



NEWS FROM THE CENTER

4-7



A CONVERSATION AT THE CENTER

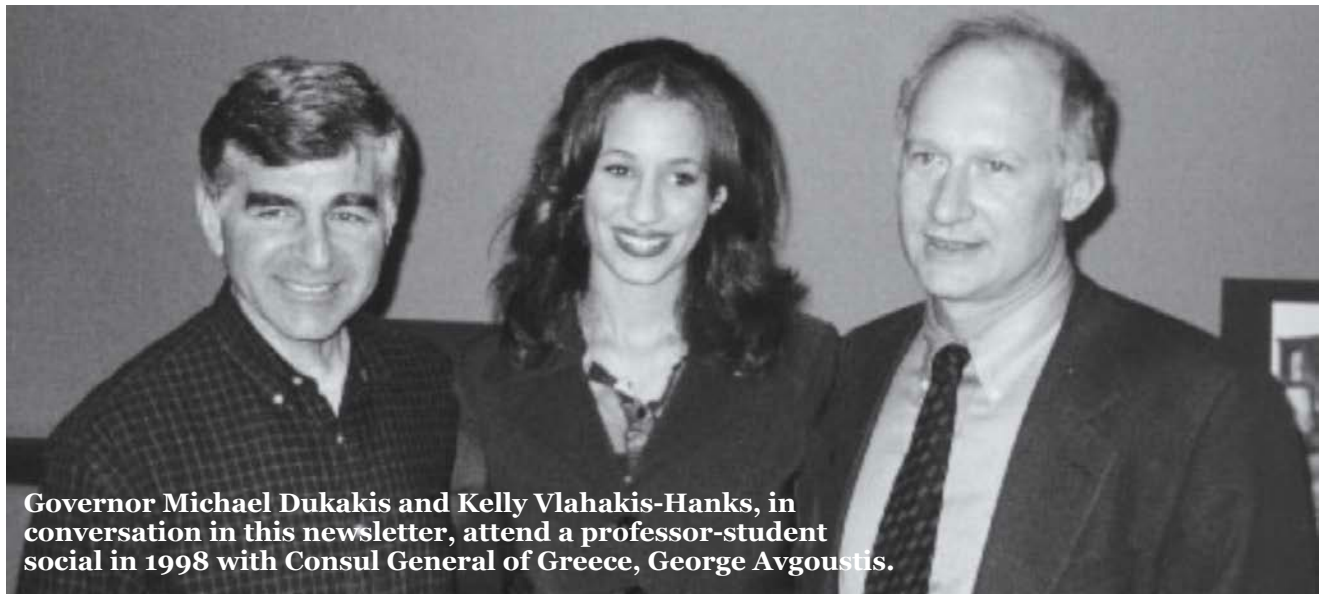
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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

21-23

UCLA

 Stavros Niarchos Foundation  
 Center *for the* Study of Hellenic Culture


Governor Michael Dukakis and Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, in conversation in this newsletter, attend a professor-student social in 1998 with Consul General of Greece, George Avgoustis.

## Message from the Director

These difficult times have called for enormous resiliency, a trait that is especially tied to those of Greek heritage. Throughout the pandemic we have been offering a host of events to keep us all connected to Hellenic culture, language, and *parea*. I have been particularly proud of Associate Director Simos Zenios' work in assembling communities of Greek speakers for our monthly book club and weekly *kouvenda*. I am very grateful to Dr. George Manginis, Academic Director of the Benaki Museum, for partnering with us to present an outstanding series of lectures about the museum's collections. I thank the Benaki curators who so generously shared their research and collections with us. With hope, we look to an exciting spring schedule and to the beginning of a large number of events connected to the celebration of the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution.



Sharon Gerstel,  
Center Director

During the last few months, two moments have touched me deeply. In October, I received a phone call from Professor Nicolaos (Nick) Alexopoulos, who expressed his desire to establish an endowed fund in the name of his late brother, Aristides G. Alexopoulos. This fund is intended to provide critical assistance to UCLA students who might need financial help, small grants to achieve academic or professional goals, or aid for them to surpass unexpected challenges that have been thrown in their paths. The Alexopoulos Endowment is an unusual gift—one intended to reach out a hand to those at their moment of greatest need. The choice to establish such a gift speaks to an enormous generosity of spirit, and to the eternal love of one brother for another. We are deeply appreciative to Professor Alexopoulos and his wife, Sue Curtis Alexopoulos, for conceiving of such a meaningful tribute to a beloved family member, one that will indeed make his memory eternal.

In early December, I had the pleasure of facilitating a conversation between Governor Michael Dukakis, a member of our Faculty Advisory Committee, and Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, President and CEO of Earth Friendly Products and Chair of our Center's Community Advisory Board. Both Dukakis and Vlahakis-Hanks are leaders, and we were curious to find out what influenced their decisions to step forward. We asked how they engage young people in lives of service and what advice they might give to a new administration. With great warmth, Vlahakis-Hanks spoke about the influence that the Governor had had on her as a young UCLA student and how his classes *and* his public engagement had helped shape her as a leader. Children of immigrants, both spoke of the influence of their parents and their overwhelming pride in their Greek heritage. I invite you to read a portion of this touching conversation inside this newsletter.

Looking to the future, we are at the end of the renovations of our new office space in Rolfe Hall 2117, which overlooks a lovely courtyard. We hope to inaugurate our new Center offices—when we are all safe—with an evening of music and dance. Until then, I wish you good health and I look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

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# Letter from H.E. Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador of Greece to the United States

Dear Friends of the UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture,



H. E. Alexandra Papadopoulou,  
Ambassador of Greece to the U.S.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to address you in this second issue of this rich and interesting newsletter. While my plans to visit the newly established Center at the prestigious University of California, Los Angeles, have been thwarted by the challenges we currently face, I have been following its work and find it impressive. I look forward to visiting in the near future.

Sending my regards to the Center's leadership, I congratulate them for having the vision and foresight for a center that cultivates and nurtures appreciation for our heritage and culture, creating future friends and scholars. I also congratulate the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for its

lead gift to the Center, and for its support to a broad range of vital projects both in Greece and around the world. I also wish to highlight the fact that the Los Angeles Greek American community, to which I have personal ties since my family lives there, rose to the occasion and provided substantial financial support, making this project possible. The commitment of Greek Americans and Philhellenes across the U.S. to Greece and its culture is inspiring and heartwarming though not surprising. The Greek Diaspora has always stood at the forefront of perpetuating and sharing our culture, especially at critical times in our history.

During my tenure as Greece's Ambassador to the United States, one of my goals is to enhance the existing strong bonds and relationships, and also to establish new ones. I view the UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture as a key partner in this endeavor.

With my warm regards,  
*Alexandra Papadopoulou*  
Ambassador of Greece to the United States



## News from the Center

### An Act of Brotherly Love: The Aristides G. Alexopoulos Endowment Student Fund



**Aristides G. Alexopoulos**

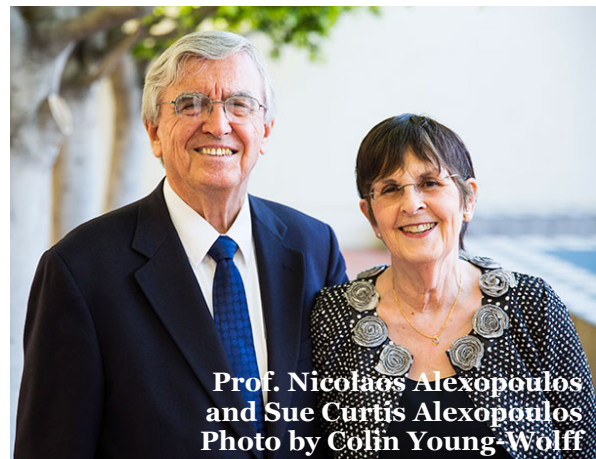
Former UCLA Professor Nicolaos (Nick) Alexopoulos and his wife, Sue Curtis Alexopoulos, have established the Aristides G. Alexopoulos Endowment Student Fund in memory of Nick's brother. With preference given to undergraduate and graduate students of Hellenic descent or with parents of Greek citizenship, Aristides G. Alexopoulos grants will help students achieve their academic or professional goals as well as overcome unexpected challenges.

