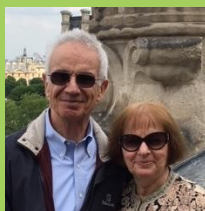


THE ARTEMIS AZARIADIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Our newest endowed lecture series will be launched in Spring 2019. The "Artemis Azariadis Memorial Lecture" has been established thanks to a generous gift by Professor Costas and Mrs. Assimo Azariadis, to whom we express our gratitude and a warm "Ευχαριστώ!"



STUDY IN GREECE

We are pleased to offer our students and the public exciting opportunities for study in Greece, both in the summer, through our dig, and in the winter through our Academic Program in Greece, held in partnership with the American College in Greece. For more information visit:

www.greekstudies.org

Greetings

This academic year marks the 23rd year of the Greek Professorship — almost a quarter of a century! A great deal of the growth we have been enjoying is owed to you, the members of our extended "Greek family". It is your attendance at our events and your moral and material support, that have helped us to maintain and expand our activities, and for this we are deeply thankful.

This year has been busy, as we continued to work hard to fulfill the three-prong mission of the Professorship. In terms of **research**, the discoveries at Iklaina have drawn worldwide attention to UMSL and have changed current knowledge about the origins of states and governments in the western world (see p. 2). Research in the Greek diaspora of the US is enriching our knowledge of the history of our communities (p. 3). In terms of **teaching**, our course offerings included a wide range of exciting classes on ancient, Byzantine, and modern Hellenism (p.3). Our **public outreach** program comprised five lectures on topics ranging from the battle of Thermopylae to Byzantine hymns, as well as

our music concert (p. 3). Thanks to a generous gift by the Azariadis family (left sidebar), we have now added a seventh endowed event to our annual offerings of activities.

The **Matsakis Greek Culture Center**, with its library, seminar room, meeting space, and archives of our Greek community, has become an indispensable component of the Professorship and is used by both students and the public (p.4).

All in all, I am happy to report that the future of Greek studies at our university looks bright. But we do face challenges. The most serious challenge stems from the increasingly negative attitude towards the Liberal Arts, which has been taking over American universities. I believe strongly that the Liberal Arts in general, and Greek Studies in particular, are essential to any meaningful university education. The reason is that the study of Greek Culture can have concrete benefits for our students.

At a practical level, it can increase student employability. Today's employers do not require only technical skills (which quickly become obsolete with the rapidly changing technolo-

gy), but also *character* skills, which allow people to adopt to change, to keep learning and relearning, to have grit and determination, to think creatively and imaginatively, to understand the processes that shape our society, to express themselves in an articulate and convincing manner, to build stories around products, and to present these stories in a way that would capture their audiences. These are all qualities that can be cultivated with exposure to the Humanistic values of Greek culture.

And, of course, at a deeper level, the study of Hellenism teaches students how to care about the kind of person they are becoming and builds up their defenses against fake values —crucial qualities in an era when wealth and power increasingly replace our moral compass.

Through research and teaching programs that are relevant to our lives today, in 21st century America, the Greek Professorship at UMSL is a proud agent of true "universal" education, providing to our students the cognitive tools to succeed in a demanding social and professional world.

Michael B. Cosmopoulos

The UMSL archaeological excavation at Iklaina

Another successful field season at the [Iklaina excavation](#) took place last June. We hosted a group of about 20 students from UMSL and other universities (photo below), who learned about the techniques of excavation, attended seminars on Greek culture and archaeology, and immersed themselves into Greek culture.

The finds from the season's excavation were fascinating; the most impressive is a monumental Gateway, which led from the residential/industrial parts of the city to the area with the monumental and formal buildings. The Gateway opened up into a paved piazza and the palace. These findings are important, not only for the architectural layout and history of Iklaina, but also because the Gateway marks a clear demarca-

tion of activity areas in the city, which in turn means strong hierarchical organization of its society. This hierarchy, coupled with the monumental character of its buildings, the written archives in the form of the Linear B tablet, and the advanced urban infrastructures (water distribution and sewer system, open courtyards and public squares, paved roads, shrine) indicate that Iklaina was a major capital of the Greek Bronze Age. The findings help us shed new light on the processes by which states and governments were born in the western world.

The project has received funding from UMSL's International Studies and Programs.



Reconstruction of the Iklaina palace (top) and aerial photo of the Gateway (bottom)

The new Pylos Museum

Our excavation is featured prominently in the new Pylos museum, including a 3D holographic image of our Linear B tablet (photo below)!



We need your help!

Starting in summer 2018 we are embarking on a major program for the restoration of the palace and the other monuments at Iklaina. Our purpose is to restore and protect these unique monuments, and convert the site into an archaeological park open to the public and the tourists. The cost of this program will exceed \$500,000 and we are seeking donations that would help us raise that amount. If you are interested in helping, please email cosmopoulos@umsl.edu or call (314) 516-6241.

