

# Modern Greek Program

## Athens Live! *by Artemis Leontis*

Faculty in literature and language mostly trade in words. In the classroom, we do our best to illustrate our lectures with pictures, films, and music. But mostly we talk, and sometimes talking just isn't enough. Nothing can bring Athens to life quite like a trip to Athens.

The jet prepares to land on a poppy-studded runway flooded by the impossibly bright light of Attica. Fifteen U-Michigan students witness the sprawling cityscape of greater Athens. They touch ground and inhale their first breaths of Athens' jet fuel-injected spring air. Ready or not, they are about to experience Athens as no book can render it: through Mayday strikes, rapid-fire spoken Greek, excruciating climbs, rooftops sprouting antennas and solar thermal units, noisy open markets, an endless variety of gyro sandwiches, late nights in Psirri, crowds of thousands on Varkiza beach, and the beautiful panoramic view of the city at dusk seen from the peak of Lykavitos.

The students elected to take the 2-credit hour, 2-week course in Athens, an on-site extension of their U-M Winter term class, Modern Greek 325, Athens Present and Past. A U-M grant for Integrating Study Abroad in the Curriculum (ISAC) from the Office of International Programs (OIP) and another grant from

the LSA Global Citizenship Theme Year made the trip affordable.

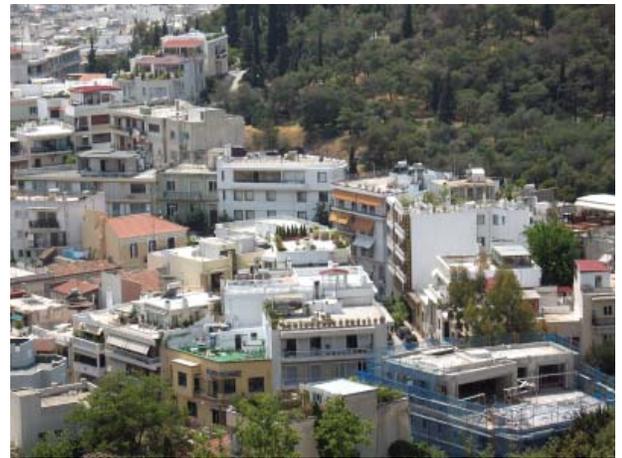
The trip took me months to plan. I tried to pack every day with carefully coordinated walks, tours, site visits, excursions, evenings of music, a boat trip, and a few hours on the glorious waterfront. With the help of U-M alumni Isidoros Kiolooglou, Director of the Ionic Centre in the Plaka, and Niki Serras (class of 2006), who worked by my side almost every minute of the trip, I booked a hotel in the right location: the Acropolis View Hotel just behind the Dionysos Café near the entrance to the Acropolis. I found specialists: Evridiki Abadjji, Director of the Hellenic Parliament Library; Dr. Stelios Lydakakis, Director of the Museum of the City of Athens and Mrs. Efi Spyropoulou, Secretary of the Friends of the Museum; Dr. Fani Mallouchou-Tufano, Archaeologist and Head of the Documentation Office of the Acropolis Restoration; Dr.

observed.

We hit the ground running. At the heart of our tour were three long *peripatoi*, walks through the heart of the city. The first took us on the pedestrian walkways around the Acropolis through the neighborhoods of Makriyanni, Plaka, Anafiotika, Monastiraki and Thessalon. This area, known as Athens' "Archaeological Park," is the oldest

