



**THE
HELLENIC
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
E-Newsletter**

Voice

A publication of the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies and the Friends of Hellenic Studies

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From the Director

Dear Friends,

This academic year 2021-2022, Stockton University is celebrating 50 years of teaching! The faculty, and students of the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, and Friends of Hellenic Studies are also celebrating 50 years of teaching Hellenic studies at Stockton.

In September 1971, as the campus was being built in Galloway, Stockton State College began instruction in makeshift classrooms at the Mayflower Hotel in Atlantic City. In those humble beginnings, Hellenic Studies had been planted as one of the foundational elements of liberal arts studies by Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos. Professor Constantelos had been hired among the first faculty (affectionately known as the Mayflower faculty, after the hotel) to teach Byzantine and Greek history.

In commemoration of this important milestone, the Pappas Center for Hellenic Studies has prepared the exhibit “Hellenism in the Pinelands: Planting the Seeds of Hellenic Studies at Stockton,” on display in the front case of the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room and soon to be online. Researched and curated by History and Hellenic Studies alumni and members of the Friends of Hellenic Studies, Sarah (Stout) Albertson, and William Albertson, and Robert Mazur, this exhibition presents the humble beginnings of Stockton and the Hellenic studies program and chronicles the growth that the Pappas Center for Hellenic Studies has enjoyed to become a preeminent center for Hellenic studies in the United States.

We are so proud of the work our Hellenic studies faculty does as teachers. Their commitment to student learning is unparalleled. What you will read about in this edition, especially, are testimonies of student veterans who have taken Professor David Roessel’s “Worlds of Homer” course and participated in the “From Troy to Ithaka Program.” This special faculty led program ventured “home” to the island of Ithaka, Greece, funded by the Pappas Family Foundation. We are grateful for their continued support of our students. The enrichment of our students’ lives through Hellenic studies is also due to commitment from each one of you who support our programs, and the Friends of Hellenic Studies scholarships.

We invite you to come to campus to view the “Hellenism in the Pinelands” exhibition and visit the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room. In addition, the long-awaited exhibition, “The Greek Revolution Through American Eyes” will open in January 2022. Stay tuned for announcements about the public events related to that exciting program as well. As we head to the holiday season, I convey to you and yours all my best wishes.

With warmest regards,
Tom Papademetriou, Ph.D., Director

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From the Co-Chairs of the Friends of Hellenic Studies

Welcome back, Friends of Hellenic Studies! It has been a while since our last issue of *The Hellenic Voice* and we hope you all enjoyed a good summer and a smooth transition to the Fall and a new academic year. 2021 has been an exciting year for our Stockton community.

On a personal note, my family was able to visit Greece this past summer as the country celebrated its 200th anniversary of Greek Independence. While there, we visited the fabulous Benaki Museum “1821 Before and After” exhibit and the newly renovated National Gallery of Art in Athens. We also attended several outdoor cultural events, all focused on the creation of the modern Greek state. In addition, we visited the beautiful Ionian islands of Kefalonia and Ithaca, Odysseus’ home and destination of his ten-year long journey back to his roots. As we sailed into Ithaca we were reminded of Constantine Cavafy’s famous poem wishing us a long voyage “full of adventure, full of discovery.”

Our trip on the “wine dark sea” also reminded me of Stockton’s wonderful *Worlds of Homer-Troy to Ithaca* program. In this issue of *The Hellenic Voice* we will be spotlighting the students who participated in that program. We encourage you to read the article by Karen Matsinger, the Assistant Director of Veterans’ Counseling Services. For the past five years she has accompanied Professor David Roessel and his students, veteran soldiers from America’s wars, as they navigate their own homecoming through the words of Homer in the classroom and their travels through Greece. Then please read the articles by veteran students Kirsten Chervenak and Dylan Fagan as they describe, in their own words, their personal experiences and how this program changed their lives. More articles on this topic will be included in future issues.



DEAN C. & ZOË S. PAPPAS
INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY



Friends of
Hellenic Studies

ΛΑΜΠΑΔΙΑ ΕΧΟΝΤΕΣ ΔΙΑΔΩΣΟΥΣΙΝ ΑΛΛΗΛΟΙΣ

"Those Who Possess the Light Shall Pass it on to
Others"
The Republic, Plato

Also included in this newsletter you will read about the Experiencing Veterans and Artists Collaboration (EVAC), a national project which uses storytelling and art to bridge the gap between civilians and veterans. Mariana Smith, Stockton’s Associate Professor of Art, co-curated the exhibit which appeared in Stockton’s art gallery.

On October 17th we presented this year’s *Exploring Hellenism* event which focused on some of the heroic women of the Greek War of Independence. While we initially had planned to hold a live event, the decision was made that due to Covid safety precautions we would present virtually on Zoom. I’m happy to say it was well received and attended by 45 participants from as far away as California and Greece. Please read Mariea Kazantzis’ article about the event in this newsletter. It was also recorded and can be viewed on our website and/or by clicking on the link attached to this issue.

Our Greek-American community is also represented in this issue of *The Hellenic Voice* with an article from Mr. Gary Padussis who relates the story of his family’s involvement in the tragic events in Chios during the Greek War of Independence. Additionally, we are pleased to report on the induction of Dr. Papademetriou as Archon at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. A brief article about “OXI Day” and our ever-popular section on Greek Eats is also included for those who enjoy Greek cuisine.

