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AGORA is the annual publication 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 publication informs students, 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.

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PHILHELLENE EDWARD MCWHINNEY LEAVES LEGACY TO HELLENIC STUDIES

Professor Emeritus Edward “Ted” McWhinney, QC passed away this year on his ninety-first birthday, following a short illness.

During the Second World War, Ted served in the Australian Air Force. He studied at the University of Sydney and Yale, which he attended on a Fulbright scholarship, and conducted postdoctoral work at The Hague, Berlin, Pisa, and Geneva. Ted held academic postings at the University of Toronto, McGill University, Indiana University, and finally Simon Fraser University. At various times throughout his life, Ted served as a Crown Prosecutor, Royal Commissioner of Enquiry, Consultant to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Constitutional and International Law Advisor to several Quebec Premiers, to the Premier of Ontario, to the Federal Government of Canada, and to a number of foreign governments. He was also a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague from 1985-1991.

In 1993, Ted embarked on a new career of public service when he was elected to serve as Member of Parliament in the riding of Vancouver Quadra. He held the office for two terms and served as Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and later for Foreign Affairs. Ted was also the recipient of many honours, including the Aristotle Medal, which was awarded to him in 1997 “for his contribution to the progress of science, free thought, and intellectual development – values inextricably linked with Greek civilization throughout the years.” In 1967 he was elected to the Institut de Droit International in Geneva, Switzerland, the first Canadian to ever be elected, and served as its President from 1999-2001.

Over the years, Ted and his wife Emily have been great friends and supporters to Simon Fraser University and to Hellenic Studies in particular. The Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation for International and Comparative and Federal Law was a frequent sponsor of our events.

Ted’s commitment to academic excellence and public service will live on at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies with the establishment of the Edward and Emily McWhinney Professorship in International Relations and the Emily and Edward McWhinney Graduate Scholarship, made possible by a $1.5 million donation from his estate with some additional funds from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. This generous gift will support research and teaching on topics that animated the professional and intellectual lives of Ted and Emily and creates a lasting legacy for the couple at Simon Fraser University.
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Reflecting on the past year, the growth of Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University at undergraduate and graduate levels has been significant. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, we continue to expand Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. A US $3 million donation from the Foundation will support a Professor in Refugee and Migration Studies. Furthermore, we have been very fortunate that an endowment of CAN $1.5 million from the estate of Edward and Emily McWhinney – long-time friends and supporters of Hellenic Studies – will enable us to create an additional professorship. Edward McWhinney passed away after a long and incredibly productive life filled with great honours and academic achievements. Both new professorships reflect the interests of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and those of Edward McWhinney in a variety of fields, including international relations and Hellenic Studies.

This past year featured a number of important events: a commemoration of the centenary of the First World War in the Balkans, that included the participation of consular representatives of former enemy and Entente states, now friends and NATO allies. We were also very fortunate to have welcomed many distinguished visitors to our Centre, including His Excellency, George L. Marcantonatos, the new ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to Canada. This year, the SNF New Media Lab released its latest app, on the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, while we continued to deepen our connections with our Chinese partner institutions.

Looking ahead to 2016, we continue to promote the greater achievements of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. Our program is one of the largest of its kind in the world, dedicated to the study of the history, culture, and literature of Greece. We are planning to expand our capabilities in the field of Byzantine History, with the creation of a summer program on palaeography, a fall field school in Greece and are in discussions with Douglas College on a joint academic field school and certificate program. Other potential areas of interest are a new program on Ancient Greek Drama and Theatre and the study of the environment, with opportunities to examine water security and sustainability in Greece within the context of the Mediterranean world.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the faculty and staff of the Centre and its many supporters, both here in Vancouver and internationally. Thanks most especially to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, whose friendship has created the foundations for our successes.

-André Gerolymatos
SNF ENDOWS PROFESSORSHIP IN REFUGEE AND MIGRATION STUDIES

As the Syrian Civil War prepares to mark its fifth anniversary, the United Nations’ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported 220,000 dead and over one million injured. Half of all Syrians have been forced to flee their homes in what is turning out to be the first great humanitarian catastrophe of the twenty-first century. These refugees have found safe haven in the surrounding nations of Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon but over the past year, as life in the camps has become increasingly desperate and hopes for a speedy resolution to the conflict have faded, refugees have taken matters into their own hands. Syrian refugees, joined by others fleeing wars and civil strife in Eritrea and Afghanistan, have begun to make the sea crossing to Europe and asylum.

Over one million refugees made the crossing to Europe in 2015, with Greece on the front lines of this great human tide. There are many stories of individual Greeks rising to meet this challenge, providing comfort and relief to so many; indeed, the island of Lesbos is being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of their efforts. Nevertheless, the sheer numbers of people making the crossing, combined with the continuing economic crisis has created a great strain on Greece.

