

SPRING 2023

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

Modern Greek Program

NEWSLETTER



SEEN HERE

*Linda Tiano and Avgero Kopasakis
broadcasting live from Crane Café
on April 26, 2022.*



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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A MESSAGE FROM

Georgios Anagnostou

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



Dear Friends of the Ohio Greek-American Community,

This year we are delighted to share several achievements of our program. A great piece of news is that Dr. Christopher Brown was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Teaching Modern Greek by the unanimous decision of the Classics faculty. Announcing this well-deserved recognition, Anthony Kaldellis, the chair of the department last year, praised Dr. Brown “for his essential role in the success of the Modern Greek language program,” noting that the promotion “recognizes the efforts of Dr. Brown, who has done wonders for the Modern Greek Program over the past ten years.” Enrollments in the Modern Greek language courses have been robust, he added; “word of mouth about a great instructor is one way that happens.” Congratulations to Christopher for his unwavering commitment to the teaching of Modern Greek.

In this issue you will read about a range of faculty activities in teaching, research and outreach, as well as essays about our popular radio course and the experiences of our students in their summer study abroad in Greece.

Faculty of the program continue a tradition of excellence in research and outreach, with a lively record of publications, outreach and collaborations with Greek universities, and contributions to the cultural life of our community. A prestigious book contract accorded to Professor Jurdanis and a book award to the director underline our contribution to Modern Greek and Greek American paideia.

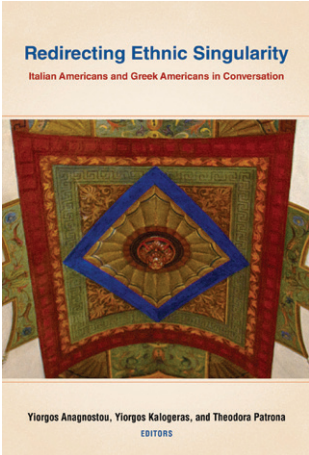
We also feel proud this year that our online, free access journal *Ergon: Greek/American and Diaspora Arts and Letters* (ergon.scienzine.com) has now entered its fifth year. We encourage you to explore the website as it offers a variety of essays, interviews, articles, blogs, book reviews and poetry that might speak to your interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Georgios Anagnostou". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Georgios Anagnostou

Modern Greek faculty in the news (2022)



Yiorgos Anagnostou was awarded the **MGSA Karagiannaki Prize Book Award**, for the book he coedited, entitled *Redirecting Ethnic Singularity: Italian Americans and Greek Americans in Conversation* (Fordham University Press, 2022).

He gave two community talks, one at the **Hellenic Link – Midwest** (Chicago), and the other at the **Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne, Australia** (webinar), on the topic of the future of the Greek diaspora. In the summer, he gave two presentations at the University of the Aegean (Rhodes). His publications this year include several academic articles and essays.



Gregory Jusdanis, along with his co-author, Peter Jeffreys, sold their biography of the Greek poet Constantine Cavafy (1863-1933) to Farrar, Strauss and Giroux. It will come out in the summer of 2024.

In May he conducted research in Cyprus, Crete, the Peloponnese, Athens, Naples and Sicily. A month later he traveled to Colorado and Utah, with Yiorgos Anagnostou, to do preliminary research on the Greek-American labor activist Louis Tikas, who was killed in 1914 in the Ludlow Massacre. Together with Yiorgos, they created a series of profiles of people connected to the Ludlow Massacre in the Greek American platform *Ergon*.

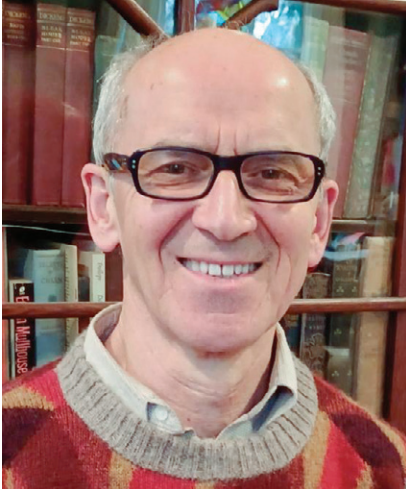
He also presented a talk on populist nationalism at an online forum sponsored by Aarhus University in Denmark. ■



PROFILES OF LUDLOW
[Profiles of Ludlow]
04 Sep 2022 - Blog
Yiorgos Anagnostou, Gregory Jusdanis

BY GREGORY JUSDANIS

What did you do over the summer, Professor?



