



25th Biennial
**INTERNATIONAL
MGSA SYMPOSIUM**

November 2 –5, 2017

Under the auspices of the
Dean C. & Zoë S. Pappas
Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies
School of Arts and Humanities
Stockton University

Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club
401 S New York Rd, Galloway, NJ



DEAN C. & ZOË S. PAPPAS
INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

About the Cover:

Hellenism through the Ages in Nature, Spirit, and the Arts

The artist and iconographer George Kordis created this painting in the autumn of 2014 for the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room at Stockton University. The image represents Reverend Dr. Demetrios Constantelos' vision of the continuity and contribution of Hellenism from Antiquity to the present. The scene is peopled with personifications and historical figures – both ancient and modern – that had special significance for Dr. Constantelos as leaders and representatives of the long and illustrious tradition of Hellenism.

In the background of the painting are (left to right) three inspirational mountains, personified: Mt. Sinai as a monk praying in his cave, Mt. Olympos as an old man pouring water into the sea, and Mt. Athos as a praying ascetic. The flowing water may be interpreted as providing life, knowledge, creativity, wisdom, and refreshment to mankind. In the foreground (left to right) are the philosophers Socrates (seated) speaking to the standing figure of Plato holding a scroll; Hypatia, the female philosopher of Alexandria, veiled and holding scrolls; and Plotinus, the Neo-Platonist philosopher, looking back toward those who were his inspiration. Above, high on the mountain, is St. Basil, patron of philanthropy, composing his theological treatise on the first six days of the Creation of the world – the *Hexameron* (labeled). Seated below him in imperial garb is the historian and intellectual Byzantine princess, Anna Komnena, who gestures and looks toward Hypatia behind her. Finally, in the lower right of the painting the opera singer Maria Callas keeps company with the poet Constantine Cavafy. The latter, clothed in a western suit yet sitting on an ancient column, communicates the coexistence and complexity of ancient themes and desires together with Modern Greek identities.

The work is typical of Kordis' painting style and his conception of Modern Greek iconography. This is a spiritual vista. It looks back to Byzantine painting, where stylized figures accompany swaying, elongated trees in rough and rocky landscapes. Kordis' use of bright pastels and voluminous individuals are reminiscent of the final flowering of this style of painting in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. But here there is a modern twist, visible in the image's minute detail: Figures hold worry beads while tiny modern ships and a lighthouse inhabit distant seas. An undercurrent of optimism pervades the work, as education and remembrance of the past are vividly brought together through the artist's brush.

Acrylic on canvas.

Painted in George Kordis' Athens studio in September 2014.

(Amy Papalexandrou, Spring 2016)

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Amy and Nassos Papalexandrou
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Thursday, November 2

2:00-7:00 pm Registration

3:30-6:30 pm Excursion to Atlantic City (meet in the hotel lobby)

7:00-9:00 pm Welcome Session, Awards, and Reception (Oval Room)

Yiorgos Anagnostou (Emcee) and Franklin L. Hess, Introduction

Co-chairs Symposium 2017 Program Committee

David Roessel and Tom Papademetriou, Welcome

Co-chairs Symposium 2017 Local Arrangements Committee

MGSA Awards

Edmund Keeley Book Prize:

Devin E. Naar, *Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece* (Stanford UP, 2016)

Presented by Gerasimus Katsan, Chair, Book Prize Committee, and Edmund Keeley

John O. Iatrides Best Dissertation Prize:

Alexandra Tipei, “For Your Civilization and Ours: Greece, Romania, and the Making of French Universalism” (2016), Indiana University Bloomington

Presented by Katerina Lagos, Chair, Dissertation Prize Committee

Elizabeth Constantinides Memorial Translation Prize:

Michail Tzoufras (PhD Electrical Engineering, UCLA), translation of novel by Alexandros Papadiamantis, *The Merchants of Nations* (Sunstep Books, 2016)

Presented by Karen Emmerich, Chair, Translation Prize Committee

Victor Papacosma Graduate Student Essay Prize:

Alexander Grammatikos (Carleton University), “There’s No Place Like Homeland: Victimized Greek Women, the Greek War of Independence, and the Limits of European Philhellenism” (see session 6B, Nov. 4)

Presented by Tassos Anastasiadis, Chair, Essay Prize Committee

9:15 pm Concert of Folk Music (Oval Room)

Nicoletta Demetriou and Roger Mgrdichian

Friday, November 3

9:00-10:30 am Session 1

Panel 1A (**Harding Room**): *Questions of Language*

Chair: Katherine Panagakos (Stockton University)

Ali Bolcakan (University of Michigan)

Diglossia in Constantinople

Matthew Hadodo (University of Pittsburgh)

Large Difference/Little Difference: Istanbul Greek and Language Ideologies

Christopher Brown (Ohio State University)

Bachtin and Thomson: Teaching Greek Dialectically

Panel 1B (**Salon A**): *Immigration, Rescue, and Integration of Greek Jews*

Chair: Paris Papamichos Chronakis (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Peter Stavrianidis (Panteion University)

Identity and Integration of Greek Jews in Contemporary Greece

Marcia Ikonomopoulos (Kehila Kedosha Janina Museum, New York)

The Immigration of Greek-Speaking Jews to New York City at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century

Katerina Kralova (Charles University, Prague)

Unwelcome Neighbors: Finding a Safe Harbor for the Jewish Families of Greece

Panel 1C (**Salon C**): *Exploring Genre in Late- and Post-Ottoman Literature*

Chair: Tom Papademetriou (Stockton University)

Will Stroebel (University of Michigan)

Books Behaving Badly: Karamanli Literature circa 1939

Firuzan Melike Sumertas (Bogazici University)

“Reading” Istanbul in Greek: 19th-Century Literature on the Past and Present of Istanbul

Panel 1D (**Salon B**): *Archival Sources and Modern Greek Studies*

Chair: Susan Buck Sutton (Bryn Mawr College)

Michaela Karampini-Iatrou (Independent Researcher)

Gains and Losses in the Cavafy Archive

Dia Philippides (Boston College)

Special Issues in the Translation of Modern Greek Literature into English

Peter Allen (Rhode Island College, retired)

Reflections on the Origins and Evolution of the MGSA

10:30-11:00 am Break

11:00 am-12:30 pm Session 2

Panel 2A (**Salon A**): *Greek Migration to the USA: Demography, Assimilation, and Materiality*