As one of the world’s largest private philanthropic foundations, with twenty years of grant making activity, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has played an outsized role helping the people of Greece navigate these twin crises of debt and refugees. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation announced €100 million in emergency grants in 2012. Over three years, 220 grants have been distributed to support those most affected by the crisis while maintaining the viability of Greek non-profit organizations. Based on this successful program, an additional €100 million was announced in June 2015, this time over one year only, in order to intensify the positive effects of the grants to when it is most needed. The Foundation has also given generously to organizations assisting refugees arriving in Greece, providing emergency grants to Doctors without Borders Hellas and the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, amongst others.

The Foundation has also sought to provide for the development of effective policy responses to the refugee crisis through their support of educational programs. To that end they have generously donated a US $3 million endowment to support a Professorship in Refugee and Migration Studies at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies. This gift will not only allow us to expand our academic and outreach activities, but also allow the Centre to participate and contribute to ongoing policy discussions on these important issues affecting Greece. We look forward to welcoming our new colleague in the coming fall.
The past year was a very active one for the SNF New Media Lab, with exciting new projects bringing Greek language, history, and culture alive to a new tech-savvy generation of learners. The SNF New Media Lab team continued its work developing digital media solutions to preserve and teach First Nations Languages of British Columbia, as part of a $2.5 million Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant. Also this past year, members of the SNF New Media Lab were at SFU’s Teaching and Learning Centre’s DEMOfest 2015, showcasing the Intelligent Language Tutor to members of the university community as well as a delegation from the government of India.

Perhaps most exciting was the launch of the Jewish Legacy of Thessaloniki app early in the New Year at an event in the city of Thessaloniki. The app was an initiative of the Embassy of Canada to Greece and the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, developed by the SNF New Media Lab in collaboration with the City of Thessaloniki, the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, with the support of the Consulate General of Germany in Thessaloniki, and the Israeli Embassy to Greece.

The Jewish community of Thessaloniki can trace its origins in the city to the first century, but it wasn’t until after the Alhambra Decree of 1492 that expelled the Jews from Spain that a sizeable community developed in the city. Invited by the Ottoman Sultans to settle in their domains, these Sephardic Jews were later joined by other communities from Western Europe seeking a place to settle. The Jewish community thrived in the city for centuries until the Great Fire of 1917 and the Holocaust – only a small number now remain in the city.

The Jewish Legacy in Thessaloniki App strives to bring to life the history of the Jewish community by mapping their legacy onto the urban fabric of the modern city. Visitors to Thessaloniki can now visit the synagogues and community buildings of the Jews of the city and be connected with their history, even where the building has been lost to the modern cityscape. The app is available in English, German, Greek, and Hebrew for the iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch and is available for download on iTunes.
2015 was a particularly productive and rewarding year for the Greek Language Program, as growing numbers of students registered in our language courses, through our online platform, the Odysseas Greek Language Tutor. With increased enrollment from Simon Fraser University, local and international diaspora communities, and students from our Chinese partner institutions, our dedicated team of instructors were kept very busy indeed.

The team in the SNF New Media Lab has been hard at work this year developing a new online platform that will be made available to students in 2016. It includes components from the current Odysseas Greek Language Tutor as well as exciting new features that facilitate language acquisition, enabling students to keep detailed track of their own progress. The new courses will also correspond directly to the six different levels of Ellinomathia exams, the international standard for Greek language attainment.

Our team of language instructors and researchers, seconded from the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, are part of the ongoing collaboration and support received from the Ministry. They created new material and updated content for all our courses and acted as examiners for the 2015 Ellinomathia exams at the SNF Centre for Hellenic studies at SFU, which once again served as the examination centre for Vancouver and Western Canada. Greek Language program members also continued to be actively involved in different initiatives of the Diaspora and the academic community, on a local and international level, while seeking new collaborations.

Dr. Eirini D. Kotsovili (D. Phil, University of Oxford) coordinated the team’s efforts regarding the production and delivery of course content. She also worked closely with members of the Faculty of Education at SFU on the development of the Graduate Certificate in Curriculum and Instruction (Greek Language). She continues to do so, along with teaching courses on Greek literature and culture.

Dr. Athanasios Bravos (Ph. D, Aristotle University) created the B1 and B2 level course (intermediate) and is one of our members with a strong presence in the local Hellenic community. He has joined the efforts of the SNF New Media Lab and local schools in creating content for an online assessment tool for students (8 to 12 years old) who wish to join the community’s schools to learn Greek. He is also working sections of the C2 course on reading comprehension.

Dionysios Arkadianos (MA, University of Patras; Ph.D candidate at SFU’s Faculty of Education) worked on the modularization of grammar and produced a thorough glossary of grammatical terms for all new courses while joining his colleagues in updating the current courses offerings. His research interests and contributions revolve around educational technology and self-regulatory online learning.

Aikaterini Kalyva (MA, University of Athens) concentrated on creating new exams for all available courses. She was also responsible for two new courses that will prepare students for Ellinomathia levels A1 and A2 (beginners). She is currently working on level C2 (for advanced learning), generating material for the oral comprehension component.

