Education Minister Announces Creation of Three New Schools

By Savvas Marinakis and Demetrios Tzakas
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – Greece’s Minister of Education and Religious Affairs Evangelos Meimarakis announced a series of initiatives his Ministry would adopt to create new Greek pilot schools and one Kindergarten here in the United States, in the reopening of St. Rachel’s Teacher’s Academy in Garden, N.Y. and support college and graduate training for Greek students working in American Greek schools during an exclusive interview with The National Herald. Mr. Meimarakis also pledged to offer greater support to the Greek American communities through the Archdiocesan school system, in addition to the existing public schools. He also cited the utilization of modernization and educational professionals from the Greek American Community as a way to enhance the educational Ministry’s mission.

The announcement was accompanied on his visit to TON by Thursday by Education Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Dimakis – who previously served as Greek Consul General in New York – Special Secretary for Educational Planning, Education of Greek Children of the Diaspora, Intercultural Education and Development and Aigyops Synagogou, Greek Consul General in New York Aigyphalis, and Consultant Education Coordinator George Dimakis.

Meimarakis met with TON Publish­ ing Editor-in-Chief Alekso Xi. Dimakiss and discussed issues related to the Ministry’s mission and how it might enhance the educational Ministry’s mission.

Mr. Meimarakis spoke with news­ paper representatives after a visit and said that he came prepared to discuss the educational challenges facing the Greek American community. When we first started our visit, I had no idea how many schools of Education had never been visit­ ed by any official of the Ministry of Education before, he said, and by apologizing on behalf of the Ministry, he said the Ministry had never been visit­ ed by any official of the Ministry of Education before.

We are dealing with substantial is­ sues and trying to arrive at solu­ tions for them,” he said.

The Greek Education Minister made the Greek Govern­ ment’s strategy to strengthen Greek education for Greeks living abroad, and said that there were 2,000 Greek schools operating worldwide, in one form or another. He said that such a Greek educa­ tion carries 2,000 teachers to service these schools, and that 13% of these educators teach in Greek American parachol schools and charter schools in the U.S. “We support all forms of education,” Mr. Meimarakis said, noting his determination to allow schools operating under the Archdiocesan school system, as well as the independent schools.

Meimarakis noted that it was under his Ministry’s previous to establish public pilot schools along with a Kindergarten, so that students can begin learning the Greek language at a very young age. He also recognized that the Ministry has the infrastructure of the New York Archdiocese to work with.”

Mr. Meimarakis said that during his visit to Washington, D.C., he met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Continued on page 2

The Steady Resurgence of John Rangos

By Evan C. Lambrou
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – The John Hopkins University School of Medicine re­ ceived a formal arrangement with the University of the Philippines, the third largest university in Greece, to cooperate on research, as well as student and faculty exchange, last Friday.

The two schools officially commis­sioned their new collaboration last Friday, April 11, when representa­tives from both sides met at Johns Hopkins to sign a memorandum of cooperation long champi­oned by leading Greek American businessmen and philanthropists John G. Rangos Sr., a member of the Johns Hopkins Medicine Board of Advisors and chairman of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Board of Trustees.

The occasion coincided with the inauguration and official opening of the John G. Rangos Sr. Building, a new building in the Johns Hopkins Medicine Institute.

The Rangos building is the home of five new buildings planned for the first phase of the project, and is adjacent to the Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

Mentor L. Weissbach, William H. Welch Professor of Medicine and chair of the Department of Medicine, at Johns Hopkins Old for 72 years, said, “It is a pleasure to be here and to see the progress that has been made.”

The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine is one of the top five in the country, Weissbach said, and the Philippines is among the top three countries in the world in terms of the number of medical students.

“John Hopkins has a history of working with our country, and this is a great opportunity for us,” Weissbach said.

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Patriarch Aims to Open New Halki School

By Theodore Kalafatis
Special to The National Herald

BOSTON – Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has requested help from the government of Greece to establish a Theological School in Greece in response to the Patriarchate’s Ecumenical School of Halki which was allowed to operate by an American court.

The request was made during a visit to the United States last week.

The request was made during

The National He...
Modern Greek Studies Program at University of Michigan a Thriving Success

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Two thousand are of Greek her­
tage, and one third is Greek. This
program, which he is very proud of,
"The problem is there," he said,
"Their exposure to it was through their
graduate experience here. I'm the rare
exception of them, I have attended
Greek Studies because I am for­
rined. As we move things around the
country and said, 'Look, we are business people. We don't
want to say he is as Greek as I am, but
times even because of their chil­
dren. Leader Lambropoulos has
one very impressive thing. We see
him to be Greek. Those of us who
are in constant contact with
him. They have of the Greek outside
this country. So that's an interesting change on
his part," he added.

Dr. Lambropoulos said he has
also worked with Greek Studies chair­
dholders at other institutions across the
country as well as with colleagues in
other departments and other medi­
urn languages at Arab.