

U.S. CONSULATE
GENERAL IN
THESSALONIKI



THE U.S. CONSULATE:

- Used to be located on Nikis Ave. in the building now occupied by the Daios hotel, overlooking the waterfront.
- Is a sponsor of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, which included 10 films from the U.S. this year.
- Website receives over 1000 visits every day.

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Our Special Xmas Edition

Northern Pages

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Election Breakfast - November 5th

The U.S. Consulate General invited Greeks, Americans and others living in northern Greece to an election watch in the early morning hours of November 5th.

The guests had the opportunity to follow televised results of the American elections and listen to commentary by local experts. **Dr. David Wisner**, Chair, International Relations Department of the American College of Thessaloniki spoke on the American electoral system.

Dr. Theodosios Karvounarakis, Associate Professor, Department of International and European Economic and Political Studies, University of Macedonia spoke on the

importance of citizen participation in elections. Local TV and radio stations covered the Election Watch and presented the results in detail. Consul General Hoyt Yee and Consul King made

statements on the significance of the elections and absentee voting in northern Greece.

In the image below: CG Yee during the Election watch.



U.S. Supports Young Entrepreneurs

On October 23 at the U.S. Consulate General, the Young Entrepreneurs of Thessaloniki group hosted Microsoft Hellas Technical Director Patrick Malone for a discussion on how aspiring entrepreneurs can use information technology to develop and implement their business projects.

Malone encouraged the audience of more than 40 future and current entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams and to take advantage of services Microsoft provides through its Innovation Center in Athens.



Above: Microsoft Hellas Patrick Malone with YET administrator Vassilis Tsoulis.



Martha Graham Dance Company in Thessaloniki



The legendary New York-based Martha Graham Dance Company thrilled audiences in Thessaloniki and Athens with the world premiere of the new adaptation of "Clytemnestra."

Their premiere was timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Martha Graham's original performance of the ancient Greek play. The Company gave two performances in Thessaloniki at the prestigious Macedonian Studies Hall under the auspices of the U.S. Mission and the Greek Ministry of

Tourism, and on both occasions received standing ovations from the sold-out crowd.



In the image : CG Yee with some of the Martha Graham Dance Company dancers.

International Education Week NOV 17-23

FULBRIGHT EVENT NOV. 17

The Fulbright Foundation – Thessaloniki office in cooperation with the U.S. Consulate organized an open house educational event on Fulbright Scholarships and studies in the U.S.A.

The event offered information about all the scholarships that the Fulbright Foundation can offer to Greek citizens, as well as information on the process for university registration in the U.S. Former Fulbright Alumni offered their "insider" views of student & cultural life in the U.S.

On the occasion of the 60 years of the Fulbright Foundation in Greece, the documentary "Fulbright 60 Years" was featured. The event took place at the prestigious Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Thessaloniki, with the Chamber's support.

120 students had the opportunity to listen to Wesley Teter (Europe's Educational Advisor USA) and other Fulbright scholars, and find out more, about scholarships and procedures of acceptance, information about the right university choice, the importance of financial assistance based on a timetable made by every student who wants to study abroad, the advantages of studying in the U.S.A. and a general overview of student life in the U.S.

The event stressed that hard work, ambi-

tion and willingness to learn are the keys to make your dreams come true and make you a student in one of the top universities of America and why not of the world!

MENTORING PROGRAM

One of the most popular and interesting activities organized by the U.S. Consulate in cooperation with local high schools is the mentoring program. The program gives the opportunity to students from various Thessaloniki schools to meet regularly with U.S. diplomats and discuss current affairs, international relations, diplomacy, politics, American-Greek relations, U.N. issues, according to their interests.

Currently, two schools, Anatolia College and the Mandoulides High Schools meet with the American diplomats every six weeks. These two groups of students discuss with their mentors issues of their concern; at the same time, the Thessaloniki Experimental High School met with Consul General Hoyt Yee in the framework of their preparation for the 7th Model UN – Thessaloniki 2008 which took place in our city on November 21.

If you , or your class would like to participate in a mentoring program, contact info@usconsulate.gr



Q & A with the CG



Consul General Hoyt B. Yee



Can I get a job at the US Consulate? Would you like to see the behind the scenes, inner workings of a United States diplomatic mission? Are you interested in learning about diplomacy, public affairs or foreign policy? Are you a university student or recent graduate looking for practical work experience in a technologically advanced, dynamic and American-style professional setting? If so, I strongly encourage you to consider applying for an internship at the Consulate General in

Thessaloniki. The Consulate offers three month internships to qualified university students or graduates throughout the year. Consulate interns can choose from a wide range of projects, including assisting with management of our website, organizing seminars and other public events, research and writing, and much more. Some examples of topics of past intern projects include the environment, U.S.-Greek commerce, combating human trafficking, relations with the media, cultural exchanges.

