



Heather Toskos

*Drexel University
College of Medicine*

Heather is a third year medical student at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. She is currently on the Obstetrics & Gynecology pathway. She has co-authored two clinical research studies published in Gynecologic Oncology, as well as a literature review on tracheobronchial disease pending publication in CHEST journal. At school, she is Vice President of the Medical Genetics Interest Group, a certified medical interpreter, and an academic tutor. Additionally, Heather volunteers at the annual Greek festival at the Church of the Resurrection in Brookville. She has a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and a minor in Writing from Stony Brook University. Her honors include: summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Nassau County Office of the Executive Citation, Certificate of Merit from Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto, Dante Medal for Excellence in Italian, the Three Hierarchs Award of Excellence in Modern Greek, Society of Kastorians "Omonoia" Scholarship recipient in 2013 and Alexandra Kordes-Davatzes Scholarship recipient in 2017. Heather is fluent in Greek and Italian, and enjoys foreign film, writing short stories, and photography.



Katherine Polihrom

Northeastern University

Katherine is currently a graduate student at Northeastern University in Boston, MA studying to become a Nurse Anesthetist. A nurse anesthetist is an advanced practice nurse with background in critical care who has an advanced degree and training to provide anesthesia care to surgical patients. Katherine graduated from nursing school in 2009 from Fairfield University. While working as a critical care nurse, she went on to receive her master's degree in nursing from Georgetown University. With almost a decade of critical care nursing experience, Katherine is passionate about furthering her education and training to now become a nurse anesthetist at Northeastern University. This program is a rigorous combination of lectures along with thousands of hours spent in the operating room providing anesthesia care over a span of three years.

“I am proud of my nursing background and feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to advance my education and training in the field that I love.”



Anthoula Nikolaidis

***Rutgers School of Dental
Medicine***

Anthoula is a first generation American with direct roots stemming from Kastoria. She was born and raised in New Jersey and received her undergraduate degree from Fordham University in 2016. Anthoula is currently a 2nd year dental student at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine in Newark, New Jersey. Anthoula feels that she is fortunate as a Greek to be graced by such an extensive sporting culture recently highlighted by the success of Giannis Antetokounmpo, noting that people tend to forget that the original international star of Greek basketball was Kastoria's own, Dimitris Diamantidis. Anthoula considers his role in the monumental victory over the USA to have sparked her love for basketball and kick-started her own successful career in the sport, while also serving as another reminder that hard work can overcome the biggest obstacles in life. Anthoula would like to thank the Society of Kastorians "Omonoia" for this generous scholarship.

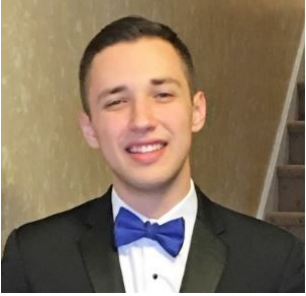
"I am honored and grateful to receive the Society of Kastorians 'Omonoia' Scholarship. I will be using the funds to pay for part of my tuition for dental school. Thank you so much!"



Aphrodite Megaris

***CUNY School of
Medicine/Sophie Davis
School of Biomedical
Education***

Aphrodite is currently in her fourth year of the accelerated seven-year program, which is also considered the first year of the official medical school portion. In June 2018, Aphrodite received her Bachelors of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences with the honor of Magna Cum Laude. She was a member of the Kastorian Dance Group for many years and remains actively involved in the Society. She is President of the Greek Club at The City College of New York and a member of the Hellenic Medical Society. Last summer, she conducted research on skin cancer dermatology and dermoscopy in Thessaloniki, Greece. Her favorite pastime is vacationing with her family, especially spending summers in Karpathos and Kastoria, where she reconnects with her grandmother and other relatives and friends.



Nikolaos Ziozis

Stony Brook University

Niko is a student of Computer Science at Stony Brook, with a passion to take his education in Computer Science and apply it to the ever evolving field of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. He is very grateful for this scholarship as it makes achievement of this goal that much easier. In his free time, Niko enjoys playing basketball and games with friends.

“For convenience, I have decided that I will dorm on campus for the duration of my undergraduate degree. The cost of board, as well as the cost for the dinning hall are currently being paid out of pocket. As so, the money that has been awarded to me here will be used to cover those costs. I am very grateful for the opportunity that this affords me.”



John Melizanis

*University of
California, Berkeley*

John is currently a student at the University of California, Berkeley, studying Economics with a double minor in computer science and data science. John has founded and worked with many start-ups in the Tri-State area and is currently working with multiple start-ups in the Bay-Area having to do with Social Media, Machine Learning, and Algorithm stock trading.

“I intend to use the funds from the Kastorian Society for textbooks this semester as well as tuition costs.

Thanks, John.”



