

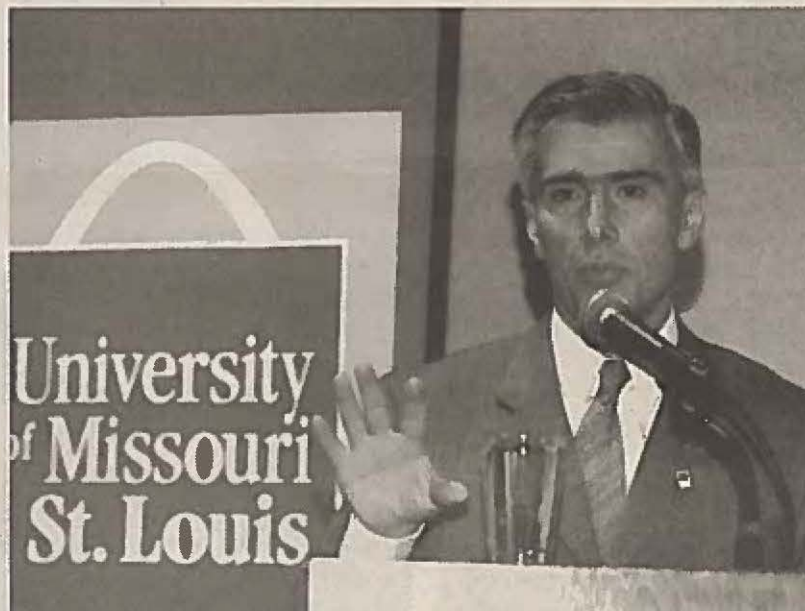


Dr. Joel Glassman, Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, Elias Matsakis, Demetra Egan, Nicholas Karakas, Thomas George, chancellor. Theodora and Dr. Nicholas Matsakis, center honorees.

## Greek Chair at University of Missouri-St. Louis scores high on achievement

A glowing report on the progress of the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Chair of Greek Studies was presented to an audience at the University of Missouri-St. Louis recently. Dr. Michael B. Cosmopoulos, chair professor of Greek Studies and professor of archaeology, made the announcement at the annual report to the Greek American community.

Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation professor of Greek Studies and professor of archaeology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, is a foremost authority on Greek archaeology, on which he has published eleven books and more than seventy articles and papers in international conferences. He has excavated several major sites in Greece and the Ukraine and is the director of three active archaeological projects at Eleusis, Oropos, and Iklaina. In 2004 he was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award of the Archaeological Institute of America.



Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, professor of Greek Studies, Hellenic government-Karakas Family Foundation,

The other components of the Nicholas and Theodora Matsakis Hellenic Cultural Center includes: The Karakas Family Library will be filled with general interest books and

citizens, both of Greek and non-Greek descent.

The Hellenic Spirit Foundation Conference Room will be available for a number of events and activities

Guest speaker at the event was Demetra Egan, program manager of the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games 2004 and Manager for the International Torch Relay. Egan presented a concise report that revealed some of the secrets for the success of The Games and the impact of The Games on the economic and social development of Greece, especially Athens.

Born in Greece, Egan has researched and published studies on issues concerning Greek society, language, migration, culture, women and youth. During her residence of over 20 years in Australia she was president of the Hellenic Studies Forum in Melbourne, and executive secretary of the World Hellenic Inter-parliamentary Union and the Coordinating Committee of Research Centres of Hellenism. She returned to Greece permanently in 1999 and worked as special advisor to the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, with responsibility for Greeks Abroad. In 2000 she joined the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004 as Program Manager, Greeks Abroad. In December 2002 she became the Program Manager for Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers and in January 2004 the Manager for the International Torch Relay.

The surprise of the evening was the announcement of the establishment of the Hellenic Cultural Center at UM-St. Louis. The message was delivered by the University Chancellor Thomas George, a champion of the Greek studies program.

The center was appropriately named the Dr. Nicholas and Theodora Matsakis Hellenic Cultural Center. The couple, long active in the Greek-American community, were respectfully recognized for their contributions to Hellenism, the Greek language, freedom for Cyprus, dental medicine and the musical arts.

Dr. Nicholas and Mrs. Theodora Matsakis have been the pillars of the St. Louis Greek American community for over seventy years. From the 1930s until now, Dr. Matsakis and his wonderful wife, Theodora, have promoted the causes of Greece and Cyprus with incredible dedication, zeal and passion.

periodicals on ancient, Byzantine, and modern Greece as well as a collection of current brochures, informational booklets, and other printed materials from Greek public and private organizations including subscriptions to major Greek newspapers and magazines.

Nicholas Karakas has been a driving force for the promotion of Greek Studies and Hellenism, both in St. Louis and across the United States. Through the Karakas Foundation for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and the Hellenic Spirit Foundation, he has worked tirelessly to preserve and expand teaching and public education on Hellenism.

The Andrew Dimarogonas Media Center will include a computer with access to the Internet and updated bookmarks for major Greek portals and Web sites. Also, the Media Center will include a collection of educational and informational videos and computer programs about Greece that are available for use in the Center.

The late Professor Andrew D. Dimarogonas was a leading scholar in the field of mechanical engineering and an ardent worker for the promotion of Greek Studies, especially through the publication of the Annual Index of Greek Studies. Dr. Dimarogonas' presence is greatly missed within the Greek community.

The Mary E. Critzas Archives of the Greek-American Community will detail the history of the local Greek-American community, including the documents resulting from the Oral History project.

The Mary E. Critzas Gallery of Greek Art will host a permanent exhibition of replicas of ancient and Byzantine Greek art as well as temporary exhibits by modern Greek artists. This museum will be the only one of its kind in St. Louis and will serve as a major attraction for locals and tourists interested in Greek culture. Furthermore, it will be used for classes and lectures on Greek art and culture.

For much of the twentieth century, Mary E. Critzas was one of the most beloved and influential members of the St. Louis Greek American community. Through her teachings, support of the arts, as well as ethos and character, she touched the lives of many of our fellow

related to Greek culture including lectures, films, meetings, and performances.

The Hellenic Spirit Foundation has been active in spreading Hellenism throughout the St. Louis area. The group is comprised of a benevolent group of Greek Americans who organize various events to promote Hellenism. It is groups such as this that ensure Greek culture will continue to grow and thrive.

The center space is currently under renovation and will be dedicated this year.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation by Nicholas Karakas, chairman of The Greek Chair Advisory Board, of five \$1,000 scholarships to worthy students studying various aspects of Hellenism and Greek culture.

Scholarship winners included: Melissa Deutsch, senior, history major; Joseph Kohlburn, senior, fine arts and communication major; Tasha Morrison, junior, anthropology major, Honors College; David Seckman, senior, anthropology major; and Katherine Wheeler, senior, English and classical studies major.

The chair, established some seven years ago by the generous support of The Hellenic Government and strong Greek-American community endorsement, has made outstanding progress under the academic leadership of Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos.

The Nicholas and Theodora Matsakis Hellenic Culture Center was made possible by the following donors: Steve Chalmers, Michael and Deborah Cosmopoulos, John Critzas, Katherine Dimarogonas, Hellenic Spirit Foundation, Menelaos Karamichalis, Nicholas and Sophia Karakas, Katsinas Family Foundation, Elias Glavinias, Harry Lemakis, Demetrios Lappas, Elias, Demetrios, and Aphrodite Matsakis, Constantine and Maria Michaelides, Christos Papadopoulos, George and Renna Pelican, Demetrios Sarantites, Salvatore Sutera, Jeanne Tombras, Peter and Chrysoula Tomaras and Evangelos Tozakoglou.

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