Message from the Director

Welcome to the first issue of our Center’s newsletter. In February 2016, UCLA sent a letter of inquiry to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation asking for assistance in establishing a Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture at UCLA, a long-held wish of the Greek community. Now, only a few years later, we have officially launched the UCLA SNF Center—a Center that includes two endowed chairs, lecturers in Modern Greek, partnerships with North American and Greek institutions,
endowed fellowships for students, and a thriving student organization. We are grateful to the Hellenic community of Southern California for supporting this initiative, which aims to promote Hellenic Culture within the university, but also to involve the Hellenic and Philhellenic communities of Southern California in events that deepen their engagement with Greece and Cyprus’ illustrious past and innovative future. We are particularly proud to have been joined by the Hellenic University Club, which became part of the UCLA SNF Center as HUC@UCLA, a new name that honors the club’s past and also looks to its future. We have built strong partnerships with other Hellenic organizations in Los Angeles. Our upcoming lecture, “Exploring Sacred Landscapes in the Mountains of Arcadia,” is co-sponsored by the Pan Arcadian Federation Nea Mantinea Chapter, the first organization to provide substantial financial support for the establishment of our Center. And, we are very proud that our partnership with the Los Angeles Greek Film Festival helped bring to our campus the Greek film director, Tassos Boulmetis, who taught classes last year at UCLA.

Our Center operated at full throttle in the spring and summer, with Zoom lectures, workshops, classes, and even some recipe development. One of the summer’s delights was the Hellenic Authors series, which introduced four outstanding local writers. This is a series that we plan to continue next summer and we would encourage any local authors to contact us concerning forthcoming books.

This year’s program builds on existing relationships and initiates a number of new partnerships. Our new series on Greek sites and excavations is being held in collaboration with the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology. Our very successful series with the Benaki Museum, Hellenic Together, will continue in November and December with four new lectures devoted to aspects of the museum’s collection. Our first lecturer in the fall, Dr. Gelina Harlaftis, opened a new connection to the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation of Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), which she has directed since 2017. This fall, we will be partnering for the first time with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver to present Dr. Artemis Leontis, who will lecture on Eva Palmer Sikelianos, a remarkable American woman who promoted Classical Greek culture, weaving, theater, choral dance, and music.

We have expanded our Modern Greek classes through the addition of Angeliki Asprouli, who will be teaching introductory and intermediate Greek, as well as evening classes for adult learners. She will share the teaching of Modern Greek language and culture with Associate Director Simos Zenios. We are just putting the finishing touches on our new suite of offices in Rolfe Hall. I will have much more to say about the opening of our space in the next newsletter.

Our community has come a long way since it gathered in 1946 at the Church of the Annunciation to memorialize its heritage. Honoring our past, we—oloi mazi—look to the future with excitement.

Sharon Gerstel, Director
News from the Center

Welcome Program and Media Manager, Ellen Evaristo!

Ellen Evaristo joins the UCLA SNF Center as Program and Media Manager. Ms. Evaristo earned a B.A. at Penn State University and a Masters in Communication Management at USC. Since 2018, Ms. Evaristo has worked in the Department of Philosophy at UCLA, where she has been responsible for developing, implementing, and managing all outward-facing communication. From 2014-2017, she worked as Public Communications Lead at the USC Iovine and Young Academy for Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation, where she developed, managed and implemented the Academy’s outward- and inward-facing communications strategy. She served as senior publicist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York for over seven years where she strategically developed and successfully executed press plans for new exhibitions, public programs, special events, and internal departments. Ms. Evaristo has also worked at CalArts, New York University, and the Independent Film Channel. We welcome Ms. Evaristo into our Center and our community. She is responsible for the Center’s daily management as well as implementing, developing, and organizing lectures, public outreach activities, and initiatives. In addition, Ms. Evaristo will assist with the Center’s development and fundraising efforts.