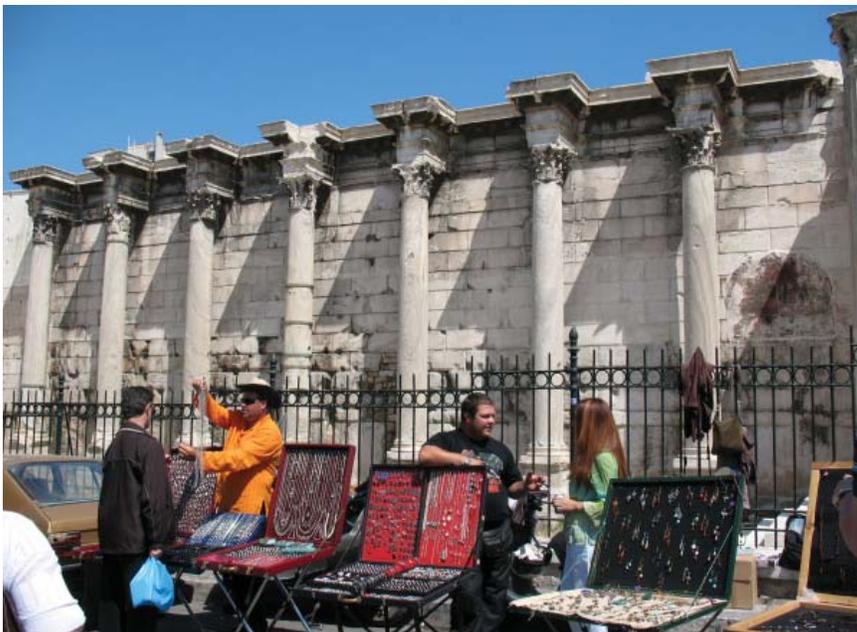
Pictured right: The Acropolis View Hotel at the foot of Philopappos Hill in the heart of the neighborhood of Makriyanni.

Below: The western wall of Hadrian's Library near Monastiraki Square, with its distinguished Corinthian colonnade, provides a backdrop for street vendors. To the right traces of a Byzantine mural survive from the church of the Archangels that was once attached to the Library.



continuously inhabited neighborhood in Europe. I had been drilling that into students' minds all semester. Now they saw for themselves the layers of past and present side by side. On the south slope of the Acropolis, their first archaeological site, they encountered ruins of the Odeion of Pericles, Theatre of Dionysus, sanctuary of the healing demigod Asklepeios, Stoa of the Hellenistic king Eumenes, and Herodeion, or music hall built by the wealthy Athenian Herodes Atticus, and below this the late Ottoman "Haseki" wall, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Weiler building, which now houses the Acropolis Study Centre, and the new, almost completed Acropolis Museum, together representing almost all layers of Athens' history. The Theatre of Dionysus alone has undergone numerous renovations since its natural slope first seated theatre audiences in the 6<sup>th</sup> century through the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Our second walk went through the "newer ancient Athens," the Roman city on the other side of Hadrian's Arch, as well as areas of modern Athens that



*continued on page 3...*



**Κ. Π. ΚΑΡΑΦΗΣ**  
PROFESSORSHIP IN MODERN GREEK  
ENDOWED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

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## To You Guys at Michigan (Στα παιδιά από το Μισιγκαν) *by Despina Margomenou*

I do not think I ever knew what I was getting into with you people!

But I am getting ahead of myself. Let me start from the beginning: "Hello. My name is Vassilis Lambropoulos. You may not know me." The voice on my cell sounded quite close, but I knew it was from the other side of the Atlantic. It was about four in the afternoon in Greece and I was at the excavation lab. The year was 2000 and I had been in Greece for two years collecting data for the dissertation I would start writing back at the Department of Anthropology in Michigan the following academic year.

Of course I knew who the man on my cell was. I had attended his lecture when, in 1998, he had visited the Department of Classics in Michigan. I was teaching Modern Greek with Michalis Fotiadis at the time. It was my second year as a GSI in Modern Greek. Those of course were the days of Traianos Gagos, Kostalena Michelaki, and Michalis Fotiadis. I was the "new kid" on the Modern Greek scene. We were all very determined to keep the small program going. Besides, the students and the Greek American community were a constant inspiration to continue with this effort not only to make the Modern Greek language available to Michigan students, but also to finally put together a dynamic and comprehensive Modern Greek program at the university.



Despina Margomenou with students at the farewell party organized in her honor. (April 2007)

They say that the best things come to you when you least expect them. So that afternoon, with my brain full of excavation coordinates and "to be scanned" drawings, I received an intriguing challenge for the upcoming year in Michigan. To be once again involved in Modern Greek: not the small language program it had been when I left Michigan, but the dynamic area studies program we had all envisioned it would become.

I do not think that any of us ever really expected to encounter you guys!