Left: Carving detail at Ephesus; Below (left to right) Athanasios Bravos, Aikaterini Kalyva, Eirini Kotsovili, and Dionysios Arkadianos

TEACHER PROFILES
WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARTNERS

Shanghai International Studies University
University of International Business and Economics

Building on the strong foundations we have made with twenty-four academic institutions in China over the past number of years, we are moving ahead with partnerships with two new universities, the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) and the Shanghai International Studies University (SISU).

In September, Sally Huang met with Professor Tao Sun, the Director of the Department of Greek Language at UIBE. This is a newly established department, with a mandate to develop student competencies in the language and culture of Greece, as well as business skills. We were happy to donate a number of Greek Language textbooks to their department to celebrate their new venture, which Professor Sun has designated as the official textbook for their Greek Major.

Our other new partner is the Department of Greek Language at SISU. Established in 1972, it was the first department in China to enrol students in a Greek language major program. They have had some difficulty over the past number of years recruiting qualified instructors and have had to suspend many of their Greek history and culture courses. When the Director of Greek Language at SISU, Professor Jingjing Hu, contacted us in 2015 looking for assistance, we were of course happy to help. We provided access to all of our Greek language and history courses to their students and donated a number ofGreek Language textbooks. Professor Hu presented us with a certificate of donation as an expression of their gratitude. We look forward to formalizing our relationship with our new partners and discussing future collaborations, such as joint certificate programs and student exchanges.

Sally also paid a visit to Dr. Chen, Dr. Zheng, and Dr. Wu of Nankai University, with whom we have been cooperating for the past nine years. Based on these strong foundations, we have begun exchanging ideas about joint academic programs in Byzantine History and South Eastern Europe Studies. We look forward to continuing these discussions over the coming year.
EDWARD VULLIAMY

February 23-24, 2015: The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies was pleased to welcome award-winning journalist, Edward Vulliamy, from the Guardian and the Observer and most recently the author of Amnesia: War Along the Borderline. Mr. Vulliamy reported extensively on the Bosnian wars of the mid-1990s, as well as on the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and he joined us for a series of speaking engagements where he shared his extensive expertise on current events.

The following evening found Mr. Vulliamy in the Universities Room at the exclusive Vancouver Club delivering a public lecture on the Charlie Hebdo shooting that had occurred nearly eight weeks previous in Paris, France. Entitled “Killing the Fool: Charlie Hebdo, Power, and the New Islam” the public lecture was presented by the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies in collaboration with the Winston Churchill Society of British Columbia, and SFU’s Schools for International Studies and Criminology and was held at SFU’s downtown Vancouver campus before an audience of engaged students.

On February 23rd, in a lecture titled “Wall Street Cartel: Banks, Narcotraffic, and the Lie of Legality” Mr. Vulliamy spoke about the role of London-based banking giant HSBC in money laundering for the Mexican drug cartels and the failure of US prosecutors to bring anyone to justice. The event was sponsored by the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies and SFU’s Schools for International Studies and Criminology and was held at SFU’s downtown Vancouver campus before an audience of engaged students.

On September 28 – October 2, 2015: The following week brought Gerasimos Karabelias to the Centre for a number of speaking engagements. Dr. Karabelias is an associate professor in the department of sociology at the Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences in Athens, Greece, specializing in military sociology and civil-military relations in Greece, Turkey, and Southeastern European states.

September 21-25, 2015: Our first speaker was Eleni Dendrinou-Louri, a Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics in Athens University of Economics and Business and a Research Associate at the Hellenic Observatory of the London School of Economics and Political Science. As a former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Greece, her arrival at the Centre was particularly timely given the backdrop of the Eurozone debt crisis then unfolding in Greece.

Dr. Dendrinou-Louri gave a public lecture at the Vancouver Club, in the statey SFU room. Entitled “Greece, Taking Stock: Economic and Financial Challenges Since the Onset of the Global and European Crises to the Third Bailout Agreement of July 2015” the lecture was presented in collaboration with the Winston Churchill Society of BC. In addition to her speaking commitment, Dr. Dendrinou-Louri was also in demand as an expert on the Greek economic crisis and gave a number of interviews to local media.

Ultimately, our two guests were well received by our students and local community and we look forward to welcoming future scholars from the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation (USA) University Speakers Program.
GREEK AMBASSADOR VISITS THE CENTRE

May 4, 2015: The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies was pleased to welcome the Hellenic Republic’s Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency George L. Marcantonatos and the Consul General of Greece, Mr. Ilias Kremmydas, for a visit this spring. The Ambassador had the opportunity to meet with faculty and staff members and see some of the innovative work being done at the Centre.

SNF New Media Lab Technology Manager, Costa Dedegikas, was on hand to present some of the exciting apps under development, including the Greeks Agamemnon to Alexander the Great Exhibition App, the Amazing Athens App, and many more.