From the Co-Chairs of the Friends of Hellenic Studies

As you can see, we strive to provide you with interesting, informative and enjoyable articles, presentations and events, as the 2021-2022 academic year promises to be as productive and exciting as ever. We hope more of you will join us at our monthly meetings and we encourage you to check out our website where we post the meetings' minutes and agendas as well as announcements concerning all of our events. On behalf of my co-chairs Mariea Kazantzis, Professor Katherine Panagakos and all the Friends, I would like to thank you for subscribing to our newsletter and for your continued support of the Stockton Hellenic Studies program.

Cathy Karathanasis, on behalf of my fellow Co-Chairs of the Friends of Hellenic Studies, Mariea Kazantzis and Dr. Katherine Panagakos

OXI Day: A Greek National Holiday

By Cathy Karathanasis

On Oct. 28, 1940 the Italian ambassador, Emanuele Grazzi, presented Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas of Greece with an ultimatum. Either allow Italian troops to occupy Greece or prepare for war. The ultimatum came from Benito Mussolini himself, the Italian dictator and staunch ally of Adolf Hitler. Metaxas refused, issuing the historic reply in French, the diplomatic language of the time: "Alors, c'est la guerre" ("Well, this means war.") Consequently, on the very same day, Greece officially entered World War II. Thereafter, a relentless resistance followed. The six months of fighting caused by the fierce Greek resistance of the Axis powers caused delays which overturned German plans to occupy Moscow before the onset of the deadly Russian winter. The German war machine literally bogged down and froze, thus allowing the Russians to repulse and eventually help defeat the Germans. This bravery ended up being essential to breaking the Axis' confidence and allowed the Allies to prevail.

The Greeks faithfully met their obligations to their allies with heroism and self-sacrifice. In World War II Greece lost one of the highest percentages of its population in comparison to the other members of the victorious allies. Percentage-wise, Greece lost about 12% of its population—a staggering one million people. The success of the Greek armed forces, the Greek guerrillas, and the ordinary Greek citizens drew the admiration of the free world, including Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill who recognized the Greeks' contributions and the timeless character of the modern Greek patriot: passionate, determined, and proud.

This day is now commemorated as OXI Day (pronounced O-hee). OXI is the Greek word for no. It is a public holiday and features parades and celebrations in every corner of Greece. Across the country patriotic and satiric songs are heard at full volume. The folk singer Sofia Vembo was dubbed the "Songstress of Victory." Her songs became anthems for the nation at war and inspired the soldiers at the front.

[Click here to watch a video with the "Greek War Song!"](#)

Recent Events

Οι Ηρωίδες της Ελληνικής Επανάστασής του 1821

In Greek and English by Mariea Kazantzis

Εφέτος στις 17 Οκτωβρίου ετιμήσαμε τις ηρωίδες της Ελληνικής επανάστασής, την ζωή τους και την δράση τους σε μία τηλεδιάσκεψη την οποίαν παρακολούθησαν αρκετοί από πολλά μέρη της Αμερικής καθώς και απο Ελλάδα. Γνωρίζουμε όμως πως η Ελληνική καρδιά χτυπάει καλύτερα όταν βρισκόμαστε μαζί έτσι, του χρόνου ευελπισθούμε να παρουσιάσουμε ζωντανά νέο πρόγραμμα για να μας δοθεί και η ευκαιρία ν' ανταμώσουμε.

Αλλά ας επανέλθουμε στις ηρωίδες μας του 1821. Η Τούλα Χριστόπουλος, η συντονίστρια του προγράμματος που έκανε και πάλι εξαιρετική δουλειά, άρχισε δίνοντας το βίντεο με το τραγούδι του Ζαλόγγου. Επειτα, ο Δόκτορ Τόμ Παπαδημητρίου, Διευθυντής των Ελληνικών Σπουδών του Πανεπιστημίου του Στόκτον έκανε την έναρξη του προγράμματος. Ακολούθησε η Δόκτορ Κάθρυν Παναγάκος, Καθηγήτρια Κλασικών Σπουδών του Στόκτον η οποία μας υπενθύμισε την σπουδαιότητα και τον σκοπό του συλλόγου των Φίλων των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων. Επίσης, μας έδωσε μια σύντομη ιστορική αναδρομή γεγονότων που μας οδήγησαν στην Ελληνική Επανάσταση του 1821.

Τό πρόγραμμα εσυνέχισε η Κάθυ Καραθανάσις η οποία μας μίλησε για την δυναμική και επώνυμη Λασκαρίνα Μπουμπουλίνα πού κατάφερε απο παιδί που γεννήθηκε μέσα στις φυλακές ν' αναδειχθεί σε πλοιοκτήτρια και μεγάλη μαχήτρια στον πόλεμο για την ανεξαρτησία της Ελλάδος το 1821. Το ονομαστό της πλοίο <Αγαμέμνων> με 34 περίπου μέτρα μήκος και 18 κανόνια συμμετείχε στον αποκλεισμό του Ναυπλίου και στους ανεφοδιασμούς με δικές της δαπάνες των μαχητών του 'Αργους. Η λιονταρίσια Μπουμπουλίνα είχε παντρευθεί δύο φορές και οι δύο άνδρες της εσκοτώθηκαν σε μάχες με Αλγερινούς πειρατές. Απέκτησε 3 παιδιά από τον πρώτο γάμο και τρία από τον δεύτερο. Το αρχοντικό της στις Σπέτσες είναι σήμερα μουσείο με προσωπικά της αντικείμενα, βιβλία, αρχείο, επιστολές, συλλογή όπλων και διακρίσεις. Μετά τον θάνατό της ετιμήθηκε απο την Ρωσία με τον τίτλο του ναυάρχου. Η πατρίδα μας επίσης την ετίμησε. Σήμερα, εάν κάποιος θέλει ν' αναφερθεί σε μία πολλή δυνατή και σιδηρά γυναίκα, την ονομάζει Μπουμπουλίνα.

