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Editorial

The HELAAS board would like to extend their wishes to all of you for a relaxing and enjoyable summer. In the coming academic year, we hope to work closely with you to promote the research, study and teaching of American civilization in Greece in the areas of humanities, social and applied sciences.

In this issue (pp. 4, 5, 6, 7) you will find information about, reports on, and photographs from the **2006 International EAAS Conference "Conformism, Non-Conformism, and Anti-Conformism in the Culture of the United States"** which took place in Nicosia, Cyprus, between April 7 and 10, 2006. Several HELAAS members organized workshops and presented individual papers: Nephie Christodoulides, Dimitris Liokaftos, Helena Maragou, Tatiani Rapatzikou (see panel report on pp. 5, 6), and Anastasia Stefanidou (see individual paper report on pp. 6, 7).

Regarding our future activities, HELAAS is organizing, for the first time in Greece, an **International Graduate Student Conference**—also open to Young Scholars—on **“Ex-centric Narratives, Identity and Multivocality in Anglo-American Cultures.”** The conference will take place between March 15th and March 18th, 2007 and will be hosted by **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.** Our goal is to give the opportunity to young scholars, who are in the process of completing or have just completed their graduate work, to meet their colleagues and exchange ideas on topics of mutual interest. We do hope to attract as many graduate students as possible to this international event, and we have already received several promising abstracts. For more information on the conference, the call for papers and guidelines for submissions, please consult pages 10, 11 of this newsletter. The organizing committee consists of: Smatie Yemenetz-Malathouni, Dora Tsimpouki, Zoe Detsi, Tatiani Rapatzikou, and Eleftheria Arapoglou.

HELAAS will also be hosting a **symposium in Greek** on **“The Future of American Studies in Greece” («Τάσεις και Προοπτικές των Αμερικανικών Σπουδών στην Ελλάδα»)** to take place on Saturday **November 25th, 2006,** in the **History Center** (Μέγαρο Μπίλη) in Thessaloniki. A schedule will be posted on the HELAAS website shortly. Please, contact the symposium organizer and HELAAS secretary, Dr. Eleftheria Arapoglou <elefarapoglou@yahoo.com>, with queries about the event.

As announced in the winter newsletter, HELAAS has launched an **E-forum,** in the context of which members are now able to interact
and exchange views or share information (see relevant report on pp. 15, 16). The E-forum is accessible through the HELAAS web site and HELAAS members have already been informed about accessibility to it. If you, nevertheless, have any questions or queries, please consult HELAAS treasurer, Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou <trapatz@enl.auth.gr>, or the list-serv administrator, Paschalia Patsala <ppatsala@enl.auth.gr>.

With my very best wishes,

Professor Dora Tsimpouki
tsimpouki@enl.auth.gr

Pictures from the 2006 EAAS Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus
(Courtesy: Dr. Antonis Balasopoulos)
EAAS International Conference

April 7-10, 2006
Nicosia, Cyprus

Plenary Speakers:
Professor Donald Pease (Dartmouth College),
Professor Peter Loizos (London School of Economics)
Professor Sophie Body-Gendrot (Paris IV-Sorbonne).

The European Association for American Studies Conference, which convened at the University of Cyprus from 7-10 April 2006, proved a great organizational success and met with unanimous and frequently enthusiastic praise from EAAS Board officers and individual delegates. The conference was organized through the collaboration of HELAAS and members of the Department of English at the University of Cyprus (Assistant Professor Antonis Balasopoulos as head of the Organizing Committee, Professor Stephanos Stephanides, Dr. Nephie Christodoulides, and department secretary Thekla Costantinou). Over the four days of the event, the university hosted approximately 300 delegates and visitors. The conference program featured three plenary lectures, seven parallel lectures, twenty-five workshops and five shoptalks. Among the other activities of the conference were a US-

Embassy reception, a highly emotional poetry evening with Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot poets at the historic Ledra Palace Hotel, and a very festive closing reception hosted by the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus Tourism Organization. Also featured was a book exhibit including new academic titles in American Studies by several major presses, HELAAS and EAAS publications, and local Anglophone Literature. Several books not sold during the exhibit were donated to the American Studies collection of the University of Cyprus.