Eirini Kotsovili, as coordinator of the Greek Language Program, was also on hand with members of the Greek Language Teaching Team to showcase their work. His Excellency was shown the progress towards aligning the Greek Language curriculum to the six levels of official Ellinomatheia examinations as well as the planned Graduate Certificate in Curriculum and Instruction.

We were very privileged to be able to host the Ambassador and look forward to future visits from His Excellency.
February 21, 2015: A month after the Greek election experts on the history, politics, and culture of Greece had an opportunity to assess the first month of SYRIZA’s term in office. After the first meetings with the European Union and the passing of the first milestone legislation in the Greek parliament, there was now a record, however short, on which to comment and a future to think of.

In the light of this record, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies mounted a roundtable that engaged in a wide-ranging discussion on the history, political identity, and the state of contemporary politics in Greece against the background of the ongoing financial crisis then facing the European Union. Participants in this roundtable brought to our international audience perspectives from Greece and the world at large and helped make sense of events in this small, but always relevant corner of Europe.

The event was moderated by Ed Vulliamy, the award-winning journalist for the Guardian and Observer and featured Ioannis D. Stefanidis from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; Giorgios Antoniou of the International Hellenic University; Kostis Karpozilos from Princeton University; and Kostis Kornetis, from New York University. The roundtable was also webcast online and engaged with our international audiences in what proved to be a very lively discussion on the economic and political situation of Greece.

November 11, 2015: The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies’ Byzantinist, Dimitris Krallis was invited to present the 2015 Medieval and Renaissance Studies Annual Lecture at the University of Missouri. The lecture was co-sponsored by the departments of Art History, Classics, English, History, Religious Studies, and Romance Languages, by the University of Missouri’s Lectures Committee, and by the Medieval & Renaissance Studies and the Ancient Studies Programs. The annual event brings important scholars of Medieval and Renaissance Studies to the university to share their research with an attentive, academic audience.

Dr. Krallis’ lecture, entitled ‘Angry Words in God’s Mirror: Psogos and Personal Attacks in Byzantium’, reframed the disorder and political instability that has so often been used to characterize Byzantium by focusing on the empire’s long tradition of character assassination that ran parallel to imperially-sponsored texts about sublime rulership. Through the Byzantine concept of psogos, Dr. Krallis sought to explain the place of political contestation in a polity that is often conceived as God’s Mirror Image, by highlighting the discursive, messy, and polyphonic nature of Byzantine politics.

The well-attended lecture brought the political culture of Byzantium to life for a wide audience of scholars and students from the ‘Mizzou’ community.
November 9, 2015: The year in review marked a significant anniversary for the Balkans with the passing of one hundred years since the arrival of the Great War to Northern Greece and Gallipoli.

In the history of the First World War, the Balkan or Macedonian Front is often overshadowed by events on the Western Front, where so many lost their lives in an attempt to break the stalemate that developed there so early in the conflict. Despite the neglect of the official histories, the ultimate outcome of the war was directly impacted by events in Northern Greece and at Gallipoli. An Allied breakthrough by British, French, Greek, Italian, Serbian, and Russian forces in the autumn of 1918 out of Thessaloniki pushed Germany-backed Bulgaria to sue for peace and materially contributed to Germany’s eventual surrender.

In commemoration of this important anniversary, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, in collaboration with the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own), the Winston Churchill Society of British Columbia, and the Alliance Française, presented an evening of remembrance in honour of the human cost of the conflict. Held at the historic Beatty Street Drill Hall in downtown Vancouver, the evening was emceed by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Simon Fraser University, John Craig. The Commanding Officer of the BC Regiment, Major D.C. Evans, welcomed the assembled guests to the event and retired colonel and Churchill Society member, Keith Maxwell, delivered an overview of the historical significance of the centenary. The main program featured musical selections and literary readings by Greek Language Instructor, Dionysis Arkadianos and Alexander S. Onassis Post-doctoral Fellow, Naomi Pitamber as well as a special performance by Christopher Gaze, the Founding Artistic Director of the annual Vancouver Shakespeare Festival, Bard on the Beach.

We were very fortunate to have the participa-
tion of members from the Vancouver consular community who laid wreaths in honour of the fallen as representatives of the former combatants, now friends and allies. In attendance were the Deputy Consul General of France, Antoine Mention; the Consul General of Greece, Ilias Kremmydas; the Consul General of Italy, Massimiliano Iacchini; the Honorary Consul of Serbia, Peter Vladikovic; Anil Bora Inan, Lt. James Norman, Maj. D.C. Evans.

Scottish and Northern Light Yeomanry and representing Canada was the Commanding Officer of the BC Regiment, Major D.C. Evans. The wreath-laying portion of the program was accompanied by the national anthems of the participating nations and was followed by the traditional moment of silence and a performance of “Flowers of the Forest” on the bagpipes.

