A Vigorous Interdisciplinary Academic Program

The program in Modern Greek Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was established in 2008 after a moving initiative of University students led by the Hellenic Student Association, who in a meeting they had with the then Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Linda Katehi, asked for the establishment of a program in Modern Greek Studies. The aim of the program would be to foster the study of the Greek language, Greek history and culture, and to explore past and current perspectives on Hellenism. In creating this new program, the University of Illinois joined a growing trend among leading institutions of higher education in North America, offering programs in Modern Greek Studies that are dedicated to the study of language, literature, culture, and history of Modern Greece. The program is also continuing an educational tradition started by the Greek-American community in Chicago, one of the largest in the United States and historically the first to take an active interest in Greek-speaking education, whose geographical proximity to our campus is an important asset in our efforts.

The program represents a collaborative achievement among several units across campus, which are supporting it with their knowledge and expertise: The School of Literatures Cultures and Linguistics (SLCL), where the program is housed, the Department of Linguistics, the Department of Classics, the Department of History, the Department of Political Sciences, the Department of Music, the School of Architecture, the College of Education, the European Union Centre (EUC), the Russian East European and Eurasian Centre (REEEC), the Centre for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES), the Program in Comparative and World Literature, the Program in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education, the Centre for Translation Studies, Dalkey Archive Press and the University Library are among the units supporting the program with academic input, resources, and expertise.

For more information visit: moderngreek.illinois.edu
Dear Friends of Modern Greek Studies,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our wonderful students and all those who helped make AY 2012-13 a successful year for the Modern Greek Studies Program. We are particularly grateful to our donors and all units and individuals across campus, and beyond, with whom we had the pleasure to collaborate during the last academic year. We have achieved so much. We hope that this collaboration will continue and grow stronger in future.

For me the past academic year was an adjustment period: it was my first working year in the United States and, in many respects, a different country, working environment and educational system to the ones I used to. My adjustment and job were made much easier by the warmth, support and friendship of all the faculty, members of the program’s advisory board and the community.

As you will see in the following pages of this very first annual newsletter, last year our program achieved great things. I would like especially to highlight a few below:

• the establishment of Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly annual lectures, due to a generous endowment from the assets of late Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly, a clinical psychologist and Associate Professor of Health and Sciences who began his career at the University of Illinois in 1959.

• the successful organization of the first Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly annual lecture on April 8, 2013 with Professor Thomas W. Gallant, Nicholas Family Endowed Chair in Modern Greek History and Archaeology at the University of California in San Diego. He gave a lecture entitled “Writing Greek History in the 21st Century,” which was attended by more than a hundred people;

• the program won a $10,000 grant from the Public Engagement Office for the organization of the 2nd Annual Greek Film Festival in Champaign;

• The successful organization of the 2nd Annual Greek Film Festival in the Art Theatre in downtown Champaign on March 9-10, 2013. Approximately 400 people attended the two-day event;

• The program won a CAS/MillerComm grant to invite Professor Kevin Featherstone, Eleftherios Venizelos Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies and Professor of European Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) for a MillerComm lecture in our campus in November 2013, another public lecture in Chicago, as well as events in Urbana-Champaign and Chicago on the current economic crisis in Greece and the Eurozone;

• Our program co-sponsored the 3rd annual Midwest Greek Linguistics workshop hosted in our campus on May 18, 2013 and organized by Dr. Marina Terkourafi, Department of Linguistics and former Director of the program of Modern Greek Studies

We also proposed new courses for the further development of the program of Modern Greek Studies. These include a General Education interdisciplinary undergraduate course on Religion, Peace and Conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean; the completion of the program’s language component by proposing two language courses at the Advanced level; and a study abroad course on Cyprus has been accepted and began being offered during the Fall 2013 semester. At the same time, foundations were set and discussions are in progress for proposing a Minor in Modern Greek Studies.

You’ll be able to find more details on all these in the following pages, thank you for your time and support and please stay tuned for more good news in the future.

With warm regards,

Dr. Stephanos Katsikas
Director of Modern Greek Studies
Events

In AY 2012-13 a number of public lectures were held on campus. These lectures, most of which were organized and/or co-sponsored and/or promoted by Modern Greek Studies Program, covered topics relating to Modern Hellenism.

