



## Hiking Naxos: Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, Ecotourism, and Sustainable Development

*By Dr. Despina Margomenou, Lecturer IV, Classical Studies and Modern Greek Program*

At Naxos, we learn from each other. The study of the changing, dynamic landscapes of the Cyclades demands all kinds of disciplinary crossings, creating discursive spaces for scholarly exchanges, peer-learning, and community engagement.

Our journey at Naxos started in 2013, when Prof. Johannes Foufopoulos (School for the Environment and Sustainability-SEAS) and I first collaborated on the project “Sustainability in Mediterranean Ecosystems.” That initial project was showcased at the Kelsey Museum Exhibit “Discover! Excavating the Ancient World,” where we also gave the keynote lecture (“Reptilian Mysteries in the Mediterranean: The Archaeology of Biodiversity”). Ten years and one pandemic later, our research in the Cyclades continues, focusing on the same objectives: studying human/environment interactions through time and the impact of human—and, in the case of Naxos, also hominin—interventions on ecologically sensitive zones, documenting endemic species on these islands, especially islands like Naxos with topographically diverse landscapes, and investigating the intersection of cultural and natural heritage vis-à-vis sustainable development, while engaging locally with communities and other regional stakeholders.



Spring 2023 U-M Trails Team

In the Cyclades, human interventions take many forms through time (e.g., island colonization, agricultural practices, herding, mining, water management, etc.). In the current phase of our research, we focus on tourism. Travel and tourism industries are major global economic forces. Worldwide, in 2021 alone and despite pandemic restrictions, tourism and travel contributed ca. [5.8 trillion US dollars to the global GDP](#). [Tourism accounts for 18% of Greece’s GDP](#) (2023 data released annually by the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises-SETE- and the Bank of Greece) employing one-fifth of the workforce. However, travel and tourism both have [significant environmental impacts](#), which, at a local level and in environmentally sensitive zones, makes such industries ultimately unsustainable.

Operating at a smaller, regional level, ecotourism (and other pertinent types of experiential tourism, such as agritourism, culinary, wellness, or volunteer tourism) has emerged as a sustainable alternative that considers concerns about environmental conservation as well as the needs and demands of local communities. At the same time, however, ecotourism and

# Returning from My Sabbatical

## Note from the Director, Artemis Leontis



I want to talk about university sabbaticals: what they are and what I did on mine.

Sabbaticals are not time off. U-M grants sabbaticals to tenure-track faculty every seven years based on a proposal to conduct an intensive program of research. The expectation is that we will devote our work time to the proposed research.

My last sabbatical was in Winter 2015. I completed the first draft of my book on Eva Palmer *Sikelianos*, published in English (2019) and Greek (2022). My new project is an edited book of the correspondence of Eva Palmer Sikelianos with Natalie Clifford Barney in the early 1900s, when the two young women were testing their right to self-determination in a restrictive society. It's a big, collaborative project with two other scholars. We have now digitized, cataloged, and transcribed over 600 letters in the Center for Asia Minor Studies in Athens, and are connecting these to a similar collection in Paris. We will publish the most interesting letters with an introduction that contextualizes the tangled history of the two collections. In the spring, I gave three talks on my current research at universities in Greece. The talks occasioned conversation with researchers of parallel projects that involve an interconnected group of creative, educated women working in Greece in the Interwar period. Our shared interest is to rewrite 20<sup>th</sup>-century Greek cultural history to give the necessary focus to women whose major contributions have been overlooked or erased, and to offer new ways of viewing Greek culture.

My sabbatical gave me precious time for a deep dive into the new project. But the work of directing the Modern Greek Program does not stop. While Dr. Despina Margomenou took over undergraduate advising, I continued student mentoring, budget planning, and outreach activities.

