



TSANTES FAMILY

## Peter V. Tsantes

In 1951, at the age of 21, Peter Tsantes left his native Ikaria and journeyed to the United States on board the ocean liner *Hellas*. He spoke no English, but supported by Haralambos Dimitriou Batuyios and his adoptive

family, Peter enrolled in language classes at a high school in Wilmington, NC. Upon graduation, he entered the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, where he trained as an airplane mechanic. After years of working with TWA and Northeast Airlines, he opened his Blue Dawn Diner in the village of Islandia and became involved with the real estate business on Long Island. This is when Peter, a hard-working businessman, truly found his *métier* and achieved great success.

Peter has always felt indebted to the woman who supported him during World War II in Greece and sponsored his immigration to the U.S.: his adoptive mother, Aikaterini Spanou Haralambou Batuyios. Her encouragement inspired Peter to give forward to promote Hellenic education. He became involved with the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC), and through it funded an endowed chair in Hellenic Studies in Aikaterini's name at the Richard Stockton College in New Jersey. Then turning his focus to his longtime home on Long Island, he and a handful of people who shared his enthusiasm for Hellenism formed the New York Chapter of AFGLC. Peter and his friends approached Stony Brook and were encouraged by the enthusiasm and educational reputation of the University and the strong Greek-American Long Island community. As a result, Peter committed to support a named professorship in Hellenic language and literature and is actively engaged in events organized by the Center for Hellenic Studies. He and his family have also sponsored the Tsantes Family Scholarship for study abroad in Greece.

The Tsantes professorship will be the base for a plethora of Hellenic activities on campus, supported not only by the Tsantes family, but also by the generosity of other members of the Long Island Hellenic community that Peter has helped inspire.



## Peter V. Tsantes Professor in Greek Literature and Language

**NIKOLAOS PANO, PHD**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL STUDIES**  
**AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**  
**STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

Nikolaos Panou received his PhD in comparative literature from Harvard University and has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies and the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University.

Before coming to Stony Brook in 2014, he was a visiting assistant professor of comparative literature at Brown University. His current research focuses on the ways in which power and authority were conceptualized and represented in pre-modern philosophical discourse, with a particular emphasis on moral and political works written from the 16th to the 18th century. He has written on topics ranging from Byzantine historiography to 17th-century satire. Among other things, he has co-edited a collective volume on conceptions of tyranny from Antiquity to the Renaissance that is forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

As the Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professor in Greek Literature and Language, Panou is invested in promoting scholarship, teaching and research in all aspects of Hellenic civilization, from Antiquity to the present. One of his principal goals is to build a stronger Center for Hellenic Studies that will serve as a forum for the study of Greek society, history and culture, and will cultivate a comprehensive understanding of Classical, post-Classical and modern Greece in their synchronic and diachronic ramifications.

Besides sponsoring and hosting a wide range of scholarly events and cultural activities, the Center will be designed to advance interdepartmental collaboration at Stony Brook, establish connections with academic institutions both in Europe and in the United States, and form vital bonds between the University and the Greek-American communities of Long Island and beyond.