NOVEMBER 29, 2012

Walter Kaegi, Professor of History and voting member of the Oriental Institute at the Department of History at the University of Chicago, spoke on Arnold J. Toynbee’s neglected coverage and understanding of Byzantine history in his most important work, his twelve-volume study of History, which he published with Oxford University Press from 1934 to 1961.

DECEMBER 4, 2012

Stefanos Katsikas, Director of Modern Greek Studies at Illinois gave a Brownbag lecture for the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) entitled: “Islam and the Sharia Law in the Making of Modern Greece (1832-1923)” in which he analyzed how Greece became obliged to incorporate aspects of the Islamic Sharia law in the country’s legal system in order to achieve fair treatment for its Muslim populations and the way in which this incorporation influenced relations between the country’s Muslims with the state and other ethnic and religious groups.

DECEMBER 11, 2012

The program, in collaboration with the Hellenic Student Association (HSA) and the Hellenic American Student Organization (HASO), organized a “Greek Food Sale” at the Illini Union southwest entrance (main quad). Greek cuisine delicacies were sold to students, faculty, staff and community members to wish good luck with the final exams and happy Christmas holidays. The event was co-sponsored by the Grecian Delight Foods in Chicago.

FEBRUARY 4, 2012

Stefanos Katsikas gave a public lecture as part of the annual lecture series organized by the European Union Center. His lecture explored whether Greece’s opening to the Soviet Block was part of a conscious diplomatic strategy by which the colonels’ regime in the country aimed to achieve better diplomatic gains for Greece or due to other reasons.

FEBRUARY 15, 2013

Our program had the great honor to host the Consul General of Greece at Chicago, Ioanna Efthymiadou, who was invited by the European Union Center to participate in an afternoon roundtable discussion with other members of Chicago consular corps, as part of the 12th annual European Union Day. After the event Ms. Ioanna Efthymiadou met with members of the Modern Greek Studies Program team and students.

FEBRUARY 25, 2013

Steven Bowman, Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati, gave a public lecture in which he analyzed the way in which the Greek War of Independence in the 1820s led ethnic Jews living in the Balkans to turn to the “Book of Yosippon” for inspiration and how the “Book” influenced the development of Zionism and stimulated the Jewish response to the Nazi onslaught that led to the Holocaust and in the wake of the war the reestablishment of the State of Israel. This lecture can be watched at: moderngreek.illinois.edu/events/publiclectures/.

continued on page 4
Miriam Cooke, Braxton Craven Professor of Arab Cultures at Duke University, and Director of the Duke University Middle East Studies Center, delivered a lecture which explored the transcultural networks of exchanges, borrowings and appropriations that have long linked the Mediterranean’s diverse communities, cultures, and histories. The event was co-sponsored by Modern Greek Studies. For more information visit: euc.illinois.edu/resources/webcasts/index.html.

APRIL 2, 2013

The program had the pleasure to host Greek-American novelist, Natalie Bakopoulos, University of Michigan, who publicly read parts of her recently published novel “The Green Shore” and discussed her book with the audience.

APRIL 8, 2013

Thomas Gallant of the University of California, San Diego, delivered the inaugural Nikelly Lecture in Modern Greek Studies. Gallant, Nicholas Family Endowed Chair in Modern Greek History, gave a talk entitled “Writing Greek History in the 21st Century.” This new annual lecture is established in honor of the memory of the late Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly, a clinical psychologist and associate professor of health sciences who began his career at the University of Illinois in 1959.

Nikelly’s life was a testimony to the importance of human rights, social justice, freedom of expression, and educational achievement, according to Stefanos Katsikas, historian of Modern Greece and southeastern Europe and Director of the University of Illinois Modern Greek Studies Program. During his lifetime, his work and philanthropy furthered these values not only at the University of Illinois and in the communities of Urbana-Champaign and Chicago, but also at the village of Vrisa—the birthplace of his parents, George J. and Mary G. (Koletti) Nikelly, on the Greek island of Lesvos. For more on this lecture visit: moderngreek.illinois.edu/events/arthur/.

