AGORA

The annual publication of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University
The 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 Centre. Their contribution and enthusiasm make our journey worthwhile.

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Graffiti on building in central Athens (elCarito)
In offering this Director’s report on the activities of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU, I do not wish to summarize what you will find printed in the pages of the issue in hand. You can read about the exciting progress that the SNF New Media Lab has made on the Rebooting the Greek Language project, and all of the year’s events and initiatives in the pages that follow. Instead I wish to highlight the activities of one of my colleagues, Dr. Sabrina Higgins, because I see those, as the embodiment of the type of work that makes the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies unique.

As the Hellenic Studies Professor in Mediterranean and Aegean Societies and Cultures and a scholar of Late Antiquity Sabrina straddles worlds. A trained archaeologist with excavation experience in Egypt and the Republic of Northern Macedonia she is also an art historian with interests in religious studies. She therefore, feels at ease with both field reports and art historical analysis. Her teaching very much reflects such versatility. At the same time, since her arrival at Simon Fraser University Dr. Higgins has added to her more traditional work by engaging actively with her field and assuming positions on governing boards of her field’s international associations. She more notably set in motion important collaborations with international partners, such as the National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF).

As I write from Athens, having just visited my colleagues at this very institution, I rely on her work to further fruitful collaborations with a major research hub for the study of Hellenism. As part of her work with the NHRF, Sabrina has been building with her counterpart Dr. Niki Tsironi a collaborative Digital Humanities project that seeks to collect, systematize, and digitize visual materials relating to the Virgin Mary from the Mediterranean from the Late Antique and Early Medieval periods. Sabrina and Niki have already held one symposium at SFU to discuss matters related to this digital humanities project and are holding another one at Oxford this coming summer. This international collaboration is not, however, a rarefied ivory tower project. It currently employs two graduate students from Hellenic Studies as well as two undergraduate archaeology students and seven other volunteer undergraduates. By bridging technology and scholarship but also research and the student body, Sabrina makes true SFU’s commitment to Engage the World.

What is more, by playing a central planning and organizing role in “Between Worlds: A Greek Civilization XR Experience” an exhibit at the Museum of Vancouver held in late 2019 and designed with the provincial grade seven curriculum in mind, Sabrina worked with technologists from the SNF New Media Lab and the Spatial Interface Research Lab in SFU’s Department of Geography to test the potential of Extended Reality (XR) as a tool for educational programming and augmented museum experiences.

All the while, Sabrina has worked on assuming a leading role in the excavation of an early Byzantine site in the Republic of Northern Macedonia, helping with the bridging of academic and, for that matter, national frontiers. I have expanded on Dr. Higgins’ work at SFU because it compellingly demonstrates how the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies becomes a space that stirs the imagination and motivates faculty and students to exist in the world not as isolated intellectuals but as bridge builders, relating their work and ideas to a much wider community.

In this iteration of the Agora, you will find many such examples of bridge building and direct engagement with the broader community. From technology to innovative pedagogy, from article writing to book publishing, and from teaching to public speaking, members of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies and the SNF New Media Lab have been constituting spaces of learning that transcend localities and span wide spaces, creating connections and facilitating communication. As we remember the founder of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, our colleague, the late André Gerolymatos, we believe that there is no greater tribute to his legacy than the work we do in the realm of engagement and collaboration. It is exactly his commitment to these very goals that made it possible for a Centre such as ours to exist at SFU.
by Chris Dickert

It has been nearly twenty-five years since Hellenic Studies found a home at Simon Fraser University and as we enter the first few months of the second decade of the second millennium, it’s a good time to look back and reflect on the path that brought us to where we stand today. This is especially true, as we enter a period of transition with the appointment of a new director, Dr. Dimitris Krallis, following the loss of our founding director Dr. André Gerolymatos this past year.

So, after nearly a decade of bake sales, silent auctions, and gala dinners, the Hellenic Canadian Congress of British Columbia Chair in Hellenic Studies was established at Simon Fraser University in 1996. That same year, Dr. André Gerolymatos – a trained classicist and historian of the Greek Civil War – was appointed as the inaugural holder of the research chair, an appointment that wasn’t without controversy. Nevertheless, André set out to fulfill his mandate to nurture the creation of an academic program dedicated to the teaching and research of Greece’s history, language, and culture at SFU.

Over his twenty-three year career, he secured significant resources from supporters, philanthropic organizations, and governments at all levels who shared his vision of what Greece could teach the world. With the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, with whom André and SFU would share a lasting partnership, he launched the first online language learning platform designed specifically for the Modern Greek Language, expanded Hellenic Studies to China, and in 2011 established the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU as a premier site in North America for research on Greece.

Unfortunately, André did not live to see the culmination of his last initiative, the Rebooting the Greek Language Project. This multi-year effort is supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and brings together the latest advances in educational technology and pedagogical research to the challenges being faced by the modern Greek language in the Diaspora. The dedicated team of the SNF New Media Lab led by Technology Advisor, Costa Dedegikas, has been augmented by an international team of linguists, Greek language educators, designers, and developers to create a suite of apps to support parents and community schools teach the Greek language throughout the Diaspora. The team has released the first batch of apps this past February 9th to coincide with the International Day of the Greek Language, with a full launch scheduled for later this year.

The Rebooting the Greek Language Project isn’t just a series of apps, however; it is also a significant generator of cultural content designed to support the learning of the Greek language and to get children excited about their heritage. Video has been an important medium for this content, and select children have already been able to enjoy the adventures of Herakles, Athina, and Ermis in “Heroes of the Disk,” an animated web series that introduces Greek vocabulary and culture, while entertaining six-to-nine-year-olds at the same time. The project team has also been collaborating with the Museum of Vancouver and Dr. Nicholas Hedley’s Spatial Interface Research Lab in SFU’s Department of Geography to develop an exhibit called “Between Worlds” that makes use of augmented and virtual reality technologies under the auspices of the Greek Ambassador to Canada, Dimitrios Azemopoulos.

While the exhibit was only open to late elementary and Greek community school students as part of a pilot program, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies was able to share a sneak-peak with the public on the evening of November 26th at an event called “Found In Translation” with the support of the Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC.

The Rebooting the Greek Language Project builds on the Stavros Niarchos Foundation’s (SNF) work at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU. Over its twenty-five year history, the SNF Centre has funded over 860 projects and the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies has been an important launching pad for the next generation of Hellenists. With the launch of the Rebooting the Greek Language Project this past February, SFU’s Hellenic Studies is poised to become a major force in teaching the Greek language in Canada and the Diaspora.

The launch event also provided an opportunity for reflection on the passing of the Centre’s founding director, André Gerolymatos. During the event, the Centre’s new director, Dr. Dimitris Krallis, publicly launched a call for support for an André Gerolymatos Memorial Fund at SFU, to provide him with an enduring legacy at the university. We were joined at the event by André’s widow, Mrs. Beverly Gerolymatos; SFU’s Vice President, Advancement and Alumni Engagement, Mike den Haan; the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dr. Jane Pulkingham; the CEO of the Museum of Vancouver, Mauro Vescera; as well as the newly-installed Greek Consul General in Vancouver, Eleni Georgopoulou.

