



**PETER AGRIS  
SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARD  
RECIPIENTS**

**2011**

**ALPHA OMEGA COUNCIL**

Saturday, June 11, 2011  
BOSTON MARRIOTT COPLEY PLACE  
Boston, Massachusetts

**THE 2011  
PETER AGRIS SCHOLARSHIP  
Award Recipients**



**DIMITRA APOSTOLOPOULOS**



**ALEXIS GEORGIADIS**



**MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS**



**TONI THANAS**



**MELANIE YATES**



**PETER ZERVAKIS**

**DIMITRA APOSTOLOPOULOS** is working on her MA in journalism at Columbia College in Chicago. The native of West Chicago holds a BA in political science and international relations from Loyola University.

Currently interning as a web-writer for Chicago ABC7 and WBEZ.org, she produces articles, research and video posts for Steve's Dolinsky's Adventures in Urban Eating.

She also regularly contributes to ChicagoTalks.org on the Columbia campus with interviews, research and daily news coverage of public affairs issues.

Awarded the Follett Fellowship in Journalism, Apostolopoulos is a member of the Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois.

Apostolopoulos is currently interning at ABC in Chicago while continuing to write for ChicagoTalks.org and taking a class on teaching journalism.

She is the daughter of Fotios and Vasiliki (Kanellakis) Apostolopoulos of Chicago.

**ALEXIS GEORGIADIS** is a sophomore at the University of Illinois pursuing a degree in broadcast journalism.

The native of Champaign, IL and 16 year-old high school graduate spent a transition year after high school interning at The Cyprus Mail in Nicosia, Cyprus and volunteering at the Cyprus Institute for Neurology and Genetics.

Last summer, while attending the TFAS Institute on Political Journalism at Georgetown University, Georgiadis also served as news radio intern with WTOP FM in Washington, DC.

She recently completed a public advocacy internship with U.S. Public Interest Research Groups, has assisted the College of Media with its website "Media Minds" and was a paid student writer for the University of Illinois' Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering.

For the summer, she is interning at the Independent Media Center in Urbana, IL, as well as anchoring Weekend Edition for the local National Public Radio affiliate WILL-AM-FM-TV in Urbana.

A member of the Hellenic Students Association

and Orthodox Christian Fellowship, she attends Three Hierarchs parish in Champaign, IL.

Alexis is the daughter of John Georgiadis and Hilary DeRocco-Georgiadis of Champaign, IL.

**MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS** has embarked on a Ph.D. track in media studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He holds a MA in public policy from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a BA in political science, international studies and media arts, summa cum laude, also from SUNY Stony Brook.

During his studies, Nevradakis has been invited to serve as a teaching assistant at both the University of Texas and SUNY Stony Brook.

The producer and host of Austin Hellenic Radio, Nevradakis served as an intern in the offices of U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, the Mayor of New York City's Office of Research and Media Analysis and with the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Nevradakis' writing and research is extensive, including an upcoming chapter on Greek radio entitled "Government Sanctioned Anarchy: Greece's Chaotic Airwaves," part of an academic volume to be published this fall. He has been published widely on numerous topics pertaining to the global state of media and more specifically to the state of Hellenic media. He is also the founder of an online guide to Greek-language broadcast media, [www.media.net.gr](http://www.media.net.gr) <<http://www.media.net.gr/>>, which receives over 300,000 visitors annually.

Inducted into several honor societies, he has received numerous scholarships and awards from within the journalism, academic and Hellenic American communities.

A former media volunteer for the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Greece, this summer Nevradakis will continue his academic research at the University of Athens on the topic of Greek news blogs, the possible causes of their popularity, and their role in fostering a new public sphere and citizen's media movement in Greece, and will present some of his findings at international symposia in Greece and Turkey.

He is the son of Nicholas and Zoe Hapsis Nevradakakis of Flushing, NY.

**TONI THANAS** is entering her senior year at the University of Illinois aiming for her degree in broadcast journalism.

The Plainfield, IL native has done overseas study in journalism in emerging cultures in the Dominican Republic and studied Ancient Greek philosophy and modern Greek language at a University of Indianapolis program in Athens.

