

Center For Hellenic Studies



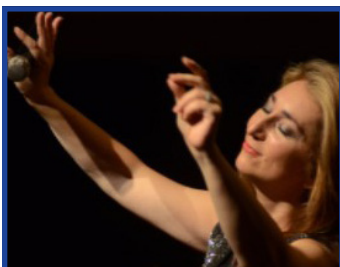
Welcome from the Director

Lou Ruprecht, Director of Hellenic Studies

Greetings to the Friends and Supporters of Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University.

It has been both a busy and productive year here at the Center, in very many ways. Academically, we are delighted to announce the arrival of Dr. Lindsay Samson, a superb Classicist and linguist who has initiated a new program of Latin here at GSU and who has generously agreed to serve on our Executive Committee. We welcome her with grateful enthusiasm.

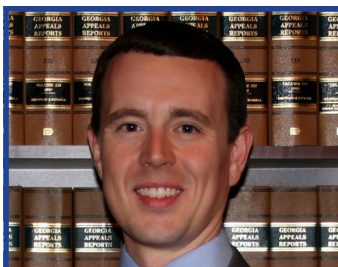
Under the auspices of the Global Studies Institute, the Center has now become the administrative overseer of the concentration in Classical Studies, which is part of the Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (BIS) degree program. More information on how I hope to re-design that curriculum will be forthcoming this summer on our website. As you will see below, Joshua Mathis has become our first student within that program. The Center's new office [Suite 1815, 25 Park Place (in the old Sun Trust building)] has now been fully organized as an important resource center where students and faculty may research themes in Greek archaeology, history, literature and religion, as well as consult a wide range of materials on study abroad opportunities in Rome, Greece (Corfu, Athens, Thessaloniki, Crete), Cyprus and elsewhere. The recent purchase of a large body of materials from the Modern Greek Studies Association's archives has significantly amplified these research collections.



Concert by
Alexandra Gravas



Meet
Lindsay Samson



New Book by
Marc Hyden



Congrats to
Joshua M. Mathis

Alexandra Gravas



The Center has also achieved notoriety for its scholarly activity and support. The first academic publication to grow out of the Center's seminars, panels and conferences was released by GSU's own *Studies in the Literary Imagination* in October of 2016. The publication of this volume was celebrated through our Fall 2016 theme, "*Winged Words: Greek Poetry and Song*," and culminated in a thrilling concert by mezzosoprano Alexandra Gravas, accompanied by Petros Bouras, on October 27, 2016.



The Greek Consul of Atlanta, the Honorable Giorgos Panayiotidis, connected us with Ms. Gravas, and has since arranged a very generous gift from the Consulate to support the Center's mission. We are tremendously grateful for this continued partnership, which also brought the Greek Ambassador, the Honorable Theocharis Lalacos, to campus on March 30, 2017.

The Center continues to offer its support to several important sites of Cretan archaeology: notably at the Plakias Stone Age project near Damnoni (2014), and at the Asphendou Cave (2016); the first-ever public report on the Asphendou findings was presented here at GSU during a half-day conference dedicated to the site on February 17, 2017.

The Center also actively promotes public events for the larger Atlanta community. Our partnerships with CENCIA, Emory University's Ancient Mediterranean Studies Colloquium, the Greek Consulate of Atlanta, Lykion ton Hellenidon, Georgia Humanities, the Goethe Zentrum and Alliance Française, as well as with GSU's College of Fine Arts has been essential to our success. The Center now sponsors or co-sponsors a robust series of cultural programming which includes a Crete-themed event each January, various music concerts including especially one of Nickitas Demos's neoPhonia concerts each spring, a series of lectures and films organized around an annual theme in the fall, and of course the New York Greek Film Festival in Atlanta each November.

The range and sophistication of what we are now able to offer has born fruit elsewhere. The Center is now recognized by the Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA) as one of the more energetic programs in the USA. In recognition of our emerging status, in August 2016 John and Elaine Carlos very generously announced a personal gift which will double the Center's original endowment over the next five years. Our future continues to look very bright indeed.