Hellenic Together: Benaki Lectures

This past spring, our Center and the Benaki Museum in Athens co-hosted a series of lectures on aspects of the museum’s impressive collections, delivered by curators and scholars affiliated with the museum. For six successive Thursdays, a large audience from the United States and Europe joined together to hear about a wide range of topics that included: the discovery of the Valadoros Epitaphios, a rare, gold-embroidered liturgical textile from the early fourteenth century (Prof. Anastasia Drandaki, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); the friendship and artistic collaboration of Greek painter Niko Ghika, British painter John Craxton, and British author Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor (Evita Arapoglou, author and Curator of the Greek Collection of the A.G. Leventis Gallery); the pioneering photography of Elli Souyioulztzolgou-Seraidari, better known by her professional name of Nelly’s (Ailiki Tsirgialou, Curator of the Benaki Museum Photographic Archives); the art collecting of Antonis Benakis and the art scene of interwar Alexandria (Mina Moraitou, Curator of the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art); the George Eumorfopoulos collection of Chinese pottery (George Manginis, Academic Director of the Benaki Museum); and the wedding rituals in ancient Athens, as they are depicted in Attic red figure vase paintings in the museum’s collections (Irini Papageorgiou, Curator of the Department of Prehistoric, Ancient Greek and Roman Collection of the Benaki Museum). The lectures represent one aspect of our longstanding relationship with the Benaki Museum, which also includes the hosting of exhibitions at the Center’s office spaces and collaborations at the Patrick Leigh Fermor House in Kardamyli, Mani, which is administered by the Benaki Museum.
Celebrating Hellenic Authors

If storytelling and Los Angeles go hand in hand, this is in no small part owed to the creativity of Greek American authors based in Southern California. This past summer, our Center held a series of book presentations celebrating local Hellenic authors. In discussions with the Director of our Center, Prof. Sharon Gerstel, the authors reflected on their inspirations and on their craft. The series began with Deep Waters, the latest installment in the Sammy Greene and Gus Pappajohn mystery thrillers by award-winning authors Linda Reid and Deborah Shian. In Zeus Rising: A Memoir, Louis Anastas placed the ruler of the gods in contemporary Los Angeles in order to offer a unique fictional memoir. Constance M. Constant’s American Kid: Nazi-Occupied Greece through a Child’s Eyes, narrates a universal story about the impact of war and historical upheaval on civilian populations. In the last meeting, Jim Birakos’ Unlucky Tuesday: Will Civilization Die on a Tuesday, a historical and political thriller, was the focus of discussion. The recorded interviews are available to those who request them.

Kouvenda: Greek Conversations

This past spring, our Center began Kouvenda, an innovative virtual setting for weekly conversations in Greek that brought together members of the Hellenic community and learners of Modern Greek at UCLA. In the first part of each meeting, members of the local and broader community who are native speakers of Greek assumed a mentorship role and interacted with students in Greek, chatting about various topics. During the second part, which was open to all advanced speakers of Greek, participants discussed various topics of Greek life and culture, ranging from the chorio to notions of home and domestic space, and from Greek language to Greek summer. Dr. Simos Zenios, who organized this initiative, stated that the goal was not only to enrich our program in Greek language learning, but “to reimagine the ways in which the barriers between the academy and the broader community can be turned into meeting points and to see how the community can function as an active partner in the learning process.” Kouvenda drew participants from across the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. After a summer hiatus, Kouvenda will recommence this coming fall. Stay tuned for our announcement and further details!
News from the Center

New Continents and Old!

Our remote lectures in the spring quarter were inaugurated by Prof. Kathryn Morgan, former Chair of the Department of Classics, who offered a tour-de-force presentation on “Finding Atlantis.” Her lecture explored the origins and some of the development of the myth of the lost Atlantis, from Plato to contemporary video games. This legend has fascinated its audiences since it first appeared in the works of Plato, and like all good myths it reflects the concerns of the society that created it. It is a story about the kind of society that we want to live in, about the effect upon civilizations of imperial ambition, about how we deal with the sea as a medium for economic and cultural exchange. In the hands of modern geographers, explorers, and other scholars, the myth has become something different: a symbol of the mysterious past that we can never quite control. A member of the Center’s Faculty Advisory Board, Morgan’s contributions to the planning and programming of the Center have been critical in its first years. In addition to offering insights into Atlantis, Morgan also introduced one of the UCLA SNF Center-Benaki Museum lectures, and even developed a recipe for “Director’s Scones” (scones that incorporated kefalohraviera cheese and were crowned by a dollop of ktipiti) in her kitchen. The Center acknowledges Professor Morgan’s contributions and, at the same time, looks forward to working with the new Chair of Classics, Professor Alex Purves.