With so many members of the local Greek community in attendance, the evening was also a time to think, however tentatively, about what comes next for Hellenic Studies at SFU. Thanks to André’s efforts and the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, there exists a strong base on which to build and the dedicated team of researchers, technologists, and administrators that André assembled will continue to work to bring Greece alive for new generations of learners, both inside the academy and throughout the Diaspora. 2021 promises to be an auspicious year, not least because it also marks the bicentennial of Greek Independence; Hellenic Studies at SFU will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary, while the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies will celebrate its tenth. We hope that next year you will join with us as we mark these milestones and help us chart the next twenty-five years together.

The content of the "Between Worlds" exhibit aligns with British Columbia’s new grade seven social studies curriculum and includes virtual and augmented experiences that span a range of geographic scales and contexts, such as: looking through a doorway in museum space to experience the daily domestic life of an ancient Greek home in virtual space; witnessing a famous Greek naval battle from the perspective of the deck of a warship; journeying deep into the underworld; and rebuilding a ruined Tholos to participate in ancient rituals. Physical objects and historical artifacts formed the starting point of these engagements, while the accompanying narratives brought an elevated historical meaning to the student’s learning outcomes.
Over the past two years, an international team of developers, linguists, designers, and language experts led by the SNF New Media Lab have been burning the midnight oil to bring their expertise and experience to the challenges being faced by the Greek language in the diaspora. Despite the central role that the language plays in modern identity, Modern Greek is heard less and less throughout the diaspora. Teaching materials and curricula are from a generation ago and do not reflect the reality of many of today’s young people, while sweeping changes in technology, education, and culture have radically changed the classroom environment - what used to work, no longer does.

That’s why, with support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, we have combined the latest educational technology with new advances in language pedagogy to create new tools for language learning in the diaspora. These long hours bore their first fruits on February 9th when, in recognition of the International Day of the Greek Language, the Rebooting the Greek Language project team released the first of what will be a series of new apps for young learners, free on the App Store for both iPhone and iPad. Based on fifteen years of research and development and rigorous testing in pilot projects at fifteen North American schools, these apps strive to make learning fun, valuing content and story-telling over technological gimmicks. The ultimate goal is to entice early learners, as young as preschoolers, to embrace their heritage language.

Following an expanded round of pilots that will bring the total number of participating schools to thirty, a suite of four core apps will be released covering Preschool (ages 4+), Early Elementary (6-8), Late Elementary (9-13), and Teen and Adult (13 and up). The Rebooting the Greek Language Project team is partnering with local and international organizations and governments to support the distribution of these apps to community groups and parents, throughout the diaspora, which thanks to the support of Stavros Niarchos Foundation, will be free of charge.

In addition, the project team is launching a new pilot of these apps in refugee camps in Northern Greece in order to explore the use of Greek language learning for the improvement of social integration for these asylum seekers and their children.

As the project comes to a close towards the end of 2020, the team will also be releasing courses for Classical and Koine Greek, as well as Paleography using the updated Rebooting platform for use in the postsecondary setting. And while the end of Rebooting the Greek Language will be bittersweet, as much of the team disbands to other initiatives and projects, their will be remain a profound sense of accomplishment for everyone who gave their time and effort to ensuring that the Greek language continues to be heard across the diaspora, for years to come.
Dionysis Arkadianos, left, and Aleksandar Jovanović, right (Dale Northey)

Simon Fraser University PhD Students Find Opportunities Working on the Rebooting the Greek Language Project

SFU Education PhD student and SNF New Media Lab Research Coordinator, Dionysis Arkadianos, as well as recent History PhD graduate, Dr. Aleksander Jovanović, have found a home in the Rebooting the Greek Language project, thanks in part to support provided by SFU’s Office of the Vice-President, Research and International.

Dionysis has worked as an instructional designer for the project from the very beginning, focusing on the pedagogy and tools required to power the learning experience for Greek language students of all ages. The inspiration? His love of video games! Believing video games have the potential to serve as an ideal medium for learning, Dionysis became interested in the possibility of gamifying the language learning experience. In addition to his work on the project, Arkadianos is currently pursuing a PhD through SFU’s Faculty of Education where he believes his research will become pivotal for instructional design and education technology in the future.

As a trained Byzantine historian with a background in the Classics, Aleksander is exceptionally well-versed in ancient and medieval Greek and has been collaborating with Dionysis to develop an introductory course on the ancient Greek language for university-level learners. Using a storytelling approach, developed by Dionysis for modern Greek language education, students learn syntax and grammar, while engaging with myths and legends from Greece’s ancient past. Aleksandar is especially excited about the potential impact this project will have on students interested in the humanities and social sciences, as he works to find new and engaging ways of delivering millennia-old material for the modern learner.

Dionysis and Aleksandar will continue working side-by-side until later this year, when the project comes to a close. In the meantime, they will continue combining their expertise to develop a comprehensive and user-friendly ancient Greek language education experience.

“My work on the Rebooting Greek Language project has been a beautiful experience, that has given me the freedom to be creative and the pleasure of working as part of a great team.”

~ Nikoleta Koronia, Illustrator

The programme is supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, as part of the Rebooting the Greek Language project.

To date, eight interns have participated in the project (with a third and final group on the way soon) and the project team has been pleased to have so many talented software developers, illustrators, storyboarders and designers involved throughout the project. Some of the interns have also been able to secure contracts with Canadian technology companies thanks to their participation in the programme.

The Rebooting the Greek Language team has been augmented for the length of the project through an innovative internship programme that is providing a possible model for reversing the brain drain affecting Greece due to the financial crisis.

Working in partnership with VentureLabs®, a leading business accelerator in Vancouver, British Columbia, the SNF New Media Labs has brought two cohorts of interns from Greece to Canada to participate in entrepreneurial and technology training. Interns are provided with travel and accommodation, as well as a small stipend. Following their training, the interns returned to Greece and were embedded in the SNF New Media Lab’s distributed work environment, which allowed them to participate in the project without having to leave their homes, like Nikoleta Koronia, who has been working as an illustrator from her home in Koropi. She has been producing beautiful animation for the many videos that accompany the apps, some of which are included below and on the following page.

The Rebooting the Greek Language Internship Program Opens New Vistas for Young University Graduates in Greece

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The Rebooting Greek Mythological Universe
In the summer of 2019, I was awarded the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Byzantine Coins and Seals summer school held at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection. Located in the heart of historic Georgetown, Dumbarton Oaks has positioned itself as a "home for the humanities" since being gifted to Harvard University by the Bliss family in the 1940s. Today, it is perhaps most widely known for its historic gardens, however, it also serves as a museum, archive, library, publishing house, and a research centre - providing long and short-term fellowships for scholars of Byzantine Studies, Pre-Columbian Studies, and Garden and Landscape Studies. For Byzantinists, studying at Dumbarton Oaks has become a sort of professional rite of passage. Their longstanding Byzantine Coins and Seals summer school brings together seven early career scholars from across the disciplinary spectrum of Byzantine Studies for a month of intensive training and research in numismatic and sigillographic methods, using the institute’s expansive physical and digital collections.