As we grow, we inevitably lose as well as gain; such is the cycle of all living things. Sarah Levine, who has been the Center's administrative assistant as long as I have been its Director, stepped down from the position in August of 2016. I am delighted to announce that Cassandra Velasco has agreed to take up this position, and to bring her singular creativity and artistry to the Center's expanding mission. I encourage you to consult our website often, as Cassandra has substantially re-designed it; it is now replete with archaeological and educational news items that are updated on a weekly basis. I hope you will join me in welcoming Cassandra to the community.

Hellenic Studies Center

THE ASPHENDOU CAVE PETROGLYPHS

A series of events in celebration of the art and archaeology of Crete

Friday, Feb 17

2:30pm: Sarah C. Murray, University of Nebraska
"Light in Dark Places: Photography, Advanced Imaging and the Asphendou Cave Petroglyphs"

3:15pm: Louis A. Ruprecht Jr., Georgia State University
"Images in the Cave: Philosophical and Anthropological Reflections on Cave Art"

Keynote Speaker

4:00: Coffee Break

4:30pm: KEYNOTE LECTURE
Thomas F. Strasser, Providence College
"The Asphendou Cave Petroglyphs: An Eyewitness Account of Ice Age Crete"

Don't miss the first ever public presentation of the oldest visual art ever seen in Greece!

Troy Moore Library, 25 Park Place, 23rd Floor
food and drinks provided



Say Hello to Cassandra Velasco

Though they are impressively large shoes to fill, I am so honored to fill Sarah's (Levine) position of the Hellenic Studies administrative assistant under the wonder Lou Ruprecht. Continuing the culture of the center, I hope to add a compassionate awareness to the rich history of Greek antiquity and ethos to our public. In the small time that I have been able to work with the Center, I have already felt connected to the passionate community in which we serve, and seek to further spread the legacy and culture of the Greek experience. With a masters of religious studies and non-profit management, my goals are to bridge the local community to other academic sources as well as other nonprofits that value the customs and values of classical studies. Please feel free to contact me, and I look even more forward to networking with all of you.

– *Cassandra*



Lindsay Samson

Dr. Lindsay Samson is presently teaching Latin 1001 and Latin 1002 at GSU. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 2013 and her research addresses the philosophical questions raised in Theocritus' pastoral poetry. Her research informs her teaching style which pushes students to ponder Classical literature, its impact on our society, and the timeless lessons it contains by encouraging them to ask questions. She has also been a key player in launching the tutorial program through Sunoikisis. This program makes Classics courses in English available to anyone, whether or not they are enrolled at an institution. Participants from across the globe meet in a virtual classroom and discuss seminal works such as Herodotus' Histories, the Iliad, and Oedipus Rex among others. Dr. Samson is passionate about bringing the Classics beyond academia, so that all who wish to read and learn from these texts can. She is very excited to continue this work in the diverse community at GSU.

Study Abroad Opportunities

The Center is currently affiliated with the following Study Abroad institutions:

- The American University in Rome, where students may take courses in the summer or full academic year;
- The American Academy in Rome, where students may take a range of archaeological courses in the summer and faculty may take up short or long-term residencies;
- The American School of Classical Studies in Athens, where students may take a range of archaeological courses in the summer and faculty may take up short or long-term residencies;
- The Ionian University on Corfu, where students may study in the History and Music departments;
- The Anatolia College in Thessaloniki, where students may take courses in the summer or full academic year; and
- The Cyprus University of Technology in Lemesos where, thanks to the assistance of Polyxena Potter, Honorary Consul of Cyprus, students may take summer courses in Art History or Modern Greek.

The Center can also facilitate student involvement in such storied programs as the College Year in Athens, as well as participate in academic programs sponsored by the Hellenic Foundation, the Modern Greek Studies Association, the Niarchos Center, and the Onassis Center.

Please visit our office at 25 Park Place for more information on these and other academic programs.



Alum Dennis LoRusso

Just over a decade ago, I made a pivotal decision to leave a successful management career in the business world and become a full-time graduate student in Religious Studies at GSU. At the time, I had grown somewhat weary with the corporate environment and believed that the halls of academia promised a purer, more purposive line of work. While excited, I was equally uneasy at returning to the classroom after several years. After all, business meetings rarely require homework and bosses are generally not grammar hounds.