Opening Lecture of Our Fall 2020 Program

On September 26, we welcomed Dr. Gelina Harlaftis, Director of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), who delivered the year’s inaugural lecture on “Creating Global Shipping: From the Vagliano Brothers to Aristotle Onassis.” Based on her recently published monograph, Creating Global Shipping: Aristotle Onassis, the Vagliano Brothers and the Business of Shipping, c.1820-1970, Harlaftis explored the evolution of the European shipping firm through the study of two well-known Greek shipping houses and showed how regional European maritime businesses evolved to serve Europe’s international trade and eventually the global economy. The Center was very pleased to welcome members of the Vagliano family to the lecture and to learn more about the substantial Greek diaspora community in Taganrog, Russia. A particularly interesting component of Harlaftis’ lecture touched on the philanthropic work of Panagis Vaglianos, who contributed to the foundation of the National Library in Athens, and to the construction of schools, hospitals, orphanages, and churches in Cephalonia. She also highlighted some aspects of the work and activities of the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation. The lecture is available on our new YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3b7suaG6qaIKQ1R2ftbzXA.
Faculty Spotlight: Laurie Kain Hart

As the new Director of the CERS, how do you envision European Studies and Russian Studies in American academia, and what kind of initiatives are you pursuing to promote this vision?

This is a challenging time for Europe and for Russia as they confront their individual and collective global pasts and futures. Brexit and Europe's refugee “crisis”—and let’s remember that by crisis we are not talking about a sudden emergency but a long-term and fundamental effect of global political economy—combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, are testing the capacities of the European Union and the very idea of Europe, which, as French historian Patrick Boucheron argues, can only be viable as model of “undetermined integration” under constant critique and revision. From this point of view, European studies bring insight not only into Europe's global cultural and political complexity and dependency, but also into predicaments of self-definition and globalism in the U.S. We are excited this year about joining others in the International Institute in sponsoring a series of talks, “Black Lives Matter: Global Perspectives,” that will bring European perspectives on race and social inequality into dialogue with U.S. and other international perspectives. Undergraduate students will be important participants in the dialogues around these talks. We also have a broad spectrum of Zoom talks on Europe planned, on topics as diverse as wine as a market device of Italian fascism, Mediterranean cross-border economies, the struggles of Swedish fishers, populism and authoritarianism, and the differential impact of COVID-19 in Europe. CERS actively supports

Laurie Kain Hart, a member of the Center’s Faculty Advisory Committee, is Professor of Anthropology and Global Studies and Director of the Center for European and Russian Studies (CERS) at the University of California at Los Angeles. She holds a Master of Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Harvard University.
How do you see Hellenic studies fitting into European Studies?

The study of Greek language, culture, literature, poetry, art, and film is a joy on its own terms as well as for its enhancement of our understanding of European contemporary life. For those unfamiliar with the field, Greek culture—and for me this includes the deep-rooted culture of the every-day in rural and urban Greek society—is a stunning and rewarding discovery. But it is especially important to learn from Greece in our current moment. It was Mark Mazower, the great historian of Greece’s Nazi occupation (and of multicultural Salonika) who with reference to both the 2010 financial crisis and myriad previous historical examples, called Greece “the canary in the mine” in European, and world affairs. As he warned, ignore—or abandon—Greece at your own peril. Greece teaches us that what is “at the margins” and “in between” is the best lens on key problems at the so-called “center” as well. As we speak, the fire and the pandemic at the packed Moria refugee camp have precipitated a new round of negotiations in Europe on refugee reception, as well as controversies around detention measures in Greece itself that resonate with global debates on borders, human rights, and carceral politics. I would also want to point out the importance of Greek-American studies as a field that makes stellar contributions to work on immigrant communities in U.S. history.