Interns agree at the beginning of their internships on what projects they would like to pursue, and receive advice and mentoring from American and Greek staff. In my experience, interns enjoy working in the Consulate and learn valuable skills. Several have gone on to careers or studies in foreign affairs or trade. Intern alumni remain part of the Consulate "family" even after they leave the Consulate. I hope you will consider applying for an internship or

participating in one of our many other activities. If you would like more information about how to apply as well as about our upcoming events, please visit our website at <http://thessaloniki.usconsulate.gov>

Election Events in 2008



The U.S. Consulate General hosted a digital video conference on the United States Presidential Election on Wednesday, October 22 for a group of students to discuss the most recent polls and the Republican and Democratic candidates. Dr. Goldfield presented an overview of the American electoral system,

the diversity of voters, as well as some of the issues that the candidates are dealing with in their campaigns, including the economy, social issues, ethics and foreign policy. On November 14, U.S. political analyst and former presidential campaign manager Rick Ridder of RBI Strategy & Research spoke to a group of 45 graduate and

undergraduate students at the U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki about the U.S. presidential elections. Mr. Ridder analyzed the electoral campaigns of both presidential candidates, including the importance of "personalized" campaign messages.



ACS Highlight - American Citizenship

Most of the consular work we do at the Consulate General in Thessaloniki we call "American Citizen Services." We provide a variety of services for American citizens, but what makes someone an American citizen in the first place? OK, let's begin a discussion about American citizenship in this edition by exploring how a person becomes an American citizen. There are really three different ways that a person

can acquire American citizenship. Get ready for a Latin lesson here, the first way is called "jus soli" which means from the place of birth, i.e. in the United States. Every child born on U.S. soil is immediately and automatically an American citizen. The second manner in which a person can become an American citizen is called "jus sanguinis," by blood, that is, the American citizenship is inherited from a per-

son's father or mother. In order for a child who is born outside the U.S. to inherit citizenship from an American citizen parent there are certain residency requirements that the parent must meet. Evaluating these cases is a part of the work we do at the Consulate. The third manner in which citizenship can be acquired is through the naturalization process. This process is handled at Department of



Homeland Security offices inside the U.S. Watch this space for more on citizenship issues in upcoming issues – maybe some more Latin too!
By Bob King
U.S. Consul

20th Ethno - Jazz Festival in Thessaloniki

The International Ethno-Jazz Festival organized by the Municipality of Thessaloniki is the most durable institution in the jazz music scene in Greece. Although it officially began in 1984, some years no events were organized. During the 2000 Demetria, the Ethno-Jazz festival regained its prestige, and was turned into a huge success. In the fall of 2008 the

Festival celebrated its 20 years in the Thessaloniki music scene featuring events with the ethnic music muse and Good Will Ambassador, Natasha Atlas and the four Grammy Award winner jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves for the first time in Greece. Thessaloniki resident and world famous saxophone player Chico Freeman, and one of the world's greatest

drummers, Jack DeJohnette. All those performances and concerts are made possible with the support of the Thessaloniki municipality in the framework of the Demetria Festival.

Top Right: Music muse Natasha Atlas
Right: Grammy Award winner Dianne Reeves



49th Thessaloniki International Film Festival



49th Thessaloniki International Film Festival

Every year the U.S. government financially supports the participation of American films in the Thessaloniki Film Festival. Always interested in culture the Consul General, Mr. Hoyt B. Yee, watched, among other films "Frozen River," "The Wrestler" and "Momma's Man." Many famous American directors and actors visited Thessaloniki during the

Film Festival. Both Oliver Stone and William Dafoe offered masterclasses for the audience of the festival where they spoke about their work, approaching roles, filming and inspiration. Both Stone and Dafoe were awarded for their contributions in art. For more info and reports on the daily activities of the Festival, visit: <http://www.filmfestival.gr/>

One of the main categories for this year's Film Festival was the "Young Americans" which presented seven films, including: Ballast, Goliath, I think I'm Missing Parts, Sugar, The Acquaintances of a Lonely John, The Pleasure of Being Robbed and Wendy and Lucy. For more visit: <http://tiff.filmfestival.gr/default.aspx?lang=en-US&loc=4&page=721&Sec>



Upcoming Events

1. January 23, 2009 - Consular outreach to the city of Larissa and Pitta cutting of the American - Hellenic Association of Larissa
2. January 28, 2009 - Presentation: "Women's Entrepreneurship" with Valentini Amarantidou, ARTION conference organizers in cooperation with YET
3. January, TBD, Transatlantic Studies Seminar (check our website for details)
4. February 4, 2009 - Annual "David Tiano" Lecture
5. February 12, 2009 - Book Presentation on NATO transformation
6. February - Black History Month events (check our website for details)



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