This summer was one of the most hectic travel periods on record, as millions of people took to the roads and skies, among them Yiorgos Anagnostou and I. In late June, we flew to Colorado to gain a better understanding of the Ludlow Massacre, the bloodiest case of anti-labor violence in American history, when on April 20, 1914, 25 people lost their lives, including 11 children. Louis Tikas, born Ilias Spantidakis in 1886 in Loutra, Crete, near Rethymnon, was the most prominent victim and a leader in Ludlow.

Driving south from the airport on the way to our Airbnb in Trinidad, we were jolted by the sudden appearance of the sign “Ludlow Massacre Memorial.” We had planned to go there two days later for the annual commemoration. But we felt pulled immediately to make a detour. And after the exit, we got another surprise, this time by the sign indicating that we were traveling on the “Louis Tikas Highway.” It was impossible to escape the aftershocks of Ludlow in southern Colorado.

With some trepidation we approached the monument set up by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in 1918 of a man, woman and child, symbolizing the lives that perished there. And we scrolled down the names of the dead, starting with Louis Tikas. Next to the monument lay the notorious pit where an entire family had died in the conflagration. Although it was possible to descend the stairs, I could not get myself to do it. Unlike all the ancient sites I had been visiting in Greece weeks earlier, this one had a certain immediacy, and I felt a more visceral connection to the past.

Shaken but also inspired by the UMWA to preserve the memory of Ludlow, we continued to Trinidad, the town where Tikas’ funeral had taken place. Outraged by the massacre, miners from Colorado and surrounding states arrived in the thousands to pay their respect to the fallen leader. Photographs of this event show a long cortege of miners from the city center to the cemetery.

Following this very route over 100 years later, we arrived at the Trinidad cemetery in search of Tikas’ grave. Since we didn’t know the exact location, we first identified the general area by date

“Unlike all the ancient sites I had been visiting in Greece weeks earlier, this one had a certain immediacy, and I felt a more visceral connection to the past.”

and divided it into sections, each one of us taking various plots. After looking for a considerable time, I heard Yiorgos calling to me. When I arrived, he simply pointed to a flat, granite monument, laid out by the UMWA, which recognized Tikas as a “victim of the Ludlow Massacre” and a “patriot.” There was no need to say anything.

» story continues on next page



The next morning, we got ready to drive back to Ludlow for the commemoration that is organized annually by the United Mine Workers of America. Although southern Colorado had been experiencing a once-in-a-millennium drought, on that particular morning it rained continuously to the utter relief of the local inhabitants. And the temperature dropped to a bone-chilling 55°F in late June, something extraordinary for the time of year. We were chilled even in the car but as soon as we arrived, we had some coffee and then the various presentations began, including a rousing speech by a descendant of a family that had lost a number of relatives in Ludlow. We were heartened that these individuals congregate every year to preserve the memory of Ludlow.

The next day we began our journey north, stopping in Pueblo to see St. John the Baptist, the earliest Greek Orthodox Church in the West, built in 1905 with a façade of Doric columns. After we visited the historical museum and the old neighborhoods of Pueblo, we continued to Denver, the capital of the state, where Tikas had opened a café in the famed Greek town that had developed around the train station.

This area is now very lively with all the old buildings restored as restaurants, hotels and cafes. Unfortunately, this is not the case with Tikas' establishment. After much searching, our GPS brought us to a steel skyscraper. The center of Greek conviviality and of Greek rebellion now lies buried beneath modernity. We had no luck either when we drove to the corner of the first Greek church that Tikas himself had attended. After much searching by foot in a neighborhood of small houses, we could not even find a historical marker. This too had disappeared. The second, grander structure does survive, but has been converted into a condominium after the community sold it in order to construct a larger church, with a nearby cultural center and offices of the Metropolis of Denver.

