Modern Greek Studies Association Biennial Symposium Comes to Atlanta and GSU

The Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA) is the largest international organization in the world dedicated exclusively to Modern Greek or Neohellenic themes. Every two years, scholars from around the world gather for three days of intensive scholarly and cultural programming. When the Center for Hellenic Studies’ application to host the 2015 MGSA Symposium was accepted, we were naturally thrilled. This is a great honor for the Center, and a singular opportunity for the community of Greek scholars here in Atlanta, as well as the interested public.

The main events for this Symposium will include a neophonia Music concert designed by GSU’s own Nickitas Demos, to be held at the Kopleff Recital Hall on Thursday evening, October 15, 2015, at 8:00 pm, and a Keynote Address by Yannis Hamilakis, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Southampton, to be held in the second floor Amphitheater of the Loudermilk Conference Center on Friday evening, October 16, 2015, at 7:00 pm.

Be sure to consult the full program of events, spanning three days and multiple disciplines. This promises to be an exceptionally lively symposium! The Thursday evening music concert and the Friday evening Keynote Address are free and open to the public. Members of the Atlanta community who wish to attend the entire conference are encouraged to register either on the website or on-site at the Loudermilk Conference Center.

Special thanks for organizing the symposium go to Sakis Gekas, Chair of the MGSA Program Committee, and all of its members: Tassos Anastassiadis, Heath Cabot, Elias Dinas, Yaprak Gürsoy, Panos Hatziprokopiou, Kostis Kornetis, Penelope Papailias, Efthymia Rentzou, Louis Ruprecht, and George Syrimis. Very special thanks to Gonda Van Steen, MGSA Executive Director, and Neovi Karakatsanis, MGSA President, for their ongoing stewardship of Modern Greek studies.

Thanks to Louis A. Ruprecht Jr., who is also chairing the Local Arrangements Committee. Other Local Arrangements Committee members include Margo Alexander, Nickitas Demos, Christos Galileias, Kathryn Kozaitis, Faidra Papavasiliou, Gerard Pendrick, and Lela Urquhart. All are members of the Center for Hellenic Studies Executive Committee at GSU.
In the Spring of 2013, and working together with Maria Sharp from the Lykion ton Ellinidon, Atlanta Chapter, the Center was delighted to host the Greek filmmaker, Maria Iliou, for two screenings of her award-winning documentary *Smyrna: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City, 1900–1922*. The first screening took place at the Hellenic Center of the Greek Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta, and the second was held at GSU’s Cinefest Theater, followed by a panel discussion with professors Nadia Latif, Faidra Papavasiliou, and Louis A. Ruprecht Jr. of Georgia State University.

Thanks to a generous gift from Ms. Iliou’s Proteus NY, Inc., and Lykion ton Ellinidon, the Center was able to sponsor its first student paper contest, soliciting essays on the destruction of Smyrna and its aftermath. The undergraduate award was given to Ms. Aikaterina Grigoriadou and the graduate award to Ms. Mary Grace Dupree. We are delighted to include Ms. Grigoriadou’s and Ms. Dupree’s summaries of their award-winning papers here, with our warmest congratulations:

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**The Center for Hellenic Studies’ First Student Paper Awards**

The destruction of Smyrna by fire in the fall of 1922 is remembered as the jewel of the East, and the “Little Paris.” At the end of the 19th century, Smyrna was known as one of the largest commercial centers in the Eastern Mediterranean. The city embodied the presence of travelers from all over the world and the coexistence of citizens with different national identities and cultural practices. These features contributed to the multicultural and cosmopolitan social structure of the city which, along with its strategic geographical location and economic and intellectual development, made Smyrna unique. Smyrna was the gate from the East to West, and from the West to East, and became the cosmopolitan center where cultures crossed their historical paths. In 1922, the big fire of the 14th of September was the catalyst that signified the destruction and tragic end of Smyrna.

Smyrna’s catastrophe, as well as the survival and lived experiences and memories of Smyrna’s refugees, urged the lyricist Pythagoras Papastamatiou, and the composer Apostolos Kaldaras to produce, in 1972, the musical album Μικρά Ασία (Asia Minor) as an artistic memorial to the tragic fate of Asia Minor’s citizens. My essay, “The Destruction of Smyrna and its Artistic Legacy,” is a musical analysis of the songs “Σμύρνη” (Smyrna) and “Η Προσφυγιά” (The Flight)—two songs from the musical album Asia Minor—revealing how art and history work together to demonstrate significant events and keep them alive in the world’s memory, so that humanity will not forget, so that humanity will find catharsis. The essay focuses on how the marriage of the lyrics with the melodic movements, melismas, rhythm/tempo, dynamics and orchestration in these songs unfold the two most significant events of the Asia Minor catastrophe: the big fire of Smyrna—“Smyrna is burning ... our pain is unspeakable”—and the harsh fate of Smyrna’s refugees—“Oh! Flight, your bitter taste is greater than that of death’s.” Through this musical journey, history, emotions, and images are transmitted to generations, and the deep ah! and “καημός” remain in the soul of the world.