During the month of July, I attended daily lectures and workshops, alternating between numismatics (the study of coins) led by Princeton University’s curator of numismatics, Dr. Alan Stahl, and sigillography (the study of seals) led by Dr. Jonathan Shea, the associate curator of coins and seals at Dumbarton Oaks. Additional lectures on digital humanities practices were supplied by Lain Wilson and Byzantine iconography by His Grace Bishop Joachim of.
Amisos (Dr. John Cotsonis).

The museum at Dumbarton Oaks houses over 17,000 Byzantine lead seals and 12,000 Byzantine coins, making it one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive collections of its kind. Each day, coins and seals relevant to the lecture theme and our individual research interests were pulled from this collection to facilitate hands-on learning. Following these lectures and workshops, our afternoons and evenings were spent conducting independent collections-related research projects. While there, I was able to translate and build catalogue entries for the museum’s small collection of medieval Armenian coins dating to the reigns of Levon I(1) and Het‘um and Zabel, and presented a preliminary study on political messages and iconographic choices from early Armenian Cilician coinage.

Like many archaeologists, my interest in numismatics began in the field. Through working as a trench supervisor on sites such as Çadır Höyük during my undergraduate degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland, I saw firsthand how careful recording of Byzantine coins found in excavations assisted with establishing site chronologies — allowing us to gain a clearer picture of a site’s broader architectural phasing and occupation. During my master’s in Early Medieval and Byzantine Archaeology at Newcastle University, I was able to further explore my interest in numismatics through lab-based coursework dedicated to the identification and analysis of Late Roman and Byzantine coinage, using the numismatics teaching collections at the Great North Museum: Hancock. Through the Dumbarton Oaks summer school, I was able to expand on this foundation, by learning how to conduct die studies, statistical analysis of numismatic collections using economic theory, as well as identifying contemporaneous imitations of Byzantine coins from across both the Western and Eastern medieval worlds. Although I was not a stranger to numismatic research before entering the coins and seals summer programme, sigillographic studies were instead given images of the obverse and reverse of the coinage. As many of our students do not have the opportunity to participate in this valuable Byzantine archaeology for the first time can experience the thrill of handling a real Byzantine artefact first-hand.

I plan to introduce a similar numismatics workshop within my upcoming Byzantine course - this time, experimenting with cut-outs of Byzantine coins printed at a 1:1 scale — allowing students to experience the real challenges of identifying artefacts that are difficult to see. I will also be incorporating a Byzantine Seals workshop into a module on communications. As many of our students do not have the needed Greek language background for translating Byzantine seals – this workshop will instead focus on diagnostic tools for dating these seals, and will make use of Dumbarton Oaks’ impressive online catalogue, thereby, allowing students to explore translations of the seals they have dated and view common titles and offices found on these types of artefacts. The opportunity to participate in this valuable Byzantine coins and seals summer programme at Dumbarton Oaks was made possible through travel funding awarded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. I am deeply appreciative of their generosity, and I look forward to giving back to the Centre by passing on the knowledge and skills I acquired during this memorable summer to current and future undergraduate students of Hellenic Studies at SFU.

The Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection is located in the Georgetown neighbourhood of Washington, DC. Its founders, Robert Woods Bliss and his wife Mildred Barnes Bliss, gave the property to Harvard in 1916. The research institute is dedicated to supporting scholarship in the fields of Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and garden and landscape architecture studies (Aurora Canamco).
Easily make contacts at the Archives of Yugoslavia. I met the James Horncastle as my office neighbour, allowed me to supervisor, the late Dr. André Gerolymatos, and having Dr. State Archives in Zagreb. Working with my former PhD of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, and the Croatian History of the Workers’ Movement in Podgorica, the Archives in Belgrade, as well as the State Archives of Montenegro – able to get my hands dusty in the Archives of Yugoslavia program was about to fundamentally change. I was finally Arriving in Belgrade also meant that the nature of my PhD program was about to fundamentally change. I was finally able to get my hands dusty in the Archives of Yugoslavia in Belgrade, as well as the State Archives of Montenegro – History of the Workers’ Movement in Podgorica, the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, and the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb. Working with my former PhD supervisor, the late Dr. André Géroumats, and having Dr. James Horncastle as my office neighbour, allowed me to easily make contacts at the Archives of Yugoslavia. I met the archive’s director, Dr. Milan Terzić, who helped make the transition from lowly grad student to researcher smooth and comfortable. Any anxieties I may have had eased because of such contacts.

Of course, such experiences aren’t always easy. Born in Canada to a Serbian immigrant family means that speaking Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian (BCS, formerly Serbo-Croatian) at home doesn’t necessarily translate to being able to speak it in a professional setting. My home department, History, requires that grad students pass a language exam as part of their progress through the program. I squeaked by my exam, but passing it gave me the confidence I needed to conduct research in a foreign language and in the Balkans. Thankfully, the international nature of archival staff meant that the odd times when I did make mistakes, the archivists, administrators and directors were helpful and understanding. Having the reputation of SFU and the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies behind me helped with that, as well.

Navigating the various archives could sometimes be difficult. Working in four different countries meant that each archive had their own system of finding materials in the archives. For example, the Archives of Yugoslavia have most of their catalogue searchable on their website, while the Archives for example, the Archives of Yugoslavia have most of their catalogue searchable on their website, while the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina do not. This meant more email contact prior to my arrival in Sarajevo than with Belgrade. Nevertheless, these challenges served as good learning experiences for future visits, while also giving me important insights into how the various archives operate.

Being at the Centre also allowed me to get further research experience. While at the Archives of Yugoslavia I worked as a research assistant for a project by Dr. Horncastle which required that I research a topic outside of my own research area. I gained valuable experience learning about a topic that I wouldn’t otherwise have come into contact with, while also working more intimately with research materials. This is an experience that I can carry forward with me throughout my growth as a professional historian.

I’m older than many of the other grad students in my cohort, which means that I also have a family of my own. My wife and our two daughters, Isabel, 4, and Sophie, 1, came with me on much of my research trip. This proved both challenging and rewarding. Having the family to come home to after a day in the archives was comforting, but travelling with two little ones can also be frustrating. Wooky sleep habits, temper tantrums and wholly new environments – to say nothing of language barriers, different food, and being away from familiar friends and family – were some hurdles that my wife and I had to navigate with the kids. Thankfully, our kids are rock star travellers! They have picked up some of the language of the region and a taste for some of the food. I can’t wait to bring them back to the halls of Hellenic Studies to wish a “dobar dan” (good day) to Chris, Maria and all of the others – faculty, staff and students alike – at the Centre.

