

## 2018 New Year's Reception – Athens

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce held its annual New Year's Reception on February 1, 2018, at the Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel in Athens. Attended by over a thousand guests, the event brought together Chamber members, top government officials, members of Parliament, ambassadors, organization presidents, media representatives, and prominent executives of the business community to enjoy a pleasant and rewarding networking event. Welcome remarks were made by Simos Anastasopoulos, President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, as well as U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt and Minister of Economy and Development Dimitris Papadimitriou. A special prize was awarded to the *flouri* winner, with Delta Air Lines providing two round trip tickets to the United States.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> MIW Competition

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, ATHEX and EY are co-organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Make Innovation Work (MIW) competition, an initiative that actively supports Greek entrepreneurship and showcases the best, most original and innovative business ideas with potential to boost the Greek economy and create new jobs in the country. The competition was open to entries between January 15 and March 23, 2018, and submissions are now going through a rigorous three-stage evaluation procedure to identify the most competitive ideas. The awards include an investor readiness workshop, a pitching event to a network of domestic and foreign investors, participation in special roadshows in the U.S. and U.K., and full coverage of procedural costs in ENASTEP, an alternative market of the Athens Exchange. For more information, visit: [miw.amcham.gr](http://miw.amcham.gr)



ASCSA DIRECTOR OF EXCAVATIONS DR. JOHN CAMP WITH MEMBERS OF AMCHAM'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

### LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE DRAW INSPIRATION FROM GREEK HERITAGE

On Friday, March 2, 2018, Leadership Committee members were treated to an exclusive tour of the Athenian Agora Excavations, one of the most significant archaeological sites in the heart of Athens city center. Pantelis Panos, General Manager of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, arranged a private guided tour led by Director of Excavations Dr. John Camp. Leadership Committee members enjoyed the opportunity to explore the site, learn about the excavations at the Athenian Agora, and stand on the site of the Heliastic court where Socrates was indicted in 399 BCE, in an experience that allowed them to draw inspiration and energy from Greek history and heritage.

For more information about the Athenian Agora Excavations, visit: [www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/excavationagora/](http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/excavationagora/)



## Tax Committee Chair at Reception for Bulgaria's National Day



Stavros Kostas, Chairman of the Taxation Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, attended the reception marking the 140th anniversary of the Liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule. The reception, which was hosted by Head of Mission Veselin Ivanov, was held on March 3, 2018—Bulgaria's National Day—at the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Athens.



SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS, ANASTASIA SIDERI, WIM MIJS

### 2<sup>ND</sup> WIB DIALOGUE SERIES

The Women in Business (WIB) Committee hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> WIB Dialogue Series on March 22 at the Hotel Grande Bretagne in Athens. Titled "Unconscious Bias At Work - A Secret Barrier To Business Success," the event focused on how unconscious bias affects both women and men in the workplace and on what can be done to address this issue. The speakers shared their personal experiences, research and observations, demonstrating the positive impact of diversity and inclusion on the success of an organization. Through fruitful dialogue, they examined the ways in which organizational culture and business results are affected by unconscious bias and explored different approaches to freeing our minds from erroneous assumptions and freeing our leadership from biased decisions. The keynote speech was delivered by Wim Mijs, Chief Executive Officer of the European Banking Federation. The dialogue was moderated by Panagiotis Vlachos, public entrepreneur focusing on open government and civic tech, and speakers included Lilian Nektariou, Franchise Country Manager Greece, Cyprus, Malta, The Coca-Cola Company; Peggy Velliou, Partner, KPMG Advisory; and Vana Papaevangelou, Professor of Pediatrics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

## 2018 New Year's Reception – Thessaloniki

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce held its annual Thessaloniki New Year's Reception on January 22, 2018, at the MET Hotel in Thessaloniki with the honorary presence of U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt. With over 400 guests in attendance, the event brought together Chamber members, top government officials, members of Parliament, diplomats, local government officials, organization presidents, media representatives, and prominent executives of the business community. Chamber President Simos Anastasopoulos and Vice-President Nikolas Bakatselos welcomed the guests, while Ambassador Pyatt along with Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media Nikos Pappas and Governor of Central Macedonia Apostolos Tzitzikostas made brief remarks. The event was sponsored by Kleemann, Kouimtzis, Mazars, Pyramis, and The MET Hotel; supported by Gigilinis Shipping Group, Profarm, and Veltio; and aided by Perivolias Vezyroglou, Macedonia-Thrace Brewery, Ble Patisserie, Lucia's Farm, and Tuvunu.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Leadership Forum – Thessaloniki

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with its Leadership Committee, successfully organized its first Leadership Forum of 2018, titled “Talking with Young People: Business Opportunities and Entrepreneurship”. The event took place on February 22, 2018, at the premises of Saracakis Business Group in Thessaloniki.

Young people from a number of higher education institutions in Thessaloniki had the opportunity to hear talks by top managers and key business leaders, exchange views, and determine the key skills necessary for success in the modern workplace. The speakers also highlighted effective ways of reaching out to potential employers and emphasized the importance of developing a healthy entrepreneurial spirit.

ELIAS SPIRTOUNIAS



## 9<sup>th</sup> Leadership Forum – Athens

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with its Leadership Committee, has successfully organized the 9th Leadership Forum 2018, titled “Talking with Young People: Business Opportunities and Entrepreneurship,” which was held on March 14, 2018, at the premises of Mercedes-Benz Hellas in Athens. The event was a great success and was attended by over 230 students from both public and private educational institutions.

AmCham’s Leadership Forums aim to give young people the opportunity to hear straight from top managers and business leaders on key career challenges and opportunities and to promote a healthy entrepreneurial spirit among young people and help them to plan their professional path.

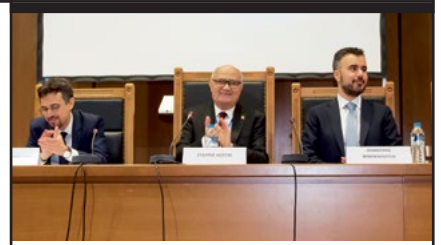
SIMOS ANASTASOPOULOS



ARTEMIS MIROPOULOS



KALLIGEROS JOHN



AT THE CENTER THE CHAIRMAN OF AMCHAM'S TAXATION COMMITTEE STAVROS KOSTAS

### TAXATION CONFERENCE

Following a personal invitation by the Greek Lawyers Association E-Themis, Chairman of AmCham’s Taxation Committee Stavros Kostas participated in the E-Themis conference titled “Current Issues in Tax and Insurance Law,” which was held on February 23-24 in the ceremonies hall of the Athens Court of Appeal. The event featured lectures and talks by distinguished attorneys and counselors at law. Kostas chaired a session on issues pertaining to the taxation of natural persons. He stressed the need for modernizing the Greek tax system and addressing its chronic deficiencies as an important step to moving forward from fiscal consolidation to economic growth and development. AmCham Taxation Committee member Giannis Stavropoulos also participated in the conference, as a distinguished speaker in the same session.

### CHAMBER CALENDAR

**April 19** Athens, Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel, 14<sup>th</sup> Athens Tax Forum

**May** Athens, EXPOSEC Defense-World Conference

**May 10** Thessaloniki, Vellidis Conference Center, Tourism Conference

**May 14** Mytilene, TradeUSA Workshop

**May 16** Aspropyrgos, Papastratos’ New Factory, Employment Workshop: “Youth Talks—We Listen”