

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



### **Dr VASSILI APOSTOLOPOULOS**

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)  
University of Cambridge

Dr Vassili Apostolopoulos is a visionary entrepreneur who has advanced British-Hellenic relations on several levels. He is the Chief Executive Officer of the Athens Medical Group and The Apostolopoulos Group. He is the President of the Hellenic Entrepreneurs Association and a member of a wide range of academic and business boards in Greece and the UK.

Through his long-standing and deep relationships with his UK universities, he has bridged the alumni networks in Greece and the UK with leading business associations and high-visibility events in Greece and Europe. He has supported research and initiated events in the two countries, some of which took place for the first time in Greece, such as the Athens Cambridge Entrepreneurship Forum and the first event outside the UK of the Centre for International Business and Management. He has hosted several annual economic summits in Athens in association with UK universities and their alumni associations.

He has built relationships with the Prince's Trust International, the impactful institution spearheaded by HRH Prince Charles of Wales, and maintains direct links with British institutions, such as the Royal Institute of International Relations (Chatham House). The wide range of his entrepreneurial activities are expanding in the UK and Greece, contributing substantially to the economies of both countries.

### **Dr JOHN BENNET**

University of Cambridge



Dr John Bennet has been Director of the British School at Athens (BSA) since 2015 and, in this role, he has led the relations between the UK academic community and many Greek institutions, such as the Greek Ministry of Culture, the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Academy of Athens, the Benaki Museum and the Museum of Cycladic Art, among others.

Under his leadership and following his vision to make the British School at Athens a welcoming space for academics, students and the general public, the BSA has organised academic seminars by leading members of the Greek academic community, conferences drawing together UK-based and Greek early-career and senior academics, an immersive art exhibition, and official visits and tours related to the diplomatic work of the BSA.

As a scholar, he has devoted his career to the archaeology and history of Greece.

**Mr CHRISTOS CARRAS**

University of Cambridge



Christos Carras has been the Executive Director of the Onassis Cultural Centre since 2009.

During that time, he has curated the music programme and has also had overall responsibility for co-ordinating a variety of visual arts projects, conferences and exhibitions in collaboration with British institutions, including two major digital and science fiction exhibitions with the Barbican Centre of London, and a week-long workshop in Athens in collaboration with the London-based research organisation Theatrum Mundi – a collaboration he instigated.

He has been instrumental in Europe-wide projects with British partners, such as the partnership with De Montfort University for the EU project Interfaces, which he designed and has been co-ordinating. The project has led to several exchanges, workshops and symposiums, including the Unlimited Access programme and its next phase, the Europe Beyond Access project, as well as the partnership with UK-based inclusive dance centre Stop Gap for the Erasmus+ project iDance.

**Mr GEORGE A. DAVID (OBE)**

University of Edinburgh



George David is a prominent businessman, entrepreneur and philanthropist of international calibre. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company and is currently Chairman Emeritus of the company. He has served as Group Director of the A.G. Leventis Organisation in Nigeria and has been a Chair or Member of numerous business and academic boards. In 2012, he co-founded the Hellenic Initiative, a non-governmental organisation with significant social impact.

He has been repeatedly recognised for his contribution to the University of Edinburgh and is a University Regent. Among his many activities, he supports the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, he offers scholarships for postgraduate students who are residents of Greece or Cyprus through the George David Family Scholarships and he established the Chair of Entrepreneurship and Family Business. In 2009, George David received an OBE for his services to United Kingdom-Greece relations in the field of education.



**Ms DAPHNE FOUNTOUKAKOU**

University of Reading

University of Hertfordshire

Daphne Fountoukakou is the Managing Director of IST College, a private institution based in Athens that offers UK education programmes and services in collaboration with UK universities.

Daphne has promoted the delivery of UK qualifications in Greece through franchise agreements. She has led IST in its collaboration with a number of UK higher education institutions and managed the quality aspect, working with the UK's Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). She has also been successful in the implementation of vocational training, e-learning, lifelong learning, as well as European mobility programmes. In her role as Vice President of the Hellenic Colleges Association and a member of the Lifelong Learning Committee of the Ministry of Education representing the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Daphne has actively participated in policy development in Greece.

Daphne has been a champion in promoting links between the UK and Greece, and the internationalisation and openness of Greek higher education for almost 25 years.

**Dr NANCY PAPALEXANDRIS**

University of Bath

University of Westminster (former Polytechnic of Central London)



Dr Nancy Papalexandris is Professor Emeritus in Human Resource Management at the Athens University of Economics and Business, having also served as Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs. She is currently teaching on the joint Masters programme with Kent University and continuing to pursue research in her field of expertise.

When Erasmus programmes started, Dr Papalexandris was instrumental in promoting exchanges and organising joint seminars and student visits of students from UK universities to Athens. As a representative of the Greek Rectors Conference in the European University Association, she has participated in several UK initiatives for quality assessment in higher education. She has collaborated with Cranfield University in joint research and, as a result, Dr Papalexandris has organised several conferences in Athens to present and disseminate research results, with the presence of prominent British academics.

**Ms SOPHIA PELOPONNISSIOU**

City University London



Sophia Peloponniou is a Museologist, Curator and Archivist at the Katakouzenos House Museum and Secretary of the Angelos and Leto Katakouzenos Foundation.

Sophia's efforts to open up British culture to Greek audiences started during her time in London, when she successfully curated a three-month exhibition of modern British art with paintings from the Head Office of the National Bank of Greece in Mayfair, among others.

In her current role, she has influenced the House Museum's strong links with the UK, which have resulted in the museum hosting numerous UK-related events, such as a performance of twenty of Shakespeare's love-themed sonnets, exhibitions of UK artists' work and book presentations. Under Sophia's curatorship, the Museum is constantly fostering its links with UK institutions through guided tours offered to members of British clubs and societies. Through her exclusively voluntary work, Sophia has built a strong cultural bridge between the UK and Greece.

**Ms SOFIA TSILIDOU**

University of Essex



Sofia Tsilidou is an Archaeologist-Museologist working for the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and is mainly responsible for European co-operation on museum policy. She is a Greek representative at the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Council of the European Union and a Member of the Executive Board of the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO).

Sofia's UK qualification has informed her entire career in museums, which has seen her reach a senior role in policy-formation at international level, shaping museum standards across Europe. Sofia has been involved in the promotion and awareness-raising of cultural heritage and museums at national level, and has worked as project officer in EU-funded projects and as a registrar for national and international exhibitions. In her role at NEMO, she has influenced policies in the areas of social, educational and economic values that museums have for society, as well as their collection values.