Aristides G. Alexopoulos was born in 1940 in Matesi, a village near Andritsaina in the Peloponnese. His family moved to Athens in 1942. He quit school at the end of junior high school, took a job in a plastics factory, and simultaneously attended and eventually completed a trade school in electronics. He enlisted in the Greek army and was involved from the outset in a military communications unit. After his service, he worked at

OTE (the Greek Telecommunications Company). In 1965, his father died at the age of 50 in a motorcycle accident and Aristides took over his job, helping his uncle Kostas to run the *periptero* while continuing to work at OTE. From his early years, he showed a strong interest in science and technology.

In 1967, Aristides joined his brother in the United States. While working as an electrical engineer, he earned his BS degree at Eastern Michigan University in 1970. In January of 1973, he was hired at Hughes Aircraft Company in Culver City, and relocated to Los Angeles with his family. In 1974, Aristides was diagnosed with retinal melanoma and his eye was removed. While still continuing to work at Hughes, he was awarded a fellowship by his employer to attend USC, where he obtained his MS degree in electrical engineering in 1976. Aristides and his supervisor, Earl Swartzlander, invented "The Sign/Logarithm Number System" in 1975, a major contribution to the field of computer science. Unfortunately, even after treatment, Aristides' cancer spread and he died in 1978 at the age of 38, leaving behind his wife, Vivi, and their son, Yorgos.

Professor Nicolaos Alexopoulos, from 1969 to 1996, was a faculty member of the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science, where he also served as Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering and as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. From 1997 to 2008, he served as the Dean of UC Irvine's Henry Samueli School of Engineering. In 2008, he joined Broadcom Corporation as Vice President for Antennas, RF Technologies and University Relations. He currently serves as Vice President for Academic Programs and University Relations with the Broadcom Foundation.



**Prof. Nicolaos Alexopoulos  
and Sue Curtis Alexopoulos  
Photo by Colin Young-Wolff**

# News from the Center

## The UCLA SNF Center - Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Lecture Series

In October 2020, the UCLA SNF Center and the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology co-sponsored a series of lectures on Greek archaeology that were attended by more than 500 listeners. The opening lecture, by **Dr. Mary Voyatzis**, Professor at the University of Arizona, Tucson, presented the sacred landscapes in the mountains of Arcadia. It explored the various sanctuaries of Arcadia, focusing on Tegea and Mt. Lykaion, by an archaeologist with family roots in the region (see story on pages 22-23). **Dr. Konstantinos Zachos**, Ephor Emeritus of Epirus, spoke on one of the most important discoveries of the Roman Mediterranean, the Victory Monument of Augustus (a project sponsored by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation), erected after the Battle of Actium, in which the young Octavian defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra and became Augustus, the first Emperor of Rome. **Dr.**



Prehistoric site of Skarkos

**Marisa Marthari**, Ephor Emerita of the Cyclades, presented her work at the remarkable prehistoric site of Skarkos on the island of Ios in the Cycladic Islands. Spiraling back to the third millennium B.C., Marthari's lecture presented the largest known Early Cycladic II settlement in the Aegean. Drs. Zachos and Marthari were both awarded the prestigious Europa Nostra Award of the European Union for Cultural Heritage for their preservation work at Actium and Skarkos, respectively. In introducing them, Professor John K. Papadopoulos (Archaeology & Classics, UCLA) introduced the term “μαχόμενη αρχαιολογία”—referring to archaeology in the front ranks for cultural heritage and the protection of antiquities. The collaboration between the UCLA SNF Center and the Cotsen Institute will continue next October, with lectures by **Dr. Anastassios Antonaras** on “Documenting Diversity in Thessaloniki and Its Hinterlands,” **Professor Vasilis Lambrinoudakis** on the Sanctuary of Asclepius at Epidauros, and **Drs. Stavros Vlivos** and **Vicky Vlachou** on their excavations at the Sanctuary of Apollo Amyklaios, near Sparta.

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## Promoting Hellenic Studies on the West Coast: A Partnership between our Center and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver

The growth in the number of Centers and Programs of Hellenic Studies on the West Coast makes this an exciting period for the field. The region is poised to become a hub for the promotion of the discipline and for the creation of new networks and partnerships. Aiming to contribute and to further these developments, our Center and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU) are designing a series of collaborative events and programs. **Professor Dimitrios Krallis**, Director of the SFU SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, stated that “the collaboration hopes to bring together leading scholars in the United States and Canada in order to consider topics in Hellenic Studies ranging from archaeology, classics, Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek literature, as well as literary and cultural studies.” **Professor Sharon Gerstel**, Center Director, affirmed her excitement about the collaboration and stated that she looks ahead “to uniting communities in Los Angeles and Vancouver in the study of Hellenic culture.” The first of the joint events, the co-hosting of biannual lectures by established and innovative scholars from

## News from the Center



the United States and Europe, began this fall. A diverse and international audience of scholars, students, and members of our communities had the opportunity to hear **Artemis Leontis**, C.P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan, lecture on the life and work of Eva Palmer Sikelianos. Shedding new light on this frequently-encountered but rarely discussed figure, Leontis discussed the role that Sikelianos played in artistic and cultural encounters between Greece and America and made a compelling claim for approaching such topics from a transnational perspective. The lecture can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#). For those who want to learn more about Sikelianos, Leontis' book *Eva Palmer Sikelianos: A Life in Ruins* will be a thrilling read. The second lecture of the series, which will be offered this spring by **Helen Angelomatis-Tsougarakis**, Professor Emerita at Ionian University, will discuss the role of women in the Greek Revolution. Gerstel and Krallis have also convened a Byzantine Studies working group for students and faculty from both institutions.

### Hellenic Together: Inside the Benaki Museum

From traditional women's attire to the celebration of a historic revolution, the fall's four-part Hellenic Together lecture series—in partnership with the Benaki Museum—provided a rich range of topics to fill the season. This collection of lectures supplemented the six-part presentations hosted this past spring. The series launched with "The Costumes of Women in Greece: Styles and References" with **Xenia Politou**, Aegeas AMKE Curator of Modern Greek Culture, who presented on local Greek women's traditional wear, its impressive variety, and its many influences. The second lecture, "Bacini or Immured Vessels in Post-Byzantine Churches, 16th-17th century: The Case of Iznik, Italian and Local Ceramics" with **Anna Ballian**, Curator Emerita, discussed the practice of decorating church façades with brightly decorated vessels, which is related to the phenomenon of *bacini*, or plates, immured in the façades of Italian religious buildings. Leaping to modern art, "Charting Mediterranean Archaisms in a Modern Framework: Christian Zervos and the Cahiers d'art Method" with **Polina Kosmadaki**, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Head of the Department of Drawings and Prints, was a thought-provoking discussion of Christian Zervos' role in shaping the cultural climate in interwar Paris through his journal *Cahiers d'Art*. The series concluded with "1821, Before and After: Narrating and Curating 100 Years of Greek History" with **Tassos Sakellaropoulos**, Head of Historical Archives, and **Maria Dimitriadou**, Historical Archives, who provided a preview of the Benaki Museum's upcoming exhibition *1821, Before and After*, opening in March 2021. For upcoming Benaki Museum and UCLA SNF Center collaborations, lectures, and events, visit [hellenic.ucla.edu/events](https://hellenic.ucla.edu/events). To view past lectures, please visit the Benaki Museum's YouTube channel.



# News from the Center

## 1821-2021: Remembering, Thinking, and Reimagining the Greek Revolution

The bicentennial of the Greek Revolution is an opportunity to reflect on how we understand this momentous event both historically and today, how we memorialize and discuss it, and how we teach it to the coming generations of Hellenes and Philhellenes. Aiming to provide diverse opportunities and entryways for a sustained engagement with the heritage of 1821, our Center has prepared a series of events—many in collaboration with established and new partners—that will run through the entire calendar year.