The event was concluded by a reception, held in the Officer’s Mess of the Beatty Street Drill Hall, where the evening’s capacity crowd came together to honour an important, but neglected period of Balkan history during the Great War.

Above: Assembled guests observe a moment of silence; Below: (left to right) André Gerolymatos, John Craig, Christopher Gaze, Antoine Mention, Ilias Kremmydas, Massimiliano Iacchini, H.E. Mikhailo Papazoglu, Peter Vladikovic, Anil Bora Inan, Lt. James Norman, Maj. D.C. Evans

HELLENIC STUDIES RECOGNIZED FOR ITS SUPPORTIVE INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE

November 25, 2015: The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies was featured in a casebook prepared by SFU Health Promotion, a division of Health and Counseling Services, with support from Bringing Theory to Practice, an organization affiliated with the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The casebook, entitled Embedding Conditions for Well-Being in Academic Settings, demonstrates how conditions for well-being can be realized throughout the university community by defining opportunities for action and highlighting departments and faculties that have already made well-being central to their daily operations.

Hellenic Studies was featured as an example of a Supportive Institutional Culture and recognized for connecting with staff, faculty, and students – both online and in the classroom – by involving Centre members in the many cultural and academic events held throughout the year. The Centre fosters an environment that celebrates collaboration and encourages connections by opening multifunctional meeting and lab spaces to staff, faculty, and students, where people can come together to work or socialize. As the authors of the casebook attest: “Valuing respect, collaboration and student participation, Hellenic Studies exemplifies an academic department committed to creating a supportive atmosphere for all of its community members.”
The special event space of the renowned New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue was filled to overflowing with guests who turned out on May 22 to honor The National Herald for its 100 years of service to the Greek-American Community, but the guests themselves, many of them descendants of the very first immigrants who arrived in New York and who stand at the top of every profession and area of endeavor, placed the celebration of the newspaper in the context of the community’s remarkable achievements and the history of the Hellenic Diaspora.

In his remarks that concluded the glittering gathering, Antonis H. Diamataris, the Publisher-Editor of TNH, thanked not only the newspapers’ staff and their predecessors for their contributions and members of his family for their love and support, but the 450 guests and by extension the millions they represent in America, the Diaspora as a whole and Greece for their support across four generations. He also praised the vision and achievement of Petros Tatianis, the founder of the newspaper that was first published on April 2, 1915, and the publishers who followed him.

Warm remarks of appreciation for the newspaper and those who labor to produce it were expressed by Archbishop Demetrios, who offered the invocation, Amb. Loucas Tsilas, who was the event’s Emcee, and honoree Andreas Dracopoulos, Co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

The speaking program commenced with Archbishop Demetrios reading a laudatory letter from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Special letters were also sent by President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden and past presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

The honorees representing numerous fields of endeavor who received striking sculptures evocative of the cultural contributions of Hellenism through the ages in the form of little olive trees, included Dracopoulos, Dr. Evangelos Gizis, Rev. Dr. Demetrios Constantinellis, Philip Christopher, Stella Kokolis, Nick Andriotis, Dr. George Kofinas, Dr. Spiros Spireas, and Nicholas Takanikas. Ted Spiropoulos, noted businessman, philanthropist and community leader was honored posthumously.

There were many moving moments. Retired Senator Paul Sarbanes summed up the contributions of TNH when he called the newspaper “the school of the community,” and Dracopoulos’ children delighted the guests when they read sections of his speech in flawless Greek.

Guests were most touched, however, by the moving tribute to her father by Vanessa Diamataris, who just completed her first year at Fordham Law School. She and her brother Eraklis, who also offered remarks, echoed the appreciation many Greek-Americans gain over time for the devotion to the timeless values of Hellenism and Orthodoxy that limited the time their parents could spend with them as children. She said, however, that she would not trade for anything her childhood filled with love and devotion from Diamataris and his wife Litsa.

Calling his wife the love of his life, Diamataris expressed his appreciation for her being at his side and a partner in all his endeavors. A designer, Litsa Diamataris helped shape the historic event that was enjoyed by all.

The National Herald, the leading newspaper of the Greek Diaspora in North America, celebrated its one hundredth anniversary this year at a gala celebration held at the New York Public Library. As long-time contributors to the National Herald, Director André Gerolymatos and his wife Beverley Gerolymatos were pleased to accept an invitation to attend what proved to be an memorable evening.

Gala Celebration at the New York Public Library
In October, Dr. Gerolymatos was once again in New York, this time to attend the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Gala at the Pierre Hotel, where SNF co-President Andreas Dracopoulos was honoured as Person of the Year. He also attended the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Award Banquet where US Vice President Joe Biden was presented with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award by Archbishop Demetrios of America and the Archon’s National Commander, Dr. Anthony Limberakis. Dr. Gerolymatos was also very fortunate to be able to attend the opening of the newly renovated Onassis Cultural Center NY at the Olympic Tower in Manhattan.