The seven years that followed, first as a GSI and then as a Lecturer in Modern Greek, were an amazing journey for me. I owe an enormous amount of gratitude to Vassilis Lambropoulos and Artemis Leontis, to the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies, and to the staff and the faculty of the Classics Department, especially Prof. Richard Janko, for their support and for the nurturing and warm work environment they provided all these years. But I must admit that I owe an even greater gratitude to you, my students!

And I would like to speak of you in the rest of the few words I am allowed here, since, and in so many ways, you have always been the soul of the Modern Greek program at Michigan and my constant challenge every single day for so many years (including the weekends!).



Despina Margomenou with students in front of the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion during the "Athens Present and Past" field trip. (May 2007)

Teaching every day for two or three hours can be a tedious job after a few years. Yet I cannot remember one single day in these many years that I dreaded coming into class. In fact it was always the best time of my day; when I would meet your eager, smiling faces that were ready "to learn more" about Greece and were almost never deterred by those sneaky Accusatives (you see? I know you hated them).

Teaching is a mutual give and take, and I took a great deal from you, who gave willingly: your energy, your amazing creativity, and your passion for learning, and minds open to new possibilities without any inhibitions. As someone who always felt like a researcher and fieldworker first and foremost, I am deeply indebted to you for teaching me not only how to be in a classroom, but also for not giving me a minute to rest and always keeping me on my feet; which, as it turns out, is the best kind of teaching!

But students in Modern Greek are a special and unique species! They are not content with classroom time; they "ponder" and "inquire," and... "well, Despina, I was thinking about what you said in class and I have this other idea" even outside the classroom. And then they also "do"; they do a great deal. They come to lectures, they organize events, they get together and play sports or eat pizza at Cottage Inn, they "are HSA" and "proud to be Greek" no matter what their family traditions and origins really are. Modern Greek students are not an easy crowd that a teacher can leave behind after an hour or so in the classroom.

So this brief note is first and foremost for all of you guys (για σας παιδιά!) who met at Starbucks or Amer's for hours and hours before exams (you know who you were), who googled Kostas Angellou, who dressed up as Pavlos Danezis, and rapped Eminem songs in Greek (yes! even the "very bad words"!).

I am pretty sure that on that afternoon in 2000, neither I nor Professor Lambropoulos (nor anyone else for that matter) knew what we were getting into! •

*Athens continued...*

developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries: Metz, Pangrati, Rigilis, the National Gardens, and Kolonaki. We passed quietly through the pine-lined lanes of the First Cemetery, a hauntingly beautiful place. Here one can understand

exploration of the “new city” that same evening to Maroussi, where we visited the Athens Olympic Sports Complex just as it was preparing for the semifinal and final rounds of Europe’s principal basketball club competition, which saw

Panathinaikos, the Athens hometown favorite, win the title on May 6.

Our third walk meandered through the “historic triangle,” the administrative and commercial center of the city that lies between Panepistimou, Piraeos, and Ermou Streets, and is bisected by Athinas Street. This took place on a Sunday, when the Central Market and most other shops were closed, but street hawkers spread

out pirated CDs and DVDs and knock-off Louis Vuitton handbags on drop cloths on the street and then collected them whenever they sensed the presence of police. The streets named for Euripides, Sophocles, and Menander surrounding Theatre Square are the heart of multicultural Athens, with shops representing many cultures of Asia and the Middle East. Dr. Papailias, who has been researching immigrants in Greece, spoke to us about social and legal aspects of immigration, especially as it concerns the children of immigrants born in Greece.

It’s hard to pinpoint the climax of the trip. There were just too many highs.

For some it was our visit to the Acropolis, where Dr. Mallouchou-Tufano showed us the workshops where teams are restoring the buildings on the Acropolis in ways that can be reversed, if necessary. Then she opened the way for us to enter the Parthenon so we could observe restoration work on the cella walls and west porch. That was grand! Dr. Mallouchou-Tufano also gave a splendid tour of the Pnyx and the neighborhood of Koile on the Hill of the Muses.

For others it was our excursion across Pendeli Mountain—where Dr. Pafilis pointed out marble quarries that have furnished Athens for millennia with so much building material that the mountain is now facing its ecological demise—to the bay of Marathon and beautiful Schinias beach.