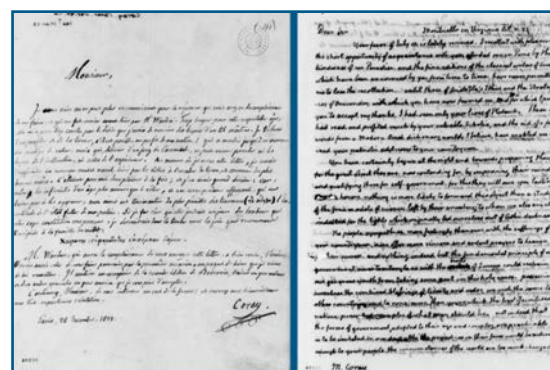
Picking up from our exciting preview of the upcoming Benaki Museum exhibition, *1821: Before and After*, our inaugural 1821-2021 event will take place on March 13, with an exclusive tour of the Bouboulina Museum in Spetses, offered by the director of the museum, **Pavlos Demertzis-Bouboulis**, who will also present works and artifacts from the museum's collection.

A series of lectures will feature leading scholars of the field who will shed light on the Revolution from new perspectives. **David Bell**, Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor in the Era of North Atlantic Revolutions and Professor of History at Princeton University, will kick off this series on April 3rd by placing the Revolution in the sequence of revolutionary waves that transformed global history at the time. We are proud to partner with the UCLA Center for European and Russia Studies and the Department of History in co-hosting this event. On April 10, **Helen Angelomatis-Tsougarakis**, Professor Emerita at Ionian University, will present her research on the role of women in the revolutionary events. The lecture is part of our newly established partnership with the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University (see story on pages 5-6). Resuming in the fall and in collaboration with Dumbarton Oaks, we will host **Nikolaos Panou**, Professor of Comparative Literature and Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professor in Hellenic Studies at Stony Brook University, who will lecture on the use of Byzantine political ideas by key political players of the period. On October 30th, our Center will welcome **Paschalis Kitromilides**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science of the University of Athens and a member of the Academy of Athens, who will discuss the different—and sometimes, conflicting—ways in which the revolutionaries understood the ideal of political and national freedom.

Building on the artistic traditions of Los Angeles, our Center will host at UCLA the world premiere of the theatrical production *Makriyannis Unplugged*, a work created and directed by the award-winning actor and director **Yorgos Karamihos**. *Makriyannis Unplugged* adapts selected passages from the memoirs of General Makriyannis in order to provide an artistic rendering of major events from the history of the Greek nation in the last two centuries. The performance is part of *New Dimensions of 1821*, a series of Pan-Californian events which includes a public lecture and a two-day academic conference, and which sees us partnering with UC Berkeley, Stanford University, and Sacramento State University.

The Greek Revolution will also feature prominently in our classrooms. Picking up from his last year's course on European Philhellenism, our Associate Director, **Dr. Simos Zenios**, will offer a lecture course this spring examining the ideas as well as the literary and cultural production of the Greek Revolution comparatively, by placing it in the transnational contexts of the Age of Revolutions.

We look forward to welcoming you to these events and celebrating the Bicentennial together!



Letters between Adamantios Korais and Thomas Jefferson.

# HERITAGE AND MEMORY: A FOCUS ON JEWISH GREECE

A 10-DAY VIRTUAL EVENT IN HONOR OF  
GREECE'S PRESIDENCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE  
JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 6 | ALL EVENTS FREE OF CHARGE

FILMS (FOR SCREENING DETAILS, PLEASE CONSULT: [HTTP://LAGFF.ORG/](http://LAGFF.ORG/))

*THE QUEEN OF REBETIKO: MY SWEET CANARY*  
*CLOUDY SUNDAY*  
*MAGIC MEN*  
*TREZOROS: THE LOST JEWS OF KASTORIA*  
*ROMANIOTES: THE GREEK JEWS OF IOANNINA*  
*LIFE WILL SMILE*  
*ELEFTHEROMANIA*  
*THE GREAT FIRE OF SALONICA: BIRTH OF A CITY*  
*HEROES OF SALONICA*  
*ISLAND OF ROSES: THE JEWS OF RHODES IN LOS ANGELES*  
*KISSES TO THE CHILDREN*  
*MY PEOPLE: THE JEWS OF GREECE (EXTENDED SPECIAL PREVIEW)*



ZOOM LECTURES (TO RSVP, SEE <https://hellenic.ucla.edu/events/>)

- JANUARY 27 10 AM PT **CONVERSATION WITH THE MAYOR**  
THE HONORABLE MOSES ELISAF, MAYOR OF IOANNINA  
(CO-SPONSORED BY THE PANEPIROTIOTIC FEDERATION OF AMERICA)  
INTRODUCED BY HER EXCELLENCY ALEXANDRA PAPADOPOULOU, AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO THE USA
- JANUARY 29 10 AM PT **MARCIA HADDAD IKONOMOPOULOS, MUSEUM DIRECTOR OF KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA, NY**  
"MEET ME ON THE CORNER OF BROOME AND ALLEN: A VISIT TO KEHILA KEDOSHA JANINA"  
(CO-SPONSORED BY THE PANEPIROTIOTIC FEDERATION OF AMERICA)
- FEBRUARY 1 10 AM PT **LEON SALTIEL, UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA, THESSALONIKI**  
"DEHUMANIZING THE DEAD:  
THE DESTRUCTION OF THESSALONIKI'S JEWISH CEMETERY DURING WORLD WAR II"
- FEBRUARY 3 10 AM PT **RENA MOLCHO, HISTORIAN & INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR**  
"PROBLEMS OF INCORPORATING THE HOLOCAUST INTO THE GREEK COLLECTIVE MEMORY"

**BOOK DISCUSSION WITH AUTHOR RIKA BENVENISTE**  
(IN GREEK; TO PARTICIPATE, CONTACT [SZENIOS@HUMNET.UCLA.EDU](mailto:SZENIOS@HUMNET.UCLA.EDU))

JANUARY 30 10 AM PT *Λούνα (Luna)*



Sponsored by Aliki Perroti and Seth Frank

## A Conversation at the Center

On December 2, 2020, **Governor Michael Dukakis**, member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, and **ECOS President and CEO Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks**, Chair of the Center's Community Advisory Board, chatted over Zoom about leadership, current affairs, and the impact of mentors and heritage on their lives.



**Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks:** It's such a pleasure to be here today to talk with Governor Dukakis. He was a huge inspiration to me in both my academic and my professional career. When I was a student at UCLA in the mid 90s he was actually the chair of our Greek club on campus, the Hellenic American Students Organization (HASO) for which I served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and ultimately President. Governor Dukakis was incredibly supportive of the students. His presence created so much excitement for the Greek American community and that excitement transferred to the students at UCLA. At that time, we were championing a Modern Greek center on our campus. I am thrilled it has now come to fruition. I just want to thank you, Governor Dukakis, for all that you did for us students. It was very meaningful for us to have someone of your stature devote so much time and energy to lifting all of us up.

### *What role have mentors played in your life?*

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** Governor Dukakis was one of those great mentors standing alongside all of the

students. His courses impressed on us the need to be involved in creating a better world, being active citizens, using our power and influence for good regardless of our professional paths, and having a strong voice. Paul Von Blum was another wonderful professor and mentor at UCLA. He traveled with me to cross the Green Line in Cyprus in 2003, and he is still one of the only professors who teaches about the invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Mentors from the community were also immensely impactful. One such great mentor was Aris Anagnos, who also came to campus regularly and supported the student events. Aris showed us very early on that we had a place at the table and that our thoughts and feelings mattered in general and to the community. In my own professional career I have tried to make sure that this was always the case. ECOS is one of the few companies in the nation to have a chief youth officer that sits on our board of directors. We want to do what we can in order to really address the concerns of the youth, to listen to their needs, and to support the things that are important to the preservation of our planet. I think my own mentorship experiences have shown me that it's not just about creating



Governor Dukakis speaks to UCLA students at a “Learn-at-Lunch” event. Photo by Mary Braswell.

leaders for tomorrow, but also that our youth are leaders today.

