

SPRING 2022

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

Modern Greek Program

NEWSLETTER

IN MEMORIAM

*Penelope Foudeas (1998-2021),
beloved student of our program.*



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

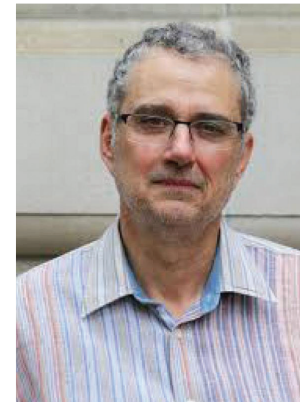
TABLE OF CONTENTS

pg 2	A Message from the Director
pg 3	Teaching during COVID-19
pg 4	The Establishment of the Miltiadis Marinakis Chair
pg 5	The Endowment of Modern Greek Professorship
pg 7	Leontis Lecture 2021 Lecture by Paschalis Nikolaou
pg 8	On why the Grubhub Robots don't Understand Novels
pg 9	Graduating Students Student Awards Faculty News
pg 10	In Memoriam

A MESSAGE FROM

Georgios Anagnostou

*Director of the Modern Greek Program
The Ohio State University*



Dear Friends of the Ohio Greek-American Community,

In March 25, 2020, our modern Greek Program celebrated a landmark event in its history, the establishment of The Miltiadis Marinakis Endowed Professorship of Modern Greek Language and Culture.

The Endowment was created by The Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University, with major gifts from the Columbus-based Ohio Hellenic Paideia and Evangelos Marinakis, after whose father it is named.

The Modern Greek Program at Ohio State expresses its appreciation to Ohio's Greek Americans, and the Greek Olympic Society in Columbus, for their unwavering support. We extend our heart-felt appreciation to the Capital Shipping Company whose generous Gift was a catalyst for the success of the project. We are grateful to the Paideia Fundraising committee for its tireless work and leadership that made this Endowed Professorship a reality. We thank you for your trust in us and the investment you are making to the Program.

In the midst of the challenges the Ohio State community faced during 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19, we have several positive news to report. Our enrollments have been robust, and the faculty continues its contributions to scholarship in publications and academic webinars. The profile of our activities between Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021 is featured below.

We dedicate this issue to our beloved student Penelope Foudeas who tragically lost her life in 2021.

Sincerely,

Georgios Anagnostou
Georgios Anagnostou

TEACHING DURING COVID-19

Like most departments at Ohio State, the Department of Classics, home of the Modern Greek Program, offered many of its classes online during the last two academic years. While all our language courses were taught in person, offerings in culture, literature and ethnography were done via Zoom. We confronted many of the challenges everyone else faced in the domain of education last year — trying to provide a meaningful experience to our students whom we saw either behind masks or on the screen.

The year brought with it a time of celebration and a time of sorrow.

Here are the courses we taught:

AUTUMN 2020:

MG 1001 Elementary Modern Greek, taught by Christopher Brown

MG 1103 Intermediate Modern Greek, taught by Christopher Brown

MG 4002 Advanced Modern Greek, taught by Christopher Brown

MG 3710 Modern Greek Literature in Translation, taught by Gregory Jusdanis

MG 2100 Greece in Film, taught by Yiorgos Anagnostou

MG 2680 Folklore of Contemporary Greece, taught by Yiorgos Anagnostou

SPRING 2021:

MG 1102 Intermediate Modern Greek, taught by Christopher Brown

MG 4001 Advanced Modern Greek, taught by Christopher Brown

MG 2240 Travels to Greece, taught by Gregory Jusdanis

MG 2000 Athens: The Modern City, taught by Yiorgos Anagnostou

MG 2367 Issues in Greek American Society, taught by Yiorgos Anagnostou

MG 5000 Modern Greek Language and Literature, taught by Christopher Brown

Students (from left to right): Romel Portis, Andrew Manokas and Alexander Wheelhouse.



A student wears a mask while working on her laptop.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE Miltiadis Marinakis Chair of Modern Greek Studies at Ohio State

In order to celebrate the installation of **Yiorgos Anagnostou** as the holder of the Miltiadis Marinakis Chair of Modern Greek Studies, Capital Link, an international firm, organized a webinar of distinguished Greek Americans to consider the role of culture in the preservation of Greek American identity. The event opened with greetings from His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Alexandra Papadopoulou, Greek ambassador to the United States, and Evangelos Marinakis, chairman of Capital Maritime and Trading Corporation.