There was the tour of the Museum of the City of Athens, where Dr. Lydakias showed us Jacques Carrey’s panoramic oil painting of Athens in 1674, the largest ever painted of Athens, and Mrs. Spyropoulou helped orient us with a 1:1000 scale model of the city as it was in 1842 and guided us through the first stately residence of Greece’s royal family from 1836 to 1843.

There was our two-day excursion outside Athens: an afternoon at Delphi; a meditative 1-1/2 hours spent in the Great Meteora Monastery, an aerie retreat built on one of 24 natural sandstone pillars rising unexpectedly almost 1000 feet from the plain of Thessaly; and a journey through the snow-peaked Pindus Mountains to beautiful Metsovo.

There were also dance lessons with a Dora Stratou dancer and an evening enjoying a Dora Stratou *glendi*, a

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Pictured above: Grave markers in Athens’ First Cemetery. To the right is the temple-like tomb of German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann.

Below left: The guard before the Presidential Palace on Irodotou Attikou Street is unfazed by the men painting his guardhouse.

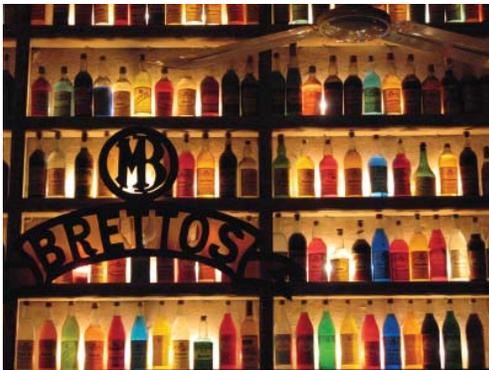
Below right: Cellphones are ubiquitous in Greece, serving lay people but also priests.

the meaning of the Greek word *harmolypi*, joyful sadness, the experience of beauty and sadness that overwhelms and moves one to embrace the present. We met up with Lazaris Zaoussis at the Panathenaic Stadium, beautifully restored with all-marble seats for the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and used again to cheer the winners of the Marathon race in the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. We stopped on Irodotou Attikou St. to watch painters touch up the guardhouse in front of the Presidential Palace. In Kolonaki we took time to study artifacts representing the temporal sweep of Greek history in the splendid Benaki Museum, and observed people in Kolonaki Square. We extended our





# ATHENS LIVE!



**Top left:** Poppies break through the marble seats of the Theatre of Dionysus. **Middle left (above):** Niki Serras, our assistant throughout the trip, stands in front of the Church of St. Dimitrios Loubardiaris on Philopappos Hill. **Middle left (below):** The very popular Brettos is Athens' oldest distillery, lined with colorful bottles and old barrels of home-made brew. **Above enter:** Students Kevin Kushion and Jason Rawa face the square before the University of Athens. **Above right:** The Anafiotika, a cluster of whitewashed houses high up on the northeast slope of the Acropolis, built by builders and craftsmen from the Cycladic island of Anafi who sought work and shelter in Athens in the 19th century. **Below left:** Architect Lazaris Zaoussis and students at the Olympic complex built for the Athens 2004 Olympics. **Below center:** Joshua Rawa and Jackie Arrington rest on a doorstep of the Stoa of Attalos in the Classical Agora. **Below right:** Artemis Leontis listens to a conversation between Dr. Fani Mallouchou-Tufano and N. Toganidis, head architect of the Technical Office and Work-Site for the Conservation and Restoration of the Parthenon.





*“You think, when you go to a place like Greece, that you aren’t going to be surprised by anything. The country is so publicized and romanticized that you just assume you’ve seen it all, even before you arrive. Imagine my surprise when, right in the middle of a square, in front of a church, I found myself staring up into a grove of palm trees. And all I could do was stare, because I couldn’t believe they were real, at first. You never see pictures of palm trees in guide books or travelogues; I’d been given no warning that I’d see palm trees there. But that’s Greece, that’s the real Greece: the surprise and the shock and awe, even the tiniest thing, even a thing you feel stupid and trite talking about. The best of the country sneaks up and takes you completely by surprise: palm trees, friendly waiters, an impromptu walk through the Parthenon. It’s the surprise that keeps the country real and living, that entices people to visit and sightsee and return again. It’s the surprise that makes it unforgettable.” ~Liana Imam, U-M student*



