JTG enjoys a 3 day excursion to Pan-Hellenic Game Sites sponsored by Hellenic Electronic Center

The 6th Annual Journey to Greece Program is now in full swing with Session #2 in its third week! Once again, the University of Indianapolis and the Order of AHEPA have been working together to produce a great program for our students in Greece! After a very full and enjoyable first two weeks with the NHS sponsored cruise on the "Majesty," and another week of activities and classes that included such events as visits to the Greek Foreign Ministry, the Acropolis and Acropolis Museum, students look forward to another week of new activities!

Week #3 for Session II has been an especially rewarding week with many new exciting events for our students! Beginning with a visit to the historic “Battleship Averoff” and the “Olympia” Trireme in the harbor and a Sunday visit to see the Regimental changing of the Evzone Guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. When a busy week of classes resumed on Monday, our students had a visit from a special guest speaker, Mr. Alec Mally, former Economic Attaché of the US Embassy and currently, the Director of Global Economic Affairs at Foresight. Mr. Mally spoke to us on the significance of the “Greek Debt Crisis” in detail. On Thursday, our students attended a very special private briefing by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs on US-Greek Relations and Greek Foreign policy issues. This was followed by a private tour of the Greek Parliament!

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After this busy week, a wonderful weekend escape was planned for students to travel for 3 days to see all 4 of the Ancient Pan-Hellenic Game Archaeological sites! Sponsored by the Hellenic Electronic Center (HEC), our students traveled to Isthmia, Ancient Corinth, Nemea, Olympia and Delphi for a very rewarding 3-day weekend! Staying at the "Olympian Asty Hotel" was a nice escape from Athens city life! We began our excursion traveling to the Corinthian Canal where students were met by AHEPA Member, Captain Evangelos Rigos, the Director of the Hellenic Electronic Network (HEC) of Greek academics worldwide. After the HEC provided breakfast, Captain Rigos personally gave the students a lecture on the Mythology of ancient Isthmia and Corinth! Not far from the Corinthian Canal, Isthmia was the home of the Sanctuary of Poseidon and the Isthmian Games! On to Corinth to see one of the richest cities of the ancient Greek world. Seeing both the place where the Apostle Paul preached to the Corinthians and the ancient city and museum was a great experience for our students! Next stop was a great treat for our students, as we went to ancient Nemea, home of one of the legendary Pan-Hellenic games of ancient times and to the place where Heracles killed the Nemean Lyon as one of his 12 Mythological labors!

Our trip to Nemea was particularly rewarding, as Professor Stephen Miller met the students, emeritus professor UC Berkeley! Professor Miller's efforts in the late 1970s and early 1980s uncovered the stadium itself, where the ancient Nemean Games were undertaken! Having such an acclaimed archeologist guide our students through the site, museum and stadium was something our students will never forget! Capping off the day, students reenacted a traditional foot race in the footsteps of the ancient athletes! Many hope to return in 2012 to take part in the recreation of the Nemean Games sponsored by Professor Miller. Next year's Journey received a personal invitation to participate in the 2012 Nemean Games!

Following this adventure, our students were provided a traditional lunch at the local Nemea taverna with both Professor Miller and Mrs. Effie Miller! Captain Rigos and HEC hosted the lunch for our students! The lunch concluded with a special talk given by the professor regarding his letter responding to the Journey of Archeology regarding the true Hellenic origins of Alexander the Great and Macedonians. The letter has now been signed by over 320 classical historians and has been sent to the White House. Captain Rigos concluded our day with a special announcement that HEC has created a special "Student Forum" on line for all Journey to Greece Alumni! Our students will have the opportunity in interface with Greek professors all over the world when conducting research, discussing their studies. This on-going network will help all of our students with their future educational plans. We would like to give special thanks to the HEC for its continued support of the Journey to Greece! The Journey continues to welcome the support of

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our programs from NHS, Hellenext, and AHEPA, Athens Chapter, HJ-1.

At the conclusion of this very full agenda, we went on to Olympia to enjoy a leisurely dinner. On Saturday, our students went off to one of the greatest sites and museums in Greece at ancient Olympia! Here our guide gave our students a special presentation of the entire Olympia area from the site where the Olympic flame is ignited, to one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Zeus, built in 470 BC. Then on to see the circular, ionic temple of Philippion built in 338 BC by Phillip II of Macedon and the Doric Temple of Hera, built in 600 BC. This area was largely excavated by the German Archaeological Institute, beginning in 1875. The journey then went on to the Olympic stadium itself, where once again our students recreated an Olympic foot race where similar events were held every 4 years from 776 BC until they were ended by the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II in 393 AD. Following the visit to the site, we continued on to the famous Olympia Museum to see such wonders as the "Battle of the Centaurs" from the pediment of the Temple of Zeus and the famous "Hermes" from 340 BC with the incomparable artistry of Praxiteles!