All donations to UMSL are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Our Public Events



The cornerstone of our outreach program is our Endowed Events. With the recently established Azariadis lecture, the Professorship now offers seven events every year, each with its own endowment fund. In 2017-2018 we hosted several exciting events, including lectures on the battle of Thermopylae by Mr Elias Matsakis (photo on the left), Ancient Greek Poetry and Byzantine Hymnography, the relationship between the ancient Philistines and the Greeks of the Bronze Age, and the efforts of the Greek government to protect its cultural heritage. The annual Spanos concert featured the music group *Rebetiki Istoria*.

We are working on expanding the range of our events with new innovative programs, including the “Trial of Socrates”, in partnership with the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago. More information will follow in the Fall.

Our academic courses

In the 2017-2018 academic year, Professors Cosmopoulos and Pouloupoulos (see next paragraph) offered courses on Democracy and War; Ancient Greek, Byzantine, and Modern History; Greek Archaeology; Greek Myths and Monuments; and Greek Art. We are designing a new slate of courses to fit better the needs of our students, including Science and Technology; Democracy and Politics; Sports and Athletics; and also a course on the Great Innovators that changed our world.

The St. Louis Greek Community Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Greek

In the academic year 2017-2018 Professor Nikos Pouloupoulos taught courses on all three historical epochs of Hellenism: An introductory course on the history and culture of Ancient Greece; a course on the remarkable civilization of Byzantium; and finally, post-Ottoman Greece and the history of the first two centuries of the Modern Greek State. He also introduced UMSL’s graduate students to a new seminar on the history of the intriguing relation between Islam and the West.

His research over the past year focused mainly on the early history of the Greeks in the United States. He spent two months over the summer as a fellow for the Niarchos Greek Diaspora Program at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in which time he introduced graduate students from the program of Museum Studies to the history of the Greek Diaspora and to new digital technologies to record and archive historical data.

Last June he delivered two keynote lectures, one in Thessaloniki for the DRIMMI International Diaspora Symposium on the Prehistory of the Greek Immigration to the USA, and another one at the annual archaeological conference at the University of Ioannina where he presented a previously believed lost archive with the list of the Greeks who migrated to the United States from Macedonia between 1900 – 1911. The papers of these lectures are in preparation for publication together with an edition of the first known letters to be sent to Greece from the New World by a Greek sailor in Louisiana dating back to 1803-04. Currently Professor Pouloupoulos is working on a book about the history of the St. Louis Greek community. The book will be ready in the next few months.

On a sad note, this is Professor Pouloupoulos’ last year at UMSL. He has been with us for six years, his first 3-year term (2012-2015) funded entirely by the local Greek community and his second term (2015-2018) funded by UMSL. We wish him the best in his future academic endeavors and thank him for his contribution to the success of the Professorship.

THE HELLENIC GOVERNMENT-KARAKAS FAMILY FOUNDATION
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Mark your calendars 2018-2019 events

THE DIANE TOULIATOS ANNUAL LECTURE
Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Dr. Stefanos Katsikas, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Greek Migration and Diaspora in US Midwest

THE GEORGE E. MYLONAS MEMORIAL LECTURE
Sunday, October 7, 2018

Prof. Eric Cline, George Washington University
1177 BC. The Year Civilization Collapsed

THE CATHARINE PELICAN MEMORIAL LECTURE
Thursday, October 25, 2018

Professor Joan Connelly, New York University
Unearthing the Lost History of Greek Priestesses

THE SAM NAKIS MEMORIAL LECTURE
Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Professor Nicholas Zacharias, University of the Peloponnese
New evidence for the Tomb of Jesus in Jerusalem

THE DR. NICHOLAS MATSAKIS MEMORIAL LECTURE
February 5, 2019

Professor Paul Cartledge, University of Cambridge
The Ancient Spartans - a very peculiar society?

JOINT EVENT WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
March 2019

Details will be announced later

THE ARTEMIS AZARIADIS MEMORIAL LECTURE
Thursday, April 11, 2019

Professor Gregory Nagy, Harvard University
What Western civilization owes the Greeks

THE LEON AND JOHANNA SPANOS PERFORMING
ARTS EVENT

Thursday, May 8, 2019

Announcement coming soon - stay tuned!

Distinctions

Professor Cosmopoulos was recently inducted to the
European Academy of Sciences and Arts (the
"Academia Europea"), and the **National Academies
of the Humanities, Arts, and Sciences of Canada**
(the "Royal Society of Canada").

The Matsakis Greek Culture Center

The Center, now in its 14th year of operation, has become a pivotal part of the Professorship. In its multi-function space, the Center houses a collection of replicas of Greek art, the Archives of the St. Louis Greek Community, a library with over 3000 volumes, as well as meeting and seminar space, and a video and DVD collection about Greece. Besides the daily flow of UMSL students who drop by to use its library and facilities, the Center is used for classes and seminars, as well as special events, such as the Anthropology and Archaeology graduation party, featuring the Armonia Dance group of the Assumption Church (photos below)



The Center is also open to visits from St. Louis area schools. Elementary and middle school students come to the Center to learn about Greek culture and Greek history.

Photo on the right from the visit of students of the Lindbergh Elementary School (courtesy of Ms. Bess Fitzmaurice)