**Top left:** Euripides Street in the historical center of Athens is a vast open air market for everything from cloth and area rugs to portable gas stoves, rice, and legumes. **Top center:** Sunset over the Saronic Bay viewed from a ferryboat returning from Aegina. **Top right:** Students admire the facade of the Church of The Savior of Lykodimos, the largest surviving Byzantine Church in Athens, which serves the Russian community today. **Above left:** A member of the Propylaea restoration team describes the work of restoring the recessed panels of that building’s beautiful coffered ceiling. **Above center:** The entire group poses on the western porch of the Parthenon. **Above right:** View from the western porch of the Parthenon, with restoration works in the foreground and the Propylaea in the background. **Below left:** Horses graze on Philoppapos Hill, resting between carriage rides. **Below center:** Lazaris Zaoussis and Artemis Leontis lead students through the Plaka. **Below right:** The Great Meteora Monastery offered a tranquil break from life in the city.





celebration in the courtyard of the Dora Stratou Dance Society building in the Plaka. We all danced and shared food and good spirits with a group from the town of Kyparissi in the Peloponnese and with a warm crowd of music lovers.

Another high point was our long, hot hike down from the Temple of Afea in Aegina to jump into the cool waters of the beach of Agia Marina.

Our tour of the Hellenic Parliament was full of surprises. Inside the *Vouli*, the chamber where deputies deliberate, we saw where the Prime Minister, speaker, ministers of Government, heads of the minority parties, and President sit. We learned how a parliamentary government works. We visited the library of Parliament. We enjoyed the murals in Eleftherios Venizelos Hall and viewed an exceptional exhibit on the Greek diaspora. Then we were led out the front doors of Parliament, an exclusive point of entry, with the gift of an exhibit catalog in hand.

Pictured above: Students descend the ramp from the front entrance of the Hellenic Parliament, which faces Syntagma Square.

Pictured right: The happy group poses for a final picture on the terrace of the Ionic Center.

Dr. Despina Margomenou led a tour of the Kerameikos Cemetery and joined us for our excursion to Anavissos and the Temple of Poseidon on the promontory of Sounion. We all applauded the sunset.

Our last night together began with dinner on the rooftop of the Ionic Centre in the Plaka, with its splendid view of the north side of the Acropolis, then ended in an all-night vigil on the terrace of the Acropolis View Hotel on the Acropolis's south side. We could almost touch the Parthenon. From the Herodeion, the Greek National Opera serenaded us with a rehearsal of Bizet's *Carmen*.

Students heard from several sources that they were a cut above regular tourists! One driver told us we were his most punctual clients in 25 years. Those who didn't know Greek parroted basic greetings, while others with more

knowledge and experience served as guides and translators.

Everyone learned the meaning of the word *philoxenia*, hospitality, when Drs. Yiannis Varvarigos and Katerina Michaelidou and their daughter Ellie treated us to Cypriot delicacies in Anavissos. This is not a lesson books can teach. And everywhere we felt the beat of the city, with its music, bartering, pummeling jackhammers, and loud talk. More than anything, Athens, live, yielded the unexpected blessings of two weeks in a great, high-energy, capital city. What made this trip unique was our attention to the features peculiar to this contemporary city: the many ways Athenians make themselves at home outdoors in the city's streets, cafés, lofty hills, trains, boats, and crowded coast, and how they exude such a modern air while they also—very comfortably—live side by side with all eras of their past. •



6th Annual Platsis Symposium on the Greek Legacy

## ICONOCLASM: THE WAR ON IMAGES

Sunday, September 23, 2007  
2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre  
915 E. Washington, 4th Floor

