



World SAE Presidium Convention

Dear Friends,

We wish you and your families all the best for 2009, may the New Year bring health, peace and prosperity.

It was an honor to represent our Youth Network at the World SAE Presidium Convention that was realized in Thessaloniki from December 12-15, 2008.

The Youth Network Coordinators and their representatives from all seven regions participated in proceedings with SAE President Mr. Stefanos Tamvakis, the Regional Coordinators and members of the Parliamentary Inter-Party Committee. They also held their own meetings with the Deputy Minister for Hellenes Abroad Mr. Theodoros Kassimis and the General Secretary for Youth Mr. Pantelis Sklias. All officials of the Hellenic Government promised their support and expressed their high hopes in view of our initiatives.

The strategic plan set forth by the USA Youth Network was received very positively and served as a starting point for a framework of common action throughout the regions. We decided to collaborate on the following five points prior to our next meeting in April 2009: expanding communications between regions, creating a common website, establishing a common set of committees in all regions (Communications, Culture, Career and Social), increasing the financial resources of Youth Networks and composing a comprehensive list of all Hellenic youth organizations and Hellenic media in our respective parts of the world.



We are convinced that collaboration and communication - both within the USA and between regions - are the best ways to strengthen the ties between young Hellenes and to achieve our goals. We are looking forward to your participation and contribution.

Best Wishes,
Maurice Gritzalis
 Coordinator - SAE USA Youth Network
coordinator@saeusayouth.com

Learn Greek Online with Odysseas



The Odysseas Language Project is an interactive learning program designed to teach the Greek language and culture on the Internet using electronic learning principles and advanced user interface technology.

The tutor is designed to emulate how an actual personal tutor would instruct a student. It provides several examples and no-risk quizzes so that students are familiar with the exam format ahead of time. After each exam the student receives customized feedback based on his/her performance. Odysseas also tracks the progress of students through several exams to ensure that they are making steady progress.

The program was developed the Hellenic Studies Media Group (SFU) in co-operation with the Center for Online and Distance Education (SFU) and is funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. (continued on page 4)

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Two Wolves Story

Beloved friends of the SAE USA Youth Network:

I would like to share with you a story that was sent to me through an email. It is called the Two Wolves!

"An elderly Cherokee Native American was teaching his grandchildren about life.

He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me, it is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One wolf is evil---he is fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, competition, superiority, and ego.

The other is good ---he is joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.

This same fight is going on inside you, and inside every other person, too."

They thought about it for a minute, and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win, Grandfather?"

The Elder simply replied, "The one you feed."



The story above emphasizes what we need to do in how we lead our daily lives. Every year we begin with a new resolve, to lose weight, to be more prompt, to finish certain tasks that have remained dormant for a while. Whatever it is, the New Year brings us the opportunity to once again emphasize that which we feel needs to be done in order to make ourselves better. But what is it that needs to be perfected in our lives? Is it an outward appearance, or is it something that is an interior of one's self?

The story of the two wolves sheds this light that it is an interior perfection that needs to be worked on. And even then not just to be worked on but even a struggle to reach a perfected point in our lives. Look at what the evil side offered; fear, anger, envy and all the rest that was mentioned. I also feel that the evil side left one thing out that probably is worse than all; Indifference! Not to care about anything whether it is good and bad, is probably even worse than all the above evils. Yet there is given to us also that which is good; joy, peace, love, hope, sharing plus all the rest mentioned. This good wolf is there to overpower that which is evil, and it is a bitter struggle inside of a human being. Every day of our lives as we awaken, we are faced with a decision of which wolf to feed. If we are having a bad day we tend to feed the evil wolf with either anger, or arrogance, or even our ego. We may be driving down the street going either school or work and someone cuts us off, and we immediately feed the wolf of anger with a few choice words or gestures towards the individual who intruded into our space. This is just an example of many different opportunities that we have to feed the evil wolf, for there are others that are lying in wait to be fed from that which permeates from our heart.

As we enter this New Year my beloved friends, let us take the time to reflect on this small story of the two wolves and to try to feed the good wolf, for this is the wolf that shows what it really means to be a philanthropist to others. Let us do our best to take time and not haste in our decision process, our actions, all that has been given to us freely by God, so we can choose freely, for this freedom is one of the greatest gifts that God gave us. To choose what direction we want to proceed and find the best individual of ourselves that we can be so we can seek for the best for our brothers and sisters. As the Christmas Season of 2008 fades into the past and the New Year of 2009 begins, let us remember all the goodness that the good wolf has to offer, for it exemplifies that which our Lord came into this world for and gave to us both at the manger of Bethlehem and on the Cross of Golgotha.

A Blessed, Healthy and Prosperous 2009 to all of you as well as to those who are dear to your heart.

Fr. John Kalomas
St. Andrew's Church
 5649 North Sheridan Road Chicago, IL 60660



Communications Committee Update by Steve Livaditis

Have you seen our new website??

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website. The vision was first demonstrated at the SAE USA Youth convention back in October, and after countless hours of hard work www.saeusayouth.com is live and ready.