She has served as a communications intern in the offices of IL State Sen. Mike Frerichs and at the Chicago Bulls/White Sox Training Academy and was a sports stringer for The Enterprise, as well as editor-in-chief of The Fielder.

Civically active, she has worked with Gulf Coast relief, Habitat for Humanity and the Humane Society and is a member of Orthodox Christian Fellowship and the Hellenic Student Association. Her list of awards, scholarships and achievements is extensive.

Thanas is currently considering applying to the graduate program in Public Affairs Reporting at the University of Illinois, which includes an internship at the State Capitol.

This summer, she will be furthering her experience as a communications intern with IL State Sen. Michael Frerichs, as well as taking courses and finishing her degree in three and a half years.

She is the daughter of Thomas A. and Theodora (Coulis) Thanas of Plainfield, IL.

**MELANIE YATES** will earn a BA in broadcast journalism from Hofstra University next spring.

The Killingworth, CT native serves as branch manager in charge of 5 of the more than 120 branch sites for HerCampus.Com, an online daily magazine geared toward college aged women.

She was an editorial intern with FilmNews-Briefs.com, a staff writer for Nassau News Live, reporting on the towns of Hempstead, Garden City and Uniondale, NY and has served as anchor and contributing writer on the weekly news broadcasts

of Pride Watch.

Yates also hosted For Your Island, a show featuring activities and landmarks unique to Long Island, NY.

The founding secretary of Hofstra's Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, she is also a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the national communications honor society.

This summer, Yates is interning at WABC-TV in New York City, writing and reporting on their website [7online.com](http://7online.com) <<http://7online.com>> .

She is the daughter of Steven and Helene (Gianitsos) Yates of Killingworth, CT.

**PETER ZERVAKIS** has completed his degree in broadcast journalism at the University of Illinois.

A native of Darien, IL, Zervakis has interned at WLS-TV in Chicago, WCBS-TV in New York City and WCIA-TV in Champaign, IL.

He was also a sports reporter and fitness columnist for The Daily Illini student newspaper and a freelance reporter for The News-Gazette in Champaign.

A member of several national honor societies, he served on the Student Advisory Council to the Dean for the College of Media and was recognized by the university with its outstanding journalism achievement award, as well as with the scholarship of the Illinois Legislative Correspondence Association.

Having just celebrated his college graduation, Zervakis is exploring opportunities to further his broadcasting career in one of the smaller markets around Chicagoland, as well as testing the waters in London's thriving newspaper industry.

He is the son of Anastasios P. Zervakis and Harriette Condes-Zervakis of Darien, IL.



FOUNDED IN 1976 BY PETER AGRIS

# PETER AGRIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



**ALPHA OMEGA COUNCIL**

**2010**

Saturday, June 5, 2010  
THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL  
Boston, Massachusetts

## The 2010 Peter Agris Scholarship AWARD RECIPIENTS



**GEORGE ARTSITAS**



**SOPHIA BAIRAKTARIS**



**CHRISTOPHER C. BLAKE**



**STEPHANIE GANIAS**



**HANNAH MCCARTNEY**



**VASILIKI MITRAKOS**



**GEORGE ARTSITAS**, a native of Burlingame, CA, is a junior at the University of Utah majoring in film and journalism.

An op-ed columnist for The Daily Utah Chronicle, Artsitas freelances for The Salt Lake Tribune, has served as an intern reporter and copy editor for the Santa Cruz Sentinel and commented for LiveCom 365/Real Salt Lake MLS.

He will be spending the summer in Washington, DC doing an internship with USA Today.

As philanthropy chair for Beta Theta Pie Fraternity, Artsitas raised \$600 for The American Foundation for Greek Learning & Culture, received The Emorphia T. Diamant Scholarship for Outstanding Greek Orthodox Student and is also a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and the Association of Young Journalists and Writers.

He is the son of Hristos George Artsitas and Merri Ann Artsitas, both of Carmichael, CA and the grandson of Mary Maharas and the late George H. Artsitas.

**SOPHIA BAIRAKTARIS** is completing her second year in a joint journalism and political science program at Loyola University in Chicago.