**Governor Michael Dukakis:** I'm not sure I've reflected on this as much as I should. When I was a kid growing up in the town of Brookline, three miles from downtown Boston, Massachusetts was one of the three or four most corrupt states in the country. That had a powerful impact on me. The other thing—and I can't explain this—is that injustice bothered me from a very early age. You have to understand that even in Boston, now liberal Boston, the amount of prejudice—racial, ethnic, and otherwise—was huge. From the time I was nine or ten, I started questioning these things. Why is it going on, what's happening, why is it being allowed? I can't tell you why I reacted that way, but I did. My parents had some influence, although they were not that involved politically. The CBS World News Roundup was on the radio every night at six o'clock, so we were a family that was interested in what was going on in the world. Remember, the Nazi occupation of Greece was taking place during the early 40s, and I was a kid of seven when the Pearl Harbor attack happened. A politician named Sumner Kaplan (1920-2011), who emerged in the early 50s as the first Democrat with a serious chance of getting elected to political office, also had an impact on me. I think, in the end, there was a mix of all of these influences.

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** Governor, I have to tell you that as a young student sitting in your classroom this was such an inspirational story to me, as a woman of both Greek and African American descent who grew up in two very different cultural backgrounds. In my small hometown of 3,000 people in Illinois, with only two black families, I encountered a lot of overt racism, which is still in place. I can remember being five years old the first time we were pulled over by the police and my mother and one of her friends were held at

gunpoint for allegedly speeding. This was a ridiculous abuse of power. To have a professor of Greek descent share similar stories in the classroom, being a champion of the African American community, condemning injustice and trying to bring about change, was very meaningful to me. I was inspired by a professor who was not just teaching theory, but who had really lived his life's work and had done the things that you did in your career. My mom was African American. She grew up in the foster system, a very difficult childhood. She was an unbelievable mother. I was so blessed to have her as a mom. My father's story is also one of hardship. He grew up on the island of Crete during the Nazi invasion. He was five years old when they invaded and he lost his father in the

“From the time I was nine or ten, I started questioning these things. Why is it going on, what's happening, why is it being allowed? I can't tell you why I reacted that way, but I did.”

- Governor Michael Dukakis

camps on the island of Crete. At that time, the Russians supported the resistance and provided food, safety, and security. And so, my father learned to speak Russian to help support the resistance. He would tell us stories about being a little boy and filling gas tanks with sand and doing other things to fight the Germans. When my father was eighteen he came to this country seeking a better life. He would tell stories about when he got to Roosevelt University, in Chicago, and how he lived, initially, at homeless shelters. During the McCarthy period, when he had gone to see a Russian movie—which he loved since they reminded him of the resistance days back in Crete—he was threatened that if he kept watching Russian films, he would be deported and labelled as a communist. Years later, when he got his FBI file, he talked frequently about the discrimination and the challenges he faced as a Greek arriving in this country. So, I think that for me as well, the examples and backgrounds of my parents, and their resilience and focus on building a better life for me were an inspiration.

### *Are Greeks resilient?*

**Dukakis:** I don't know that we consciously said, "we're Greek and Greeks are resilient. We're going to be resilient, and so forth." You just kind of grew up with that. Take my parents: Here is this 15 year old who grows up in a predominantly Greek town in western Turkey and at the age of 15 decides he wants to go to the United States to get an education. So, he comes over here, can't speak the language, doesn't have a nickel in his pocket, but he's a worker. He used to run from the restaurant where he worked all day to his night school classes in Lowell, Massachusetts. And he ends up going to the American International Academy, now American International College in western Massachusetts, and from there to Boston University, where he meets another Greek who convinces them that they ought to try to become doctors. And he wants to go to Harvard Medical School, but he's put on a waiting list and he's very upset. He is admitted to Dartmouth's two-year medical school and with a



heavy heart heads for Hanover, New Hampshire. And he's there for a week when he gets a telegram from his mother saying "come back, Harvard has just admitted you." He used to walk over to Harvard Medical School and would bus tables at a restaurant near the medical school. His salary was a meal. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1924 and practiced medicine for 52 years on Huntington Avenue in Boston. And my mother came over when she was nine from Larissa and the family settled in Haverhill, Massachusetts, which was a shoe town. And so far as we can determine, she was the first Greek girl ever to go away to college unescorted in the history of the United States. It was something Greek girls didn't do. But she had a mentor, an elementary school principal in Haverhill, Massachusetts, named Stanley Gray. Let me note that my mother chose my middle name—Stanley, hardly a Greek name—to honor this mentor. And she graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine Phi Beta Kappa in 1925. That's where I came from. Both of my parents had a big impact on me, not so much in a political sense, but just in terms of

what they expected of you. And, Kelly, I suspect you had a lot of the same kind of influences from your parents.

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** I most certainly did. My father's story is almost the same as your father's—working just for a meal. And he would say it was the best meal of the day. Even as he worked his way up from being a busboy to becoming a waiter, he would say in his later years that he felt the richest he ever did when he became a waiter. He just couldn't believe that he actually got money and food and just what a glorious time it felt like. It's amazing to consider the challenges they faced and how successful they were.

You know, I had the chance to visit Harvard for the first time last year. Our chief youth officer goes to Harvard and she organized the first Harvard Environmental Action and Leadership summit there and it was amazing to be on campus with the student body and see the young people so engaged.

**Dukakis:** And by the way, the recently elected president of the student body is an African American kid from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. And his running mate, I think, is Asian... she's certainly Asian American. These two kids have just been chosen as the elected leaders of the student body at Harvard, and let me tell you, both of them are going to run for office. I have no doubt about it. And it's great to see it. It's just wonderful.

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** It is, and I think that diversity in leadership produces the best results, always. You know, we see that there's scientific evidence for the fact that diverse leadership teams always outperform those that lack diversity, so seeing more diverse leadership at institutions like Harvard is so important.

### *How do you train leaders for the future?*

**Dukakis:** You know, if you love what you're doing, and I assume the same is true in your case, Kelly, you want to share that with younger people coming



along. They're the folks that you hope will become leaders themselves and be part of this. And, you know, we each have a story, but the most important story is to what extent can we share that and inspire other young people to pursue important and valued careers in public service. And I know you [Kelly] feel that way.

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** I sure do. And I also feel that it's important that young people understand that businesses can play an important role—that businesses must champion change as well. I have really tried to utilize our business to talk about paying fair wages. We raised our minimum wage to \$17 an hour back in 2014, provided PPO insurance for all, and made sure that we gave people money for getting green vehicles or putting solar on their roof top. I have tried to lend my voice, where I could. This past summer with the George Floyd situation, I made sure that we took a stand. Businesses can't be silent. We must make sure to do



**Helena Findikaki, Marilena Karpodinis,  
Governor Michael Dukakis,  
Kelly Vlahakis, Maria Avdalas, and  
Eleni Hioureas at a 1998 professor-student social.**

our part, and let consumers know that they also can affect change by voting with their dollars and voting for brands that really stand for what they believe in. As for young people... for me, it's been kind of twofold. How can I support them in their early years academically and then professionally as well? In my experience of mentoring young people, many times they're mentoring me. I have learned so much from the students that have interned with us and have worked with us. I couldn't be more grateful. Things are changing quickly and dynamically all the time. We never want to lose sight of the upcoming generation, so it's certainly very important to me.

***What do you see as the priorities for the next administration?***

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** For me, undeniably climate change. It's one of the biggest existential crises we face. We must address it. It's something that's affecting our entire globe. I was thrilled that Biden

made that one of his top causes on the campaign trail. Equality is also extremely important to me. We've come a long way certainly, and I'm happy to see so many of the strides we've made, but we still have a long way to go. And so really making sure that we have an equal and just world and that we address climate change would be the areas of focus that I'm most passionate about and I hope that the current administration will put a lot of force behind these two areas.