As community engagement, the Program collaborated with Father Nicolaos Kotsis to present Professor Will Stroebel's talk, "Ann Arbor's First Orthodox Priest: A Story of Refugeehood, Migration, and the Ecumenical Riches of Greek Orthodoxy in America," at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church on February 20th. More than 75 people attended. Father Agathangelos became the first Orthodox priest in Ann Arbor nearly a century ago. Born in Ottoman Cappadocia (central Anatolia) at the end of the 19th century, his life was upended with 1.5 million other indigenous Anatolian Christians who lost their homes when the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 mandated their departure. A gifted poet and iconographer, Father Agathangelos recorded the experience of deportation in a ballad, which Professor Stroebel read in the native tongue of Karamanlidika (a Turkish dialect written in Greek script) and translated. After the talk, several of Agathangelos's descendants introduced themselves. It was very moving. You can read Professor Stroebel's [article on Father Agathangelos's ballad here](#). Write to [aleontis@umich.edu](mailto:aleontis@umich.edu) for the recorded lecture.

Professor Stroebel and I conducted oral exams of 29 students taking the Ellinomatheia Greek Proficiency exam in May. I organize these exams every year with our community partners, Anna Georginis and the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies. We celebrated students' 2022 exam success at Nativity Church in Plymouth on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Present at the celebration where parents of several U-M students in the Modern Greek Program. The cycle of Greek learning continues!

Planning the 2023–2024 academic year events also happened during my sabbatical. Our three-year commemoration of the Lausanne Treaty of 1923 will bring Philipp Ther, Professor of central European history, University of Vienna, for the Distinguished Lecture on Europe (Dec. 4). Other events this fall are professor and poet Marios Chatziprokopiou's presentation as Vakalo Visiting Artist (Oct. 3), and the Modern Greek Pedagogy Workshop "Translation through the Curriculum" (November 10–11) jointly organized with the Modern Greek Studies Association. We are rescheduling Professor Tsistelikis's Visiting lecture in 2024. See the list of Fall Events for details.

Just as my service to the Modern Greek Program continued through my sabbatical, my research will continue when I return to teaching this Fall. I look forward to reconnecting with students in the classroom but will miss the extra research time ... and dream about my next sabbatical.

# My Greece: Contested Meanings

by *Conor Smith*

What Greece means to me has changed quite a lot over the course of my twenty-three years. When I was a child, the Greece in my mind was inseparably tied to that of the ancients, a product of Disney movies and History Channel shows, the tales of my grandfather, and the plethora of books on myth my brother and I eagerly consumed. Outside of this I had no contact with Greece: I didn't speak the language and I had never visited the country.

It wasn't until I had to take language classes to complete my BA at U-M that I engaged with "modern" Greece. (That the Greece of today and the last two-hundred years requires the clarificatory temporal label "modern" always haunts with its definition against and through the ancient past.) Through my language classes, I connected with my family and our history, but also with the history of modern Greece. And so I completed an honors thesis in History investigating political potentiality and historical consciousness during the resistance to the Nazi occupation and the Civil War in Greece.

A year after I graduated, I finally spent extended time in Greece. I had visited once before after I finished high school, but now was my opportunity to live with a cousin in Thessaloniki, take Greek classes at the University of Thessaloniki, and significantly further my language abilities and knowledge of the country and culture. What I have learned from that moment forward, however, as I've become increasingly "embedded" in Greek society, is that understanding the country does not follow a linear progression toward finding the "real" Greece, as much as the discovery of a multiplicity of understandings, a terrain of contestation about Greece: what it means, who it is for, where it comes from.

I am now pursuing a master's degree in "Mobility Studies" at the University of Thessaly in Volos. *Κινητικότητα* (mobility) focuses on subjects on the move, or made to be mobile—the refugee, the immigrant, the nomad, for instance—but also, in a broader sense, it gives a theoretical frame to analyze ideas, conceptions, ideologies in process, never finalized, always ripe to change, with a sense of flux and flow. It is through this frame that I now approach modern Greece: not as a stable entity handed over to us from the ancients, as the hegemonic national historical narrative may claim, but as an idea of the nation continually in production, in the midst of open political and ideological struggle.

From one side, as trumpeted by the increasingly powerful far-right, Greece is or is made to be the emblem of white Europe—the origin of democracy, the "original" white Europeans. As such it must act as Europe's shield, but, as we so horribly continue to see, like the shield of the riot police, it is not so much a "defensive" wall as a bludgeon for attack, snuffing out with devastating effect the lives of so many seeking refuge.