Εν συνεχεία, η Μαρία Καζαντζή μας μίλησε για μία άλλη επώνυμη, εμπυχώτρια, πολλή μορφωμένη, όμορφη και πλούσια νεαρά απο αριστοκρατική οικογένεια με ρίζες απο το Φανάρι, την Μαντώ Μαυρογέννους. Γεννημένη στην Τεργέστη, Ιταλία έλαβε μεγάλη μόρφωση. Εμιλούσε τέσσερες γλώσσες, Ελληνικά, Ιταλικά, Γαλλικά, και Τούρκικα. Μετά τον θάνατο του πατέρα της επέστρεψε με την Μητέρα της στην Μήκονο. Καλά-καλά δεν πρόφθασε να φθάσει και έπρεπε νάντιμετωπίσει την κρίση με τούς Αλγερινούς πειρατές που παρα λίγο ν' αποβιβασθούν στο νησί. Επούλησε τα χρυσαφικά της, εμίσθωσε 200 άνδρες και ηγώντας την επιχείρηση εξεδίωξε τους εχθρούς. Εσυνέχισε υποστηρίζοντας χρηματικώς και άλλες πολεμικές επιχειρήσεις παρά τις αντιρρήσεις της οικογενείας της. Με επιστολές της προς Ευρωπαϊές φίλες της επιρρέασε και αφύπνησε τούς ξένους με την κατάσταση στην Ελλάδα ζητώντας και λαβαίνοντας την υποστήριξίν τους. Αφιέρωσε ολη την περιουσία της γιά τον σκοπό να δη την Ελλάδα ελεύθερη. Επέθανε πάμφτωχη στην Πάρο.

Οι Ηρωίδες της Ελληνικής Επανάστασεως του 1821, continued

Ακολούθησε η Σοφία Δήμα παρουσιάζοντάς μας τις ηρωίδες του Σουλίου. Οι γενναίες Σουλιώτισες, 200 τον αριθμό βλέποντας οτι δεν υπήρχε σωτηρία αφού ολοι οι άνδρες είχαν σκοτωθεί και είχαν πλέον περικυκλωθεί απο τους Οθωμανούς, απεφάσισαν να κάνουν τα εξής: Πρώτα να πολεμήσουν ηρωικά τον εχθρό με μαχαίρια, ξύλα και πέτρες. Επειτα, κρατώντας τα μωρά στην αγκαλιά τους και χορεύοντας τον Χορό του Ζαλόγγου, ενώ τραγουδούσαν το ακόλουθο ξακουστό τραγούδι, έπεφταν μία μία στον γκρεμό 250 μέτρων. Επέθαναν ελεύθερες και δεν έγιναν σκλάβες των Οθωμανών. Δύο πίνακες του Ari Scheffer και του Claude Pinet αποθανατίζουν τις τραγικές αυτές στιγμές.

Εχε γειά καυμένε κόσμε, εχε γειά γλυκειά ζωή
Και συ δύστυχη πατρίδα , εχε γειά παντοτεινή
Εχετε γειά βρυσούλες λόγγοι βουνά ραχούλες
Εχετε γειά βρυσούλες και εσείς Σουλιωτοπούλες

Το πρόγραμμα τελείωσε με ερωτήσεις των συμμετεχόντων και απαντήσεις από τούς καθηγητές μας καθώς επίσης με την πάντα του Αμερικανικού στρατού που έπαιξε και τραγούδησε τον Χορό του Ζαλόγγου.

The Heroines of the Greek Revolution of 1821

This year, on October 17th, we honored the heroines of the Greek revolution, their lives and their actions, in a teleconference attended by many from around the US and Greece. But we know that the Greek heart beats better when we are together so, next year we are hoping to meet live and present you a new program.

But let's come back to our heroines of 1821. Tula Christopoulos, the MC of the program who again did an excellent job, began by showing the video with the song of Zalongo. Then, Dr. Tom Papademitriou, Director of the Hellenic Studies at Stockton, introduced the program followed by Dr. Katherine Panagakos, Professor of Classics at Stockton who reminded us of the important mission of the Friends of Hellenic Studies. Additionally, she gave us a brief historical run-down of the events that led to the Greek Revolution of 1821.

The program was continued by Cathy Karathanassis who talked to us about the dynamic and well-known Laskarina Bouboulina who managed from a child born in a prison in Constantinople to become a shipowner and a great fighter in the war for Greek Independence. Her famous ship, the Agamemnon, (34 meters long carrying 18 cannons) participated in the blockade of Nafplio and provided supplies procured with her own money to the fighters of Argos. The lion-hearted Bouboulina had married two times and lost both her husbands in battles with Algerian pirates. She had three children from her first marriage and three from the second. Her mansion in Spetses is today a museum housing her personal belongings, books, archives, letters, weapons collection and distinctions. After her death she was honored by Russia with the title of admiral. Greece also honored her. Today, if someone wants to refer to a very strong and courageous woman, he calls her Bouboulina.

