

HELLENIC STUDIES 2024



OUR VISION AND PROGRAM

Founded by the late Professor Ted Kaltsounis in 1998 with support from the local Greek-American community, our program is an interdisciplinary program designed for students interested in acquiring a comprehensive view of Greece, from antiquity to the present, enabling students to study the Greek world in depth and from a variety of scholarly perspectives.

The Hellenic Studies program's special emphasis on modern and contemporary Greece is mirrored in its placement within the Center for Western European studies and the Jackson School. The program's mission to support and promote the study of modern and contemporary Greece is further reflected in the opportunities it presents students to study the Modern Greek language at all levels, and to gain first-hand experience of Greece by participating in the study abroad program it organizes annually. The program offers a Minor that forms an excellent and convenient complement to a European Studies Major or other majors with the Jackson School or in the humanities.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to UW Hellenic Studies! As program chair my mission is to make sure that UW will always be a place where students, both those of Greek heritage and those with no previous experience of or connection with Greece, can gain a deeper knowledge of Greece and all aspects of its rich and ancient culture and its language in all periods, from ancient to modern. I want to continue to improve and expand our program to meet this mission. I want to make sure that students know about our classes and the financial support that we can offer thanks to generous benefactors from the community.

OUR FACULTY

- > Prof. Alexander Hollmann, Chair and Vidalakis Professor of Culture, Excellence, and Spirituality in Hellenic Studies
- > Dr. Nektaria Klapaki, Modern Greek Studies, Study Abroad Program
- > Dr. Heracles Panagiotides, Modern Greek Language
- > Dr. Taso Lagos, Study Abroad Program

LONG TERM GOALS

Since the founding of the program it has been our goal to create a named and endowed chair in Hellenic Studies. We have gotten a good start on this and created an endowment of \$1.8 million with generous contributions from the community. We seek to make this a reality through community contribution, cultivation of benefactors, and applications for program support from national and international foundations.

To support the named professor of Hellenic Studies we also need to create two full-time lectureships, one in Modern Greek Studies, and the other in Modern Greek Language.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

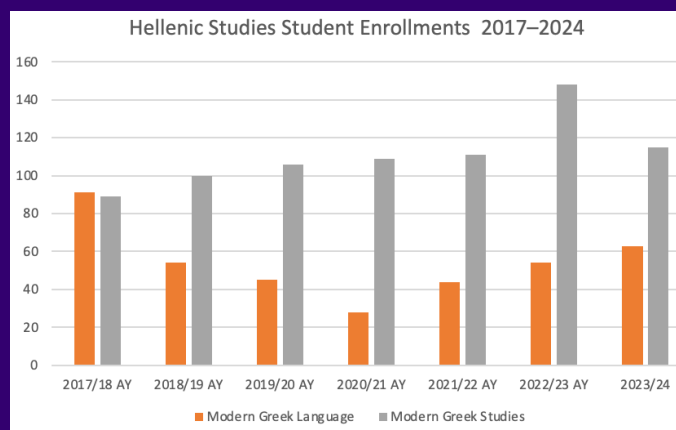
- > John T. John, President
- > Paul Plumis, Vice President
- > George Hatziantoniou, Vice President
- > Gus Kravas

OUR CLASSES

The Hellenic Studies program has four important components:

1. Courses on Modern Greece (history, culture, literature). These courses are taught by Dr. Klapaki and are offered through the Jackson School of International Studies. JSIS/CLAS 239 Greece: Ancient to Modern, examines the idea of the continuity of themes from Ancient to Modern Greece and is team-taught by Professor Hollmann and Dr. Klapaki.
2. Courses on Ancient Greece (literature, mythology, history, culture, art, archaeology). These courses are taught by faculty of the Department of Classics, including Prof. Hollmann.
3. Courses in the Greek language (Ancient and Modern). Courses in Ancient Greek are offered from beginning level through upper level, and are taught by faculty of the Department of Classics, including Prof. Hollmann. Courses in Modern Greek are offered from beginning level through advanced. Beginning and intermediate Modern Greek courses are taught online, using a platform developed by Dr. Panagiotides.
4. The Study Abroad program is currently run by Dr. Klapaki and has both a shorter program (spring break) and a longer program (summer). Participants spend time in Athens at the American College of Greece (Deree), as well as at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Nafplio, with side trips to sites in the Peloponnese.

SOME ENROLLMENT FIGURES



PROGRAM NEWS

HELLENIC STUDIES MINORS

Our very first minor, **Kate Russell** (Psychology 2020) completed a Master's degree in Comparative and International Education at Oxford University.