Antonis Balasopoulos,
University of Cyprus

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Report on Workshop 24
Cyberspace Revisited: Digital Revolution vs. Transnational Digital Convergence

Chairs:
Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece;
Professor Gilles Menegaldo,
University of Poitiers, France.

The four papers presented in this interdisciplinary workshop commented on digital technologies from a variety of perspectives. In particular, Mokhtar Ben Barka (France) talked about the way religious collectivity, consciousness and choice have been reformulated and reshaped with the advent
of the WWW, which he views as a new space allowing for new forms of religious participation to be performed. Arthur Redding (Canada) focused on the emergence of a cyber economy and its threatening impact on the ideological rights of labor workers. He contends that the transformation of labor into an immaterial and cybernetically-run force has now led to new forms of identity-production, transforming labor from a mere economic to a social, cultural and political power. Tatiani Rapatzikou (Greece) concentrated on the examination of the conceptions and misconceptions that have been surrounding print and electronic literary production nowadays. She further examined the extent to which the convergence of literature and technology, since the late 80s, has promoted as well as endangered the development and dissemination of literary texts due to the reading and writing habits that the WWW has introduced and facilitated. Last, Claudia Schwarz (Austria) talked about the constructive nature of cyberspace by concentrating on the role of “The End of the Web” pages. Serving as hoaxes, these web pages satirize their own fakeness and inconsequentiality. Whether their existence denotes technical insufficiency or neglect is open to consideration. They do mark, though, a reaction against the limitless choices that the WWW offers to internet users today.

Tatiani Rapatzikou, Aristotle University

Report on Anastasia Stefanidou’s paper entitled “Diasporics of Identity: Audre Lorde and Olga Broumas” presented in Workshop 3, Session 2, Poetickal Bombshells

Stefanidou’s paper focused on the negotiation of difference in the poetry of Audre Lorde, an African-American writer, and Olga Broumas, a Greek-American poet. Although their poetics and politics were fermented within different but not dissimilar social, cultural, and political circumstances and movements, Lorde and Broumas converge in their persistent call for an adaptable and expansive identity whose resilience lies in its ability to embrace and nurture difference. Both writers traverse boundaries and eradicate binaries to underwrite the multiplicity of the locations of the self and to propose difference as fundamental to the emergence and enunciation of identity. Their poetry is not merely a text to be read. More importantly, their poetry is an act of resistance and self-preservation to be performed. Both the writer and the reader are asked not only to share the responsibility to overcome social and political nightmares.
but also to partake of the creation of humankind where people are connected through or because of their difference. Broumas and Lorde claim that unless we represent ourselves by constructing a space of belonging, a new home within the self, where all the multiple aspects of ourselves energize each other reciprocally, we cannot begin to confront or revise discourses that seek to posit difference in the exterior. Identity must speak in its distinct tongues and thrive on its own diversity.

_Anastasia Stefanidou, Aristotle University_

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**EAAS Related Events**

- **EJAS Special Issue:** *Reading / Misreading “America”*

**Deadline for submissions:**
*October 15, 2006*

As part of its goal to broaden American Studies and to foster a trans-European “academic space” for discussing the United States, _EJAS_ would like to devote an issue to investigating the many representations of “America,” and how and why they are used in particular contexts.

Narratives and images of the U.S. and what is “American” have so multiplied and become globalized that they have become detached from the country itself. It is no longer a question of what “America” is, but of what people do with the many available “Americas.” Narratives of America are used and abused for specific political, cultural, and social purposes, each one related in some way to a piece of reality that is the U.S. but each one also possessing a life and a power of its own. Readings (both literary and visual) have been created and claimed even by those who have had little or no contact with the U.S.A. They have differed wildly between historical periods, generations, nations, and political perspectives, and have been as much empowering (freedom, individualism) as denigrating (inequality, violence) in their intent. Such narratives are inseparable from power relations and social hierarchies, but these relations play out in different ways and can be equally enabling and debilitating.

_EJAS_ invites articles from all disciplines and approaches to examine the causes and consequences of these readings/interpretations of America:

- How have narratives and images of the U.S.A. been used in Europe in support of particular (political/cultural/social) causes--including U.S. foreign policy itself?
- How have Americans misread their own country--and themselves?

