

# MODERN GREEK Program

## New Endowed Modern Greek History Lecture Fund

### A Fitting Memorial to Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales

People living along borders understand the value of history. War, invasion, migration, or a diplomatic sleight of hand may suddenly separate them from loved ones. Then psychic pain, repression, and forgetfulness can erase religious, linguistic, cultural, and blood ties, and even turn former family members into enemies. History, the discipline that aims to produce as accurate as possible an account of the past, is the antidote. History follows the hints of past connections to recover the memory of past experiences. History sees in present-day political maps past conflicts, and in obsolete maps forgotten human connections.

The Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales Endowed Lecture Fund, created by Drs. Joyce and Anthony Kales in 2009 to offer one or more annual lectures on the history of modern global Hellenism since the 16th Century, fittingly memorializes Dr. Anthony Kales' parents, both Greeks from an area in present-day Albania known to Greeks as Northern Epirus.



Demetrios Kales (1892-1954) and Demetra Partalis Kales (1910-2005) were no strangers to tumultuous events. Both were born in *Kato Lesinitsa (Delvino)* approximately 10 kilometers north of the present Albanian-Greek border. In 1904 at the age of 12, Demetrios left the impoverished village to work at menial chores in an uncle's general store in Patras, Greece. At the time *Kato Lesinitsa* belonged to the Ottoman Empire, with Muslims ruling the region and the majority population espousing Orthodox Christianity and the Greek language. In 1915, when Demetrios immigrated to the U.S. (Worcester, Mass.) to find employment in the textile mills, *Kato Lesinitsa* was contested

by Greece and Albania. In the U.S., Demetrios could leave behind Balkan politics to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities in Detroit and develop with his future brother-in-law, Gregory Partalis, five businesses (restaurants and taverns) that thrived until the Great Depression brought devastating economic reverses. Meanwhile *Kato Lesinitsa* continued to experience international convulsions. By 1929, when Demetrios returned to the village to marry Demetra Partalis, *Kato Lesinitsa* had been recognized by the League of Nations as part of a Greek minority zone with special status. While the couple settled in Detroit among close relatives to raise their two sons, Nicholas (1931) and Anthony (1934), villagers in *Kato Lesinitsa* saw Greek education virtually eliminated. The Italian invasion and occupation of 1940-43, followed by a major Nazi offensive in 1943-44, destroyed many homes and sent 30,000 people from the area to find refuge in Greece. During the Cold War (1945-91), *Kato Lesinitsa's* remaining Greek population disappeared behind Albania's hard, iron curtain, only to reemerge, quite shattered, in the mass migrations from Albania to Greece after 1991.

Despite their limited grade-school education, Demetrios and Demetra Kales placed a high premium on education. Demetrios was self-taught, fluent in English, well read, and versed in current events, history, and economics, with a forward-thinking, international perspective. Demetra had a penetrating ability to assess individuals' character and strengths. She also possessed business acumen, as she discovered by necessity when she courageously and capably assumed the work of running the family tavern after Demetrios was unable to continue working because of uncontrollable hypertensive illness in 1941.

Anthony Kales, M.D., and Joyce Danielski Kales, M.D., the donors of the Endowed Lecture Fund, met as freshmen at Wayne State University in 1952 and completed their undergraduate education and Medical School there. Both are recipients of Wayne State University School of Medicine Distinguished Alumni Awards. Under their joint leadership Pennsylvania State College of Medicine established the Central Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute (CPPI) with full funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide mental health training programs in various aspects of Community Psychiatry. Dr. Anthony Kales has authored over 300 scientific articles and six books and is internationally recognized as a founder and leader in Modern Sleep Research. In 2007 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Athens School of Medicine for his pioneering work in Sleep Disorders Medicine and Psychiatric Education. At the time he expressed gratitude to his parents for exemplifying four principles: their high level of confidence and expectation that he would attain the highest goals in life; a love of wisdom and common sense; an unstinting devotion to the family; and a strong sense of responsibility for family, work, and community.