Much of the fall semester revolved around my research, travel planning and other logistics. I learned a lot from the experiences, I have some great memories, and I’ve made some lifelong friends and colleagues along the way. Autumn 2019 will be remembered for all of these things, but I’ve come to realize that this semester was also about me taking the skills, contacts, and experiences I gained through my time at Simon Fraser University and applying them to the “real world.” I was able to rely on the knowledge of my friends and colleagues at the Centre while also charting my own independent path. The materials I found in the various archives will serve me well in my current PhD project, and beyond, and much of that is owed to the people who populate the Centre. I owe each and every one of them a thank you, or, as Sophie would say, palacinke (crêpe) in-hand, “Hvala!”

by Stevan Bozanich

Every graduate student anticipates the moment that they are able to conduct their own research, and my feet touching the gangway leading off the plane at Nikola Tesla Airport in Belgrade, Serbia was the realization that three years of studying, reading, and ultimately passing my PhD comprehensive exams was firmly in my rear-view mirror. I was fortunate to be supported by a Graduate International Research Travel Award (GIRTA) which made the financial burden of international travel disappear. Without the support of the faculty and staff at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies receiving the award would not have been possible.

Arriving in Belgrade also meant that the nature of my PhD program was about to fundamentally change. I was finally able to get my hands dusty in the Archives of Yugoslavia in Belgrade, as well as the State Archives of Montenegro – History of the Workers’ Movement in Podgorica, the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, and the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb. Working with my former PhD supervisor, the late Dr. André Géroumats, and having Dr. James Horncastle as my office neighbour, allowed me to easily make contacts at the Archives of Yugoslavia. I met the
During the past academic year, the Greek Language Program team members continued working on teaching and research, honouring their commitment to Greek language learners of the broader community. The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU was once again the official Examination Centre for the Ellinomatheia State Certificate exams, servicing the Greater Vancouver Region and Western Canada for the Centre for the Greek Language; a member of the European Federation of National Institutions for Language, established by the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. This past year there was a significant rise in the number of Greek learners who registered and took the formal language exams, with more students learning Greek as a heritage language. In addition, the academic program launched language courses which combined new educational approaches and technology while following the internationally recognized Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment (CEFR) levels, seeking to engage students in learning the language through a wide range of activities available through the new online platform created by members of the SNF New Media Lab. The new digital learning environment incorporates design principles based on the self-regulated learning theory, where students assume control and responsibility of their own learning, based on specific learning outcomes that have been defined by the course instructor. Additionally, a gamification-based feedback scheme is used, hence the learner is able to monitor their progress and at the same time achieve higher levels of engagement and motivation for their learning. IT support was provided at all times, by members of the SNF New Media Lab, assisting the students with useful guidelines and supporting their learning experience throughout the term. The students - a diverse group that was comprised of both international students and heritage learners - responded enthusiastically to the new platform which is designed to empower learners as they navigate through new material and activities while improving their language skills. The courses also incorporated face-to-face tutorials, giving students more opportunities to interact with each other, while practicing speaking, reading and sharing any comments or questions they may have. The instructor provided guidance throughout the learning process, online and in-person, spending as much time as needed in order to address any questions or difficulties each student had. The aforementioned, contributed to making the first term of offering the new GRK courses particularly rewarding and exciting for both the students and the course instructor. The new platform and course design allowed for great flexibility in teaching and learning the language, keeping the students highly interested in the material and enabling them to acquire language skills with greater ease.

by Eirini Kotsovili and Dionysis Arkadianos

Greek National Library at the SNF Cultural Center in Athens (Michalis Mantelos)
November 26, 2019, Found in Translation event (Dale Northey). Top: community members socialize at the Between Worlds VR exhibit. Left: Dr. Jane Pulkingham, Dean of FASS, delivers her remarks. Right: Mike Den Haan, VP, Advancement and Alumni Engagement poses with Mauro Vesciara, CEO of the Museum of Vancouver. Bottom: Dr. Nicholas Hedley assists in a demonstration at one of the exhibit’s VR stations.

Professor Dimitris Papadimitriou delivers the Third Annual Edward and Emily McWhinney Memorial Lecture at the SFU Segal Building in downtown Vancouver on April 8, 2019 (Dale Northey).
In 2018, we released new, updated versions of our online courses to our Chinese university partners. The new features improved the user experience, for the first time allowing students to use their mobile devices to learn Greek history, culture and language. Additionally, we welcomed a new partner, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, the third university in China to offer students a Major in Greek Language.

In spring 2019, the then-acting Director of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, Dimitris Krallis, travelled to China to pay a visit to our partner organizations. From March 13th to 19th, he visited three universities in China: Nankai University (Nankai), Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU), and Shandong University (SDU). He met with the Dean of the Faculty of History and the Director of Hellenic Studies at Nankai. In BLCU he had a productive meeting with the Vice President, the Associate Director of the International Office, as well as the Director of the Academic Affairs Office. They reviewed the past ten years of partnership and discussed future collaborations on student exchanges, new Greek language projects, as well as other academic initiatives. Dr. Krallis also gave three presentations to graduate students at Nankai and SDU, including on “The Byzantine Army as Demes,” “Politics in the Byzantine Village and Small towns,” and “Impersonal Governance in Byzantium” which were warmly received by students and faculty alike.

Our learning materials play an important role in the Chinese postsecondary market, where teachers and students appreciate the resources we provide for learning the Greek language in its historical and cultural context. Thanks to our decade of collaboration and partnership, many Chinese university students are better prepared for future careers in foreign affairs and international trade between Greece and China.

At the end of January 2019, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies participated in the first event of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation’s 2019 DIALOGUES series to commemorate the Chinese New Year at the SNF Cultural Centre in Athens. In addition to celebrating the arrival of the year of the pig, the event was also an occasion to mark the common bonds of culture and history shared by Greece and China.

As a long-time collaborator with educational institutions throughout China, the Centre was represented by then-acting Director, Dr. Dimitris Krallis, who participated over video-conference from Vancouver. Dr. Krallis was joined by moderator and series curator Anna-Kynthia Bousdoukou, as well as Zhang Qiyue, Her Excellency the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Greece, Zu Lijun, Director of Business Confucius Institute at Athens University of Economics and Business; and Angelos Chaniotis, Professor of Ancient History and Classics at the Institute for Advanced Study. His Excellency Ambassador Leonidas Rokanas also participated over video link from the Greek Embassy in China.

In addition to the discussion, attendees were treated to live music, martial arts demonstrations, a traditional dragon dance, and much more besides.

by Sally Huang

HELENIC STUDIES IN CHINA

DIMITRIS KRAILLIS PARTICIPATES IN STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION DIALOGUES EVENT MARKING THE CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR

SNF DIALOGUES’ Chinese New Year event at the SNFCC (Marilena Katsimi)
For the third year in a row, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies organized a seminar series spanning both the spring and fall semesters of the 2018/19 academic year. The series invites scholars working from a broad range of disciplinary and methodological viewpoints to share their research at the Centre, while at the same time creating the foundations for a broader, international network of Hellenic Studies researchers. This year’s series consisted of thirteen speakers and included visiting scholars, SFU faculty and graduate students.