- Why are certain readings of “America” particularly attractive in particular European countries, and what are the consequences?

- Is it possible to “misread” America when its identities are so fluid and multifaceted?

- Translating America: How have cultural preferences in Europe affected the adoption / translation of particular US literary canons and specific authors?

_EJAS_ does not accept abstracts and proposals. Only completed articles, in compliance with the submission guidelines posted on the _EJAS_ website will be considered for publication.

Read, and/or contribute to the _European Journal of American Studies_ at [http://ejas.revues.org](http://ejas.revues.org)

All necessary information (modalities of submission, format, address of the editors in the respective fields of study, etc) can be found on the site, under one of the rubrics in the left-hand column of the screen.

The Journal will post articles online in the regular issue as soon as they are accepted and cleared for publication. The accretive issues will be closed each June and December.

- **_EJAS_** Bibliography of Books on American Studies published in Europe

**Deadline for submissions to HELAAS secretary:**

**September 15**\(^{th}\), 2006

The EAAS Board and the new Editorial Committee of _EJAS_ recently discussed the crucial need to increase the visibility of European research in American Studies.

An examination of most bibliographies in European journals, books and articles seems to demonstrate that Europeans themselves very little read and benefit from the work of their European colleagues, however understandable it may be that most of the sources quoted emanate from the U.S., where the bulk of pertinent research is naturally conducted.

There is, however, an abundance of rich European material that is hardly ever tapped, even by European scholars and researchers. Part of the problem lies with the lack of visibility of many publications by Europeans, in spite of efforts deployed in the "reviews" section of the EAAS website and frequent mentions in the EAAS Newsletter.

The recent creation--and flexibility--of _EJAS_ has
prompted EAAS to invite all European associations to provide a list of the most significant books (up to 50) published in English by their members on American subjects over the last 25 years.

Subsequently, a special section on the EJAS site will be dedicated to the listing of book-length publications in English by members of EAAS, making fairly recent research in the field available to all. HELAAS invites ALL its members to send to HELAAS secretary, Dr. Eleftheria Arapoglou <elefarapoglou@yahoo.com>, a bibliography of their books published in the last 25 years and dealing with American Studies. The deadline for the submission of this information is September 15th, 2006. No late submissions will be accepted as the EAAS deadline for inclusion of the information in EJAS is strict.

The bibliography must include the necessary publishing data, as per the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME, First name, Title, Place of publication: Publisher, date of publication, number of pages, indication of the presence of a preface, an index, a bibliography.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

An extremely brief description of the contents (2 or 3 lines), if not clear from the title, must be included.

e.g.: ADAGGIO, Gertrud, Columbus Meets the Egg, Middletown: University Press, 1990, 6578 pages. Preface by G.W. Push; index of names and subject matter, bibliography pp. 6566-6578.

[Based on a thorough examination of recently unearthed secret instructions of the Spanish Court, the book documents Chris's eager quest for an anti-bird flu vaccine in the New World.]

If a website can be given where the book can be procured, please indicate it.

Recent HELAAS Events

- Eastern Church Gospel Performance in Thessaloniki

The third celebration of Black History Month in Greece was commemorated this year with a special event. HELAAS, together with the American Consul, the Municipal and Aristotle University authorities in Thessaloniki, undertook the local organization of the gospel event which took place on February 22nd, 2006 at the Aristotle University Aula.

Students, the public and members of staff had the opportunity to attend a spectacular and unique event. After appearing in Athens, the choir and band of Eastern Star Church from Indianapolis, U.S., also traveled to Thessaloniki for one and only performance. The Eastern
Star Church was founded in 1920 and is considered nowadays to be one of the largest African American churches in the Midwest. It was Yvette Jarvis who met the choir in 2003 and invited them to our country. On the night of the event, the choir performed songs from its recent CD release entitled Lord I Worship (2000) under the direction of Minister of Music Sherri Garrison.

