



IN THIS ISSUE

- 1- OUR MISSION
- 2- DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
- 2- LECTURES
- 3- CULTURAL EVENTS
- 4- SUMMER ABROAD
- 5- AHEPA PROJECT
- 6- MEET THE FACULTY

The Center for Hellenic Studies serves as a hub of initiatives and activities focused on Hellenic language, history, society and culture. Through the comprehensive study of Greece and Hellenism, the Center aspires to foster in-depth knowledge of Hellenic civilization and promote its values and ideals. It also aims at forming strong bonds between the University and the Greek-American communities of Long Island and New York and at establishing connections and interactions with educational and academic institutions in the US, in Greece and Cyprus.



Director's Message

Another year of activities for the Center for Hellenic Studies at Stony Brook University. Although we were saddened by Dr. Nikos Panou's departure from Stony Brook, we continued working with enthusiasm in the Center and our Greek classes. We had wonderful students who took our Modern Greek classes at all levels (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) and made the lessons fun and creative. We received approval for two new classes that provide Conversational Modern Greek instruction and will start in Fall 2023. We initiated a Summer Abroad program in Athens, and the inaugural trip will take place in just a couple of weeks! We enjoyed insightful and exciting lectures on various topics, remembering the 100 years from the destruction of Smyrna, hearing about the most recent efforts to bring back home the Parthenon Marbles, hearing about the amazing women of the Greek revolution of 1821, and those of the Philoptochos Society of New York City. As May rolled and some of our students graduated, we celebrate their accomplishments, are proud of them and wish them the best in their next endeavors. We are also proud of the two students who completed the Minor in Hellenic Studies, Samantha Lauria and Mohammed Zaman.

During the year we have made friends and are grateful for their support. This includes all our friends who supported the Center for Hellenic Studies during Stony Brook's giving day, the Athenian Society who will be supporting a student for their Summer Abroad in Athens experience, the AHEPA chapter of Port Jefferson for supporting, for the third year in a row, an essay competition focusing on documenting the journey of Greek-American and Cypriot-American immigrants who arrived in New York fifty or sixty years ago. We are grateful for the continuous support and generosity of Mr. Peter Tsantes and of Dr. Eleni Bacola-Ciacco.

An intense and great collaboration this year led to the implementation of the Summer Abroad program in Athens, and Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou and I are grateful to Dr. Efie Spentzos, Ms Mariam Isack and Ms Margaret Hartofilis for putting their heart and soul in the project. We are also working with other members of our Stony Brook family (Drs Tassiopoulos and Georgakis) on establishing a program of scholarship exchange between our school and universities in Greece.

Through Dr. Athanasopoulou, we formed a productive and mutually beneficial collaboration on lectures and events with the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at Queens College.

All these activities, our students and the friends of the Center for Hellenic Studies helped conclude a successful 2022-2023 academic year. We are energized for the future! Thank you to all and have a nice, relaxing Summer. See you in September!

May 2023

Stella Tsirka, Center for Hellenic Studies Director

Remembering the 100 years from the destruction of Smyrna

The Center for Hellenic Studies
presents

Smyrna: Paradise is Burning, the Asa K. Jennings story

Michael Damergis
Sports Communication & Media
Iona University



Mike Damergis is a college media professor at Iona University with over 30 years of experience as a sports producer, reporter and author.

In 2013, Damergis was an executive producer on *"Mabel's Dressing Room"*, a historical short comedy about silent-era actress Mabel Normand and Charlie Chaplin.

During his broadcasting career, he produced and anchored *"Baseball This Morning"* on Sirius-XM from 2006 through 2010 and was instrumental in launching the first-ever Fantasy Sports Radio channel. Damergis was the radio game-day producer for the New York Giants in 2004 and 2009. He also was a sports talk show producer for WFAN, Fox Sports Radio and The Fan 590 in Toronto. Mike was nominated for "Best Video of the Year" in 2014 by the Fantasy Writers Association and won Advisor of the Year for WICR in 2015 at Iona College.

He is the author of *"The USFL –The Rebel League The NFL Didn't Respect But Feared."*

In June 2022, his documentary, *"Smyrna: Paradise is Burning, the Asa K. Jennings story,"* won Best Historical Film for the month of May at Cannes World. The film won Honorable Mention in the Fox International Film Festival and was a Semi-Finalist in the Paris International Short Festival. The moving documentary about a Methodist minister, who saved a million lives in Asia Minor 100 years ago, was also an Official Selection in the Athens International Film Festival, the Big Apple Film Festival and the NY International Film Festival.



