



# 2011 Journey to Greece

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## The 6th Annual AHEPA Journey to Greece Concludes!



The AHEPA Journey to Greece concluded its 6th Annual Program! The 2011 JTG Program started back on June 27th with two complete programs for our college age students. Session #1 was devoted to a program on community 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 service in conjunction to the Olympics. Session #2, featured an excursion visiting all four of the ancient Pan-Hellenic game archaeological sites! In addition, the students completed the requirements for two courses, or six semester units of credit! Both Sessions were able to join together for a cruise thanks to a grant provided by the National Hellenic Society!

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 served 382 alumni from 28 states and Canada, representing 77 different universities! Once again, the Journey to Greece is under the direction of AHEPA Past Supreme President, Dr. Jim Dimitriou, who re launched the Journey as a unique University travel-study program over 6 years go! **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 credit from an accredited American university while studying in Athens!"**

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!

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. 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!

### Journey to Greece Sponsors:





Our group at the Closing Ceremony of the Athens Special Olympics World Summer Games

## A Final Word of Appreciation from the Director:

I do want to take this opportunity to thank all that make the Journey to Greece Program a reality! Without their support, we would not be able to provide our students with this unique opportunity! Thank you to the **AHEPA Educational Foundation** for its scholarship support and financial commitment to the JTG Program. The AEF provides the youth of the AHEPA family with national scholarships! In addition, I would like to thank the staff at AHEPA for their on-going support and commitment to the JTG! Special Assistant, Stephanie Maniatis was always helpful in assisting our students and families.

Once again, I would like express my deepest appreciation to the **National Hellenic Society!** NHS generously provides an annual grant that makes the 5 day cruise to the Greek Islands possible! The NHS funding this year enabled all of our students from both sessions to sail on the Louis Majesty! Each year, NHS has provided the Journey with this wonderful opportunity!

Our student Intern and Editor is provided by another grant from **Hellinext, The Next Generation Initiative!** Each year Hellinext sponsors one graduate student that is the Editor of our daily student blog and the JTG e-Bulletin Editor! Their support of JTG goes beyond the Internship in providing our alumni with a network of new opportunities and internships as college students! Please visit **Michael Savvas's** student blog at:

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

To the **Hellenic Electronic Network**, I would like to personally thank **Captain Evangelos Rigos** and HEC for their sponsorship of our excursion to the ancient sites of Pan Hellenic games in Corinth, Isthmea, and Nemea! HEC provided the JTG with guides, admissions, and both breakfast and dinner! Further, we are most pleased to announce the launch of the new **"Journey to Greece Alumni Forum,"** which will link our alumni with the 9000+ professors in the network. Continuing to support our students in their academic pursuits is the goal of the new "Forum!"

To the **American Hellenic Institute**, the Journey owes its appreciation for their generous sponsorship of the "American Hellenic Institute Foreign Policy Course: US-Greek Foreign Relations." AHI sponsored this important course as well as provided the materials for our students during this critical time in US-Greek relations! In addition, **Mr. Nick Larigakis**, President of AHI, gave our students a most timely presentation on current Greek relations.

To the **University of Indianapolis**, the Journey Program is grateful for all the efforts of the UINDY in providing the institutional support & academic excellence for our students! The classroom facilities, instructors, and staff have always served our students well! We are particularly indebted to all the work of **Dr. Peter Wilkins** in developing a study abroad program of excellence!

**A very special thank you goes to all of my students and alumni for their continued interest, dedication and commitment to our program! Also, I am indebted to the parents, grandparents, chapters, districts and individuals that believe in and support the Journey to Greece! Their faith provides the vehicle for our students to reconnect with their Greek heritage, customs and traditions! The Journey to Greece is dedicated to providing the means for our youth to reconnect with Mother Hellas, while on a meaningful study-abroad program! In addition, there is no substitute for the memories, friendships and opportunities shared by our students on their very own Odyssey in discovery!**

**Dr. Jim Dimitriou, PSP  
Director,  
AHEPA Journey to Greece**

**P.S.** Check the AHEPA web site in the near future for information on the 7th Annual JTG Program for 2012 with sessions for the Nemean Games and a new 7 day cruise opportunity to visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate!

## What the Journey Means to Me



JTG was one of the best experiences in my life. I felt that it was educational and that I gained a deeper appreciation of my Greek roots. We were all fortunate to be part of Greece's history this summer. I believe I was so fortunate to see the things that my eyes saw on this short trip! I don't think that I would have been able to do these things on my own even with relatives who live here in Greece. I was extremely blessed to have met some extraordinary individuals that I pray I will continue to talk to and hopefully meet again. I am indebted and so grateful to AHEPA and to Dr. Dimitriou, who shared a lot of his knowledge with me.