**Dukakis:** And I join you, Kelly, in that, but to step back just a little, I am very bothered by the fact that a huge number of Americans have no confidence in our system of government. They think it's corrupt. They think the vote was captured by other elements. That it wasn't an accurate count. I don't know the guy who was in charge of running the recount in Georgia, but apparently he was a Republican. I've got to tell you, he struck me as being an extraordinary public servant. I see folks who work for the post office these days in my town. I say to every one of them, "I want you to know that you guys did a fabulous job of helping us to run that

"This is a democracy, the democracy that we all fight for, that we all believe in, that we all want for our country. We want that deep understanding on both sides so that we can be united again."

- Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks

election." And I hope everybody will do that. The election was run with a kind of integrity and competence that was extraordinary. Frankly, one of our chief goals as Americans ought to be to create a world in which war is ruled out as a means for settling disputes between and among countries. We



**Vlahakis-Hanks with  
Prime Minister Mitsotakis  
in Washington D.C., in January 2020**

don't have time for that because the planet's future is at stake here. And I certainly feel good about the way Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have begun their tenure and I hope it'll continue because they've been doing good things already. But I'm just so troubled, Kelly, about this cynicism about the American political system.

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** Yes, we have to make sure to restore their faith and confidence and bring about unity in this country because, as you mentioned before, unequivocally the votes favored Biden and Harris, but there were still a lot of votes for Trump as well and we have to figure out a way to make those people really step back in and understand that this is a democracy, the democracy that we all fight for, that we all believe in, and that we all want for our country. We want that deep understanding on both sides so that we can be united again. And obviously COVID-19 has to be a primary focus of the incoming administration. The lack of national leadership during this global pandemic has been disastrous. I can speak firsthand about running a business in four different states. I have manufacturing facilities in New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, and California. We make cleaning products which are the number one weapon on the war on COVID, so there wasn't one day when we

could stop working. When the world shut down, we had to really step it up. I'll never forget that in March, as a leader of a business, there was no national direction on what to do. We had four different states, four different counties, four different cities all giving various inputs. At 8 p.m. every night we would collect whatever the information there was for the day. From then until midnight, we would try and synthesize the data, make a decision by midnight, so that when my teams came in at 5 a.m. we knew what the new protocols were. My primary goal was always to protect my team. First and foremost, the health of my employees was critical. At the same time, hospitals needed our cleaning products. I still feel to this moment that what I saw from my team in March was truly the highest levels of patriotism. Showing up and working every day to make cleaning products really came from the culture that was created. When you take care of your employees, when you do the right thing, and when you show up together the team rises to the occasion. We worked every day and we added second and third shifts and it was very difficult as a business with no national leadership. I still can't imagine that now in December there's no national mask mandate. And it's a shame that there's been such an extreme loss of life and that it continues to today. I'm worried for our country as we go into January, looking at the numbers. And so certainly, the incoming administration is going to inherit a very, very difficult task. I'm confident they'll implement things quickly, but 2021 is going to be a rough year for us.

### ***Do you have a favorite Greek food?***

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** Easy for me! *Gemista*. *Gemista* is my favorite food, day and night. I can eat *gemista* for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**Dukakis:** When I first got to Philadelphia when I went to Swarthmore College, I took a couple of my buddies to what was then the Greek section of Philadelphia. Walking into a restaurant and being hit with the fragrance of Greek cooking for the first

"[T]he love of family, the love of culture, the commitment to the Hellenic ideals, [a]ll of these things are something that so many in the Greek and Greek American community hold dear."

- Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks

time in two months, just, wow! When it comes to desserts and sweets, *galaktoboureko* is my favorite. In terms of dinner food, I pretty much love it all. There isn't any Greek food I don't love.

### *Do you have a favorite Greek celebration?*

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** I've really enjoyed celebrating both OXI Day and [Greek] Independence Day here in the United States. I had the good fortune of visiting the White House four or five times for the wonderful Independence Day celebration they do on March 25. Mike Manatos and Andy Manatos have done a beautiful job of having every single president for nearly 40 years honor the Greek community by welcoming us into the White House. There is no other ethnic community outside of the Irish Americans that have gotten that privilege and it's an amazing thing when you think about it, because one in eight Americans are of Irish descent, but only one in 250 are Greek. I'll never forget taking my daughter when Obama was president and he welcomed everyone to the *leukos oikos* and [my daughter] Alexsia said, "Oh, ECOS, mom, he's talking about you!" And I said, "Oh, no, no. It's the White House!"

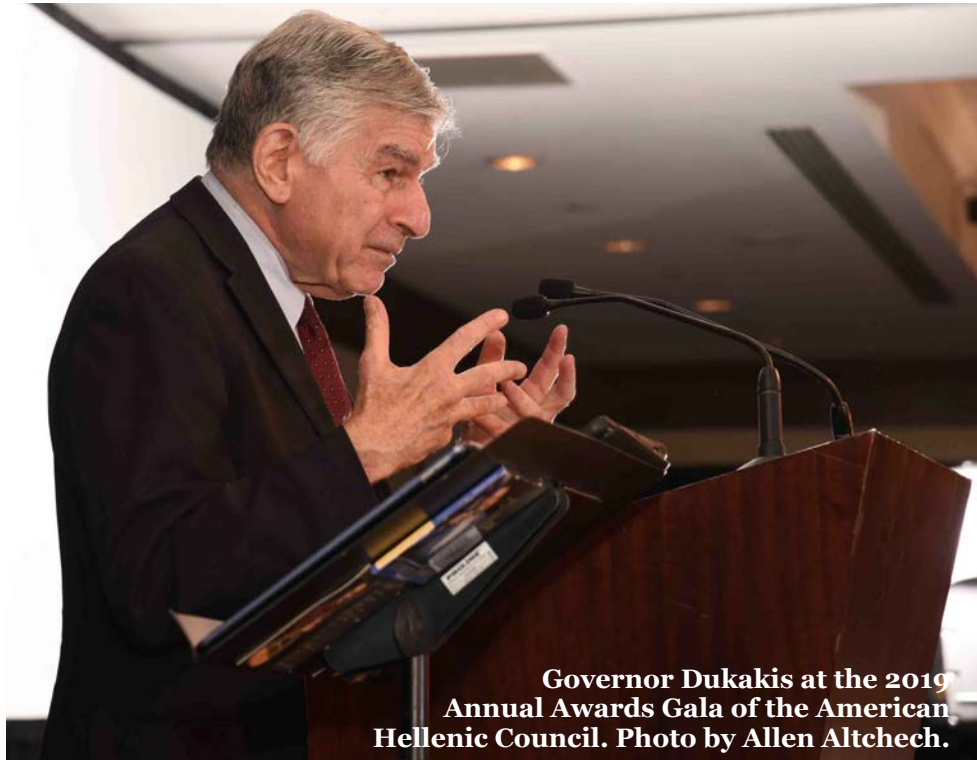
**Dukakis:** Greek Independence Day has always been for me the great holiday, but not without some difficulty. Interesting story ... I was asked to be the emcee at a program which was right in front of City Hall in Boston and I think we had three scheduled speakers. I was the emcee and about 20 Greek guys came up to me saying "I have *liga logia* [to say]," and I had to keep saying to them, "look, we've got a program. I can't let you be part of this thing, you know. We promised that this event would be reasonably short." So, trying to keep Greek events to a reasonable length is a challenge. But Independence Day, I think, is my favorite.

### *What's special about being Greek?*

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** I would say that the love of family, the love of culture, the commitment to the Hellenic ideals. All these are something that so many in the Greek and Greek American community hold dear. As my non-Greek family members have spent time in Greece, they've all loved being Greek by association. They've all become great Philhellenes because they're so captivated by the love, the beauty, and the connectedness of the community. And it's a beautiful thing to experience. And those I've taken to Greece through the years,

"I walked into a pizza place and there was a guy behind the counter. He looked up at me and I said to him, "*Ellenas eisai?*" "*Nai, eimai. Ellenas eimai.*" "*Ego eimai o Dukakis.*" "*Esu eisai o Dukakis?*" That place became our headquarters for the region."

- Governor Michael Dukakis



**Governor Dukakis at the 2019 Annual Awards Gala of the American Hellenic Council. Photo by Allen Altchech.**

they have developed their own love affair with Greece.