Tuesday, October 4, 2022 - 6pm

Webinar via Zoom: Meeting ID: 940 7565 5930 Passcode: 238360

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
stonybrook.edu/hellenic



Stony Brook University
College of Arts and Sciences

Greek & Cypriot Student Association



The Stony Brook Greek and Cypriot Student Association hosted this year's OXI Day celebration. The event was open to families and friends. Prof. Stella Tsirka spoke about the day and its history, and the students read poems, sang songs and danced.



2023

Happy New year



VASILOPITA
for the New Year

**The students of GRK 112
celebrated the New Year 2023
with Prof. Maria
Athanasopoulou. They started
the Spring Semester by cutting
a traditional pie, the
"Vasilopita" with the
lucky coin. The winner was the
student Kyra Franks**



**The Center for Hellenic Studies
presents**

Heading home? Why it's time to return the Parthenon Sculptures to Greece

Sarah Baxter

**Director, Marie Colvin Center for International Reporting
Stony Brook University**



Sarah Baxter is the Director of the Marie Colvin Center for International Reporting, Stony Brook University (mariecolvincenter.org). She was deputy editor of the Sunday Times of London from 2013-2020. In 2022, she was awarded the Gold Cross of the Order of Beneficence by the President of Greece for her reporting on the return of the Parthenon Sculptures. She is a member of the advisory board of the Parthenon Project, which campaigns to reunite the sculptures in Athens.

Monday, February 27, 2023 - 6 pm

Webinar via Zoom: Meeting ID: 994 8912 3110 Passcode: 944868

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
stonybrook.edu/hellenic



Stony Brook University
College of Arts and Sciences



Cultural and historical events are always very interesting, The students learned about their culture and celebrated Greek Independence day of 25th March.



The Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
and the
Center for Hellenic Studies of the Stony Brook University
present

An Online Tour of Bouboulina's Museum



**“The life and actions of heroine Laskarina
Bouboulina: An introduction to
Bouboulina's Museum”**

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Please register below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuc-upqDgiEtXoYoNpAjS2X80cZ-ZmKSRg>

After registration, you will receive a confirmation email with Zoom link meeting

Pavlos Demertzis-Bouboulis

**President of the Bouboulina Museum , Spetses
presents**



Pavlos Demertzis-Bouboulis presents the life and actions of his famous ancestor, naval commander Laskarina Bouboulina. Viewers will also have the opportunity of a virtual look inside the heroine's three century old home. Founded in 1991, the mansion is now open to the public as a museum dedicated to the Greek War of Independence and the life of Greek heroine Laskarina Bouboulina, until recently, the first and only woman in world naval history to hold the title of Admiral.

**The Center for Hellenic Studies
presents**

Community Activism and the Ladies Philoptochos Society of New York City, 1930s-1940s

Fevronia K. Soumakis
Queens College, The City University of New York



Since the first Greek immigrants arrived in the US in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Greek women have shaped the philanthropic and educational institutions operating within the sphere of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Church offered the women an acceptable vehicle for contributing their efforts to the Greek immigrant community as well as a forum for cultivating leadership skills. This presentation explores the social and political activism of the Ladies Philoptochos Society in New York City during the 1930s-1940s. The organization's activities went far beyond assistance to the poor as their title suggests: they raised funds for refugees from Asia Minor in the aftermath of the Greco-Turkish War (1919-1922), organized relief efforts for Greece during WWII (1939-1945), and supported a wide array of educational institutions including Greek language schools and St. Basil's Academy. The multi-faceted efforts of the Society uncover a little-known yet rich history of Greek American women's agency, the opportunities they created for themselves, and the challenges they faced.

Fevronia K. Soumakis holds a PhD in History and Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and currently teaches at Queens College, CUNY. She is co-editor with Theodore G. Zervas of *Educating Greek Americans: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Pathways* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). Fevronia's next book project examines the history of Greek American women, education, and philanthropy in the twentieth century.

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 - 6 pm

Webinar via Zoom: Meeting ID: 925 0621 6941 Passcode: 382824

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
stonybrook.edu/hellenic



Stony Brook University
College of Arts and Sciences

**The Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies and The
Center for Hellenic Studies of Stony Brook University
present**



**"Understanding Two Important Commemorations: America's
Involvement in the Greek Revolution of 1821 and the Smyrna
Catastrophe of 1922"**

By Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou, Ph.D.

American Hellenic Institute Fellow

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Please join via Zoom: Meeting ID: 842 9058 2236 Passcode: 798358



Dr. Hatzidimitriou received his doctorate from Columbia University in Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek history. He is a Fellow of the American Hellenic Institute Foundation in Washington, DC. In addition, he is a former adjunct associate professor of the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Center at Queens College and the author of several books, including *'American Accounts Documenting the Destruction of Smyrna'* and *'Founded on Freedom and Virtue Documents Illustrating the Impact-in the United States of the Greek War of Independence.'*

For more information, contact the Ass. Director of the Center for the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou by e-mail : qc.byzantine.center@gmail.com



1st of May: Labour Day or Celebration of Spring?

