

## Rouvelas Endowment Boosts University of Washington Hellenic Studies Program

SEATTLE - The University of Washington Hellenic Studies Program held a Celebration Dinner and Auction in Seattle on Nov. 13, 2010, at the St. Demetrios Church Community Center as the program continues toward its goal of funding a full-time position. Highlight of the evening was the announcement by Washington, DC, attorney, Emanuel Rouvelas of the establishment of the Eleftherios and Mary Rouvelas Endowed Writing Prize in Hellenic Studies in memory of his parents. The endowment will fund an outstanding writing prize for students in the Hellenic Studies program. The award is in keeping with the Hellenic tradition as recorded in *The Iliad*, ancient Olympic games, and Athenian theater competitions. Prizes can extend Hellenic studies by incentivizing research and writing (or other activity) by providing winner's recognition and financial support. Emanuel and his wife Marilyn, author of the popular *Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs in America* are both Washington state natives and attended the UW. The 12-year-old Hellenic Studies Program currently has over 400 students taking a variety of courses including a quarter of study abroad in Athens or Ioannina. Among those participating in the recent event were (Photo below - left to right): John T. John, president of the Hellenes of the Northwest and a co-founder of the program; Emanuel and Marilyn Rouvelas; Dr. Angelos Pangratis, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States; and Dr. Theodore Kaltsounis, UW Professor Emeritus and co-founder of the Hellenic Studies Program. Other speakers included Dr. Christine Ingebritsen, UW Professor of Scandinavian Studies and Director of the Center of West European Studies, and Dr. Resat Kasaba, Director of the UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. The program has received generous donations from the governments of Greece and Cyprus, the Onassis Foundation, the John P. Angel Foundation, the Vidalakis family, and numerous members of the Greek-American community. Last year, the "300 Spartans" campaign was launched to attract 300 people to give \$1000 each to reach the final amount needed to fund the position. For more information on the UW Hellenic Studies Program visit its web site at <http://depts.washington.edu/hellenic/>

