

Aristotle School To Become Museum

\$75 Million Project Slated for Completion Sometime Next Year

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The remains of the ancient school where the philosopher Aristotle taught his pupils nearly 2,500 years ago are to be turned into an outdoor museum thanks to a donation from a betting company, Greece's Culture Ministry says.

The project in central Athens is slated for completion next year at a cost of 74.5 million (\$5.9 million). But it will not use funds from the government, which has promised spending cuts amid the global financial crisis.

Aristotle, who lived from 384 to 322 B.C., studied under Plato and tutored Alexander the Great. Later, in Athens, he taught in the grounds of the Lyceum, a public sports complex frequented by the city's young men.

The outdoor museum will involve building a translucent roof over the site, Culture Minister Antonis Samaras said Wednesday.

"Saving money from the (ministry) budget is very important," he said.

Funding for the venture will be provided by Greek betting company OPAP, which is partly state-owned.

Greece has promised wide-ranging spending cuts in 2009 after the budget deficit last year exceeded EU limits.

Samaras said the sponsorship money had helped revive the long-delayed venture.

The scant remains are mostly foundations and lower courses of walls from a wrestling hall, as well as parts of Roman-era baths used by the athletes after workouts.

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AP PHOTO/PETROS GIANNAKOURIS

A general view of ruins believed to be the remains of the Lyceum, the school where Greek Philosopher Aristotle taught 2,500 years ago, is seen on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Culture Ministry said a roof will be built over the site which is due to be opened to visitors next year.

Greek American Students Unite for Hellenism

By Eleni Kostopoulos
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK — Hellenic student associations throughout the U.S. have recently joined forces to create the National Hellenic Student Association of America (NHSA), a group devoted to the common interest of promoting Hellenism among colleges and universities throughout the nation. Currently comprised of students from 22 participating coast-to-coast universities, the recently re-established NHSA convened on Saturday, March 28 at the University of Con-

necticut to discuss the organization's principles, objectives and priorities.

NHSA President Georgios Nikolettakis from Ohio State University, said membership is growing steadily and is expected to reach new heights by the end of the academic year.

"We have already established the mechanics for the recruitment and training of new Hellenic Associations; members and the membership number keeps growing," he said.

"We also provide instruction manuals to groups or individuals in

universities where there is no organized form of Hellenic representation and we help them establish themselves in their communities. Until the end of the academic year in mid-June, we are expecting 10 to 12 more Hellenic Associations to enter and contribute to the national effort. Next year, we will be speaking of an association with almost 50 to 60 associations (all from different universities) that represent a very large Hellenic population with both graduate and undergraduate students."

The weekend-long convention integrated in-depth discussions

about what role Greek American collegiate associations play in their corresponding universities and in their greater academic and social communities. Short and long-term goals were outlined accordingly by members of participating universities, which currently include: Columbia University, New York University, University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University, among others.

According to NHSA, some of the main goals of the organization include "to develop a central body of

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(L-R) HABA President James Hansel with honoree James Orphanides, his wife Nora and business mogul John Catsimatidis.

HABA Honors James J. Orphanides

By Constantine S. Sirigos
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK — The Hellenic American Bankers Association honored James J. Orphanides as its 2009 Corporate Executive of the Year at the historic Union League in Manhattan on Thursday evening, April 30.

It was clear from the start that this was not a typical award dinner.

The current economic crisis has hit the financial industry particularly hard. But from Mr. Orphanides to HABA President James Hansel, the annual HABA dinner served as a vehicle of encouragement and mutual support for Greek Americans in the financial sector.

Guests of honor included Dr. John Brademas, President Emeritus of New York University, the first American-born Greek elected to the United States Congress (1959-81); New York State Senate Minority Leader Dean Skelos (R-Rockville

Centre); NYS Assemblyman Mike Gianaris (D-Astoria); Consul General of Greece in New York Aglaia Balta; Consul General of Cyprus in New York Andreas Panayiotou; Alia Papanastasiou, deputy trade commissioner, Greek Trade Office; and Polixeni Mastroperou, press counselor, Greek Press Office.

Dinner guests were reminded that people's current anxieties extend beyond the economic realm when Dorie Klissas, director of media relations at NYU's Langone Medical Center, and the night's mistress of ceremonies, conveyed reassurances from medical authorities regarding the swine flu outbreak.

Rev. Dr. Frank Marangos, dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, cited Mr. Orphanides' achievements and philanthropic endeavors in his invocation, and Event Chairman John Catsimatidis, Chairman & CEO of the Red Apple Group and himself a past recipient of the

HABA award, lauded the life and work of his good friend.

Like Mr. Orphanides, Mr. Catsimatidis, who was born on the island of Nisyros and came to the United States at a very young age, also has Pontian roots.

"James is a man who truly believes in giving back to the community, and to his people. He is a great family man, a great businessman, and is great to his community... things we should all strive for," Mr. Catsimatidis said.

