

Events

HARVARD UNIVERSITY HOSTS TURKISH MINISTER OF ECONOMY MEHMET ŞİMŞEK DISCUSSES TURKEY’S ECONOMIC FUTURE



Delivering a message of prosperity and openness, Turkish Minister of State Mehmet Şimşek gave a major public address at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government on March 19. His visit and lecture, “Turkey’s Economy: Key Achievements, Challenges, & Medium Term Outlook,” received an enthusiastic reception by Harvard students, faculty and senior administrators. The event, which was sponsored by Harvard’s Kokkalis Program on Southeastern and East-Central Europe, highlighted Turkey’s recent economic achievements, priorities for reform, and the outlook for the economy.

During his visit to Harvard, Minister Şimşek also met and exchanged ideas with the Dean of the Kennedy School, Dr. David Ellwood, who is recognized as one of the United States’ leading economists. In his address, Şimşek noted that foreign confidence in Turkey has been steadily increasing – so much so that, between 2003 and 2007, annual foreign direct investment skyrocketed from 1.8 to 21.9 billion USD. He argued that Turkey’s burgeoning economy, which has grown for twenty-three quarters in succession, will continue on this path and is strong enough to weather both the recent domestic political turbulence and international economic uncertainty. Among Turkey’s many recent economic achievements, Minister Şimşek noted the reduction of inflation, stabilization of the banking sector and the economy’s increased competitiveness and productivity. He also discussed the remaining challenges – the need for privatization, social security reform, further decrease of inflation, and buildup of investment in research and development – and pledged the commitment of his government to make progress in these areas.

2005 AMBASSADOR OF HELLENISM LECTURES ON KAVAFIS, KAZANTZAKIS & HELLENISM IN THE ROMANIAN SPHERE



Addressing an audience of scholars, journalists, foreign dignitaries, and other distinguished guests at an event organized by the Kokkalis Foundation on February 28, 2007 in Athens, renowned writer and founder of the Romanian Society of Greek Studies Elena Lazar captivated the audience with her literary incursion into the origins and evolution of Hellenism in the Romanian culture.

In 2005 Elena Lazar was awarded the title of Ambassador of Hellenism in recognition of her contribution to the study of Hellenism. Elena Lazar’s efforts constitute an example to the wider region, especially given the dire constraints of political and economic transition in Romania, a period of very limited resources and when little attention is usually paid to intellectual life.

It is difficult to define a culture, and it is even more difficult to discern the effects of cultural interaction between peoples, Lazar said. Cultural interaction between the Hellenes and the Romanian people was not always linear and harmonious but rather it underwent different phases. The writer’s rich account of Hellenism in Romania illustrated that cultural interaction resulted from the combining elements of shared history, from education in the Greek language, and from the interchange of ideas in religious circles. In their cultural relations, Greece and Romania learned about each other as much as they learned about their own identity.

Elena Lazar’s extensive work as a writer and a translator is a remarkable contribution to disseminating the multiple aspects of neo-Hellenic culture and the neo-Hellenic literary phenomenon in Romania and in the wider Southeast European region.

Strategic Management for Leaders of Non-governmental Organizations



Harvard Kennedy School’ department of executive education launched the new executive training program Strategic Management for Leaders of Non-Governmental Organizations, organized in the city of Athens, Greece. This program is the Kennedy School’s first Europe-based open enrollment executive training program. The training took place at the premises of Athens Information Technology (AIT) from March 26-29, 2008 with the participation of 43 representatives from non-governmental organizations from 21 countries.

Strategic Management for Leaders of Non-Government Organizations offered NGO leaders the tools, perspectives, and frameworks needed to engage constituent communities and cultivate long-term partnerships and commitments. Through cutting-edge research, case studies, and presentations tailored to the unique needs of NGOs, this program illuminated the many different facets of society relevant to leaders of civil society organizations.

