

# Center for

# Hellenic Studies



## The Center at GSU Selected to Host the 2015 Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium

Scholars in Modern Greek Studies from throughout North America and Europe will gather in Atlanta, GA on October 15–18, 2015, for the 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial symposium of the Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA), the largest professional organization for Hellenic Studies in the world. Some two hundred international scholars are expected to attend the conference, which typically features more than eighty presentations, a keynote address, music concerts, film screenings, and more. Some of the program highlights will be announced well in advance on the program's website, which can be accessed via [www.mgsa.org](http://www.mgsa.org).

"It is a tremendous honor for our program to have been selected to host the 2015 meetings," said Louis A. Ruprecht Jr., Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies and William M. Suttles Chair in Religious Studies at Georgia State University, and Chair of the MGSA's Local Arrangements Committee. "This is the largest event in North America dealing with Modern Greek Studies, and I am especially pleased that the MGSA recognized the commitment of the

College of Arts and Sciences in promoting International Studies as a part of its new Global Studies Institute. We look forward to hosting friends from Greece and Cyprus, as well as from around the world, and I am confident that our local Greek community will display the hospitality for which it is so well known."

Neovi Karakatanis, President of the MGSA, concurred: "We are very excited to be partnering with the Center for Hellenic Studies to bring the Symposium of the Modern Greek Studies Association to Georgia State University. Given the Center's thriving cultural and academic mission, its dedicated leadership, its supportive community, as well as the vibrant, historical setting of Atlanta, we anticipate a most successful 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium. We are deeply indebted to Professor Ruprecht for his warm invitation to us and to our many members from around the world, and we look forward to this Symposium in America's most beautiful southeast."

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# Cavafy Conference Papers to be Published with Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk

As many of you will recall, in honor of the UNESCO Declaration of 2013 as the Year of Cavafy, the Center for Hellenic Studies sponsored a two-day series of events (readings, musical performances and an academic conference) celebrating one who is unquestionably the most important turn-of-the-century Modern Greek poet, Constantine Cavafy (1863–1933). We are delighted to recall the support of the Greek Consulate of Atlanta and the GSU Center for Collaborative and International Arts in that endeavor.

We have recently learned that the proposal to publish the proceedings of that conference has been accepted by the journal *Studies in the Literary Imagination*. The four original contributions were: Michael B. Lippman, “Cavafy’s Homeric Staging”; Anne McClanan, “Cavafy the Byzantinist: A Poetics of Materiality”; Louis A. Ruprecht Jr., “Constantine Cavafy: The Cosmopolitan Poet of Blurred

Borders of Identity”; and Gonda van Steen, “Arthur W. Pinero and Cavafy the Dramatist: Parallel Lives?”



We are delighted that these literary and Hellenic papers will be supplemented by several creative engagements with the poet’s life and work. The volume will feature an original poetic composition by Aikaterina Grigoriadou, a reflection on Cavafy’s civil service career by the Greek Consul of Atlanta, Vassilios Gouloussis, and the reprint of a marvelous essay by Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk, “Other Countries, Other Shores,” that originally appeared in the *New York Times* on December 22, 2013.

The volume is currently scheduled for release in fall 2015 (Volume 42, Number 2), and will thus coincide with our hosting of the Biennial Symposium for the Modern Greek Studies Association. Congratulations to all of our contributors!

## GSU Joins as a Member of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and the American Academy in Rome

In order to support continued studies of classical texts and archaeological sites in the Hellenic world as well as to advance philosophy and the arts with a focus on classical and contemporary themes, the Center of Hellenic Studies, on behalf on Georgia State University, has become a member institution the American School of Classical Studies in Athens (ASCSA) as well as the American Academy in Rome (AAR). The ASCSA and the AAR are the major funders of American scholarship in Greece and Italy, and we are proud to be a supporting member of their initiatives.

Joining as a member of each institution provides exclusive programming for Georgia State faculty as well as fantastic opportunities for students. GSU now has representation on executive committees for the AAR and ASCSA, and faculty may apply for fellowships and visiting professorships. GSU students can take advantage of scholarship opportunities, facility and library privileges at each location, and several summer institutes. For more details, visit our website, [www.cas.gsu.edu/hellenic\\_center](http://www.cas.gsu.edu/hellenic_center).