Several speakers and guests noted the special partnership between Mr. Orphanides and his wife Nora, who is as talented and passionate about the arts as her husband is in the business world.

Mrs. Orphanides is an instructor at the Princeton Ballet School. Together, she and her husband somehow manage to find time and energy,

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Nicholas Christakis Listed In TIME 100

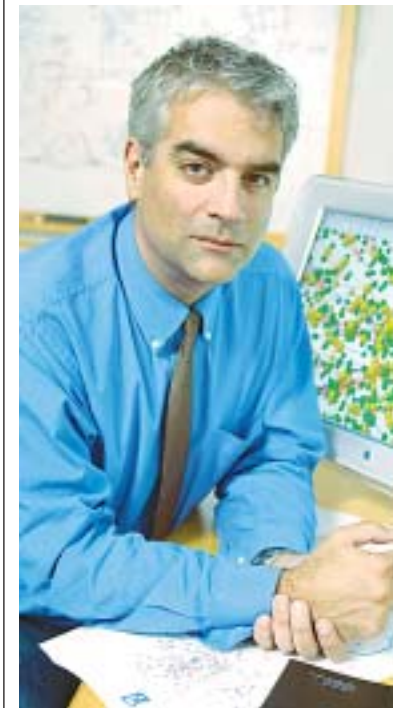
Physician Ranked Among TIME's Top Scientists & Thinkers

By Evan C. Lambrou
Special to the National Herald

NEW YORK — TIME Magazine has listed Nicholas A. Christakis, a Greek American physician at Harvard, among its 100 most influential people this year, ranking him 5th under its category of scientists and thinkers.

Among the 2009 TIME 100 are President Obama (leaders and revolutionaries), Nobel-winning economist Paul Krugman (scientists and thinkers) and Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger (heroes and icons), the USAirways pilot who successfully landed Flight 1549 onto the surface of the Hudson River this past January, saving the lives of all 155 passengers onboard.

Dr. Christakis, 47, is an internist and social scientist who conducts re-



PAUL SCHNAITACHER

Dr. Nicholas A. Christakis

search on social factors affecting health, healthcare and longevity. He is a professor of medical sociology in the Department of Healthcare Policy at Harvard Medical School; professor of sociology at the Harvard College of Arts & Sciences; and an attending physician with an emphasis on palliative medicine (pain-relief treatment) at the Harvard-affiliated Mt. Auburn Hospital. He is also on the executive committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy program at Harvard.

Dr. Christakis' current work is concerned principally with health and social networks. His research explores the contention that, because people are interconnected, their health is interconnected. His work investigates two aspects of social networks: the process by which they form (i.e., "connection"), and the way they operate to influence behavior.

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Gust D. Skondras: An Early Confection King of Iowa

By Steve Frangos
Special to The National Herald

Gust D. Skondras was an early Greek confection king of north central Iowa. This extremely successful Greek immigrant left his lasting mark on the two different Iowa cities of Mason City, and Des Moines. Both this man and the American society in which he so deftly moved are now long gone. One of the great losses in Greek-America's collective self-awareness is that today few realize that the candy store/ice cream parlor of the late 1890s and early 1900s was as closely associated in the daily experience of the average American with Greeks as the restaurant is in our era. In Main Street, Sinclair Lewis' classic novel of American small town life at the turn of the

Nineteenth Century we find the last store mentioned in his description of a typical Main Street is the Greek-owned confectionary.

True to this wider pattern Gust D. Skondras owned and operated finely decorated ice cream parlors in Mason City, one located most prominently across from the town square. On those Sunday afternoons when musical concerts were held in the main square memories remain of small oak-topped tables and wire-backed chairs being pulled out onto the sidewalk in front of Skondras' store, the Olympia, so that the customers could enjoy the concert.

Gust D. Skondras is recognized as the first Greek immigrant to settle in Mason City Iowa. The usual

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Onassis Center Conference in New York Reassesses Women of Ancient Athens

Hundreds gathered at the Onassis Center in New York City on Saturday, May 2, for a day-long international conference focusing on the women of Ancient Athens. International scholars speaking at the conference shattered common misconceptions that depict women as secluded figures of home life. See page 3.

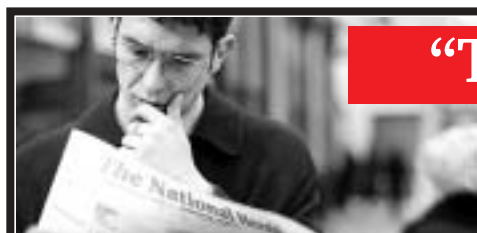
Community Mourns a Matriach

By Demetris Tsakas
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK — John and Georgia Koufakis got into their 2008 Chrysler PT Cruiser last Saturday afternoon to go food shopping, so they could free themselves up to attend services the next day at the Church of the Resurrection in Brookville, Long Island. The unsuspecting couple, who would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this June, never thought that it would be the last drive they would ever take together. Despite the fact that John Koufakis, 82, was an experienced driver, he was un-

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