Anagnostou then gave a lecture on the role of philanthropy in the United States and specifically the tireless effort of the Greek American community of central Ohio to collect most of the funds that led to the establishment of the Marinakis Chair. (We append the lecture below.)

Finally, Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor Gregory Jusdanis introduced and moderated the discussion among: John Calamos, founder and global CIO of Calamos Investments and chairman of the National Hellenic Museum; Drake Behrakis of the Behrakis Foundation and board chairman of the National Hellenic Society; Robert Buhler, chairman of the Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation, and president and CEO of Open Pantry Food Marts of Wisconsin; George G. Horiates, supreme president order of AHEPA; Artemis Leontis, C. P. Cavafy Chair of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature, University of Michigan; and Nick Larigakis, president and CEO, American Hellenic Institute (AHI).

The discussion was attended by close to 300 guests from around the world.

Culture & Education among Greek Americans
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
12:00 pm US ET | 05:00 pm LONDON | 07:00 pm ATHENS

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

 Mr. Nicolas Bornozis President Capital Link Inc.	 His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America	 H.E. Mrs. Alexandra Papadopoulou Ambassador of Greece in the US	 Mr. Evangelos Marinakis Chairman Capital Maritime & Trading Corp.	 Mr. Yiorgos Anagnostou Miltiadis Marinakis Professor of Modern Greek Language & Culture The Ohio State University
--	---	---	--	---

MODERATOR

Mr. Gregory Jusdanis
Modern Greek
Humanities
Distinguished Professor
The Ohio State
University

PANELISTS BY ORDER OF INTERVENTION

 Mr. John Calamos Founder, Chairman & Global CIO - Calamos Investments - Chairman - National Hellenic Museum	 Mr. Drake Behrakis The Behrakis Foundation; Board Chairman - National Hellenic Society Organization; President - Marwick Associates	 Mr. Robert Buhler Chairman - Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation; President & CEO - Open Pantry Food Marts of Wisconsin, Inc.	 Mr. George G. Horiates Supreme President Order of AHEPA	 Mrs. Artemis Leontis C.P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek & Comparative Literature Department of Classical Studies University of Michigan
--	--	---	---	--

PERSONALITIES FROM

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, CAPITAL, CALAMOS INVESTMENTS, NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM, THE BEHRAKIS FOUNDATION, 100, PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

EVENT SPONSOR

CAPITAL

MEDIA PARTNERS

MEGA, one, TO BHMA, TA NEA, in

GIFTS AND REMEMBERING

The Endowment of the Modern Greek Professorship

Your Eminence, your excellency/dear ambassador, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

It is an honor for me to participate in this conversation, and I thank Capital Link for organizing the webinar. This is a day for celebration, a day to recognize the gifts our program has received throughout its 40-year history. It is also a day for memorializing. Gifts in the Greek Orthodox tradition are connected with memory. One offers a gift and expects to be remembered through this giving. Gifts connect the past, the present and the future.

Today, it is a fitting occasion to recall with appreciation the gifts we have received from the Greek American community in Columbus. It was in 1975 when the Project Paideia began fundraising for the establishment of a Modern Greek Program at Ohio State. And it was in 2015 when the Ohio Hellenic Paideia — a dynamic group of local leaders — helped us launch the fundraising, which, five years later in 2020, concluded successfully with the establishment of The Miltiadis Marinakis Endowed Professorship in Greek Language.

In this effort it was a crucial gift by Evangelos Marinakis that made this endowment possible. The endowment honors the memory of his late father.

Gifts generate connections, and gifts have enabled our presence at The Ohio State University, and now this endowment assures our presence in this institution in perpetuity. As part of Ohio State, we have connected with peers, students and citizens from all over the world, including of course, the United States. The gifts we have received have linked us with the local Greek American community, but also the broader Greek American, American and Greek public.

These gifts have generated a network of global interconnections. Gifts create relations of reciprocity. In this respect, the story of our program is a story not only of gifts but also counter-gifts. It is a story of gifts received, and gifts given back. We have given back to Ohio State by advancing its mission. We have worked relentlessly to bring international distinction to this institution. Our program is respected internationally for the quality of its scholarship. I would like to recognize my colleague Gregory Jusdanis, and my predecessors, Professor Vassilis Lambropoulos and Professor Artemis Leontis for their enormous contribution to this endeavor. Also Dr. Christopher Brown for his devotion to teaching the Greek language.