Theodota Kontopoulos

Duke University

“I am writing to thank you dearly for your generous scholarship. The Kastorian Society has been a supportive community throughout my life, and I am sincerely honored to have been selected for this award.

I just started my final semester at Duke University, where I am studying Neuroscience and Global Health. I have sought out incredible opportunities here: I have gotten the chance to create a renewable energy flashlight in a biomedical engineering class, to code my own programs in a computer science class, and to complete an independent research project on neural development in a genetics lab. I’ve spent a summer volunteering at an underserved school while learning about educational disparity in Kolkata, India, and another working for an international children’s nonprofit while exploring foster care and policy in Washington, D.C. My experiences as an undergraduate have fostered my passion for scientific inquiry and its intersection with society. My time in college has inspired me to pursue a career in biomedical research with a focus on healthcare, and likely to attend graduate school in the future.

The funds from this scholarship will go towards my final tuition payment, which in itself is an immense help to my family. But its effect on my education does not stop there; the award will help me find opportunities to enrich my studies and develop my aspirations for years to come.

Thank you again – I truly appreciate it!

Warmly,

Theodota Kontopoulos”



Alexandra Vassiliou

CUNY - Hunter College

Alexandra is majoring in Adolescent English Literature in the School of Education at Hunter College. She is motivated to obtain her Ph.D. after she receives her bachelor's degree and Teaching certificate by 2020. She has been an active member of the Kastorian Society since 2009 as part of the Dance Group and still attends events hosted by the society. She is grateful that her parents and ancestors, have provided her the opportunity to learn about Kastoria, and plans to pass it down to future generations.



Joseph Fallait

Boston College

Joseph is a sophomore at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, where he studies Computer Science and Economics. He lives in East Elmhurst, New York with his mother, Mary, sister, Anais, and his grandparents Anna and Kimon Tsoukis. Joseph is a member of the Boston College Hellenic Society and hopes to work as a software developer after graduating. “These scholarship funds will be used in total to help pay for my room and board fees at Boston College for the Spring 2019 semester.”



Konstantina Siokis

*Montclair State
University*

Konstantina finished High School in Greece, and now she is a senior at Montclair State University (J. John Cali School of Music), where she studies Voice and Music Education. She has received an award at an Opera competition, NATS, in 2017 and had her first debut at “L'enfant et les sortilèges” as the “Pastourelle” in 2016. Currently, she is a Residential Assistant at Montclair State University’s Residential Life, where she is a peer leader responsible for building a community through organizing activities. She is mentor guiding and providing students with resources. Konstantina is on the Dean’s List and has received merit scholarship awards from the Student Government Association of MSU, and the American Federation of Teachers Local 1904. In 2018, she received the MACUHO award for Academic Excellence, and in her free time, she enjoys ballet and painting.



George Politidis

*CUNY, Queens
College*

George was born and raised in Bayside, Queens and has always been surrounded by the Greek American community. Growing up, he attended Greek Afternoon School at St. Nicholas, Flushing and was also involved in multiple basketball teams in both the JOY and GOYA organizations. He continued to remain active in the Greek community by coaching various basketball camps and clinics. In addition, George remained close to his Greek roots by participating and attending various Kastorian events held throughout the years. As an adult, George have chosen to become more involved in the Kastorian society and plans on increasing his involvement in the future. George is a recent college graduate from Queens College, with a double major in Early Childhood Education and Environmental Studies. He plans on starting his professional career as an elementary school teacher and simultaneously pursue a graduate degree.

“As a recent college graduate, I plan on starting my professional career as an elementary school teacher as soon as possible. I am eager to gain experience within the classroom and further develop my teaching skills. I also plan on starting a graduate program and have considered studying special education. The money awarded from this scholarship will be saved so that I can pay for my tuition this coming fall. I also aim to one day further develop my career and become a principal or administrator in the department of education. I also plan on focusing my attention on the community. I look forward to volunteering and continuing to participate in future Kastorian events. Ultimately, I believe it is important to devote time to better the community and learn through hands on experiences.”



**Erika
Papagianopoulos**

*Mount St. Mary
College*

Erika is from Queens, New York, and is a member of the Kastorian Society OMONIA. Erika is in her junior year at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY, where she is studying Childhood/Special Education. Working and spending time with children has always been a passion of hers. Erika has had countless jobs where her responsibilities included taking care of the youth. She has spent the last two summers working as a camp counselor at Camp Saint Paul in Litchfield, Connecticut, and has worked at The Center for Developmental Disabilities as a Teacher Aide this past summer. She currently has a part time job working with children at a daycare center while she's away at school. Erika aspires to be a special education teacher in the future. During her free time she loves to spend time with her family and friends.



George Toskos

*SUNY - University
of Albany*

George is currently a sophomore enrolled as a full-time student at the University at Albany. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Business Administration with concentrations in Finance, and Information Systems and Business Analytics. George currently maintains a 3.91 cumulative GPA and 3.93 GPA in his business majors.