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The destruction of Smyrna by fire in the fall of 1922 is remembered by Turks and Greeks alike as a tragedy of confounding proportions. As Turkish troops occupied the city, events spun out of control, whether by accident or intent, and after four days of fire, the once-great city was a hollow shell, and thousands of its Greek inhabitants were dead. What makes this story more than just a historical sadness is the narrative of inevitability that was woven around it by Muslim and Christian historians alike. When the destruction of Smyrna is seen as one more episode in a long feud—between East and West, between Muslim and Christian, between Turk and Greek—then two equally toxic things happen: the real causes are left unexamined, since they are seen as only proximate and not root causes; and bystanders are left with little motivation to intervene, as in the case of the French soldiers who witnessed the butchering of Archbishop Chrysostomos. Any reasoned study of the wedding of religion, identity, violence, both in the larger picture and in the gruesome particularities of the catastrophe of Smyrna—as in the work of historians like Richard Bulliet and Thomas Sizgorich—makes clear how bankrupt this “episodic” view of history is and rejects the narrative of inevitability for this and future tragedies, calling readers to a renewed understanding of Mediterranean culture and religions as sister civilizations.
In music, *counterpoint* is defined as the relationship between voices that are harmonically interdependent yet remain independent in rhythm and contour. This is a beautiful metaphor for the relationship between Greek composers residing both inside and outside of Greece. While sharing a common ancestry, these composers also function independently as a result of their disparate locations and experiences. Join us for a concert celebrating this rich and vibrant counterpoint of contemporary Hellenic culture. The program will feature compositions by Greek and Greek-American composers exploring modern, diverse and compelling musical styles.

Founded in 1996, the **neoPhonia New Music Ensemble** promotes the music of established contemporary composers, presents important chamber works of the late 20th/early 21st Century, hosts significant guest artists and provides an opportunity for the performance of music by emerging young composers. The ensemble features a flexible instrumentation comprised of GSU Faculty, GSU Student and area professional musicians. To date, the *neoPhonia New Music Ensemble* has given 80 premieres and commissioned new pieces by such composers as Theodore Antoniou and Yiorgos Vassilandonakis. The group has been the featured guest ensemble at the 2014 National Conference of the National Association of Composers – USA (NACUSA), the 2008 National Conference of the Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI); the Third Biennial Contemporary Music Symposium in 2001 at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and the 1998 SCI Region IV Conference. The ensemble was cited in the April 2004 issue of GRAMOPHONE Magazine and has been featured on broadcasts by NPR affiliate WABE-FM 90.1. The name *neoPhonia* is loosely derived from two Greek words meaning ”new voices.” For more information, please visit: [http://music.gsu.edu/performanceensembles/new-music-ensembles/](http://music.gsu.edu/performanceensembles/new-music-ensembles/).

**Nickitas Demos** holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University, a Master of Music in Composition from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His principal teachers were Donald Erb (1927-2008) and Roger Hannay (1930-2006).

Commissions include works for the *Cleveland Orchestra, Atlanta Ballet, Nashville Chamber Orchestra, Atlanta Chamber Players, the Georgia Music Teachers Association and the National Association of College Wind & Percussion Instructors*. He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards including a MacDowell Fellowship (2012), Grand Prize in the 2004 Millennium Arts International Competition for Composers, Grand Prize in the 2005 Holyoke Civic Symphony Composition Competition, Birmingham and Atlanta Prizes in the Hultgren 2005 Solo Cello Works Biennial Composition Competition and 17 ASCAP Awards among others. Demos’ works have been programmed at festivals, symposia and conferences including the 43rd Dimitria Festival (Thessaloniki, Greece); the 18th International Review of Composers (Belgrade Serbia); the International Festival – Institute at Round Top (TX); the Ernest Bloch Music Festival (Newport, OR); the New Music Forum Festival of Contemporary Music (San Francisco, CA); and at National and Regional Conferences of the Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI) and the College Music Society (CMS). His music is self-published through Sylvan Lake Press (ASCAP) and has been recorded by Albany Records, MSR Classics and Capstone Records.