What has been the focus of your recent research and publications in Hellenic Studies?

I am interested in questions of structural vulnerability, the social arrangements that we take for granted that render some peoples’ lives more fragile than those of others. I have studied a range of topics in and on Greece, including gender, border zones, displacements of populations, the history and rights of minorities, and migration. I have also written on religion, which interests me as one of the ways in which people situate themselves as vulnerable mortal beings in time, space, and ethics. As a former architect I am especially attuned to the role of buildings and landscapes in social life. My most recent publication is a short article in a collection about the island of Leros, edited by historian Dr. Danai Karydaki. My contribution touches on the impact of Mussolini’s architectural development of the island as well as the challenge of serious mental illness—Leros was the location of a fraught public psychiatric institution until the late 1980s when it underwent radical, even utopian, reform. I am also lucky to work with some wonderful scholars and public intellectuals in Greece, including the researchers at the “Refugee Observatory” hosted by the University of the Aegean who produce the excellent website on the ongoing migration emergency: http://refugeeobservatory.aegean.gr/.

What other research projects are you working these days?

I moved from Philadelphia, where I taught for many years, to Los Angeles in late 2015. I was a member of a team of anthropologists and students researching urban poverty, violence, incarceration, and mental health in a very segregated North Philly neighborhood, and we are in the process of writing a book on the carceral and psychiatric mismanagement of unemployment, addiction, and disability. I am continuing to do related research on homelessness and serious mental illness here in L.A. through my affiliation with the group of graduate students and faculty at UCLA’s Center for Social Medicine and the Humanities in the School of Medicine and the Department of Anthropology. I look forward also to focusing attention on these and other research domains in Europe and Greece through CERS events in the coming years, because the U.S. can learn a great deal from Europe’s extraordinary cultural resources and diverse approaches to our common problems.
Faculty News

Book on Sephardic Jews by Sarah Stein

In *Family Papers: a Sephardic Journey Through the Twentieth Century* (published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2019), **Professor Sarah Abrevaya Stein** (History) reads and uses the correspondence of the Levy family, from Thessaloniki, to tell the story of their journey across the arc of a century and the breadth of the globe. As leading publishers and editors, the Levys chronicled modernity as it was experienced by Sephardic Jews across the Ottoman Empire. The wars of the twentieth century, however, redrew the borders around them, transforming the Levys from Ottomans to Greeks. Family members moved across boundaries, stretching from Greece to Western Europe, Israel, Brazil, and India. In time, the Holocaust nearly eviscerated the clan, eradicating whole branches of the family tree. Stein’s thrilling account shows the persistence of family ties through the upheavals of history. *Family Papers* was named as one of the best books of 2019 by *The Economist* and a *New York Times* Book Review Editors’ Choice. It was also a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. The book will also be published in paperback this coming December.

Publications on Greek linguistics

**Professor Brent Vine** (Classics & Program in Indo-European Studies) attended the June 26 “MASt” (“Meetings on Aegean Studies”) meeting, where he contributed material on Mycenaean Greek language. The “MASt” series of meetings are hosted by the Center for Hellenic Studies (Harvard University) and they attract scholars interested in Mycenaean Greek language and culture. A summary of the meeting, which includes Prof. Vine’s contributions, was published in the online journal *Classical Inquiries* (https://classical-inquiries.chs.harvard.edu/mast-chs-friday-june-26-2020-summaries-of-presentations-and-discussion/). Prof. Vine also published two studies on Greek linguistics. The first, “Incorporating New Evidence: Mycenaean Greek in the Revised Supplement,” considers the treatment of Mycenaean Greek in *Liddell and Scott*, the classic dictionary of Ancient Greek. It was published in the volume *Liddell and Scott: The History, Methodology and Languages of the World’s Leading Lexicon of Ancient Greek* (Oxford University Press), which was edited by C. Stray, M. Clarke, and J. T. Katz. The second, “Greek στωµύλος ‘chatty’: An anomalous ο-grade (and some anomalous o-grades)” addressing problems in historical linguistics, was published in *Indo-European Linguistics*.

