



1925

Trustees of Athens College in Greece Receives \$4.5 Million Endowment Gift from Estate of Michael C. Soteriades '41

The Trustees of Athens College in Greece, the United States non-profit organization established in 1926 that supports Athens College, has announced receipt of approximately \$4.5 million from the estate of Dr. Michael C. Soteriades, a former trustee and 1941 graduate. This generous gift will establish an endowed scholarship fund, in accordance with the donor's wishes. Further information about Michael Soteriades can be found below.

Board Chair George A. Antoniadis '80 expressed his deep gratitude for Dr. Soteriades' contribution in a statement to the Board, stating "This extraordinary gift from a fellow alumnus and former trustee is a testament to the importance of the work the U.S. board undertakes on behalf of Athens College. The Soteriades endowment will ensure permanent financial support for scholarships and will have a significant impact on deserving Greek students for generations to come. We are immensely thankful to Dr. Soteriades for this investment in the future of Athens College and its students, especially as we approach the celebration of the school's centenary in 2025."

Mr. Antoniadis also noted that the Trustees have successfully managed endowed funds for the benefit of Athens College for nearly 100 years. "This thoughtful gift will be an important addition to the endowment, bringing the total to \$24 million," he added. The Soteriades endowment will join other funds established in support of scholarship, educational enhancement, and faculty development.



Biographical Information:

Michael C. Soteriades was born in Istanbul in March of 1923 and went to Athens with his refugee parents as an infant in the early 20s. He graduated Athens College in 1941, the Salutatorian of his Class. He entered the Technical University of Athens at the top of his Class and graduated Summa Cum Laude at the top of all schools of the University in 1948, the recipient of the highest academic honor the First Chrysovergion Award. He was drafted and served in the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant, participating in the Civil War in Greece for 44 months. In 1952, he earned his doctoral Engineering Degree in Structures from the National Technical University of Athens, and subsequently came to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar at MIT. In 1954, he earned his SC doctoral degree from MIT. The government of Greece employed him as the Head of the Structural effort in rebuilding the City of Volos after the 1955 earthquake, in charge of the structural design and supervision of construction and repair and in charge of training local engineers in aseismic design methods. At the completion of this effort, he migrated to the United States as an Associate Engineer and subsequently, Chief Structural Engineer with the Boston Consulting Engineering Firm. In 1958, he became the Vice President and Assistant to the President of Doxiadis Associates, the Ekistics experts in development in Athens, Greece, and opened the Washington, D.C. office in 1959. In 1961, he was named Ordinary Professor of Civil Engineering (Structures) at Catholic University of America, where he later served as Chairman of the Department for six years before his eventual retirement 30 years later in 1991 as Professor Emeritus. During this period, he also acted as Consultant to the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, to NSAS, the Departments of the Navy and Transportation, SNACNA, and several local engineering consulting firms. He conducted a number of International symposia in the US and abroad on Computer Methods in Structural Analysis and Design in the 60's and 70's. He was a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece and a Fellow

of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was a member of the Society of Sigma Xi (MIT Chapter) and of the Tau Beta Pi (Catholic University, Eminent Engineer 1963.) In 1988, his Eminence, the Pope John Paul II awarded him the BENEMERENTI Medal. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of more than 40 years, Rose Marie Rentroia Soteriades.