Dr. Krallis presented papers at two conferences. He presented “Managing Fortune: Virtue and Tyche in Byzantine Generalship” at The International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds in July and “Urban Affinities and the Running of the Pre-modern State: Impersonal Administration, Medieval Polities, and the Bias of Modernity” at the Cities, Saints, and Memory in Late Antiquity conference held in October at the University of Michigan. He also delivered the 2015 Medieval and Renaissance Studies Annual Lecture in November at the University of Missouri. His paper was titled: “Angry words in God’s Mirror: Psogos and Personal Attacks in Byzantium”.

His review of W. Treadgold’s The Middle Byzantine Historians appeared in the Speculum journal (vol. 90/1) and in the fall he submitted to an agent the completed manuscript of his second book: An Empire of Quills: The Life and Deeds of a Byzantine Mandarin. Dr. Krallis has also been active reviewing the curricular offerings of the growing Hellenic Studies program, while designing a new course titled: From Alexander to the Caesars and coordinating the first ever offering of a Hellenic Studies first year level co-taught course titled: The Greek World.

Dr. Doxiadis also attended the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies conference held in Philadelphia where he organized a panel titled “Constructing the Modern State in the Balkans”. My paper was “Resurrecting the Law: State Formation and Legal Debates in Nineteenth Century Greece”. He also presented papers at the American Historical Association conference in January 2016 and at the Modern Greek Studies Association in October 2015, both in Atlanta.
In 2015 Dr. Kotsovili completed the co-editing for the Consumption and Gender in Southern Europe since the Long 1960s volume, published by Bloomsbury Press.

She presented her research on literary narratives, memory and the authorial autobiographical experiences in the post 1967-74 era during a two-day workshop titled “The Colonels’ Dictatorship and its Afterlives”. The latter was organized by the Hellenic Studies program and co-sponsored by the History Department at Columbia University, with the support of the European Institute and the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, the Program in Hellenic Studies, and the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies (NYU), the Academy of Athens and the Melina Mercouri Foundation.

In addition, she presented Kazantzakis’ Christ Re-crucified and served as moderator at an EU Book Club event, organized by the Consulate General of Greece and the EU-NIC, in collaboration with the Vancouver Public Library and the Hellenic Community of Vancouver.

Evangelos Venetis

We were pleased to welcome Dr. Evangelos Venetis to the Centre. Dr. Venetis joins us from the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), where he was a Research Fellow in charge of the Middle East Research Project. Dr. Venetis studied History at the University of Ioannina and completed his PhD in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh, UK, where he studied an anonymous Persian Romance called the Iskandarnāma, an eleventh-century retelling of the saga of Alexander the Great. He has taught in the Department of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Studies at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands and has published widely on the Medieval and Modern Middle East including a forthcoming book on the Greeks of Modern Iran. He is also a frequent commentator in the media, appearing often in print and television in Greece, speaking about the ongoing refugee crisis affecting the European Union. We wish him a warm welcome and look forward to his future contributions to the Centre.

Eirini Kotsovili

ONASSIS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Thanks to the generosity of the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation, we were very fortunate to be able to offer a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Byzantine Art History for the 2015/2016 academic year. Originally from Texas, Naomi Pitamber joins us from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Pitamber files this report on her experiences so far.

Since I arrived in late August, I have been warmly welcomed and integrated into Hellenic Studies. Last semester, I delivered a handful of guest lectures to Prof. Karlis classes on Byzantium, and look forward to doing the same in HS 100: The Greek World in the spring. My contribution focuses on Greek artistic production of antiquity through the early modern period. It’s such a delight and honour to work together with such fine minds – both the students and the professors – and I’m so glad to be able to contribute. I have also been given the opportunity to reboot one of my favorite classes just for SFU: Byzantine Art and Architecture. In the current climate of post-secondary education as pre-professional education, the chance to rethink this course and run it with upper division students allows me the chance to articulate the contributions of Byzantium to the Humanities. In addition, I’m developing a fully online course on Greek Art, Architecture, and Archaeology, that will support the Hellenic Studies Program’s Certificate in Hellenic Studies.

My research has blossomed since my arrival, which has provided me with a much-needed intellectual home. I value being in a department that has historians, scholars of literature, and Greek language teachers who in turn appreciate my areas of interest and expertise. I spent a wonderful fall semester researching and preparing an article on a medieval manuscript, as well as revising my dissertation into a book, which I have just submitted for its initial review. The Onassis Postdoctoral Fellowship is allowing me the chance to develop new relationships with fantastic colleagues, with whom I have had innumerable interesting conversations, many of which impact the way I think about my own work, the role of Hellenic Studies in the Humanities, and my own field of Byzantine art and architectural history.