For others, the task is to fight against these narratives and their politics, to decolonize Greece and in so doing show how these ideals of Europeaness in race, history, and the nation are foundational to the construction of "modern" Greece, while they continue today to fuel the deadly outcomes for refugees, immigrants, and Greek people who labor under exploitation without the dignity they deserve. Beyond critique are those who see solidarity as vital to Greece or to themselves as Greeks: Volunteer networks, *στέκια* for immigrants/refugees, boat captains who, despite being under threat from the Greek Coast Guard, trawl the Aegean hoping to save those most in need; reporters and writers who work against ever-growing obstacles to press freedom.

Thanks to many people along the way, I find myself as both an observer and a participant in these contests; analyzing them through an academic lens, tracing how different histories are crafted, written, and deployed in building up these various conceptions and ideals of Greece, and at the same time hoping to add what I can to struggles for many forms of justice, which are only becoming more exigent.

*Conor Smith earned a BA with Honors in History (2021). He received the Stephen J. Tonsor History of Ideas Undergraduate Honors Award and Modern Greek Translation Prize (Intermediate). He is currently a master's student in the Department of Anthropology, History, and Archaeology, University of Thessaly.*



## FACULTY NEWS



Assist. Prof. Hadji Bakara

[Hadji Bakara](#), [Assistant Professor of English and Human Rights](#), has joined the Modern Greek Program as affiliated Faculty. He has edited a special issue of *The Journal of Narrative Theory* on refugee literatures (2020). His published writing on human rights and migration can be found in *American Literary History*, *German Quarterly*, and the forthcoming Routledge Handbook of Refugee Narratives. He is currently completing his first book, “Governments of the Tongue: A Literary History of Human Rights,” and is working on a second, “Refugee Futures: A Political Theory of Time.”

[Johannes Foufopoulos](#), [Associate Professor of Ecosystem Science and Management, Conservation and Restoration](#) and affiliated Faculty in Modern Greek, published *Infectious Disease Ecology and Conservation* with Gary A. Wobeser and Hamish McCallum (Oxford University Press, 2022). He continues to collaborate with Despina Margomenou on the faculty-student project “Sustainability in Mediterranean Ecosystems.” A [proto-video under development by Elliniki Etairia](#)

on the eco-paths program that he helped develop in the Rhodope Mountains in Northern Greece featuring U-M students has exceptional information about a part of Greece that is rarely seen.

[Vassilis Lambropoulos](#), [C.P. Cavafy Emeritus Professor](#), presented “The Tragedy of Autonomy in the Modern Theater of Liberation,” lecture in the year-long seminar series *Politics of Liberation*, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, (Athens, October 2022); “The Melancholic Pursuit of Freedom in the 21st Century,” lecture at The American College of Greece (Athens, November 2022); “Post-colonial Tragic Theatre,” paper at the symposium *In the Event of Antigone: Crossings, Translations, Restagings*, part of the three-year research program “Antigones: Bodies of Resistance in the Contemporary World” (online, December 2022); Greek Poetry Generation of the 2000s, panel presentation (Thessaloniki, May 2023); new Greek poetry and criticism, panel presentation (Athens, May 2023). He joined the Advisory Board of the Greek Chamber Music Project, based in San Francisco, Fall 2022.

[Artemis Leontis](#), [C.P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature](#), published «Eva Palmer et Colette dans les archives cachées du Paris Lesbos» in *Cahiers Colette* (2023) and a review of Esther Solomon, ed, *Contested Antiquity: Archaeological Heritage and Social Conflict in Modern Greece and Cyprus* in the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* (October 2023, forthcoming). She was a distinguished speaker and panel participant in the “Tribute to Greek-American Women,” invited by the Embassy of Greece and Daughters of Penelope (Washington DC, November 2022), and presented lectures at Panteio University (Athens, April 2023) and the University of Thessaly (Volos, May 2023). Interviews appeared in *Diasticho*, the *National Herald*, and *Vogue Greece* (September issue). She will be the next editor of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* (2024-2027).