Drs. Kales are devoted to their three children and seven grandchildren: Helen Kales, M.D., U-M Associate Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry, and mother (with Patrick Gibson) of Anastasia, Sophia, and Theodore; Stephanos N. Kales, M.D., M.P.H., internist and occupational medical specialist at Harvard Schools of Medicine and Public Health, and parent (with Ana) of Stefania and Arianna; and James P. Kales, a M.P.P. graduate of Harvard Kennedy School of Government and President and CEO of ASPIRE, an organization devoted to the care of developmentally disabled children and adults, and parent (with Jennifer) of Alexandra and Zoe.

As grateful as Dr. Anthony Kales is to his parents for their "courage and determination in seeking opportunities in the great land of the United States of America," he is also attentive to historical legacy. The Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales Endowed Lecture Fund, with its appreciation of the fact that Hellenism's recent past exceeds events taking place within the borders of the Greek state, is a fitting tribute to his parents' legacy.



NOVEMBER 12 • 7PM • MICHIGAN LEAGUE

The Inaugural Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales  
Annual Lecture in Modern Greek History

**SAVE THE DATE!**

See details on back cover



C. P. Cavafy



## Κ. Π. ΚΑΒΑΦΗ PROFESSORSHIP IN MODERN GREEK ENDORSED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

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### Acknowledging our Donors

Mr. Stavros Semanderes, Founding member and current Director of the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies, donated **120** books to U-M's Hatcher Graduate Library.



# A NOTE from DIRECTOR VASSILIS LAMBROPOULOS

Four U-M Ph.D. students studying history, comparative literature, linguistics, and ethnomusicology recently received Constantine Tsangadas Fellowships from Rackham Graduate School for dissertation research in post-classical Greek. It's wonderful to see such a high level of research on Byzantine and Modern Greek topics taking place in entirely different fields. Here is a summary of their projects.

**Alexander Angelov** is a Byzantinist in the History Department. His dissertation is on Byzantine missions to Armenia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Sudan, India, China, and Yemen between the early fourth and ninth centuries. Several questions are directing his research. One set of questions concerns Byzantine history: How did monks, priests, philosophers, pious women, captives, and the practices of gift exchange mediate Byzantine imperial ideology and Christianity to foreigners abroad? What were the keys to Eastern Christianity's expansion? Another line of interrogation relates his work to modern Balkan history: How have modern historians and politicians isolated conversion narratives of the Byzantine past to romanticize a national Eastern Orthodoxy? Angelov knows many languages, including Bulgarian, Greek, Old Church Slavonic, Russian, Latin, French, and German. He has worked in libraries in Bulgaria, London, and the U.S. He plans to go to Paris in January 2010 to conduct his final research there.

**Maria Hadjipolycarpou** is a doctoral student in Comparative Literature. Her dissertation research is on Cypriot and Algerian postcolonial autobiography. She is interested in how colonialism's legacies (in language, education, migration, and remembrance of the past) are refracted through Cypriot and Algerian writers' personal recollection of decolonization. Cyprus' colonial past and peripheral status in relation to Greece, a country next to which Cyprus tied its national dreams, inflect our understanding of the Greek legacy in terms and categories of postcolonial studies. The relationship between Algeria and France offers a particularly fertile comparative case rich in parallels and opportunities for bi-focal analysis of the formation of national identities in the Mediterranean. Hadjipolycarpou will use a Study Abroad grant from Comparative Literature to conduct research in libraries and archives in Cyprus in Winter 2010, and the Tsangadas Fellowship to write her dissertation in 2010-11.

**Konstantia Kapetangianni**, Ph.D. candidate, is carrying out an interdisciplinary project in Linguistics. She is conducting experimental work with children (below the age of 5) and adults on the acquisition of the certain types of "Control" phenomena in Greek and English. Control is a syntactic mechanism by which people interpret the phonological null (silence indicated by the underscore, for example in the sentence,

"John tried \_ to win the race"), where there are tense-interpretation phenomena of interest in the constructions (John's attempt temporally precedes the time of the race completion) and other pragmatic and logical complications. These facts may seem obvious to a competent speaker, but imagine trying to learn them simply by listening to people around you. Yet normal four year olds do it quite effortlessly. From a bio-linguistic/cognitive science perspective, whereby human knowledge of language is presumed to be a species-specific cognitive capacity, human knowledge of such "Control" constructions is of central interest. Kapetangianni will use the Tsangadas Fellowship in 2009-10 to complete her experimental research.

