

HELLENIC NEWS

Hellenic Studies Program at the University of Washington Jackson School of International Studies

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF HELLENIC STUDIES!...

Ten years ago the Hellenes of the Pacific Northwest presented to the University for the purpose of establishing a Program in Hellenic Studies. Its intent was to add a strong modern component to the existing courses focused on Greece in a number of departments. Hellenic Studies is housed in the Jackson School of International Studies in the European Studies Program which has experienced a huge expansion in enrollment, for example, tripling in the last five years.

An essential requirement was the addition of Modern Greek Language that, from the outset, has been given by Dr. Heracles Panagiotides. Initially, the first-year sequence over three quarters was offered one year and, in the next, the second-year sequence was given. Now we are

offering both sequences concurrently and have been able to provide instruction at advanced levels as well.

New permanent courses have been added: Greek History from 7000 bc to the present, Byzantine History, and Modern Greek History. Interest in those courses has leapt: the Greek survey course had 30 students in its first offering, it was 90 last year.

Thanks to the generosity of the Onassis Foundation, we were able to offer a special course in Modern Greek culture over a period of six years by scholars with expertise in a wide range of subjects and topics.

Students have studied for a quarter at the University of Ioannina since

1991. This quarter has had the largest group to date: 24 students including 3 from California State University in Sacramento (with whom we've cooperated for several years), and for the first time one student from California State University in Long Beach.

Enthusiasm for these efforts has been expanding, especially since the celebration on November 10th, 2007, which brought more than 300 people to a dinner with music and dancing, as well as great food and auctions—both live and silent. Announced at that event was a gift of \$240,000 to fund a position linked directly with Hellenic Studies for the next three years. It is important to understand that previous progress was due to the effort of people with no formal position in the program, on borrowed time.



Ambassador Loucas Tsilas, Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation in the U.S., announces a grant of \$240,000 to the Hellenic Studies Program during the Celebration Dinner. Master of Ceremonies KIRO-TV news reporter Chris Legeros looks on.

Note from the Director of Hellenic Studies—Carol Thomas...

Please consider supporting the Hellenic Studies Endowment (checks should be made payable to the Hellenic Studies Endowment) —

BREAKING NEWS!!...

Our program has a special friend in **Consul-General Xenia Stefanidou** most recently demonstrated on July 17th when she called to report that, with her encouragement, the Greek Ministry of Education will donate again to our endowment: 40,000 Euros or more that \$63,000!

We will hope to be able to thank her in person at a gathering in Seattle.

With such momentum from Greece, can we show our local commitment to making the program permanent?

The completion of commitments already made should bring us to the million dollar original goal. Inflation, however, has raised the amount to \$1,400,000 which surely will increase with time so it is sensible to move forward quickly. Just think:

400 gifts of \$1,000 = \$400,000!

EINAI DUNATO!!!

Please consider supporting the Hellenic Studies Endowment. Please see box adjacent on how to help this important program for our Hellenic Community in the Pacific Northwest!

Hellenic Studies Program
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ISSUE #1



Adam MacDonald at seminar on Greek Art and Literature taught by Dr. Constantine Christophides at the University of Washington

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS...

Adam MacDonald, doctoral student in the history department, spent 3 weeks in western Cyprus as a member of an archaeological team excavating a Neolithic site dating to ca. 7500 bce. A portion of his funding came from the Theodore Kaltsounis Fund for Students which, as it grows, will bring support to more and more students in Hellenic Studies.

Recent graduate **Joel Kearns** majored in Hellenic Studies. Thanks to living in

Greece, his modern Greek put him in the third year course. He was named outstanding graduating senior in European Studies and plans to complete an MBA in human resources and then return to Greece.

Aspasia Bartell entered the University of Washington with the firm plan to take her degree in Hellenic Studies. She never wavered from that plan or from her enthusiasm.

Just one example: to pro-

duce the required senior thesis using her command of Modern Greek as a tool, she began her study a year in advance and was writing before most students had completed initial research. Her 50 page analysis of the impact on Greece of membership in the EU is stunning.

Renee Lurker, Hellenic Studies Graduate, 2006, begins her graduate study this autumn at the University of North Carolina following a year of teaching in France.

STUDY-ABROAD TO IOANNINA 2008...

In academic terms, the program consisted of 3 courses ("Greek Culture," "Regional Conflicts: Greece and Albania," and Modern Greek Language"), taught primarily by local faculty members.

Students gained a total of 15 credits. Moreover, our students were involved in a number of other **activities**, including Greek dance classes and numerous field trips in the region of Epirus and

southern Greece.

The Ioannina program is a **unique and valuable** educational and cultural experience. Even though some students were knowledgeable about Greece before the trip, most had never taken modern Greek or a course about Greece at the university level before.

Upon their return, these same students had become

firm admirers of Greece and supporters of Hellenic studies and culture. Moreover, the program also gives the opportunity to local Greek-American students at the UW a chance to **reconnect** with Greece and develop links with the homeland of their ancestors.

The UW Ioannina program takes place every Spring. Interviews for students in the program take place in Fall.



Happy student in a happy land—from the recent group of UW students at University of Ioannina.

WHO WE ARE...

Theodore (Ted) Kaltsounis was the force that created the program at the University of Washington. He was chair of the on-going coordination until he retired in 2004 yet he continues on the advisory committee.

Carol Thomas agreed to keep her position in Greek history and also chair of European Studies, the home of Hellenic Studies.

Zinon Papakonstantinou

joins us thanks to the gift of the Onassis Foundation. He completed his BA in ancient and medieval history at the University of Crete, MA degree in Classics at the University of Cincinnati, and PhD from UW. He also received the MPhil from the University of Cambridge. He runs the Study Abroad at the University of Ioannina and teaches Modern Greek History and advanced modern Greek culture at the University of

Washington.

An advisory committee includes **Alex Hollmann**, Classics; **Gus Kravas**, Provost's Office; **Taso G. Lagos**, Communications; **Heracles Panagiotides**, director of the EEG laboratory in the autism research project and instructor in Modern Greek language courses; **George Stamatoyannopoulos**, Professor of Medicine and Genetics.

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