Following another traditional taverna lunch in Olympia, we went back to our hotel, the Olympia Asty to enjoy a day by the pool and a leisurely evening dinner!

On Sunday, we left early for our drive to Delphi and the famous site of the Oracle and the Temple of Apollo! This is where the famous Oracle once conveyed her riddled answers to ancient worshippers of Apollo! Known as the "Omphelos" or navel of the earth, where Zeus set off two eagles that met at this spot! Here we visited the historic museum with its fabulous artifacts from the many treasuries devoted to Apollo and the Delphic Oracle! Included here is the most famous bronze, the "Charioteer" one of the greatest surviving bronzes from the ancient period! Our guide gave our students a most complete explanation of the site, including the Temple, ancient Stadium and Amphitheater! This was the final site of the Pan-Hellenic Games which marked our very complete weekend for having visited all four of the ancient sites, sanctuaries and athletic stadia! After a very enjoyable and complete weekend excursion, we had a nice lunch at the "Omphelon" (Navel of the Earth) Restaurant! Then back to Athens to prepare for another week of classes!
Our Journey at Olympia

In front of the entrance to the Ancient Stadium at Olympia

Professor Miller, his wife Effie, and Captain Rigos receiving official JTG shirts

Private Guided Tour at Olympia

Barrington Wilson next to a Steele with "ST Stylianides," his grandfather who assisted and supported the efforts to uncover the Nemea Archeological Site
JTG attends Foreign Ministry Building

Briefing at Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Our group in the Parliament Chamber

Parliament Tour

Parliament Tour
JTG at Dora Stratou

In the dance studio with our instructor

On stage at the World Famous Dora Stratou Dance Theatre

Introduction by Alkis Raftis, President of Dora Stratou Dance Theatre

Dance lesson at Dora Stratou
JTG visits Battleship Averoff

Visit to the Battleship Averoff in Piraeus Harbor

Beach day at Voula Beach

Our group by the pool

Beach day at Voula Beach
**July 16**
Dr. D arranged a visit to the famous “Battleship Averoff” in Pireaus Harbor. This is a floating museum of the famous ship that was commissioned 101 years ago and served in every Greek battle from the Balkan Wars, World War I, the Greco Turkish War and World War II. It has the history of never having lost a Battle! After, we visited the famous recreation of the Trireme Warship, the “Olympias” of the Battle of Salamis fame! Also present was the “HS Velos” the Destroyer that is a dedication to the Anti-Dictatorship Struggle against the Military Junta. Following this historic visit, our students went to Voula Beach to spend the rest of the afternoon at the beach!

**July 17**
Students observed the weekly Regimental Changing of the Evzone Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier outside of the Parliament Building. Students were briefed by Dr. Dimitriou about the importance of US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s visit to Greece, as we got a glimpse of her motorcade pulling into the Prime Minister’s residence.

**July 18**
Students resume classes. Group lunch at our favorite Plaka Taverna. Mr. Alec Mally, Executive Director for Global Economic Affairs at Foresight Strategy and Communications, briefed the group on the Greek Debt Crisis. Late afternoon visit to the Acropolis, to see the UNESCO World Heritage Site and the EU's number one Historical Heritage Site, the Parthenon.

**July 19**
Dr. Dimitriou lecture on the Macedonia Name Dispute, Cyprus conflict, and the Ecumenical Patriarch controversy. Guided tour of the celebrated Acropolis Museum for students to witness the famous Parthenon Freezees, the treasures of the Erechtheion Temple designed by Phidias, and along with the Caryatids Statues. Students preceded to the screening of the famous Costas-Gavras film on the history of the Parthenon. Following this students completed their visit looking at many of the additional statuary from the Ancient Hill.

**July 20**
Dr. Dimitriou lecture on US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s visit to Greece. Group lunch at out Plaka Taverna. Lesson on conversational Greek in the Modern Greek Class. Evening visit to the folk dance center of Athens, the Dora Stratou experience. Our group was welcomed by Mr. Alkis C. Rafitis, President of Dora Stratou and the President of the International Dance Council and CID UNESCO, Paris. After the introduction, we had a dance lesson and enjoyed a performance by the world famous dancers.

**July 21**
Special Briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Victor Maligoudis, Second Secretary of the Ministry, and Nikos Kotrokois, Deputy Director A7 Directorate of North America, MFA. We also had a special private tour of the Greek Parliament along with a historical explanation. A special thank you to the Hon. Elisabeth Fotiadou, Consul General of Greece, from Los Angeles who assisted with these special arrangements.

