AGORA is the annual newsletter of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. Agora is the Greek word for public space. It is the place where citizens come together, where ideas and goods are exchanged and where politics are created. This newsletter informs students, staff, faculty, and the community at large who share our interest in Hellenism. We highlight those individuals and groups who have joined us on our Hellenic journey and have impacted our program. Their contribution and enthusiasm make our journey worthwhile.

Managing Editor: Beverley Gerolymatos
Associate Managing Editor: Christopher Dickert
Graphic Design: Yidi Hou

ISSN 1929-185X (Print)
ISSN 1929-1868 (Online)
The Hellenic community lost one of its champions this year with the passing of Theodore G. Spyropoulos, the prominent Greek-American businessman and philanthropist. On September 25, 2014, Ted – as his friends and thousands of others knew him – passed away in his home in Chicago.

Ted was born in Kalavryta, Greece and travelled to Sweden where he studied Political Science in Stockholm, and where he met the love of his life, Erika Knickman, who became his spouse, partner and friend. Erika and Ted became proud parents when their daughter, Mariyana, was born. After serving in the Hellenic Navy Ted immigrated to Chicago in 1964.

In America, Ted found success in business but never forgot his roots. He loved his country of origin and the ideals of Hellenism. He gave of himself and his wealth to his community and to Hellenic causes and institutions. Ted was a leader in the Greek-American community and the world and served in numerous volunteer posts such as the US Regional Coordinator of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad and the President of Plant your Roots in Greece, an organization dedicated to raising awareness of the environment and reforestation of Greece. As the first elected President of the Hellenic American National Council USA he advocated Hellenic issues in Washington, DC, and promoted Hellenic Paideia, a cause that was close to his heart.

As an enthusiast of Paideia, Ted supported numerous university programs, parochial and charter schools, scholarships for exchange programs, as well as the Greek-American Teacher’s Association. He also organized conventions in promoting Hellenic ideals and education regionally, nationally, and internationally. Ted gave generously to the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies to support the development of educational technologies and his enthusiasm and optimism was always a welcome sight during his visits. His contribution and generosity to the Hellenic community has been remarkable and his spirit of volunteerism mirrored his intense dedication to Hellenism.

Ted accomplished a great deal in his life, more than most people, but his greatest contribution was his humanity, his love of life and an innate ability to always embrace optimism. Ted is a Greek giant who leaves an indelible mark on the world.

Photo: Theodore G. Spyropoulos, courtesy of the Ted & Erika Spyropoulos Foundation
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2014 has been a year of challenges, not only for the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, but for the Hellenic community at large. The continuing fallout from the economic crisis and recent political developments in Greece have underscored the need for a forum on academic and cultural exchange, and informed debate on issues of concern to advocates of Hellenism.

In the tradition of the ancient agora – also the name of this publication – the Centre has aimed to provide such a forum, placing its academic and technical expertise to the use of the greater Hellenic community. In this spirit, the Centre has continued its advocacy and study of Hellenism throughout 2014.

The New Media Lab, as a leader in mobile e-learning technology, applied its expertise to a number of innovative projects this year, including an exciting app designed to accompany the “Greeks: From Agamemnon to Alexander the Great” exhibit of Greek artifacts now on display at a consortium of four major North American museums. A new teacher has joined the Greek Language Program team and this will help meet the growing demand from members of the Greek Diaspora interested in learning their heritage language, as well as students without any previous connection to Greece. We are also pleased to announce new partnerships with four additional universities in China, where the Centre continues to expand its offerings of online Greek language and culture courses throughout the Middle Kingdom. The Centre was also very active in the community this year, playing host to a number of important academic colloquia, symposia, and conferences – including the 40th annual Byzantine Studies Conference – as well as in the broader Hellenophile public, with a growing number of public lectures and cultural events.

These successes, however, have been tempered by the loss of Theodore G. Spyropoulos, a patron and leader in the Hellenic community of North America. Ted was a great friend to the Centre and his legacy of enthusiasm and support for Hellenic Paideia will not be forgotten. He will be sorely missed and this issue of Agora is dedicated to his memory.

Lastly, we cannot forget our students, who have joined with us in the study of Hellenism. They are the beating heart of our Hellenic program and Centre; we celebrate their successes and we wish them all the best in the year ahead.

—André Gerolymatos
In the Sea of Marmara lies the island of Halki, Heybeliada in Turkish, the second largest of the Princes’ Islands accessible from the Turkish capital via an hour-long ferry ride. Perched high upon the Hill of Hope and dominating the island is the Halki Seminary, the most important centre of learning in the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Sadly, it has remained closed for 43 years by the order of the Turkish authorities.

The Halki Seminary can trace its origins to the ninth century, when the island was home to three Byzantine monasteries. In fact, the current theological school is constructed on the site of the most famous of the three, the Hagia Triada or Holy Trinity. During the Byzantine millennium, in addition to its religious functions, the monastery served as a place of exile for St. Theodore the Studite and later the empress Theodosia. Hagia Triada was destroyed during the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453 and in subsequent years the monastery underwent several periods of renewal and decline before being badly damaged during the Greek War of Independence, when a mob set fire to the monastery.