The training program was based on an interactive methodology originally developed by Harvard University. The program’s faculty presented real case-studies and called on participants to find alternative proposals, draw strategies and propose solutions to real problems. Among some of the topics covered were:

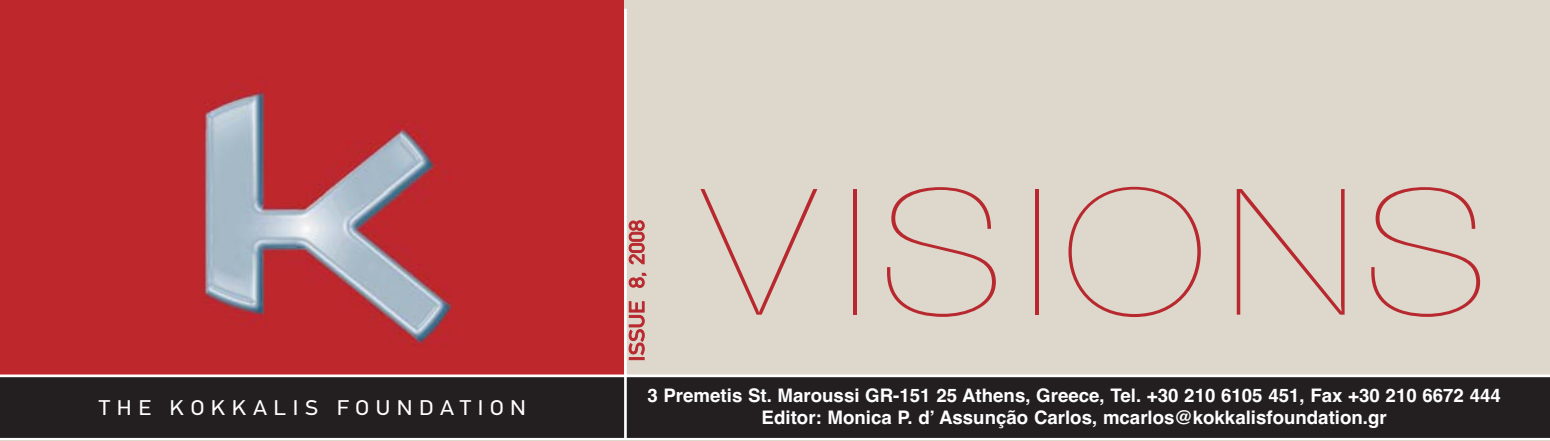
- Strategy and marketing •Business planning & fundraising
- Accountability, networks, collaboration •Financial management
- Governance as leadership

Participants included high-ranking members of NGOs and other institutions from Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Palestine, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, among other countries, which represented a wide range of activities in the areas of education, the environment, urban growth, natural disasters, and rights of women, minors, and persons with special needs.

Christine Letts, Senior Associate Dean for Executive Education at Harvard Kennedy School, stated: “We chose Athens to conduct the first open executive training program for two basic reasons: first, for its geostrategic location that facilitates the participation of organizations from all the over the world, and second, due to the good collaboration that we have had over the years with Athens Information Technology, through the Kokkalis Program on Southeastern and East-Central Europe at the Kennedy School of Government. Our wish is to organize this program in Athens annually in order to attract the interest of new organizations from more countries.”

The program’s main sponsors were the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Hellenic Centre of Public Administration and Decentralization (ΕΚΔΔΑ), and V+O COMMUNICATION was the communication sponsor.

For the past five years, Athens Information Technology (AIT) and Harvard Kennedy School have organized annual seminars on negotiation and strategic management, at AIT’s premises in Athens. These programs are attended by high-level executives, government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations from the Balkans, Southeastern Europe and the Middle East .



Inauguration of the Professor Petros S. Kokkalis Hellenic Center for Neurosurgery Research

The Kokkalis Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Athens and Evangelismos Hospital, inaugurated the “Professor Petros S. Kokkalis” Hellenic Center for Neurosurgery Research of the University of Athens with a special event held at the Athens Concert Hall on November 29, 2007. The inauguration was attended by an over capacity audience of distinguished guests including Deputy-Minister of Health Mr. Giorgos Konstantopoulos, former ministers, members of parliament, foreign dignitaries, business representatives, members of the Academy of Athens, and representatives from academia and the wider medical community.