For more information concerning Black History Month, please visit: <www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html>

For those wishing to find out more about Eastern Star Church, please go to: <www.easternstarchurch.org>

Calls for Papers

- HELAAS Graduate Student International Conference Inaugural

“Ex-centric Narratives, Identity and Multivocality in Anglo-American Cultures”

March 15-18, 2007

The Hellenic Association for American Studies, and the Department of American Literature and Culture of the School of English of Aristotle University aim to bring together Greek and foreign graduate students (MA & PhD) as well as young scholars at the start of their careers from various fields and disciplines to a conference which is organized at the Aristotle University Campus. The conference, which is the first of its kind to be held in Greece, invites papers that address the concepts of de-centrism and ex-centrism within a globalized context where borders between the canonical and the other are being contested. Within this context, individual cultures and individual writers and artists are now viewed as participants in an intercultural and multiple exchange of experiences and perspectives in their attempt to move beyond “boundaries.” With the peripheral having now become the center of contemporary culture, this conference is interested in examining cultural and literary diversity that have merged from the reciprocal traffic of ideas and influences between cultures, politics, aesthetics and disciplines with an emphasis on identity as a site of crisis and fragmentation. To investigate the newly created political and socio-cultural reality as well as the literary and artistic aesthetics, prospective participants are encouraged to contribute paper proposals relating to the conference theme, in the fields of literature, history, film, language, pedagogy, psychology, music, art, politics, economics, and law. Ex-centricity, identity and multivocality may be examined in relation to one of the
suggested topics below, the list not being exhaustive.

• Personal Boundaries in the Negotiation of Identity
• Locality and Belonging
• Place and Identity
• Contested Landscapes/Contested Narratives
• Local v/s transnational politics
• Setting boundaries / Transcending Boundaries; Spatial and Social Organization
• Ethnic Groups/Minorities/Immigration/Alienation/Exile
• Local vs. Global: Shifting Borders and Hybrid Identities
• Doppelganger metaphor / Otherness
• Polyphony vs. Authorial voices in politics/history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, journalism/law.
• Gender / Racial identity
• New Novels / Old Narratives
• Multileveledness /Politext / Hypertexts
• Intertextuality
• Peripheral/Marginal
• Postcolonial Narratives
• Cultural Preservations and Electronic Technologies
• Embodiment/Disembodiment
• World English
• Semantics

Selected papers will be published in electronic and hard copy format.

Please submit a 250-300 word abstract, for a 20 minute presentation and a short bio to the address below. **Deadline: October 31, 2006.**

E-mail to: <excentric@enl.auth.gr>
Or post to: “Ex-centric Narratives”, 2007 HELAAS Graduate Conference, School of English, Department of American Literature and Culture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, 54 124

• “The Self in North American Culture: Comparative Perspectives”

**Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, 2006**

**Dpt. of Am. Literature and Culture, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey**

The conference will examine selfhood today and in the past and will be interdisciplinary in scope, soliciting contributions from scholars working in the humanities and social sciences, in such fields as literary, historical, film, media, gender, race, and ethnic studies. Presenters will focus on representations of the self in North American culture and the discourses of the social sciences in both the past and present. Moreover, in line with recent scholarship, the conference will attempt to get beyond rigid dichotomies of the private and the public, the personal and the political, and will aim to explore the manner in which the self is constructed within various social, cultural, and historical contexts.
Suggested topics and themes include the following: the gendered self; the racialized self; the self and ethnic identity; the self and the politics of recognition; sexual orientation and the self; the self in relation to the other; intimacy, marriage, and the self; emergent pathologies of the self, for example, the narcissistic self; the psychological effect of racial discrimination; technologies of the self; psychotherapy and the care of the self; representation of multiple personality disorder in psychology and film; affectivity and the self; the self from the perspective of cultural psychology; psychoanalysis and the secrets of soul; transitions in selfhood: from “character” to “personality”; instrumentalizing the self: the measurement and management of personality; the self and political economy; neo-liberalism and the precarious self; and the self within the globalizing economic context.

The conference organizers invite proposals for both individual papers and panels. Prospective presenters should send an abstract of approximately 400 words in length and a curriculum vitae. Proposals for panels should include the abstracts and bios of the individual participants along with a brief statement of the overall theme of the panel.