Chair: Costandina Charalambous (European University Cyprus)

David Pettegrew (Messiah College)

Placing the Greek-American Immigrant: Digital and Demographic Approaches to Mapping Migration in the Progressive Era

Kostis Kourelis (Franklin and Marshall College)

Migrant Materialities: From Greek Village to Greektown, USA

Panel 2B (**Salon B**): *Explorations of Greek and Cypriot Identities*

Chair: Nicoletta Demetriou (Wolfson College, Oxford)

Eftychia Mylona (Leiden University)

Beyond Departure: The Greeks in Egypt, 1961-1976

Aleksandar Jovanovic (Simon Fraser University)
Constructions of Distinct Identity in Lusignan Cyprus

Nikos Panou (Stony Brook University)
Political Thought and Educational Practice in the Late Seventeenth Century

Panel 2C (**Harding**): *Institutions of the Greek Diaspora in Canada and the United States*

Chair: Sakis Gekas (York University)

Themistoklis Aravossitas (University of Toronto, York University)
Greek Heritage Language Vitality in Canada

Theodore Zervas (North Park University) and **Alex Papadopoulos** (DePaul University)
Problematizing Greek Immigration, Identity Construction, and Bilingual Education in the United States: The Cases of the Socrates and Koraes Greek-American Schools

Fevronia Soumakis (Teachers College, Columbia University)
St. Basil's Academy: A Symbol of Greek-American Faith, Philanthropy, and Education

12:30-1:00 pm Break for Lunch

1:00-2:30 pm Special Session 3A (**Salon B**) (bring your lunch)
Library Resources for Research in Modern Greek Studies in North America—Are They Adequate and Accessible?

Organized by **Harold Leich** (The Library of Congress)

Chair: Gerasimus Katsan (Queens College, CUNY)

Rhea Lesage (Harvard University)
Widener Library

George Paganelis (California State University, Sacramento)
Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection

Lidia Santarelli (Princeton University)
Princeton University Library

1:00-2:30 pm Special Session 3B (**Harding**) (bring your lunch)
Informal gathering of MGS graduate students, organized by Karen Emmerich, Chair, MGSA Graduate Studies Committee

2:30-2:45 pm Break

2:45-4:45 pm Session 4

Panel 4A (**Harding**): *Greek Experiences of Migration*
Chair: Yiorgos Anagnostou (The Ohio State University)

Andonis Piperoglou (La Trobe University)
A Greek-Australian Settler Colonial Consciousness: Race and the British-Ionian Experience in Australia, 1890s-1920s

Maria Kaliambou (Yale University)
“Travel to a Foreign Land”: Perceptions of Migration and Cosmopolitanism in Oral Traditions

Anastasia Bakogianni (Massey University, New Zealand)
Caught between Two Worlds: Documenting the Experiences of the Greek Diaspora

Panel 4B (**Salon A**): *Greek-American Relations during the Nazi Occupation and Civil War*
Chair: David Roessel (Stockton University)

Kyriakos Nalmpantis (Baldwin Wallace University)
The Office of Strategic Services and the Politicization of Intelligence in Wartime Greece, 1942-1945

Lisa Camichos (Hickory High School)
The Orlando Plan

Susan Heuck Allen (Brown University)
Out of the Ivory Tower and into the Fire: Wartime Activism, Refugees and Intelligence-Gathering

Artemis Leontis (University of Michigan)

Literature and Politics in Greek-American Transatlantic Relationships in the 1940s

Panel 4C (**Salon C**): *Self-Awareness and In-Betweenness: Literature Challenging Hegemonic Structures*

Chair: Vangelis Calotychos (Brown University)

Nektaria Klapaki (University of Washington)

Modernity and Dis/enchantment: The Case of Modern Greece

Lissi Athanasiou-Krikelis (New York Institute of Technology)

Picture Books about Books and the Act of Reading

Elisavet Pakis (Independent Scholar)

(Im)possible Subjects: The Appearance and Disappearance of the Greek Woman Writer Dora Rosetti Performing Lesbian Desire and Subjectivity in “Her Lover” and in Eleni Bakopoulou’s “My Friend Mrs Dora Rosetti”

Panel 4D (**Salon B**): *Transcendental Modernities: Conversion, Secularism, and Religion in the 19th and 20th Centuries*

Organized by **Evdoxios Doxiadis** (Simon Fraser University)

Chair: Katerina Lagos (California State University, Sacramento)

Evdoxios Doxiadis (Simon Fraser University)

Neophotistoi and Apostates: Greece and Conversion in the 19th Century

Devin Naar (University of Washington)

Intermarriage and the Fate of Greece’s Jews during World War II

Alexandra Tipei (Princeton University)

The Science of Philanthropy: Giving, Religion, and Transculturation in the Early Nineteenth-Century Balkans and Europe

Elektra Kostopoulou (Rutgers University)

Reflections on Conversion: Greekness and Westernization in the Second Constitutional Period

4:45-6:30 pm Break, dinner on your own

6:30-9:00 pm Keynote Session (Salon C)

Neovi Karakatsanis, Welcome and President's Comments

Franklin L. Hess, Introduction of the Keynote Speaker and Moderator

Anna Triandafyllidou, Keynote Address: *Globalization and the Return to the National: Perspectives on Greece's Ongoing Crisis*

Anna Triandafyllidou is Professor at the Global Governance Programme (GGP) of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), European University Institute. From 2004 through 2012, Professor Triandafyllidou was a Senior Fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) in Athens, where she headed a successful migration research team. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*.

Abstract: Nations today are faced with new social and economic challenges: economic globalization has intensified bringing with it a more intense phase of cultural interconnectedness and political interdependence. Globalization has also further driven and multiplied international flows, not only of capital, goods and services but also of people. National states have seen their capacity to govern undermined by these processes. However, in Europe, the nation continues to be a powerful source of identity and legitimacy. Indeed, we are witnessing a comeback of nationalism as public and political debates. Governments and many citizens appear to think that re-nationalizing control, erecting borders, and separating from other countries will make national states more capable of addressing the global challenges of migration, asylum, and economic globalization. On the other hand, we also witness opposed trends. Through the power of information and communication technology we feel now much more related (and are actually more informed) about what is happening in other regions of the world and on how this affects our own lives (whether through a refugee surge or through a decrease in oil prices). International terrorism and foreign fighters joining ISIS are one side of this coin, showing how cultural and political globalization can transfer local integration problems and grievances to link up with international geopolitics breeding transnational extremism. At the same time, the various Indignados and Occupy movements across Europe, youth mobilisation in support of the Arab spring and Ghezi park movements, and transnational commemorations of the victims of international terrorism in Paris testify to how globalization can also reinforce transnational solidarity and mobilization for common transnational causes like peace, equality, and democracy.

