Welcome to our first bi-annual newsletter of “agora”. “Agora” is a public space. It is the place where citizens come together, where ideas and goods are exchanged, where politics are created. Agora is our newsletter that informs students, faculty and the community at large who share our interest in Hellenism. We highlight those individuals and groups that have joined us on our journey and have impacted our program. Their contribution and enthusiasm have made the journey worthwhile.

This first edition of “agora” covers the period of January - July 2011 and is dedicated to the memory of Emily McWhinney (page 11).

$7,000,000 Dollar Donation Establishes The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University

The following release was written in collaboration with SFU’s Public Affairs and Media Relations, The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU and The Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Simon Fraser University announces the establishment of The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies, created through a significant multi-million dollar grant by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The new Centre will establish Simon Fraser University as one of the premier locations for the study of Greek history, culture, and language outside of Greece.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies will greatly expand the University’s academic programs in Hellenic studies. The Foundation’s grant allows the new Centre to offer an undergraduate program for Greek, Balkan, and Middle East Studies, undergraduate and graduate majors in Greek History (ancient, byzantine and modern) as well as, programs in Greek language, literature and culture. An important element of the new Centre’s support of Modern Greek language will be the training of Modern Greek language instructors for primary and secondary schools in North America. (continued on page 2)
The Centre will also expand significantly SFU’s current Greek language instruction programs for Chinese-speaking students which were established through another significant gift from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The heart of these programs currently is the highly successful Odysseas Online Language Tutor program, which is already used at 15 Chinese universities. The program has been recognized as a pioneer of online Greek language instruction. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Media Lab will build on this platform by developing advanced technology for e-learning and online language tutoring.

The new Centre will also focus on expanding links with Chinese academic institutions and encourage the development of Greek Studies in China. The Centre’s graduate program will train Chinese scholars in Greek history as well as, teachers to teach Greek language and other Greek-related courses in Chinese universities. Other activities planned, include the establishment of a Chinese Hellenic Studies Association and the creation of an online academic journal to publish the research work of Chinese scholars in Hellenic Studies as well as, to introduce the research work of Greek scholars in China.

“At SFU, we are committed to community engagement, and this generous contribution from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation will help us engage with a whole new global community,” says SFU President Andrew Petter. “The Stavros Niarchos Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU will build on our successful programs and truly connect education across continents.”

Dr. Andre Gerolymatos, Chair of Hellenic Studies at SFU, says, “This gift is the result of a long-term relationship with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The Foundation initially funded the development of our unique online language tutor program, and now we are excited that we will be able to expand our activities in China as well as in North America and Europe.”

(continued from page 1)
China, effectively, is the new frontier for Hellenic Studies and can dramatically extend the reach of Hellenism in Asia and the world.”

**Background**

Since its inception in 1996, Hellenic Studies at SFU has grown into a successful interdisciplinary program with a focus on history and language. Students have the opportunity to explore, research, and learn about archaeology, art and culture, politics, and history of both ancient and modern Greece. The program has consistently maintained high graduate and undergraduate enrollment levels.

SFU’s relationship with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation began in 2003, when the university received a series of generous grants that enabled SFU to create the Odysseas Online Language Tutor. The e-learning platform has since provided accessibility to Hellenic Studies for thousands of students worldwide, most notably in China.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is one of the world’s leading international philanthropic organizations, making grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and medicine, and social welfare. While prominent in its support of Greek-related initiatives, the Foundation’s activities are worldwide in scope. To date, the Foundation has provided total grant commitments of €915 million/US $1.3 billion through more than 2,000 grants to nonprofit organizations in 95 nations around the world. Having started its grant-making activities following Stavros Niarchos’ death in 1996, the Foundation adheres in its mission to his global legacy, Greek heritage, and interest in providing underserved populations with access to opportunity. With offices in New York City, Athens, and Monte Carlo, the Foundation funds institutions and projects that exhibit strong leadership and sound management and that have the potential to achieve a broad and lasting impact.

Among other projects, the Foundation has committed to building The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens, which will include new buildings for the National Library of Greece and the Greek National Opera, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Park—all designed by internationally renowned architect Renzo Piano.

**Public Lectures & Events**

*January 10: “A Heretical History of the Parthenon” Lecture Series.* Examined the fusion of pagan and Christian culture that took place in Byzantine Athens. With special guest Professor Anthony Kaldellis, organized in collaboration with the Onassis Foundation.