The monastery’s modern history begins in 1844 when Patriarch Germanos IV re-founded it and established the Holy Theological School of Halki in a special ceremony. Unfortunately, in 1894 an earthquake struck the Turkish capital and the surrounding area, causing a small tsunami and killing nearly 1,300 people. All the buildings – save the seventeenth-century chapel of the Transfiguration – were destroyed and the monastery and theological school closed their doors once again. The monastery and school were rebuilt thanks to the philanthropist Pavlos Skylitsis Stephanovik, a prosperous member of the Greek Diaspora, who tasked the architect Pericles Photiades,
already famous for the Church of Saint Kyriaki Kontoskaliou and Zografheion Lyceum in Istanbul, with the design. The new building, laid out according to the Greek letter Π, is located on the Hill of Hope, dominating the island. The theological school was forced to close in 1971, following a ruling by the Constitutional Court of Turkey that demanded all private educational institutions be affiliated with state-run universities or shut their doors.

Despite repeated efforts by the Patriarch Bartholomew – a Halki Seminary alumnus – to reach a diplomatic solution, the Seminary remains closed. International pressure has also grown: both houses of the United States Congress passing resolutions calling for its reopening, while the European Union has raised the issue as part of EU ascension talks. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama have also taken up the cause. In a 1968 book, the famed English historian and Grand Orator of the Greek Church Steven Runciman called the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople the Great Church in Captivity. While his focus was limited to the Ottoman period, the sobriquet remains a valid one, as the Seminary remains captive to Turkish caprice fifteen years into the twenty-first century.

▲ Halki Seminary library

▲ Main entrance to the Halki Seminary featuring a blend of neo-classical and neo-byzantine elements

(Photos are provided courtesy of the Halki Theological School Graduates Association)
The SNF New Media Lab has since its inception operated at the leading edge of mobile technology. The key to this leadership has been a future-oriented, modular design approach that has allowed for the integration of emerging technologies. This modular approach has also allowed for the inclusion of learner profiles and data analytics in competency-based educational systems, an innovation that has created an environment of real-time positive feedback and reinforcement for students and instructors alike. A critical asset for the team has been its commitment to user engagement, which has created products that work for everyone that uses the technology. The SNF New Media Lab’s modular approach has been successfully applied to a variety of different design problems, including arts and culture, language learning and preservation, and tourism applications.

The SNF New Media Lab team was on hand in Thessaloniki, Greece for the official launch of the museum exhibition “The Greeks: From Agamemnon to Alexander the Great.” Over five hundred artifacts contributed by 21 major Greek museums and spanning nearly five thousand years of Greek history, will travel to Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History, the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, The Field Museum in Chicago, and The National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC.

The SNF New Media Lab, with the support of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science at SFU, is excited to have contributed its technological expertise to this historic event through the development of “The Greeks Mobile Application,” a free app for smartphones and tablets for use before, during, and after their tour of the exhibition. Currently available for iPhone and iPad, and soon for the Android operating system, the app gives visitors an enhanced experience of the exhibition through such features as an interactive map and timeline, an augmented reality feature, social media integration, a tourism tool, and exclusive video content developed by the National Geographic Society for the exhibition.
The SNF New Media Lab has also been working in collaboration with the SFU First Nations Language Centre on a multi-year, multi-million dollar Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to develop digital-media solutions to restore, revive, preserve, and teach First Nations languages of British Columbia. The lab has already begun testing pilot courses and apps based on the successful Greek Language online tutor platform, in Haida (Masset), Haida (Skidegate), Tahltan, Squamish and Sm’algyax languages. SNF New Media Lab Technology Manager Costa Dedegikas was also on hand in Prince Rupert with project lead Dr. Marianne Ignace and Sm’algyax language teachers to discuss dialogue and translations for the Sm’algyax language app.

Image Courtesy of Haida People (Old Massett Village Council)
The Greek Language Program continued to expand in 2014 as a growing number of students interested in learning Modern Greek enrolled to use the online Odysseas Greek Language Tutor, an innovative and interactive e-learning platform. The online delivery method has ensured that the program is accessible to members of the Greek Diaspora in Canada and the United States interested in learning their heritage language, but also to a growing number of students from around the world with no previous connection with the language. In order to meet this increase in demand, this year the Program welcomed a new language instructor and expert in computer assisted language learning, Dionysios Arkadianos, on secondment from the Ministry of Education in Greece.

Also in 2014, with the support of the Ministry of Education in Greece, Greek Language Program team members began the process of evaluating, renewing, and developing new content for all levels of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Modern Greek online course offerings. The current suite of courses is being brought in line with the Ελληνομάθεια exams, the international standard for Modern Greek language attainment.

The Greek Language Program is also collaborating with Simon Fraser University’s Faculty of Education, in cooperation with the Greek Ministry of Education, to offer the first online Graduate Certificate in Curriculum and Instruction for Teaching Modern Greek. This innovative, one-year program is delivered exclusively online and will provide teachers with a firm grounding in foundational principles and the latest pedagogical tools in order to design effective curricula and meet proposed educational outcomes. The Certificate is in the final stages of development and admission will open soon to current and future language teachers of Modern Greek from schools across Canada, the United States, China, and around the world.