All of these anxieties accompanied me into the classroom during those initial days of graduate school when I would first meet Louis Ruprecht, the Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies, who was facilitating a graduate seminar on Liberalism, Secularism, and Religion. As a new student, I was admittedly intimidated, reticent, and increasingly certain that I was unfit for graduate level work. When I submitted my first assignment for the course—a short paper—I was so overwhelmed with worry that I requested a meeting with Dr. Ruprecht to explain my poor performance and seek his guidance. As I sat nervously awaiting a litany of criticisms, he returned my paper and instead expressed, “this was a pleasure to read.” These few, small words of praise restored my self-confidence and quite literally transformed how I would experience graduate school in the years to come. Over the years, as I moved on to complete a doctorate in Religion at Emory, and today work as a postdoctoral researcher at Princeton’s Center for the Study of Religion, I remain grateful for those formative years of graduate study at GSU.

Although my research examines the intersection of religion and the marketplace in the United States, the Center has been a crucial part of my intellectual development. Past lectures by anthropologist Faidra Papavasiliou (GSU) and economist George Nakos (Clayton State) discussed the impact of the economic crisis on Greek culture and profoundly shaped my thinking about the role of religion and spirituality in corporate America. My dissertation and, ultimately, my recent book, *“Spirituality, Corporate Culture, and American Business: The Neoliberal Ethic and the Spirit of Global Capital”* (Bloomsbury Academic: 2017) bear the marks of their influence.

Thus, I was delighted when Dr. Ruprecht invited me to present my research to the Center for Hellenic Studies in the Spring of 2016. In my book, I argued that “business language” profoundly shapes our basic understanding of our experiences in the world, particularly our religious and spiritual lives. This is particularly evident in how American media portrays the Greek Sovereign Debt Crisis. While the crisis arose from a complex set of economic (the Great Recession) and political (the structure and history of the European Union) factors, journalists often blame Greece’s woes on a lack of “entrepreneurial spirit” or “work ethic,” exaggerated by bloated government welfare programs. This diagnosis obscures the deeper historical forces that contributed to the crisis, and gives the impression that the crisis can only be solved by liberating the marketplace from “Byzantine” regulation. My point is that in using business language to describe social problems, we invariably hand over greater social authority to the business world.

The lecture gave me a chance to test the arguments made in my book in a completely different context, and this is perhaps what I appreciate most about the Center for Hellenic Studies at GSU. It invites scholars like me to rethink our research in an unfamiliar light. It asks us to bring our work down from the “ivory tower” and engage with the wider public about issues that matter not only to Greece and Greeks, but to all of us.

About the author

James Dennis LoRusso is a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University. His research examines the intersection of religion, spirituality, and the marketplace in the contemporary United States.



Marc Hyden's new book on Roman Political History

While earning my Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at Georgia State University, I was privileged to study under a few professors whose courses covered portions of ancient Greek and Roman history. This prompted me to read many fascinating classical works, which helped fuel my curiosity on the ancient Mediterranean world. After I graduated in 2007, I started a career in politics, but my interest in antiquity grew. Consequently, I spent considerable time reading ancient and modern texts that chronicled Roman and Hellenic history, but as I continued my private studies, I noticed an unmistakable gap in contemporary writings. Very little had been published about one of the Roman Republic's most accomplished men – Gaius Marius.

I took it upon myself to produce the most comprehensive biography of Gaius Marius ever written. Relying on many classical authors, I was able to piece together Marius' tumultuous life. He was born in 157 BCE to an unspectacular, provincial plebeian family, but regardless of his family's obscure background, he managed to climb the political ladder and hold the state's highest post an astonishing seven times. He was also a gifted military leader who was credited with saving Rome from being overrun by menacing barbarians. In fact, many considered Marius to be one of Rome's founders because he prevented its collapse, ushering in a kind of rebirth.

Marius should be one of Rome's most celebrated men, but his character flaws and his petty feud with one of his former deputies led to his downfall. The needless dispute resulted in Marius' short-lived exile followed by his vengeful return to Rome, and the episode sparked a series of bloody conflicts, which threatened Rome's well-being and ultimately contributed to the Roman Republic's fall. Despite tarnishing his own legacy and imperiling the country he once safeguarded, he was undoubtedly one of the most influential and accomplished Romans to ever live. Marius' story is a fascinating tale, and as such, I hope you will consider reading my book "*Gaius Marius, the Rise and Fall of Rome's Saviour*" when it is published by Pen and Sword on June 30, 2017.