### 2 p.m. - Presentation

Artist Michael Kapetan

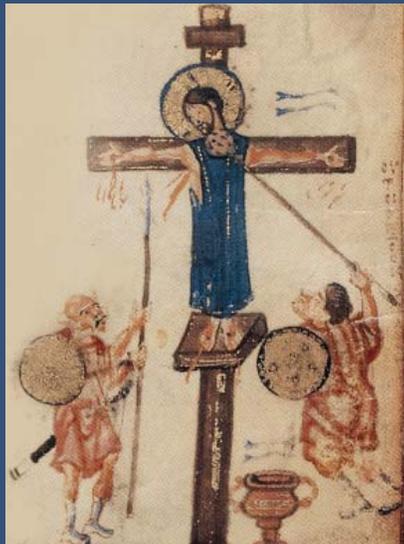
### 4 p.m. & 5 p.m. - Lectures

John Haldon (Princeton) on History

Charles Barber (Notre Dame) on Art History

### Reception to Follow

SUPPORTED BY THE ARTHUR AND MARY PLATIS FUND



## Thank you!

**Ms. Evridiki Abadji**, Director of the Library of the Hellenic Parliament, for her contributions to the Library.

**Mr. Dan Georgakas** for his donation of audio-visual materials for teaching and research purposes.

**Ms. Cathy Pikulas**, for her generous donation of Hellenic Studies books to our Library.

**Mr. Manuel Savidis**, Director of the Center for Neo-Hellenic Studies in Athens, for his donation to our Library.

**Dr. Denny Stavros**, for his recent financial gift to the Library and his continuing donation of magazines, journals, newsletters, books and other printed matter.

*Gifts of books and other resources strengthen the Library's modern Greek collection and enrich our work as teachers and researchers. We welcome these gifts.*

# My Greece *by Janet Hart*

My Greece began the year I started seventh grade at Dewitt Junior High in Ithaca, New York. Students were assigned alphabetically to “homerooms” where, book-ending school days, we gathered to be counted and accounted for. I met my friend Gail Floros in homeroom. One afternoon

as we waited to be released into the open, Gail taught me my first Greek word: “caïque” (a small wooden fishing boat). She explained that the term, though not in daily circulation, belonged to the language that was part of her ethnic heritage. Occasionally, Gail would be unavailable to mill around outside with

the rest of us because she was expected at Greek School. This seemed to be something like the catechism classes that the Catholic students attended, though it sounded like a lot more fun. Part of me wanted to be Greek so that I too could expand—and update—my vocabulary, play games involving large maps on the floor and the rolling of dice, and learn regional dances.

Among the apparent advantages of being Greek, though, the most enviable was access to something called a “yiayia,” which in Gail’s case came with the delightful bonus of a “papou.” Technically, these were grandparents, but actually they appeared to be personal service providers whose main goal was to indulge and shower you with whatever largesse happened to be available to them. My grandmother had moved north from New Orleans some years earlier and lived in town. Beyond a doubt, she was generous and loving and “had our backs.” At the same time, she took care not to overindulge us, reasoning that some sort of balance would help us grow into well-adjusted adults. But these authority figures understood their mandate altogether differently.

Yiayia and Papou could invariably be found at the family-owned restaurant,

the Olympia, a few short blocks from the junior high. Sometimes Gail and I would walk over after school to be adored. We were given license to order whatever we fancied, be it a coke float, plate of crunchy fries, or chocolate layer cake à la mode. Anything we chose was guaranteed to ruin our dinner, but that was the kind of thing that parents obsessed about and fortunately they were nowhere in sight. These people recognized us for the deserving jewels that we were. In fact the first time I heard “xhriso mou” (my gold), the common term of endearment, was as we were hustled into the Olympia one weekday afternoon around 4 p.m.

Twenty years later, I sat in a Comparative Politics graduate seminar at Cornell and decided to pursue a Greek thesis topic for reasons more substantial than free chocolate sundaes, free of guilt. After college, I had worked to save the \$1000, which was all that a 22-year-old needed in the mid-1970s to spend four or five months traveling around Europe. Friends and I ended up in Greece at one point and decided to stay for a while, hopping island-bound ferries, staying at youth hostels, and sleeping on beaches with a larger international band. Crete, Corfu, Paros, Mykonos... Greece was newly rid of the colonel’s dictatorship. A novel degree of political expression abounded. Constricted for many years, the opposition had regained its voice. Protest songs were sung, memories retrieved and spoken out loud, and speaking of loud, arguments based on divergent readings of Greek history now erupted regularly in public places. I listened with fascination as Greek friends translated the exchanges for me. Much later when put on the spot in class I decided that the place to investigate living politics had to be Greece. I went on to learn Modern Greek and to write a dissertation and a book on the resistance movement during WWII.