Taking into account these contrasted tendencies and phenomena, this presentation will offer a critical reflection on the current social and political situation in Greece. For the past eight years, Greece has been in the middle of a perfect storm: the Eurozone crisis together with the refugee emergency, the rise

of the far Right (Golden Dawn), but also a spectacular wave of solidarity towards refugees. Greece has shown both its best and its worst face: a remarkable resilience of citizens and families, a rise in civil society initiatives and volunteering, and a remarkable level of political stability. But Greece has also shown itself unable to reform the economy and the welfare system, the cost of reforms shouldered by the lower economic strata, and it has blamed the EU and “the Germans” for all of the country’s misfortunes. This lecture will discuss these contrasted tendencies and social forces, paying special attention to both the destructive and creative forces of Greek nationalism and how they are transformed in the globalizing 21st century.

Saturday, November 4

9:00-10:30 am Session 5

Panel 5A: (*Salon A*): *Understanding the Greek Crises*

Chair: Despina Lalaki (New York City College of Technology)

Victoria Reuter (Gettysburg College)

On Austerity and Excess: The Greek Rant

Fani Giannousi (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) 

Greek Contemporary Art and the Refugee Crisis. A Genuine Response or a Fashionable One?

Michael Herzfeld (Harvard University)

Why are Older Ethnographic Studies Relevant to the “Greek Crisis”?

Panel 5B (*Salon B*): *Identity and Memory*

Chair: Amy Papalexandrou (Stockton University)

Natalie Zervou (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

The Greek Body in Crisis: Negotiating National Identity and History through Contemporary Dance

Katerina Zacharia (Loyola Marymount University)

Identity and Memory in a Greek Maniote Village

Christopher Richter and Christina Salowey (Hollins University)
Greek Women at War: Contested Memories in Epirus

Panel 5C (**Salon C**): *Perspectives on Greek-Ottoman Relations in the Nineteenth Century*

Chair: Trine Stauning Willert (University of Birmingham)

Polyvia Parara (University of Maryland)
Elisavet Contaxaki's "Classical Bouquet": A Forgotten Key to Re-examining Controversial Cretan Revolutions

Emrah Sahin (University of Florida)
Shooting an Ottoman-Greek Diplomat in the Leg: Alexandros Mavroyeni, Revolutionaries, and Fugitives in the United States, 1860-96

Constantine Hatzidimitriou (Queens College, CUNY)
Konstantinos N. Sathas: A Pioneering but Neglected 19th-Century Historian of Modern Greece

Panel 5D (**Harding**): *Facets of Greek Identity*

Chair: Kostis Kourelis (Franklin and Marshall College)

Peter Vorissis (University of Michigan)
"The Eyes of Saints Painted on Wood": The Artistic Gaze and the Formation of Greek Identity in Patrick White's "The Vivisector"

Nassos Papalexandrou (The University of Texas at Austin)
Reno Wideson (born Evryviadis, 1920): A Prolegomenon to a Critical Study of an Amateur Master of Cypriot Photography

Saffo Papantonopoulou (University of Arizona)
Bodies and Differences: Transgender Sex Work and the Cultural Politics of Orientalism in Post-Ottoman Thessaloniki

10:30-11:00 am Break

11:00 am-12:30 pm Session 6

Panel 6A (**Harding**): *Music, Memory, and Personhood in the Ottoman Greek Diaspora*

Organized by **Panayotis League** (Harvard University)

Chair: Leonidas Karakatsanis (The British Institute at Ankara)

Panayotis League (Harvard University)

Excess in Austerity: Sonic and Social Violence on an Island in Crisis

Ioannis Tsekouras (Columbia College Chicago)

Pastures of Idylls and Mountains of Heroism: Parakathi Singing, the Re-Membering of Pontos, and Pontic Postmemory

Nikos Michailidis (College Year in Athens)

Echoes from the Past: Pontic Music Listening and the Remaking of Ethnic Socialities in Turkey

Panel 6B (**Salon A**): *European Receptions of Greek Art and Politics*

Chair: James Pettifer (St. Cross College, Oxford University)

Louis Ruprecht, Jr. (Georgia State University)

Parts and (W)holes: On the Spoliation, Restoration and Reception of Greek Sculpture

Alexander Grammatikos (Carleton University)

There's No Place Like Homeland: Victimized Greek Women, the Greek War of Independence, and the Limits of European Philhellenism
(winner of the Victor Papacosma Graduate Student Essay Prize)

Lucien Frary (Rider University)

The Birth of Russophobia: European Impressions of the Russian Embassy in Constantinople and the Outbreak of the Greek Revolution

Panel 6C (**Salon B**): *Imperial and Ecclesiastical Encounters: The Greek Orthodox Church vis-à-vis the Ottoman Porte in late Ottoman Anatolia*

Organized by **Tom Papademetriou** (Stockton University)

Chair: Edward Siecienski (Stockton University)

Tom Papademetriou (Stockton University)

Community Efforts to (Re-)Build or Repair Greek Orthodox Churches in Late Ottoman Cappadocia

Menios Papadimitriou (Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology)
The Metropolis of Caesarea in the Nineteenth Century

Dimitris Kamouzis (Centre for Asia Minor Studies)
The Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Megali Idea: From Unification with Mother Greece to the Creation of an Ionian State (ca. 1918-1922)

Panel 6D (*Salon C*): *Trade in Luxury Commodities and Social Transformations in the Eastern Mediterranean (19th-20th Centuries)*
Organized by **Juan Carmona Zabala**, University of California, San Diego
Chair: Thomas Gallant (University of California, San Diego)

Juan Carmona Zabala (University of California, San Diego)
Upgrading and Exporting the Ethniko Proïon: Tobacco and Politics in Interwar Greece

David Idol (University of California, San Diego)
Between Kalamata and Calimyrna: Greek Fruit in the Global Market

Constanze Kolbe (University of Washington)
The Fruits of Trade: The Etrog Trade Network in the 19th-Century Mediterranean