The Heroines of the Greek Revolution of 1821, continued

Then, Mariea Kazantzis talked to us about an outstanding patriot, influencer, beautiful and rich young woman from an aristocratic family with roots to Fanari, Manto Mavrogenous. Born in Trieste, Italy she received a great education. She spoke four languages, Greek, Italian, French, and Turkish. After the death of her father, she returned with her mother to Mykonos. Soon after her arrival, she had to face the crisis with the Algerian pirates who were about to attack the island. She sold her gold jewelry, hired 200 men, and lead the operation to drive out the enemies. She continued to financially support other military actions despite her family's objections. In her letters to her European friends, she influenced and awakened foreigners to the situation in Greece, asking for and receiving their support. She dedicated all her property for the purpose of seeing Greece free. She died impoverished in Paros.

Sophia Demas followed, presenting us the heroines of Souli. The 200 brave Souliotises, seeing that there was no hope for salvation since all the men had been killed and they were surrounded by the enemy, decided to fight the enemy heroically with knives, wood and stones. Then, holding the babies in their arms and dancing the Dance of Zalongo, while singing the following famous song, they fell one by one off the cliff 250 meters down to their death. They died free never becoming slaves to the Ottomans. Paintings from Ari Scheffer and Claude Pinet depict the horror of this historical event.

Farewell cruel world, Farewell sweet life,
And to you, my ill-fated country, Farewell forever

The program ended with questions and answers and with the U.S. Army Band of Soldier's Chorus performing the Dance of Zalongo.

THE STOCKTON UNIVERSITY FRIENDS OF HELLENIC STUDIES PRESENT



EXPLORING HELLENISM:
The Heroic Women of the
Greek War of Independence

Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 2:00pm on Zoom



Our celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Greek War of Independence continues!
Three outstanding speakers and members of the **Friends of Hellenic Studies**
will present a brief history of some of the heroic women whose efforts were pivotal in Greece's fight for independence!



Laskarina Bouboulina
Legendary and celebrated throughout Greece for her courage and heroism. She commanded a fleet of ships, leading her troops into battle against the greatest strongholds of the Ottoman Empire. - *Catherine Karathanasis*



Manto Mavrogenous
A great influencer and sponsor, totally committed to the cause of Greek Independence. - *Mariea Kazantzis*



Dance of Zalongo: The Legend and Legacy
Commemorated by artists, this beautiful song was inspired by a group of brave women who chose death for themselves and their children over slavery by the Ottomans. - *Sophia Demas*

You can watch a recording of the *Exploring Hellenism* event on our website by clicking here!

Classical Humanities Society Event Reveals How Hellenic History and Myth Shaped Opera in Renaissance Florence

By Tula Christopoulos

On the evening of Tuesday, November 9th in the Campus Center Theater, the Classical Humanities Society of South Jersey presented **From Renaissance Florence to Romantic Philhellenism: Hellenic Themes on the Opera Stage**. Dr. Tom Papademetriou, Director of the Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies and Professor of History at Stockton, gave a brief summary of the Classical Humanities Society before recognizing Dr. Beverly Vaughn, Professor of Music at Stockton, who introduced the guest presenter and performers.

Opera is the Latin plural of opus, meaning “work” and usually includes a composer and a librettist (songwriter), incorporating singing, acting, scenery, costume and dance or ballet. Tenor Alexander Mirkovik, showed great versatility in performing arias from various musical periods and styles, with assistance from his accompanist, pianist Marijo Newman. In introducing each aria, Candace Mirkovik gave a detailed description of each style and mentioned the Greek or Roman myth that, during the Renaissance in Florence, had inspired the opera’s storyline. Other influences such as artwork of the time depicting the mythical subject were referenced as well.

Although I have attended several operas at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, the Palais Garnier Paris Opera House, and the Baltimore Lyric Theater, opera *still* can be daunting. But, Tuesday evening, the presenters and performers made it very approachable.

Left to Right:

Dr. Tom Papademetriou,
Dr. Beverly Vaughn,
Candace Mirkovik,
Marijo Newman,
Alexander Mirkovik



Left: *Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi* by Eugene Delacroix

Right: Alexander Mirkovik - Tenor



Among the examples demonstrated musically were the earliest opera, Jacopo Peri’s *Dafne* (libretto: Ottavio Rinuccini), created in 1597, Monteverdi’s *L’Arianna*, Scarlatti’s *Il Pirro et Demetrio*, showing the Neapolitan musical style and inspiration by a Marco Ricci 1694 painting and then Gluck’s *Orfeos and Eurydice* from the Baroque period.

In recognition of the 200th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence, Mr. Mirkovik sang an aria from Rossini’s *Le siège de Corinthe* (The Siege of Corinth). This opera commemorates the siege and destruction of Missolonghi. Philhellene French painter, Eugène Delacroix, immortalized the horrors of that battle in his painting “Greece Expiring on the Ruins of Missolonghi.”

The program appropriately ended with a mention of Greece’s most well-known modern-day composer, Mikis Theodorakis, who recently passed away. Mr. Mirkovik, then, invited the audience to join him as he sang one of the many wonderful Theodorakis compositions, *To Periyali*.

By the audience's reaction, it was clear that all were pleased to finally attend an in-person event. Stay tuned for announcements of future programs.

Staff Voices**Reflections on the Path from Troy to Ithaca**

By Karen L. Matsinger, Assistant Director of Counseling Services - Veterans



This is the road that leads to a new life full of friendships, scholarly pursuits, and new beginnings. This road has never seen Humvees or combat boots. One can walk down this path without the fear of blasts or bombs. This is a good road. One might even go so far as calling this path a healing path. It's located on the side of a steep hill in Nafphlio, Greece. The hill is covered in rocks and cactus and stray cats. One wouldn't think much about this path unless one had the good fortune to be a part of the journey.