## Student Paper Contest in Fall 2014

Thanks to a generous gift from Proteus NY, Inc. and the Atlanta Chapter of Lykion ton Ellinidon, the Center for Hellenic Studies will be delighted to sponsor a student paper contest in the fall semester of 2014. Inspired by the Center’s overarching theme of “Cosmopolitan Hellenism,” and designed in tandem with our screening of Maria Iliou’s film, *Smyrna: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City, 1900–1922* in November 2013, the Center invites student paper submissions dedicated to the history of Smyrna/Izmir from the late 19<sup>th</sup> through the first three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The relevance of the tragic history of Smyrna to the purposes of the Center are obvious: how one of the truly cosmopolitan cities of the eastern Mediterranean, one which boasted a multiethnic and polyglot population of Armenians, Greeks, Jews and Turks, among others, should have fallen prey to the new ethno-religious nationalisms that emerged from the wreckage of World War One represents the beginning of a story of which we are all still very much a part today.

We invite papers that analyze the cosmopolitan/anti-cosmopolitan history of the city of Smyrna/Izmir spanning those four tumultuous decades. Papers should be no more than ten pages in length, double-spaced, with standard citation in parenthetical, footnote, or endnote format. The papers may be submitted to the Director ([lruprecht@gsu.edu](mailto:lruprecht@gsu.edu)) no later than Sunday, November 30, 2014.



# A Full Calendar of Archaeological Events for the Fall 2014

The Center for Hellenic Studies dedicated the fall of 2013 to the topic "New Perspectives on Crisis and Austerity." With that theme in mind, the Center sponsored a series of lectures by George Nakos (Clayton State University), Kathryn Kozaitis (GSU) and Faidra Papavasiliou (GSU) in September and October as a way (in the words of George Nakos) to "get beyond the headlines."

In the fall of 2014, the Center for Hellenic Studies will sponsor a semester-long series of lectures dedicated to *ancient* rather than modern Hellenic themes. The program, "New Perspectives on the Ancient World," will once again provide a robust series of lectures that brings in prominent scholars from around the country as well as draws on the unique strengths of our friends and colleagues at Georgia State University.

The fall calendar of currently scheduled events will be as follows:

## September

9 Tuesday

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"One, Two, Three: Plato's Theory and Practice of Mathematical Modeling"

Claas Lattmann, Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow, Emory University

4:30–6:00 PM

Tate Room, Carlos Museum  
Emory University

29 Monday

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"Let's Meet Downtown in the Synagogue: The Archaeology of Jews and Greeks in the Ancient World"

John Gager, William H. Danforth Professor of Religion *emeritus*, Princeton University

4:30–6:00 PM

Troy Moore Library, GSU

## October

6 Monday

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"Digital Mapping of the Ancient World"

Walter Scheidel, Stanford University, ORBIS Digital Project

Emory University

Time and location TBA

## October

13 Monday

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"Stone Age Mariners: Very Recent Evidence for Very Ancient Sea Faring in the Mediterranean"

Thomas Strasser, Professor, Department of Art History, Providence College

4:30–6:00 PM

Troy Moore Library, GSU

27 Monday

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"Devastating Economic Collapse or Vast Scholarly Conspiracy: Was there ever really a Greek Dark Age?"

"Men of Many Wiles: Homeric Heroes as Masters of International Finance"

Sarah Murray, Digital Humanities Fellow, University of Nebraska at Lincoln

4:30–6:00 PM

Troy Moore Library, GSU

## November

6 Thursday

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"Pindar of Thebes"

Nancy Felson, Professor *emerita*, Department of Classics, University of Georgia

4:30–6:00 PM

Tate Room, Carlos Museum  
Emory University

## November

10 Monday

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"The Politics of Religious Expression in Ancient *Magna Graecia*"

Lela Urquhart, Department of History, Georgia State University

4:30–6:00 PM

Troy Moore Library, GSU

### Our Past Year's Events

4/17/14 • The Future of the European Union: On the Greek Economic Crisis and the Exacerbations of Austerity