Sakis Gekas (York University), respondent

12:30-1:00 pm Break for Lunch

1:00-2:45 pm Special Session 7 (*Salon B*) (bring your lunch)
Writing "Greece": Contemporary Writing From, To, and About the Hellenic Space

Organized by **Joanna Eleftheriou** (University of Houston - Clear Lake)

Chair: Karen Emmerich (Princeton University)

Joanna Eleftheriou (University of Houston - Clear Lake)

Gail Holst-Warhaft (Cornell University)

Christopher Bakken (Allegheny College)

Natalie Bakopoulos (Wayne State University)

2:45-3:15 pm Break

3:15-5:15 pm Session 8

Special Session (8A) (*Salon C*): *Nanos Valaoritis, the Dramatist: A Staged Reading and Critical Response to “Nightfall Hotel: A Surrealist Romeo and Juliet”*

Organized by **Dean Papademetriou** (Somerset Hall Press) and **Vassiliki Rapti** (Emerson College)

Chair: Mark Mallett (Stockton University)

Dean Papademetriou (Somerset Hall Press)

Introduction of the staged reading, moderator

Vassiliki Rapti (Emerson College)

Endless Repetitions and Puns, Endless Playfulness: The Surrealist Connection in “Nightfall Hotel”

Ifigenia Gonis (Harvard University)

Drama in Translation: Translating and Performing a Dramatic Work

David Roessel (Stockton University)

Romeo and Juliet in the Greek Theater World: Connections between “Nightfall Hotel” by Nanos Valaoritis and the Plays of I. Kambanellis

Panel 8B (*Salon A*): *Teaching to Question: A Pedagogy of Engagement and Critical Literacy: The View from the Classroom*

Organized by **Elsa Amanatidou** (Brown University)

Chair: Chris Grafos (York University)

Elsa Amanatidou (Brown University)

In Pursuit of Interculturality: Teaching with the News in the Modern Greek Language Classroom

Johanna Hanink (Brown University)

How Classicists Can Pursue a Pedagogy of Engagement—and Why the Field Will Collapse if They Don’t

Despina Margomenou (University of Michigan)

Engaged Critical Learning in Modern Greek Classrooms: Thinking through the Politics and Challenges of a Pedagogical (and Disciplinary?) Shift

Nikolas Kakkoufa (Columbia University)

“A Stranger, a Total Stranger”: Enriching Emotional and Critical Literacies via Comparative Literature Pedagogy

Panel 8C (**Salon B**): *Myth and History in Greek Literature from Cavafy to “the Crisis”*

Chair: Lissi Athanasiou-Krikelis (New York Institute of Technology)

Peter Jeffreys (Suffolk University)

Cavafy Bros. Inc.: Fraternalizing through Commerce and Culture

Katerina Stergiopoulou (Princeton University)

Cavafy, H.D.: Parallels

Anastasia Tantarouda-Papaspyrou (University of Birmingham)

Ideology and Characterization in Themis Kornaros’ Fiction: From Individuality to Collectivity

Panel 8D (**Harding**): *Greece, the EU, and Crisis: Perspectives from the Past and Present*

Chair: Nia Georges (Rice University)

Alexandros Nafpliotis (Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy)

The Rise of the Greek Socialist Sun and Europe: PASOK’s Stance vis-à-vis the EEC, 1977-1981

Irene Theodoropoulou (Qatar University)

Obama’s Athens Speech: Intertextuality and Communicative Interfaces on Facebook

Harry Karahalios (Duke University)

Behind Closed Doors: Domestic Disintegration and Economic Crisis in Greek Cinema

Vassiliki Tsitsopoulou (Indiana University Bloomington)

Raci(al)ism and the Greek Debt Crisis

5:15-5:30 pm Break

5:30-6:45 pm Soapbox Time: Current Proposals and Announcements
Salon A: Open-floor discussion organized by **Paris Papamichos Chronakis** (University of Illinois at Chicago): “Golden Dawn in Charlottesville: Modern Greek Studies meet Greek-American Realities in the Age of Trump”

6:45-7:00 pm Break

7:00 pm Transportation to the Stockton University campus (meet in the hotel lobby)

7:30 pm Theater Evening at Stockton Performing Arts Center (Experimental Theater), at 101 Vera King Farris Drive

Stones from God. From the Archive to the Stage: Stories of the Christian Community in Cappadocian Villages Prior to 1923,

by Pamela Hendrick and Tom Papademetriou, directed by Martha Frintzila (Baumstrasse Studio) (for tickets, please see the registration desk)

At the turn of the last century, in an Anatolian village, the Greek Orthodox community is building a church, while dealing with the challenges of the Ottoman state and its Armenian and Turkish neighbors. Drawing on oral histories and archival records, *Stones from God* is a collaboration between two Stockton faculty members, a playwright and a historian. The play, presented in “chamber theatre” style, brings to life the true human stories that are in danger of being lost forever.

Sunday, November 5

8:30-9:15 am (**Harding**): MGSA Business Meeting (open to all MGSA members)

Returns to Philadelphia airport by shuttle bus are scheduled for 8:15 am and 1:30 pm (meet in the hotel lobby).

MGSA 1968-2018: 50 Years Young

On the occasion of its upcoming 50th anniversary, the MGSA salutes the following scholars who, as MGSA Presidents and Executive Directors, have supported its work and advanced its mission for many years.

Please advise us if you observe any errors or omissions (list 1968-2017 compiled by Despina Lalaki, Leonidas Karakatsanis, and Gonda Van Steen, with the generous assistance of John Iatrides and Victor Papacosma).