Over the last five years I have had the honor of walking down this path with approximately eighty students who are serving or have served our country. I travel as a chaperone with a quirky professor who has a passion for Homer, hiking, and healing. This professor, David Roessel, seems to never stop thinking of ways to give students more. He has a soft spot for the underdog and dreams of ways to give students who are usually overlooked the opportunity to academically thrive. Each time Dr. Roessel leads his class down this path I am awe-struck at the change I see in the students.

To understand my amazement, one would have to sit quietly in the professor's class on any given Wednesday afternoon and witness his wholehearted attempt at educating the zombies sitting before him. The students are slumped in their chairs, listless, and lifeless. The professor does not give up on them. He relentlessly encourages them to think, to be present, to be a scholar, and to grow.

I love listening to Dr. Roessel teach. He teaches with passion. Every war, every God, every name he puts on the white board has a vast history that you can read about later. I have fallen down many rabbit holes googling the professor's chicken scratched names and places.

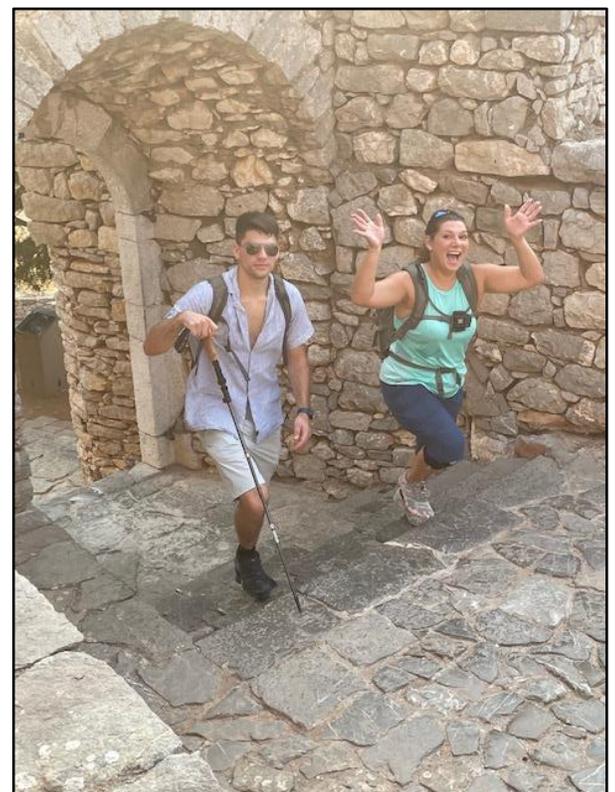
Staff Voices, continued

I wonder how he keeps that passion alive whilst trying to uplift these well-worn combat boots sitting so still in his class until I remember that he knows about the path. He is the one who turned a cobblestone path into a path of healing and hope. He isn't alone. He has help from a family that generously donates. The Pappas family contributes most of the funding for the Worlds of Homer study abroad trip. I have met some of them briefly. I wish I knew them better. I wish we were friends, and they came to my family Sunday dinners and played cards with us. The generosity and kindness that this family has for other human beings makes them the kind of people I want to have in my circle. The selfish side of me believes that if I was to stand close enough to any member of the Pappas family, I could get into heaven by holding onto their coattails.

Between the professor's passion and the Pappas family's donations grows a reawakening. Every year I watch as Professor Roessel leads the students through a metamorphosis. Usually, I can expect several texts during the first night in Greece from the students demanding to go home. They tell me they made a mistake. They say they have no friends on the trip and feel alone. By day three they come alive. They smile. They interact with each other. They start to see the path. They admit that it's the path that they were looking for all along.



Once they finally return home they tend to stay on the path. The friendships remain for years. Their interest in school improves, their grades improve, and their mental health improves. They no longer complain about feeling isolated and alone because they are not.



Student Voices

Troy to Ithaca: A Soldier's Journey Home: A Veteran's Experience

By Kirsten Chervenak, 2018 (student) and 2019 (teaching assistant)

Week after week, students of Dr. Roessel's The Worlds of Homer class walk into the Hellenic Studies room prepared for a lecture centered around Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. Zombie-like stares sometimes look back at the professor during class discussion, yet Dr. Roessel can see the potential in each and every student. He has a knack for seeing the best in his students even when the students cannot see it in themselves.

The basis of the class relates the two poems to veterans' experiences in war. We analyze a few books written by veterans about their time in the field and their homecomings; we compare Odysseus's journey home to that of current-day soldiers. The class enrolls past and current servicemembers from all branches regardless of rank or career field. Not all of us are combat veterans, but that does not mean our military experiences are any less meaningful or relatable to that of Odysseus.

In fact, being afforded the opportunity to travel in Odysseus's footsteps was arguably more meaningful than some deployments, at least in my case. Traveling across Greece through places with such a rich history is an indescribable experience, and for some students it would never be possible without the assistance and generosity of the Pappas Family.

Traveling between seven cities over the course of nearly two weeks, taking hikes over terrain most tourists never get to set foot on, and being able to see firsthand what we read and learn about in the classroom is an experience that I truly believe each and every student who has been on the trip is more than grateful for, even those students with an "I'm only here for the trip" attitude. Tours through museums and to some of the most well-known monuments and areas, seeing ancient artifacts and remains of civilizations makes you compare a soldier's life back then to what we have experienced in today's wars.



In the end, no matter what the veterans have been through militarily, personally, or otherwise, Dr. Roessel's quirkiness, love of the history, and determination to reach each and every student pays off. He sees what each student might not see in themselves and pushes each of us to live up to our potential, as I learned firsthand.