Artemis Leontis at Panteion University

## FACULTY NEWS

[Despina Margomenou, Lecturer IV in Modern Greek](#), conducted fieldwork at Naxos, a collaborative project with Prof. Foufopoulos, entitled “*Trails of History and Nature: Developing Ecological and Cultural Materials for an Ecotourism Network on the Aegean Island of Naxos*,” in the Spring of 2023. She published the chapter: “Modern Greek as World Language (WL) in US higher education: DCP (Decolonizing Curriculum and Pedagogy), DEIJ (Diversity Equity, Inclusion, and Justice), LCTLs (Less Commonly Taught Languages), and heritage/ non-heritage learners” in a volume entitled: *Exploring Greek as a Second, Foreign and Heritage Language in Greece and Beyond*, edited by Marina Mattheoudakis, and Christina Maligkoudi (Routledge, forthcoming).

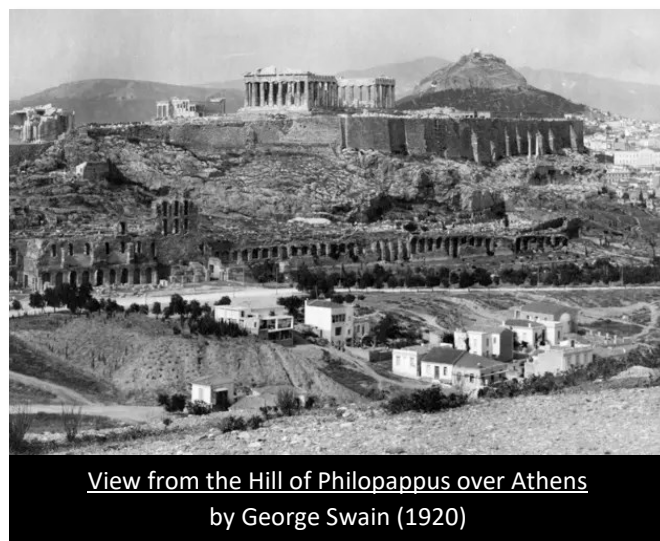


Assistant Professor Will Stroebel

[Will Stroebel, Assistant Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature](#), was Helmut F. Stern Faculty Fellow in the U-M Institute for the Humanities in 2022-2023. He published a special issue of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* dedicated to a hundred years of refugeehood and border making since 1922, coedited with Kristina Gedgoudaitė (October 2022). His book manuscript, “Literature's Refuge at the East-West Borderscape,” is under review. He completed the first chapter of the second book project, on the political afterlives of material ruins and ruination in Greece and Turkey, and a chapter on Turkish translations of Cavafy in the forthcoming edited volume “Cavafy as World Literature.” He will teach two new courses this fall: “Travels to Greece” examines everything from the Western Grand Tour of European elites to the Ottoman travelogues of Evliya Çelebi; from the travels and travails of Greek-Orthodox refugees of Asia Minor a century ago to contemporary refugees from West Asia and Africa. “East-West Istanbul” looks at the modernization of Istanbul

and Turkey over the past dozen decades, through the eyes of local Greeks, Armenians, Sunni Turks, Kurds, LGBTQ people, and more.

[Zachary Quint, Librarian for Classical Studies and Modern Greek](#), who develops the Greek collection in the Hatcher Graduate Library, gave special attention to acquiring titles about the Greek War of Independence (1821) and the Greco-Turkish War (1922). Furthermore, with the generous assistance of PhD student Ciara Barrick and Artemis Leontis, he expanded the Cypriot literature collection in Greek, Turkish, and English. These acquisitions added breadth and depth to the U-M Library’s collection. He also [participated in a Special Session](#) discussing the developments of the [Greek Digital Journal Archive](#) at the MGSA symposium in Toronto. During 2023-2024, he will be the Chair of the Librarians’ Forum, which advises the dean of libraries on matters that affect the academic or professional interests of librarians and promotes librarians’ effective participation in overarching U-M Library affairs.