3/25/14 • Greek Independence Day Concert with the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble and featuring special guest composer and performer Athanasios Zervas

2/18/14 • "Greece and Europe in Myth and History" lectures and concert

11/8/13 • Screening of *Smyrna: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City, 1900–1922* and discussion with filmmaker, Maria Iliou

10/28 – 10/29/2013 • Celebrating Cavafy: Symposium and Concert

9/18 – 10/2/2013 • New Perspectives on Austerity and Crisis lecture series



## A Letter from the Greek Consul of Atlanta, Vassilios Gouloussis

*This July marks the end of Consul Vassilios Gouloussis's tenure at the Atlanta consulate, where he has served since October, 2008. He has been a true friend to the Center and presented below are his remarks to the CHS community.*

During the last six extremely challenging years, I have often pondered upon the added value of arts and culture in our everyday lives. The truth is that—especially in financially tough times—the arts tend to be considered a luxury only for the select few to take an interest in. Furthermore, people I came across were relentlessly casting doubt on the usefulness and expediency of the journey upon which the Consulate and the Center of Hellenic Studies had embarked, that is, to promote the modern (as opposed to just the ancient) Greek culture in the Southeastern US.

I have come to the conclusion that the journey was definitely worth it. Just like Odysseus's journey, it might have been long and lonely, yet it has been extremely rewarding for those of us who supported the Center all the way. We may not have reached Ithaca (and I do not really know if we ever will) but the fact of the matter is that Ithaca means in this context much more than it does in Cavafy's luminous poem of that name. Our Ithaca is not necessarily to make familiar all (or as many as we can) of the citizens of Atlanta with the literature, music and traditions of a Mediterranean country in Europe's Southeast. It is, above all, to shed light on a very different outlook on things, for in the Greek way of thinking, if there is no cultural life, then there is no social or economic life. Culture and the arts are inherent in the very concept of "life."



That I believe is what the Center and its people artfully demonstrated through the events they have organized, but more importantly, through their unique passion and commitment, thus opening up a new small window to a new but great world and making at the same time the knowledge of the "Greek spirit" a luxury we can all afford and indulge in.

Vassilios Gouloussis  
Consul of Greece  
Atlanta, June 2014

## New Greek Student and Scholarly Organization at GSU

The Greek Student and Scholar Association was established on February 24, 2014, and serves as the reference point for students of Hellenic origin at Georgia State University. Founding members Aikaterini Grigoriadou and Antonios M. Koumpias serve as Vice President and President, respectively. The academic coordinator is the Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University, Professor Louis A. Ruprecht, Jr.

The primary goal of this organization is to unite all Greek, Greek-American and Cypriot members of the Georgia State community (including students, scholars, staff, and faculty as well as interested philhellenes). The Association strives to create a stronger Greek community to enhance diversity on campus by organizing events of cultural interest. Board members are fully committed to involvement with and participation in the events organized by the Center for Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University.

### GSU Hosts MGSA continued from p. 1

The Symposium will be hosted by the MGSA's Local Arrangements Committee, which collaborates with the MGSA Program Committee and Executive Board to present a two-and-one-half day series of scholarly, cultural and other exciting events. The Symposium will also be supported by the Center for Hellenic Studies, the Center

for Collaborative and International Arts, and the Global Studies Institute at Georgia State University. The public is welcome to attend, but advance registration is advised.

Most of the conference presentations will be housed at the Loudermilk Conference Center, 40 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303. The keynote lecture, music concerts and films will be held in nearby GSU facilities; most will be free and open to the public.



## How to Donate

If you enjoyed the Center's programs this year and would like there to be more in the future, please consider making a contribution. Donations should be made to the Georgia State University Foundation for the Center for Hellenic Studies and can be mailed to: The Georgia State University Foundation, P.O. Box 3963 Atlanta, GA 30302, or donations can be made online at <http://www.cas.gsu.edu/giveonline>.

For more information, please contact Hope Carter, Senior Director of Development 404-413-5739 [hcarter8@gsu.edu](mailto:hcarter8@gsu.edu).

Visit the Center for Hellenic Studies on the web: [http://www.cas.gsu.edu/hellenic\\_center/](http://www.cas.gsu.edu/hellenic_center/)