As others have said and will say again and again, most students are individuals before the trip, attending The Worlds of Homer as if it was any other class. But it is not an ordinary class; as the students become more comfortable with one another and learn about the various paths that brought them all into that classroom, friendships are formed and reinforced during the trip. After returning back to Stockton, the class does not feel like just another class; we are all one, brothers and sisters who will do anything for the individual sitting to either side of us.

[Click here to watch another student, Jesse Layton, discuss her experience with "From Troy to Ithaca: The Journey Home – A Veterans Experience"](#)

Student Voices, continued

A Student Reflects on Experience in Greece

By Dylan D. Fagan

When I was 14 years old, I saw a royal blue book with gilded pages in a Barnes and Noble. I had a whopping \$15 in my pocket, and that thick blue book fit perfectly in my budget. I'd vaguely been aware of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* before I purchased it. I knew about Achilles, the various trials of Odysseus, and the Trojan War. This was my first dive into the world and mythology of Ancient Greece.

I immediately fell in love with it. I devoured the epics in a matter of days, spending almost every waking moment absolutely consumed by them. As a bookish and timid kid, I admired Odysseus. His wisdom and tactical mind really resonated with me, who wasn't as strong or as fast as my peers. I read about his 20-year journey to return to Ithaca, and his love for his home. I learned Ithaca was a real place, and decided that someday I would be at that island as well.

I traveled the world when I was in the military—I spent years thousands of miles from home. Gained experiences I can barely retell, seen and done things that most people only dream of, but I never made it to Ithaca. Not even close.

Getting out of the Air Force, coming home to Jersey, I felt a bit lost. I applied to Stockton and didn't really know what awaited me.

I found a community of veterans that felt like I did: lost, mildly confused, but hanging on and pushing through. We were our own clique in a world that was vastly different than the one we understood, and we found strength in that. The mindset and bond forged in the military simply transferred over to our civilian lives, even though we never served together. It's an ineffable relationship.

The "Worlds of Homer" course at Stockton, being catered to us, intrigued me—not just because of the trip. I've had such a love for the classic epics, and leapt at the opportunity to study it in a more intensive environment than my

personal efforts. The fact that it was for only military-affiliated students was icing on the cake.

Professor Roessel was a knowledgeable and eccentric professor, presenting information about both the history surrounding the books as well as the mythology that is central to understanding them. Even when we responded with lethargy and indifference, he brought energy and excitement to the classroom without variation.

When it finally came time for us to travel, after being delayed because of the global pandemic, my heart surged. Most of my class was able to join in the trip. For the most part, we didn't know one another, but from day one we all bonded together and knew we were in for one helluva ride.

The experience in Greece itself? Words can't begin to describe. We were all so enamored by the country. The sprawling city of Athens cut into the Greek mountains, the beautiful sea in Nafplio, the stark and serious landscape of Sparta. With each passing day, we grew closer—commiserated in the sweltering heat, reveled in the delicious food, basked in the cool night breeze. We learned more and more about each other, and became a mock family all on our own.



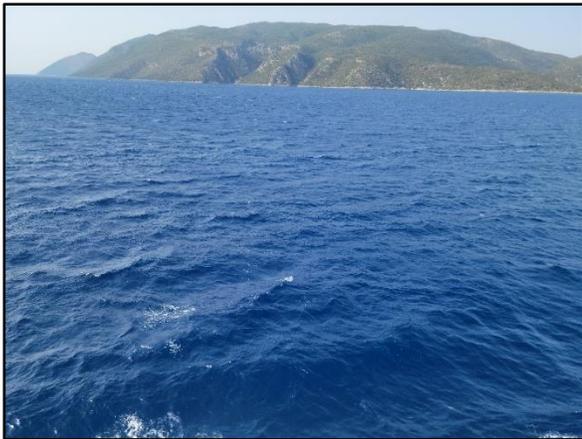
For me, it was a dream come true. Not just having this grand adventure with the people I was growing to care about, but also being *here*, the place I've read about so many times, and wanted to see for myself. The lion gate at Mycenae, the Parthenon of Athens. Things I'd read about and seen in history books, but never knew if I'd get the chance to experience them in person.

Student Voices, continued

I teared up at the sights, honestly. Greece is by far the most beautiful country I've ever been to. Every inch of it laden with history, every stone had a story to tell. Repeatedly, I was awestruck by the gravity of what I was doing and where I was.

Ithaca, however, broke me.

We took the ferry from Patras. The Ionian Sea was the bluest and clearest water I've ever seen. The winds buffeted us the whole journey, the waves were choppy and strong. There were barely any clouds in the sky to block out the blazing sun. It was absolutely perfect. The professor came up to the top level and told us that Ithaca was approaching, and we should keep in mind what Odysseus may have felt as we take that same path, seeing his homeland.



I didn't have to imagine; I felt it. Ithaca was there, just before me, and I could feel it calling my name. I was entranced.

We docked and made it to the hotel in two separate cabs. The first thing I did when I reached my room was to look out the window. Just then church bells began ringing, loud and clear, the peals bellowing into the evening air. I smiled and embraced the moment--the sounds of the bells, and the scent of the briny air.

I couldn't resist. I went downstairs, eager to see the island for myself.

Stepping out of the hotel, I was blinded by the evening sun, which was haloed by the smoke from the wildfires. Timidly, I stepped into the street and up to the sea wall of Vathi, looking out over the bay.

Something in me snapped as the realization of where I was finally sank in.

