



2011 Journey to Greece

Volume VI. E-Bulletin 5. August 4, 2011.



The Journey to Greece Concludes Another Successful Program



Our group at the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion

One final week in Athens to conclude JOURNEY TO GREECE 2011

The 6th Annual AHEPA Journey to Greece Program will complete the final session this week as students prepare to head home on August 5th! Following another great week of activities that included: A visit to the US Embassy for a private briefing from Ambassador Daniel B. Miller; a special foreign policy analysis from Mr. Nick Larigakis, President of the American Hellenic Institute; a visit to the Exarchate of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem; and a wonderful excursion to Cape Sounion to see the Temple of Poseidon at sunset, have a nice swim, followed by dinner at "George's Steak House" of Glyfada! In the last days, students returned to classes, completed their term projects, presentations and finals! On our last evening, we will be treated to a Farewell Dinner from the AHEPA HJ-1

Chapter! On Friday morning, its off to the airport on our private coach for the trans-Atlantic trip home!

The 2012 JTG Program started back on June 27th with two complete programs for our students. Session #1 was devoted to volunteerism, with our students participating as official volunteers for the Athens Special Olympics! These students also completed their requirements for a three unit course on community volunteerism in conjunction to the Olympics. Session #2, featured an excursion visiting all four major Pan-Hellenic game archaeological sites! In addition, the students completed the requirements for two courses, or six semester

Continued on page 1

Journey to Greece Sponsors:





The Journey Family with Ambassador Daniel B. Smith

Continued on page 2

units of credit! Both Sessions were able to join together for a cruise on board the “Louis Majesty” thanks to a grant provided by the National Hellenic Society!

The daily events of the JTG can be followed along with photos and itinerary with all the relevant news on the “Journey to Greece 2011 Blog.” Readers are invited to follow the Journey in complete detail to see how our students experienced Greece as you follow their footsteps and experiences. The Blog and the E-Bulletins were edited by the Journey Intern provided by a grant from Hellenext: The Next Generation Initiative. Our special and editor for 2011 is Michael Savvasi. Michael graduated from Cal State San Diego and is pursuing his Special Education California Credential and a veteran of 3 Journeys, and a member of the Redondo Beach Sons of Pericles. To follow his daily blog, please see the <http://journeytogreece2011.blogspot.com/> and the www.ahepa.org/journey websites! Especially interesting are the student power point presentation that are featured from the Foreign Policy Class!

This year 42 students participated in the two Sessions of the Journey. Our students represented 11 states and Canada! Over the past 6 years the Journey has had students from 28 states and Canada, representing 71 different universities! Once again, the Journey to Greece is under the direction of AHEPA Past Supreme President, Dr. Jim Dimitriou, who relaunched the Journey as a unique University travel-study program over 6 years go! Over the six years, the Journey has 382 alumni! According to Dr. Dimitriou, the mission of the Journey is to provide a program that immerses our students in Greek culture and society, while students

earn transferable credits from an accredited American university while studying in Athens!

This year, the Journey has had a great group of students that enjoyed every moment of a study abroad program in conjunction with the University of Indianapolis, Athens Campus! Session #1 was for two weeks and included taking one class for three units of semester credit. Students took a course in Community Volunteerism as they worked at the Athens Special Olympics! Session #2 was for four weeks and included two courses for six units of credit, selecting from the AHI Foreign Policy Class in US-Greek Relations, Greek Language and Greek Folk Dancing!

It all started when our Journey students arrived in Athens on board special group flights departing either from Los Angeles or Philadelphia. Both east coast and west coast groups met together in Philadelphia for their transatlantic flight to Greece. Upon arriving in Athens at the Venizelos Airport, they were welcomed by Dr. Peter Wilkins from UINDY and taken to the University via private motor coach. Once in Athens, they were escorted to their housing, especially arranged by the UINDY. Students were introduced to their private apartments arranged in bedroom-suites, located near Syntagma Square and walking distance from the University campus. The apartments include laundry facilities, kitchen, television, air conditioning, and wireless Internet!

