

**GREETING FROM THE AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO THE UNITED STATES,
MS. ALEXANDRA PAPADOPOULOU
ON THE OCCASION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
“GREECE IN MISSOURI 21”**

As Ambassador of Greece to the United States, I am honored that “Greece in Missouri 21” Bicentennial celebrations of Greek Independence at the University of Missouri-St. Louis are presented under the Auspices of the Embassy of Greece, Washington, DC.

This year, Greek Independence day marks the bicentennial of the start of the Greek Revolution. Inspired by the American Revolution and supported by its allies and Philhellenes, including many Americans, the Greek war of independence was won by the sheer determination of a people who struggled for their freedom; people determined to pay the highest price in order to break away from the claws of empire and become a free and sovereign nation, living with dignity and respect, thus ushering a new chapter in world history.

Looking forward to this series of events, I congratulate Dr. Michael B. Cosmopoulos, who, among his many academic achievements, also holds the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Endowed Professorship in Greek Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

It is heartwarming to see such an impactful program taking place in the heartland of America. It is a fascinating as well as versatile program, spanning across the art genres, including music, film, and lectures.

On behalf of Greece and the Greek people, I congratulate and thank the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Endowed Chair for its outstanding work in sharing Greek history, culture, and traditions, not only with Americans of Greek heritage, but with people throughout America and the world, as so many states and more than 100 countries are represented in the student body of the University of Missouri.

With my highest regards, I wish you all the best and look forward to visiting you in person.