I began to weep. Openly, uncontrollably. I was overwhelmed by where I was standing and by the people who were with me--my brothers and sisters in arms, who I had grown to love, as well as the professor and our counselor, who I trusted and respected. This dream had been brought to life in a way I never would have imagined.

I stood there embracing everything that had brought me to that moment, and our shared purpose for being there. It was the culmination of my own personal odyssey.

I will never forget that few minutes I stood on the sea wall. I will never forget the way the concrete felt beneath the palms of my hands, or how the air smelled, or how the waves lapping against the wall sounded. I will never forget the sight of the sun wreathed in wildfire smoke.

Greece was a huge event for me--personally, academically, even religiously. The trip made an enormous impact on my life, and the people that shared the experience with me made it perfect.



Faculty Voices

Exhibit Tells Veterans' Stories Through Art

****Reprinted here from a story by Diane D'Amico for Stockton University**

Stockton Associate Professor of Art Mariana Smith never met the Army soldier who wrote about taking a wrong turn and getting his vehicle stuck in an alley during his first week in Somalia.

But she tried to interpret that feeling of being a soldier in a new land through her art as part of the Experiencing Veterans and Artists Collaboration (EVAC), on display from Oct. 27-Nov. 17 in the Stockton University Art Gallery in upper L-wing.

"I feel that it's an important message," Smith said. "I'm in my studio making art, but artists also have a civic responsibility to be part of the community. It's an honor to be part of this."

The national project began in 2017. Veterans from all branches of the military, with service from World War II through Afghanistan, were interviewed about their experiences. Their stories were paired with artists in all media who made prints inspired by the veterans' stories.

A discussion on the project was held from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10 moderated by Mariana Smith and featuring EVAC co-curator and artist Joseph VanKerkhove, co-curator Lee Fearnside, and veteran Michael Giraldo via Zoom.

More information on EVAC is online at evacproject.org/



Faculty Voices, continued

The New Archon and Didaskalos Tou Genous (Teacher of the Nation)

By Dorrie Papademetriou

In a beautiful and solemn investiture service, in the majestic Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City, Professor Tom Papademetriou was inducted to the rank of Archon by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Tom was given the title of Didaskalos Tou Genous (Teacher of the Nation). It was truly an honor to be bestowed with this responsibility.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, presided at the Investiture of eighteen new Archons from throughout the United States, following the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral on Sunday, October 31, 2021.

“An Archon is an honoree by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.”

His All-Holiness told the new Archons: “We observe that the titles of Archons conferred on you and henceforth borne by you, represent significant public and ecclesiastical ministries and offices in the history of the Eastern Roman Empire and our Orthodox Church. They presuppose education, legal knowledge, diplomacy, linguistic skills, high intelligence and, above all else, devotion to the sacred mission of the Church and our People’s sacred traditions.”

The highlight of the weekend was when, His All-Holiness presented each Archon with the Cross of St. Andrew. This was extra special for Tom since he has had a personal relationship with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for over 30 years. In 1998, during Tom’s six-month research trip to Istanbul, he and his family lived on the island of Halki, the Patriarch’s summer residence. There Tom, his wife and two small children had the honor of walking, talking and dining with the Patriarch on many occasions. Many fond memories are of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew joyfully leading George (age 4) and Roman (age 2) across the gardens to feed the animals, particularly a donkey named Leo; cherished memories for the Papademetriou family.

25 years later, this great honor bestowed on Tom by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was very powerful and moving. Truly a day to be remembered and celebrated.

AXIOS!



Community Voices

One family's involvement during the Greek Independence from Turkish Rule

By Gary T. Padussis

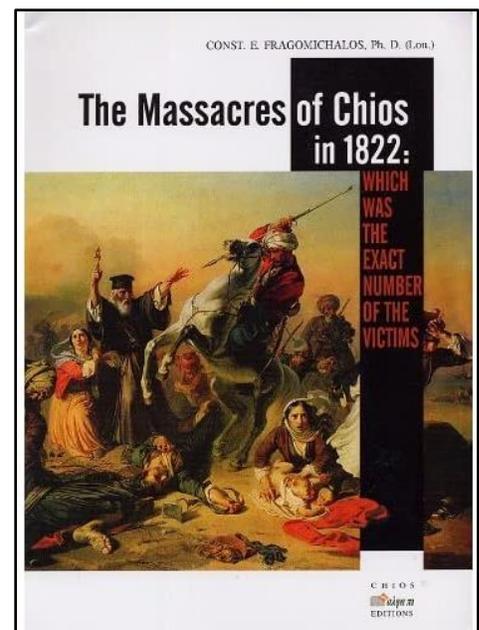
The Greek War of Independence lasted from 1821-1829. Also known as the Greek Revolution, it was a time when Greeks rebelled against the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire, ruled much of Southeastern Europe, Western Asia, and Northern Africa. Lasting more than six-hundred years, between the 14th and early 20th centuries, the Ottoman Empire was the greatest and longest-lasting empires in world history.

The Massacre of Chios, Greece occurred in 1822. A book written by Constantine E. Frangomichalos, Ph.D., titled *The Massacres of Chios in 1822* states that it was known as the greatest hecatomb for the cause of the Greek War of Independence, and one of the hideous in World History. The massacre occurred in 1822 and that was the exact number of Greeks living in Chios that were slaughtered. Dr. Frangomichalos book includes a chapter about my ancestor's involvement in the war of independence.