Each Session began with a one day orientation and walking tour of the immediate area to get acquainted with Athens and their surroundings near Monastiraki! Students also

Continued on page 3



Students at Greek Dance Class

Continued from page 2

received instruction on eating in the area, proper use of ATMs, exchange procedures, general student rules, and apartment protocol. Over the course of the Journey to Greece, the AHEPA Athens Chapter, HJ-1, provided by Welcome and Farewell receptions to the Journey groups! The AHEPA family of Mother Hellas has continued to assist the students and the Journey to Greece throughout our 6 year program. It is always nice to know that the AHEPA family is so close at hand to serve our students and the program!

Also, we would like to thank the Hellenic Electronic Center (HEC) for their support and sponsorship of our special excursion to the ancient sites of Corinth, Isthmia, and Nemea. Captain Evangelos Rigos provided a lecture and a private guide for both Isthmeia and Corinth sites on our private tour for the students. In addition, HEC provided both the breakfast and lunch for our students on this excursion! In addition, our Journey Alumni will be please to know that they will become part of a network of over 9,000 professors around the world, as HEC has launched a special "Student Forum" for all Journey to Greece Alumni! Students can now access professors from the academic community in many different areas for support, advice, and research!

A highlight of our program was the very special visit to the ancient site of Nemea! The home of one of the Pan-Hellenic Games of the ancient world, Nemea was brought to life for our students by the UC Berkeley Emeritus Professor, Stephen Miller, who is the archaeologist that first

uncovered the Nemean athletic stadium. After this special tour, our students were provided a lunch with Professor Miller and Captain Rigos provided by HEC. Reconnecting with our heritage, customs, and traditions is very important! The Journey to Greece continues to endeavor to reconnect our youth with Mother Hellas, while also on a meaningful study-travel program for university credit! In addition, there is no substitute for the memories, friendships, and opportunities shared by our students on their very own Odyssey in discovery! Professor Miller invited the Journey to Greece Program to participate in the 2012 Nemean Games that will be re-enacted next summer! We look forward to another rewarding experience at Nemea!

A special thank you goes to the parents, grandparents, chapters, districts, and individuals that continue to support the Journey to Greece! Reconnecting with our heritage, customs and traditions is very important! The Journey to Greece continues to endeavor to reconnect our youth with Mother Hellas, while on a meaningful study-travel program for credit! In addition, there is no substitute for the memories, friendships and opportunities shared by our students on their very own Odyssey in discovery!

Check the AHEPA web site for the 7th Annual JTG Program for 2012 with sessions for the Nemean Games and a new cruise opportunity! A special thank you to all of my students for their interest, dedication and commitment to our program! Dr. Jim Dimitriou

Exarchate of Jerusalem in Athens



The group outside the church at the Exarchate



Students learning about the religious artifacts at the museum at the Exarchate



Briefing at the church



Mihalis Schindle with the Holy Light



Lecture prior to Exarchate

Benaki Museum and Mount Lycabettos



Outside the Benaki Museum



Dessert at the top of Mount Lycabettos



Students with the Athens nighttime skyline in the background



Dessert at the top of Mount Lycabettos

Beach Day and Cape Sounion



Our group at the beach in Anavessos



Students at Cape Sounion



In front of the Temple of Poseidan



Beach day in Anavessos



Beach day in Anavessos

Greek Ministry of Defense



Briefing at the Greek Ministry of Defense



Briefing at the Greek Ministry of Defense



Reception



Our group with Brigadier General Dimokritos Zervakis

US Embassy and AHI Briefings



Briefing with Mr. Nick Larigakis, President of the American Hellenic Institute



Our group at the US Embassy, in front of a statue of George Marshall which was generously donated by the Order of AHEPA

2011 JTG Week #2 Activities

July 25

Briefing with Mr. Nick Larigakis, President of the American Hellenic Institute, who generously sponsored the US-Greece Relations Foreign Policy Class. Topics discussed included: the Cyprus dispute, the FYROM name dispute, Ambassador Hilary Clinton's visit to Greece, and the Ecumenical Patriarch dilemma in Turkey.

July 26

Film screening of the documentary produced by the American Hellenic Institute, "Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure" followed by a class discussion. After lunch in Plaka, our group had an afternoon briefing at the Greek Ministry of Defense with Brigadier General Dimokritos Zervakis and a reception afterwards.