While the online nature of their work has kept the team focused globally, the Greek Language Program was also out in the local community sharing their knowledge and passion for Greek language and letters. The Program co-ordinator, Dr. Eirini Kotsovili and Greek Language instructors visited the Hellenic Community Centre in Vancouver to deliver a public lecture on the life and work of Nikos Kazantzakis, and treat the audience to dramatic readings from his works (see page 20 for the full story). The Program looks forward to another productive year, bringing the Greek language alive for students online and in the local community.
Ms. Aikaterini Kalyva

Ms. Kalyva was born in Arta, Greece and studied Teaching and Learning Greek at the University of Athens. She has a background in Special Needs Education from the University of Patras. Ms. Kalyva obtained her MA in New Technology/Teaching and Learning at the University of Athens. Her research interest is in children with special needs, particularly autism.

Mr. Dionysios Arkadianos

The Greek Language Program’s newest edition was born in Athens, Greece. Mr. Arkadianos studied computational linguistics at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in the UK and obtained an MA from the University of Patras on the role of technology in teaching Greek as an additional language. He was recently accepted into a competitive PhD program in SFU’s Faculty of Education where he plans to apply advanced Natural Language Processing technology to the Odysseas Greek Language Tutor.

Ms. Vasiliki Mastori

Ms. Mastori was born in Athens, Greece. She studied Pedagogy, Ancient and Modern Greek Literature, obtaining her MA in Educational Evaluation, and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Athens. From 1996 to 2013, Ms. Mastori taught in primary schools in Athens. Her research interests are Greek Identity, Ancient Greek and Byzantine cookery and she is passionate about the Greek Language.

Dr. Eirini Kotsovili

Dr. Kotsovili studied history and Hispanic studies at McGill University and Literature/Modern Greek at the University of Oxford, St. Cross College/Somerville College, where she was also a Junior Dean. Her research interests revolve around the use of the auto/biographical element and fall under the thematic spheres of identity, politics, gender. She became a member of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies three years ago and has proudly served as coordinator of the Greek Language Program since 2012-2013.

Dr. Athanasios Bravos

Dr. Bravos was born and educated in Thessaloniki, Greece and obtained his PhD in Modern Greek and European History from Aristotle University. From 1989 to 2014 he worked in the public education system, and has been published in Greek and international history journals. Dr. Bravos’ research interests are focused on the interwar period, Modern Greek and Byzantine history, and he has always been passionate about the Greek language.
The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies had another exciting and productive year working with our Chinese partners. In May, the Centre welcomed a delegation from the Beijing Language and Culture University to celebrate eight years of fruitful collaboration offering online Greek language courses. Based on the success of the Modern Greek language credit courses, BLCU added two new courses to their 2014 fall semester: Greek Mythology and Ancient Greek language. Also on the agenda were plans to collaborate on the creation of a Centre of Hellenic Studies at BLCU. This new Centre will integrate research, teaching, and learning Greek language and history and will work to promote online courses to prospective students at universities across China.

Also in 2014, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies entered into new partnerships with four Chinese universities to begin offering Greek language courses online. The Centre is happy to welcome Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art, Central China Normal University, Nanjing University, and Hebei University to the family. Thousands of Chinese students now have the opportunity to enroll in online Greek language courses through an expanding list of local Chinese universities. Interest in the Greek language continues to grow in China, with a professor from Dalian University of Technology visiting the Centre to explore offering Greek language online courses at their university.

Exchanges between the Centre and partner institutions continued throughout 2014 as faculty and students from each side of the Pacific ocean explored new and innovative ways to engage in academic dialogue. Dr. Dimitris Krallis gave an online seminar on Byzantine history to graduate students at the invitation of a former Visiting Professor to the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, Professor Zheng Wei of Nankai University. As the bonds between SFU and China continue to deepen and grow, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies looks forward to future successful academic and cultural exchanges.
OUR CHINESE PARTNERS

Peking University
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North East Normal University
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Xi’an Foreign Language University
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Southeast China University
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Capital Normal University
Wuhan University
Yantai University

NEW PARTNERS:

Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art
Central China Normal University
Nanjing University
Hebei University

Embassy of China to The Hellenic Republic
Embassy of the Hellenic Republic to China
On March 12th and 13th, 2014, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies hosted two public talks by Dr. Foteini Spingou, a research fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Studies Research Centre in Washington DC.

In a talk titled, “Why write dedicatory epigrams on works of art in the twelfth century”, held at Simon Fraser’s Academic Quadrangle in the University’s main campus in Burnaby, Dr. Spingou discussed the relationship between poetry and the material arts as expressed in 12th century Byzantine epigrams. With her audience of students and interested laypersons she explored the value of the short poetic epigram for our understanding of 12th century perceptions of art and the Constantinopolitan art scene.

Dr. Spingou engaged the audience in questions about the relationship between art history, poetry, philology, and history as she traveled with them through the rich world of 12th century Byzantine society.

In her public talk titled, “Royal Weddings and Royal Babies in 12th century Constantinople” Dr. Spingou introduced her audience to 12th century Constantinople and the court of the Komnenoi emperors. She also explored the role of imperial weddings and the place of foreign brides in the Byzantine courtly, cultural, and diplomatic scene, exposing a world rich in texture, fully engaged in European affairs.