It was there that we witnessed another highlight of the trip, a painted mural of Tikas and the Ludlow Massacre on the ceiling of the Metropolis. Yiorgos had heard about this panel for years and was eager to see it. As we headed toward the entrance of the Metropolis, to our utter astonishment, we were welcomed at the door by His Eminence himself, Metropolitan Isaiah, who then kindly gave us a tour of the building. He explained that, when he arrived in Denver decades earlier, he proposed a series of panels telling the story of the Greeks in the West. Not really icons but murals in the manner of Diego Garcia, each panel depicts a slice of Greek immigrant life. We were again thrilled to see that one of the panels is devoted to Ludlow.

In Denver we toured other historical sites, while also meeting with scholars, museum directors, artists and ordinary people who were somehow connected with Ludlow. We left the city feeling that, while Ludlow might not be known around the country, in Colorado the flame of memory keeps burning.

We then flew to Salt Lake City in Utah. Although not connected directly to Ludlow, Salt Lake City offered safety to miners who had fled there after the massacre. And Utah, as the fiction writer, historian and memoirist Helen Papanikolas has shown, was a major center of Greek-American life in the Intermountain West. Both Yiorgos and I met Helen when she came to Columbus about 24 years ago to give a talk at the Greek church. We also know her son, the noted historian and author of the definitive book on Tikas, Zeese Papanikolas. Yiorgos suggested that we visit the Papanikolas archive at the University of Utah, which proved to be another memorable part of our journey. There we were sitting on separate tables going through the material Helen had collected on Tikas — letters she wrote to seek interviews with survivors of Ludlow, newspaper clippings, and even a copy of Tikas' naturalization

“

We were heartened that these individuals congregate every year to preserve the memory of Ludlow.

”

certificate. We would occasionally look up to each other, our heads nodding with excitement about what we had discovered. So it was with delight that, when we toured the state Capital a day later, we saw a prominent display case, one of the few on the fourth floor, devoted entirely to the work of this remarkable woman. In Utah she is recognized as a pioneer in the study of the European immigrants of the state.

“

In Price we were gripped by more melancholy, this time over the decline of the Greek population. Only a handful of Greeks are left here, a fragment of the numbers that thrived here...

”

Amongst other things, Helen chronicled the life of her family in Helper, a mining town about two hours south from Salt Lake City. We headed there not only to visit this important center of Greek American history but also to stop at another infamous site of labor tragedy — the unmarked cemetery of Castle Gate. A mine explosion in 1924 resulted in the death of all 171 men working in the site, many of whose remains could not be identified. In a journey that chronicled heartache, calamity and adversity, this was the one that pulled most at the heart.

After two hours, we reached the parched canyons of southern Utah. Yet, why was there no marker for Castle Gate along the highway to indicate it, as in Ludlow? We drove and drove, and even had to ask for directions in a gas stations, but it was by accident that I turned to the gulley below and saw an American flag. Asking Yiorgos to turn around, we came down to this bleak place and when we opened the door we entered the oven-like heat of 104°F. Of all the sites we had visited, this seemed the most barren and harsh and the most isolated, devoid of human touch — Hades itself. Because of this perhaps, it brought in us a sense of loss and cataclysm. Unlike Ludlow, which is commemorated every year, bears a monument and has entered history and folklore, Castle Gate remains largely unknown, even to local inhabitants. Unsung and unmarked, it resembles a small WWI cemetery, rows and rows of white crosses, each with a date but no names. A line from the poet George Seferis’ “Argonauts” came to mind. Writing about the nameless Argonauts who made Jason’s voyage possible but who died anonymously while he reaped all the glory, Seferis says “No one remembers them — Justice.” Where was justice here, we wondered.

We left the graves to their peace to drive on to Price, another former mining town with a large Greek Orthodox Church. At the end of the service, one of the parishioners drove us to the local cemetery where those Greek immigrants who had died in Castle Gate and whose remains could be identified were transferred. The priest performs a memorial service every year. At least these men, many very young, are remembered somehow, their names repeated in an Orthodox ritual.