View from the Hill of Philopappus over Athens  
by George Swain (1920)

# STUDENT AWARDS, DEGREES, GRANTS, AND NEWS

## Calliopi Papala Politou Senior Prize in Modern Greek

Awarded each year to a graduating senior who excels in the study of Modern Greek Language & Culture, the prize memorializes Calliopi Evangelinos, an immigrant from Chios. It is the gift of Angeliki Evangelinos, Professor Emerita, Monroe Community College. Two students were prizewinners based on their consistently excellent work:



**Melina Varlamos**, 2023 BS double major in Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience and Modern Greek.

“It was an honor to receive the 2023 Calliopi Papala Politou Prize in Modern Greek for distinguished achievement as an undergraduate and the Contexts for Classics Undergraduate Translation Prize in the 2022 Contexts for Classics Translation Contest. I have absolutely loved my experience with the Modern Greek Program here at Michigan and cannot say enough good things about the professors in the program! They truly shaped my college experience and guided me through it as not just a teacher, but also a friend. I plan on attending Medical School after a few gap years and am currently working in clinical research at the U-M Department of Vascular Surgery.”



**Natasia Raptis**, 2023 BA Political Science, Minor in Modern Greek, Minor in International Studies.

“Daily language classes with Professor Margomenou were a consistent joy. Professor Stroebel’s expertise on Greek and Turkish subjects made his humanities course a unique, informative experience. From the start of my freshman year until graduation, Professor Leontis personalized my learning experience. Her suggestion that I attend the American Hellenic Institute Foundation’s Student Foreign Policy Trip was a life-changing culmination of my studies. I will attend the U-M Law School this coming fall. I look forward to continuing my relationship with the Greek undergraduate community!  
Σας ευχαριστώ για όλα, και εύχομαι να είσαστε πάντα όλοι καλά!”

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS, GRANTS, AND RESEARCH

## Graduating Seniors 2023

**Dimitra Apostolopoulos**, BS, Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience; Minor, Modern Greek. “At the beginning of my journey at U-M, I was overstimulated by the many clubs and courses offered. Yet I was immediately drawn to Modern Greek 101 when I registered for my first semester of college. This was the catalyst of my Modern Greek endeavors. Immersing myself in the Program, I learned from talented professors whom I could genuinely connect with. They shaped my college experience not only by offering their guidance but also by believing in me. I plan on attending Law School (Fall 2024) after completing one gap year where I will be a tutor teaching English to students and adults, while also working as a legal intern in corporate law.”

**Brisilda Nilaj**, BS double major in Biomolecular Science and Modern Greek. “I am a first-generation transfer student who experienced the unique journey of immigrating to Greece and then subsequently to the United States. Adapting to a different educational system and then a new school posed numerous challenges. The Modern Greek Program became the invaluable support system I never knew I needed. Professor Leontis’s dedication and passion made a significant impact. One of the most rewarding aspects was the opportunity to connect with fellow students. Many were also pre-med students navigating the complexities of science and language learning simultaneously. We formed a close community, sharing ideas, and supporting and encouraging each other. I will be a research assistant at the Rogel Cancer Center while preparing for the 2024 medical school application cycle, shadowing physicians, and volunteering. Είμαι εξαιρετικά ευγνώμον για την ευκαιρία να επεκτείνω τις γνώσεις μου και να αναπτυχθώ δίπλα σε εξαιρετικούς καθηγητές και συμφοιτητές. Έχουν γίνει αναπόσπαστο μέρος του προσωπικού μου ταξιδιού. Ένα μεγάλο ευχαριστώ απευθύνεται στο Νεοελληνικό Πρόγραμμα του Πανεπιστημίου του Μίσιγκαν, που ήταν εξαιρετικά υποστηρικτικό και αποτελεσματικό στην παροχή βοήθειας.”

**Natasia Raptis**, BA in Political Science with High Distinction; minor, Modern Greek; minor, International Studies. *See page 6.*

**Kelly Skoulikaris**, BA, Public Policy, with distinction; minor, Modern Greek; minor, Business Administration. “The Modern Greek Program equipped me with the resources to improve my language skills, focus on my weaknesses, and connect further with my Greek heritage and its rich history. The support I received along with the strategies encouraged me to continue to engage with Modern Greek studies even following graduation. Post graduation, I plan to pursue a career in energy and attend business and law school. Σας ευχαριστώ για όλα.”