Upcoming Fall Events

The Center's fall theme in 2017 will be "*Greek Love in Art, Religion and Philosophy*", and we have already lined up an impressive series of events for the next academic year. Important dates include:

- The Atlanta Greek Festival will be held at the Cathedral of the Annunciation on September 29-October 1, 2017
- The National Hellenic Student Association will hold its annual meetings in Atlanta on October 13-15, 2017
- The New York Greek Film Festival in Atlanta will be held on October 27-29, 2017
- The Modern Greek Studies Association's Biennial Symposium, last hosted by our Center in 2015, will be held in Stockton, NJ, on November 2-5, 2017
- Mezzosoprano *Alexandra Gravas*, with her pianist *Petros Bouras*, has agreed to return to campus, on November 8-12, 2017, to perform a concert designed specially for the Center and its fall theme: "*Greek Love Around the World*"
- Ms. Katherine Quinn has agreed to join us in that same week and will speak about Anthony Quinn's memoir on the filming of "*Zorba the Greek*," entitled "*Sam, Zorba and Me*"
- Dr. Cornel West (Harvard University), one of America's foremost public intellectuals, will visit us to lead a discussion on the topic of "*Athens and Jerusalem in the Life and Legacy of Dr. King*." Date TBA

Upcoming Fall Events cont.

- Classically inspired literary artist and memoirist Jane Alison (University of Virginia) will join us to give a reading from her new novelistic memoir, *“Nine Island”*. Date TBA
- The Greek ambassador to the United States of America, *the Honorable Theocharis Lalacos*, has agreed to visit us again in the fall to speak on *“Greek Love and Loving Greece.”* Date TBA
- In late January, the Director of Chicago’s Field Museum, *William Parkinson*, has agreed to give a lecture on the archaeology of the Neolithic Peloponnese.
- In early February, *Grant Farred*, author of *In Motion, at Rest: The Event of the Athletic Body* (2014) will give a lecture at GSU sponsored by the Center together with the *liquidblackness* initiative.



The First Classics Major Joshua M. Mathis

In due time, I became interested in Classical Studies while studying Biblical Greek, learning about church history, and evaluating ancient philosophy inside and outside the church in seminary. I discovered a former slave, John Wesley Edward Bowen, who excelled academically by mastering Latin, Greek, and Mathematics so much so, he was hired to teach at Central Tennessee College, then later became the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in Historical Theology at Boston University in 1887. When faced with claims that teaching Latin and Greek (and other disciplines) to an African-American man would spoil him, J.W.E. Bowen prudently concludes his “Apology for the Higher Education of the Negro” by saying,

“Now, if this process of education, which aims at developing his powers, making him a better man, a thoughtful man, a respectable citizen, a man of character and judgment, will spoil him, then let him spoil, and the sooner he spoils the better.”

Dr. Bowen served as a Christian minister and a college and university educator, who by his study of both Theology and Ancient History could provide a reasonable defense for educating African-American men across various disciplines. Being motivated by a similar desire as Dr. Bowen to share the riches of the Classics with others and receiving support from those who have spent years within this field (despite the difficulties), reinforces my convictions that I will be well suited for pursuing a Ph.D. in Classics and Ancient History.

With this in mind, Georgia State did not have an operating Classics department when I decided to pursue Classical Studies. However, through the Program of Interdisciplinary Studies, I was able to partner with Dr. Louis Ruprecht Jr., to develop a student plan that would capture my vision for better understanding the Greco-Roman world and prepare me for doctoral studies after graduation. I am grateful for the Classics option through the Center for Hellenic Studies because this option provides students with an opportunity to pursue studies in Ancient or Modern Greek and study abroad or locally with other universities. For example, I have the unique privilege to go on a six to eight-week summer trip to Athens, Greece through the Center’s partnership with The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, receiving course credit. Another added benefit is the ability to supplement Classics-related courses not offered at Georgia State with other local universities, such as Emory University, which have a fully staffed Classics department.

Therefore, with my passion and convictions to pursue Classical Studies, alongside the Classics option provided through the Center for Hellenic Studies, I will be thoroughly equipped to enter a competitive Ph.D. program while also leaving a lasting impact as a Christian minister and educator.