In Price we were gripped by more melancholy, this time over the decline of the Greek population. Only a handful of Greeks are left here, a fragment of the numbers that thrived here when Helen Papanikolas was a small girl.

Yet, it’s not all tears. The community makes a valiant effort to preserve and continue. The day before our arrival parishioners held their annual festival and banners all over Price still hung from light posts, announcing this important event. There are no more Greek miners in Utah. Only a few Greek sheep herders remain. Yet, something still survives stamped on that earth — whether marked or unmarked.

As we parted in Salt Lake City, Yiorgos returning to Columbus and I heading toward the mountains for a hiking trip, we were left with a sensation that this was no ordinary research trip. This ripped at our insides in a way no other project had. ■

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN

Ohio State Modern Greek Program featured in new textbook

1 ενότητα

http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org

Από το 1890 μέχρι το 1920 370.000 Έλληνες μετανάστευσαν στις ΗΠΑ. Το 1920 13.540 απ' αυτούς έμειναν στο Οχάιο. Οι μετανάστες βρήκαν κακοπληρωμένες δουλειές σε εργοστάσια, έγιναν σερβιτόροι, σερβιτόρες και μάγειρες στα εστιατόρια, λούστροι, μικροπωλητές. Μερικοί άνοιξαν δικές τους επιχειρήσεις.



Μεταπολεμικά ο αριθμός των μεταναστών μειώνεται. Έτσι, τη δεκαετία του 1980 μόνο 2.600 Έλληνες ομογενείς ζούσαν στο Κλίβελαντ. Το ίδιο έγινε και σε άλλες πόλεις του Οχάιο.

Σήμερα πολλοί κάτοικοι του Οχάιο είναι ελληνικής καταγωγής. Διατηρούν δεσμούς μεταξύ τους και μετέχουν στις εκδηλώσεις των ελληνικών κοινοτήτων. Στο Πολιτειακό Πανεπιστήμιο του Οχάιο (The Ohio State University) λειτουργεί τμήμα Νεοελληνικών Σπουδών, γίνονται μαθήματα ελληνικών και υπάρχει δραστήρια ελληνική φοιτητική κοινότητα.



Λέξεις, λέξεις
μεταναστεύω
η επιχείρηση
μειώνομαι
οι ομογενείς
ο δεσμός
μετέχω

7 Σχηματίζω προτάσεις, όπως στο παράδειγμα.

1. Από το 1890 μέχρι το 1920	<u>την</u>	α. ελληνικής καταγωγής.
2. Οι μετανάστες δούλεψαν	_____	β. μαθήματα ελληνικών.
3. Μεταπολεμικά	_____	γ. 370.000 Έλληνες μετανάστευσαν στις ΗΠΑ.
4. Σήμερα πολλοί κάτοικοι του Οχάιο είναι	_____	δ. τα μεταναστευτικά ρεύματα μειώθηκαν.
5. Στο Πανεπιστήμιο του Οχάιο γίνονται	_____	ε. σε διάφορες δουλειές, συχνά κακοπληρωμένες.

For over a decade, Ohio State's Modern Greek Program has been working closely with a team of scholars and pedagogues at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens who have now produced the third volume in their innovative textbook series *Ελληνικά Γ', Μέθοδος Εκμάθησης της Ελληνικής ως Ξένης Γλώσσας (Επίπεδο Β2)*. The team of authors includes Irini Pathiaki, Lelia Pandeloglou and Yiorgos Simopoulos, all of whom have taught Ohio State students at the THYESPA summer immersion program at the University of Athens. Director of the project is Professor Spiros Moschonas, currently advising the PhD dissertation of our alumna Stavroula Pabst. Professor Moschonas paid Ohio State a visit a decade ago and was hosted by the Bizios family. He spoke to the Greek community in Columbus about the teaching of Modern Greek. Over the course of his visit, he followed live Greek radio broadcasts by Maria Nicoloulis and Marissa Kazes, and excerpts from their broadcast featuring an interview with Maria's mother have found their way into the advanced Greek textbook, together with a discussion of Hellenism in Ohio. Ohio State Modern Greek students are currently using the new textbook and have learned from Mrs. Catherine Alexiou-Nicoloulis's comments about the linguistic difficulties she faced as a child growing up in Montreal with parents who spoke little English or French. The interview can be heard at