The “Professor Petros S. Kokkalis” Hellenic Center for Neurosurgery Research (HCNR) has been established with the aim to strengthen the joint efforts of the neuroscience and the biotechnology communities in Greece. The establishment of the research center was made possible thanks to the support of the University of Athens, Evangelismos Hospital, and the Kokkalis Foundation. In its second year of operation, the center already counts eleven publications in international journals, nineteen presentations in international conferences and three innovative technologies.

The new center is active in three main research fields: the field of Neuroengineering, which studies how implantable devices and micro-systems can affect the treatment of chronic disorders such as Epilepsy, Parkinson, Dystonia, Spasticity and Chronic Pain, and also studies disabilities caused by stroke and traumatic injuries of the brain and the spinal cord; the development of Neuroinformatics; and the analysis of bio-magnetic signals captured with advanced electronic and medical imaging equipment.

The event started off with a speech by University of Athens Dean Professor Christos Kittas, on the life and work of Professor Petros S. Kokkalis, who devoted his pioneer research work to neurosurgery and to cardiac and chest surgery. In his speech, the Vice-President of the Kokkalis Foundation Mr. Petros Kokkalis addressed the role of the Foundation in the advancement of knowledge and promotion of research in the region of Southeastern Europe. University of Houston-Texas Professor Emeritus Pericles Ktonas presented the new book “Operative Neuromodulation,” authored by the head of the Hellenic Center for Neurosurgery Research Professor Damianos Sakas, emphasizing that it represents the latest and most comprehensive study on electronic implants worldwide.

The event concluded with a lecture by the internationally-recognized Neurosurgery Professor Damianos Sakas, the leader and mentor of the Hellenic Center for Neurosurgery Research. Professor Sakas elaborated on the latest scientific advances of the field of Neurosurgery and spoke with emotion about the vision and the activities of the “Professor Petros S. Kokkalis” Hellenic Center for Neurosurgery Research.

Since the summer of 2006 Professor Sakas’ team is the first worldwide to have successfully completed neurosurgical operations with electrode implants (brain pacer) on camptocormia patients as well as on patients suffering from chronic disorders such as Epilepsy, Spasticity, and Parkinson.



For more information on Professor Petros S. Kokkalis’ contribution to Modern Greek neurosurgery, please visit http://neurosurgery.org.gr/prof_p_kokkalis.htm. Information about the Hellenic Center for Neurosurgery Research is available at <http://ekne.neuro.gr>.

The 10th anniversary celebration was the largest international meeting of graduates, professors and senior administrators of Harvard University outside of the United States.

Historic Anniversary Celebration

of the Kokkalis Foundation-Hundreds of Harvard alumni, faculty and senior executives joined Southeastern European political leaders in celebration of the Kokkalis Foundation's and Kokkalis Program's 10th anniversary



In celebration of the 10th anniversary of their founding, the Kokkalis Foundation and Harvard University's Kokkalis Program on Southeastern and East-Central Europe hosted the largest gathering in the region of Harvard alumni, faculty and senior officials, and Southeastern European leaders. The celebration took place on 18 June in Athens and was attended by a capacity audience including the Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament Mr. Sotiris Hatzigakis, Hellenic Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Theodoros Kassimis, former ministers, members of parliament, foreign dignitaries and over 150 fellows of the Kokkalis Program from Southeastern Europe.

The event started off with opening remarks by the Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament Mr. Sotiris Hatzigakis, who referred to the important role played by the Kokkalis Foundation and Kokkalis Program at Harvard in the Southeastern European region, and thanked the president of the Kokkalis Foundation, Mr. Socrates Kokkalis, for his philanthropy. Mr. Hatzigakis introduced the Dean of the Kennedy School of Government, Dr. David T. Ellwood, who addressed the mission and the achievements of the Kennedy School underlining the great contribution of the Kokkalis Program to the expansion of the Kennedy School's activities in Southeastern Europe.