There are various traditions and customs for that day in Greece. The most renowned is making a wreath, typically made from handpicked wild flowers. These wreaths are hung on the doors or balconies of every house where they remain until the 23rd of June.



The Greek Cookbook Project

Student's cookbook project connects generations of their Greek family

In this fun project, students research the recipes of typical Greek food dishes in their families, as well as the origin of the ingredients and recipes. Students used family members at home as primary resources of information and help.





Stony Brook University
College of Arts and Sciences

THE CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

THE JOURNEY OF GREEK- AND CYPRIOT-AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS COMPETITION

3RD ANNUAL ESSAY COMPETITION

The competition focuses on documenting the experiences and history of people of Greek and Cypriot descent who immigrated to the US in the first half of the twentieth century, and who settled on Long Island, NY.

ESSAY PRIZE

\$1000

DEADLINE

MARCH 2023

EXPECTATIONS

- The participants are expected to interview five senior Greek and Cypriot residents of Long Island and document how they were received and blended into the American culture, learned the language, and became established in the community as citizens of the United States.
- Correlations could be drawn to the current immigration environment.
- Access to senior Greek and Cypriot residents of Long Island will be facilitated by the AHEPA Chapter.



For more
information
scan here



Supported by AHEPA Port
Jefferson Chapter 319, District #6

THE JOURNEY OF GREEK- AND CYPRIOT-AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS COMPETITION

3RD ANNUAL ESSAY COMPETITION

On Sunday, May 21, 2023, AHEPA Port Jefferson Chapter 319 awarded 3 students at Stony Brook University's Center for Hellenic Studies a total of \$3,000 for their winning essays in a scholarship competition.

Two years ago, Mr. George Kallas, AHEPA 319, and Dr. Stella Tsirka, Stony Brook University, partnered together to create a scholarship competition targeted for students of the Center for Hellenic Studies. The theme of the essay competition was developed by Dr. Tsirka, and each participant interviewed several elderly Greek residents and documented how they were received and blended into the American culture, learned the language, and became established in the community as citizens of the United States. Correlations were encouraged to be drawn to the current immigration environment. Access to elderly Greek and Cypriot residents was facilitated by AHEPA.

Mr. George Kallas then introduced **Dr. Stella Tsirka, the founder of SBU's Center for Hellenic Studies**. Dr. Tsirka thanked AHEPA for supporting the Center for Hellenic Studies with the scholarship program and recognized **Mr. Peter Tsantes** as a donor and sponsor of SBU's Center for Hellenic Studies. She also commented on her experience supporting the AHEPA scholarship competition for the third year in a row, working with Professor Maria Athanasopoulou, the faculty member of the Center for Hellenic Studies who participated in reviewing the competing students' essays, who also shared their experience with the parish.

The three winners of the AHEPA Port Jefferson Chapter 319 scholarship competition for 2023 are:
Georgiana Misthos,
Eleftherios Apollon Zoumpanidopoulos
Demetrios Kritikos (not present).

AHEPAN Vice President George Kallas presented each of the 3 competition winners with a check for \$1,000 and a certificate of scholastic achievement.



Each student in turn presented a short speech to the parish, thanking AHEPA for the opportunity and the award, and commenting on their main takeaway from the experience interviewing the Greek immigrants and writing the essay with their commentary on the current immigration environment.

STUDY ABROAD



We are grateful for the support from the Tsantes Family Travel Scholarship as well as from the Athenian's Society of New York.

STUDY ABROAD IN ...
Athens,
GREECE

SUMMER PROGRAM FROM
MAY 27 TO
JUNE 20,
2023

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
Students will stay in the center of Athens, take Greek language and culture courses, and visit historic sites like the Acropolis, the Panathenaic Stadium, Delphi, and more! Students will also be taking a 3-day trip to the island of Aegina!

BENEFITS

- ✓ 6-credit program
- ✓ Trips to historic sites
- ✓ Museum visits
- ✓ 3-day island excursion
- ✓ Language & cultural immersion



APPLY NOW



Three participating students received scholarships towards their expenses for the trip

- Andrew Candio
- Izabella Canales
- Irene Esadah



MEET THE FACULTY

Maria Athanasopoulou, PhD

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of
Languages & Cultural Studies

1052 Hellenic Studies

Humanities Building

maria.athanasopoulou@stonybrook.edu



Styliani-Anna (Stella) E. Tsirka, PhD

Director

SUNY Distinguished Professor

Miriam and David S. Donoho Endowed
Professor

Department of Pharmacological Sciences
and

Languages & Cultural Studies

Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs

Renaissance School of Medicine

631.444.3859 | Basic Sciences Tower 8-192

styliani-anna.tsirka@stonybrook.edu

