

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 \$1.8 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

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. 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, including Prof. Hollmann. 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; 2020-2021: 118 students; 2021-2022: 109 students

> Modern Greek Language classes combined: 2017-2018: 97 students; 2018-2019: 59 students; 2019-2020: 55 students; 2020-2021: 30 students; 2021-2022: 44 students (excl. summer)

RECENT NEWS

HELLENIC STUDIES MINORS

Our very first minor, Kate Russell (Psychology 2020), is now completing a Master's degree in Comparative and International Education at Oxford University.

Miranda Keene (Anthropology 2021), first recipient of the Kravas Scholarship and one of our first minors, is working as a Market Research Consultant for UW.

Sophia Assoumanaki (International Studies: Europe 2021), who went on to represent Greece in the Olympic rowing team, assisted our Study Abroad program in Athens this spring.

Sophia Moser (International Studies 2021, additional minors in Spanish and Portuguese) is now in Brazil after winning a Fulbright Award.

Quinn Murray Wilson, who combined his major in Marine Biology with a minor in Hellenic Studies, graduated last spring.

Erik Stone (International/Global Studies 2021), is now Arthur Zankel Urban Fellow in the M.A. program in History and Education at Columbia University.

Henry Vickers (Economics), who is set to graduate this summer, has been working as Student Ambassador Team Coordinator for the Alumni Association.

AWARDS OF KRAVAS AND SOULANDROS SCHOLARSHIPS 2020 & 2021

In the spring of 2020 and 2021 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 was the first time the scholarship was awarded. The recipient was Miranda Keene, who distinguished herself in a number of courses in Modern Greek Studies, including the program's newest course, Greece: from Ancient to Modern, and was one of our first minors.

In 2021, the Kravas was won by Andrew Geary, a student whose interests include both Ancient and Modern Greek, and who has been studying both during his time at UW.

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. In 2020 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 was carrying out research on Syrian refugees in Greece with historically Greek backgrounds. Thanks to support from the scholarship, Owen was able to complete Dr. Panagiotides' summer intensive course in the Modern Greek

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language. With his knowledge of Turkish, Arabic, and now Greek, he is now well-positioned indeed to conduct research and interviews, and has been working in a government office in Washington D.C. for the past year.

In 2021, the Soulandros was won by Cass Garison, who has been taking classes in Modern Greek and who is working on a project to translate several women Greek poets from the islands.

AWARDS OF KALTSOUNIS SCHOLARSHIP IN 2021

Named after UW professor and founder of the UW Hellenic Studies program, Ted Kaltsounis, the Kaltsounis Scholarship is awarded to students for research and travel. Since no travel could take place in 2020, no award was made that year, but in 2021 a double award was made to students Yihan Xia and Zixuan Gao, who both participated in a virtual study abroad program run by Drs Taso Lagos and Nektaria Klapaki and which focused in part on strategies dealing with Covid-19 in Greece.

RECENT AWARDS OF ROUVELAS PRIZE

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. Recent recipients have written on aspects of both ancient (Sarah Breitenfeld on 5th c. Athenian ostracism and curse tablets, 2019 and on violence against slave women in ancient Greece, 2021; Joseph Bringman on fate, Achilles, and counterfactuals in Homer, 2021) and modern Greece (Jasmine Jones on independent women and the dowry in late 19th c. Greece, 2019).

STUDY ABROAD

The Early Fall Start program in 2021 involved 20 participants. Students conducted in-depth interviews with 41 Greek residents on the impact of Covid on their lives. The data from the interviews are now being analyzed with the goal of producing a publishable paper in a peer-reviewed journal by the end of the year. If so, it would be the third such paper published by Greece Research Group (GRG), created by the 2018 program cohort.

In the 2022 Spring Break Program 31 students spent two weeks touring Greece and following up on the earlier program's study of the impact of Covid on Greek residents. A highlight of the program was a visit to a Roma settlement in Athens as well as a workshop on Covid hosted at the Harvard Center in Nafplion involving Greek Covid experts. The Covid study will continue this summer with 23 participating students and focus on Covid's impact on Greek society. We look forward to expanding our program by including a domestic program researching Greek-American diasporic communities across the country, in particular those involved with restaurants and eateries.

EVENTS

A major—and truly international—event in December of 2021 was the symposium “New Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Greek Revolution”, held to celebrate the bicentennial of the Greek Revolution of 1821. Organized by Dr. Nektaria Klapaki, the online symposium featured twelve speakers from prestigious academic institutions in the U.S, Canada, U.K, and Greece. Respondents were also prominent academics in the field. The papers were of a very high standard since the speakers were all specialists in their field and spoke on topics not covered in other conferences on the bicentennial of the Revolution. All in all, 154 people, associated with no less than 53 academic or cultural institutions in all continents of the world (except Antarctica!), registered for the event.

A second event, this time in honor of the centennial of the Great Catastrophe of 1922, took place in April of 2022. Ethnomusicologist and talented performer Prof. Panayotis League of Florida State University gave a talk entitled "Echoes of the Great Catastrophe. Re-Sounding Anatolian Greekness in Diaspora."

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Taso Lagos published another book this spring! *Cooking Greek, Becoming American: Forty Years at Seattle's Continental Restaurant* (McFarland, 2022) is a memoir of a restaurant that became an institution but it is also a meditation on immigration and becoming American. It is part of Dr. Lagos' broader interest in the phenomenon of the Greek restaurant in America, about which he plans to publish a book.

In addition to organizing the highly successful symposium mentioned above, Dr. Nektaria Klapaki also presented a paper there, entitled "The cult of the insurgent Greek nation in Kalvos' *Odes*." She also was an invited participant in the session "Writing Greek America: Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality" in the collaborative public forum "Eryastirio: Conversations on Greek America" organized by UCLA's SNF Hellenic Center and talked on "Greece, Modernity and Dis/enchantment: Towards a Re-conceptualization of their Relationship" to the European Studies Faculty Forum. Dr Klapaki organized a panel on the topic "Genealogies of Social Justice in Modern Greek Fiction: Intersectional Approaches" at the 2021 meeting of the Modern Language Association.

Prof. Alex Hollmann's articles on various Herodotean topics (including dreams and symbols) appeared in the *Herodotus Encyclopedia* (ed. Christopher Baron, Wiley), and his chapter "Curse Tablets" came out in the *Oxford Handbook of Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World* (eds. Futrell and Scanlon). He spoke to the European Studies Faculty Forum on his work on the curse tablets of late antique Antioch and Caesarea and gave a presentation at the meeting of the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest entitled "Equine onomastics on late-antique curse tablets from Antioch and Caesarea". This summer he hopes to finish the manuscript of a book he is writing together with Prof. Robert Daniel of the University of Cologne.

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).