**Anjelika Evangelopoulos Calgary, Canada.  
(University of Calgary)**

My Journey to Greece was the beginning of a longer journey to further delve into my family's past and immerse myself in a foreign yet familiar culture. The Journey to Greece has also exposed me to a community of amazing Greek-North American individuals. The friendships I have made on this trip will last me a lifetime. My experience at the Special Olympics, with the Journey family, showed me incredible acts of human kindness, courageousness and drive that made me question who I was. Without Journey to Greece I would not have had this opportunity to grow as an individual. My Journey to Greece was a gift that I cannot take for granted. I will seize the opportunity I have been given and continue on my longer journey-to learn more about my culture and develop more connections to Greece.

**Elizabeth Alexander, San Diego, CA.  
(University of California at Berkeley)**

The Journey to Greece met all of my expectations and more. I gained my international experience that I wanted, and I have learned more about my culture and most importantly I have furthered my knowledge in the Greek language. The visits to the Parliament, the US Embassy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Acropolis, and various museums... was very interesting as they all tie into my University studies.

**George Giannoulis, London, Canada.  
(University of Western Ontario)**

I have truly enjoyed the Journey to Greece Program and my time in Greece with the people in it. The people I have met, things I have learned, and places I have seen have become truly dear to me. This journey has been a huge period of growth in my life. Of all the things I have learned on this trip, I believe the most important is what it means to be Greek. Being Greek is not about knowing a lot of the history and culture of Greece, nor does it mean speaking Greek. It means that I hold the ideals of the Greek people, such as education, hard work, and national pride, dear to me. It means that I am committed to keeping the Greek spirit alive through the celebration of what makes Greece special. It means that no matter what I do or where I go in life, I will always be proud to say where I come from.

**Victor Zaharopoulos, Kansas City, MO.  
(University of Kansas)**

## What the Journey Means to Me



Students Volunteering at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens

This has been an unbelievable, once in a lifetime experience for me. JTG allowed me to get closer to my Hellenic roots. Going to Greece allowed me to learn more about Greek culture and to communicate with other people from across the world. It will be hard for another trip to top this, and I would like you thank you Dr. D, my fellow classmates, and our beautiful country for giving me the trip of a lifetime.

**Timmy Stavros, San Pedro, CA.  
(San Pedro High School)**

Journey to Greece has meant more to me than I could ever imagine. I feel extremely privileged to have been able to volunteer at the Special Olympics, it was such a great experience for me especially since I want to become a teacher in the future. By coming on this trip and experiencing everything it has to offer I feel as though I have connected with my culture more so than I have ever done before. It makes me want to keep learning and keep experiencing new things within my culture so I can become that more connected. This trip has also inspired me to learn Greek.

**Liz Zarkades, Boston, MA.  
(Curry College)**

The AHEPA Journey to Greece Program has been one the greatest opportunities given to me as a young adult. As a Greek-American I was lucky enough to experience and learn about my heritage and culture. As a returning student to the Journey to Greece program I was able to extend my experience of Greece's surroundings and help my fellow

student's ease in to the new environment. The Journey to Greece program has made a huge impact on my life and it is a program that I am extremely fortunate to have been a part of.

**Steve Poulos, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.  
(University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee)**

Journey to Greece has meant opportunities and experiences for myself, it has meant new friendships with fellow Greeks and above all has shown pride and value for it's native country. The journey to Greece program continued on it's journey with having faith in it's country's safety and security. I thank Dr. Dimitriou for showing how much Journey to Greece means to him by showing us Greece's culture, heritage, and history within these two weeks. Journey to Greece has also meant a very SPECIAL opportunity volunteering at the first Special Olympics held in Athens, Greece! It means a lot that this program was able to offer such a memorable trip.

**Dimitra Evangelopoulos, Calgary, Canada.  
(University of Calgary)**

This trip has truly been an unforgettable experience. I feel so privileged to have gotten the chance to immerse myself within the Greek culture and further learn about my heritage. I greatly appreciate those who gave me this opportunity and I hope I will be able to participate in the Journey to Greece program once again in the future.

**Danielle Triantis, Carlsbad, CA.  
(University of California at Santa Cruz)**

## What the Journey Means to Me



Journey to Greece was definitely an eye opening experience to me. I had known about, or at least thought that I knew about, Greek culture prior to the trip from my closest friend. However, upon being immersed in the culture for a month, my eyes were opened to the true Greek culture and all its many facets. Not being Greek, I had simply come on the trip for the college credit and to take the classes, while also vacationing in a beautiful place. Now, as the trip comes to an end, I go home an honorary "Greek by choice", wanting to continue on and be an active member of the Greek community. I feel this trip has given me a culture to be my own, even if it isn't mine by blood.