**Professor David Goldstein** (Linguistics & Program in Indo-European Studies) published two studies on Greek linguistics. The first, “Discourse particles in the LSJ: A fresh look at γε,” offers the first theoretically informed treatment of the meaning and use of the particle γε. It was published in the aforementioned *Liddell and Scott: The History, Methodology and Languages of the World’s Leading Lexicon of Ancient Greek*. In the second, "Homeric -phi(n) is an oblique case marker,” Prof. Goldstein demonstrated that the puzzling -phi(n) ending used in Homeric texts is a case form, but one unlike any other Greek: it can be used to realize genitive or dative case, in any number (singular, dual, or plural), in any gender. The study was published in the *Transactions of the Philological Society*. 
Faculty News

Research on Byzantine Churches and Material Culture

Professor Sharon Gerstel (Art History) guest edited a special section on the Greek Village in the May 2020 *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*. In the same issue, she also published an article, “Recording Village History: The Church of Hagioi Theodoroi, Vamvaka.” Gerstel co-authored, together with Panayotis Katsafados, “Images of Hell and the Afterlife in the Churches of Laconia,” in *Hell in the Byzantine World* (Cambridge, 2020). She lectured at Harvard University in February 2020 on “Hearing/Seeing in Late Byzantine Churches.”

Research on Ancient Greek literature of the Imperial Era

Professor Bryant Kirkland (Classics) gave a paper on ideas of friendship in Plutarch’s *Table Talk* at the Society for Classical Studies meeting in Washington, D.C., held in January 2020. Two further papers—one on Dio Chrysostom’s inconsistencies as a form of philosophical provocation, another on Anacharsis as an ambivalent wise man in Plutarch and Lucian—have been delayed until it is safe to travel again. His article “The Character of Tradition in Plutarch's *On the Malice of Herodotus*,” arguing in part for a distinction between Plutarch’s own positive idea of eclecticism and (in Plutarch’s view) Herodotus’ deceptively multi-faceted narrative appeared in a recent issue of the *American Journal of Philology*. Another article on the ways in which Dionysius of Halicarnassus reads classical historiography through a Roman imperial lens, and *vice versa* is forthcoming in *Mnemosyne*. A particular highlight this past year was helping to co-organize, with Dr. Simos Zenios, a celebration of the International Day of the Greek Language.

Mellon-EPIC Fellowship in Community-Based Learning

This past spring, Dr. Simos Zenios, Associate Director of our Center, received a Mellon-EPIC (Excellence in Pedagogy and Innovative Classrooms) fellowship. As a Mellon-EPIC fellow, he attended a quarter-long seminar on community-based learning and he participated in the research and development of pedagogical methodologies and practices that aim to rethink the barriers of the traditional classroom. Aiming to expand existing curricular offerings in Modern Greek at UCLA, Zenios developed new courses that combine traditional language instruction with community-based pedagogy and research in heritage language communities, featuring curatorial and archival modules.
Graduate Student News

Congratulations Sofia Pitouli!

This summer, Sofia Pitouli (Graduate Student, Art History) received a UCLA Art Council Endowed Scholarship in Art History and a CMRS Graduate Student Summer Fellowship. Initially, she had planned to visit numerous places, spanning from Spain to Lebanon, to research Byzantine and Islamic buildings and objects. Due to COVID-19, she found her way to Greece, and had the opportunity to advance her research for her M.A. thesis and to travel to areas such as Monemvasia, Mani, Epirus, and Thessaloniki. In Thessaloniki, Sofia studied and photographed the city’s fourteenth-century Byzantine churches.