Margaret MacMillan at St. Anthony’s College Library, University of Oxford

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies together with the Churchill Society of British Columbia, sponsored a lecture by Professor Margaret MacMillan, renowned historian of the First World War, on the subject of her latest book, The War that Ended Peace: The Road to 1914.

Dr. MacMillan is the Warden of St. Antony’s College and a Professor of International History at the University of Oxford and a Professor of History at the University of Toronto. She has published widely on a number of topics, but is perhaps best known for her book on the Paris Peace Conference that ended the First World War, Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World, which in addition to being a New York Times best seller, won the Samuel Johnson Prize for non-fiction - the first woman to do so - and the Governor-General’s prize for non-fiction. She holds honorary degrees from a number of universities and in 2006 she was invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

The lecture was held in the elegant Members’ Lounge at the exclusive Vancouver Club. A capacity crowd was on hand, eager to hear the professor speak on the origins of the First World War, a tragic war that she argues was at once unnecessary and avoidable.
PUBLIC LECTURE
GENOCIDE OR MASSACRE:
THE POLITICS OF DEATH

May 31, 2014

SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Director André Gerolymatos presented a public lecture on the tragedy of the Greek expulsion from Asia Minor. The event was held at the Cultural Center of the Hellenic Community of Chicago and was sponsored by the Asia Minor and Pontios Hellenic Research Centre (AMPHRC) in collaboration with the Pontiac Greek Society of Chicago and the Hellenic Link-Midwest. In the audience were representatives of the Greek, Armenian and Assyrian communities as well as other dignitaries including Vice-Consul of the Greek Consulate General Ms. Irini Pantzapoulou.

Professor Gerolymatos began his lecture with a brief description and analysis of the Pontian Greeks, who from the first millennium BCE inhabited the southern shore of the Black Sea and contributed significantly to both the Hellenic and Byzantine civilizations that predated the rise of the Ottoman Empire.

Dr. Gerolymatos addressed the events of the early twentieth century beginning with the “Young Turk” revolution against the Ottoman State in 1908 before detailing the massacres and expulsions that followed the exile of the Greek populations from the coasts to the hinterlands. These events reached their climax with The Great Fire of Smyrna on September 13, 1922, that accompanied the Greek Military collapse in Asia Minor. Dr. Gerolymatos wrapped up the lecture by remarking that the greatest tragedy is that “We have failed to make it known.”

Following the lecture Mr. George Mavropoulos, Director of the AMPHRC expressed his gratitude to Ted Spyropoulos for his generous purchase of the Cultural Center, allowing for such events to take place.
SOPHOCLES N. AND LOUIZA ZOULLAS MEMORIAL HELLENIC LECTURE

July 19, 2014

Dr. André Gerolymatos, Director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies, presented a lecture on “The Role of Greece in WWII” at the prestigious biannual Sophocles N and Louiza Zoullas Memorial Hellenic Lecture. The event was held on July 19, 2014 at the Nicholas S. Zoullas Hellenic Center at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons in Long Island, New York.

Dr. Gerolymatos began his lecture by comparing the heroism of the Athenians during the Second Persian War to the struggles of Greece during the Second World War. Dr. Gerolymatos focused on the passion and determination of the Hellenes’ fight for freedom and how their sacrifices altered the course of the war. Greeks paid a heavy price for their resistance against the Axis, including mass starvation, thousands executed in reprisals and the complete destruction of Greece’s infrastructure. Dr. Gerolymatos explained the greatest tragedy is that the world does not know about Greece’s role.

Attendees of the event included prominent members of the Hellenic American community composed of businessmen, clergy, professionals, academics and dignitaries including Greece’s Ambassador to the United Nations, His Excellency Michel Spinellis. Following the lecture audience members had a chance to ask questions, while others shared their experience of the German occupation. The event’s sponsor Nicholas Zoullas recalled that his parents provided food and aid for many of their starving compatriots.

Father Karloutsos concluded the lecture and thanked the speaker, the sponsor and all the volunteers who contributed to making the event a success. In thanking Dr. Gerolymatos, Father Alexandros Karloutsos expressed his gratitude not only for Dr. Gerolymatos’ presentation, but also because it was one of the rare times that a professor of history noted the dramatic and remarkable role of the Greek Orthodox Church in the rescue of Greek Jews.

A autumn saw the return of the Director of the South East European Studies Centre at Oxford, Dr. Othon Anastasakis, for three days of public lectures and academic exchanges.

Dr. Anastasakis’ speaking engagements were sponsored by the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation (USA) University Speakers Program and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies in cooperation with the Departments of History and International Studies at SFU, as well as community partners the Hellenic Canadian Congress and the Hellenic Community of Vancouver.

Dr. Anastasakis explored the rise of right wing extremism in the wider European political community in a public lecture titled “Poisoning the Well: The Rise of the Far Right in Europe” on October 14th at SFU’s downtown Vancouver campus. October 15th saw Dr. Anastasakis deliver a colloquium to interested Hellenic Studies, History, and International Studies students at SFU’s main Burnaby campus titled “Democracy in the Balkans: Progress or Backsliding?” which examined political developments in post-communist South East Europe. A final public lecture was given October 16th at the Hellenic Community Centre of Vancouver on the social, political, and economic impacts of recent austerity fiscal policies in Greece called “Grecovery: A Fallacy or A Reality?”