**Bryn Ambrose, Fairburn, GA.**

**(Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School)**

The journey to Greece has given me an opportunity to visit Greece after over ten years. Even though I have family in Greece I wouldn't have visited without the program. Not only have I been allowed a chance to be in Greece for the summer I am able to share new experiences and many positive memories with my peers which are Greek as well. The trip marked many firsts for me from the visit to the temple of Poseidon and Nemea to my first Greek Orthodox service ever. I can't thank the sponsor of the cruise enough. It not only gave us a snapshot of the islands but let us bond with everyone from both sessions. Journey to Greece has been my favorite summer of my life and I can't wait to tell everyone about the amazing experiences I have had.

**John Stratigopoulos, San Diego, CA.**

**(Texas Christian University)**

First off, I'm in my homeland and experienced something that not many people can say they did or even had the opportunity to do so. I am very fortunate to have such great parents that allowed me to take this Journey. I was very lucky to experience everything I did with my two sisters and am awesome group of friends, who I know I will stay in touch with. This program provides you with an abundant of knowledge especially when

Dr. Dimitriou shares his knowledge of Greek culture and history. It pays to have a director who cares about his homeland and is willing to share everything he knows. I will forever remember and cherish the experiences and friendship that I have made in this wonderful Journey.

**Annah Evangelopoulos Calgary, Canada.  
(University of Calgary)**

Journey to Greece has been a life changing experience for me that I will never forget. Being able to explore Greece and make friends with people who share my heritage has been amazing. I feel that I have grown a lot as a person and learned a lot about myself by visiting my homeland. This is my first time in Greece and I feel very comfortable and completely at home with my fellow scholars from the U.S. and Canada. By being able to see many important parts of Greece and by visiting historical and political landmarks, I feel much closer to my heritage. I do not believe there is any other North-American group that could offer an experience to its Greek youth then AHEPA has through Journey to Greece.

**Mihalis Schindle, Vancouver, Canada.  
(Mohawk College)**

This experience has been all that I hoped for and more. There really is no substitute for total immersion in Greek culture. Hearing the language, eating the food, and seeing the everyday life of the people is something that can't be duplicated in words or pictures. Nor could anything ever replace the close bonds shared by the students. Being in the land of our ancestors with good company and good guidance is truly unforgettable. So, what did the Journey mean to me? I could say it meant friendship, learning, and growth. I could say that it was an incredible life experience.

**Elina Taillon, Vancouver, Canada.  
(Earl Marriott Secondary)**

# Thank you NHS



## Students thank the National Hellenic Society, Our Generous Cruise Sponsors

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Thanks to the National Hellenic Society for sponsoring the cruise. I truly enjoyed the cruise considering that it was my first time on a cruise. Visiting Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini really put a lot into the experience of this trip. I really enjoyed exploring these islands and embracing my culture.

**Costa Frangoudis, Torrance, CA.  
(El Camino College)**

I would like to say thank you to the "National Hellenic Society" for allowing our program to attend the five-day cruise to several different islands. The cruise was a great way for the second session kids to get to know one another as well as the kids on the first session. I really enjoyed going to all the different islands and being able to experience all different areas of Greece. I really appreciate this opportunity and value the fact that I have been able to see several places in Greece and even Turkey. Thank you again.

**Sincerely,  
Zoe Christopulos, Cheyenne, WY.  
(University of Wyoming)**

My never-ending thanks to the National Hellenic Society for sponsoring our cruise. We had an amazing time and feel so fortunate to have traveled to so many beautiful places with our friends from the Journey to Greece. Thank you so much!!

**Sincerely,  
Whitney Anderson, Salt Lake City, UT.  
(Boston University)**

I truly thank you for sponsoring us to go on the cruise. I had the most amazing time and went to quite a few new places I have never been before. It was a great way to get to know the other students on the trip while learning about the different cultures of the areas we visited. It truly was an amazing cruise.

**Zoe Tranakas, Fort Lauderdale, FL.  
(Boston University)**

The cruise was a wonderful experience. It was so great to see all of the islands and just relax and get to know everyone. I wanted to thank the National Hellenic Society for sponsoring the cruise and allowing us to be a part of that amazing experience.

**Jordan Christopulos, Cheyenne, WY.  
(University of Wyoming)**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the "National Hellenic Society" for sponsoring our cruise to the Greek Islands and part of Turkey. The cruise brought together both participants from sessions 1 and 2 of Journey to Greece and gave us the opportunity to meet and make friends with the other session, something that without the cruise we wouldn't have been able to do. The five day cruise sailed through the parts of Greece I have always wanted to visit. It was amazing to be able to see all the different islands and what they have to offer. The cruise is a week long experience I will never forget. Thank you, again!