List of MGSA Presidents

1968-69	Executive Committee, Chair Edmund Keeley
1970	Edmund Keeley
1971-73	Edmund Keeley
1974-76	John A. Petropulos, deceased (1929-1999)
1977-79	A. Lily Macrakis
1980-82	Edmund Keeley
1983-85	Peter Bien
1986-88	P. Nikiforos Diamandouros
1988-90	Van Coufoudakis
1991-92	Michael Herzfeld
1993-95	Adamantia Pollis, deceased (1923-2015)
1995-97	John Chioles
1997-99	Van Coufoudakis
2000-02	Peter Bien
2003-05	Thomas Gallant
2006-08	Stathis Gourgouris
2009-11	Stathis Gourgouris
2011-14	Gonda Van Steen
2014-17	Neovi Karakatsanis
2017-	

List of MGSA Executive Directors

1980-2004	John Iatrides
2004-2014	S. Victor Papacosma
2014-	Gonda Van Steen

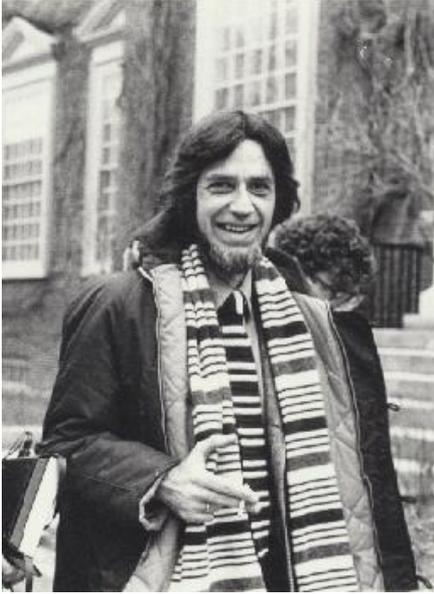
**Edmund Keeley, MGSA Executive Committee Chair, 1968-70,
President 1971-73, 1980-82**

My first term as president began some four years after the MGSA was created by a group of fewer than ten teacher-scholars specializing in various non-Greek disciplines who had gathered at the University of Maryland to explore the possibility of working together first of all to organize a symposium devoted to their shared interest in Modern Greek language, literature, history, and politics, and then to explore the feasibility of establishing an association for the purpose of promoting teaching and research in Modern Greek Studies in the United States. The story of this enterprise, along with the first years of the MGSA, is told in illuminating detail by Peter Bien as the Introduction to *Modern Greek Writers* (Princeton, 1972), and I encourage those interested in the history of the MGSA to begin there, where the vision of the new association, as it inspired the founders and me during my two early terms as president, is precisely delineated.

The major challenges we had to face after the election of a governing board and the approval of a constitution were identifying and recruiting new members, establishing biennial symposia, creating a scholarly journal, learning to cope with a discipline that had no steady source for funds other than membership dues and no secure academic home. That the membership grew to some hundreds over the years, that academic offerings in Modern Greek Studies have blossomed across the country, that a journal of high quality continues to exist, that the MGSA is now a fully established, enterprising, and generally prosperous association of devoted members seems to this founding member not only an extraordinary gift of the gods, but more important, one that honors the vitality of those who go on being faithful to the intellectual value and pleasure of the subjects that they continue to promote.



John A. Petropulos (1929-1999), MGSA President 1974-76



(information derived from his obituary)

Petropulos served as MGSA president in the mid-1970s. He was the E. Dwight Salmon Professor of History and Asian Languages and Civilizations at Amherst College, where he spent 41 years teaching. Petropulos specialized in early modern and modern Balkan and Middle Eastern history. He is best known for his book *Politics and Statecraft in the Kingdom of Greece, 1833-1843* (1968), which was translated into Greek. He also co-edited *Hellenism and the First*

Greek War of Liberation (1821-1830): Continuity and Change (1976). Petropulos served the MGSA as president, vice-president, and as a member of the Executive Board. He was active as well in the American Historical Association, chairing panels on refugees, resistance movements, and fascism in modern Europe. Members of the MGSA remember Petropulos as a generous colleague and friend, who was also an elegant practitioner of traditional Greek dancing.

Lily Macrakis, MGSA President 1977-79

Macrakis served as the first female MGSA president in the late 1970s. Under her watch, the MGSA organized one of its most pioneering symposia: the 1978 Symposium entitled “Greece in the 1940s,” hosted by The American University in Washington, DC. Papers presented at this forum, which saw an exceptionally high attendance rate, were subsequently edited and published by John O. Iatrides in *Greece in the 1940s: A Nation in Crisis* (1981; also published in Greek with Themelio, 1984). A request from Greece to rerun the 1978 Symposium there could, however, not be granted. The MGSA office had moved to the seat of the President but, by the end of the three-year term, the association was looking for a more permanent office space and home base. This is how the

office of the MGSA Executive Director was created, and John O. Iatrides was elected to be the first holder of the position. MGSA membership reached an all-time high and surpassed the 500 mark.



Peter Bien, MGSA President 1983–85, 2000–02

My first presidency (1983-85) was driven by the rule that a scholarly society needs to issue its own scholarly journal. Since 1975, the MGSA had been collaborating with the Byzantinists to publish *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* (*BMGS*), under the editorship of Donald Nicol. By the early 1980s, however, we had a sufficiently strong and diverse academic membership to create our own journal. Thus *BMGS* continued and the MGSA's new *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* commenced. Volume 1, number 1 (May 1983), edited by Lily Macrakis and Peter Allen, printed papers from the Association's 1980 Symposium ("Women and Men in Greece: A Society in Transition"). Meanwhile, we had convinced William H. McNeill to become editor-in-chief of the new journal assisted by an editorial board consisting of Diskin Clay, Richard Clogg, Ernestine Friedl, John Iatrides, Kostas Kazazis, Edmund Keeley, John Petropoulos, George Savidis, Speros Vryonis, and myself. Volume 1, number 2 (October 1983) was the initial result.



By the time of my second presidency (2000-02), the MGSA was already well established and had stabilized its income streams (via membership dues, grants, etc.). On May 19, 2000 I was able to present to the Greek Ambassador the Modern Greek Bibliography that Stratos Constantinidis had produced. In October 2001 we convened our biennial Symposium at Georgetown University despite the attacks of 9/11/01. Guests Rhea Galanaki and Thanasis Valtinos read from their work, Constantine Tsoucalas conveyed his hopes that the 2004 Olympics in Athens would strengthen international peace-making efforts, and Deborah Tannen

spoke to us at the banquet on how men's speech differs from women's. On February 22, 2003 Tom Gallant was elected the next MGSA president.

Michael Herzfeld, MGSA President 1991-92

My tenure was short and came at a challenging time full of both promise and premonition. Greece was passing through a period of combined optimism about the country's role in Europe and residual anxieties – often expressed as nationalism in both politics and scholarship – about its place in world affairs. The optimism was often misleadingly fueled by the more extreme forms of nationalism, posing risks, but also opportunities, for the ethical and intellectual integrity of scholarly discourse. For social scientists and humanists alike, this meant that intellectually the field urgently required a more comparative framing, while administratively the MGSA needed to create appropriate defenses against unscholarly interventions. These goals were well-served by the growing centrality of the social sciences to the field, a gradual shift, already in progress, that did not displace the humanities but worked cooperatively with those disciplines toward a more balanced grounding of new research on Greece

—a grounding that was especially evident in the increasing robustness of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*. In spite of some obvious setbacks at that time, today, at a new time of crisis, the field exhibits abundant evidence of the benefits it derived from the conceptual diversity and collegial interaction thus engendered.