March 4: “Ships, Sailors, and the Surprising Story of Byzantium’s Dark-Age Urbanism”. Presented by Professor Dimitrios Krallis at “The Unexpected Mediterranean: An Interdisciplinary Workshop”.

March 17: “Antique and Medieval Perspectives on the Place of Islam in Greece and Europe”. Presented by Professor Dimitri Krallis at “Greece, the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean: An International Symposium”.


Poster for “The New Face of the Middle East” roundtable discussion. Designed by Costa Dedegikas.

Members of the community attending the “A World Without Islam” roundtable discussion with author Graham Fuller.
Community Outreach

- **February 6:** **Film screening of “Charlie Wilson’s War”**. Introduction by Professor Andre Gerolymatos, in collaboration with Vancity Theatre.

- **March 29:** **Film screening of “Act of Dishonour”**. Introduction by Director Nelofer Pazira, in collaboration with Vancity Theatre.

- **March 30:** **“Female Voices of Afghanistan”: A discussion with Nelofer Pazira**. Followed the screening of “Act of Dishonour”.

- **May 15:** **“The Battle of Crete” lecture by Professor Andre Gerolymatos**. Introduction by Mayor Gregor Robertson, celebrating Vancouver’s 125th anniversary and the kickoff of Greek Heritage Month. In collaboration with the Cretan Association of BC and the Hellenic Canadian Congress.

- **June 14:** **Film screening and roundtable discussion of “Cyprus Still Divided”**. Part of Greek Heritage Month, funded by the Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC.

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**CYPRUS STILL DIVIDED: A U.S. FOREIGN POLICY FAILURE**

**Poster for the “Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure” film screening. Designed by Costa Dedegikas.**

**Director Nelofer Pazira introducing her film “Act of Dishonour” at Vancity Theatre.**

**From left to right: Community leader Nick Panos, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and President of the Cretan Association Nick Pappoutsakis attending “The Battle of Crete” lecture.**
20 Students Selected to Participate in the ‘Dig Greece’ Semester Abroad Program This Fall

By Professor Geoffrey Schmalz, Program Director

Due to the increasing popularity of the ‘Dig Greece’ program, which is limited to twenty students each year, this year’s selection process was the most rigorous and challenging to date, and a significant number of very good applications had therefore to be turned down.

The selected group of twenty students represents a fairly diverse student body. Almost an equal number of students have been selected from the Faculty of Environment, which now hosts the Department of Archaeology, and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). The FASS students represent an array of majors, including English, Criminology, History, and Psychology. The International Studies program is represented by two excellent students. Two non-SFU students also made the selection: a History major from the University of Victoria and a photography student from Emily Carr, who will help with the archaeological dig’s photography.

Professor Andre Gerolymatos Participates in Stephen Harper’s Canadian Delegation to Greece

By Desiree Mamisao, Communications

On May 28 and 29, SFU Professor, chair of Hellenic Studies and International Security expert Andre Gerolymatos participated in Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s official Canadian delegation to Athens, Greece. The purpose of the trip was to discuss bilateral relations between Canada and Greece, as well determine possible solutions to Greece’s current economic difficulties.

“I am honoured to have been a part of these promising developments between Canada and Greece,” says Professor Gerolymatos. “It is good to witness our two countries establishing closer relations, as well as the promotion of mobility for our young people, as it offers young Canadians the opportunity to truly immerse themselves within Greek heritage and culture.”

Professor Gerolymatos and Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Athens, Greece.

Simon Fraser University students exploring a Venetian castle (18th c.) at Methoni in the Peloponnese.

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**Student News**

**June 2011 Graduates**

**MA in History:** Carina Nilsson and Alexander Olson (supervisor: Dimitrios Krallis). Congratulations to Alexander for receiving a fully funded PhD scholarship to the University of Wisconsin.

**Certificate in Hellenic Studies:** Breeze Donor, Nicole Frances, Shannon Higson, Rumdeep Mann and Cassandra Metcalfe

**Current Graduate Students**

**PhD in History:** Julian Brooks, Larissa Horne and Alexander Petrovich (supervisor: Andre Gerolymatos)

**MA in History:** Kristina Carroll, Maria Kalogeropoulou, Lucia Petersen and Dimitri Soudas (supervisor: Andre Gerolymatos)

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**Awards & Scholarships**

Congratulations to the scholars who received the following awards in 2010:

**Julian Brooks:** The Nick Kravariotis Memorial Graduate Scholarship

**Lucia Petersen:** The Charalambos (Harry) & Helene Katevatis Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies

**Andrew Taylor-Eddy:** The Ted and Emily McWhinney Scholarship in Hellenic Studies

**Carina Nilsson, Professor Dimitrios Krallis and Lucia Petersen at the “A World Without Islam” roundtable discussion.**

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*Carina Nilsson receiving her Masters in History at her June 2011 Convocation ceremony.*
My Meeting with Costa-Gavras
By Sarah Inglis, Undergraduate

I have been in the Hellenic Studies program for 1 ½ years, during which time I have come across the name Costa-Gavras a number of times. In the past term alone I have watched a few of his films for a course on the modern history of the Balkans and watched his reconstruction of the Parthenon for a lecture on Byzantium. So in April, when asked me if I would be interested in meeting Costa-Gavras on my trip to Europe, I thought it was a joke: why would someone like Costa-Gavras agree to meet a twenty-year-old undergrad from Surrey?

When I got to France in May, I phoned Costa-Gavras to arrange a meeting. The phone call lasted five minutes and it was an embarrassing fusion of Franglais. In the conversation he informed me that we would not be able to meet until the end of June, for he was working on his new film.

On June 24, I received an e-mail asking me to meet him at his house the next day. I arrived at his house on Rue Saint Jacques in Paris at noon. While Costa-Gavras has not lived in Greece for years, his house is certainly reminiscent of his native country: the house was a pale colour and there was a small naked tree in front. Nervously I walked up to the front door and rang the door bell.

I was quickly greeted with his friendly smile and a firm handshake. He invited me into “chez lui” and asked me to sit down. The conversation, like the phone call, was a fusion of two languages and the conversation varied from the filming of his new movie, to the infamous hockey riot in Vancouver, to recent events in Greece, to the reason why he moved to France, to “Andreas”. When it came to the end of our meeting I asked him if it would be possible for me to take a picture of him, mainly because my mom is a huge fan. He smiled and replied “of course.” He grabbed my camera and took a picture of the two of us.

I spent roughly forty minutes talking to the Academy Award winning director. Throughout my meeting with him, I was amazed by how down to earth he was and how easy it was to talk to him.

“Throughout my meeting with him, I was amazed by how down to earth he was and how easy it was to talk to him.”

Meeting Costa-Gavras was an amazing experience, and I am very thankful that I had the opportunity to meet him.
On June 1, I took the EuroStar from Lille to London. The next day I woke up early to go to the National Archives, located just outside of London. The building was amazing; it was a beautiful piece of architecture located right on the Temps.

I walked into the building, equipped with my “documents to read list” and a notebook in order to research the second-half of the Greek Civil War. I walked up to the second floor to get my Archive Reading Card and take a mandatory lesson on how to handle documents. After passing the test and receiving my reading card, I made it to the document ordering room where I was informed that it took forty-five minutes to process document orders, I could only order three files at a time, and I could only order a maximum of twenty-one files per a day.

I looked at my “documents to read list” and quickly realized that I would not be able to look at the vast majority of the documents that I was interested in. I ordered the first three documents, waited for them to be processed over a cup of coffee, and then I ordered three more so when I was done with those three documents I would not have to wait forty-five more minutes for three more documents.

I got to the reading room with my three files on the murder of George Polk, propaganda by EAM/ELAS/KKE, and British analysis of Greece in 1946. I was amazed by how small the reading room was: this huge building filled with documents spanning a thousand years of history only had room for seventy readers. I guess it was a good thing I got there early, because by mid-afternoon there were no seats left. I took a seat and cracked open the file on EAM/ELAS/KKE, and I immediately realized that I chose the right major at SFU. I was so happy looking through these documents and knowing that only a handful of people in the world would have seen the same documents.

Sarah Inglis is a fourth year undergraduate. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a proficiency certificate in Spanish and a certificate in Hellenic Studies.
My fascination with Greece and Greek civilization began in grade school. I wondered how this small country could have such a profound and influential heritage that students in Western Canada still studied its mythological heroes and great philosophers. My interest deepened in my years of undergraduate study. Modern European and Middle Eastern History courses tended to ignore Greece and the “Near East”, leaving me with plenty of questions. Travel to Greece provided me with some answers, but visits to places like Athens, Olympia, Sparta, and especially Thessaloniki also heightened my appreciation of the depth and complexity of Greek history, and left me with more questions.