Our goal was to create an online portal where young American Hellenes can connect, educate, and promote Hellenism throughout their daily lives. The importance of keeping our generation connected is the backbone for the future of our organization.

As you access the website, you will immediately notice that this isn't your typical static site as it acts as both an information portal and a social network. The layout of the site cleanly displays our organizations' news, events, and committee initiatives as well as providing a platform that encourages social communication. Users of our website are able to create their own personal profile and have the ability to communicate with other members across the globe. The network at a minimum allows for photo/video uploading, music uploading, group formations and blogging capabilities.

The website would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication from all our committees. We encourage you to come visit us at www.saeusayouth.com



Career Committee Update by Bobby Kakoliris

Never has it been more critical for our younger generation to be more informed and better prepared with navigating their career. For the undergrads of the Class of 2009 and all other new job seekers, the job search will be challenging. Government data showed U.S. employers cut 240,000 jobs in October with 1.2 million jobs lost in total for the year, taking the national unemployment rate to a 14-year high 6.5 percent.*

However, all is not lost. Just ask your peers from the graduating classes of 2002 and 2003 who had to navigate a similarly tough job market. I was one of those unfortunate individuals, but by getting creative through starting my career in the non-profit sector, I managed to survive. And looking back, my non-profit experience was absolutely invaluable and helped me get to where I am today.

My advice to you: Things might not go as you planned, but be flexible and keep moving forward, and eventually things will fall into place. Just don't fall into the trap of giving up hope and losing momentum. Nothing positive could result if you stop trying.

For job-seekers graduating this year from their undergrad or master's programs, your best resource is your academic institution. Make sure to visit your Career Services department, be diligent about perfecting your resume, and get tapped into your school's alumni career network. Complement that with reaching out to friends, family, and your school's alumni who could personally pass your resume to their Human Resources department.

For job-seekers recently let go from their previous work, now is the time to lean on your friends and previous co-workers, and make sure to once again tap into your school's alumni network. Also, be open to expanding your horizons and exploring other industries less effected by this economy (e.g. non-profit, healthcare, or government), and consider going back to school if at all possible. Now is a great time to do it, particularly if it keeps you motivated and sustains the momentum.

For all young job seekers, SAE Youth Network is also doing its part to provide the tools and platform necessary to assist you in your career.

We are currently building a message board on our site to serve as a forum to get your questions answered and to receive guidance from your peers. We are also working on building a database with scholarship, internship, and job opportunities catered to Greek youth. And finally, our major initiative for 2009 is a Mentorship Program to connect experienced Greek professionals with Greek youth new to the job market. Other activities are also planned for late 2009 so keep your eyes out for more details to be shared soon.

Please visit our website at www.saeusayouth.com for more information and news on all our upcoming activities. And, feel free to subscribe to our newsletter to keep up with Career news, advice, and activity information.

Sas efxaristo kai kali prootho!



*Bobby Kakoliris
Career Committee Chair*

*Hopkins, Andrea. "Obama faces uphill battle to combat rising job loss." Reuters. 12/2/2008



Greek Online with Odysseas (continued from page 1)

Course Specs:

This is an introduction to the Greek language for students with no prior experience. The aim is to introduce basic grammatical structures and to develop your ability to interact in basic communications. The course also covers writing, speaking, and cultural context.

All you need is a computer with a microphone, speakers, an Internet connection and the latest version of Adobe Flash Player. (Can be downloaded from the Tutor). The online course is optimized for Microsoft Internet Explorer 7+, Mozilla Firefox 2+ and Apple Safari 2+.

Please visit <http://sae.greeklanguagetutor.com/> and register at <http://sae.greeklanguagetutor.com/signup/>



ANNUAL CAREER FAIR 2009

Sponsored by
The Cyprus U.S. Chamber of Commerce
In cooperation with

- ◆ American Hellenic Institute – New York Chapter
- ◆ Cypriot Youth Committee of America (CYCA) ◆ Cypriot Student Association of America, Inc. (EFOKA)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29th 2009

from 4.00pm until 7.00pm

at The Holy Trinity Cathedral Center Ballroom,
337 East 74th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues, Manhattan, New York



Admission is Free

Refreshments will be served

FREE GIFT FOR LUCKY JOB APPLICANT

Drawing at 7:00 pm

Job-seekers should come prepared with resumes.

Company representatives will be available to discuss career opportunities.

Companies participating in the following industries: Banking, Law Firms, Accounting, Architects, Engineering, Contracting, Importers, Financial Advisors, Computers, Real Estate, Investment Banking, Cosmetics, Social Work

COMPANIES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, PLEASE CALL

For further information contact:

Despina Axiotakis, Executive Director at 201-444-5609 or e-mail at: cypriuschamber@aol.com

Help Welcome Nikolas Home

Saturday, February 21, 2009

6:30 p.m. Reception - 8:00 p.m. Performance by Basile!