go.osu.edu/nicoloulis. ■

Modern Greek Program end of the year event

On Tuesday, April 26, more than 40 students, parents, and friends of the Modern Greek Program gathered on the Ohio State campus to celebrate the end of the academic year. In a brief ceremony we recognized our graduating seniors. It was a lively, community-building event which also featured the final Greek radio broadcasts of the year, broadcast live. Food was courtesy of the Greek Olympic Society and the Ohio State Modern Greek Program. ■



Ohio State students broadcast, compose videos in Greek

The Ohio State University class “CLLC Modern Greek Radio,” taught by Professor Brown, enrolled a record 11 students this spring, who composed and performed broadcasts on a range of subjects. The semester culminated on April 26 with an awards ceremony for Modern Greek Program graduates and live Greek radio broadcasts from Crane Café in Hagerty Hall attended by over 40 students, graduates, faculty, family and community members. Attendees heard a fascinating discussion of Greek Jewish heritage by Linda Tiano (pictured on the cover), featuring interviews with her mother Zanet Battinou, Director of the Jewish Museum of Greece, and with Professor Brian Joseph, and a discussion of Cretan heritage and Sfakia by Avgero Kopasaki, who interviewed her parents, and discussion of sports in Greece by Andrew Manokas and Thanasis Tsigas.

For additional photos from the event, visit go.osu.edu/avilinda.

Other notable broadcasts this semester included work by Yanni Patitsas and Eirini Kellis, discussing Greek Orthodoxy, Chios, Ithaca and Greek American experiences; Anna Boulas and Athena Stamos, who debated the merits of the islands Chios and Zakynthos and discussed Greek spring traditions; Alexander Wheelhouse, who also interviewed Professor Joseph in Greek, this time with a focus on Greek and historical linguistics; Eleni Volas and Carrie Langendorff, whose April 12 broadcast includes a lengthy interview, in English, with Mr. Bill Nicolozakes of Cambridge, Ohio, on the history of Sigma Epsilon Phi. These broadcasts, English language summary videos, and accompanying information can be found at u.osu.edu/greekradio.

Also worthy of attention are the many outstanding Greek language videos composed by Ohio State students in the fall semester, including videos on Pontian heritage, Sotiria Bellou, China and Greece, and many others, composed by Mauretta Patitsas, Pano Gentis, Anna Tsirambidis and others. They can be found at go.osu.edu/greekmovies. ■

SEEN HERE
Students listen to Maria's mother describe her childhood experience with the Greek language as an aural comprehension exercise.

4 Διαβάζω την ιστορία της Μαρκέλλας και γράφω τα ρήματα στον σωστό τύπο, όπως στο παράδειγμα.

Μαρκέλλα: Γεννήθηκα από γονείς Έλληνες. Η μητέρα μου γεννήθηκε στο Οχάιο, στο Κλίβελαντ, από γονείς μετανάστες. Η γιαγιά και ο παππούς μου δεν ήξεραν (Ξέρω) καθόλου τα αγγλικά κι έτσι η μητέρα μου και ο αδελφός της δεν _____ (μαθαίνω) αγγλικά μέχρι τον καιρό που πήγαν σχολείο. Ο πατέρας μου γεννήθηκε στον Πειραιά και μετανάστευσε με την οικογένειά του στο Οχάιο, όταν ήταν 12 ετών. Δεν ήξερε ούτε λέξη αγγλικά, όταν _____ (έρχομαι) εδώ. Έμαθε τα αγγλικά πάρα πολύ καλά, ούτε προφορά δεν έχει. Όταν γεννήθηκα εγώ, οι γονείς μου _____ (θέλω) να συνομιλώ με την οικογένειά μου και να ξέρω τη γλώσσα του πολιτισμού μου και γι' αυτό _____ (αποφασίζω) να μου μιλούν μόνο ελληνικά.