**Yona Stamatis**, Ph.D. candidate in Ethnomusicology in the School of Music, will use the Tsangadas Fellowship in 2010-11 to complete her dissertation after a year in Athens on a Fulbright Fellowship. Her dissertation, entitled "The Quarrel of the Moderns and the Moderns: Musical Style and National Identity Construction in Contemporary *Rebetika* Performance," focuses on issues of European integration and national identity construction in Greece through an analysis of contemporary performance of *rebetika*, an urban popular song form. Her case study is *Rebetiki Istoría*, the oldest *rebetika* tavern in Athens. She proposes that musician's own discussions about musical style serve as a microcosm of the broader debate about the effects of Europeanization on Greek society: Pavlos Vasileiou, the owner and lead singer of the tavern, believes that *rebetika* should be performed in its original style of the early twentieth century. Other *Rebetiki Istoría* musicians are more accepting of the effects of Europeanization and readily add elements of other European musics into their performances. As a result of these varying opinions, their performances mix musical styles that resist or accept European influences and thus become an aural landscape of the Greek national identity debate.

**Natalie Bakopoulos** (MFA in English Language Arts Circle Creative Writing Workshop May 2009. Natalie is completing Athens during the military dictators novel won U-M's Hopwood Award and Greek Legacy. Her short fiction has won *Tin House* and has twice been a finalist for the Award for New Writers. She is a regular contributor to *Fiction Review* ([www.fictionreview.com](http://www.fictionreview.com)).

KUDU  
U-M FA

# My Greece

by ARTEMIS LEONTIS



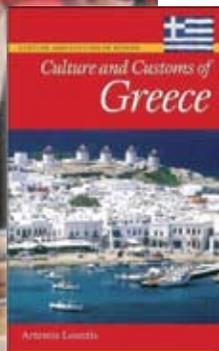
**Travel to Greece** inspires people with a yearning to dance, or so films about Greece would lead us to believe. In my case, however, Greece stirred a different desire when I first visited in 1972. I returned to the U.S. determined to study Greek. My parents, born to immigrants in the U.S. in 1917, had taken the trouble to speak Greek at home, and for years Father Gregory Economou drove from Saginaw to Midland, MI to give my brother and me weekly Greek lessons. So I was able to hold a basic conversation, read, and write. Yet all the subtleties of people's interactions eluded me. I missed the punch lines of jokes, aim of arguments, gist of songs, lessons of history, turning point of drama, message of the news, and understated resistance to the then ruling Junta. And so I understood that the Greek language is a key to Greek culture.

This is the point I make in the preface of my new book, *Culture and Customs of Greece*, published in Greenwood Press's Culture and Customs Series. Without Greek, people can be misled to believe that Greece is nothing but nonstop dancing. Yet, as necessary as Greek is to Greece, it is a dimension of something larger, about which non-Greek speakers can make discoveries, given a proper guide. I wrote *Culture and Customs of Greece* because I recognized the gaping need for a comprehensive reference source on Greek culture with a focus on the contemporary scene. The book's range is broad. There is a chronology reaching back to the stone age and eight narrative chapters on land, people, and recent history; religion; society; leisure; language and literature; music and dance; media, theatre and cinema; and art and architecture. There is also a bibliography, glossary, and index. Here is an excerpt from the preface, where I introduce the book's main themes:

Every day the sun rises on the speakers of a language as fabled for its longevity as its difficulty. These people stand poised to do many things, but perhaps nothing with greater enthusiasm than speak Greek. A language with more than 3,200 years of documented history, Greek in their mouths takes the shape of broad vowels, staccato consonants, long words, and endless expressive possibilities. Although Greek users value their language's communicative power, they are also deeply aware, with each proud syllable they dispatch, that they are keeping an old language alive. Some even claim that Greece exists for this purpose, to preserve Greek: "Greek the language they gave me / . . . My only care my language on Homer's shores" (Odysseas Elytis, *The Axion Esti*).