The St. John, IN native has contributed to Greek Circle Magazine, The Greek Star, U4U Magazine, The Loyola Phoenix, The Times of Northwest Indiana and was editor-in-chief of her high school newspaper. She is currently an assistant in the Loyola Women's Studies/ Gender Studies Program office, responsible for event public relations.

Currently public relations officer for the Hellenic Student Association, she is also a planning committee member for the campus chapter of Orthodox Christian Fellowship and is a weekly mentor for an inner city 5th grade girl.

Bairaktaris will be interning this summer at Today's Chicago Woman magazine.

The National Honor Society and Quill and Scroll member has been the recipient of the IHSPA Student Journalist of the Year Award, National Press Association Honor Roll and the American Legion Citizenship Award, as well as several other academic and writing awards.

She is the daughter of Gregory and Maria Bairaktaris of St. John, IN and the granddaughter of Theodoti Bairaktaris and the late Dimitrios Bairaktaris and Elias and Sofia Christos.

**CHRISTOPHER C. BLAKE**, a junior at Texas Christian University majoring in broadcast journalism, is a native of Grapevine, TX.

Blake is a TCU News Now telecast reporter; KTCU sportscaster and a reporter for The Daily Skiff.

He is participating in an internship with the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY this summer.

He has served as a feature writer for the Cape Cod Baseball League, a contributor to the Daily Cape League Report on News Radio 95 WXTK, done play-by-play for the Hyannis Mets and served as music DJ for college radio KTCU.

Blake was the recipient of the 2010 Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Award and the 2009 Daily Skiff Outstanding General Assignment Reporter award.

An active Orthodox Christian, he currently serves as GOYA advisor to his former chapter and was an altar server and member of Orthodox Christian Fellowship.

He is the son of John C. and Harriet Louros Blake of Grapevine, TX and the



grandson of Nicholas and Sophia Louros of Pelham, NY and Sherwood and Elanor Blake of New York City. Proud Papou Nicholas Louros will be 99 on June 15.

**STEPHANIE GANIAS** of Worcester, MA is a senior at Boston University completing her degree in magazine journalism this spring.

Having been chosen for BU's prestigious State House Journalism Program, she served as a State House correspondent for The Milford Daily News, as well as a political news writer for The Weekly Dig and a news writer for The Boston Bay State Banner and The Daily Free Press. She is presently a public relations account management assistant with Colette Phillips Communications in Boston.

Ganias has been recognized by her parish, St. Spyridon Cathedral in Worcester, MA, and by the Pan Epirotic Society.

She is the daughter of Fotios N. and Helen Ganias of Worcester and the granddaughter of the late Nicholas and Magdalena Ganias and the late William and Arhondoula Lanides.

**HANNAH MCCARTNEY** will complete her degree in magazine journalism and English at the University of Cincinnati in 2011.

The New Richmond, OH native and salutatorian of her high school class is currently a web editorial intern with Foam Magazine, a freelance writer and editorial intern with Cincinatti CityBeat. She has interned with The Advent Media Group, with The College Prowler as p h o t o j o u r n a l i s m intern and with The Daily Gamecock as copy editor.

A member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and the recipient of the Cooper Scholars Award, she is the daughter of Timothy and Rita McCartney of New Richmond, OH and the granddaughter of John and Christina Petkos of Batavia, OH and Ralph and Joan Loesch of

Cincinnati, OH.

**VASILIKI MITRAKOS** is a freshman majoring in journalism and political science at Northwestern University.

Currently reporting for TheMash newspaper, a Chicago Tribune publication, and for The Daily Northwestern, she also contributes to Greek Circle Magazine and Loyola University's Mosaic Magazine. Mitrakos served as editor-in-chief of Northside Prep High School's newspaper and as yearbook event editor.

An Illinois State Scholar and member of the National Scholastic Press Association's Honor Roll, she has received numerous awards for academics, reporting and graphic design, including first place in the National Illinois Women's Press Association's graphic category, the Greek Youth Parliament Program award, the Hellenic Professional Society undergraduate and academic scholarship and an AHEPA scholarship.

She is the daughter of Chris and Sophia Mitrakos of Chicago, IL and the granddaughter of Anthoula Mitrakos of Chicago and the late Andreas Mitrakos and Vasiliki Sourtzinis of Poros, Greece and the late George Sourtzinis.



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