SS. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465

On August 21, 2008, fun-loving Nikolas Bezanis was enjoying the company of family and friends during a late afternoon boat ride. In an instant, an accident changed everything. Niko suffered a serious spinal cord injury after unknowingly diving into shallow water. He shattered two cervical neck vertebrae leading to a severe and complete compression of his spinal cord in the thoracic area and preventing movement or sensation below the level of injury. It is not expected that Niko will regain function of his lower chest and extremities.

Niko has endured many setbacks and multiple surgeries during his three-month hospitalization. Some of the biggest obstacles were breathing on his own, fevers, infections, and pressure sores. Thankfully, he has made some progress and can now breathe on his own and realize limited function of his hands. He is at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago undergoing rigorous physical and occupational therapy.

Many friends and family realize that the cost associated with bringing Nikolas home is overwhelming. Being a quadriplegic, he has physical limitations and dependence on others to accomplish daily activities. To that end, many have come together to host a fund-raising event on February 21st. All monies will be used for home modifications and much needed specific equipment for Niko. The popular Greek comedian, **Basile**, will perform for one show. In an attempt to make this event even more successful, a raffle is being planned, for which we are in need of prizes. It could be almost anything large or small – an item from your surplus merchandise or a gift certificate. We hope you will be able to participate.



We are also in need of donated product(s) to ensure the success of the evening. You can contact us to make arrangements for pick-up of your donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Donated Item: _____

Value: \$ _____

If you are interested in tickets for the show, please respond by February 15, 2009. Your reservation(s) for the open seating show will be held at the door. Need more information? ***Please call 708/460-8648 for visit Niko's website at www.nbbc.me***

Adults: \$75 per person (Includes beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres and show admittance.)

Yes! I would like to purchase _____ tickets at \$75 each. Enclosed is my check/money order for \$_____.

I/We are not able to attend, but enclosed is my gift for the Nikolas Bezanis Benefit Fund. \$_____.

Please make checks payable to Nikolas Bezanis Benefit Fund

P.O. Box 212

Palos Park, IL 60464

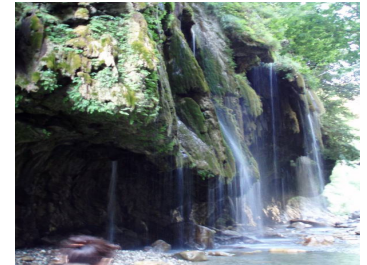


N.E.A. Travel Destination – “KRIKELLO, EVRITANIAS”



Krikello is a quaint and whimsical village positioned at an altitude of 1.120m and located 31 km from Karpenisi, Evritania. It has a unique, magical, and rich history as well as culture. It is truly worth visiting this place which is also known as Greece's Switzerland. Historically, Krikello received its name due to its location amongst a circular arrangement of mountains ("krikos").

The land is filled with dense forests of centuries old fir trees, chestnut trees, and rare aromatic and holistic herbs growing alongside the cool waters of the Krikellopotamos River. Krikello's charm is in its whimsical landscape from which fairytales are born and told. Homes made of old stone and stone roofs or *keramidia* line these majestic paths. In the middle of the village lies its large square, or *plateia*. There, the townspeople gather underneath the cool shade of the *platania* to drink their *kafe* or *tsipouro*. One can stay at the many quaint hotels and homes for rent available any time of the year. The most popular and vibrant time is during the month of August where many stay to honor and celebrate the Feast of the Virgin Mary. A huge and well renowned *panigiri* marks Her memorial every 23rd of August. The main church is that of St. Nicholas which is one of the most beautiful in Evritania.



The village is also known and admired for its *solinaria*, or natural spring waters. The water is always cool, rushing, and quenches ones thirst during the hot days of summer. Often times, you will see people place their watermelons under the rushing spouts to cool and make a refreshing afternoon treat. These pure and brisk waters cross the famous gorge known as *Pantavrexi*, "always raining," in Krikellopotamos. Beyond the gorge, one can enjoy an eagle's eye view of the village below from the famous park called Kalithea. It is lined with soft grasses and is a favorite playground of many children. Furthermore, explore the historic site of Kokkalia. This is the sacred location which houses the bones of the dead resulting from a bloody battle in 279 B.C. between the people of Aetolia and Evritania vs. the Gauls. Every summer, a famous runner's race also takes place at Kokkalia.



We highly recommend a visit at this N.E.A travel destination pick. You will always be welcomed warmly in Krikello and will leave with a memorable and pleasant experience.

Happy Travels,
 Newsletter Team

Photos by Kostas Sigounis



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Write to us!!!
SAE USA YOUTH NETWORK
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 Chicago, IL 60607

Pontian Greek Genocide Awareness Seminar ***March 6-7, 2009***

The SAE Youth Network with the assistance of the Pontian Greek Society, *Xeniteas of Chicago*, will be presenting a cultural awareness workshop as part of the ongoing educational process concerning the Genocide. There will be presentations as well as curriculum guides and flyers concerning the genocide. Any educators that are interested in teaching the Genocide are urged to sign-up. For more information about the seminar, please contact Demetri Varnasidis at zandos73@yahoo.com. Please visit www.pontiangreeks.org to view previous Genocide presentations.