All lectures were well received and brought a new understanding of Greece to a Canadian audience.
Sponsored by the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation (USA) University Speakers Program, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies presented a free screening of Vassilis Loules’ powerful, award-winning documentary film “Kisses to the Children.”

The film charts the lives of five Greek-Jewish children who were saved by Orthodox Christians during the German occupation of Greece. The documentary features the accounts of Rosina, Iossif, Eftychia, Shelly and Marios who reveal their experiences as children in hiding and the effects this had into their adulthood. The addition of rare archival material as well as amateur films by German soldiers and once-illegal footage shot by Greek patriots added to the historical picture of the Greek-Jewish community in the lead-up to the Second World War.

The Vancouver International Film Festival Vancity Theatre – which hosted the event – was filled to capacity by film buffs and members of both the Hellenic and Jewish communities, including the Consul General of Greece of Vancouver Mr. Ilias Kremmydas. The film was well received by the audience, many of whom were visibly moved by the touching story.

The director was on hand following the film and was available for questions.

Ultimately, the event was well received by the public and served to create bonds between Hellenic and Jewish communities through their shared history.

This summer, SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Director André Gerolymatos was invited to a private Symposium on the Future of Modern Greek Studies held at the Hellenic Observatory at the London School of Economics’ European Institute.

The Symposium was conceived as a unique opportunity for Chairs and Directors of Modern Greek Studies Programs to meet and discuss their programs and the academic field in general. The gathering was convened on a private basis in order to facilitate the free and open discussion of issues and create an atmosphere where delegates might learn from one another. A variety of disciplines were represented, including history, literature, and political science and representatives arrived from the US, UK, Canada, Austria, Portugal, and Australia.

Dr. Gerolymatos chaired a discussion on academic governance and accountability and promoted the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies as a successful model with expanding enrollment in a diverse range of Greek language and history courses, an innovative New Media Lab, and a dedicated and growing team of faculty and staff. Delegates discussed the various themes of Modern Greek Studies Programs and explored their evolution over the years. Issues of financial support were also raised, as was the role of public engagement and community outreach. Future opportunities for Modern Greek Studies Programs were also explored, as were the challenges and priorities facing the field.

Ultimately, the Symposium provided a useful forum for a diverse range of programs to come together and discuss issues of mutual concern.
The 40th Byzantine Studies Conference was held this year at SFU’s Segal Graduate School for Business in downtown Vancouver. Some one hundred and twenty scholars of Byzantium with expertise in literature, history, art history, and archaeology travelled to Vancouver from all around North America, Europe, and even Lebanon to participate in the annual conference of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America (BSANA).

The event was organized locally by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies, which also provided considerable financial and logistical support. A team headed by Dr. Dimitris Krallis that included program manager Maria Hamilton, and Centre staff Colleen Pescott, Christopher Dickert, and Yidi Hou managed all aspects of the event in coordination with the program committee appointed by the BSANA.

This year SFU provided a welcoming venue in the heart of Vancouver in which to celebrate 40 years of conference activity for the BSANA. The opening reception took place on Thursday November 6th at Founder’s Hall at the Segal Graduate School for Business where Dr. Krallis and SFU VP Academic Jon Driver welcomed the BSANA membership and conference participants.

On Friday, November 7th conference attendees were fortunate to have on hand two of the organizers from the very first Byzantine Studies Conference, held in
1975 at the Cleveland Museum of Art on a shoestring budget. Professors Alice-Mary Talbot and Walter Kaegi offered a brief moment of reflection on 40 years of conferences, collegiality, and scholarly debate.

The formal conference proceedings began in earnest with two concurrent sessions of three or four papers running at all times. Simon Fraser University scholar Dr. Evdoxios Doxiadis, and Dr. Krallis’ new PhD student, Aleksandar Jovanović were also in attendance and gave papers. Program alumnus Alexander Olson, now pursuing a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, also gave a paper. In the evening, papers and discussion came to an end as participants attended a reception sponsored by the International Centre for Medieval Art. After the reception conference participants attended the Keynote address by professor John F. Haldon of Princeton University who spoke about: “A shifting ‘environment’? Climate, land and politics from late Rome to middle Byzantium.”

At the end of an active day of sessions on Saturday, conference participants attended a reception at the Bill Reid Gallery where much needed sociality was had over local delicacies provided by the First Nations operated Salishan Catering and Greek wine kindly donated by the Consul General of Greece, Mr. Ilias Kremmydas. The conference came to a close at noon on Sunday, November 9th, BSANA membership making plans for next year’s event in New York.
REFLECTIONS ON THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS

November 26, 2014

On November 26th, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies, together with the Consulate General of Greece in Vancouver presented a public lecture on the life and work of Nikos Kazantzakis at the Hellenic Community Centre in Vancouver. The evening featured dramatic readings of Kazantzakis’ work by the Centre’s Greek language instructors and an engaging lecture by Dr. Kotsovili, a specialist on Greek literature and culture.

Dr. Kotsovili’s lecture began with a discussion of the life of the author, before moving on to a brief exploration of the various genres of his work, including novels, plays, and poetry. Ultimately, Kazantzakis’ work engages with several main themes that reflect and exhibit the restlessness, intelligence and diversity of the author’s spirit.