Sofia is now researching how imagery on media such as embedded ceramics, decorative brickwork, and frescoes on the surfaces of churches, especially in Hagia Aikaterini, Thessaloniki, mimicked medieval textiles. The church of Hagios Nikolaos Orphanos and its garden, where the sounds of the city disappear, offer glimpses of what the past might have looked like. Hagia Aikaterini, Hagios Nikolaos Orphanos, and other Byzantine churches in Thessaloniki, Arta, and the castle of Monemvasia, emerge as living and breathing buildings within the confines of urban landscapes, where they serve modern societies.

2020 AHEPA National Scholarship for Demetrios Tzamaras!

Demetrios Tzamaras received a 2020 AHEPA National Scholarship. Demetrios is a Greek-American Director and Animator with six years of animation and film industry experience. Currently an M.F.A. student in the Animation Workshop at UCLA’s School of Theatre, Film & Television, Demetrios was previously a coordinator on the Academy Award Winning film "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," among others. In 2014 he graduated from Drexel University with a B.S. in Film Production. Demetrios believes in making films with heart, humor, and spectacle, drawing from classic American filmmaking as inspiration.
Undergraduate Student News

Hellenic Student Association
Active during the Lockdown

Since its founding in 2019, the Hellenic Student Association (HSA) at UCLA has held several events to bring students together on campus. The members of the club enjoyed camaraderie with their USC peers at their Easter events and the joint tailgate for the USC-UCLA football game. In April, the president of the HSA, Antonia Klima, delivered Easter tsourekia on behalf of our Center to members of the community.

The organization selected its executive board for the 2020-21 academic year in June. The club is planning on hosting virtual events during the fall to bring its members together. These include Zoom game nights, movie nights, and dinners with parea. The club was very excited to be participating in the Virtual Enormous Activities Fair during Zero Week where interested students could learn more about the organization and contact the executive board with any questions.

2020 Panhellenic Scholarship for Katerina Papanikolopoulos!

Katerina Papanikolopoulos was awarded a prestigious 2020 Panhellenic Scholarship. Katerina graduated Summa Cum Laude in Art History, and is now based in Athens. Her time at UCLA was fortified by extensive research conducted at the Benaki Museum in 2019, and resulted in a thesis that investigated how bridal costumes from Attica became transcultural vessels of sociopolitical exchange. Her research is primarily focused on archival studies, and she hopes to help publish photographs from the Library of Congress in the upcoming year. She is currently PR & Communications Manager for Copenhagen-based ADORNO International Design Collaboration and is the liaison for the gallery's partnership with London Design Festival.

Gus & Judie Christopoulos Award in Modern Greek

Congratulations to Alina Marie Giapis and Eleni Sklavenitis Medina, the joint recipients of the annual Gus and Judie Christopoulos Award in Modern Greek! The award, which recognizes exemplary performance and ability in language learning, was established in 2019. It is offered by the UCLA SNF Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture and the Department of Classics.

Alina and Eleni will officially receive the award at the Annual Welcome Reception of the Classics Department, on October 2nd. They are both looking forward to continuing their study of Greek at the intermediate level.
Community Spotlight: Lilian Evgenidi Polydor

Lilian Evgenidi Polydor was born in Athens, Greece. After obtaining a B.A. in Tourism and Business Management, she moved to the UK to pursue a Master’s degree in Maritime Shipping and Logistics from Southampton University and a Diploma in Financial Markets from the London Business School. In London, she worked for leading marine energy transport, storage and production companies. Most recently, Lilian has focused on the international commodity trade business and real estate investments. She serves on the Community Advisory Board of the UCLA SNF Center, and is a Young Patron of the Cycladic Museum and an active supporter of The Hellenic Initiative. Based in Los Angeles and Toronto, Lilian is married to Lysimachos Lee Polydor and they have a daughter, Stella.

What are some of the activities you are involved with as a person with a vivid interest in Hellenic culture?