Many of the speakers critically engaged with material culture as a window into political power across different historical contexts, including, Dr. Milena Repajić from the University of Belgrade, who presented her findings on irony in Michael Psellos’ writing in eleventh-century Constantinople. Dr. Michael Fronda, from the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University, shared his research on the acquisition of war spoils in Roman society during the second century BCE and its role in communicating political and social power. Two scholars, Dr. Sadia Abbas from Rutgers University - Newark and Dr. Alexander Grammatikos from Langara College, both explored how the influence of literature, and the arts more broadly, could empower women to drive socio-political change in violent and oppressive contexts. Other speakers focused on identity politics and moral values, such as Dr. Ozren Jungic, who examined how ideologies shaped approaches to war and peace during the International Criminal Tribunal for the 1992-95 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while University of British Columbia professor, Dr. Michael Griffin, discussed his work on the cultivation of a virtuous character in Late Antiquity.

In the coming years, the Centre will continue to bring established and emerging scholars from around the world to share research, nurture collaborations, and inspire new ideas on Greece’s history and culture.

by Lauren Gilbert
In a previous incarnation, the SFU Segal Building served as the headquarters of the Bank of Montréal. Erected in 1916 and located in the heart of downtown Vancouver, it is now home to the university’s graduate business program and serves as a forum for lively debate and discourse for students, faculty, and the local community. It was here that the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies hosted the third annual Edward and Emily McWhinney memorial lecture on April 8, 2019.

Edward and Emily McWhinney were true philhellenes, as well as long-time friends and supporters of Hellenic Studies at SFU. Every year, the SNF Centre of Hellenic Studies organizes a lecture in their honour and as a reminder of their commitment to academic excellence and public service, while providing a forum for contemporary issues related to hellenism and international relations.

Dr. Dimitris Krallis, the Director of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, opened the evening with a call to respectfully acknowledge that the event and its organizers were gathered on the Coast Salish Peoples’ territories. He made note that this recognition is essential, as colonial discourses and narratives would play a part in the themes of the evening, referring to the effects of Northern European geopolitical ambitions in Greece’s modern history and the not uncommon reference to Greece as a “debt colony”. The Dean of SFU’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dr. Jane Pulkingham, followed with her own remarks and welcomed the evening’s speaker, while dwelling on the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies success in embracing SFU’s identity as an engaged institution of higher learning.

This year’s lecturer was Dr. Dimitris Papadimitriou, Professor of Politics at the University of Manchester and Director of the Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. Papadimitriou is the co-convenor of the ECPR Standing Group on Southeast Europe and co-editor of a book series on European Politics at Manchester University Press. His most recent book is a co-edited volume, *The European Union and Central and Eastern Europe: Assessing Performance*, a summary of the performance of the EU and Central and Eastern European countries in post-communist Europe. He has held academic posts at the London School of Economics and the University of Bradford and has extensive expertise on the European Union, as well as on Greece’s economy and politics.

This year’s lecture was titled, “Bailout Legacies: The Imprint of the Greek Economic Crisis on the European Union,” so it was only appropriate that it was held in a former bank. Papadimitriou explored the EU’s decision to offer several bailouts to Greece during the economic crisis, beginning in 2008, and expounded on four interlocking themes during the course of the evening, including how Greece’s domestic political economy led to the crisis, the dominant discourses that arose from the crisis, the impact of the discourses in the EU response, and the ultimate effects of the bailouts on Greek and EU policies.

Despite the heavy April rain, the evening’s lecture was well-attended and well-received by the audience. As has become tradition, the event concluded with a reception in the adjoining Founders Hall.
by Eirini Kotsovili

In 2019, Sadia Abbas (Associate Professor, Department of English, Rutgers University – Newark, and Adjunct Professor, Hellenic Studies Program, Simon Fraser University) and Eirini Kotsovili (Lecturer, Hellenic Studies Program, Simon Fraser University) organized the workshop “Sovereignty, Space and Aesthetics: Greece and Europe in the World” which took place in Lesvos, Greece, from June 15th to June 18th. This was made possible thanks to the generous support received from Rutgers University – Newark, Simon Fraser University and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies.

The co-organizers, who share research interests which involve the study of Modern Greek literature and art in a broader, comparative context, invited participants to reflect on a wide range of themes and pressing issues framed by questions of space, sovereignty and/or aesthetics, from their respective fields, which include history, forensic and research architecture, critical and cultural studies, theory, gender studies, anthropology and politics. They selected the island as the location they should host the workshop based on its intricate ancient and contemporary history that manifests itself in varied structures and monuments, highlighting the co-existence of different traditions and people; its rich cultural production and association with celebrated Greek authors, such as Nobel laureate in Literature Odysseas Elytis, Stratis Myrivilis and Titos Patrikios; as a space that remains a meeting point of different populations and identities, past and present.

The workshop proved to be particularly rewarding to all parties involved, for two main reasons: it combined a series of rich and rigorous intellectual engagements amongst scholars and activists, as well as meetings with locals, who gave first-hand accounts of their life-experiences on the island. Participants included Vangelis Calotychos (Brown University), Maria Boletsi (Leiden University and University of Amsterdam), Faisal Devji (Oxford University), RA Judy (University of Pittsburgh), Gary Wilder (City University of New York), Jini Watson (New York University), Nikos Papadogiannis (Bangor University), Phevos Kororos-Simeonidis (Goldsmiths, University of London), and Eleni Takou (Human Rights 360).

Together with the co-organizers they presented on the following: literary references on the Aegean archipelago and its islands in critical moments; the study of movement and the constitution of space in the village of Molyvos, in Lesvos; the reconfigurations of ‘Crisis’ in recent Greek cultural production and the politics of possibility; the transnational encounters of Europeans in the late 20th century; the development and operation of reception structures during the recent migration crisis in Greece; reflections on Europe in the mirror of Islam, why Empire is without Sovereignty; prophetic visions of the past based on black Atlantic history, literary narratives, and real life experiences of refugeedom in the Pacific. The presentations allowed for participants and those attending the workshop – such as PhD Candidate Soili Smith (Rutgers University) – to establish unexpected connections between themes from different contexts, made possible thanks to the dialogue between a diverse group of individuals. The immediate outcome of this ambitious and innovative workshop - based on the wide range of disciplines it involved and the level of engagement achieved - was the creation of a working group comprised of all participants, forming an interdisciplinary network of scholars and activists that can contribute critical analyses on current, pressing issues, both within and outside of academia. Discussions are also currently under way for a new initiative, connected to the workshop and set to follow in 2020-2021 showcasing the connection of Modern Greek Studies and Global Humanities.
On March 27, 2019, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies welcomed Olga Kefalogianni, former Minister of Tourism and member of the Greek Parliament for Nea Demokratia, offered a public lecture at the Museum of Vancouver on Greece’s Cultural Heritage, sustainable development, and the economic promise of tourism.

The evening was opened by the then-acting Director of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies and Associate Professor of Byzantine History, Dr. Dimitris Krallis, who began with an acknowledgement of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations on whose traditional territories the Museum of Vancouver now rests. His ensuing remarks explored the different experiences that Vancouver and Athens have had with tourism, noting the opportunities for sustainable and sustained growth that still remains a desideratum for Athens, before introducing Ms. Kefalogianni to assembled guests.