Adamantia Pollis (1923-2015), MGSA President 1993-95 (information derived from her obituary)

Pollis served as the second female MGSA president in the mid-1990s. An early rebel armed with a PhD in Political Science from The Johns Hopkins University, Pollis broke the mold for young Greek American women and committed herself to doing what she could to promote social justice and gender equality. As a teacher, researcher, and activist, Pollis pursued knowledge and social change, and she became an internationally recognized scholar of Human Rights and Modern Greek Politics. Throughout a distinguished teaching career at Hunter College and at the New School for Social Research, Pollis mentored numerous students and engaged in significant collaborative research with many of them. A notable project was the weekly radio program on New York City's WEVD, Free Voice of Greece, a key component of the international movement that toppled the Greek military junta in 1974.

Thomas Gallant, MGSA President 2003-2005

When I became president of the MGSA, I had three major issues that I wanted to address: 1) reforms of the administration; 2) amending the Constitution; 3) revising the Association's finances.

I wanted the Executive Board to review and revise where necessary our administrative practices to make them more efficient and to ensure that they were in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations that govern non-profit corporations, such as the MGSA. On more than one occasion, for example, boards had passed new resolutions that duplicated or even contradicted existing ones. The problem was that we did not have a Corporate Resolutions Book (CRB), as is required by law. We undertook, therefore, to compile and review all of the resolutions that had been passed by previous boards. Another issue, however, was that the resolutions had not been properly processed. Before being placed into the CRB they were to have been embossed with the Association's seal, but we did not have a seal. So, we had one made and, in a series of meetings, we dealt with the discrepancies and duplications and compiled the revalidated resolutions into a CRB. Other actions were then undertaken to ensure that the Association operated in full conformity with the relevant regulations, which is now the case. The final element in the administrative reforms was to amend the Constitution in light of the reforms.

The Association's finances were the third area that I concentrated on during my presidency. For most of its history, the MGSA operated on a modest budget, and perennially, income barely managed to cover its barebones expenditures. The lack of funding put severe limitations on the Association's activities. The problem was that we had only one income stream: members' dues. Other possible sources of funds were not being utilized. Unlike comparable non-profit organizations, we did not draw any funds from the earned income of our endowment. Through a series of reforms, we revised this arrangement, so that now a percentage of the endowment's income is transferred to cover operating expenses. Another source of untapped income was the *Journal*. Each year the *Journal* earns more than it costs to produce it. The arrangement with the press was that they kept the surpluses in reserve in case there was a cost overrun. By the time I became president, this nest egg was a sizeable sum. So, we negotiated a new deal. Except for a small amount, the surplus was transferred to the Association, as is the annual income from the *Journal*.

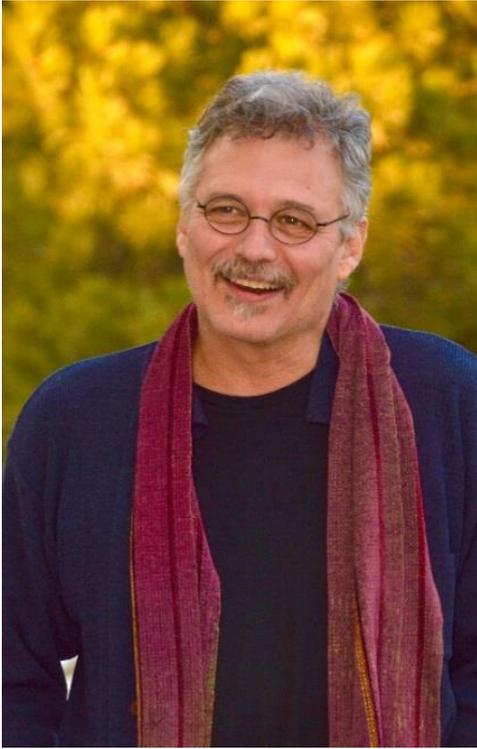
I believe that the current state of the Association is healthy. The *Journal* continues to provide our membership with an excellent publication venue for their scholarship and maintains its status as the field's flagship periodical. The symposium is still a major event. Moreover, the new initiatives that recent boards have undertaken have



multiplied and diversified the Association's activities. Especially laudable have been the efforts to support graduate students and junior faculty. These types of initiatives should continue. But in these uncertain times, we should increase our efforts to build stronger relationships with other professional associations and to expand the topical and geographical scope of what constitutes Modern Greek Studies.

Stathis Gourgouris, MGSA President 2006-2011

My aspiration when I became MGSA president was essentially threefold: 1) To actualize the inherent interdisciplinary capacities of the membership to their full potential and open up the Association to scholarly endeavors contiguous to the field. As a result, we had a number of high-profile interactions with non-Modern Greek Studies scholars whose work was catalytic in our field. 2) To render the logistical processes of the MGSA less bureaucratic and more efficient, including the reconceptualization of the *Journal (JMGS)* and its opening toward new media technologies which, by now, have become fully integrated. Various initiatives, including the MGSA Innovative Initiatives Fund, were created with this in mind. It is fair to add that, during this time, the MGSA enjoyed exceedingly robust financial capacity, the subsequent conditions of which are not currently known to me.



3) To bring the MGSA closer to colleagues in Greece and facilitate scholarly collaboration outside North America. This led to the extensive presence of young Greek scholars at our symposia and in the *JMGS* that we enjoy today. An idea to hold an MGSA Symposium in Athens never materialized, but I still hope that someday this will happen.

All organizations create obstacles for themselves from sheer residual habitus. It is always important for every incoming administration to reconsider inlaid patterns, to revise and improve. My tenure as president came at a crucial transition point, when a number of foundational

members of the MGSA retired from long-term service on the Executive Board. Moreover, in my first term of service, for structural reasons that were since rectified, the entire Board was replaced and most incoming members had no prior experience. We saw this as an opportunity to implement more streamlined collaborative working methods, and I was fortunate to be surrounded by a great number of eager and hardworking colleagues, chief among them the new Executive Director at the time, Victor Papacosma, who steered us all with a careful (and caring) impartial hand.