While living in England, I was very keen on getting involved in events that promote contemporary Hellenism. In London, I attended various events and exhibitions organized by The Hellenic Centre. I am also a Young Patron at the Cycladic Museum, which gives me the opportunity to participate in various cultural events in Greece and all over the world. I am particularly interested in modern art, and I am eager to learn more about different eras of art and history. In addition, my husband Lysimachos and I are active supporters of The Hellenic Initiative, the National Hellenic Society, and the American Hellenic Council.

What effective avenues have you found for the promotion of Hellenic culture on the West Coast?

I think that the UCLA SNF Center produces some of the best programming to this effect. Even during the lockdown, we had the opportunity to enjoy lectures by renowned professors from the USA and Europe by embracing the opportunities afforded by long-distance and online tools. I am also looking forward to the online presentation of the Los Angeles Greek Film Festival, this fall. The Festival has been one of the most important ambassadors of Hellenic culture in Southern California. Finally, the Greek Village immersion camp gives children the opportunity to learn about Greek culture, to practice their Greek, and to make friends with similar heritage.

How do you think the engagement with Hellenic culture and language can be further promoted? What kind of activities and what kind of collaborations may help in this?

National and global collaborations that embrace technology are essential. By establishing relationships with institutions based in Greece, American organizations can arrange guest lectures and exhibitions. Furthermore, partnerships with Hellenic centers around the world can be valuable by sharing resources and material. Engagement with media and the promotion of education in order to shed light on current matters that affect Hellenism are necessary. Finally, instilling in the next generation Hellenic values and ideals ensures the continuity of our heritage.

Which Greek word captures for you something of the Hellenic identity today?

My favorite Greek word is eudaimonia since Modern Greeks around the world keep flourishing and constantly seek happiness and prosperity.
Highlights from Spring and Summer 2020

On January 31 and February 1, CAP UCLA in association with the UCLA SNF Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture presented the theatrical monologue *The Lady of Ro*, performed by Fotini Baxevani, written by Gianni Skaragas, and directed by Katerina Berdeka. The Center would like to acknowledge the support of George and Tina Kolovos and Daphne Valentina in bringing this special performance to UCLA and our community. On January 12, Ms. Baxevani also delivered a UCLA Regents’ lecture, titled *My Own Private Kastelorizo*, while on February 8, Skaragas presented his newly translated work *The Lady of Ro and Other Stories* in our Greek Book Club.
On February 9, a Symposium celebrating The Third International Greek Language Day was held at UCLA. Distinguished lecturers spoke on Greek language and letters across different periods. Professor Brent Vine, from UCLA, gave a lecture on “Greek in the Bronze Age: Linear B and Mycenaean Greek.” The lecture by Professor Maria Mavroudi, from UC Berkeley, was titled “Towards a New History of Byzantine Philosophy.” Professor Nikolaos Panou, from Stony Brook University, discussed the reception of Classical and Byzantine imperial ideology in his lecture “Specters of Byzantium: Language and Ideology in Early Modern Greek Advice Literature.” Professor Katerina Stergiopoulou, from Princeton University, lectured on Cavafy’s reception of Hellenism in a lecture titled “What these Ithacas Mean: Reading Cavafy’s Greek.” The Symposium was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Greece in Los Angeles, the UCLA SNF Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture, the Department of Classics, the Center for European and Russian Studies, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and HUC@UCLA.
An Eye on the Future
Valerie Varvantakis Estes Memorial Lecture

The UCLA SNF Center announces the establishment of the Valerie Varvantakis Estes Memorial Lecture. This annual lecture, focusing on the Hellenic American experience, has been established through donations given to the Center in Valerie’s memory. Valerie was cherished by those who love music and those who love Hellenism. Growing up, Valerie was influenced deeply by the culture and customs of her parents and grandparents and by the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church. Valerie’s dedicated pursuit of piano led her to the USC School of Music, where she studies as a classical pianist. The violinist Anthony Hudaverdi said of Valerie, his dear friend: “the bottom line is not in the fingers. It is from the “mind and heart” that make music, and this is where she comes from.” Her passion for music continued throughout her life as she worked as a skilled accompanist and teacher. She shared her love and knowledge of opera with the Westside Opera League of Los Angeles, and served as Co-Chair of Member Events from 2016-2020. She was passionate about her association with the Hellenic University Club of Southern California, in which she held the position of Secretary and served as an active member of the Board of Directors. Her final weeks, borne with grace, were an inspiration to those who knew and loved her.

