

HELLENIC STUDIES



OUR VISION AND PROGRAM

Founded by the late Professor Ted Kaltsounis in 1998 with support from the local Greek-American community, our program is an interdisciplinary program designed for students interested in acquiring a comprehensive view of Greece, from antiquity to the present, enabling students to study the Greek world in depth and from a variety of scholarly perspectives.

The Hellenic Studies program's special emphasis on modern and contemporary Greece is mirrored in its placement within the Center for Western European studies and the Jackson School. The program's mission to support and promote the study of modern and contemporary Greece is further reflected in the opportunities it presents students to study the Modern Greek language at all levels, and to gain first-hand experience of Greece by participating in the study abroad program it organizes annually. The program offers a Minor that forms an excellent and convenient complement to a European Studies Major or other majors with the Jackson School or in the humanities.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to UW Hellenic Studies! As program chair my mission is to make sure that UW will always be a place where students, both those of Greek heritage and those with no previous experience of or connection with Greece, can gain a deeper knowledge of Greece and all aspects of its rich and ancient culture and its language in all periods, from ancient to modern. I want to continue to improve and expand our program to meet this mission. I want to make sure that students know about our classes and the financial support that we can offer thanks to generous benefactors from the community.

OUR FACULTY

- > Prof. Alexander Hollmann, Chair and Vidalakis Professor of Culture, Excellence, and Spirituality in Hellenic Studies
- > Dr. Nektaria Klapaki, Modern Greek Studies, Study Abroad Program
- > Dr. Heracles Panagiotides, Modern Greek Language
- > Dr. Taso Lagos, Study Abroad Program

LONG TERM GOALS

Since the founding of the program it has been our goal to create a named and endowed chair in Hellenic Studies. We have gotten a good start on this and created an endowment of \$1.4 million with generous contributions from the community. We seek to make this a reality through community contribution, cultivation of benefactors, and applications for program support from national and international foundations.

To support the named professor of Hellenic Studies we also need to create two full-time lectureships, one in Modern Greek Studies, and the other in Modern Greek Language.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

- > John T. John, President
- > Paul Plumis, Vice President
- > George Hatziantoniou, Vice President
- > Gus Kravas

SHORTER TERM GOALS

With the approaching bicentennial of the creation of an independent Greek nation state in 1821, UW Hellenic Studies, in co-operation with other Hellenic Studies programs on the US and Canadian West Coast, plans a series of lectures, discussions, and events to celebrate, evaluate, and reflect on the impact and repercussions of this momentous event.

OUR CLASSES

The Hellenic Studies program has four important components:

1. Courses on Modern Greece (history, culture, literature). These courses are taught by Dr. Klapaki and are offered through the Jackson School of International Studies. A new course, JSIS/CLAS 239 Greece: Ancient to Modern, examines the idea of the continuity of themes from Ancient to Modern Greece and is team-taught by Professor Hollmann and Dr. Klapaki.
2. Courses on Ancient Greece (literature, mythology, history, culture, art, archaeology). These courses are taught by faculty of the Department of Classics, including Prof. Hollmann.
3. Courses in the Greek language (Ancient and Modern). Courses in Ancient Greek are offered from beginning level through upper level, and are taught by faculty of the Department of Classics. Courses in Modern Greek are offered from beginning level through advanced. Beginning and intermediate Modern Greek courses are taught online, using a platform developed by Dr. Panagiotides.

4. The Study Abroad program is taught by Drs Lagos and Klapaki and has both a shorter program (spring break) and a longer program (summer). Participants spend time in Athens at the American College of Greece (Deree), as well as at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Nafplio, with side trips to sites in the Peloponnese.

SOME ENROLLMENT FIGURES

- > Modern Greek Studies classes combined: 2017-2018: 89 students; 2018-2019: 100 students; 2019-2020: 106 students
- > Modern Greek Language classes combined: 2017-2018: 97 students; 2018-2019: 59 students, 2019-2020: 55 students

RECENT NEWS

GRADUATION OF FIRST HELLENIC STUDIES MINOR

Kathryn Russell (class of 2020), one of our first Hellenic Studies minors, graduated this summer. She has now begun a Master's degree in Comparative and International Education at Oxford University. Kathryn majored in Psychology but a love of Greece, also sparked by her participation in the Hellenic Studies Study Abroad Program, led by Drs Taso Lagos and Nektaria Klapaki, inspired her to complete the newly-offered Minor in Hellenic Studies. She was able to combine courses in Ancient Greece with courses in Modern Greek studies. We wish her all the best!