Professor of Composition and Coordinator of Composition Studies at the Georgia State University School of Music, Demos is the Founder and Artistic Director of the *neoPhonia New Music Ensemble*. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Directors for the MacDowell Colony and is the Musical Director of the *Greek Islanders*, an ensemble he founded in 1982 specializing in Greek folk music. For more information, visit: [http://nickitasdemos.com](http://nickitasdemos.com). He also served as the Inaugural Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies.
Christos Galileas, Associate Professor of Violin at the Georgia State University School of Music, was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He took his first violin lessons at the age of four with his father Kosmas Galileas, the distinguished Greek violinist and conductor. He continued his studies with the renowned professors Roland and Almita Vamos at the Oberlin Conservatory where he received the Dean's Talent Award and his Bachelor of Music degree. In 1995, he won the first prize at the National Competition for Scholarships of Greece, and two years later he was awarded the Alexandra Triandi scholarship of the Megaron of Athens. In May 2001 he received the master's degree at The Juilliard School where he studied with the distinguished professors of violin Dorothy Delay and Naoko Tanaka. In March 2001 he had the honor of receiving the first prize in the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship competition of the University of Illinois. In December 2005, he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in violin performance from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Dr. Galileas's extensive career as a soloist includes performances with the State Orchestra of Athens, National Radio Orchestra of Greece, Prague Symphony, State Orchestra of Thessaloniki, Canadian Chamber Orchestra of Toronto, Prague Virtuosi, Orchestra Citta di Grosseto (Italy), Symphony Orchestra of Sofia (Bulgaria), Lisbon Chamber Orchestra (Portugal) and Gustav Mahler Orchestra (Prague) among others. Additionally, he has performed at the International Festivals of Nauplio (1993, 2001), Dimitria (1994, 1998, 2003, 2004), Music Festival of Armenia (1994), Festival Kypria of Cyprus (1995), Festival of Patra (1998), Festival of Catania in Sicily (2001), and Festival Lago di Como (Italy) among others. His awards include First Prize at the Greek National Competition for violin, held by the Cultural Association TECHNI, in collaboration with the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki and the Cultural Capital of Europe Thessaloniki 1997.

In 2002, Dr. Galileas founded the Hellenic Camerata, a chamber orchestra with 22 members that toured many countries of North, Central and South America including the U.S., El-Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Uruguay, giving more than 35 concerts in seven weeks. Since 2003, Dr. Galileas has served as the Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Series at the Dimitria International Festival of Thessaloniki. His most recent appearances included the performance of the Brahms Double Concerto with Misha Maisky, and the collaboration with the Borodin Quartet and the George Enescu Philharmonic of Bucharest. Dr. Galileas plays on a 1705 Joseph Guarneri violin.

Eula C. Carlos (1928–2015)

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of the Center’s namesake and chief benefactor, Ms. Eula Kiriaki Caras Carlos, on May 22, 2015. Eula Caras was born in Cordele, Georgia on July 17, 1928, and moved with her family to Atlanta just fifteen months later. In January of 1949, she married her husband of fifty years, Andrew C. Carlos, and together the couple were to leave a profound philanthropic mark on our city and on our university. Eula C. Carlos was a lifelong member of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation; both she and her husband expressed their commitment to the virtue of charity in ways familiar to anyone who has lived in Atlanta for any length of time. The couple contributed significantly to the cultural life, the spiritual life, and the public health of the city of Atlanta in ways too numerous to list. In 2003, they were instrumental in raising the funds which established the Andrew C. and Eula C. Carlos Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies at Georgia State University; the funds for the Chair have enabled the development of an especially robust and distinctive series of academic, cultural and musical programming in only a decade. The Center’s hosting of the 2015 Modern Greek Studies Association is indicative of the international prominence which our program now enjoys, thanks to the Carlos’ vision, vigilance and continued support. Ms. Eula C. Carlos was predeceased by her husband and her eldest son, Chris. Those of us who remain are mindful of our debt to her and inspired by the legacy of a life so well and charitably lived.
Following a robust fall lecture series in 2014 devoted to the theme of "New Trajectories in Ancient Greek History and Archaeology" (featuring John Gager of Princeton University, Thomas Strasser of Providence College, Sarah Murray of the University of Nebraska, and GSU’s own Lela Urquhart), the Center for Hellenic Studies celebrated its becoming part of the Global Studies Institute with a robust spring program of public events. These included:

- “Battling Ebola in West Africa: Global Responses to a Potentially Global Epidemic,” Dr. Barbara Marston, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  January 13, 2015, and co-sponsored by the School of Public Health and the Global Studies Institute

- “Gazing at Sacred Horror in India: British Colonial Experiences of the Sublime,” Dr. Paul Courtright, Professor of Religion emeritus, Emory University
  February 19, 2015, and co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies

- “Idols with Feet of Clay: Ceramics and the World Religions,” Dr. John Burrison, Regents Professor of English, Georgia State University
  February 26, 2015, and co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies

- Co-sponsored the 30th anniversary celebration of the Institute for Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
  March 3, 2015

- Co-sponsored the Cappella Romana concert at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
  March 14, 2015