Μαρία: Λοιπόν δεν ήξερες καθόλου αγγλικά, όταν ήσουν μικρή;

Μαρκέλλα: Όχι, στην αρχή ούτε λέξη. Οι γονείς μου _____ (Ξέρω) πως, όταν ερχόταν η ώρα, θα τα μάθαινα και γι' αυτό δεν _____ (ανησυχώ). Δεν έμαθα αγγλικά μέχρι τον καιρό που _____ (πηγαίνω) στο σχολείο. Στην αρχή είχα μεγάλη δυσκολία _____ (επικοινωνώ) με τα παιδιά στην τάξη μου και με τη δασκάλα μου, αλλά σιγά σιγά τα έμαθα. Μου έμαθαν μερικές λέξεις λίγο λίγο, για να αρχίσω να καταλαβαίνω τα βασικά, και, όταν ήρθε η ώρα να πάω σχολείο, άρχισαν να μου _____ (μαθαίνω) πιο πολύ τα αγγλικά.

Πηγή: CLLC Radio, The Ohio State University
(απομαγνητοφώνηση ραδιοφωνικής εκπομπής, με αλλαγές)

SEEN HERE
This workbook exercise is based on the script Maria and Marissa (Markella) prepared for the broadcast.



Είμαι όλος αυτιά

8. Ακούω μια Ελληνοαμερικανίδα να μιλάει στον ραδιοφωνικό σταθμό του Πανεπιστημίου του Οχάιο για τη σχέση της με την ελληνική γλώσσα. Σε ποιες δυσκολίες αναφέρεται;



GRADUATING SENIORS and recent alumni



Mauretta Patitsas of Columbus is graduating in May 2023 with a BSBA in marketing and a minor in Modern Greek. She served as Vice President of Hellenism for Sigma Epsilon Phi, President of Orthodox Christian Fellowship, and chanter at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. She plans to work in corporate marketing with particular interest in the makeup and fashion industries.



Alexander Wheelhouse from Heath, Ohio, completed a BA in political science with a minor in history in 2021, and chose to return for a second BA with a major in Modern Greek. He will be graduating in May 2023 and plans to study law, possibly in Athens, Greece.



Angelia Poulopoulos of Cleveland is graduating in May 2023 with a major in neuroscience and minors in Modern Greek and business. She is completing an Honors Thesis with Research Distinction entitled “Pericyte-Derived Factors Impact Recovery of Function After Spinal Cord Injury.” Angelia plans to attend medical school after a year of research and clinical work following graduation.



Athena Stamos from St. Louis, Mo., graduated in December 2022 with a major in mathematics and a minor in Modern Greek. She has followed in her brother Niko’s footsteps as a much-appreciated teacher in the Greek School of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. She is currently applying to graduate programs in biomedical informatics.



George Sdregas of Campbell, Ohio, graduates in May 2023 with a major in philosophy, politics and economics and a minor in Modern Greek. He was active in the powerlifting club and set the Ohio state record in the bench press. Descended from a long line of ship captains from Kalymnos, George is writing an Honors Thesis with Research Distinction on the role of the Campbell Greek community in the bridge-painting industry. He plans to attend law school in the fall.



Eleni Volas from North Canton, Ohio, graduated in December 2022 with a major in biology and minors in Modern Greek and art. She is now working as a dermatology medical assistant at Qualderm Partners in Columbus, Ohio. She plans to pursue a physician assistant degree.



Yanni Patitsas, a native of Columbus, graduated in December 2022 with a major in Modern Greek. Yanni is now working as a project manager on the Patient Access application for Epic Systems, a healthcare software company based in Madison, Wis. Yanni plans to continue his studies down the road by attending graduate school.