Over the last several months, I have been able to both contribute to and benefit from the Hellenic Studies community at SFU; and count the opportunity to work alongside such invested and stellar colleagues as one of the greatest I have been given in recent years.
PhD Candidate James Horncastle had a productive year, working on his dissertation while simultaneously teaching, publishing several articles, and presenting at a variety of conferences. James taught his first course, Revolutionary Institutions: Guerrilla Warfare and State-Building in the Balkans in the Near East during the summer semester of 2015. Two of his articles were published in the journal Small Wars & Insurgencies and the edited volume *The Means to Kill: Essays on the Interdependence of War and Technology from Ancient Rome to the Age of Drone*. The *Special Operations Journal* and an edited volume on air force advising and assistance likewise accepted papers and are due for publication in 2016. James also presented papers at a number of conferences including the annual conference of the Association of South East European and Eurasian Studies, amongst others. Finally, James produced policy briefs for Bridging Europe and the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy, in addition to having his review of *The Unknown Eastern Front* published in *Global Humanities*. James is currently in the final stages of his dissertation and is looking to defend within the foreseeable future.

Over the course of the past year, PhD Student Aleksandar Jovanović presented at four conferences. In April Aleks gave a paper at the Inaugural Western Consortium for Hellenic Studies Graduate Student Conference at UC San Diego, USA that explored the ethnic constructions of the Turkish identity in George Akropolites’ History. In May he presented a paper at the 10th International Student Byron Conference at the Byron Centre in Messolonghi, Greece, on the ways in which Lord Byron and his friend John Cain Holhouse engaged and conceptualized Byzantine history as part of Greco-Roman heritage. Extending his research on the constructions of Byzantium to late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature, Aleks presented a paper at the 41st Annual Byzantine Studies Conference at Columbia University, Fordham, and CUNY in New York City, USA. Finally, Aleks attended the Inaugural Western Consortium for Hellenic Studies Graduate Student Conference at the University of California, San Diego, in April, and gave a short presentation on Greek immigration history in North America.

Milad Doroudian joined the MA Program this past September from the University of British Columbia, and is currently working under the supervision of Professor André Gerolymatos. His research is focused on the ghettoization process in Northern Transylvania and the experiences of Jews within fascist Romania, with a concentration on power relations. He is looking forward to finishing his first year as a graduate student, so he can begin the writing stage of his thesis. This summer he is travelling to Romania to gather oral testimonies, and continue his archival research.
It has been a busy summer and fall at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, as the teaching staff took things to the drawing board and started planning and developing two new offerings for the university’s undergraduate student body. Dimitris Krallis asked Evdokios Doxiadis, Eirini Kotsovoli and the Chair of our program, André Gerolymatos to conceptualize a number of lectures that we were to combine in a first attempt to offer a team-taught course on the history of Greece, Greeks, and of Hellenism from antiquity to the current crisis.

No small task to be sure, the effort has nevertheless been taken up with gusto by the team who are now involved in offering a course titled: The Greek World to students in their first and second years of study. Furthermore, as we have been lucky to have with us Dr. Naomi Pitamber, an Alexander S. Onassis Postdoctoral Fellow in Byzantine Art History and Archaeology, we were able to expand our coverage beyond the worlds of history and literature, offering our students tantalizing peeks into the world of Greek art. The project is ongoing and so far, three weeks in (at the time of writing), the results are encouraging, students engaging keenly with the diverse facets of the Hellenic experience.

Having worked to enhance our entry-level offerings we also decided to offer a new second year course titled: From Alexander to the Caesars: The Hellenistic and Roman Worlds to the End of Antiquity. Dr. Krallis has been developing and teaching this new course, which is intended to introduce students to Hellenistic and Roman history only to then draw them into discussions of important themes of Byzantine history in order to prepare them for existing offerings in the history of Byzantium during the middle Byzantine period.

At the Centre for Hellenic Studies our medieval and modern research focus is therefore paired with new course offerings on the earlier and increasingly less taught aspects of Hellenism to ensure cross-pollination of ideas and the leveraging of the popularity of the ancient world to the advantage of the lesser known but equally fascinating medieval and modern aspects of the adventure of Hellenism. The creation of a hellenic diachrony in our course offerings allows us to effectively engage with all aspects of Hellenism, while satisfying a clear and present student demand.
Thanks to the generosity of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, in the fall of 2015, we were able to provide one of our students with the opportunity to participate in an internship at the Foundation’s offices in Athens, Greece. The SNF Student Internship Program involves interns in many aspects of the organization, giving them a front-row seat to the world of philanthropy and the Foundation's many activities in the areas of education, arts and culture, social welfare, and health and medicine.