**Dukakis:** The pride in being Greek is something that stands out. *Ellenas eisai?* How many times have I heard those words? I remember campaigning in Pella, a small town in Iowa during the Democratic primary, the first one in the spring when one runs for the presidency. I think it was the first time I'd ever there. I walked into a pizza place and there was a guy behind the counter. He looked up at me and I said to him, "*Ellenas eisai?*" "*Nai, eimai. Ellenas eimai.*" "*Ego eimai o Dukakis.*" "*Esu eisai o Dukakis?*" That place became our headquarters for the region. I mean, I'm sure other ethnic groups have that same pride, but there's something, Kelly, very special about our feelings about Greece and Greeks.

#### ***A message for Greece about 2021?***

**Vlahakis-Hanks:** It's such an exciting time period to come together to reflect on the last 200 years, the beauty and the strength of Greece and of

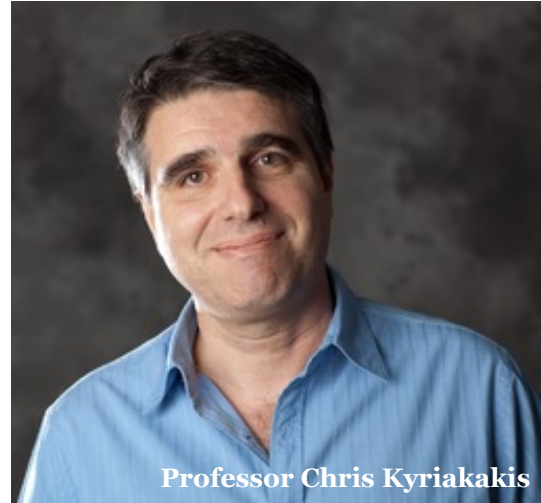
Greeks, the things that they've endured and overcome, and where we are today. I think it's always important to celebrate our history and our heritage and to pay tribute to those that came before us who gave us our freedom, and that we take that freedom very seriously and responsibly and that we honor it by doing things to make the world better for each and every one of us.

**Dukakis:** And I'd simply follow up with the hope that with a new administration made up of a lot of good people led by a guy who has always been close to the Greek community that we can deal with the Turkish issue thoughtfully and well. We just don't have time for this kind of stuff. There are too many other major challenges facing this planet of ours. And I hope that the new administration working with our friends in Greece, whose Prime Minister was first in his class at Harvard College and went to the same barber shop run by George Papalimberis, that I've been going to for years, makes who we are and our commitment to freedom and to a peaceful world a very important part of the future that we're facing.

# Faculty News

## Welcome to our new Associate Members

**Professor Chris Kyriakakis** (USC, Electrical Engineering) was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He received his BS degree from the California Institute of Technology and his PhD degree from USC. Kyriakakis currently teaches and researches audio, acoustics, and psychoacoustics as a faculty member in the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. His research has examined new methods to capture, process, and render sound to make listeners believe they are present in other spaces including those from the past. He is a co-investigator (with Center Director Sharon Gerstel) of “Soundscapes of Byzantium,” a project that focuses on Archaeoacoustics to uncover the sonic mysteries of medieval buildings. He received the World Technology Network award in Media and Journalism for his contributions in immersive audio. His work has been featured in the New York Times, NPR’s *All Things Considered*, and The Atlantic, among others. He has authored more than 100 papers and a book entitled *Immersive Audio Signal Processing*. He is the co-inventor of audio technologies that have been licensed to IMAX Theaters, home audio companies, and automotive companies such as Audi and Jaguar with the goal of perfecting sonic experiences everywhere.



Professor Chris Kyriakakis

**Professor Christine Philliou** (UC Berkeley, History) specializes in the history of Greeks in the Ottoman Empire, and in Ottoman, modern Turkish and modern Greek history from the eighteenth through the twentieth century more broadly. Her first monograph, *Biography of an Empire: Governing Ottomans in an Age of Revolution* (University of California Press, 2011) was the first book-length study of the role of Phanariots in Ottoman governance. It examined the crisis and transformation in both Phanariot networks and Ottoman governance as a whole in the age of the Greek Revolution, through the biography of one Phanariot who remained an Ottoman loyalist. Her second book, *Turkey: A Past against History* (University of California Press 2021) turns to the concepts of opposition and dissent and the evolution in political authority from Ottoman constitutionalism to Turkish Republicanism. Using a biographical lens, the book traces the life and literary works of the dissident Refik Halid Karay (1888-1965), posing an alternative narrative for the transition from the Ottoman Empire to the Kemalist Republic. She is now at work on a project about the Greek communities of late Ottoman Istanbul. She teaches courses on the Ottoman Empire, the Post-Ottoman world, comparative empires, cultures of migration in the Eastern Mediterranean, and modern Greece. Together with Dr. Simos Zenios, she is initiating a cross-campus working group on the Hellenic worlds of the long nineteenth century.



Professor Christine Philliou

# Faculty News

## Welcome to Professor Ella Haselswerdt!



Professor Ella Haselswerdt

Our Center is delighted to welcome to UCLA **Professor Ella Haselswerdt**, who joined the Classics Department this fall. Haselswerdt received a BA in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College, followed by a Classics post-baccalaureate certificate from Columbia University and a PhD in Classics from Princeton University in 2018. Her interests range broadly across Greek literature, with a particular focus on the aesthetics, poetics, and reception of Athenian tragedy. Her current monograph project, *Epistemologies of Suffering: Tragedy, Trauma, and the Choral Subject*, argues that the choral poetics of Greek tragedy are fundamental to the way that the genre makes conceptual sense of extreme suffering. At the same time, she's pursuing a range of smaller scale projects on topics including mythic ecosystems and landscape in Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, the Brazilian reception of

Euripides' *Bacchae*, the economy of antiquity in Anne Carson's *Float*, and the reception of Sappho's fragments in queer contemporary art. Her recent article "Sound and the Sublime in Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus*: The Limits of Representation," received the Best Article Prize for 2019 from the *American Journal of Philology*. The judges noted that: "Haselswerdt complements recent scholarship on the role that the senses play in literary works from Greek and Roman antiquity. She expands on earlier studies by illustrating how paying attention to the acoustic realm reveals a set of diverse issues—literary, historical, and topographical—informing Sophocles' final dramatic production."

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## Publications in Classics, Modern Greek Anthropology and Ancient Greek Philosophy

**Professor Kathryn Morgan** has published a study on philosophy and erotics in the openings of Platonic dialogues. The study, titled "Eros in the Platonic Frame," is included as a chapter in the edited volume *Framing the Dialogues*. She is pleased that her essay "Simonides and the Diplomacy of Victory," on the early- 5<sup>th</sup>-century BC poet Simonides and his subtle negotiation of tricky relationships between victorious generals and their civic communities has finally seen the light of day and is now published in the *Cambridge Classical Journal*. She has also published various articles in the mammoth new *Herodotus Encyclopedia* (including "Praise" and "Philosophy"). She is looking forward to lecturing on ancient Greek proverbs for the celebration of International Greek Language Day, hosted by our Center and the Greek Consulate on February 7.



Professor Kathryn Morgan

## Faculty News

**Professor Charles Stewart** (Visiting Professor, Anthropology) saw the publication in Greek of his book *Dreaming and Historical Consciousness in Island Greece* (Όνειρα και ιστορική συνείδηση στην Ελλάδα, Athens: Metahmio, 2019). This book tells the story of the villagers of Koronos in Naxos, who experienced two phases of collective dreaming, one in the 1830s when the Greek state nationalized their emery deposits and the other in 1930 during the Great Depression. In addition to emery, the villagers also imagined the land to contain buried treasures, antiquities and icons of the Panagia (Virgin Mary) and St. Anne. These holy figures appeared in dreams exhorting the villagers to excavate them and build them churches. Facing destitution, the people of Kóronos were dreaming of the riches of the past, and spiritual resources which, when found, would open a prosperous future. The Greek edition met acclaim in the national Greek press. It contains a foreword by Mark Mazower, and a prologue by Dimitris Sotiropoulos who points out that dreaming in a peripheral place like Koronos must be seen in global historical context. The dreamers processed world historical events like the Depression unconsciously, in sleep, while searching for possible responses that could alleviate the crisis. Growing out of his research on Naxos, Stewart launched a book series on “The Anthropology of History,” an interdisciplinary initiative to collect studies of how local communities and sub-groups relate to the past and produce histories that depart from the framework of Western historicism. Along with his series co-editor, he published the first book in the collection, *The Varieties of Historical Experience* (Routledge, 2019). Two further volumes have been published in 2020.