Since arriving at SFU Hellenic Studies and the Department of History for graduate studies, many of my questions have been answered. Under the supervision of Professor Gerolymatos, I have completed a master’s thesis on the Macedonian Question of the nineteenth century and I am nearing completion of my doctoral dissertation on the Mürzsteg Reform Program, an early twentieth century international intervention by the Great Powers in what is now northern Greece. I consider this intervention to be one of the first prototypical peacekeeping operations.

Hellenic Studies has provided me with a supportive and stimulating scholarly environment during my studies. Professor Gerolymatos, Professor Krallis and their colleagues in the Department of History have afforded me sound direction and helpful advice as I have progressed through the graduate program. Thanks to scholarships awarded through Hellenic Studies, I have received additional instruction in International History at Aristotle University and Greek language training at the Balkan Institute in Thessaloniki. With the patience and generosity of the Greek teachers here at SFU, I have continued to work on my Greek. After I complete my doctorate, I hope to return to Greece for extended emersion in Greek language and history.

By Julian Brooks, PhD Candidate

My experience with the Hellenic Studies deepened my understanding of the Greek culture and history alike. Having an opportunity to teach courses in Greek history as a sessional instructor for the Hellenic Studies made me realize what aspects of Greek historical experience Canadian students find most interesting. Also, the opportunity to write online courses for Hellenic Studies deepened my own understanding of Greek history through research.

Hellenic Studies is an important platform for raising awareness of Greek and wizzder Balkan issues; it provides a unique opportunity for university students to think about the region and its problems, and provides an excellent platform for discussion. Beyond the realm of historical, political and economic, Hellenic Studies gives SFU students a chance to immerse themselves in the Greek culture and language.

Hellenic Studies is a fun and vibrant working environment, and over the years it forged a number of lasting friendships. Hellenic Studies widened my historical, cultural and even technological horizons, showed me what is possible in course development and proved to be great academic experience.

By Aleksandar Petrovic, PhD Candidate
This edition of “exi minas” is dedicated to the memory of Emily McWhinney, April 24, 1925 - June 12, 2011

Emily and Edward McWhinney have been staunch supporters from the very beginning of Hellenic Studies at SFU (1996). Through their generous contributions, we have been able to organize a series of conferences and offer the The Ted and Emily McWhinney Scholarship in Hellenic Studies.

The following obituary appeared in the Globe and Mail and Vancouver Sun, June 18th 2011.

McWHINNEY, Emily (Amelie Ingelore) Born April 24, 1925, to Hugo Sabatzky and Else Manassa of Berlin; died in Vancouver, June 12, 2011. Her family, having been compelled urgently, in October, 1938, to abandon their home and possessions, were granted admission to the then British Commonwealth, arriving in Quebec City in transit at the end of the same month. Canada would eventually become their new home. Emily opted for a career in Economics and Commerce, obtaining her undergraduate degree in Economics and proceeding on to graduate studies, in London and in New Haven, Conn., in the same field. She added to this, professional qualifications to practice before the Montreal, Toronto and New York Stock Exchanges, and became one of the first women to be accepted for appointment in this capacity in Canada, joining Nesbitt Thomson of Montreal (now BMO Nesbitt Burns) and serving also in their Toronto and Vancouver branches.

On June 27, 1951, Emily was married in London to Ted (Edward), whose professional fields included serving as consultant to the UN Secretary-General in New York and to parallel European organisations, and also lecturing to US, Continental European, and Asian academies, and advising Canadian Federal and Provincial governments and a number of governments outside Canada. Emily took part in much of this work and the books resulting from that. When Ted accepted invitation to become candidate for public office, Emily became herself actively involved in the organisation and direction of the successful campaigns for election and reelection to Ottawa. She published her own regular newsletter and occasional columns for clients and other readers, and found time to serve as elected President of the West End Community Association, and to act as an unpaid financial adviser to University Women’s Clubs and Professional Women's Associations here and abroad, as well as establishing the advanced research institute that also bears her name.
Meet The Team

Andre Gerolymatos
Chair, Professor

Maria Hamilton
Manager & Program Coordinator

Dimitrios Krallis
Associate Professor

Maria Kalogeropoulou
Adjunct Professor

Geoffrey Schmalz
Associate Professor

Costa Dedegikas
External Consultant, SNF New Media Lab

Sally Xiaoyun Huang
Researcher, SNF New Media Lab

Oree Gianacopoulos
Community Outreach

Desiree Mamisao
Media & Communications

Lucia Petersen
Research Assistant

Sessional Lecturers: Julian Brooks, Aleksandar Petrovic / Liaison with Chinese Academic Institutions: Brian Olsen

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