July 27

Meeting at the US Embassy with Ambassador Daniel B. Smith. Students were briefed on a variety of topics including: American investment possibilities in Greece, the importance of the Souda Bay military facility in Crete, Agenda 2014 which proposes for all Balkan countries entrance into the European Union, and the FYROM name dispute. Our group also learned about opportunities and internships with the US State Department and took a group picture in front of the statue of George Marshall, which was generously donated by the Order of AHEPA.

July 28

Visit to the Exarchate of Jerusalem. We received a guided tour and historical explanation of the church and museum. Our group then took a trip to the Benaki museum, which included archeological artifacts, a collection of Greek Independence Day pieces, pistols of Lord Byron, and the original Constitution of Greece. After the museum, we enjoyed dinner in Kolonaki. We then took the electric tram to the top of Mount Lycabettus, where we enjoyed the nighttime skyline and a desert treat provided by Dr. D.

July 29

Students attended classes. Dr. Dimitriou's class learned about Greek foreign investment opportunities and the possibility that many of Greece's industries will become privatized in the near future. After the lecture, students reviewed expectations for their briefing papers and headed to Plaka for our daily taverna lunch. The Modern Greek class prepared for their midterm exams by continuing to review their written expressions and conversational language. The Greek Dance class further reviewed the steps of the Zembetiko and the history behind the dance. After classes students enjoyed the beginning of their free weekend.

July 30

Saturday was a picturesque day in Athens and the first day of our free weekend. Students took advantage of the day by visiting relatives, sites they have not seen and catching up on their studies before the last week of class and final exams.

July 31

This Sunday marked the final day of our free weekend. The Journey family enjoyed a few extra hours of sleep, caught up on homework, and enjoyed a group lunch at Noodle Bar, a favorite restaurant of our group. In the afternoon, we took a chartered bus to the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounioin, but before we stopped at a beautiful beach in Anavessos where we enjoyed a swim in the warm water and relaxed in the sand. When the sun set, we took our chartered coach to Glyfada for our dinner appointment at the famous George's Steak House.

August 1 - August 4

Academic classes. Students conclude the academic component of their lessons. In Dr. Dimitriou's foreign policy class, students finish final projects and give class presentations about a variety of foreign policy issues. The Greek language class, students finished their final exams about written and conversational language. The Greek dance class, continued learning new dances and took their final exam on the historical aspects of the Greek dances. On the evening of August 4th, our group enjoyed a farewell reception sponsored by the Order of AHEPA.

August 5

Students boarded group flights and departed for North America.

Looking back at JTG 2011

Some of the special highlights of the Journey to Greece 2011 includes some wonderful memories through the following activities and excursions:

- 4 day cruise on board the "Louis Majesty" visiting the ports of call: Mykonos, Santorini, Crete, Kusadasi, Patmos, and Rhodes. The cruise was made possible by a grant from the National Hellenic Society.
- First Session's exciting experience as the JTG Team of Volunteers at the Athens Special Olympics at the OAKA Olympic Center for both Aquatic Sports and Track & Field.
- Attending the exciting Closing Ceremony at the Panathenaic Stadium of Athens.
- Visit to the truly amazing new Acropolis Museum
- Tour of the greatest monument of all, the Parthenon
- Visit to the famous Benaki Folk Art Museum
- Private dance lesson and performance at the Dora Stratou Folk Dance Center
- Visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Regimental Changing of the Evzone guards.
- Private tour of the Hellenic Parliament
- Private briefing and Questions and Answer session by Ambassador Daniel B. Smith at the U.S. Embassy.
- Briefings at the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs on both Greek foreign policy and the Greek Debt Crisis
- Multimedia Briefing by the Hellenic Ministry of Defense at the Greek Pentagon.
- Visit to the top of Lycabettus Hill for the best view in all of Athens
- Tour of Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon
- Visit to all four of the Ancient Pan-Hellenic Game Sites: Isthmia, Nemea, Olympia and Delphi
- Guided tour of both Ancient Isthmia and Corinth sponsored by the Hellenic Electronic Center (HEC) and led by Captain Evangelos Rigas. Our Breakfast & Lunch also sponsored by HEC.
- Private tour and talk at the ancient Nemea archaeological site, Museum, Temple and Athletic Stadium by Professor Stephen Miller of UC Berkeley.
- Tour of the ancient site of Olympia and site of the ancient games and museum.
- Visit to the Exarchate of the Patriarch of Jerusalem Center in Athens.
- Tour of the "Battle Cruiser G. Averof" and Ancient Trireme of Athens

Guest Speakers included:

Mr. Nick Larigakis, President & CEO of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI).