APRIL 10, 2013

Vassilis Monastiriotis, senior lecturer at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), gave a lecture which discussed how the dilemmas and half-debates that have emerged in the context of the recent institutional, political and economic crisis in the Eurozone, in both Europe and Greece, led to a misinformed framing of the debate concerning Greece’s exit from the crisis.

MAY 18, 2013

The program co-sponsored the 3rd annual Midwest Greek Linguistics Workshop on May 18, 2013 in the Lucy Ellis Lounge at the Foreign Language Building. The workshop was organized by Marina Terkourafi, Department of Linguistics professor and former Director of the Modern Greek Studies Program, with the participation of world distinguished Greek linguists Jason Merchant (University of Chicago), Brian Joseph (Ohio State University), as well as junior scholars of Greek Linguistics—Natalia Pavlou (University of Chicago) and Nikos Vergis (University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign). For more details on this workshop visit: faculty.las.illinois.edu/mt217/Midwest_Greek_Linguistics_3.html.
The Modern Greek Studies Program does not restrict its activities to campus, but aims to provide services to the wider society and to populations who do not have access to the services on our campus. During the last academic year the following outreach activities were organized by the program:

**OCTOBER 10, 2012**

Stefanos Katsikas was interviewed in the older Greek newspaper in Chicago, *The Greek Star*. Associate Editor, Maria Karamitsos, wrote about Katsikas’ educational background, his decision to join Modern Greek Studies at Illinois and his plans for the program. To read the interview visit: thegreekstar.com/index.php/community/item/734-qa-with-dr-stefanos-katsikas.

**OCTOBER 18, 2012**

Stephanos Katsikas took part on the radio program “Focus” on the WILL/Illinois Public Media Program with H.E. João Vale de Almeida, the European Union Ambassador to the United States, and John McCormick, Professor of European Union Politics, Indiana University, to discuss the recent decision by the Nobel Committee to award the European Union the Nobel Peace Prize.

**NOVEMBER 18, 2012**

Our program assisted the Macedonian Society of Greater Chicago with the organization of a symposium for the centenary anniversary of the end of Ottoman rule in Thessalonike and its annexation to the Greek state (informally in October 1912, formally in May 1913 with the end of the First Balkan War). The symposium took place on November 18, 2012 in the Duke Reality Auditorium of the “Riverway East” building in Rosemont. The event was sponsored by Ted and Erika Spyropoulos Foundation in Chicago. Stephanos Katsikas, director of Modern Greek Studies, gave a presentation at the symposium entitled: “Thessalonike: The Imperial City at the Age of Modernity.”

**SPRING 2013**

In the spring semester 2013 an eight-week course was offered in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI: olli.illinois.edu/). The course was entitled: “Constructing Greek Identity (-ies): Greeks and the Others from Antiquity to the Modern Times” which explored how Greek ethnic groups in Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean have defined themselves in terms of origin, how they have been viewed by non-Greeks and how these perceptions influenced relations between ethnic and non-ethnic Greeks from antiquity to the present. Instructors of this course included Dr. Angeliki Tzanetou (Classics), Dr. Maria Todorova (History), Dr. Marina Terkourafi (Linguistics), Mr. Nikos Vergis (Linguistics) and Dr. Stephanos Katsikas.

**MARCH 9-10, 2013**

The 2nd Annual Greek Film Festival in Champaign took place on March 9-10 at the Art Theater in downtown Champaign. This event built on the successes of the first such festival held in March, 2012. Both festivals have attracted wide support across the campus, the wider community in Champaign, and the Greek community of Illinois and Midwest. The fest included contemporary, juried-selected films (feature-length, documentaries, shorts, and student films) from Hellenic filmmakers worldwide. The two-day event showcased screenings of 12 films, which were selected by a committee appointed by the Modern Greek Studies Program. The films were initially screened at the 2nd Annual Film Festival in Chicago, October 4-8. Sponsors included the Office of Public Engagement; the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; the European Union Center; the Department of Linguistics; the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Pepsi Cola CU Bottling Co.; the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center; Merry Ann’s Diner; Exile on Main Street; the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies; Friends: OCE-ATLAS Digital Media; the Hellenic Student Association; and the Hellenic American Student Organization. For more information: moderngreek.illinois.edu/events/filmfestival2/.