Also on the program for the evening were dramatic readings from The Odyssey: a Modern Sequel by Dionysios Arkadianos, the Centre’s newest Greek language teacher, and an excerpt from Kazantzakis’ intellectual autobiography, Report to Greco, by Vasiliki Mastori.

Distinguished guests included the Consul General, Ilias Kremmydas, who also delivered some remarks on the author. The event was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for the community to engage with the work of an important Greek author and historical figure.

VISITING SCHOLAR ALEXANDRA TIPEI

November 10, 2014

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies welcomed Alexandra Tipei, a doctoral candidate working under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Spang at Indiana University. Tipei was in town to present a paper at the 40th Byzantine Studies Conference (see pages 18-19 for details) and stopped by the Centre to give a preview of some of her recent research.

In a talk titled “European Civilization, ‘French Influence,’ and the Accidental Nation-State: Early Nineteenth-Century Popular Education in France, Greece, and the Romanian Principalities” Tipei explored how French liberals exported models of elementary education to the Balkans in an attempt to engage in cultural, or “soft,” colonialism. According to Tipei, these cultural exports gradually came to serve a nationalist agenda over the course of the nineteenth century and constituted what historians have routinely and vaguely referred to as “French influence,” an umbrella term used to describe a variety of cultural artifacts in the Hellenophone world, from the appearance of French Enlightenment thought in the libraries of upper-class Orthodox Christians in Moldova, to the use of French neologisms in the Modern Greek language.

The talk was held at Simon Fraser University’s main Burnaby campus with students and faculty from Hellenic Studies and History in attendance. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity to explore the impact of French universalism on nineteenth-century Greece.
A rare, sunny winter day found John Donatich, the Director of Yale University Press, delivering an intimate talk to Hellenic Studies and invited guests, entitled “The Current State of Academic Publishing” on the impact of new technologies on the industry.

Mr. Donatich has worked for decades at some of the largest publishers in the US. Before joining Yale University Press, he was VP Publisher at Basic Books and has held senior positions at both Putnam and Harper Collins. He has a BA and MA from NYU and is an author in his own right, with essays and articles appearing in Harper’s, The Village Voice and Atlantic Monthly. He also has a memoir and a novel to his credit.

Mr. Donatich’s well-attended talk outlined some of the challenges – and opportunities – that new technologies have created for academic publishing. While the advent of digital publishing and shrinking university library budgets have put pressure on publishers’ bottom line, new technologies have also created new opportunities, such as Yale’s innovative Stalin Digital Archive.

An informal discussion followed about the merits of MOOCs or Massive Open Online Courses. While MOOCs initially offered a great deal of promise when they were first introduced, however, the lack of instructor feedback has proven to be their Achilles heel. This is a lesson that the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies has already incorporated into their online course offerings.

A reception followed that allowed many Centre scholars to engage in individual discussions with Mr. Donatich and gain insights into their own work.
2014 was another challenging, but exciting year for Dr. André Gerolymatos. In addition to his regular teaching and research activities, and his administrative duties as Director and Chair of the Centre, Dr. Gerolymatos was out in the community, promoting Hellenism to a wider, interested public. The Director gave a number of talks to local organizations and societies such as the Probus Club on current and historical events and was also regularly contacted by the media for his expertise on espionage and terrorism. He gave frequent interviews to national and international news outlets, especially on the Ottawa terrorist attack and the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria or ISIS.

Also of note, Dr. Gerolymatos was honoured with an invitation by the American College of Greece – Deree to be the seventh Eleftherios Venizelos Chair of Modern Greek Studies. As the Venizelos Chair Holder Dr. Gerolymatos delivered the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair Lecture in March at the John S. Bailey Library at the American College of Greece-Deree, in Athens, Greece, on the role Greece played in the resistance against the Axis powers during the Second World War.

In May, Dr. Gerolymatos was in Chicago at the invitation of the Asia Minor and Pontios Hellenic Research Centre, in collaboration with the Pontiac Greek Society of Chicago and the Hellenic Link-Midwest to deliver a public lecture titled “Genocide or Massacre: The Politics of Death” on the Ottoman Greek genocide of 1914-1923 (see page 15 for the full story). In July, Dr. Gerolymatos was at the Nicholas S. Zoullas Hellenic Centre at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox of the Hamptons, Long Island, New York, to give the annual Sophocles N. and Louiza Zoullas Memorial Hellenic Lecture (see page 16 for the full story). In November, Dr. Gerolymatos was in London at a private Symposium on the Future of Modern Greek Studies (see page 17 for the full story). Lastly, the New Year brought the Director once again to the Empire State for the Archon Religious Freedom Summit hosted by the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle in New York city (see page 21 for details).

The year ahead looks to be as equally challenging and full of promise.
This past year has been a hectic time for Dr. Krallis, with the organization of the 40th Byzantine Studies Conference at Simon Fraser University in November taking up a significant part of his time. This year’s conference was a success with 70 papers presented and a healthy attendance of 120 scholars from all around North America, Europe, and even Lebanon (see pages 18-19 for details).

On the research and publication front, 2014 saw the appearance in the press of an article in the *Journal of Late Antiquity*, as well as two book reviews in the *English Historical Review* and *Βυζαντινά Σύμμεικτα*.