Greece’s rich historical and cultural heritage has enticed and attracted visitors for generations. In 2018 alone, 35 million tourists visited the country’s eighteen UNESCO World Heritage sites (the most in Europe), its impressive coastline, islands and beaches. Tourism accounts for nearly one-fifth of Greece’s GDP and has been a key economic driver in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Ms. Kefalogianni’s talk highlighted the significant opportunities for all sectors of the Greek economy from further development of Greece’s dynamic tourist sector, as well as the possibilities offered by new digital technologies and the creative classes that support them.

The talk was followed by an informal discussion between Dr. Krallis and Ms. Kefalogianni where many of the issues raised in the talk were explored in greater detail; the audience was also given the opportunity to ask questions of the visiting MP. Following the question and answer session, which took place as the sun set over Vanier Park and the surrounding city, the assembled guests concluded with a reception, where the discussion continued.

The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies was pleased to explore such an important economic and cultural issue as tourism with the Member of Parliament for Athens’ electoral District A, members of the local Greek-Canadian diaspora community, and philhellenes.
in the Balkans. Dr. Horncastle joined the faculty over the 2019 summer term and officially took up the duties of the Professorship in the fall. The addition of a scholar with expertise in population movements places the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at the centre of these important policy debates in Greece, at a time when the number of migrants arriving in Lesbos from Turkey has risen once again.

The Edward and Emily McWhinney Professorship was made possible through gifts from the Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The Professorship was established to honour the memory of two long-time friends of Hellenic Studies at SFU: Professor Emeritus Edward McWhinney, QC, passed away in 2013 on his ninety-first birthday following a short illness. He was predeceased by his wife Emily in 2011.

Researchers working in the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies continued to investigate important questions about Greece’s past and present, while also engaging with the broader community of scholars working in history, archaeology, literary and cultural studies, and international relations, from Antiquity to the Modern Era.

A number of faculty monographs appeared in print this past year. The Centre’s newest addition, the Edward and Emily McWhinney Professor in International Relations, Dr. James Horncastle, saw his manuscript Macedonian Slaves in the Greek Civil War, 1944-1949 appear with Lexington Press over the summer. Centre Director Dr. Dimitris Krallis saw the publication of his latest monograph with Palgrave; entitled Serving Byzantium’s Emperors: The Courtly Life and Career of Michael Attaleiates, the work explores eleventh-century Byzantine society and politics through the life of one of its historians. Dr. Evdokia Doxiadis published a monograph with Bloomsbury Academic entitled State, Nationalism, and the Jewish Communities of Modern Greece, as well as a co-edited volume with Dr. Alimeh Placas with Berghahn Books, entitled Living under Austerity: Greek Society in Crisis.

In addition, faculty saw the release of a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals or as chapters in edited volumes. Two pieces by Dr. Horncastle appeared in edited volumes: “A Measure of Success? Soviet and American Military Advising in Yugoslavia, 1945-1957,” and “The Death of a City: The Yugoslav Peoples Army Siege of Vučjak, 1991, Refugee Crisis, and its Aftermath.” Another publication by Dr. Krallis, “Liquid Memory: Maritime Allusion and Greek Imagery in the Forum of Constantine” came out in a special volume of the Journal of Ancient Civilizations in honour of professor Xu Jialing, a pioneer of Byzantine Studies in China. In addition, three more articles await publication in the coming months by the Centre’s director, having passed peer review, while one piece awaits completion and submission to a journal.

Dr. Higgins on the other hand, saw “‘Tr. Thecla and the Art of Her Pilgrimage: Towards a Feminist Aesthetic Praxis’ appear in the Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies and has two articles to be submitted for publication in the spring of 2020; one on the use of apocryphal texts in the creation of early Marian iconography and the other on the early evidence of the cult of Mary across different regions of the Mediterranean basin. Two articles of Dr. Doxiadis also appeared: “From Legal Diversity to Centralization: marriage and wealth in nineteenth-century Greece” in Anna Bellavitis and Beatrice Zucca Micheleto’s Gender, Law and Economic Well-Being in Europe from the Fifteenth to the Nineteenth Century: North vs South? as well as “Resurrecting the Law: State Formation and Legal Debates in Nineteenth-Century Greece” in European History Quarterly.

Faculty members were also on the road, presenting their work to colleagues and the broader lay community, Dr. Horncastle continued to investigate important questions about Greece’s past and present, while also engaging with the broader community of scholars working in history, archaeology, literary and cultural studies, and international relations, from Antiquity to the Modern Era.

I am extremely excited to continue my research into population movements in the Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean here at Simon Fraser University and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies. SFU, through its mandate to engage the world, and the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, as a leading site for Hellenic Studies in North America, make it an ideal place to conduct such research.

- Dr. James Horncastle

Dr. Horncastle is a historian of Modern Greece who completed his graduate work at the University of New Brunswick (MA in 2011) and Simon Fraser University (PhD in 2017). His current research connects the Greek Civil War and the role that conflict played in population movements in the Journal of Ancient Civilizations in honour of professor Xu Jialing, a pioneer of Byzantine Studies in China. In addition, three more articles await publication in the coming months by the Centre’s director, having passed peer review, while one piece awaits completion and submission to a journal. Dr. Higgins on the other hand, saw “‘Tr. Thecla and the Art of Her Pilgrimage: Towards a Feminist Aesthetic Praxis’ appear in the Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies and has two articles to be submitted for publication in the spring of 2020; one on the use of apocryphal texts in the creation of early Marian iconography and the other on the early evidence of the cult of Mary across different regions of the Mediterranean basin. Two articles of Dr. Doxiadis also appeared: “From Legal Diversity to Centralization: marriage and wealth in nineteenth-century Greece” in Anna Bellavitis and Beatrice Zucca Micheleto’s Gender, Law and Economic Well-Being in Europe from the Fifteenth to the Nineteenth Century: North vs South? as well as “Resurrecting the Law: State Formation and Legal Debates in Nineteenth-Century Greece” in European History Quarterly.

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Dr. Sabrina Higgins speaks to assembled guests during the “Between Worlds” exhibit launch event at the Museum of Vancouver (Dale Northey)
Graduate students working with Centre faculty have been hard at work this year conducting their research, attending classes, teaching, and presenting at various international conferences. We celebrate their successes in the reports below:

JOVANA ANDJLEKOVIC

Academic 2018/2019 brought another lively and productive year at SFU. It started off with a presentation at the 43th Annual Conference of Byzantine Studies in San Antonio where I delivered a paper on compulsion and persuasion in eleventh-century rhetoric. After this rewarding experience, most of my fall semester was dedicated to successfully passing my comprehensive exams and gaining the status of a PhD candidate – a task that was finally concluded in January 2019. Its completion was followed by a participation in the Vagantes Medieval Conference in Toronto and an opportunity to discuss different teaching methods in history classrooms. This interest was further deepened through a rather engaging RAship in a project by The Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning (ISTLD). Finally, the summer semester was dedicated to summer schools, preliminary thesis research and various workshops on the Balkans. The time I spent at THYESPA Modern Greek Language School, Social Sciences and Humanities seminar in Petnica Science Center (Serbia) and Petnica International Multidisciplinary Summer School brought not only knowledge but also valuable academic experience, most needed for my future scholarly endeavors.