**APRIL 15, 2013**

Stephanos Katsikas gave an invited lecture at the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The lecture analyzed the reasons leading to the establishment of a “Muslim” political party in Bulgaria during the post-Cold War period and the extent to which this development has contributed to a real improvement of Muslims’ life in Bulgaria.

For more information on Modern Greek Studies outreach visit: moderngreek.illinois.edu/events/outreach/
Extracurricular Activities

In order to improve command of Modern Greek language and culture among students, to create a community spirit, and to foster close interaction between students and the local Greek community, the program organized the following extracurricular activities:

ONGOING CONVERSATION TABLE IN MODERN GREEK

Every second Thursday, 4-5 p.m., students are invited to practice conversational Modern Greek with native speakers and students of the past and get fluency in informal meetings over a cup of tea or coffee at the Espresso Royale coffee shop on Goodwin Street, in Urbana, IL.

MOVIE EVENING

In collaboration with the Department of Linguistics and its Less Commonly Taught Language Scheme (LCTL) two movie evenings in the Fall semester and one in the Spring semester were organized each semester in which Greek movies with English subtitles were shown. The movies which were shown were: 1) A Touch of Spice (October 3, 2012); 2) EL Greco (December 5, 2012); 3) Peppermint (February 27, 2013).

Student Achievements and Awards

- **Michelle Asbill** and **Hephestion Bolaris** both won a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship by the European Union Center (EUC) in our campus. **Michelle Asbill** won the FLAS to study Intermediate Modern Greek I and II and **Hephestion Bolaris** won the FLAS to study Advanced Modern Greek I and II. FLAS fellowships support graduate and undergraduate study in modern foreign languages in combination with area studies, international studies, or international or area aspects of professional studies.

- **Emily Kolyvas** and **Elizabeth Vlahos** won the first and second prize respectively of last year’s Houston and Papadimitriou Greek Cultural Awards. The Houston-Papadimitriou Greek Cultural Awards were established in 2009 and are awarded to undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Illinois who have demonstrated interest in and who take elective courses to learning about Modern Greek culture, language and history.

For more information on awards visit: moderngreek.illinois.edu/awards/+

Grants

The following grants were won by the program during the last academic year:

- $4,000 research grant from the European Union Center to develop a General Education undergraduate course entitled: “Religion, Peace and Conflict: Greece, the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, 18th–21st centuries.”

- $1,500 Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC) grant from the EUC for the development of a one-credit enhancement course in Modern Greek.

- $10,000 grant from the Public Engagement Office for organizing the Second Annual Film Festival in Spring 2013.

- $2,500 from the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) for the development of a Study Abroad Course to Cyprus entitled “Conflict and Post-Conflict Resolution in Modern Cyprus: Life and Culture Divided by Wall.”

- $3,200 CAS/MillerComm to pay for expenses related to Prof. Kevin Featherstone’s upcoming MillerComm lecture in November 2014.

- $1,000 gift from the Hellenic Scholarship Foundation in Chicago for the future organization on conference/seminar/workshop in Religion, Peace and Conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Co-Sponsors

The program would wish to thank the following academic units for co-sponsoring various events. Last year Modern Greek Studies secured $9,135 in co-sponsorships:

- European Union Center (EUC)
- Russian East European and Eurasian Center (REEEC)
- Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES)
- College of Education
- School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics (SLCL)
- Department of Linguistics
- Department of History
- Department of Political Science
- Program in Medieval Studies
- Program of Jewish Studies
- Center for Advanced Studies
- Cline Center for Democracy
- Center for Global Studies
- Department of French
- Department of Germanic Studies
- Department of Economics
- Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER)
- Department of Comparative and World Literature
- Department of English
- Regional Economics Applications Laboratory
- Pepsi Cola CU Bottling Co. (family owned business and operated since 1953)
- Merry Ann’s Dinner, Inc.
- Exile on Main

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Welcome New Members

During the last year the program welcomed:

- Dr. Maria Todorova, Gutgsell Professor of History and Russian East, European and Eurasian Studies, Department of History;
- Professor Keith Hitchins, Professor of History and Russian East, European and Eurasian Studies, Department of History; and
- Professor Donna Buchannan, Professor of Music and Russian East, European and Eurasian Studies, Department of Music.