The deadline for submitting proposals is September 1, 2006.
Send proposals to:
Dennis Bryson, Department of American Culture and Literature, Faculty of Humanities and Letters, Bilkent University, 06800 Bilkent Ankara, TURKEY.
E-mail submissions (and queries with regard to the conference) are welcome. Please send to:
<dennis@bilkent.edu.tr>

• Teaching “America”

JAST, Journal of American Studies of Turkey, a semiannual interdisciplinary journal with international authorship, invites the submission of essays for a special issue on “Teaching American Culture outside the United States.”

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:
- What should American Studies curricula in locations outside the US seek to accomplish?
- How does one present the US within a disciplinary paradigm that promotes transnational and subnational American studies?
- How is the teaching of American culture affected by the lack of those conceptions and misconceptions that provide American students perspectives on the constitution/reconstitution/dissolution of “America”?
- What conceptions and misconceptions take their place? What possibilities do they engender?
- How do curricular goals translate into the classroom: what texts, contexts, events, and concepts are most important or most useful, and for what reasons? What pedagogies are most successful?

The editors also welcome reviews of books and films related to the topic of this special issue.

**Deadline** for submission of articles and reviews: **15 September 2006**.

All correspondence and manuscripts for this special issue should be directed to the issue editor, **Kevin R. McNamara**, Ege University/University of Houston-Clear Lake, <kmcnamara@houston.rr.com>

Article manuscripts of 12-20 double-spaced pages and book or film reviews of 500-1000 words should be submitted as MS-Word attachments. All manuscripts should follow the MLA Style. Identifying information should be placed on a separate title page. For further information regarding the special issue, contact the issue editor and include "JAST" in the subject line.

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**31st Annual Conference of the American Studies Association of Turkey**

**“Comparative Americas”**

**November 8-10, 2006**

For this conference proposals are invited from within the many disciplines of American Studies that focus on “American” and “U.S.” Studies, not by abandoning these analytical frames but by (dis-)placing them within a comparative context.

Possible panels may include:
- Comparative Historiographies
- Multiculturalism and Multilingualism in the United States and Beyond
- American Exceptionalism/Comparative Exceptionalisms
- Atlantic or Pacific Crossings
- Transnational and Translocational Paradigms
- The Local, the Regional, the Global
- Ethnic Studies in a Comparative Frame
- Hybrid Americas vs. the Clash of Cultures
- Caribbean Cultures
- Civic vs. Ethnic or Religious Identities
- Hemispheric Perspectives
- Comparative Approaches in the Classroom
- Comparative Gender and Sexuality Studies

Proposals are invited for individual papers, but proposals for panels of three to
four presenters and roundtables of three to five presenters are especially welcome. The **deadline** for submission of all proposals is **July 31, 2006**. A one- to two-page abstract that summarizes the contents of the panel or roundtable and its relation to the conference, or, for individual papers, summarizes the paper and suggests a panel or panels to which it may relate is requested. Also, a cv for all prospective presenters must be submitted. All applicants will be notified of the conference contents by September 1, 2006.

Selected papers may be invited for submission (to be considered for publication) in the ASAT peer-reviewed journal, the *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*.

Please send your proposals or questions by email to <asatconf2006@yahoo.com> addressed to the secretary of the ASAT conference: Dr. Trevor Hope, Ankara University Department of American Culture and Literature. Additional information may be found at the ASAT website, www.bilkent.edu.tr/~asat.

**European Study Group for Nineteenth-Century American Literature**

European scholars specializing in 19th-century American literature are invited to join the European Study Group for Nineteenth-Century American Literature, supported by EAAS. The rationale behind this project is to meet annually for two days and 1) discuss a selected lesser-known work of 19th-century literature which participants will have read prior to the meeting (or a theme that involves a variety of works); 2) discuss the current research of study group participants; and 3) present and respond to participants’ work-in-progress. The **inaugural meeting** will take place in Poznan, Poland, on **September 9 and 10, 2006**, and will focus on Fanny Fern’s bestselling novel *Ruth Hall* (1855).