Greeks care deeply about their language. In the past they even sacrificed lives over language disagreements. Today's language debates don't reach quite that pitch, yet questions fly: Doesn't text messaging impoverish young people's communication skills? Must people translate older texts into today's Greek? Shouldn't children learn ancient Greek at a younger age? How threatening are foreign lexical imports such as e-mail or debate to the integrity of Greek? Will Greece's recent immigrants learn Greek or remain forever Greece's latest *varvaroi* (barbarians, speakers of bar-bar, or gibberish)? With each passing day, people feel the survival of their culture is on the line, and the least they can do is to argue about it in beautifully articulated Greek.

Greek culture presents many themes. Urbanization is one, with Athens taking center stage in the country's development and consequently in this book. Athens is home to almost half of Greece's population and is the administrative and cultural center of the country. It's impossible to ignore. The performative side of Greek culture is another: the way people play their parts for one another, onstage and off. And the living relationship of inhabitants to the distant past is a third. A fourth key theme is that the Greek language is central to Greek culture. Greek defines the modern nation; anchors religion; relates Greeks to their ancient ancestors and to their Septuagint and New Testament religion; ties diasporic Greeks with their homeland; gives oral and visual order to poetry and prose; creates emotional ties through song; gives people weighty words for petitions, protests, slogans, and debate; and lies at the center of artistic expression. In every dimension of culture, Greece is a country of paradox, politics, and pleasure in speaking, arguing, chanting, singing, cooking, and performing Greek.



Artemis Leontis is Associate Professor of Modern Greek. *Culture and Customs of Greece* (Greenwood 2009) is available through [www.greenwood.com](http://www.greenwood.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and at the St. Nicholas Church Bookstore in Ann Arbor. Previous books are *Topographies of Hellenism* (1995) and *Greece: A Traveler's Literary Companion*. She is coeditor with Laurie Talalay and Keith Taylor of "What these Ithakas mean..." *Readings in Cavafy*.

## DS TO ACULTY

Creative Writing, U-M, 2005), and Literature, led an Aegean workshop on the island of Naxos in completing her first novel, set in the ship of 1967-1974. A portion of this and the Platsis Prize for Work on the recently appeared in *Ninth Letter* and analyst in *Glimmer Train's* Short Story regular contributor to *Fiction Writers* ([writersreview.com](http://writersreview.com)).

## AWARDS

**Penelope Filyo**, Modern Greek 1 Translation Award

**Giorgios Bis**, Modern Greek 2 Translation Award

## GRANTS FOR SUMMER STUDY, RESEARCH, AND INTERSHIPS

**Dimitra Boutsikakis** (Undergraduate, Modern Greek Minor), Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales grant to study Greek at the Athens Center.

**Penelope Filyo** (Undergraduate, Modern Greek Concentration), Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales grant for summer internship at the Embassy of Greece Press & Communications Office in Washington D.C.

**Ana Kotsogiannis** (Undergraduate, Nursing, Modern Greek Minor), Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales grant to study Greek at the Athens Center.

**Pantelis Polychronidis** (Doctoral Student, Musical Arts in Performance: Collaborative Piano), Foundation for Modern Greek Studies grant for research on Greek art song.

**Yona Stamatis** (Doctoral Candidate, Ethnomusicology, Music School), Fulbright Fellowship for research on *rebetika* performance in Athens in 2009-10.

**Christina Tzortzinis** (Undergraduate, Modern Greek Minor), Foundation for Modern Greek Studies and Hellenic Ministry of Culture grants to attend the Modern Greek Language Program at the Institute for Balkan Studies (IMXA).