This commitment and devotion is part of our reciprocal connection with the university. We recognize that for 40 years Ohio State has supported two full-time faculty and a lecturer in Modern Greek. Ohio State is one of the few institutions in the world that supports a full-time faculty working on Greek American studies. For this we express our appreciation.

To Greek America we offer a vital educational resource. We share our knowledge with students; we organize summer study abroad in Greece and write for local community magazines; we maintain blogs as well publishing in the Greek American and Greek media. Our conviction is that Greek American education enriches personal lives and contributes to the civic mission of the polity.

To our home, the United States, as well as the world, we offer new ideas, new ways of thinking about modern Greece and Greek America. We undermine stereotypes and simplistic ways of talking about Greek identity. The title of this webinar is 'Culture and Education among Greek Americans.' Our conversation today takes place in the midst of a new historical development: Greek America is diversifying and it does so rapidly.

We do not have a full grasp of its various directions. But we know this; in the words of a Greek American young professional: 'Because "Hellenism" is such an intricate conception and means different things to different people, it should be presented as a multifaceted entity.'

The diversification of Greek America means that there is a variety of ways defining Greek American identity. New needs, new interests and new ideas are emerging, presenting challenges and opportunities. Scholars in Greek American studies have just started developing an initial understanding of this emerging landscape. We know for example that Greek American high school students — the so-called Generation Z — are increasingly interested in issues regarding civic leadership, governance, inclusion, the environment, inequality, racial justice.

Last week, I spent time evaluating applications for the Panhellenic Foundation Scholarship. I was assigned a pool of 25 applicants. I noticed that several applicants envision a professional career in writing, film, literature, storytelling, environmental policy, journalism, public policy, ethics, citizenship. If this sample is indicative of a broader trend, then we are witnessing a historical turn: There is a demographic group with increasing interest in the humanities and social sciences. It is equipped to empower the civic and cultural life of Greek America and the country.

In this shifting landscape, Modern Greek Programs in the United States are positioned to contribute to these developments. We offer a resource where individuals can expand their understanding of Greek culture beyond what they know from their families and communities. In the words of a former student, modern Greek studies 'provided me a new set of spaces where I could make meaningful connections to aspects of Greek identity and culture that I had not known before.' We create platforms to share ideas, personal essays, poetry, history and analysis of emerging developments in the interest of giving voice to marginalized identities, identities which have been neglected, new initiatives and civic visions.

We do so in the spirit of democratic inclusion. Modern Greek programs produce responsible knowledge contributing to Greek American self-understanding. They contribute to the cultural and civic vitality of Greek America and, in turn, the United States. In the network of gifts that have enabled our presence in the world of education, these are the counter-gifts we offer in return.

Three graduates reunite in Athens (from left to right): Stavroula Pabst (2017), Emily Pandis (2018) and Anna-Maria Thalassinou (2019).





Leontis Lecture 2021

Since all large-scale activities were cancelled by the university, we held our annual Leontis Lecture online. In order to celebrate the bicentenary of the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire of 1821, we invited **Professor Sakis Gekas**, a distinguished historian and Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History at York University in Toronto, to offer a talk on March 24, 2021. In his lecture, “Islands on Fire: Fighters, Pirates, Slaves in the Greek Revolution,” Gekas considered the role of revolutionaries, pirates, merchants and battleships in determining the course of the war. In other words, he shifted the gaze away from the “continental” point of view toward a maritime history of the revolution and focused on piracy, slavery and the plight of refugees to shed light to previously little-known aspects of the great event.

There was a hidden boon to the lecture. Because it was online, it could be seen by people all over the world. As a result, more than 70 interested listeners saw the lecture and participated in the lively discussion that followed.

LECTURE BY

Paschalis Nikolaou, Fulbright Fellow

We were fortunate to have as our visitor during winter semester **Paschalis Nikolaou**, Fulbright Fellow and assistant professor of literary translation at the Ionian University on Corfu. On April 7, 2021, Nikolaou gave a lecture on the research he was conducting during his Fulbright semester, “Classics Speaking English: Some Recent Translation, Versions, and Retellings,” in which he examined how English-speaking poets and novelists returned to the classical tradition for their inspiration.



BY GREGORY JUSDANIS

On why the Grubhub Robots don't Understand Novels



Amongst the students we welcomed back to campus in September were Yandex robots who “work” for Grubhub. Painted in white, scarlet and grey, these machines deliver meals and snacks to eager students in the dorms. After a couple of months, we have grown accustomed to these little “creatures” humming around campus, able to navigate pavements, grass, crosswalks and absent-minded human beings. With their red flags flashing, they are impervious to rain (and apparently snow), uncomplaining and seemingly cheerful to work from morning till night. They seem so alive.