AWARDS OF KRAVAS AND SOULANDROS SCHOLARSHIPS

In the spring of 2020 we were delighted to be able to award both of these scholarships. The Kravas Scholarship was set up in honor of Irene Konstantopoulos Kravas (1908-2009), who was born in the village of Kastania and came to Washington State as a bride in her late teens. Though she spent most of her life in the *xenitia*, she always remembered a childhood filled with the love of family and their passion for their Hellenic heritage. This is the first time the scholarship has been awarded. The recipient is Miranda Keene, who has distinguished herself in a number of courses in Modern Greek Studies, including the program's newest course, Greece: from Ancient to Modern.

The Soulandros Scholarship, created in honor of Nicholas and Aggeliki Soulandros, is awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students who show an interest in Hellenic Studies. This year it was awarded to Owen Harris, a talented graduate student in both the Evans School of Public Administration and the Jackson School of International Studies, who is carrying out research on Syrian refugees in Greece with historically Greek backgrounds. Thanks to support from the scholarship, this summer Owen was able to complete Dr. Panagiotides' summer intensive course in the Modern Greek language. With his knowledge of Turkish, Arabic, and now Greek, he is now well-positioned indeed to conduct research and interviews.

HONORING OF 2019 ROUVELAS AND KALTSOUNIS RECIPIENTS AT ST. DEMETRIOS

In October of 2019, two recent recipients of the Rouvelas prize and the recipient of the Kaltsounis Scholarship were invited to talk about their work and experiences to members of the Greek-American community at St. Demetrios church. The Rouvelas Prize was created in honor of Eleftherios and Mary Rouvelas, enthusiastic supporters of *paideia*, and is given for an outstanding piece of student writing on a theme relating to Hellenic Studies. The two recipients were Jasmine Jones (undergraduate) for her paper on the status of unmarried women in late 19th- and early 20th c. Greece and Sarah Breitenfeld (graduate) for her paper on the political use of *ostraka* and curse tablets (*katadesmoi*) in 5th c. BCE Athens. The Kaltsounis Scholarship is named in honor of the late Ted Kaltsounis, UW professor and the founder of our UW Hellenic Studies UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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program, and was awarded to Owen Harris for travel to Athens for research on Syrian refugees. Members of both the Rouvelas and Kaltsounis families were present to meet the recipients. It was very moving for all to see and hear what the gifts of their families had made possible and the differences they had made in the lives of students.

GREECE RESEARCH GROUP LAUNCHED

Under the mentorship of Dr. Taso Lagos, alumni from the UW Hellenic Studies Study Abroad program formed the Greece Research Group in Autumn 2019. The first effort, based on ethnographic interviews conducted in Greece by our students about the refugee crisis, appears in the upcoming issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Tourism History*. The second paper, dealing with the Roma, will be sent out to refereed journal in the next few weeks. Having undergraduates published in peer-reviewed journals is a very big step in our Study Abroad program!

DR. KLAPAKI AND JOURNAL OF MODERN GREEK STUDIES

Congratulations to Dr. Nektaria Klapaki on her recent appointment as Associate Editor for Arts and Humanities at the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, which publishes articles by internationally recognized scholars in the fields of history, literature, anthropology, political science, Byzantine studies, and modern Greece.

EVENTS ON CAMPUS

Two leading scholars in Hellenic Studies visited us this year and gave talks on campus sponsored by Hellenic Studies. In November 2019, Prof. Andromache Karanika, chair of the UC Irvine Department of Classics, came and talked on weaving and women's songs from the archaic period to the middle ages. In February 2020 (and just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit us), Prof. Vangelis Calotychos, executive director of the Modern Greek Studies Association and visiting associate professor at Brown University, visited us and then the Hellenic Studies program of Simon Fraser University (BC). Among other moments in Greek cinema Prof. Calotychos talked on director Costa-Gavras' latest film, *Adults in the Room* (based on Varoufakis' own memoir about the debt crisis of 2015).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Because of the challenges posed by the Covid-19, we are scheduling all events this year via Zoom.

The first of these is a talk by Prof. Nanno Marinatos, co-sponsored by UW Hellenic Studies and the UW Department of Classics. Prof. Marinatos is an emerita professor in the Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a world-renowned specialist on the religion of Minoan Crete and Thera of the Bronze Age (c. 1600 BCE). Prof. Marinatos will talk on two Minoan wall paintings from the ancient site of Akrotiri, Thera and the depiction of a goddess there, whom she identifies with the Great Goddess of Knossos. The talk will take place via Zoom on Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 11:30am PST and is open to all. Please email Prof. Hollmann (hollmann@uw.edu) closer to the time for a link.

SUPPORT HELLENIC STUDIES

We need your help to achieve our long term and short term goals and are grateful for all donations, great and small. If you can help us, please contact Damian Peterson in the UW Advancement Office (damianbp@uw.edu).