"The Kokkalis Program is unique because when it was founded there were no other regional programs of the kind at Harvard University. In just 10 years the Kokkalis Program made Southeastern Europe be represented at the Kennedy School, increasing the number of students from the region from 0.4% in 1996 to 4% in 2007" stated the Dean.



Kokkalis Foundation President Mr. Socrates Kokkalis spoke with emotion and self improvisation of his family, who infused him with the vision and values that led him to found the Kokkalis Foundation and Kokkalis Program at Harvard. "I firmly believe that education can bring peace and prosperity to Southeastern Europe," Mr. Kokkalis stated. Mr. Kokkalis emphasized that the mission of the Kokkalis Foundation and the Kokkalis Program is being accomplished with success, as today Southeastern Europe possesses a dynamic human network of Kokkalis fellows—Harvard graduates who are actively engaged in the modernization and the development of the region. Mr. Kokkalis concluded by warmly thanking his collaborators for their hard work over the past 10 years.

In his speech, Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic stated "In September 2001, I matriculated at the Kennedy School as a Kokkalis Fellow. And I want you to know how much those two years changed my life. The fraternity of the mind to which I was exposed, and the friendships I made, transformed me into the man who stands before you this evening. That's what I learned thanks to the Kokkalis Program at Harvard: to try hard to leave a stamp on the world—a stamp informed by devotion to public service. It teaches you about leadership for the public good; it teaches you to devote yourself to the greater good. And it provides you with a network to help you on your way. Thanks to the Harvard Kokkalis program, I got to thinking about how to contribute to a better future for the Balkans, how to build—and in some literal cases, how to rebuild—bridges. The generation of leaders to which I aspire to belong know that it is up to us: people untainted with the tribal hatreds unleashed by those who perverted the heritage that binds us to one another. Forming a community for a common democratic future based on shared values is our task. It also means understanding that the future is not a gift to be received, but an achievement to be made."



"I firmly believe that education can bring peace and prosperity to Southeastern Europe"



After a film incursion into the achievements of the Kokkalis Foundation and Kokkalis Program at Harvard, the event concluded with a keynote speech by the internationally acclaimed journalist and political analyst Dr. Fareed Zakaria, director of Newsweek International. Dr. Zakaria addressed the effects of economic development on the societies of the future. The political problems that emerge from globalization are the most difficult to solve. "The most important problem is nationalism and its nefarious effects in countries with accelerated economic development. This problem constitutes the big paradox of globalization, that is, while the world is globalizing there are countries that are still engaged in identity issues and the ideological rhetoric of the past," stressed Dr. Zakaria.

The 10th anniversary 2-day events' program of the Kokkalis Foundation started with a Kokkalis alumni opening dinner, over a breathtaking view of the Acropolis and in a festive setting, in which alumni caught up with fellow classmates and professors. The evening also provided the opportunity for some of the visionary leaders of the Kokkalis Program – including Eleni Kokkali, Kokkalis Foundation Vice-President Niki Tzavella, and Sr. Assoc. Dean for Advancement and Sr. Director for University Women's Initiatives Holly Taylor Sargent – to share their stories of how the program was founded.



The 10th anniversary events' program also included a Harvard conference under the theme Inspiring Leadership and Momentum, held at the Athens Information Technology (AIT) Center, where over 150 alumni attended lectures and discussions led by Dean Ellwood and other Kennedy School senior faculty.



Following Petros Kokkalis' (MPA '02) opening remarks, Dean Ellwood provided a brief address entitled "Looming Crises: Are we Acting In Time?" "I think the real question is - can we have an impact?" stated Ellwood. "Can we find new political models, new intellectual models and ultimately the kind of dialogue that is vital to ensure that people really start taking a long-term view?"

KSG Lecturer in Public Policy Dean Williams flew into Greece from Madagascar – where he is serving as senior advisor to the president – to give an interactive lecture on "Real Leadership: Helping People and Organizations Face Their Toughest Challenges."

KSG's Elaine Kamarck provided alumni with an innovative lecture on "The End of Government... As We Know It: Making Public Policy Work". Her discussion was based on her recent publication of the same title, released earlier this year.