STEVAN BOZANICH

The 2018/19 academic year saw me teaching a revamped History 338: “History of the Second World War: A World at War.” I presented at two conferences: the Western Social Sciences Association in San Diego, California and at the Congress of the Humanities, Canadian Association of Slavists section, at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. This light conference load allowed me to concentrate on submitting peer reviewed articles and chapters in edited volumes. As a result, I have two chapters coming out in early 2020 dealing with Yugoslavia’s intelligence agency and the “invented tradition” of Serbian warriors in the 19th and 20th centuries, respectively. I also have a forthcoming entry in the 1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War due out in November 2019 entitled “Post-war Turmoil and Violence (Yugoslavia).” Perhaps the accomplishment which I am most proud occurred in the summer of 2019: passing my comprehensive exams “with distinction.” This allows me now to focus on passing my prospectus defense and engaging in primary source research in the Western Balkans in Autumn 2019. The nature of my project sees me going to Belgrade, Serbia; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Zagreb and Split, Croatia; and, Podgorica, Montenegro.

AURORA CAMAÑO

In the 2018/2019 academic year I finished the second year of my PhD in the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University, successfully completing my thesis prospectus and public colloquium on the medieval landscapes of Armenian Cilicia and Cyprus. In addition to this, I completed a certificate in University Teaching and Learning and have since used this experience to lead workshops in Roman and Late Antique numismatics for undergraduates taking Roman Art and Archaeology, alongside several material culture labs for Historical Archaeology students. This past spring, I organized a thirteen-week seminar series for the Department of Archaeology, bringing in an array of local and international speakers from across several archaeological/physical anthropological subfields. I was also able to present my own research on Restorative Nostalgia in Armenian Cilicia at the SFU Archaeology Graduate Symposia: People on The Land and chaired a workshop on The Digital Mary Project being led by Dr. Sabrina Higgins as part of a digital humanities research assistantship. Finally, with support from the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, I ended the academic year in Washington, DC where I participated in a month-long intensive Byzantine numismatic and sigillography summer school hosted by the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection.

PANAGIOTIS DELIS

The past year was productive both in academic and teaching terms. I taught my own course for the first time on state building in the Balkans and the Mediterranean. I prepared a book chapter planned to appear in late 2020 in an edited volume about prisoners of war, published by Kentucky University Press. Moreover, last November I had the opportunity to present my work about ethnic cleansing and violence during the Balkan Wars at the Modern Greek Studies Association 26th biennial Symposium that was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Sacramento. Last but not least, I completed the research part of my PhD project after visiting the Military Archive in the city of Veliko Tarnovo in Bulgaria. This year I will be focusing on writing my thesis and teaching.
Mete Oguz

PhD Student Cahit Mete Oguz finished his final two directed reading fields with Dr. Marica Cassis and Dr. Thomas Kuehn this year, which culminated in the passing of his comprehensive field exams at the end of this year. Throughout the year he was also busy as a teaching assistant for HIST 102W (Canadian History) and HIST 130 (Global History) respectively. Furthermore, he attended two conferences; the Oxford University Byzantine Society’s 21st International Graduate Student Conference (February) and the 19th Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference at UBC, Vancouver (March). He also attended the intensive Byzantine Greek Summer School (Advanced Level) organized by Bogaici University in July.

Neal Payne

This past year I completed the first year of my master’s degree in the Department of Archaeology. My thesis explores how previously excavated archaeological material can be re-deployed to address questions of regional variation in the diet of different regional groups living under Roman rule in Britain. In April I was awarded a SSSHBC CGS Masters Scholarship to support my research, and during the summer was also awarded a Graduate Fellowship from the Department of Archaeology. Throughout the year I volunteered for the Simon Fraser University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology’s lithics rehousing project. Additionally, I spent much of May and June in Pompeii as a student volunteer on the Venus Pompeia Project. In May 2019 I presented a portion of my thesis research as a poster at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Society of Ethnobiology. This poster, titled “Reevaluating Colonialism and Cultural Change Through Food in Roman Britain”, explored the theoretical framework I have developed for my thesis project.

Dr. Andreas Avgousti, 2019 / 2020 Hellenisms Past and Present, Local and Global Postdoctoral Fellow

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies was pleased to welcome Dr. Andreas Avgousti as the 2019/2020 Hellenisms Past and Present, Local and Global Postdoctoral Fellow. Andreas studied political science at Columbia University, where he received his PhD in 2015 and holds a BSc (First Class) and an MSc (Merit) from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Most recently, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Portland State University and has previously held the post of Lecturer in Core Curriculum at Columbia University.

During his time at the Centre, Andreas has been finalizing his book manuscript, entitled Recovering Reputation: Plato and Demonic Power. Currently under review at Oxford University Press, the manuscript is an exercise in the history of political thought intended for those who are cynical about reputation and its democratic potential. It aims to show that reputation is worth thinking about by engaging with Plato, an author with whom we do not readily associate this concept. Andreas’ work on the ancient Greek concept of reputation extends beyond Plato, with a view to expanding our own ways of thinking. To that end he has also been writing two article-length pieces: “Constituting Reputation: A Study of Aristophanes’ Lysistrata and Assembly-women” and “Reputation as a Problem and Reputation’s Problems in Isocrates.” These articles will continue to take shape during his time at the Centre.

Andreas has been at the Centre during a formative time for his next book-length project in comparative political theory. The project examines how populist actors form their publics and respond to their judgment; its subjects are St. John Chrysostom, a prolific and charismatic orator from the Byzantine era, and Archbishop Makarios III, the postcolonial populist leader and first President of Cyprus.

In addition to all this scholarly activity, Andreas has also been an active and engaged member of the Centre’s intellectual community and a frequent attendee at the biweekly seminars and public events. We look forward to his remaining time at the Centre.

Congratulations Aleks and Jeffrey!

A hearty congratulations to Aleksandar Jovanović (PhD) and Jeffrey Greenall (MA) who both successfully defended their theses earlier this year on topics in Byzantine History under the supervision of Dr. Dimitris Krallis.

From Health Sciences, to Hellenic Studies: a Newfound Passion

by Tiffany VanWinkoop

This September will be my first academic year in the Centre. As an MA student enrolled in the Department of History, but, as the staff and faculty will attest, I am no stranger to Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. When I began my undergraduate studies at SFU in 2014, I hoped to enter medicine, and consequently majored in Health Sciences. While I was happy with my studies, I found that the sciences, in general, lacked the holistic critical-thinking I had been hoping to develop at university. Thus, when it came time to search for electives, I was intrigued by a course which promised a holistic view of the Greek civilization, the Hellenic Studies “HS 100 – The Greek World.” I was amazed both by the content of the course and the creativity of the format. Delivered by multiple faculty members of the Centre, it allowed me to sample Greek history, art, archeology and literature in twelve short weeks. Furthermore, each of the faculty members were engaging individuals who were eager to help students in and out of the classroom, cultivating a real sense of community. When the course ended that semester, I knew instinctively that I was not finished with Hellenic Studies, and I immediately enrolled in the next HS course, and with many more to follow.