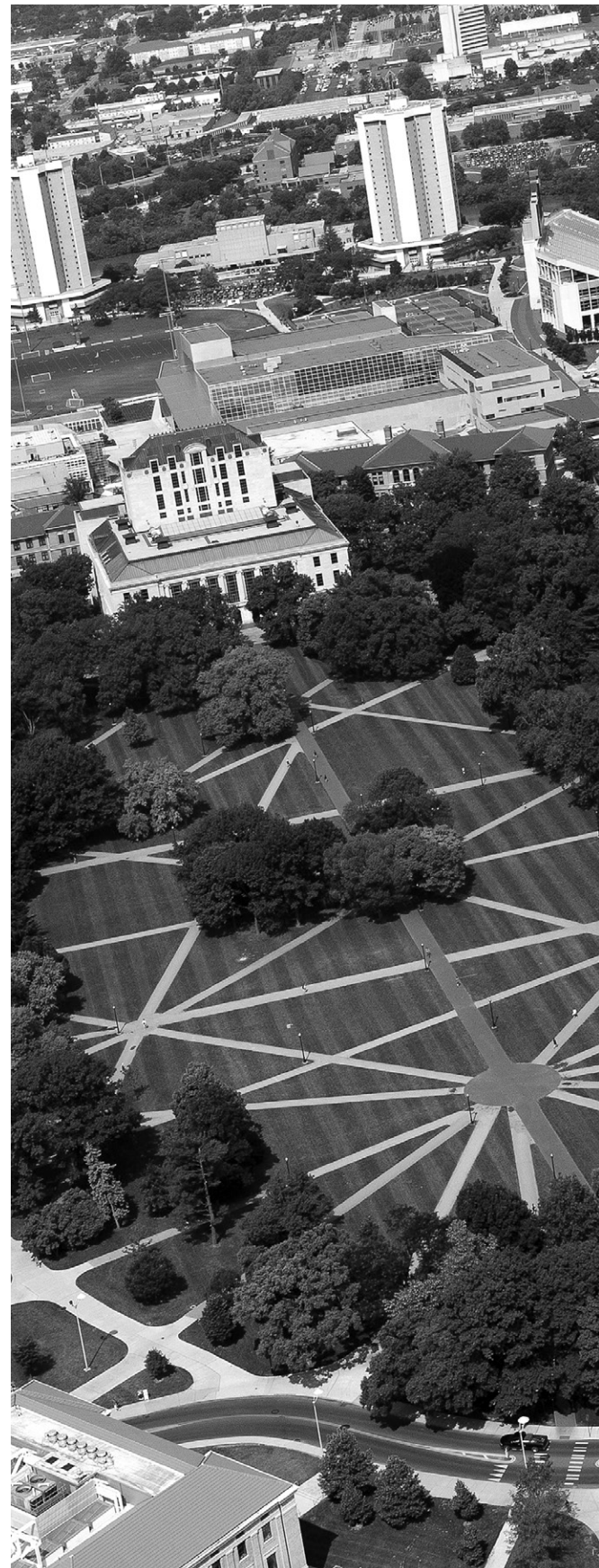
Anna Boulas of Cleveland graduated in May 2022 with a major in philosophy and a minor in Modern Greek. She serves as a Sunday school teacher at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Cleveland and is an active member of the Philophtochos Society. She is currently working as a legal assistant in the family law firm and plans to attend law school.



Carrie Langendorf from Middletown, Ohio, graduated in May 2022 with a degree in speech and hearing science. She spent the summer traveling in Greece before moving to Cleveland to begin pursuing her MS in speech-language pathology at Cleveland State University. Carrie is a graduate research assistant as well as a student clinician.



Andrew Manokas from Columbus graduated summa cum laude in May 2022 with a major in sports industry and a minor in Modern Greek. He is now working for Dream Seats and in property management. Andrew also volunteers as a coach for the Greek Orthodox Basketball League through the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Columbus. ■



Our students in summer abroad programs in Greece



SEEN HERE

Alexander Wheelhouse and Sergio Carlos Tamez with Litsa Kozyris, who is the sponsor of the The Phaedon John Kozyris and Litsa Kozyris Travel Award for the THYESPA summer study in Greece.

ALEXANDER WHEELHOUSE

My first experience with the Modern Greek Program was during the third year of my political science degree. I saw learning Greek as a way of connecting with my Greek aunt, despite my not being of Greek heritage myself. I did not expect to find such a proud and generous community, filled with so many kind and welcoming people. My time spent with the Modern Greek Program and greater community was so impactful that after the completion of my political science degree, I decided to continue my studies in the pursuit of a degree in Modern Greek. My connections with the Modern Greek Program have afforded me once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. I am immensely grateful to all those who support our efforts now and in the future.