Lecture Series on Greek Archaeology

Our Center is partnering with the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology to present a lecture series on Greek archaeology. The distinguished invited speakers will discuss recent research and findings from sites across Greece. The series commences on October 3, with a lecture on the sacred landscapes of the mountains of Arcadia, by Professor Mary E. Voyatzis. On October 10, Dr. Konstantinos Zachos, Director Emeritus for Antiquities of Epirus, will lecture on the excavations at the victory monument of Octavian Augustus at Nicopolis, Epirus. The series will conclude on October 17 with a lecture on the early Cycladic site at Skarkos on the island of Ios, offered by Dr. Marisa E. Marthari, Director Emerita of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities for the Cyclades and Samos. We look forward to seeing you in our virtual audience!
Fall 2020 | Save the Dates!

(FOR ZOOM LINKS FOR EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT: HELLENIC@HUMNET.UCLA.EDU)

**SEPTEMBER 26**
10 AM by Zoom
**Lecture**
Gelina Harlaftis, Director, Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation of Research and Technology-Hellas, "Creating Global Shipping: From the Vagiano Brothers to Aristotle Onassis"

**OCTOBER 3**
10 AM by Zoom
**Lecture**
Mary E. Voyatzis, Professor, University of Arizona, “Exploring Sacred Landscapes in the Mountains of Arcadia” (Co-Sponsored by the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, the Pan Arcadian Federation, Nea Martineia Chapter, and the Hellenic Cultural Foundation of the University of Arizona)

**OCTOBER 10**
10 AM by Zoom
**Lecture**
Konstantinos Zachos, Director Emeritus of Antiquities for Epiros, “Excavations at the Victory Monument of Octavian Augustus at Nikopolis. Epiros: A Monument that Marks a Turning Point in the History of the Ancient World” (Co-Sponsored by the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology)

**OCTOBER 17**
10 AM by Zoom
**Lecture**
Marisa E. Marthari, Director Emerita of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities for the Cyclades and Samos, “The Early Cycladic Site at Skarkos on the Island of Ios” (Co-Sponsored by the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology)

**OCTOBER 24**
10 AM by Zoom
**Greek Book Club**
Κάτι παλαιό, περίπτερο το Ελληνικό Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο

**OCTOBER 25**
3 PM by Zoom
**Lecture**
Artemis Leontis, C. P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, “Going after Eva Palmer Sikellanos” (Co-Sponsored by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies, Simon Fraser University)

**NOVEMBER 7**
10 AM by Zoom
**"Hellenic Together": UCLA SNF Center-Benaki Museum Lecture**
Xenia Politou, Aegae AMKE Curator of Modern Greek Culture, Benaki Museum, “The Costume of Women in Greece: Styles and References”

**NOVEMBER 14**
10 AM by Zoom
**"Hellenic Together": UCLA SNF Center-Benaki Museum Lecture**
Anna Ballian, Curator Emerita, Benaki Museum, “Bacini or Immured Vessels on Post-Byzantine Churches, 16th-17th Century: The Case of Iznik, Italian and Local Ware”

**NOVEMBER 21**
10 AM by Zoom
**"Hellenic Together": UCLA SNF Center-Benaki Museum Lecture**

**DECEMBER 5**
10 AM by Zoom
**"Hellenic Together": UCLA SNF Center-Benaki Museum Lecture**
Tassos Sakellaropoulos, Head of Historical Archives, and Maria Dimitriadou, Historical Archives, “1821 Before and After: Narrating and Curating 100 Years of Greek History”

**DECEMBER 12**
10 AM by Zoom
**Greek Book Club**
Λός Αντίγονος: Οδηγόντας στη Νάπτια Καλλιφόρνια της Σέτες Τραγογέλου

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