Mr. Alec Mally, Executive Director for Global Economic Affairs at Foresight Strategy & Communication and former Economic Attache of the US Embassy & Consul General of Thessaloniki.

Special dinners and events including:

The Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner sponsored by HJ-1 Ahepa Chapter of Athens and District Governor, Nick Papadopoulos.

The 4th of July BBQ held by the Glyfada Chapter, HJ-2.

Our special dinner after Sounion at the famous "George's Steak House" of Glyfada.

Also a few ice cream treats at the top of Santorini celebrating Dr. D's birthday and a few ice cream nights and morning frappes at "Coffee Break" thanks to Dr. D.

A special thank you to AHEPA Family of Athens, the Hellenic Electronic Center (HEC), the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), Hellenext, the Next Generation Initiative and the National Hellenic Society (NHS) for making the 2011 Journey to Greece a truly memorable experience for all!

Cape Sounion and Glyfada Dinner



Students at Cape Sounion



Dinner at George's Steak House in Glyfada



Dinner at George's Steak House in Glyfada





Dr. Dimitriou briefing students at the Exarchate of Jerusalem in Athens

Journey to Greece Universities Attended by our students!

In 6 years, the JTG has 382 alumni from over 71 universities representing 28 states and Canada. Some of the universities and colleges represented at JTG program include:

- Bellarmine College
- Binghamton University
- University of British Columbia
- Boston Conservatory
- Boston University
- University of Calgary
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Merced
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- Cal Poly University, Pomona
- Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo
- Cal State University, Long Beach
- Cal State University, Sacramento
- Cal State University, San Francisco
- Catholic University
- Chapman University
- University of Chicago
- Claremont McKenna College
- Cornell University
- CUNY, Hunter Graduate School
- Curry College
- Drexel University
- El Camino College
- Fordham University
- George Washington University
- Holy Trinity College
- Indiana University
- Iowa State University
- Jefferson Community College
- University of Kansas
- Kansas State University
- London School of Economics
- Loyola Marymount University
- University of Manitoba
- University of Maryland
- University of Massachusetts
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
- Merrimack College
- University of Miami
- Middlebury College
- Mohawk College
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- Penn State University
- Pittsburgh State University
- Randolph-Macon College
- Robert Morris University
- University of Rochester
- College of Saint Rose
- San Diego State University
- Santiago Canyon College
- University of South Carolina
- University of South Florida
- University of Southern California
- College of Southern Nevada
- St. Joseph's College
- Southern Methodist University
- University of South Florida
- SUNY, Cortland
- University of Tampa
- University of Tennessee
- Tulane University
- University of Utah
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington State University
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Wyoming
- Westmont College



Dr. Jim Dimitriou, Ambassador Daniel B. Smith, and Dr. Peter Wilkins

Dr. Jim Dimitriou (JTG Program Director)

Dr. Jim Dimitriou has been the Director of the Journey to Greece Program for the last six years! He has planned and developed the new JTG along with Dr. Peter Wilkins of UINDY. His goal has been to offer a program that will immerse our students into Greek society and culture while affording them an opportunity to earn transferable university credit while in Greece! The inception for the program came when Dr. Dimitriou was Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA. A lifetime educator and experienced leader in study abroad program, Dimitriou has carefully planned and implemented the program since its beginning. Special excursions, visits, briefings and presentations have been included to give students a rewarding experience not available to the average traveler! In addition to directing and planning the program, Dr. Dimitriou teaches courses in international relations and foreign policy. He is the father of Dimitri, a sophomore at UC Berkeley and Kara, a Master's student at the American University in Washington, DC. Dr. Dimitriou is a member of St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church of Redondo Beach, CA, AHEPA Chapter #426 and several other professional and civic organizations. Dimitriou hold a doctorate, two masters and a bachelors from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Peter Wilkins (UINDY JTG Coordinator)

Born and bred in England, Dr. Peter Wilkins completed his PhD at the University of Bath, UK and has been working with American Universities in Athens, Greece for more than 15 years. A member of AHEPA and dedicated to the work of the organization, his association with the *Journey to Greece* began in 2006 with the program's revival through the efforts of, and in close partnership with Dr. James Dimitriou PSP. He holds multiple roles at the University of Indianapolis, Athens Campus as Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Chair of Business, Head of Study Abroad Programs and is Associate Professor of Management.