The Center’s Director also traveled to Greece, Iceland, and Italy to deliver the following lectures on a variety of Greek themes, as a representative of the Center and as part of its international public outreach:

- “What is Modern About Modern Art (and the Modern Artist)?”
  The American University in Rome, Italy (March 5, 2015)

- “Homerian Epic Versus Icelandic Saga: On the Complex Use of Narrative, Epic and Fate in the Virtue Ethics Tradition”
  Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle in Reykjavik, Iceland (May 14, 2015)

- “On the Strange Career of the Aegina Marbles in Munich”
  American School of Classical Studies (ASCSA) Summer Program in Greek Archaeology at Aegina, Greece (July 19, 2015)

Naturally, our primary programming energies in the fall of 2015 will be devoted to hosting the 2015 Modern Greek Studies Association’s biennial international symposium, on October 15–18, 2015. The exciting three-day schedule of events will include music concerts, keynote lectures, and panel discussions, involving some 200 scholars and artists from all over the world.

We are also happy to support Atlanta’s own Chamber Cartel orchestra in the city’s premiere of Iannis Xenakis’s (1922–2001) composition, Pléïades, a forty-minute work for six percussionists, on September 29, 2015.

The Center for Hellenic Studies is able to offer such a robust yearly calendar of cultural and academic events because of contributions from individuals and organizations passionate about continuing this wide range of events. This year gifts to the center will continue to enhance the programming as well as support the 24th symposium of the Modern Greek Studies Association. If you would like to make a contribution to the Center, go to the following web page https://netcommunity.gsu.edu/make-a-gift and follow the steps below:

1. Choose amount of donation
2. In the Designation box, scroll down to Other
3. Once the Other box appears, type The Center for Hellenic Studies(020266) in the box and click Add Donation to complete

If you would prefer to mail your contribution, please make your check out to the GSU Foundation and designate The Center for Hellenic Studies(020266) in the memo line. The check can be mailed to:

GSU Foundation
P. O. Box 2668
Atlanta, GA 30301

For additional information about supporting the center, please contact Hope Carter, Senior Director of Development at 404-413-5739 or hcarter8@gsu.edu.

The Center’s 2015 Programming
We are pleased to report that we have now submitted the papers originating from our 2013 celebration of the Greek poet, Constantine Cavafy (1863–1933), for publication in 2016. The Center’s director, Louis A. Ruprecht Jr., serves as the editor for an upcoming issue of the journal *Studies in the Literary Imagination* that will be dedicated to the poet. The contributors include Aikaterina Grigoriadou (Georgia State University); Michael B. Lippman (University of Nebraska); Anne McClanan (Portland State University); Gonda van Steen (University of Florida); Gregory Jusdanis (The Ohio State University); Jane Alison (University of Virginia); and Louis A. Ruprecht Jr. We are also delighted to be able to reprint a marvelous essay by Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk, “Other Countries, Other Shores,” that originally appeared in *The New York Times* on December 22, 2013.

## Center Joins GSU’s Global Studies Institute

We are happy to announce that the Center for Hellenic Studies is part of GSU’s new Global Studies Institute (GSI), launching this fall! We will be joined by the other multidisciplinary international programs in the College of Arts and Sciences—Asian Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Middle East Studies, and Human Rights and Democracy. The institute will address pressing problems and opportunities in today’s interdependent world. The Institute’s mandates on research, teaching, and outreach include:

- serving as a catalyst for innovative research on pressing global issues, including issues of violence, conflict and post-conflict reconciliation and peacebuilding, divided democracies and human rights, and patterns of migration and urbanization.

- equipping GSU students with key skills, credentials, and experiences to navigate the complex demands of the global workplace. This will include new bachelor’s and master’s-level degrees, emphasizing competencies in language training, international signature experience, and thematic and methodological expertise.

- collaborating with other programs at GSU and beyond to serve the Atlanta community through programming that brings the world to campus

We are excited to find a new home at GSU that will promote the Center’s engagement with the university, local community, and international partners, and look forward to welcoming our international visitors in mid-October.

## The Best of the NYC Greek Film Festival Back in Atlanta

**November 6 – 8, 2015**

Mark your calendars, because the very best of the New York City Greek Film Festival returns to Atlanta this year, November 6–8, 2015. Films will be screened at Emory University inside the Goodrich C. White Hall, located at 301 Dowman Drive in Atlanta. Stay tuned for the full program of films coming to Atlanta.

This year’s screening is sponsored by our friends at Lykion ton Ellinidon Atlanta Chapter, Emory University, the NYC Greek Film Festival, and, of course, the GSU Center for Hellenic Studies. See you there!

From the 2014 screening in Atlanta (L to R): *Little England, Common Denominator, and The Enemy Within*