Kokkalis Program Faculty Chair and Senior Lecturer in Public Policy Brian Mandell gave a dynamic lecture on emerging trends in negotiation and conflict resolution, interspersed with his signature comments beloved by many former students.

Senior Associate Dean and Director of Degree Programs Joseph McCarthy wrapped up the event, encouraging alumni to foster alumni-led initiatives in the region, such as conferences, video-lectures and professional exchanges.

The 10th anniversary celebration was the largest international meeting of graduates, professors and senior administrators of Harvard University outside of the United States.



“the great
outstanding
challenge
toward regulating
the new
global order
is the challenge of
political
globalization”



Opinion & Commentaries

“WE NEED VISIONARY LEADERSHIP TO MOVE TOWARD POLITICAL GLOBALIZATION” -FAREED ZAKARIA

A Muslim raised in poverty-ridden India in the 1960's, the editor of Newsweek International, PBS news host, and ABC News political analyst Fareed Zakaria is considered today as one of the most important persons of our times. On the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of the Kokkalis Foundation & Program, held on June 18, 2007 at 20:00 at the Athens Concert Hall, Zakaria offered a keynote speech that addressed the new world order, democracy and autocracy, and the outstanding challenges posed to the international community today.

As a leader of a news media, Newsweek International, Zakaria started with an incursion into the news and identified a paradox whereby most current political news are bad but business news seem to be better than ever. In recent years, Zakaria stated, the news record of political developments in the world is quite dismaying: the East Asian crisis, 9/11, 2 wars-on Iraq and Afghanistan, North Korea declares itself the 8th nuclear power, Iran makes a bid for nuclear power, Russia tries to re-imperialize its own historical sphere of influence, in Latin America Chavez launches the biggest anti-globalization campaign the world has seen in the last 35 years, and the list goes on.

In contrast with this political turmoil and disorder, economies everywhere are thriving: in the last 6 years the world economy has grown faster than at any point in the last 45 years. In the last 25 years, capitalism has taken as many as 350 million people out of poverty, many more than in the last 100 years. In the last 5 years, the average world per capita income has risen faster than at any point in recorded history. So, Zakaria observed, markets are indeed resilient to political turmoil. Looking back into two other periods in history with economic growth of similar magnitude, the 1880s-90s and the 1950s, Zakaria noted a crucial common factor, namely the introduction into the world economy of large players: Germany and the US in the first case and in the second case the post-War rebuilding of European countries and Japan. “Today we are undergoing the largest expansion of the world economy in history,” Zakaria averred. In the 70's India, Brazil, Turkey, or South Africa were not eager to jump in into the capitalist model of development. Today these and most countries are part of a vibrant capitalist world economy, and political leadership across countries, even in the US, is aware of the constraints of the market on political choices and governmental programs. With a combined population of 2.3 billion, the entry of China and India into the map of world players is the most important change in the new world order. The rise of these two countries not only makes for a tremendous global economic growth that is unprecedented in history but it also challenges America as the only super power and is generating a more anarchic international system, where all countries increasingly have a voice.

The consequences of this extraordinary growth present indeed a great challenge for the world. At the outset, Zakaria elaborated, because many countries are growing demand is also growing, in particular the demand for oil and thus oil prices. The countries that are oil- and natural gas-rich – Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, Russia – enjoy great power surpluses and don't have to play by market rules. In a sense one can say that capitalism creates islands of non-capitalism or of exceptions to capitalism, Zakaria observed. Being that these countries are often dictatorial regimes it is quite worrying to realize that they are the ones causing political turmoil in the world and that they have the wealth to finance nuclear armament, terrorism, or extremist groups. These countries are spoilers that can disturb the world and do it quite cheaply, the news analyst added. The question then is: how do you deal with this reality? According to Zakaria it is not unethical to go to war in the name of democracy. If we look at the case of Korea or Germany during World War II the result was in retrospect positive, he said. However, democracy does not equate overthrowing a dictator. What is unethical, Zakaria argued, is to invade as a colonizing power and then shy away from the responsibility for the long process of social transformation that is necessary for a democratic regime to prevail.