The chapter is a narration by Yiannis Paidoussis, my great-great-grandfather. My ancestors were slaughtered except for Constantis Paidoussis, a seven-year-old boy, taken by the Turks, and sold at a marketplace, somewhere in Smyrna as a slave. His owner, wanted to turn Constantis away from Christianity. However, his strong belief in Greek Orthodoxy, would one day cause Constantis to trick his master into letting him return to Chios to sell property and return to Smyrna. Constantis found distant relatives in Chios with the last name of Lilas. Knowing his master might find him, Constantis changed his name from Paidoussis to Lilas. The next generation, my paternal grandfather, immigrated to the United States, and upon arriving at Ellis Island, took back the sur-name, although shortened of Padussis. This was truly an honor to my ancestors who were slaughtered during the War of Greek Independence.



Yiannis Paidoussis-Lilas and his wife, Despina



Greek Eats!

Say OXI (NO) to boring recipes and YES to Greek cuisine. These autumn recipes brought to you by [Demetra's Dishes](#) will force you to surrender:

Greek Pumpkin Tart with Phyllo & Feta

Ingredients:

10 (#4) phyllo sheets
5-6 tablespoons salted butter, melted

For the filling:

2 cans (30 ounces) pumpkin puree
5-6 scallions, thinly sliced
3-4 tablespoons olive oil
6 ounces feta cheese, crumbled
Salt, to taste
Freshly cracked black pepper, to taste
1 egg, slightly beaten
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh mint leaves
½ teaspoon ground cumin

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Place the scallions and olive oil in a skillet and cook into medium heat until soft, 4-5 minutes.
3. Remove from the heat and add the pumpkin puree, feta cheese, mint, cumin, salt and pepper. Taste and adjust the seasoning if needed.
4. Beat the egg in a small bowl, then add it to the pumpkin filling.
5. Brush a 10-inch tart pan with some melted butter.
6. Add the filling and cover it with the remaining phyllo sheets, drizzling each one with the melted butter.
7. Score the pie into 8 pieces.
8. Bake until golden, about 45 minutes. Let sit at room temperature for 20-30 minutes. Transfer to a serving dish and serve!

Greek Fall Cabbage Salad

Ingredients:

½ green cabbage head, shredded
½ purple cabbage, shredded
2-3 carrots, peeled and grated
1 head Romaine lettuce, chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
¼ of a small onion, thinly sliced
¼ cup finely chopped parsley
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon dried dill
6 pepperoncini

For the vinaigrette:

¼ cup Balsamic vinegar
1 tablespoon honey
1/3 cup olive oil

Directions:

1. Combine all of the salad ingredients in a large bowl and mix together using your hands or salad tongs.
2. Whisk the vinaigrette ingredients together until emulsified and pour over the salad. Toss the salad and serve.
3. You may add some dried chopped fruit to the salad such as apricots, raisins, cranberries, or figs.



The Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies

School of Arts and Humanities
Stockton University
101 Vera King Farris Drive
Galloway, NJ 08205
www.stockton.edu/ichs
pappascenter@stockton.edu

About the Pappas Center for Hellenic Studies

The Dean C. and Zoë S. Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, originally established by the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC) as the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, is housed in the School of Arts and Humanities, under the direction of the Dean, Dr. Lisa Honaker. With six endowed professorships, the Center's focus includes the disciplines of Greek language and literature, history and culture, classical archaeology, art history, philosophy, politics, anthropology, and Byzantine civilization and religion. Scholarly and artistic activities emphasize the diachronic range of Hellenism and promote student enrichment through travel and university exchanges in Greece and Cyprus (<http://www.stockton.edu/ichs>). The faculty in Hellenic Studies are:

Tom Papademetriou, Ph.D., Director of the
Dean C. And Zoë Pappas Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies
Constantine & Georgian Georgiou Professor of Greek History

David Roessel, Ph.D.
Peter and Stella Yiannos Endowed Professor of
Greek Language and Literature

Katherine Panagakos, Ph.D.
AFGLC Endowed Professor of Greek Culture

Edward Siecienski, Ph.D.
Clement and Helen Pappas Endowed Professor
of Byzantine Civilization and Religion

Lucio Privitello, Ph.D.
Petros and Despoina Tsantes Family Professor
of Greek Philosophy



The Friends of Hellenic Studies

Stockton University Foundation
Room K-204
101 Vera King Farris Drive
Galloway, NJ 08205
www.stockton.edu/ichs **click on
Friends of Hellenic Studies
fhs@stockton.edu

About the Friends of Hellenic Studies

The Friends of Hellenic Studies (FHS) is a community organization established by the late Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos and members of the community to promote and strengthen the Stockton Hellenic Studies program. The Friends of Hellenic Studies organization raises money for student scholarships for activities related to Hellenic Studies at Stockton University and for study abroad travel to Greece, Cyprus, and other relevant places to the Hellenic world. Working closely with the Stockton University Foundation to advance its fundraising goals, the Friends of Hellenic Studies organization hosts many cultural and social events as well. In addition to providing for student scholarships, the Friends of Hellenic Studies were major donors to the Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room in the Björk Library. To become a member, please join the Friends of Hellenic Studies at any of their announced meetings, or email fhs@stockton.edu for more information.

The Co-Chairs of the Friends of Hellenic Studies are:

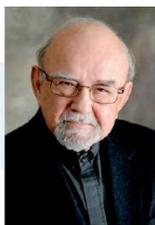
Cathy Karathanasis, Mariea Kazantzis, & Dr. Katherine Panagakos

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The late Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, Distinguished Research Scholar in Residence and the Charles Cooper Townsend Sr. Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies
Founder, Stockton University Hellenic Studies

Visit the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room, Bjork Library, 2nd floor.