The program’s advisory board welcomed the following new members:

- Dr. Harry Triandis, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, Faculty of Psychology;
- Dr. Douglas Kibbee, Emeritus Professor of French, Department of French;
- Dr. William Cope, Department of Education, Policy Organization and Leadership, College of Education;
- Ms. Claire Skaperdas, member of the Spurlock Museum, Champaign;
- Mr. Anthony Pomonis, owner of the C-U Merry-Anns Dinner, Inc.; and
- Mr. Miltiades Bolaris, member of the Macedonian Society in Chicago.

Associate Faculty and Advisory Board Member Highlights

- **Professor Kathryn Anthony** (ACSA Distinguished Professor, Design, School of Architecture)
  - Professor Anthony’s color photo, *A Cooperation*, was taken on Greek-Turkish ceasefire line in Nicosia, Cyprus. She received first prize at the 2013 European Union Center Photo Contest. The photo was exhibited at the 12th annual European Union Day. For more info please visit: euc.illinois.edu/photocontest/2013.html.
  - Her color photographs *Skyros Panorama 1 towards the Castro, Skyros Panorama 2 from the Castro, Athens Panorama, and Akrata Boats* exhibited at:
    - “A Greek Journey in the Windy City” Crystal Gardens, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois, April 7, 2013 (part of the Neighborhoods of the World series, Sundays February 17-April 7, 2013);
    - Office of the Greek Consul General in Chicago, Ms. Ioanna Efthymiadou, Greek Consulate General, 650 North St. Clair Street, Chicago, Illinois, February 18- to the present; and

- **Dr. Antony Augustakis** (Department of Classics) was named College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Centennial Scholar for three years.

- **Dean Kalantzis** (College of Education) and **Dr. William Cope** (College of Education) organized a very successful luncheon in their house on May 5, 2013, on the occasion of the Christian Orthodox Easter with the participation of more than 200 invited guests, including Phyllis Wise, Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

- **Dean Kalantzis** (College of Education) and **Professor William Cope** (College of Education) organized a very successful Learning Conference in the island of Rhodes (Greece) with the participation of 500 attendants. For more information visit: thelearner.com.

- **Dr. Marina Terkourafi** (Department of Linguistics) was appointed a Center of Advanced Study Associate for AY 2013-14.

- **Dr. Marina Terkourafi** (Department of Linguistics) was invited to join the editorial board of *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* (muse.jhu.edu/journals/mgs/) as from January 2014. This journal is published by the Modern Greek Studies Association through The John Hopkins University Press.
Book Co-Edited by Dr. Stefanos Katsikas Sells Out, Publisher Announces Paperback Edition

*State-Nationalisms in the Ottoman Empire, Greece and Turkey: Orthodox and Muslims, 1830s-1945*, co-edited by Dr. Stefanos Katsikas, Director of the Program of Modern Greek Studies, reached the book market in December 2012 and has already sold out in hardback. The title will be published in a paperback edition in 2014. Tracing the emergence of minorities and their institutions from the late 19th century to the eve of World War II, this book provides a comparative study of government policies and ideologies of two states towards minority populations living within their borders. Making extensive use of archival material, this volume transcends the tendency to compare the Greek-Orthodox in Turkey and the Muslims in Greece separately.

The book is a collaboration between Greek and Turkish scholars with broad ranging research interests and the outcome of a two year collective research project (2008-2010) conducted by Dr. Paraskevas Konortas, Dr. Stefanos Katsikas and Dr. Dimitris Kamouzis through the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Athens and funded with a 80,000 Euros ($100,000) by John S. Latsis Foundation, Athens, Greece. The book was presented at three successful book launches: a) University of Athens (March, 22 2013); b) University of Oxford (May 19, 2013) and c) SOAS/University of London (May, 21 2013). By May 2013 the first print of the book was sold out in the UK. For more details on the book visit: routledge.com/books/details/9780415690560/.