**Maggie Pericli, Commack, NY.  
(University of Hartford)**

# Thank you NHS



Our group aboard the Louis Majesty Cruise Ship

## Students thank the National Hellenic Society, Our Generous Cruise Sponsors

It is with much gratitude that I express my thank you for sponsoring our cruise. It was such a memorable experience that I will never forget. I have been to Greece almost every summer of my life, but have never had the opportunity to see the Aegean Islands. Thanks to your generosity, I was able to experience a side of Greece that I have never seen before. It was truly an amazing experience, as it allowed for both session one and two students to get to know each other, and it also served as a great end to a very enjoyable trip. Thank you again for sponsoring our cruise, as it was truly an unforgettable experience.

**Effie Makrygianis, Palos Verdes Estates, CA.  
(Palos Verdes High School)**

Before this trip, I have never been on a cruise before, let alone on one that travels to different islands in Greece. In that case, I would like to thank the National Hellenic Society for sponsoring this trip of a lifetime. Because of them, I can now say that I hiked up a mountain on the back of a donkey which had to be the scariest but the coolest things ever. This was definitely a great way to start off one of the most amazing summers of my life.

**Georgina Kostopoulos, Huntington Station, NY.  
(Hofstra University)**

Thank you, National Hellenic Society for sponsoring the cruise, it truly was a lot of fun and I was able to travel to new parts of Greece. The trip was greatly appreciated.

**Anthony Tranakas, Fort Lauderdale, FL.  
(Boston University)**

This was the most amazing trip, I am so grateful to everyone who gave their time to put this trip on. I learned so much and made so many friends, and in addition I really feel that I really was able to immerse myself into the culture. It was an incredible experience and nothing could have made this trip more perfect.

**Aletha Vassilakis, Torrance, CA.  
(University of California at San Diego)**

I must express my deepest appreciation to the National Hellenic Society for generously sponsoring our cruise to the Greek islands. Our stops at each of the islands allowed me to gain an appreciation of each island's historical significance and their communities. I will forever remember the Journey family dancing for the fellow passengers at Greek night and receiving a fantastic ovation. Thank you once again for making this wonderful journey possible.

**Michael Savvas, San Diego, CA.  
(San Diego State University)**

The cruise was absolutely amazing. I love exploring all the islands especially, as my family is from an island as well. Thank you for helping me make that connection to love my motherland. The cruise allowed both sessions to build friendships that will last a lifetime! Thank you!

**Andonia-Maria Koulos, Long Beach, CA.  
(Drexel University)**

# 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!**

# Our Journey



The JTG Family at Nemea with Professor Stephen Miller and Captain Evangelos Rigos



Our group at the US Embassy with the Ambassador, the Hon. Daniel B. Smith



Students in front of the entrance to the Ancient Stadium in Olympia



Dr. Dimitriou briefing students at the Exharch to the Patriach of Jerusalem

## Journey to Greece Universities Attended by our students!

In 6 years, the JTG has 382 alumni from over 77 universities representing 28 states and Canada. Some of the universities and colleges represented at JTG program include:

- American University
- University of Arizona
- Arizona State University
- 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 Diego
- 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
- University of Indiana
- Iowa State University
- Jefferson Community College
- Johns Hopkins University
- 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
- 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
- Texas Christian University
- Tulane University
- United States Air Force Academy
- University of Utah
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington State University
- Westmont College
- Whittier College
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Wyoming

## AHEPA JTG Administrators:



Dr. Jim Dimitriou, United States Ambassador, the Hon. 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 holds 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

### AHEPA HQ 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. Journey students can return to UINDY with a 30% cut in tuition!

For more information, please visit, [www.uindy.gr](http://www.uindy.gr).

# 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.

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



The [American Hellenic Institute Foundation](http://www.aheworld.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.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org/).

<http://www.aheworld.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.”

<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.

<http://greece.org>



## AHEPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

AHEPA's commitment to education has been well documented throughout its history. Over \$4 million is endowed at the local, district and national levels toward the use of scholarships and a half-million dollars is awarded annually. The preservation of Hellenic or Classical Studies programs on college campuses is an important issue to the Educational Foundation. A subcommittee, the Hellenic Cultural Commission, actively works to support the study of the Classics at universities. In addition, educational programs such as Journey to Greece and Washington Internships have been sponsored by the Foundation. For more information, please visit: [www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org)

<http://ahepa.org>

## 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.

**For additional information and photos please visit:**

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