The basic parameters of my vision for the MGSA remain the same: pursuing broader interdisciplinarity and internationalization; strengthening and facilitating the conditions for graduate students and younger scholars in the field to collaborate beyond their institutions; fending off bureaucratic tendencies in favor of transparent decision-making; seeking out investment in daring and innovative initiatives.

Gonda Van Steen, MGSA President 2011-mid-2014



Van Steen, a native of Flanders, Belgium, served the MGSA as its third female president from her home base in Gainesville, at the University of Florida, where she holds the position of Cassas Chair in Greek Studies. She shares: “Fortunately, I had quite a bit of MGSA committee experience already when I came on board as the 12th MGSA president—and I needed it! In 2011, the stark dimensions of the Greek economic crisis were becoming increasingly visible. I set out with the vision and the (stubborn, some might say) determination to assure that the MGSA finances would remain

stable and that the symposium-related expenses, especially, would be contained. From that pragmatic but necessary plan grew a set of symposium guidelines that have thus far secured high-quality but cost-effective symposia. Our biennial symposia have also seen a wider geographical distribution across the United States and Canada, and they have enjoyed a broader diversity across faculty organizers and campus profiles (Symposium 2013: Bloomington, Indiana, at Indiana University, hosted by Franklin L. Hess with Program Committee Chair Artemis Leontis, followed by the preparations for Symposium 2015: Atlanta, Georgia, at Georgia State University, hosted by Louis Ruprecht, Jr., with PC Chair Sakis Gekas). During my presidency, the stellar Executive Board, with whom I had the pleasure and the honor of serving, also implemented the shift to a new electronic format of our *MGSA Bulletin*, to a new editorial team for the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, and to a new location of the MGSA Executive Director’s office (from Maine to Florida). The successful realization of pioneering MGSA Greek Language Pedagogy Workshops must be credited entirely to the very capable and inspiring members of the workshops’ steering committees and the MGSA Undergraduate Studies Committees. My wish is for the MGSA to stay academically strong, financially sound, and united through testing times. I hope to personally contribute to that vision as the association’s current Executive Director (2014-).”

Neovi Karakatsanis, MGSA President mid-2014-2017

As current president, I am privileged to have inherited an Association that is financially sound, intellectually vibrant, and professionally administered. Due to the dedication of my predecessors—past presidents and other officers, executive directors, and countless executive board members—the Association is stronger today than ever. Thanks to their efforts, graduate students presenting at our symposia today are supported financially through graduate student grants, making it possible for them to defer some travel expenses. The *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, many decades ago in search of a publishing home, is today the premier journal in the field and praised as “magnificent” by *Choice* magazine. Countless such accomplishments could be enumerated—all of them the work of MGSA members who have worked individually and collectively for fifty years to sustain the field and its professional home, the MGSA. To all of these people—especially the members of the current Executive Board—I say thank you.

Under my presidency, the Modern Greek Language Pedagogy Workshop was formalized as a standing workshop to be supported financially on a biennial basis, allowing teachers of Greek language to attend for free. A major “behind-the-scenes” activity has been the compilation and editing of hundreds, if not thousands, of Executive Board resolutions and the identification and cataloguing of those still active—a massive task that will make the operation of future Executive Boards more efficient. The current Board also amended the MGSA Constitution to allow for electronic voting, greatly reducing mailing costs, increasing voter turnout,



and finally bringing us into the 21st century! The board also finalized and approved the Symposia Guidelines that had been drafted under Executive Director Gonda Van Steen’s term as President, and it began (but has not yet completed) the drafting of a similar set of guidelines for future editors of the *Journal*. Finally, in addition to overseeing two Symposia (2015 and 2017), the current Board is also planning to launch

the MGSA's first ever endowment campaign in 2017. Through such efforts, I have come to deeply appreciate all who have come before me, realizing that if future generations are to benefit from an equally vibrant and financially sound Association, all of us must do as our predecessors, making it our mission, our calling, to sustain and nurture this Association that has been bequeathed to us. My hope is that you will join me in that mission.

Executive Directors

John O. Iatrides, Executive Director 1980-2004

Iatrides shares: my involvement in MGSA work began at the 1971 symposium (Harvard) when I helped persuade then President Edmund Keeley that the association's fields of interest, originally limited to literature, language, and history, be expanded to include the social sciences. In 1979, at the end of Lily Macrakis' presidency, the MGSA office she had established at Cambridge was closed. As vice-president, I offered to create a new office at my university, Southern Connecticut State University, where I had the institutional support needed to re-build and expand the functions of the Cambridge facility. My offer was accepted, and I served as Executive Director during 1980-2004 from the MGSA's new home base in New Haven, Connecticut.

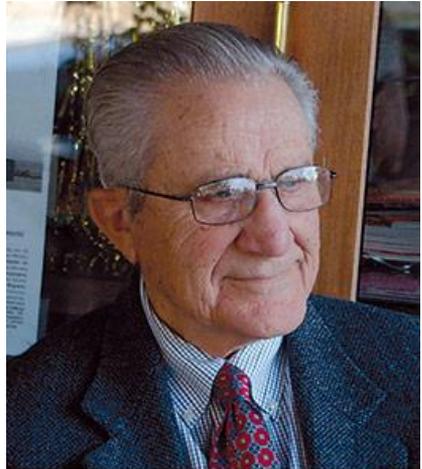


photo credit: April 2012
The Athens Review of Books

In addition to providing secretarial support to the officers and Executive Board, the New Haven office handled the association's dues collection, banking, membership drives, mailings, fundraising, support for symposia, and contacts with authorities and institutions in Greece and elsewhere. It produced the *MGSA Bulletin* (started by Julia Loomis and continued by Macrakis), a biannual publication recording the association's activities and those of Modern Greek Studies programs in North America. I assisted President Peter Bien in negotiations for launching the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* and in securing William H. McNeill as its first editor. I also facilitated the

production of two major MGSA publications: Dia Philippides' *CENSUS of Modern Greek Literature* (1990), and Stratos Constantinidis' *Greece in Modern Times: An Annotated Bibliography of Works Published in English in Twenty-two Academic Disciplines during the Twentieth Century* (2000). I was actively involved in the 1978 MGSA Symposium (Washington DC), and edited its papers (*Greece in the 1940s: A Nation in Crisis*), a seminal scholarly study of the Greek civil war.