So it was with some amusement that for the first time I saw two of the robots suddenly come to a halt in front of each other. Lost in thought on the way to my Greek literature class, I too stopped beside them, waiting for something to happen. For a brief second of anthropomorphism, I expected them to communicate with one another or at least to recognize each other, uttering a greeting, as people would do in similar circumstances:

“Hey, I never expected to see you here. Could you believe that student on his electric skateboard, careening at almost 20 miles an hour; I was like, stop, before you hit me.”

But, to my dismay, nothing of the sort happened. Seemingly unperturbed and indifferent, one of the robots swiveled to the right and continued on its destination. Disappointed at this non-event, I too resumed my direction to class where we often discuss literature’s capacity for vicarious experiences.

That the robots can bring a chicken sandwich to a hungry student does not mean, of course, they have consciousness or that they care for us — or each other. We do. I had wanted that afternoon for these two machines to talk to one another, to share a story. But it was I, the human being, who created a narrative about them.

I had wanted that afternoon for these two machines to talk to one another, to share a story. But it was I, the human being, who created a narrative about them.

We do this constantly — try to get into people’s heads and tell tales. Not only do we have consciousness but also what psychologists call theory of mind, the faculty to understand that other people have a consciousness as well, that is, motivations, desires, beliefs and intentions. This means we can

project ourselves into the mind of others, trying to figure out what they are thinking or feeling at any particular moment — exactly as I tried to do with the robots.

And this is what we had been trying to do in my class the whole semester, attempting to enter the mind of other individuals by reading short stories, novels and poems. Indeed, works of literature provide unique opportunities for us to live in alternate worlds and different times.

In that afternoon’s class we were reading the great World War I novel *Life in the Tomb* by Stratis Myrivilis (1890-1969) which deals with the searing experiences of a soldier from Mytilini, Anthony Kostoulas. At the end of our reading, we came not only to know him but also to love him because Myrivilis has created an authentic character and had described in vivid detail the horror taking place around Kostoulas as well as his own reactions to the violence and killing.

At the final discussion, I think, we all felt that we accomplished something great — to share a bit of our own humanity with each other through the suffering of a fellow human being. This is no small accomplishment. And I don’t know if these robots will ever come to know this feat or if they really care.

Graduating Students

On a bright afternoon on April 23, we joined our graduates to recognize their achievements and send them off.

Stephanie Duros (modern Greek minor) graduated with a degree in industrial and systems engineering. She will be staying at Ohio State for another year pursuing a Master's of Science in industrial and systems engineering, specializing in cognitive systems engineering.

Anna Konstantinidis (modern Greek minor) graduated with a major in health sciences and will attend the New England College of Optometry in Boston.

Sophia Matts (modern Greek minor) graduated with a BS in environmental public health. She plans to start medical school in the fall of 2022, taking a gap year to pursue a number of experiences, from clinical work to travel.

Student Awards



The Modern Greek Program is proud to share the news that our student **Yanni Patitsas** was named one of three inaugural PanHellenic Leadership Fellows. Sponsored by The Renaissance Fund, this new scholarship program is awarded to “sophomore college or university students who best meet a number of scholarship criteria; this includes displaying service and leadership in their community and chosen field of study and having roots in the Midwest region.” Congratulation to Yanni for receiving this prestigious fellowship.



Nick Soulas (modern Greek major) also graduated with a major in neuroscience. He plans to take a gap year and prepare himself for medical school by pursuing a master's degree in physiology from the University of Cincinnati.



Antonia Zouridakis (modern Greek minor) graduated with a major in neuroscience and will eventually pursue a PhD in clinical neuropsychology. Before she applies, she is taking a gap year or two and will work in a neuropsychology research lab studying cognitive neurology and Alzheimer's at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Faculty Academic News

Yiorgos Anagnostou published an article in the Journal of Modern Greek Studies and Media, and several essays on Greek American topics. He continues to edit the online, free-access journal Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters (ergon.scienzine.com). He gave three webinar talks, one invited by Stony Brook University, the other by Yale University and the third by Harvard University.

