutual understanding* and *Hellenism* in our academic & greater Communities. You can find more about who we are and our activity at: [www.nhsaofamerica.org](http://www.nhsaofamerica.org).

A year into this journey, we are proud to announce today that the national effort will continue.

New goals and projects will add to the core NHSa activities and will be the main focus of the new NHSa Board for the academic year of 2010-2011 and beyond.



The NHSa Spring 2010 Convention took place in Atlantic City, NJ in conjunction with the 19<sup>th</sup> Hermes Expo International and SAE USA Youth (World Council of Hellenes Abroad USA Youth

Division). This offered us the opportunity to interact with other members of the Hellenic-American Youth, professionals, and individuals with great contribution in their respective business, political and science fields and also participate at the 1<sup>st</sup> SAE Youth Mentorship Fair.

Our third semiannual Convention brought together 40 students from more than 25 universities representing both the U.S. and Canada, and shaped the new NHSa Agenda. The attendance, the participants' drive, the topics, the speakers and the Convention vibes were unprecedented.

But this is not significant by itself. *It is the discussions and the pipeline of projects that this Convention triggered* that made it our most successful event to date, and *makes the new Board and all the NHSa Members feel the great responsibility* we are bearing for the upcoming academic year.



You may download the NHSa Spring 2010 Convention Brochure and Convention Agenda at: [http://www.nhsaofamerica.org/attachments/NHSa\\_Spring\\_2010\\_Convention\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.nhsaofamerica.org/attachments/NHSa_Spring_2010_Convention_Brochure.pdf)

**The NHSA Spring 2010 Convention marks:**

- The most successful era for spreading the Hellenic Spirit in the American Universities with the **greatest NHSA enlargement**. From the 17 associations that were present at our re-establishment Convention one year ago, to more than **40 member-chapters** all over the U.S, making the next year even more promising.
- The **2010-2011 NHSA Projects Pipeline Work-Plan**: Diversifying its actions, the NHSA will act as a center for bridging the gap between ideas concerning new projects and their implementation, as well as promoting successful local events to the regional or national level.
- The launch of the **2010-2011 NHSA Milestone Project: The NHSA Study Abroad Program** in Greece: American undergraduates can study in Greece while Greek students get a chance to live the U.S. Educational experience under a **“mutual mobility”** framework. Both sides enjoy their vision to study abroad, while getting **credits** and paying **no additional fees**. We find the **compatible courses** and facilitate 1) the **bilateral agreements** between the American and the Greek Academic Institutions, 2) the **adjustment** (cultural & language engagement, housing, social and professional networking) of the students in both countries.
- The initiation of the **NHSA Educational Info Sessions** in Greece: An opportunity to showcase American academic institutions, scholarships and fellowships to a wide audience of high school and University students and offer guidance and assistance to anyone interested in studying in the U.S.
- The **Open Source Model, a new Structure for NHSA Operations** with stronger local presence by the establishment of regional representation.
- The coordination of the **NHSA Awareness and Restorative Effort Programs regarding the Greek financial turmoil**, in cooperation with leaders of Hellenic origins from the academia and politics.
- The greatest diversification thus far of the NHSA Sponsors’ portfolio and the **full autonomy in financing our projects & events** at the local and national level.
- The **election and institution of the new NHSA Board** that will maintain the progress and the coherence of the organization and will lead the NHSA to new levels of success.

The elected **NHSA Board Members for 2010-2011** are:

**President:** Yiorgos Nikolettakis – *Columbia University*  
**Vice President of External Affairs:** Gerasimos Houpis – *Case Western Reserve University*  
**Vice President of Internal Affairs:** Eleni Christofa – *UC Berkeley*  
**Treasurer:** Eirini Slosser – *The Ohio State University*  
**Programs Director:** Evangelos Sfakianakis – *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*  
**Communications Director:** Jesus P. Kalergis – *Boston University*  
**Academics Director:** Stavroula Chrysanthopoulou – *Brown University*  
**Fundraising Director:** Laoura Maratou – *University of Maryland*  
**Recruitment Director:** Yiannis Floropoulos – *Montclair State University*