Miranda Keene (Anthropology 2021), first recipient of the Kravas Scholarship and one of our first minors, went on to work as a Market Research Consultant for UW.

Sophia Assoumanaki (International Studies: Europe 2021), who went on to represent Greece in the Olympic rowing team, assisted our Study Abroad program in Athens in spring of 2022.

Sophia Moser (International Studies 2021, additional minors in Spanish and Portuguese) traveled to Brazil after winning a Fulbright Award.

Quinn Murray Wilson (Marine Biology) graduated in spring of 2021.

Erik Stone (International/Global Studies 2021), is now Arthur Zankel Urban Fellow in the M.A. program in History and Education at Columbia University.

Henry Vickers (Economics) graduated in 2022 while working as Student Ambassador Team Coordinator for the Alumni Association.

Blake Bernethy (Biology) graduated in 2023 after returning from our Study Abroad program. He is applying to graduate programs.

KRAVAS AND SOULANDROS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Kravas Scholarship was set up in honor of Irene Konstantopoulos Kravas (1908-2009), who was born in the village of Kastania and came to Washington State as a bride in her late teens. Though she spent most of her life in the *xenitia*, she always remembered a childhood filled with the love of family and their passion for their Hellenic heritage. The 2024 winner was Chloe Sygitowicz, who writes of her experience in Greece with the Summer Abroad program: "The scholarship I was awarded gave me the opportunity to visit many historically rich areas other than museums. My program took me to the Acropolis where I learned about the Parthenon and the temple of Athena. I was also able to

visit Olympia and tour the remains of the temples and buildings while the Pairs Olympics were going on, which was an amazing experience."

The Soulandros Scholarship, created in honor of Nicholas and Aggeliki Soulandros, is awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students who show an interest in Hellenic Studies, refugees in Greece with historically Greek backgrounds. The 2024 winner was Cassie Lee Smith.

KALTSOUNIS SCHOLARSHIP

Named after UW professor and founder of the UW Hellenic Studies program, Ted Kaltsounis, the Kaltsounis Scholarship is awarded to students for research and travel. The 2024 winner was Brianna Heather Robbins, who writes of her trip to Greece with the Hellenic Studies Study Abroad program: "I am a writer and filmmaker and traveling this summer has allowed me to grow creatively. This summer truly has been life-changing for me. I got to do so many things I had never done before. I flew internationally, explored ancient sites, ate stuffed grape leaves, watched a play in Greek, and made so many incredible friends."

ROUVELAS PRIZE

The Rouvelas Prize was created in honor of Eleftherios and Mary Rouvelas, enthusiastic supporters of *paideia*, and is given for an outstanding piece of student writing on a theme relating to Hellenic Studies. In 2024 the award went to Alexandra Ritsatos, a graduate student in the History Department. Her piece ("The Communist Party of Greece and Constructions of the Nation: Salonikan Jews in the Interwar Period, 1923-1936") was written under the supervision of Prof. Devin Naar, chair of the UW Sephardic Studies program and deals with the difficult and contested place Salonikan Jews (in particular those involved with the Communist Party) occupied in post-1912 Thessaloniki.

STUDY ABROAD

Hellenic Studies Summer Program, run by Dr. Nektaria Klapaki and Dr. Taso Lagos, continues to be popular with UW students, with an enrollments of 25+. This past summer as usual students split their time between Athens (staying at Deree College) and Nafplio (using facilities of Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies), with some road trips to Delphi and Olympia.

EVENTS

UW Hellenic Studies is delighted to be part of the West Coast consortium of Hellenic Studies programs. Gefyra, a pilot program, launched by the SFU and UCLA programs in Hellenic Studies with assistance from the Niarchos Foundation, brings scholars, artists, and performers from Greece to Vancouver and Los Angeles, who can then be invited to our program. Our most recent visitor was Dr. Michalis Sotiropoulos, 1821 Fellow in Modern Greek Studies at the British School in Athens and winner of the 2024 Edmund Keeley Book Prize. We look forward to the visit of Fulbright Scholar Maria Papavasiliopoulou, PhD candidate in Ethnomusicology at the University of Athens, from October to February and that of Dr. Leon Saltiel in February.

PLEASE SUPPORT HELLENIC STUDIES!

We need your help to achieve our long term and short term goals and are grateful for all donations, great and small. If you can help us, please contact Damian Peterson in the UW Advancement Office (damianbp@uw.edu).