A second consequence of extraordinary economic growth is the growth in the demand for people in the industrialized world and large scale migration. Contrary to the US, which for the most part received urban middle class immigrants, social integration has proved to be a more complex task in the European continent. Current European leaders have not shown enough political courage and are missing a golden opportunity to start communication with the new migrant communities and minorities and to proceed to the social integration of these groups.

There a strong sense of dislocation in growing minority communities in many industrialized countries and a search for identity in a very rapidly changing world, Zakaria noted. This explains the rise of fundamentalism in literally all religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and even Buddhism. In India, Hindu fundamentalism has grown in parallel with economic growth, and in fact it is especially stronger in the fastest growing regions, Zakaria added. Economic growth breeds pride and expressions of national identity, Zakaria stated, but these must be positively geared.



“Our time is an extraordinary time of global growth and progress”

Global growth may have improved material well-being as more people have access to cars, fast food and movies, and as societies and cultures globalize. But global growth has not improved social well-being. This presents a potential danger of political turmoil and upheaval. According to Zakaria, political leadership has to give voice and empower these groups as the market cannot do this job. As Zakaria develops in his book “the Future of Freedom,” what is needed is a less free democracy or, in other words, limits on democracy by which the majority is obliged to respect the rights of minorities.

A third consequence of this unprecedented economic growth concerns the environment. The magnitude of environmental degradation has exceeded all predicted expectations. The entry into the world economy of players such as China and India also changes the scenario for a solution to environmental degradation, which in the past could have been found by agreement between the US and Europe alone. Until 2012 India and China will be building 650 coal-burning, CO2-producing power plants. The combined carbon dioxide emissions of these plants alone are five times larger than the total savings of CO2 emissions from the Kyoto accords – if, Zakaria added, Kyoto is actually observed by every country.

For Zakaria what this state of affairs indicates is that today the game has changed: as the world economy has grown and globalized, so too problems, and thus solutions, have become global. Wealthy dictatorships, migration, or environmental degradation, but also disease control or the demand for food and food quality standards have become global issues.

How long can this extraordinary time of growth go on if the resulting political problems accumulate and are not addressed? According to Zakaria, the great outstanding challenge toward regulating the new global order is the challenge of political globalization. Solutions to global problems cannot be obtained if there are ‘too many chiefs and no Indians,’ the news analyst stated. The most pressing change for the world now is to move beyond economic and social globalization and find mechanisms to make capitalist democracies respect minorities as well as respect the rule of the majority, integrating minorities and bringing religious difference, and Islam in particular, into the modern world. What we first need toward this direction is sustained visionary leadership, Fareed Zakaria concluded.

Olympia Summer Seminars 2007

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS ADDRESS VIOLENT CONFLICT & MEDIA POLICY



Fifty-six post-graduate students, researchers, and media professionals from as many as twenty countries participated in the Olympia Summer Seminars of the Kokkalis Foundation, held on July 1-July 15, 2007 in the city of Olympia, Greece. The Olympia summer seminars 2007 were organized in collaboration with US universities Yale and Duke, with the University of Macedonia and the University of Patras, as well as with the municipality of ancient Olympia and the Interscientific and Intercultural Center of Olympia. This year the seminars registered a record 200 applications and the selected participants represented the following countries: Albania (2), Bulgaria (3), China (2), Czech Republic (1), FYROM (3), Georgia (1), Germany (1), Greece (15), Hungary (1), Israel (1), Italy (1), Moldova (1), Nigeria (1), Poland (2), Romania (2), Russia (4), Serbia (3), Spain (1), Turkey (9), Ukraine (1) and USA (1).

The group gathered in Olympia to follow two different seminar programs, one on War, Conflict, and Identities and the other on International Media Technology and Policy. The seminars were conducted by seven leading faculty from Serbia and FYROM, and faculty from Yale University, Duke University, UCLA, and Valle University (Colombia).