**July 22**
Start of three day excursion to visit the four Pan-Hellenic Game Sites, including Isthmia, Corinth Nemea, Olympia, and Delphi. Special thanks to the Hellenic Electronic Center and Captain Evangelos Rigos for arranging the guided tours and visit to Isthmia and Corinth. HEC also hosted the welcome breakfast. The highlight of the day came at the Nemean site where the students received a personal guided tour by Dr. Stephen Miller, Emeritus Professor, University of California at Berkeley, and the archaeologist that discovered the Ancient Nemean Stadium. Following the tour of the museum, temple, and stadium we went on to have our taverna lunch with Professor and Mrs. Miller sponsored by Captain Rigos and HEC. Check-in and dinner at the Olympion Asty Hotel.

**July 23:**
After our nice buffet breakfast at the Olympian Asty, we were off to the incredible site of the Olympic Games, dating from 776 BC and continuing to 393 AD. Here we visited one of the greatest sites in Greece. Our guide gave the students a presentation of the entire Olympia site where the Olympic flame is ignited, to one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Zeus, built in 470 BC. Then on to see the circular, Ionic temple of Philippeion built by Phillip II of Macedon and the Doric Temple of Hera, dated at 600 BC.

**July 24:**
On Sunday, we left for the ancient sanctuary of Delphi and the famous site of the Oracle and the Temple of Apollo! Students were able to see where the mysterious Oracle answered the questions of the ages with riddles to be solved! This is the site the ancients considered the “Navel of the Earth,” known as the “Omphelos” where Zeus released two eagles that met here! We visited the museum with its wonderful collection from the many treasuries devoted to Apollo! The highlight, of course, is the famous bronze, the “Charioteer!” The tour included the Temple, ancient Stadium and Amphitheater! This was the final of the four sites of the Pan-Hellenic Games that we visited on this excursion. Ending the week, we were back to Athens to prepare for classes.
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

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 Journey to Greece Family that make the program possible!

UINDY STAFF SUPPORT
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• Dr. Peter Wilkins, Vice Chancellor of 
  Institutional Advancement & Coordinator of JTG Program  
• Mr. Bill Kiritis, Vice Chancellor of Admissions (retired)  
• Mrs. Dina Skias, Director of Student Affairs  
• Mr. Tom Mazarakis, Director of Housing and Security  
• Mrs. Maria Tshas, Registrar  
• Ms. Ellie Despotakis, Special Programs Coordinator

Tina Papadopoulos (AHEPA JTG Counselor)
Our female counselor Ms. Tina Papadopoulos, is a member of the Daughters of Penelope Zelia Chapter #120, Boston, MA. She has served as a board member of the Federation of Hellenic American Societies (FHASNE), the Hellenic American Women’s Council, Theophany School and Taxiarhke Greek Orthodox Church of Watertown, as well as a President of the NE Chapter of the American Hellenic Institute. She currently is the Director of Exhibitions for the American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures (ACRPS). Tina has has significant experience in non-profit and volunteer management as well as fundraising, event planning and public relations. This is her second year as an AHEPA Counselor.

AHEPA JTG Counselors:

Lou Eleopoulos (AHEPA JTG Counselor)
Our AHEPA Counselor, Mr. Lou Eleopoulos is a member of AHEPA Contra Costa Chapter #259. He is a graduate of University of California at Berkeley, where he majored in History and played football. Following college, he served in the US Army Reserve, Special Forces. Mr. Eleopoulos is the founder and chairman of the Hellenic American Veterans Memorial Foundation; he organized the committee that effected change in the design of the Olympic medal in 2004. He has been the parade coordinator for the Greek Independence Day Parade in San Francisco for the past six years. This is Lou’s second year as an AHEPA Counselor.

Session 2 students in front of the Parthenon
About our Generous Sponsors:

The **National Hellenic Society** 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/](http://www.nationalhellenicsociety.org/)

The **American Hellenic Institute Foundation** (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.ahiworld.org](http://www.ahiworld.org).

Source: [http://www.ahiworld.org/](http://www.ahiworld.org/)

The **Next Generation Initiative** 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.”


Founded on March 1, 1995, the **Hellenic Electronic Center** (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](http://greece.org)

For additional updates and photos please visit:


Note from the Editor:

Yiassas! As session 2 is in full swing, I am honored to have the *parea* of so many wonderful friends. This week we had the privilege to go on an excursion and visit the four sites of the Ancient Pan-Hellenic Games. After volunteering with the Journey family at the Special Olympics, that experience and this trip allowed me to appreciate the true essence of the games, without the commercialization that the Modern Olympics have today. Having the honor to receive a tour from Professor Stephen Miller, whose efforts discovered the stadium in Nemea, is an experience that helped us truly appreciate the historical site. I can’t wait for the next part of our Journey!