“ *My connections with the Modern Greek Program have afforded me once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.*

I am immensely grateful to all those who support our efforts now and in the future. ”

My trip to Greece was certainly memorable. My only regret is that I didn't have more time. THYESPA allowed me to meet countless people from all over the world and see some of the most popular locations Greece has to offer. The classes were lively, stimulating and delightfully challenging. My class alternated between three instructors, all with unique quirks and teaching styles. Their instruction was invaluable and extended beyond just learning the language. I gained a lot of insight about Greek history and culture. Our instructors were receptive to questions and gave advice on navigating Athens. By the time the program had ended I was navigating the labyrinthine city with ease.

After THYESPA I spent two weeks in Ancient Corinth, volunteering at the museum. I again met many interesting and kind people. The museum accepted us wholeheartedly and found a place for us to work. We spent our two weeks doing inventory in the museum's basement. However, I never felt as if I were working a job. This was potentially my only opportunity to interact so closely with antiquities. There is a monumental difference between observing ancient

pottery in a display case and holding an artifact with your own two hands. It was a tactile connection to history that was made even more meaningful as I learned about the periods in which these works were created. My trip to Greece was life-changing; the memories made and relationships created will certainly stay with me for the rest of my life.

Upon the completion of my Modern Greek degree in spring 2023, I intend to pursue a post-graduate study in international law. With luck, this coursework will be done at a Greek university.

SERGIO CARLOS TAMEZ

Τετα σας! Thanks to the generous support of The Ohio State University Modern Greek Program and its donor, Litsa Kozyris, I had the opportunity to travel to Greece for the first time and participate in the University of Athens' THYESPA Greek language program. Though I am not of Greek heritage, as a classicist my introduction to Greece and its unique history and culture began with my study of the Ancient Greek language. It was only natural that I should next learn Modern Greek, and I am very happy that at Ohio State the Modern Greek Program is one of the best in the country for learning the Greek language and Greek culture. After a year of studying Modern Greek at Ohio State, I was well prepared to live and study in Athens for six weeks in summer 2021. This was the experience of a lifetime, and I hope that it will only be the first of many more travels to Greece.

I am currently a third-year PhD student in Classics at Ohio State, where I study Christianity, slavery and wealth in Late Antiquity and early Byzantium. As a result, my research engages heavily with the writings of the Church Fathers, especially those of the Greek-speaking Eastern Roman Empire. My admiration and respect for the Fathers and Orthodox Christianity was what prompted me to learn Modern Greek and visit Greece. The most memorable part of my time in Greece this summer was, without a doubt, visiting the beautiful monasteries of Meteora.

Upon completing my PhD, I intend to seek an academic position in classics or ancient history. I have no doubt that my time learning Modern Greek at Ohio State will only support me in my career goals.

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TREVOR LEE

My current focuses are in Byzantine and Late Antique studies. My previous work has ranged from Byzantine literature of the 11th and 12th centuries, imperial panegyric and ideology during the fourth and fifth centuries, and the perceptions of Athenian Democracy within the Roman world. Generally, I'm interested in cultural change and imperial policy. I was always drawn to European history while I was growing up. That later attracted me to the ancient world of Greece and Rome and eventually to the Byzantine Empire. These have been my primary interests for a long time (and I hope to continue them in academia), but my interest in modern Greece only began in the past few years since coming to Ohio State. Thanks to the ever-exciting Modern Greek classes here I've acquired a newfound interest in Greece today which has only grown since my visit there this summer (and hopefully more in the future).

Spending two weeks in Ancient Corinth was quite a unique and fun experience. Alex Wheelhouse and I worked each day at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens' museum basement sorting through and taking inventory on all the shelves of ancient pottery they had accumulated over the years. It was fascinating to handle all the antique art and even help in the restoration work for some of the broken pieces. And of course, the local restaurants nearby meant that neither of us ever got bored of the food. Alex and I are also incredibly grateful to the ASCSA for giving us the opportunity to work with them and of course, to Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory for helping to arrange our trip and introducing us to the area. ■

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