If you are interested in participating in this and/or future meetings, please email **Magdalena Zapedowska**, School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, al. Niepodleglosci 4, 61-874 Poznan, Poland tel. (+48 61) 829 3506 fax (+48 61) 852 3103 <magzap@ifa.amu.edu.pl>
**Members’ Publications**


**New Members**

**Virginia Dakari** is a graduate student at the Department of American Literature and Culture, Aristotle University. Her research interests include feminist criticism and theory, psychoanalysis, African-American studies, contemporary theatre theory and performance, and creative writing.

<viniadakari@yahoo.gr>

**Alexandra Halkias** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, Panteion University, Athens, Greece. Her research interests are in the areas of feminist theory, sociology of culture, media studies, nationalism, and sexuality.

<halkiasa@otenet.gr>

**Effie Yiannopoulou** is Lecturer in English and Cultural Theory at the School of English, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece. She has co-edited a book entitled *Metaphoricity and the Politics of Mobility* (Rodopi) and special issues of *The European Journal of English Studies* [“Intimate Transfers,” 9.3 (2005)] and *Gramma* [“Wrestling Bodies,” 11 (2003)]. She is currently researching the intersection of whiteness and femininity in the work of white women writing around the middle of the twentieth century.

<yiannopo@enl.auth.gr>

**Other News**

- **HELAAS List-serv**

The HELAAS List-serv consists of an electronic mail discussion list and a related network site on the World Wide Web.

HELAAS members can use the list for the discussion of virtually anything pertaining to the broad range of American Studies.

Messages circulating in the List-serv will concern news about: teaching and research projects, works in progress, announcements about conferences/jobs/grants/fellowships, Internet resources, book reviews, syllabi exchanges etc.

Also, HELAAS members are invited to use this List-serv as an e-forum where they can post questions and queries, or host debates over academic
issues relating to American Studies.

An archive of all previously posted messages on the List-serv will be maintained. All messages will be sorted by date or subject (eg. women’s studies, cultural studies, teaching of American literature, etc).

Given that the HELAAS List-serv will be a semi-public e-forum, the list's editors, managers, advisory board and the association itself bear no responsibility for messages forwarded to people outside the list without the initial contributor's prior consent.

For any comments or suggestions, please contact: <trapatz@enl.auth.gr> and <ppatsala@enl.auth.gr>

To post to this list, send an email to: <HELAAS@lists.auth.gr>

General information about the mailing list is at: <https://lists.auth.gr/mailman/listinfo/HELAAS>

We hope you find this List-serv useful and constructive.

• **EAAS Travel Grants**
Information can be obtained by visiting the EAAS Homepage: <http://www.eaas.info>

• Join the **EAAS Distribution List** for topical information. To subscribe to the list, please fill out the form at the EAAS-L List information page at <http://mailman.let.uu.nl/mailman/listinfo/eaas-l>

In order to contribute to the discussion send messages to: <eaas-l@mailman.let.uu.nl>

**HELAAS Subscriptions**

The new HELAAS board has decided that, after 6 years during which our subscription remained the same, the **subscription for 2006** is set at **20 euros** per annum for members, and **15 euros** per annum for students and members employed part-time.

During its last meeting, the board has also decided to **waive all membership fees up to the year 2004**, so that members can easily settle their HELAAS subscription.

Please note our new bank account details for the HELAAS 2006 subscription fee:
**PIRAEUS BANK**, Account Number: **5272-026131-179**
BIC: PIRBGRAA
IBAN: GR75 0172 2720 0052 7202 6131 179
**You are all kindly requested to update or renew your subscriptions at your earliest convenience.**

We would also like to inform you that it is possible to **download the membership form** posted on the HELAAS
web site
<http://www.enl.auth.gr/HELAAS/registration_form_HELAAS.doc>
and e-mail it to the HELAAS secretary, Eleftheria Arapoglou
<elefarapoglou@yahoo.com>.

Payment can be made at the Piraeus bank, account number
5272-026131-179, only provided that the treasurer, Tatiani Rapatzikou,
receives a copy (by fax, e-mail, or snail mail) of the deposit slip. Instructions are
posted on the on-line membership form:
<http://www.enl.auth.gr/HELAAS/registration_form_HELAAS.doc>

For change of contact details or email, please get in touch with the HELAAS
Secretary, Eleftheria Arapoglou
<elefarapoglou@yahoo.com>

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!