Christopher Brown has published and given papers on teaching modern Greek to classicists, and he continues collaboration with Professor Brian Joseph and others on the Herodotos Project, an ethnohistorical digital humanities project. The project has won several awards, including an NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, has yielded several recent publications, and was the subject of an all-day online conference in November of 2020.

Gregory Jusdanis published an article that studied the possible link between a modern Greek and a Brazilian author. In January 2021, he gave a lecture in the Department of Comparative Literature of Stanford University and a seminar in the class on Greek literature organized by Professor John Ioannidis, poet and epidemiologist. In early March, just before the pandemic forced the closure of all universities, he gave a lecture on an early Venezuelan traveler to Greece at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and a seminar on the biography of the poet, C. P. Cavafy.

In Memoriam



**Penelope Foudeas
1998 -2021**

On April 1, 2021 we mourned the tragic death of our beloved student **Penelope Foudeas**. A native of Anchorage, Alaska, Penelope came to Ohio State in 2017 to study psychology with a minor in modern Greek studies. Over the course of her undergraduate career, she took a range of classes in modern Greek language and culture and, with her friends, produced several memorable videos, including one documenting her father's journey to the United States from Greece.

As a student of modern Greek, Penelope excelled in all her courses. Her careful preparation and lively personality were always evident. She continued to the fifth semester, Modern Greek 4002, and earned excellent grades. With 10 of her peers in the Modern Greek Program, Penelope participated in the THYESPA 2018 summer course in Modern Greek at the University of Athens. Her joyful, considerate and responsible character cemented friendships and made the experience more enjoyable for everyone.

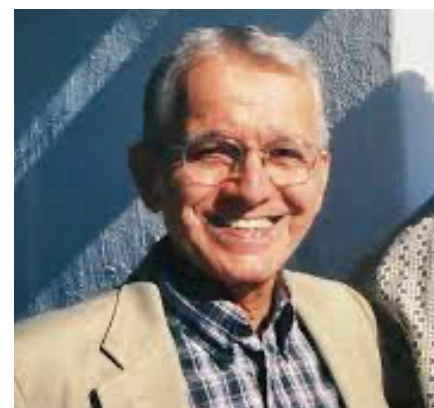
After graduation, she attended Case Western Reserve, pursuing a master's degree in nutrition while working as a patient care advocate at the Cleveland Clinic.

Her professors in the Modern Greek Program remember her often insightful and always enthusiastic participation in discussion and her bright, cheerful presence in class. She was loved and appreciated by her peers as an unusually kind and considerate person who worked well with other students and was very much a team player. An enthusiastic member of Sigma Epsilon Phi for three years, she attended meetings with passion and optimism.

Penelope's studies in biology reflected her longstanding interest in the field. In high school, she aspired to a career in a biomedical field, particularly physiology. Her interest in physiology constituted an important aspect of her life that shaped her character.

Penelope was a dancer. Having danced ballet since she was 10 years old, Penelope continued ballet at Ohio State's distinguished Department of Dance. She did gymnastics in high school, and also danced tap, hip hop, jazz and acrobatic dance. Contemporary dance was her favorite. She taught at the Marjorie Jones School of Dance and continued to develop as a dancer. Dance was inseparable from her personality, part of what made her such a disciplined, conscientious, but also fun, expressive, delightful and authentic human being.

The faculty and students of the Modern Greek Program at Ohio State as well as her fellow members of Sigma Epsilon Phi will miss Penelope greatly. May her memory be eternal.



**William P. Kaldis
1923-2021**

The Modern Greek Program mourns the loss of **William P. Kaldis**, professor emeritus of Greek and Balkan history at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and great benefactor of the Modern Greek Program at Ohio State. In 2015, Kaldis donated his prized collection of books on modern Greek history to the library of the Ohio State University. Catalogued as the William Peter Kaldis Modern Greek Collection, this gift includes books Kaldis purchased in Greece during the 1950s, some of which cannot be found anywhere else in the United States.

Kaldis was a life-long member of the Greek Orthodox Church and served as cantor at services held in Athens, Ohio. A passionate long-distance runner, he participated in 14 marathons and arranged annually for laurel-wreaths to be flown in from Athens, Greece, to Athens, Ohio to crown the winners.

He was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, together with his wife Cynthia, on August 27, 2021, in a ceremony attended by his children and their families.

His memory lives on in the countless rare books he donated to the library at The Ohio State University.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

414 University Hall
230 N. Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-2744

classics.osu.edu



Learn more about
our program online at
go.osu.edu/modern-greek



@ClassicsatOSU



@ohiostateclassics