That is all I will say about the difference Greece made in my professional life. Because coming full circle from afternoons at the Olympia restaurant, my Greece has become a matter of kinship. This core anthropological concept is now conceived more liberally as relatedness. Relatedness moves the concept in a more ecumenical direction, out of a strictly biological sphere, while still acknowledging its emotional enmeshments. In 1981, a bus broke down on the island of Thassos

somewhere on the road between Potamia and Limenaria. As the bus driver and passengers argued in Greek about the whole mess, members of the bilingual Katsika family, seeing my confused look, stepped in with explanations. At the time I was learning Greek at the Institute for Balkan Studies in Thessaloniki but couldn’t yet manage to make sense of such fast-paced repartee. Eventually we repaired to their little house in Limenaria, stopping along the way for a communal plate of *loukoumadhes* at a harbor side café and developed a relationship that flourishes nearly thirty years later, complete with full privileges for me as a participant in family arguments, gossip, group emails, recipes, lavish support and love. I’m allowed to get on their nerves and they’re allowed to get on mine. We vacation together and mutually know intimate details. When I was lying in a hospital intensive care unit several years ago, they were as terrified as anyone. When asked to baptize Lena’s daughter Marena, I converted, though ultimately we decided that our friend Fotini should do the honors. Now Orthodox and in keeping with a certain lay tradition, I experience my most active moments around Easter services, watching the church light up, candle by candle, to mark the resurrection and joining in celebratory meals with friends in the Ann Arbor Greek community, Artemis, Vassilis, Daphne, Sam and his various relatives. I never miss an opportunity to sample the cuisine at John Roumanis’s Mediterraneo, which takes a kinship approach to the entire region from Spain to Greece to Cyprus and beyond, and look forward to his warm greetings and stimulating discussions if one is lucky enough to find him there. I have driven to Chicago for performances given by the family brothers, Randy and Panos and their band, *Sxinovates* (Acrobats), which features Greek medium metal music miles away from “That’s Me—Zorba!” For many years now I’ve returned nearly every year to Greece to visit my Greek sister Penelope (Lena’s biological sister), to reconnect with old friends Maria Andronikou and Manolis Arkolakis, supplementing our constant stream of emails throughout the year, and to revisit the countless places where I have built memories. And so it happens that I can no longer imagine My Life without My Greece. •



Penelope, Janet, and Alexandra  
Athens, April 2006

Janet Hart is Associate Professor of Anthropology at U-M and author of *New Voices in the Nation: Women and the Greek Resistance, 1941-1964*.

# CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS!

## Best of Luck to our Graduating Seniors

Spring 2007 graduating seniors who received a concentration or minor in Modern Greek were **Sophia Fotinos**, **Peter Hasiakos**, **Katherine Malis**, **Kiriaki Panagopoulos**, **John Pogoncheff**, and **Elena Spatoulas**.

## FMGS Scholarships for 2007

The following students received Summer Research and Travel Scholarships from the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies: **Yona Stamatis** for doctoral research on *rebetika* urban folk music in Greece (matched by a Center for European Studies summer grant); **Roula Adonakis** for studies in culture and history through the Paideia Study Abroad Program; **James Liadis** for intensive Greek on the island of Spetses through the Athens Center as well as volunteering at MOM, The Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Mediterranean Monk Seal; **Lena Mortis** for an internship with Press Counselor Yiorgos Chouliaras at the Press Office of the Greek Embassy in Washington, DC; and **Maria Tsiros** for studies in culture, history and language at Peloponnese University and the Hellenic International Studies in the Arts on Paros.

## Honors and Awards

Winners of the 2007 Modern Greek Translation Prizes are **Daphne Lambropoulos** (Modern Greek II) and **Penelope Papalambros** (Modern Greek I). **Daphne Lambropoulos** was also the recipient of a 2007 Context for Classics Translation Award, winning third place for her "Two poems by Dinos Siotis." You can read her winning translations on our website: [www.lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/window](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/window).

**Roula Adonakis**, **James Liadis** and **Andrew Wilkinson** all received Travel Awards from the Department of Classical Studies.

