Modern Greek Program

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

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
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

Director of the Modern Greek Program
The Ohio State University

---

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
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 Folktale 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

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 CEO 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 Bühler, chairman of the Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation, and president and CEO of Open Pantry Food Marts of Wisconsin; George H. Horiatis, 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 | 5:00 pm London | 7:00 pm Athens**

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Mr. Nikolas Berendtis
Capital Link Inc.

Mr. Evangelos Marinakis
Chairman, Capital Maritime & Trading Corporation

**MODERATOR**

Gregory Jusdanis
Ohio State University

**PANELISTS BY ORDER OF INTERVENTION**

Mr. John Calamos
Founder, Calamos Asset Management - National Hellenic Museum

Mr. Robert Bühler
Chairman, Alinthou Foundation & National Hellenic Museum

Mr. George H. Horiatis
Supreme President, Order of AHEPA

Mr. Artemis Leontis
C. P. Cavafy Chair of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature, University of Michigan

Mr. Nicholas Larigakis
President & CEO, American Hellenic Institute

**PERSONAL TIES FROM**

The Ohio State University

The National Hellenic Museum

Calamos Asset Management

Calamo Investments, Inc.

The Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation

**EVENT SPONSOR**

**MEDIA PARTNERS**

one to one

TA ZA

IN
The diversification of Greece 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 programs produce responsible knowledge.

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.'
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

“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.

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:

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.

**Yanni Patitsas** (modern Greek minor) 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.

**Sophia Mats** (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.

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

### 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, G. P. Cavafy.

### 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.

**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.

**Sophia Mats** (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.

**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.

**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.

### In Memoriam

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.

### Penelope Foudeas

1998 - 2021

**Penelope Foudeas**

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

**William P. Kaldis**

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 can be found nowhere 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-wreathes 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.
Learn more about our program online at go.osu.edu/modern-greek