In addition to his studies, George is involved in various on-campus organizations such as Delta Sigma Pi, an international professional business fraternity. Last year he assisted the foundation of the Hellenic and Cypriot Society at the University, bringing students of Hellenic descent together. George also works full-time on campus as a Residential Assistant, where he helps to maintain a safe and comfortable environment for students and coordinate programs to bring the school community together. During the summer and winter breaks, George interns as an Analyst for Consolidated Edison, Company of New York, where he analyzes financial impact to electric and gas systems from municipal construction projects.

“I am a proud Kastorian and devoted student that aspires to become a successful individual that will one day give back to my community.”



Michael Xerras

*CUNY - Sophie Davis
School of Biomedical
Education*

Michael is a second year student at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. His dream is to become a doctor. Perhaps no one has been a greater influence on his career path than my Papou, Panagiotis Symeonides, the former President of the society.

“As many of you know, my Papou passed away, on this day, one year ago. Therefore, this scholarship ceremony means the world not only to me but also to my family. I would like to thank the society for awarding me with this scholarship and say congratulations to all the other students receiving scholarships at this wonderful event.”

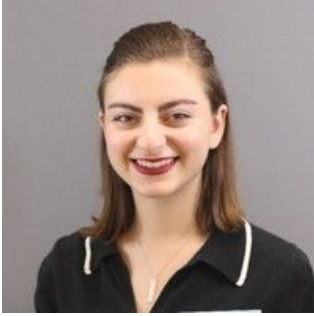


**Suzanna
Papastamatis**

St. John's University

Suzanna is a Greek-American young woman. Her father's family is from Rhodes, an island in southern Greece, and her mother's family is from Kastoria. Suzanna has an older sister who is also her best friend and they have a very big, close, and loving family. Suzanna's family members have all been very involved in the Kastorian Society, attending events such as fundraisers for charities, trips, dinners, and dances. That involvement allowed her to form a deeper connection to her heritage, along with meeting many wonderful people who she now considers to be like family. Suzanna was lucky to be given the opportunity to get to know many people who grew up as she did, sharing similar beliefs, traditions, activities, and passion for, not only a shared culture, but for life.

“Being part of this organization has greatly impacted my life and made me the person I am today. I was always taught that pursuing an education will grant me more opportunities toward a brighter future. In order to pursue a good career, I decided to conduct my studies at St. John's University. I aspire to be an occupational therapist when I am older because I want to help people. I believe that working in this field would be extremely rewarding for me. It brings a sense of accomplishment and joy knowing you did something to improve the quality of one's life.”



**Alexandra
Rizopoulos**

*SUNY - Binghamton
University*

Alexandra is a sophomore Industrial Engineering student at Binghamton University. Alexandra is also on her university's equestrian team and enjoys spending time hiking.

“My father was born and raised in Kastoria and taught me what it is to be Kastorian, from cooking delicious foods, to trying to capture the beauty of the lake through painting, but most importantly through the generous and giving spirit Kastorians share. I plan to use this generous scholarship I have been awarded towards my tuition.”



**Achilleas
Karangunis**

Hofstra University

Achilleas Karangunis, son of Paraskevi Karangunis and Anastasios Karangunis, graduated from Holy Cross High School as a member of the National Honor Society and is currently attending Hofstra University. Achilleas was admitted to a 5-year MBA program for Finance and Sports Management. Through his education, Achilleas will be able to pursue his dream of working in the field of sports. Today sports are used to take a stand for political beliefs and humanitarian causes. Sports occur on a very public platform that is used to reach the whole world. His family has been a pillar in his life and have been crucial to all his successes and continues to wish him all the best.



Isabella Defelice

CUNY Queens College

Isabella is eighteen years old and has been a participant in the Kastorian Society since she was a little girl. One of her main hobbies in life is dancing. She has been taking dance classes for fifteen years and her love for dance has increased every single year. Isabella attended St. Francis Prep High school located in Fresh Meadows New York, and now attends Queens College. She is pursuing education to become an elementary school teacher. Isabella has worked with children at an afterschool program for about 3 years and has spent many summers working at a camp with the same children. I enjoy working with children very much and find it to be a very rewarding job.

“I intend to use this scholarship towards tuition to further my education in school.”



Katherine Psaltos

The New School

“I am a freshman undergraduate student at The New School in New York City, majoring in fashion design at Parsons School of Design. In college, I hope to build a professional portfolio that demonstrates my development in design through the use of sustainable materials and practices. My goal in life is to work in the fashion industry. In order to reach personal gratification, I must share my work and not only feel that I have satisfied my audience, but shaken the world. I desire to awaken a new age of beauty. Please join my efforts and follow the instagram account that tracks my progress in my studies: @psalty.designs.”