**Professor Gavin Lawrence** (Philosophy) published two articles on ancient Greek philosophy. “Trailhead: 257a1-259d6” is included in *Plato’s Statesman: A Philosophical Discussion*, edited by Panos Dimas, Melissa Lane, and Susan Sauvé Meyer, and currently in press with Oxford University Press. Focusing on the opening section of Plato’s *Statesman*, the article discusses a number of themes in later Plato, such as a fuller characterization of the method of collection and division, the nature of definition, and his growing concern over the ways ordinary language may mislead science. It also addresses a notorious ‘invalidity’ in Plato’s argumentation, and uses a passage from Aristotle’s *Politics* to give Plato a good clear argument worthy of him. However, this requires supposing a (small) lacuna in the current text. While Lawrence acknowledges that this seems hybridic, the paper is content to issue a challenge to do better! The second article, “Operating Under the Idea of the Ideal: Aristotle’s Naturalism,” was published in *Aristotelian Naturalism: A Research Companion Book Series*, edited by Martin Hähnel (Springer, 2020). The article offers an introductory characterization of Aristotle’s non-reductive naturalism, his teleological conception of the good that structures both his natural philosophy and his practical philosophy. Presenting the issues that arise from this, it pursues one of them—contrasts between nature and artifice—by considering whether the artifice of the political state can be understood as our salvation or as an alienation from our otherwise untrammelled nature. Lawrence is concerned with how Aristotle resolves these tensions and with his two uses of nature in connection with humans: a narrow one of innate drives, and a wider one of our full nature or essence, in which artifice plays an ineliminable role in bringing us to human perfection.

# Student News

## Publication and Public Scholarship by Byzantinist Franka Horvat

This fall **Franka Horvat** (PhD candidate, Art History) published an article for the *Mapping Eastern Europe* project, a platform run by Princeton University, which presented a case study of the church of St. Nicholas on the island of Koločep, Croatia. Horvat's dissertation centers on the Elaphiti Islands, a small archipelago in the Adriatic, and reconstructs the islands' living conditions in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, their relationship with medieval Dubrovnik, and their role in the social, economic and artistic networks of the wider Mediterranean. She explores the connection between maritime regions of Dalmatia, Southern Italy and Greece by looking for direct connections in documents, and by establishing parallels in artistic material. Her fieldwork in Epirus, the Peloponnese and the Greek Islands during the summers of 2016, 2017 and 2018 greatly contributed to those endeavors. In October, Horvat was invited to record an episode of the Byzantine Studies podcast for Dumbarton Oaks alongside her adviser, Center Director Sharon Gerstel. The conversation focused on the multi-faceted potential of Greek villages in the study of history, both as sites rich with material remains and as bridges between the past and the present.

## Congratulations to Camille Acosta!

This fall, **Camille Acosta** (PhD candidate, Archaeology) received an Honorable Mention in the Society for Classical Studies' inaugural Erich S. Gruen Essay Prize for graduate student papers on the theme of multiculturalism. Acosta's work focuses on the burial practices of migrants in ancient Greece, considering how each individual or community's experiences of migration may be revealed through the archaeological record of their graves. Part of this research examines the graves in Classical Athens belonging to a wide range of migrants, including a Corcyran ambassador, a large Messenian family, and a slave from Anatolia. In addition, Acosta is interested in the burial practices used during the establishment of colonies in the Archaic period, events which moved entire Greek communities across the Mediterranean. She is looking forward to using the Modern Greek she has learned at UCLA to continue her research and fieldwork in Greece in the post-COVID future.

## An Update from the Hellenic Student Association

The board and the members of the Hellenic Student Association (HSA) at UCLA remained active and connected with each other during the fall! After welcoming the incoming Hellenic students to our UCLA community and introducing the new executive board, participants in the first meetings of the year played a round of Kahoot!, an online trivia game, with facts about UCLA and Greece. Socializing around a table is a basic feature of Greek life and our students found ways to do that while adapting to the public health guidelines. On October 8th, club members attended the grand opening of a new Greek restaurant, while being socially distanced, in order to enjoy Greek cuisine close to campus. Later that month, the HSA held a virtual learning event called "Cooking with Andreas." During this event, executive board member **Andreas Papoutsis**, taught club members how to make an authentic Greek frappé at home, offering a welcome respite from their midterms. The executive board will continue to foster camaraderie among the Hellenic students in the coming months, even as instruction remains remote.



# Project Spotlight

## The Ancient Methone Archaeological Project, by Professor Sarah P. Morris



From left: Christos Avramidis and Stamatia Kordanouli, Ephorate of Pieria; Anne Hooton, Sarah Morris, John Papadopoulos, and Jeff Vanderpool.

This year UCLA faculty, researchers and students, along with our Greek co-directors and international team members, made much progress on publishing the results of excavations conducted at Methone between 2003-2013 by the Greek Ephorate of Antiquities in Pieria, and of the *synergasia* (collaborative project) between UCLA and the Ephorate, under the aegis of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, that took place between 2014 and 2017.

In particular, we have submitted a volume on the earlier results to the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology (UCLA) press, representing the work of over 30 scientific collaborators, and a report on the 2014-2017 fieldwork appeared in the ASCSA journal, *Hesperia*, in December. Final illustrations for the volume with our illustrator, Anne Hooton, and photographer, Jeffrey Vanderpool, were completed at the Ephorate facilities in Makrygialos this fall, under masked conditions. Most rewarding of all was the chance to share Jeff and John's film of our 2017 excavations, first with a Cotsen Institute of Archaeology audience on April 15, then as a webinar for the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, on November 19.

As part of our related activity in the village of Nea Agathoupoli (modern seat of ancient Methone), we are proud to support the work of local artist and poet, **Nikos Semizidis**, whose colorful paintings cover houses, walls, bus shelters, and natural features in his hometown, including a new sign for our community project, the restoration of the former OSE railroad station. By now, fellow citizens have discovered his work, which is featured in print media and even on Greek television. Jeff Vanderpool has recorded his work in detail, and we hope to turn this archive into a book, as a lasting record of folk art in Greece.

In ways like these, with the continued use of the restored train station as a community center and exhibit space, we hope that the results of our field research reach beyond a scholarly audience and benefit living artists and cultural heritage in local, rural communities in Greece.



Nikos Semizidis standing in front of one of his murals in Nea Agathoupolis.

# Project Spotlight

## The Family Home in Andritsaina, by Professor Mary Voyatzis

On October 3, 2020 it was my great honor to give a lecture for the UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture on “Exploring Sacred Landscapes in the Mountains of Arcadia.” In the talk I discussed current plans to convert our old family home in Andritsaina into a Research Center for the proposed Parrhasian Heritage Park. I would now like to share some background information with you about the house and how this all came to pass.

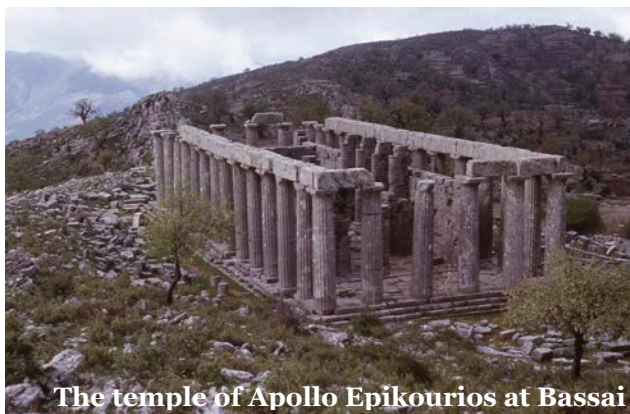
My father, John George Voyatzis, was born in Andritsaina in 1924, the second youngest of four children. His father, George Voyatzis, had been the mayor of Andritsaina, and the family lived in the Mayor’s house. George died prematurely when my father was four years old; he and his siblings were thus referred to as “orphans,” even though their widowed mother, Eleoussa, brought them up. The family continued to live in the Mayor’s house for many years after this unfortunate event, and although I am sure it must have been extremely difficult for the family, I recall my father’s stories of his wonderful boyhood adventures in and around Andritsaina. There were also much darker stories of ugliness, violence, and great hunger during the German occupation, World War II, and the Civil War. But my Dad was a positive man and did not dwell on these disturbing memories.