In 2015, Dr. Krallis expects to submit a piece for a collective volume in the Travaux et Mémoires series. Also in the new year, Dr. Krallis plans to be working intensely on the completion of his second book, a wider audience scholarly book that lays out a novel interpretation of Byzantine history. Using the medium of biography it zeroes in on the eleventh-century judge, historian, and courtier Michael Attaleiates, and turns his life into an opportunity for a survey of the empire’s fascinating history in the century before the momentous events of the First Crusade. Dr. Krallis hopes to have a completed manuscript submitted to a press by August 2015.

In 2014 Dr. Doxiadis attended several important academic conferences, including the 16th Big Berks conference held this year at the University of Toronto, where he gave a paper at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies sponsored panel (see page 15). He also presented a paper at the 40th Byzantine Studies Conference on the adoption of Byzantine, Roman law during the foundation of the Modern Greek State in the nineteenth century (see pages 18-19).

Dr. Doxiadis also chaired a panel at the annual conference of the American Historical Association in New York, and at the annual conference of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Doxiadis also served on the award committee for the 2015 Edmund Keely Book Prize of the Modern Greek Studies Association. Two book chapters also appeared this year and several others are in advanced stages of the review process.

Also in 2014, Dr. Doxiadis continued his research into nineteenth-century Greek women and the courts for a proposed monograph. Also in the works is a book project on changing attitudes to Greek Jewish communities from the formation of the Modern Greek state to the Second World War.

In addition to the administrative duties associated with her role as Coordinator of the Centre’s growing Greek Language Program (see pages 10-11 for details), Dr. Kotsovili was active in the community, collaborating with local partners on a number of outreach projects.

In November, Dr. Kotsovili was invited by the Cretan Association and the Consulate General of Greece in Vancouver to give a public lecture on the life and work of Nikos Kazantzakis (see page 20 for the full story). Dr. Kotsovili also collaborated on a research project with the Hellenic Heritage Foundation in Toronto on teaching methods, and pedagogical tools and materials currently in use in Primary Education at major centres of the Hellenic diaspora in Canada, Australia, and the US.

Additionally, Dr. Kotsovili continued in her role as co-editor for a special volume, forthcoming from Bloomsbury Press, on gender and consumer culture in southern Europe in the post-1960s. She has also begun research for a book project on the evolution of autobiographical writings in twentieth-century Europe. This research will examine the ways in which authors address the connections, and disconnections, between public and private spheres, as well as the author’s sense of selfhood and identity in a given social, political, and cultural context.
GRK 110 – Modern Greek for Beginners I (online)
GRK 160 – Modern Greek for Beginners II (online)
GRK 210 – Modern Greek Intermediate I (online)
GRK 260 – Modern Greek Intermediate II (online)
HS/HIST 276 – History of the Mediterranean: Social, Economic, and Political History of the Mediterranean
HS/HIST 277 – History of the Greek Civilization (online)
HS/HIST 278 – The Greeks in the Ottoman Empire (online)
HIST 304 – Alexander the Great and the Quest for World Empire (online)
HS/HIST 307 – Selected Topics in Hellenic Studies: From Glory to Debt: Greece in the 19th and 20th Century
HS/HIST 308 – Byzantium from Constantine to the end of the Dark Ages: 4th to the 9th Centuries
HS/HIST 364 – Traveller, Diplomatic, and Media Narratives in Greece, the Balkans and the Mediterranean
HS/HIST 441 – Women, Property, and the Law in the Mediterranean
HS/HIST 460 – Themes in Byzantine History: From 300 to the Immortals: War and Society from Antiquity to the Byzantine Middle Ages
HUM 309/WL 303 – Literatures and the Arts Across Cultures/Global Cultures and Its Others: Reflections on Civil War
HUM 332 – Mythology in Context: Greek Myths Redux
Interest in Hellenic Studies at the undergraduate level has continued to grow, with enrollment on the increase throughout 2014. The Undergraduate Program Committee has responded to the increased demand by developing a series of new courses to be offered during the upcoming academic year. At the 100-level, an innovative introductory course on the Greek World will feature all Hellenic Studies faculty members contributing lectures in their area of expertise. A 200-level course, tentatively titled “From Alexander to the Caesars” will provide students with an overview of the centuries of Greek history leading up to the dawn of the Byzantine Empire. Also in development are two new 300-level survey courses on the Byzantine Empire and nineteenth- and twentieth-century Greece.

Hellenic Studies is also collaborating with the School of International Studies and the Department of History on the development of an eight-week summer program scheduled to launch in 2016. Students and faculty will travel to Athens, Greece, where they take three courses on Ancient and Modern Greek history and politics. This program will provide an excellent opportunity to undergraduate students to learn about Greece, in the birthplace of western civilization.
PhD candidate James Horncastle, working under the supervision of André Gerolymatos, had a productive 2014 traveling for research and conferences. He presented papers at the Canadian Institute in Greece in October and the Association of South East European and Eurasian Studies in November. James also has an article set to appear in 2015 in an edited collection based on a conference paper he gave at the University of Würzburg in April. During the summer months, James was at the Foreign Ministry Archive in Athens, Greece, conducting research on the Macedonian question during the Greek Civil War for his dissertation.