## GRADUATING SENIORS 2009

**Roula Adonakis** (BA Modern Greek and Political Science).

**Maria Frangos** (BBA in Business Administration, Modern Greek Minor with coursework equal to a Modern Greek Concentration) will pursue a Master of Science degree in Hospitality Management at Michigan State University's School of Hospitality Business.

**Anna Gangadharan** (BA English and Anthropology, Modern Greek Minor) will work as a tutor, mentor, and role model for students in Los Angeles schools through City Year Los Angeles (CYLA).

**James Liadis** (BS Neuroscience with distinction, Modern Greek Minor): "I am heading to Columbus, Ohio to attend The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Fortunately, I'll be staying maize and blue through and through as I'll be living on Michigan Avenue in a house with two other former Wolverine medical students."

**Kiriaki Panagopoulos** (BA Modern Greek, BS Biochemistry).

**Athanasia Pappas** (BA Modern Greek and English): "I will attend graduate school at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. There I will be in the Creative Writing MFA program with a focus on poetry and travel writing."

**Maria Paschalidis** (BA Sociology, Modern Greek Minor): "I will be attending New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Old Westbury, New York starting this August."

**Alexis Thompson** (BA Psychology, Modern Greek Minor): "I will be attending the University of Notre Dame Graduate School to study Cognitive Psychology."

**Leonithas Volakis** (BSE Mechanical Engineering, Modern Greek Minor): "I am applying for graduate studies in biomedical engineering. I decided to pursue this direction before I attend Medical School. I co-authored a published paper in the journal *Biotechnology Progress* (March 2009) and abstracts for two conferences relating to research at the orthopedics lab."

## OUR ALUMNI

**Andrew Wilkinson** is copy editor for the office of the Legislative Counsel for the Oregon Legislative Assembly, working in the state capitol building. "The lawyers in the office draft legislature and provide legal opinions upon request, and the team I'm on intensely scrutinizes every document for form and style, sense, and conflicts and other interactions with existing legislature and work with the lawyers until it's all perfect, then continue to edit the bills through their life moving among houses and committees. And after session we publish updated codices of laws."

# MODERN GREEK PROGRAM • Fall 2009 Events

For more on these events, visit our web site: [www.lsa.umich.edu/modgreek](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/modgreek)

Κ. Ι. ΚΑΒΑΦΗ

**OCT 1 • 4PM**  
 English Department  
 3222 Angell Hall  
 435 S. State St.

**Reflections on a Changing landscape: Rethinking 'Greece' in a Comparative frame**

A Lecture by  
**Michael Herzfeld**  
 Professor of Anthropology,  
 Harvard University

Co-sponsor  
 Mediterranean Topographies

**OCT 4 • 2PM**  
 Stamps Auditorium, Music School, 1226 Murfin, N. Campus

**An Afternoon of Greek Songs**

  
 Penelope Bitzas, mezzo soprano  
 Associate Professor of Music/Voice  
 Boston University

  
 Pantelis Polychronidis, piano  
 M.M. PhD Graduate Student in Collaborative Piano

**OCT 28 • 3PM**  
 Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 424 S. State St.

**DISPLAYING MODERNITY: CYCLADIC ART AS A 20TH-CENTURY CULTURAL PHENOMENON**

Lecture by  
**Professor Dimitris Plantzos**  
 University of Ioannina



Co-sponsor Kelsey Museum of Archaeology

**NOV 12 • 7PM**  
 Vandenberg, Michigan League, 911 N. University

The Inaugural Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales Annual Lecture in Modern Greek History

  
**Relations between the U.S. and Greece in the early 20th Century**

Lecture by  
**S. Victor Papacosma**  
 Emeritus Professor of History, Kent State University  
 Executive Director of the Modern Greek Studies Assoc.

**NOV 23 • 4PM**  
 Classical Studies Library, 2175 Angell Hall  
 435 S. State St.

**Fragments of Greek Desire**

**Dr. Tim Whitmarsh** | **Author George Economou**  
 Oxford University | University of Oklahoma

Co-sponsor Papyrus Collection