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December 18, 2012

Gregory Pappas
Founder and Chair
Greek America Foundation
910 W. Van Buren St., Suite 7SW
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Gregory,

In response to your request for a statement regarding the life story of Spyros P. Skouras and the background and credentials of researcher Dr. Ilias Chrissochoidis:

The late Spyros P. Skouras was a legendary Hollywood filmmaker who helped revolutionize the industry during his tenure as CEO of 20th Century-Fox Films in the 1940s and '50s, yet the broad American public is relatively unaware of his many accomplishments and lasting legacy in film and other fields.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the Greek America Foundation and the passion and expertise of Stanford University scholar Dr. Ilias Chrissochoidis, there is an opportunity to bring Mr. Skouras' incredible life story to a wide audience who will certainly find it both instructive and compelling.

Mr. Skouras not only changed the nature of American moviemaking through his technical and other innovations, his work with the Greek War Relief Association is also the stuff of Greek-American legend. By teaming up with thousands of American organizations and the Greek Orthodox Church, he enlisted the services of stars such as Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland and Bob Hope to create a huge humanitarian relief campaign during World War II. As a result of his efforts, tens of thousands of destitute Greeks who fell victim to the Greek famine brought on by Nazi occupiers were saved from starvation.

His life speaks volumes about the American and Greek characters when it comes to dealing with adversity, remaining optimistic no matter what and the importance of hard, tireless work. And it is a story that is long overdue to be told to as wide an audience as possible.

I cannot imagine a more qualified or perfect scholar to help make this happen than Dr. Chrissochoidis. He is one of the nation's most accomplished researchers, and brings to the project an impeccable background as a musicologist and scholar who has received more than 30 grants and fellowships from some of the best universities and research centers in the world. He is internationally very widely published and respected.

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The important and timely story of Spyros P. Skouras, in the hands of a researcher with Dr. Chrissochoidis' background, passion and experience has the potential to produce something that I believe will resonate deeply with not just Greek-Americans, but with all Americans.

I am very happy to lend my name to those who believe this is a project that is long overdue and that Dr. Chrissochoidis is the right expert to bring it to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Katehi".

Linda P.B. Katehi
Chancellor

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