James was also awarded a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canadian Graduate Scholarship by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for 2014-2015. The Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canadian Graduate Scholarship is awarded to high-calibre students engaged in doctoral research in Canada. The SSHRC only awards a limited number of scholarships each year based on available funding and scholastic merit, making it a highly prestigious award. Congratulations James and best of luck in the year ahead!

Aleksandar Jovanović is the Centre’s newest doctoral student. Working under the supervision of the Centre’s resident Byzantinist, Dimitris Krallis, Aleksandar joins the Centre from the University of Belgrade in Serbia where he completed undergraduate and graduate degrees in the Classics, with a concentration in Byzantine Philology. His current research is directed to the study of imperial court culture following the sack of Constantinople by the armies of the Fourth Crusade in 1204.

MA candidate Huangyi Jiang, working under the supervision of Evdoxios Doxiadis, continued his research into the experiences of Greek immigrants to Vancouver, Toronto, San Francisco, and Salt Lake City. During the summer, Huangyi travelled to Toronto, Minneapolis, and Sacramento to pursue archival research and is currently in the writing stage of his thesis. He is looking forward to defending his thesis later this year and continuing with his research.

Congratulations to our graduates

Two of the Centre’s MA candidates successfully defended their Masters’ theses in 2014.

Christopher Dickert, working under the supervision of Dimitris Krallis completed his research on the cities of eleventh-century Byzantine Italy, arguing that city-dwelling Byzantine citizens living on the edge of empire, enjoyed a great deal of local autonomy.

Christopher is now working in the Centre as a Communications and Research Associate and has taken on editorial responsibilities for this edition of AGORA, under the direction of the publication’s Managing Editor.

Sarah Inglis successfully defended her thesis on Greek arms dealing during the Spanish Civil War. Her research, under the supervision of André Gerolymatos, argued that despite the presence of an arms embargo ordered by both General Metaxas and King George II, weapons were sold to both the Republican and the Fascist sides by Greek citizens.

Sarah is currently working as a translator at the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela in Spain and seeks to continue her academic pursuits in the coming year.
SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The Centre has been fortunate enough to be able to provide the following competitive scholarships and awards in the support of the study of Hellenism. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have believed in the Centre’s mission and made this support possible through their generous donations. Congratulations to this year’s recipients!

* The Charalambos (Harry) and Helene Katevatis Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies ($7,000)

The Charalambos (Harry) and Helene Katevatis Graduate Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in 2009 through generous donations from Harry and Helene Katevatis and matching funds from the Burnaby Mountain Endowment Fund Matching Program. The purpose of the scholarship is to promote knowledge and understanding regarding Hellenism, including Greek history, language, and literature.

This year’s recipient: **Huangyi Jiang**

* Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC Graduate Scholarship ($1,000)

Established in 2006 through donations by the Hellenic community and matching funds by SFU, the purpose of the Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC Graduate Scholarship is to support graduate students at Simon Fraser University’s Hellenic Studies Program. Preference is given to graduate students entering their second year of studies after having successfully completed all first year requirements.

This year’s recipient: **Huangyi Jiang**

* Nick Kravariotis Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies ($600)

In 1998, family, friends, and colleagues of Nick Kravariotis – founder of United Maritime Shippers in Vancouver – established an endowment fund in his memory in order to support a Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies.

This year’s recipients: **James Horncastle, Huangyi Jiang, and Aleksandar Jovanović.**

* SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Graduate Fellowship Scholarships ($6,500)

The generous endowment from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation supports a series of scholarships intended to support Hellenic Studies graduate students with multi-year funding.

This year’s recipient: **James Horncastle**

For more information on the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies graduate program, please visit our website: [www.sfu.ca/snfchs/academic-program/graduate.html](http://www.sfu.ca/snfchs/academic-program/graduate.html).

NOTABLE ALUMNI

2013 **Dr. Julian Brooks** had a busy year teaching at Simon Fraser University and Douglas College. He also presented a number of papers at academic conferences, including the Western Conference on British Studies held in October 2014 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and the annual conference of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies held in November 2014, in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

2003 MA graduate **Nicole Read**, whose thesis on Macedonia was supervised by André Gerolymatos topped off the year by being elected mayor of Maple Ridge, a city of c.75,000 people located east of Vancouver.

PhD graduate Dr. Julian Brooks

Alumna and newly minted Mayor of Maple Ridge, Nicole Read

MA Candidate Huangyi Jiang
THE STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC Canada V5A 1S6

t. 778.782.5886  |  f. 778.782.4929  |  snfchs@sfu.ca

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU
@sfuhellenic
Website: www.sfu.ca/snfchs

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES was established in 2011 at Simon Fraser University through a significant multimillion-dollar grant by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Situated atop Burnaby Mountain, just east of downtown Vancouver, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies is the premier site for Hellenic Studies in North America and is committed to the advocacy and study of Hellenism. The Centre offers courses in Ancient, Byzantine, Early Modern, and Modern Greek History, in addition to Greek language training. The SNF New Media Lab, through the creation of the intelligent language tutor, has forged new methods for language learning and language preservation. The Centre also has partnerships across the United States and is leading the way in the expansion of Hellenic Studies to China.