**Melina Varlamos**, BS double major in Biopsychology, Cognition & Neuroscience, and Modern Greek. *See page 6.*



## Modern Greek Translation Awards

The prize is awarded to students who produce the best sight translation at the Intermediate and Advanced Intermediate levels.

**Elizabeth Kolias**, sophomore majoring in Psychology involved in psychology research on interpersonal relationships and family dynamics. Intermediate Level.

**Joana Hila**, freshman double majoring in Psychology and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and minoring in Modern Greek. Advanced Intermediate Level.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS, GRANTS, AND RESEARCH

**Anastasia Papageorgiou** and **Kelly Skoulikaris**, both undergraduate students pursuing degrees in Modern Greek, received the highly competitive national Panhellenic Scholarship in 2023. Εύγε!

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## Grants for Research and Study Abroad

Students with Modern Greek interests pursuing research, internships, and study abroad may receive support from the AHEPA Automotive District 10 Student Support Fund, Carrie Arbour Scholarships, Foundation for Modern Greek Studies Fund, Kalliopi Kontou-Filis and Kenneth P. Mathews Fund, Modern Greek Fund, and Konstantine A. Tsangadas Trust. Many thanks to our generous donors!

### Undergraduates

**Abigail Hess** (Math major, Music minor), Ikarian Center advanced Greek language study (Foundation for Modern Greek Studies)

**Evangelia Kahremanis** (Modern Greek major; Neuroscience major): College Year in Athens (Carrie Arbour).

**Sydney Kostoglanis** (Anthropology major, Transcultural Studies Accelerated MA): Pelion Summer Lab for Cultural Theory and Experimental Humanities; field research on the legacies of post-War destruction in Cephalonia (Kalliopi Kontou-Filis and Kenneth P. Mathews; Hoenecke Undergraduate Experience Prize in Anthropology; Foundation for Modern Greek Studies).

**India Pruette** (Anthropology major, Modern Greek minor): College Year in Athens; fieldwork at the Makounta-Voules archaeological site outside Poli Chrysochous in western Cyprus (Foundation for Modern Greek Studies).

**Ava Rapp** (LSA student, undeclared): College Year in Athens (Foundation for Modern Greek Studies).

**Kelly Skoulikaris** (Bachelors, School of Public Policy; Modern Greek minor; Business Administration minor): American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Trip (AHEPA Automotive District 10 Student Support Fund; Foundation for Modern Greek Studies).

**Alexandros Triandafillidis** (History major): archival research for former Cypriot journalist Andreas Hadjikyriacos on the assassination of Roger Paul Davis, the American Ambassador to Cyprus, during an anti-American demonstration outside the US Embassy in Nicosia (August 19, 1974). He conducted research in the "[Pyrros Papers](#)," a collection donated by the late Jim Pyrros to Hatcher Graduate Library, covering the Greek-American anti-Junta struggle and response to the Cyprus crisis of 1974 (Modern Greek Fund).

**Marina Zaremba** (Economics major; Modern Greek minor) College Year in Athens (Foundation for Modern Greek Studies)



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS, GRANTS, AND RESEARCH

Two graduate students with Modern Greek interests were awarded year-long fellowships by the U-M Institute for the Humanities:



**Samet Budak**  
(PhD Candidate, Middle East Studies) in 2022-2023 to work on his dissertation, “A Mediterranean Episteme: Intellectual Networks and Contacts in the Eastern Mediterranean (1350-1500)”



**Amanda Kubic**  
(PhD Candidate, Comparative Literature) in 2023-2024 for her dissertation, “Animating Antiquity: Classical (Dis)embodiments by Modern Women.”

## Graduate Students

The Konstantine A. Tsangadas Trust in Rackham Graduate School is earmarked for graduate studies. This year it supported the research of two PhD students in Comparative Literature pursuing Greek and Cypriot interests and seven Masters students in the School for the Environment and Sustainability and Landscape Architecture.

**Brittany Amaral**, MS student, School for the Environment and Sustainability, studying Ecosystem Science and Management; research, “The Effects of Invasive Goats on the Nutrient Flow of Mediterranean Islands.”

