



## The 2010 HPST Scholarship Recipients

**Pavlos Almanidis.** Born in the city of Tsalka, Georgia he grew up in Chrysoupoli, a small town situated between Kavala and Xanthi. He received his undergraduate degree in Economics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2005 with distinction, graduating first in ranking and receiving a scholarship from the Greek Scholarship Foundation IKY for all years of his studies. He joined Rice in the fall of 2006 as a master/doctoral student. He expects to earn his Master's degree in Statistics in 2010 and his PhD in economics in 2011. His main fields of concentration are in the areas of applied econometrics and applied Bayesian learning. Specifically, he is interested in studying the productivity and cost effectiveness of firms, identifying various technologies that they adopt and their market behavior in producing and pricing their products and services.

**Antonis Kartapanis** was born in Nicosia, Cyprus. A university honors student at University of Texas in Austin, majoring in Accounting, he expects to earn his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in the Spring of 2012. Since high school, Antonis has stood out as an exceptionally bright, competitive and hard working student. He has consistently ranked first in his class and earned a number of awards in mathematics, science and accounting, among other subjects. Following his academic achievements, he was awarded the prestigious Evi Sophianou Fullbright Scholarship – a scholarship given to the single best Greek Cypriot Fullbright scholar – to attend UT Austin.

**Christopher Alexander Kelesoglou.** Born in Littleton, Colorado, Christopher is pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Greek at the University of Texas in Austin. Having earned university honors at UT, he expects to graduate in the Spring of 2012. After completing his undergraduate studies, Christopher's next goal is to go to medical school and become a doctor. He values his education in the engineering field because, as he states, it helps him acquire critical thinking and problem solving skills. Christopher has also been very keen in connecting with and exploring his Greek heritage. He has been determined not only to learn the Greek language but also to familiarize himself with various aspects of modern Greek culture.

**Marina Nikolaou.** Born in College Station, Texas, Marina is a senior at Houston Westside High School. A National Merit Commended Scholar, she is currently ranked in the top 1 % of her graduating class. She has been admitted to the Chemical Engineering Department of the University of Texas in Austin. As one of her teachers puts it, although she is a top student who earns A's in her courses, her success is not primarily motivated by grades or class rank. She is blessed with a true intellectual curiosity, which compels her to take courses because she is interested. She can not only learn a great deal of information quickly, she is able to synthesize that data and apply it correctly.

**Nicholas John Rizopoulos.** Born in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Nicholas is a senior at Clemens High School. Currently ranked in the top 5.7% of his graduating class, he has been admitted to Rice University. His subject of study will be Biomedical Engineering/Pre-Med. His ultimate goal is to become a doctor. According to his teachers, Nicholas has a very scientific type of mind. He is constantly questioning and inquiring. He wants to understand concepts and not just memorize facts for a test. He is currently enrolled in Scientific Research and Design. In this mentorship program, Nicholas is working with a physician and has successfully completed his first semester of research.

**Vasileios Samaras.** Born in Athens, Greece Vasileios joined the graduate program in Structural Engineering in the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin in fall of 2007 after completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Thessaly, in Volos, Greece. He has completed the requirements for the degree of Master of Science and is currently working towards his Ph.D. degree. Vasileios is working on a study focused on developing a wireless system for monitoring the condition and behavior of highway bridges. His long term goal is to seek a career as a professor and researcher in the structural engineering field.