



HELLENIC AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
ATHENS COLLEGE - PSYCHICO COLLEGE

HAEF
General Announcements

Our Newest Staff Member
Visiting Professor Don Morgan Nielsen

After discovering, in 4th grade, a book of mythology that also contained a chart of the Greek alphabet, Don refused to study anything else, and so his grandmother (grand-daughter of James Pierpont Morgan, American banker) took him out of school for a year, and they traveled together – for three months each to: Egypt, Greece, Italy and England. When they returned to New York, he promised his grandmother: to become an archaeologist, to compete in the Olympics, and to return some day to start a school in Greece. This is how it started and how it continues today – and why we are so fortunate to have Mr. Nielsen on our staff for the coming year as a visiting professor. Although a member of two prominent families: Morgan (banking) and Case (White & Case law firm), Mr. Nielsen has been independent since age 15, paying his own way through university before launching a successful career as a strategic and financial analyst.

After a degree in classics and philosophy (Dartmouth), Mr. Nielsen pursued postgraduate studies in classical archaeology at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens in 1974, and was in Greece to observe the invasion of Cyprus, the fall of the Junta and Constantinos Caramanlis' return from Paris. Instead of continuing in academia, however, he became a strategic analyst and (in his "spare" time) competed in the following three winter Olympics in cross-country skiing and biathlon. From 1984 until 1988, he worked with Christopher Kennan (son of the statesman George Kennan) as a strategic analyst for David Rockefeller. At the same time, under the direction of Cyrus Vance, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York he again focused on Greece, preparing a feasibility study on the idea of a permanent site for the Olympics and an assessment of the Greek National Park System for WWF. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mr. Nielsen served as special assistant to Cyrus Vance in the Balkans and was invited here by President Walter McCann and the Board of Directors of Athens College for three years as a visiting professor and to observe developments in the Balkans for the Council on Foreign Relations. As an advisor on strategic planning to companies, schools, organizations and governments, Mr. Nielsen will also be active in advising and organizing non-governmental organizations in the region and will continue his long-time association with The American Farm School in Thessaloniki.

Mr. Nielsen, as a true philhellene, is busy learning modern Greek (having forgotten most of his Classical Greek from university) and will certainly be a welcome addition to the expatriate community in Athens. Those wishing to meet Mr. Nielsen before the start of classes this Fall will have an opportunity at an open-house reception in his honor at the residence of the American Ambassador in Greece, on September 2, hosted by His Excellency Michael G. Sotirhos and his lovely wife Estelle. For further information, please contact Stella at the College Alumni Affairs office: 679-8100.