Under the scientific coordination of Yale University professor Stathis Kalyvas, the seminar on War, Conflict, and Identities offered a concise, yet in-depth, overview of new theoretical and empirical research on a range of topics, such as interstate and civil war, terrorism, riots and genocide, and the dynamics of conflict. The seminar on International Media Technology and Policy was led by Duke University Professor Ellen Mickiewicz and explored new dimensions on a number of media and media policy issues of particular concern to future European Union member states. In the two weeks of the seminars, the participants also had the opportunity to visit local archaeological sites, museums, areas of historical interest in the Peloponnesian region, as well as to attend cultural events including L. Vogiatzis' theatre production of Sophocles “Antigone” in the 2007 Olympia festival.

Ancient Olympia and the ideals of peace and cooperation provided the ideal backdrop for the seminars, which aim to promote effective intercultural dialogue and critical thinking on crucial political issues of our times and to reiterate Olympia's role as an international center for intellectual inquiry.

Kokkalis Fellowship Program

BIOS OF THE NEW, GRADUATING & CONTINUING KOKKALIS FELLOWS

NEW FELLOWS



Yil Bajraktari, Kosovo Born in Prishtina, Bajraktari is currently a student in the Master in Public Policy program, from which he will graduate in June 2009. He holds a BA from the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University. Before coming to HKS, Bajraktari worked at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), where he played a lead role in establishing the Center of Innovation on Media and Conflict. He also organized, and published about, USIP's Post-Conflict Peace and Stability Operations, particularly concerning issues of governance, elections, the role of women, natural resources, and civilian military relations in non-permissive environments. Prior to USIP, Bajraktari served as the founder of The Forum, a prominent non-governmental organization in post-war Kosovo. He served as executive director until 2002, directing the implementation of numerous projects in the fields of advocacy, political accountability, and ethnic reconciliation.



Kosmas Kaprinis, Greece A native of Thessaloniki, Kaprinis will enroll in the Master in Public Policy program in September 2008. He received a B.A in Economics and International Relations at Brandeis University, and a LLB from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki-Greece. Kaprinis held internship positions with the European Commission Delegation (Washington, DC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece, and the Athens 2004 Olympic Organizing Committee. He also worked as a research assistant in various projects on Southeastern Europe at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, the Fletcher School of Diplomacy and the Brandeis International Center for Ethics.



Ussal Sahbaz, Turkey A native of Ankara, Turkey, Sahbaz will enroll in the Master in Public Administration in International Development program in September 2008. He holds a BS degree from the Middle East Technical University and an MA from Bilkent University, both in economics. Sahbaz currently serves as a case officer at the Turkish Competition Authority, an autonomous antitrust enforcement agency. He was involved in the establishment of Economic Policy Research Foundation (TEPAV), an Ankara-based think-tank, where he coordinated design of the initial research agenda and recruitment of the junior staff. Sahbaz also wrote speeches for the chairman of the Turkish Union of Chambers (TOBB).



George Saravelos, Greece Born in Thessaloniki, Saravelos will enroll in the Master in Public Administration in International Development program in September 2008. He graduated with a first class BA degree in economics from Cambridge University. Prior to HKS, he worked as a foreign exchange strategist at Deutsche Bank, where he was responsible for the fundamental analysis of major currency markets. In this role, he advised the bank's largest financial, corporate and public sector clients on risks and opportunities in foreign exchange markets. He also designed and traded currency models as part of the bank's proprietary trading activities.



Jelena Sesar, Bosnia and Herzegovina Sesar, a native of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, will enroll in the Mason Fellows/Mid-career Masters in Public Administration program in July 2008. She holds a BA in Political Science and History from Purdue University and an MA in Southeast European Studies from the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. She currently serves as a political advisor for security sector issues in the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. For eight years, she worked on various state-level institution and capacity building projects in Bosnia, including police reform and the establishment of the state-level police agencies responsible for combating organized crime, international terrorism, and human trafficking. Sesar also worked on the introduction of the first post-war ethnically neutral personal identification documents (ID cards, passports and driving licenses) for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

CONTINUING FELLOWS



Marina Dimova Marina Dimova, a native of Bulgaria, holds a BA in Economics and Government, with a concentration in International Studies from Franklin and Marshall College. Prior to HKS, she was a senior analyst on health care and environmental policy at the Boston-based Analysis Group. Previously she worked in the securities practice of NERA Economic Consulting and as intern with the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She is a volunteer economic consultant for the Bulgarian based NGO Bank Watch Network, and has undertaken several field study trips around the world to research socio-economic and environmental issues, including to India, Tanzania, Hawaii, New Zealand and Mexico. She will graduate from the Kennedy School's Master in Public Administration in International Development program in 2009.