**Whitney Crutchfield** won the Virginia Voss Award for excellence in writing by LSA Senior Honors women for her Honors thesis, "Generations of Entanglement: Weaving Traditions and their Transformations Through Women of Modern Greece," received with distinction.

## Student and Alumni News

**Alexandra Berk** (B.A. '06) currently works at Macy's North Corporate Headquarters in Minneapolis as an Assistant Buyer, helping to determine the products sold in the Petites section at 62 Macy's stores across the Midwest.

**Sophia Fotinos** (B.A. '07) is currently attending the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Asli Igsiz**, who received her Ph.D. in April '07, accepted a one year limited term appointment/visiting Assistant Professor in World Literature at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada beginning Fall '07. Her thesis was entitled "Repertoires of Rupture: Recollecting the 1923 Greek-Turkish Compulsory Population Exchange."

**Yianni Kaiafas** (B.A. '04) recently graduated from DePaul College of Law in Chicago, IL.

**Kristina Poulos** (B.S. '04 and M.S. '05) currently works at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York City as a Database Administrator.

## Modern Greek Faculty News

### Dr. Margomenou receives Matthews Underclass Teaching Award

Congratulations to Despina Margomenou, our outgoing Lecturer in Modern Greek, on winning the *Matthews Underclass Teaching Award* from the College of Literature, Sciences and the Arts. This prestigious award is given for lower-division undergraduate teaching in mathematics, history, or modern languages, which displays outstanding rigor combined with an ability to inspire first and second-year students. In a letter to Dr. Margomenou, LSA Dean Terrence McDonald writes: "The members of the committee found you particularly deserving of recognition for the way you have rapidly built up the program in Modern Greek, nearly doubling its size over the past two years. Your responsibility over the entire program, which entailed not only developing curriculum across a range of courses, but also extensive advising, promotion, and consultation outside the classroom, distinguished you from the other highly qualified candidates."

Well done, Despina! We will miss you terribly!

*Despina Margomenou is now Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Georgia State University.*



Panagiotis Pafilis

### Dr. Pafilis appointed Lecturer in Modern Greek

Following an international search, the Department of Classical Studies has appointed Dr. Panagiotis Pafilis Lecturer of Modern Greek responsible for teaching beginning, intermediate, and advanced Modern Greek. Dr. Pafilis, a native of Athens, Greece, received his PhD in Biology from the University of Athens. Following two years of post-doctoral research, he worked in 2006-7 as adjunct instructor in the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of the Aegean. He has extensive teaching experience as lecturer, teaching assistant, and private tutor. His research interests focus on ecosystems in the Aegean and Mediterranean basin. He has participated in major research projects, attended international conferences, and published articles in scientific journals, encyclopedias, and the popular press. In addition to his scientific pursuits, he has a deep interest in modern Greek literature and music. Besides Greek, he speaks English, French, and Spanish.

Dr. Pafilis is no stranger to Michigan. He visited the campus in 2006 to collaborate with Johannes Foufopoulos, Assistant Professor of Natural Resources at U-M. In addition, he has been supplying the modern Greek Program with educational materials and recently guided the Athens Present and Past tour of Mt. Pendeli and Marathon. As a scholar devoted to interdisciplinary research in the Mediterranean, and as a dedicated teacher whose broad interests will appeal to the students who take our language courses, he will fit into the U-M modern Greek program beautifully.

We look forward to introducing Dr. Pafilis, our newest faculty member, to friends of the Modern Greek Program this fall, and know you will be pleased to meet him.

## UPCOMING MODERN GREEK EVENTS FOR FALL '07

**Sunday, 9/23/07** - 6th Annual Platsis Symposium on the Greek Legacy:  
**Iconoclasm: the War on Images** • 2pm, Rackham Amphitheatre

**Tuesday, 9/25/07** - Modern Greek Student Reception for current and prospective students • 5pm, 2163 Angell Hall

**Tuesday, 10/2/07** - Christopher Bakken Reading • 7pm, Shaman Drum

**October** - Hellenic Student Association events TBA!

**Tuesday 11/13/07** - Lecture by Prof. Diskin Clay, Prof. of Classical Studies, Duke University • 4pm, 2175 Angell Hall

**For more detailed information on these exciting events, check our website:**  
[www.lsa.umich.edu/modgreek](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/modgreek)