By balancing my required science courses with Hellenic Studies electives, I found that my semesters were more intellectually stimulating. Not only was I learning the critical-thinking necessary to engage with the broader impact of such scientific analysis, I grew increasingly comfortable navigating and bridging my scientific know-how with a keen and critical awareness of broader social and political thought.

Furthermore, in 2017, I had the good fortune to take part in the revival of the Greece Field School program. It was incredibly humbling to be able to see the monuments and remains of civilizations I had learned about in the Hellenic Studies classes in Athens, Delphi, and the Island of Lesvos. Not only could I witness the ancient artifacts of Greece in their native land, I could also interact with local Greeks, learning about modern Greece, and the resiliency and strength of its people. My respect for the Greek people only grew when I was selected as an intern for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Internship Programme in their Athens office. There I was able to learn first-hand about the passion and heart of the Greek people. I am eternally grateful to both the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies for both of these opportunities.

This past June, I completed my undergraduate studies, receiving both a Bachelor of Science (Major in Health Sciences) and a Certificate in Hellenic Studies. I am incredibly thankful for the Hellenic Studies faculty and staff who supported me through my undergraduate studies, and I cannot wait to continue working with these wonderful individuals throughout the course of my graduate work!
by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, alongside prominent Greek politicians and businessmen. “Staying at the Canadian Institute of Greece, I became quick friends with the Institute’s interns and got to meet fellows and researchers at the Canadian, and nearby American, British and Nordic Institutes. Located a five-minute walk from the US Embassy and two metro stops away from Syntagma square, I got to experience Athens, not only as a city rich in history and culture, but as a modern political capital which hosted both US Secretary of State Pompeo and Chinese President Xi Jinping over the course of my stay. “This internship allowed me to live in Athens for three months exploring its museums, galleries, and archaeological sites to my heart’s content. Over the course of my stay, I uncovered new parks, restaurants and cafés and got to really appreciate the distinct character of Athens’ different neighbourhoods. A few of the weekends, I took advantage of my base in Athens to visit other places in Greece including Mycenae, Epidaurus, Nauplio, Delphi, Kalampaka and Aegina. When the internship was over, already in Europe, I took the opportunity to travel with my boyfriend to Bosnia, Serbia and Turkey where we visited several sites and monuments I had encountered during my Hellenic Studies coursework. “I am so incredibly thankful for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for providing SFU students this opportunity, to my Hellenic Studies professors who encouraged and supported me during the application process and to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies and the Simon Fraser Student Society for making it all possible.”

GREECE FIELD SCHOOL: SUMMER 2019

Simon Fraser University and Douglas College collaborated again to bring a group of undergraduate students to Greece for a field school in May and June 2019. The first three weeks were spent at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU, where students participated in seminars and orientations, while getting to know the faculty and each other as they prepared for their intellectual adventure. Landing in the Greek capital of Athens, students fought off jetlag (and the heat) and hit the ground running, with trips to the Acropolis, Pnyx, National Archaeological Museum, and more before taking the short trip to the Aegean island of Lesvos. For three weeks, students settled into the island lifestyle of lectures and readings, interspersed with swims in the Aegean, hikes in the hills around Molyvos, and siestas in the hot afternoons. There were outings to Mytilene, a Byzantine-era Monastery, a petrified forest, and Mt. Lepetimos.

Finally, to round out the trip, students travelled to Thessaloniki, Greece’s second largest city, where they spent the last few days together reflecting on what they’d learned before making a last jaunt into Athens, where thanks to the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, students were welcomed as attendees to the annual SNF Conference put on by the Foundation at the SNF Cultural Center. The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies and Douglas College will be teaming up again to send another cohort to Greece during the summer of 2020. Earn university credits while visiting the Acropolis, Byzantine and Ottoman Imperial ruins, the White Tower of Thessaloniki, and more!
**SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS**

Thanks to our many generous donors and to the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies endowment fund, we are able to offer a wide range of financial support for students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

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Greek National Library at the SNF Cultural Center in Athens (Jürgen Weidner)
MEMBERS

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PANAGIOTIS DELIS
Modern Greek history / graduate

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LAUREN GILBERT
Administrative coordinator

MARIA HAMILTON
Manager, administrative and academic services
Dr. Gerolymatos studied Classics at Loyola College (Dipl.), Concordia University (BA), and McGill University (MA), before switching to History for his PhD, also at McGill, where he researched British Intelligence and Guerilla Warfare Operations during the Second World War in Greece (1941-1944). He taught at Dawson College and McGill University before joining the History Department at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in 1996 as the inaugural holder of the Hellenic Canadian Congress of British Columbia Chair in Hellenic Studies.

From the very beginning of his appointment, Dr. Gerolymatos strove to secure more resources with which to expand the teaching and learning of Greek language, history and culture at SFU. Over the 23 years of his active career at our institution he raised millions of dollars in gifts and grants from governments, NGOs, and individuals who embraced his vision of a vibrant and engaged Hellenic Studies presence at the university and in the broader community. One of his most valued partners has been the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), with whose support, Dr. Gerolymatos launched the world’s first online language learning platform designed specifically for the Modern Greek language. The technology developed during this project has continued to evolve and has been used to support Arabic, French, and Italian, as well as thirteen critically-endangered First Nations languages in Western Canada in partnership with the First Nations Language Centre at SFU. The trust that Dr. Gerolymatos built with the SNF eventually led to a $7 million endowment and the creation of the thriving SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at SFU.

Even as he sought to lay the foundations for a lasting Hellenic Studies presence at the university, Dr. Gerolymatos always gave freely of his time and was often in the community giving talks on his research to lay and academic audiences. His expertise in terrorism and international relations found him in constant demand from the local, national and international media, especially following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City.

His expertise stemmed from an active research programme that he maintained throughout his career. Dr. Gerolymatos returned again and again to the trauma inflicted on Greece in the second world war and the civil war that followed, a topic that remains deeply divisive in that country. His most recent book, *An International Civil War: Greece, 1943–1949*, published by Yale University Press was especially successful in Greece, where it was translated and released by Dioptra Press.

Dr. Gerolymatos’ many honours and awards include HRH Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for Service to Canada and the Officer (Gold Cross) of the Order of the Phoenix in recognition for contributions to Greek culture. In recognition of the late Dr. Gerolymatos’ dedication to the study of Greece and Hellenism, friends and colleagues have established a memorial fund to support his legacy in Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. The André Gerolymatos Memorial Fund will support his vision of Hellenic Studies as a broader, interdisciplinary project covering the study of Greece, from antiquity to the modern age. You can find more information about how to contribute to this initiative on our website or at give.sfu.ca/ways-to-give/fund/andre-gerolymatos.
The SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies was established in 2011 at Simon Fraser University through a multimillion-dollar grant by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Situated atop Burnaby Mountain, just east of downtown Vancouver, the Centre is a major site for Hellenic Studies in North America and is committed to the advocacy and study of Hellenism.

The Centre supports the Hellenic Studies Program at SFU which offers undergraduate courses in Ancient, Byzantine, Early Modern and Modern Greek History, in addition to Archaeology and Greek language training. Graduate students working with our faculty receive significant financial support as well as teaching and publication opportunities.

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.