In Memoriam of Dr. George Spiros Kleris

+ January 1, 2017

It was with great sadness that I reported the loss to our community of Dr. George S. Kleris, who passed away peacefully in his sleep on the first day of the new year. A native Greek son from the village of Pyrgos, near Kalamata in the Greek Peloponnese, Dr. Kleris received his medical education at the University of Athens Medical School, then came to the United States to pursue his internship and medical residency training in Detroit, Michigan: at the Bon Secours Hospital, the Wayne County General Hospital, and Saint Joseph's Hospital, respectively.

Dr. Kleris devoted most of his medical career to the Atlanta area, serving in the Fulton County, City of Atlanta Health Department (1972-1984), the Emory University School of Medicine (1972-1984), and the Morehouse School of Medicine (1985-2005). Additionally Dr. Kleris was appointed in 1982 as Chief Civil Surgeon for the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the US Department of Justice's southern region, a position that he held until the time of his death.

Dr. Kleris was an especially enthusiastic and passionate supporter of Georgia State University. He served as President and Co-founder of the American Foundation of Hellenic Studies, and in that capacity he spearheaded the fundraising efforts which led to the endowment of the Andrew C. and Eula C. Carlos Family Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies at Georgia State University in 1998. Under the leadership of Dr. Nickitas Demos, the nascent GSU Center for Hellenic Studies rapidly established itself as one of the premier centers for the study and celebration of Hellenic culture, broadly defined, in the southeast region... and indeed in the nation.

When I assumed the role of Director in 2012, I was delighted to reap the fruits of seeds already well sown. I worked closely both with Professor Demos and Dr. Kleris, and our efforts were rewarded in 2015 with the Center's selection as host of the biennial Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA) Symposium in October 2015, and through our incorporation into the university's Global Studies Institute in the spring of 2016. It is of particular joy and comfort to know that Dr. Kleris lived long enough to see the Center situated in its new offices on the 18th floor at 25 Park Place--in September of 2016--with the plaque bearing his name as Foundation President prominently displayed there.

Dr. Kleris was recognized as one of "the Immortals" by the Academy of Athens in 2015, and was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2016. His professional and personal life both attest to the vibrancy of a truly global Greek diaspora. As such, Dr. Kleris's legacy is best served each time we re-commit ourselves to promoting a cosmopolitan brand of Hellenism as a truly world heritage.

We at the Center for Hellenic Studies mourn his passing, and will continue to celebrate his legacy through a fundraising effort that will result, we hope, in the endowment of a named scholarship for student study and/or research in Greece; more information is available on our website. This will serve to express our gratitude for a philanthropic life so richly lived. His name, Dr. George Spiros Kleris, now joins the ages.

New Majors and Minors

Recently Approved! Thanks to our joining the Global Studies Institute this year, the Center for Hellenic Studies now serves as the program coordinator for a concentration in Classical Studies, which is part of the Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (BIS) program. The Director of the Center will serve as program advisor; any interested students should feel free to contact Lou Ruprecht [lruprecht@gsu.edu]. He is currently revising the curriculum, and more details will soon be posted on our website.

Thank You to John & Elaine Carlos



On August 17, 2016, John and Elaine Carlos honored the Center for Hellenic Studies with an enormously generous gift of \$500,000 that will serve to double both our endowment and our annual operating budget over the next five years. This provides me with a welcome opportunity to thank them publicly once again for their generosity to me in my role as Director and for their financial support which has been enormously gratifying to me personally. It is not too much to say that this gift coincides perfectly with the Center's coming of age, as it were, and we look forward to collaborating with them closely in the future.

When John announced this commitment to me, he indicated that when his father passed away he found a body of material which spoke to his father's deep commitment to Hellenism and the Greek legacy in the modern age. As a dutiful son, and as a way to honor that historical legacy, John decided upon this gift in support of our work. I am deeply moved that he has done so.

John's and Elaine's philanthropic vision and generosity are well known to this community. They are founding benefactors for Andee's Army, a remarkable organization that focuses primarily on the care of youth brain and spinal cord injuries that require lifelong therapeutic care and instruction as well as equipment not readily available and not often covered by standard insurance coverage. More information about this remarkable organization, and the Carlos' sustaining role in forwarding its mission may be found at <https://andeesarmy.com>.



The Center Welcomes
Cassandra Velasco



Thank You
John Carlos



Thank You
Elaine Carlos



Catching Up with Alum
Dennis LoRusso