GRADUATING FELLOWS



Burak Erdenir Burak Erdenir, a native of Turkey, holds a BSc degree from Middle East Technical University, Ankara and an MBA from Georgetown University. He received his PhD in Political Science and Public Administration from Ankara University and has taught at Bilkent University and Ankara University as a part-time lecturer. Prior to HKS, Erdenir was a senior expert at the European Union Secretariat General of the Turkish Prime Ministry, the governmental body which oversees Turkey's pre-accession process for European Union membership. He is the author of the book European Identity: From Pan-Nationalism to Post-Nationalism and has published many articles on cultural issues and various aspects of Turkey-European Union relationship. Erdenir will graduate from the Kennedy School Mason Fellows/Mid-Career Master in Public Administration program in June 2008.



Athanasios Kontogeorgis A native of Greece, Kontogeorgis holds an LLB degree from the University of Athens Law School and an MSc in European Union and Developing Countries from Panteion University. He has served as president of the Greek European Youth Association, as a social and political analyst for the Institute of Strategic and Development Studies and as communications coordinator for local chapters of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) in Greece. He will receive a Kennedy School MPP degree in June 2008.



Tamas Kowalik A native of Hungary, Kowalik has over five years of experience serving in various ministries in Hungary, including as professional adviser to the Ministry of Economy and Transport, speechwriter at the Ministry of Environment and Water, and political adviser to the Ministry of Education. Mr. Kowalik received his BA and MA degrees from the Eotvos Lorand University of Sciences, Faculty of Law, and is pursuing a PhD and a law degree from the same university. He will graduate from the Kennedy School's Mason Fellows/Mid-Career Master in Public Administration program in June 2008.



Stela Mocan Stela Mocan, a native of Moldova, served as Program Officer for the International Republican Institute in Chisinau, Moldova, where she created democracy-building strategies and development programs for political parties and civil society organizations. Prior to that, she held a position as a project manager for the United Nations Development Program in Moldova. She has served as a consultant to the Soros Foundation in Moldova and is a Member of the Board of Transparency International's Moldova Chapter. Mocan holds an undergraduate degree in history from Moldova State University, and conducted post-graduate studies in political science from the National School of Government and Political Studies in Romania. She will be graduating from the Kennedy School's Mason Fellows/Mid-Career Master in Public Administration program in June 2008.

The Kokkalis Program

strives to support individuals committed to invigorating the public sector in Southeastern and East-Central Europe by providing fellowships for study at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Eligible to apply for a Kokkalis Fellowship are natives of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey who are applying for one of the following degree programs: Master in Public Policy (MPP); Master in Public Administration (MPA2); Mid-Career Master in Public Administration (MC/MPA); Master in Public Administration in International Development (MPA/ID). Candidates with academic and/or professional backgrounds in one of the following fields are highly encouraged to apply: public policy and/or administration, the non-profit sector, law, economics, social sciences, or related fields. All applicants should demonstrate a strong commitment to public service and to the region of Southeast Europe.



SPONSORSHIPS

The Kokkalis Foundation was a proud sponsor of the 2-day conference "The Future of Humanities in Greece", organized by the School of Philosophy of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki from November 30-December 1, 2007. The conference was organized under the auspices of the Presidency of the Hellenic Republic, the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Hellenic Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, and the Dean's Office of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Appreciative of the need to promote the study of Humanities in Greece, the Foundation facilitated the exchange of concerns and new ideas among the leaders and members of the Schools of Philosophy of Greek and Cypriot Universities.