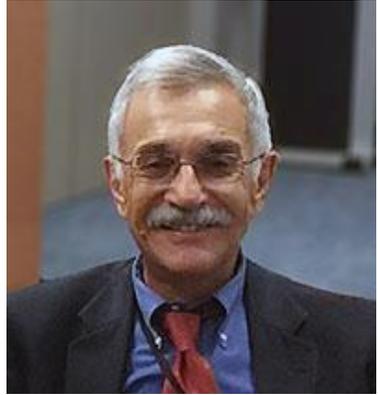
As a pragmatist, I considered my "mission" to be to help the association become a broad-based scholarly community combining professionalism and cordiality and exploring all aspects of the Greek experience. I would like to believe that in a modest way that mission was reasonably successful.

S. Victor Papacosma, Executive Director 2004-2014

I had the good fortune to assume the position of Executive Director following the retirement of John O. Iatrides, who had contributed so much over more than two decades to solidify MGSA's maturing foundations and expanding mission. My special challenge, I believed, was to maintain the MGSA in this positive trajectory. In attempting to contribute to such a process, I benefited from the visionary leadership, commitment, and focused efforts of MGSA officers and Executive Board members. It was their work and determination that produced significant change and advances, and a partial list follows. The MGSA strengthened one dimension of its scholarly identity with the enhanced involvement of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* in Project Muse, coordinated by The Johns Hopkins University Press. Readers around the world could now have electronic access to current and past issues of the *JMGS*. JHUP also undertook the tasks of online membership and symposium registrations, which made MGSA housekeeping operations more efficient, and, importantly, facilitated easier payments by overseas colleagues. A commitment to improve the MGSA's website and broaden its online scholarly resources produced major results, reflecting the MGSA's increased intellectual diversity. A further advance came with the decision to call for electronic submission of symposium abstracts for the blind review evaluation and selection process. The MGSA also established a Fund for Innovative Initiatives in support of conferences, workshops, and related activities to promote Modern Greek Studies (up to five grants of \$500 each can be awarded annually on a competitive basis). The biennial symposia continue to play a preeminent role in the MGSA's mission,

drawing participants from an increasing number of countries. To ensure that younger scholars could attend symposia, the MGSA began providing financial support to help subsidize expenses for graduate students and unemployed PhDs to deliver papers.

My ultimate satisfaction came from observing and participating in a complementary, if not seamless, overlapping of leadership and vision from older and younger generations. The MGSA has become a more diverse organization in disciplinary and human terms, evolving from its earlier identity as a North American-based academic association into one with global membership and impact.



November 6, 1999: Princeton University: MGSA Endowment Committee, Past Presidents and Executive Director

Seated from left: Van Coufoudakis, Adamantia Pollis, John Chioles, Edmund Keeley, Peter Bien. Standing from left: John O. Iatrides, Lily Macrakis, Nikiforos Diamandouros (Courtesy of John O. Iatrides)





Mission

Founded in 1968, the MGSA (www.mgsa.org) is an American-based, non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of Modern Greek Studies in the United States and Canada. Interdisciplinary in orientation, it seeks to stimulate the discovery and diffusion of knowledge about the language, literature, arts, history, politics, economy, and society of modern Greece and Cyprus and their diasporas. The MGSA defines its scope broadly to include not only post-independence Greece but also the period of Ottoman rule and the later Byzantine Empire, as well as those aspects of early Byzantine, Hellenistic, and Classical times that have a bearing on the modern Greek world.

The MGSA welcomes new members and especially graduate students and postdocs to the field. The association strives to deliver a complete record of Modern Greek Studies in North America. Members and attendees, please take the time to update your faculty, postdoc, or graduate student profile at:

<http://www.mgsa.org/faculty/1factemplate.html>

<http://www.mgsa.org/grads/1gradtemplate.html>

We also welcome updates on Modern Greek Studies Programs via:

<http://www.mgsa.org/programs/1protemplate.html>

Please direct any questions to mgsa.org@gmail.com. We thank you for your membership and continuing support.

About the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies at Stockton University

The Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, originally established by the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC) as the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, is housed in the School of Arts and Humanities. With six endowed professorships, the Center's focus includes the disciplines of Greek language and literature, history and culture, classical archaeology, art history, philosophy, politics, anthropology, and Byzantine civilization and religion. Scholarly and artistic activities emphasize the diachronic range of Hellenism and promote student enrichment through travel and university exchanges in Greece and Cyprus (www.stockton.edu/ichs).

Recently, founder, colleague, and longtime MGSA member, Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos passed away. While Professor Constantelos is truly missed, the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies is proud to continue his legacy and to grow and pursue significant teaching, scholarship, and community engagement. May his memory be eternal.

Faculty:

The late Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos (PhD Rutgers University), Distinguished Research Scholar in Residence and the Charles Cooper Townsend Sr. Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies

Director: Dr. Tom Papademetriou (PhD Princeton University), Constantinos and Georgiean Georgiou Endowed Professor of Greek History

Associate Director: Dr. David Roessel (PhD Princeton University), Peter and Stella Yiannos Endowed Professor of Greek Language and Literature

Dr. Katherine Panagakos (PhD The Ohio State University), AFGLC Endowed Professor of Greek Culture and Classics

Dr. Amy Papalexandrou (PhD Princeton University), George Constantine Georges and Sophia C. Georges Endowed Professor of Greek Art and Architecture

Dr. Lucio Privitello (PhD Villanova University), Petros and Despoina Tsantes Family Professor of Greek Philosophy

Dr. A. Edward Siecienski (PhD Fordham University), Clement and Helen Pappas Endowed Professor of Byzantine Civilization and Religion

About The Friends of Hellenic Studies

The Friends of Hellenic Studies (FHS) is a community organization established by the late Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos and members of the community to promote and strengthen the Stockton Hellenic Studies program. The Friends of Hellenic Studies organization raises money for student scholarships for activities related to Hellenic Studies at Stockton University and for study abroad travel to Greece and Cyprus. Working closely with the Stockton University Foundation to advance its fundraising goals, the Friends of Hellenic Studies organization hosts many cultural and social events as well.

In addition to providing for student scholarships, the Friends of Hellenic Studies were major donors to the Demetrios J. Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room in the Björk Library. Also, the Friends of Hellenic Studies organization publishes *The Hellenic Voice*, which features Hellenic Studies activities.

To become a member, please join the Friends of Hellenic Studies at any of their announced meetings, or email ichs@stockton.edu for more information.

Notes



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