My first visit to this charming town was in 1960 when I was a very young child, and when my family came over to Greece from the USA for the first time since my father had left Greece in 1952. He had become a Professor of Economics at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, and was bringing his family to Greece to meet for the first time his mother, siblings, and extended family. Ever since that visit, Andritsaina became a destination place for my family, whenever we were in Greece, for several days or even weeks during the summers. It was always much cooler and greener there than in Athens or Patras. I recall that the trip from Athens would take many, many hours in a hot and dusty (non-airconditioned) car. My father would meet up there with his siblings, cousins, and friends, and relive the old days, and they would laugh and cry.

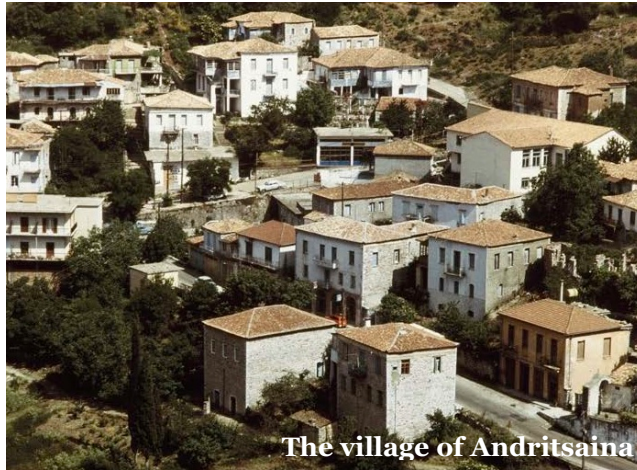
There were lovely evening strolls along the narrow streets, gatherings in the shady plateia with big groups, and many delicious meals with extended family. There were also excursions up to the nearby temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassai. In those days the road from Andritsaina to the temple was still unpaved, so it seemed like another trip on a dusty road. But the view of the temple when you got there was breathtaking. Even then I understood that Bassai was a very special and important archaeological site and a source of pride for the local community. My father explained with enthusiasm and authority that Iktinos, the same architect who built the Parthenon, had also built the temple of Apollo at Bassai.



Professor Mary Voyatzis



The temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassai



Gilman Romano and Dr. Anna Karapanagiotou. As it happens, Mt. Lykaion is very close to Andritsaina and Bassai, so I feel in some ways I have come full circle.

The project at Mt. Lykaion exposed our team to this exceptional part of the Peloponnese. This is a very beautiful and magical landscape, worth preserving and protecting. In fact, one of the initiatives born out of the project since 2004 has been to create Greece's first large-scale cultural heritage park in this region. Now 16 years later, the plans to create the Parrhasian Heritage Park are becoming a reality. The area of the park is roughly 700 square kilometers and is situated where the three districts, Arcadia, Messenia and Elis, with their ever-changing boundaries, meet.

I was able to acquire the family home in Andritsaina ("το Πατρικό") seven years ago, and I began to explore the possibility of converting it into a Research Center. The town of Andritsaina is within the boundaries of the Park, and it is a place our excavation team frequents often, to shop, go to the bank, the pharmacy, to have dinner, or to sit in the plateia to have a coffee or a drink. We love Andritsaina and would be thrilled to have a Research Center here. David Romano and I have talked to various architects and engineers in recent years to try to figure out if indeed the old family house, built in 1867, could be turned into a Research Center. Plans are currently under way to further explore its renovation, and to transform it into a Research Center with bedrooms for visiting students and scholars, a conference room, a library, offices, and so on. We are currently working with an architect and engineer team (Julie Tsakaridou and Dimitris Apostolopoulos from Pyrgos) and are in the process of doing various architectural, structural, hydraulic and other studies on the building. It is our hope that these studies can be completed soon, and that we shall get all necessary permissions from the Greek authorities to renovate the building. We can then raise the necessary funds to transform it into a beautiful Research Center situated within the Park.

I believe my father would be delighted to know that the old family home in his beloved Andritsaina, might one day become a Research Center for the Parrhasian Heritage Park in this magical part of the Peloponnese. My mother, siblings, and other descendants of George Voyatzis all support this effort. I sincerely hope we shall be able to realize this goal, to convert the family house into a Research Center for the Park, and thus turn this dream into a reality.





**January 9 at 10am PT: A Virtual Tour of the Museum of Cycladic Art** with Greek Prehistoric Archaeologist **Metaxia Routsis**



**January 16 at 10am PT: A Conversation with the Mayor: The Honorable Petros Doukas, Mayor of Sparta.** The event is co-moderated by UCLA SNF Hellenic Center Director Sharon Gerstel and Associate Dean of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris



**January 27 to February 6: Heritage and Memory: A Focus on Jewish Greece:** A 10-day virtual event with films and lectures in honor of Greece's Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance



**January 27 at 10am PT: A Conversation with the Mayor: The Honorable Moses Elisaf, Mayor of Ioannina** with an introduction by Her Excellency, Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador of Greece to the United States



**January 29 at 10am PT: Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos**, Museum Director, Kehila Kedosha Janina, "Meet Me on the Corner of Broome and Allen: A Visit to Kehila Kedosha Janina"



**January 30 at 10am PT: Greek Book Club** with the author **Ρίκα Μπενβένιστε, Λούνα**



**February 1 at 10am PT: Leon Saltiel**, University of Macedonia, "Dehumanizing the Dead: The Destruction of Thessaloniki's Jewish Cemetery during World War II"



**February 3 at 10am PT: Rena Molcho**, historian and international award-winning author, "Problems of Incorporating the Holocaust into the Greek Collective Memory"



**February 7 at 2pm PT: Celebration: International Greek Language Day** with **Kathryn Morgan**, Professor of Classics, UCLA, "Know Thyself: Ancient Proverbs and the Road to Wisdom"



**February 13 at 10am PT: James Barron**, *The Greek Connection: The Life of Elias Demetracopoulos and the Untold Story of Watergate*



**March 6 at 10am PT: Josiah Ober**, Mitsotakis Professor of Political Science and Classics, Stanford University, "Bargain/Revolution/Bargain. An Ancient Athenian Recipe for Democracy"



**March 13 at 10am PT:** Exclusive tour and discussion with **Pavlos Demertzis-Bouboulis**, Director, The Bouboulina Museum, Spetses, "An Introduction to a Heroine of the Greek Revolution and her Context: Views from the Bouboulina Museum"



**March 27 at 10am PT: Greek Book Club:** Γιώργος Κυριακόπουλος, *Η τρισεγγονή της αραπίνας και άλλες ιστορίες*



**April 3 at 10am PT: David Bell**, Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor in the Era of North Atlantic Revolutions and Professor of History, Princeton University, "The Greek Revolution in the Age of Revolution"



**April 10 at 10am PT: Helen Angelomatis-Tsougarakis**, Professor Emerita of History, Ionian University, "Fighters and Victims: Women's Lives during the Greek Revolution"



**April 17 at 10am PT: A Celebration of Odysseas Elytis:** An event held in collaboration with the Embassy of Greece in Washington, DC, for National Poetry Month



**April 24 at 10am PT: Greek Book Club:** Solup, *Αϊβαλί*



**May 8 at 10am PT: HUC@UCLA Lecture, Thomas Gallant**, Nicholas Family Endowed Chair in Modern Greek History, UC San Diego, "Murder on Black Mountain: Love and Death on a Nineteenth-century Greek Mountain"



**June 12 at 10am PT: Greek Book Club:** Annie Lontas, *Let Me Explain You: A Novel*