Lauren Gilbert, a fourth-year international studies and communications major, was selected for this opportunity and spent three months in Athens working at the Foundation. Below is an account of her time there:

“I would like to highlight that my journey to Greece over the past three months was a life changing experience. Working with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, one of the world’s leading private international philanthropic organizations, was absolutely outstanding. As a young person who is still completing their undergraduate program, the work experience I gained was invaluable. It offered keen insight into the professional work environment and gave me the opportunity to work with like-minded people who were willing to engage with me at all levels of the grants-making process. My specific job description can be described as an acting program officer in the health and sports department. As an intern, I was given a great deal of access; there was no aspect of the grant making process in which I did not participate. I found that what I enjoyed most was attending events, working on grants, and learning about initiatives by SNF that specifically targeted social entrepreneurship and civic engagement initiatives. This is something I greatly admired about SNF, the keen desire to focus on empowering youth through programs that promoted collaboration, transparency, and opportunity.

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“I would like to take this opportunity to give an enormous thank you first off to the Hellenic Studies Program at Simon Fraser University for this opportunity and second to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation who has helped me grow in so many ways, despite the short amount of time. Of course I would also like to thank all of my wonderful friends in Greece that I made, for helping support me during this period; the Canadians I met that helped remind me of home, and the Greeks who were always encouraging me to ask questions and never hesitated when I wanted to know more about their country. Thank you all, I will be forever grateful.”

Facing Page: View from Philopappos Hill, Athens; Left: SNF Interns touring the SNF Cultural Center
COURSE OFFERINGS
2015/2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

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 277: History of Greek Civilization (online)
HS/HIST 304: Alexander the Great and the Quest for World Empire (online)
HS 100: The Greek World | Dimitris Krallis, André Gerolymatos, Evdoxios Doxiadis, and Eirini Kotsovili
HS/HIST 275: From Alexander to the Caesars: The Hellenistic and Roman Worlds to the End of Antiquity | Dimitris Krallis
HS/HIST 276: Social, Economic, and Political History of the Mediterranean | Evdoxios Doxiadis
HS 303/HUM 360: Byzantine Art and Architecture | Naomi Pitamber
HS 303/HUM 332: Mythology in Context: Greek Myths Redux | Eirini Kotsovili
HS 307/HIST 390: Rome after Rome: The Byzantine Middle Ages from the End of Antiquity to the Crusades | Dimitris Krallis
HS/HIST 307/GSWS 321: On Women: European Ideas and Debates Regarding Women from the Renaissance to the Present | Evdoxios Doxiadis
HUM 309/WL 303: Literatures and the Arts Across Cultures / Global Cultures and Its Others: Reflections on Civil War | Eirini Kotsovili
HS/HIST 364: Traveller, Diplomatic, and Media Narratives in Greece, the Balkans and the Mediterranean | James Horncastle
HUM 385: Special Topics in European Studies: Identity | Eirini Kotsovili
HS 403/HIST 486: History of Modern Greece | Evdoxios Doxiadis
HS/HIST 441/GSWS 411: Women, Property, and the Law in the Mediterranean | Evdoxios Doxiadis
HS/HIST 460: Themes in Byzantine History: Production, Profits, and Prudence: The Economies of the Ancient and Byzantine World | Dimitris Krallis
HUM 480/WL 403: After Modernities: Greeks go Global | Eirini Kotsovili
HIST 486: History of Terrorism: Anarchists, Spies, and Jihadists | André Gerolymatos

Bronze Discobolus from the Panathenic Stadium, Athens
SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

KATEVATIS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN HELLENIC STUDIES

The Charalampos (Harry) and Helene Kat- evatis Graduate Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in 2009 through generous donations from Harry and Helene Kat- evatis and the Burnaby Mountain Endow- ment 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: James Horncastle

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation we are able to offer a series of fellowships to our graduate students to support their studies.

This year’s recipients: James Horncastle, Dionysios Arkadianos, Milad Doroudian, and Edip Golbasi

HELLENIC CANADIAN CONGRESS OF BC GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

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

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 recipient: Huangyi Jiang

FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. André Gerolymatos, Director and Chair
Dr. Evdoxios Doxiadis, Assistant Professor
Dr. Eirini Kotsovili, Lecturer
Dr. Dimitris Kralis, Associate Professor
Dr. Thomas Kuehn, Associate Member
Dr. Evangelos Venetis, Visiting Faculty

Maria Hamilton, Manager, Administrative and Academic Services
Christopher Dickert, Communications Associate
James Horncastle, Research Assistant
Coleen Pescott, Secretary to the Director/Program Assistant

SNF NEW MEDIA LAB

Costas Dedegikas, Technology Manager/Creative Director

Sally Huang, Online Course Developer/Chinese Language Support
Polychronis Kampylis, Senior Software Engineer
Konstantinos Kontos, iOS/OS X Engineer
Kostas Poulakidas, Junior Software Engineer
Tasos Skikos, Online Course Developer/Technical Support

GREEK LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Dr. Eirini Kotsovili, Greek Language Program Coordinator

Dionysios Arkadianos, Instructor/Research Associate
Dr. Athanasios Bravos, Instructor/Research Associate
Aikaterini Kalyva, Instructor/Research Associate

Monastery of Roussanou, Meteora, Greece

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The 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.

For more information about the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies and its programs, please contact us:

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