The Journey to Greece Family that make the program possible!

UINDY STAFF SUPPORT

- Mr. Vasil Botopoulos, Chancellor
- Dr. Peter Wilkins, Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement & Coordinator of JTG Program
- Mr. Bill Kiritsis, Vice Chancellor of Admissions (retired)
 - Mrs. Dina Skias, Director of Student Affairs
- Mr. Tom Mazarakis, Director of Housing and Security
 - Mrs. Maria Tsahas, Registrar
- Ms. Ellie Despotakis, Special Programs Coordinator

AHEPA JOURNEY COUNSELORS

- Dr. James F. Dimitriou, PSP
Director of the JTG Program
- Mr. Lou Eleopoulos
- Ms. Tina Papadopoulos

AHEPA INTERN

- Billy Fotopoulos

HELLENEXT INTERN

Michael Savvas

JTG Special Assistant

- Stephanie Maniatis,



The University of Indianapolis, Athens Campus was chartered in 1989, with the purpose of offering a quality American education experience. Since its inception, the University has grown to become one of the leaders in higher education in Greece. As well as its 29 bachelor's degrees and 10 master's degrees the UIndy Athens offers the Odyssey in Athens semester study abroad program. UIndy Athens also partners with AHEPA to offer the Journey to Greece Program and many other institutions in the US and other countries to create special study abroad experiences for students.

**-Peter Wilkins, Ph.D.
Vice-Chancellor of Institutional
Advancement, UIndy Journey to Greece Coordinator**

About our Generous Sponsors:



The [National Hellenic Society](http://www.nationalhellenicsociety.org/) celebrates Hellenic heritage by sponsoring and organizing programs and activities that promote and preserve the values and ideals of our Hellenic culture, thereby enriching our community and nation. A special thank you to their generous sponsorship of the Cruise for all students in Sessions 1 and 2.

Source: <http://www.nationalhellenicsociety.org/>



The [American Hellenic Institute Foundation](http://www.ahworld.org) (AHIF) has generously sponsored the US-Greek Foreign Relations class offered to session 2 students. The AHIF is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, tax-exempt educational and research organization, and the first “think tank” devoted to Greek American issues. For more information, please visit www.ahworld.org.

Source: <http://www.ahworld.org/>



The [Next Generation Initiative](http://www.hellenext.org) is a non-profit educational foundation which brings next generation students together with leaders and experts through our [Master Classes](#), [internships](#), and our [Athens Fellowships](#), which help young men and women gain the skills, connections and experience their careers will demand — and the global perspective future leadership will require. The Next Generation Initiative and our [Got Greek?](#) program is proud to sponsor Journey to Greece's daily blog posts, social media updates, and weekly E-Bulletins — from JTG's “Next Generation Correspondent.”

Source: <http://www.hellenext.org/>



Founded on March 1, 1995, the [Hellenic Electronic Center](http://greece.org) (HEC) is a volunteer, non-profit, non-political organization. HEC is a cultural and educational Center whose main objective is to promote Hellenic culture and establish a network among Hellenes, Philhellenes, and Hellenic organizations around the world. HEC provides free computer services and technical support to non-profit Hellenic organizations and projects.

Source: <http://greece.org>

For additional updates and photos please visit:

<http://journeytogreece2011.blogspot.com/>

Note from the Editor:



Yiassas! The Journey to Greece program has once again completed another successful year. Though the program has ended, we have had experiences and made friendships that I will forever cherish. I have grown as a Greek-American and have been able to see what my Motherland is going through firsthand, rather than through media outlets who exaggerate and sensationalize circumstances. I will always remember what our group was told at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Nikos Kotrokois, Deputy Director A7 Directorate of North America, MFA, where he told us that we must serve as Ambassadors and do our best to advocate for things Hellenic in North America. As I travel home, I am coming back inspired, ready to do all I can for my Homeland with the help of my new friends.