**Ciara Barrick**, PhD student in Comparative Literature: Greek language study at the Ikarian Center; research, Cypriot literature from 1950 to the present in Cyprus.

**Amanda Kubic**, PhD candidate in Comparative Literature: travel to the Society of Classical Studies 2023 annual meeting to present her paper, “(Post)Modern Choreographies of Ovidian Metamorphosis in the Dances of Loie Fuller, Jody Sperling, and Kinetic Light.”

These students received support for the group research project, “Trails of History and Nature: Developing Ecological and Cultural Materials for an Ecotourism Hiking Network on the Aegean Island of Naxos:”

**Simrin Dhillon**, MS student, School for the Environment and Sustainability, studying Development and Sustainability Systems;

**Hoating Gao**, dual Master of Landscape Architecture and Masters of UX Research and Design, School of Information, student focused on interactive mapping;

**Peiwen Lee**, dual Master of Landscape Architecture student and MS student, School for the Environment and Sustainability studying Ecosystem Science and Management; and

**Dominique Valentine**, MS student, School for the Environment and Sustainability studying Ecosystem Science and Management.

**Katherine Leeson**, MS student, School for Environment and Sustainability, studying Ecosystem Science and Management: research on effects of plastic waste and the chemicals that leach out of them on island ecosystems, especially sea gulls that consume and transport the plastics to the islands.

**Henry Wallison**, graduating senior (Environmental Studies major) entering graduate studies in the School of Environment and Sustainability: research to collect high-quality ecological field data and use photography to quantify and communicate levels of biodiversity between areas that have been overgrazed and those that have not.



India Pruette at Kissonerga-Mosfilia in the re-creations of a Chalcolithic-era village in Cyprus.



Evangelia Kahremanis on the Acropolis, part of a long summer experience studying in Thessaloniki and traveling through Greece. Her activities included a visit to the Meteora Monasteries, Mount Olympus hiking, and trips to Athens and Delphi as part of her study of Greek Art and Architecture.



Ava Rapp is enjoying a walk through Ano Poli in Thessaloniki near the Heptapyrgion, the Byzantine and Ottoman fortress and site of the Yedi Kule prison.



Ciara Barrick in Cyprus at the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates.

other forms of experiential tourism such as agritourism, culinary, wellness or volunteer tourism follow the trend for customized/personalized tourist experiences which is, in fact, a trend of 21<sup>st</sup> century mass tourism and often offered within the same packages within the same cruise industry or tourist resorts. Whether local communities are peer stakeholders and whether ecotourism initiatives are grassroots or top-down are crucial factors for the viability and sustainability of such attempts. In other words, the impact and footprint of ecotourism initiatives must be assessed on a case-to-case basis.

This is the focus of our current project, “Trails of History and Nature: Developing Ecological and Cultural Materials for an Ecotourism Network on the Aegean Island of Naxos.” The opening of hiking trails (17 so far) affords the opportunity not only to gain access to and document sites that evidence the natural and cultural diversity of the island, but also to assess the impact of this ecotourism initiative on local communities and other local and regional stakeholders. Integral to our research on Naxos is an ethic of transparency and accessibility, so our work also focuses on generating open-access, public-facing content and applications. One example of such public facing [content is our developing website “Hiking Naxos”](#) that records our research, work, and the stories from the field that we collect as we hike the island of Naxos.



Portara (Temple of Apollo)



Dominique Valentine (U-M-SEAS)

Trail documentation started last year. This spring I worked with a new team of MS students in SEAS—Simrin Dhillon, Peiwen Li, Dominique Valentine, and Haoting Gao—to continue mapping and documenting the hiking trails. That included identifying cultural, historical, and archaeological sites as well as human practices inscribed in the landscapes or impacting landscapes. Besides fieldwork, and individual student advising, there were on-site tours, and formal and informal lectures/discussions on the history and prehistory of the Cyclades, on the ethics of tourist development, as well as on the ethics of archaeological/heritage practices, conservation, museums, and collecting as they pertain to the history and prehistory of the Cyclades.

We had the great pleasure of being joined in some of our ventures by Prof. Artemis Leontis for a few days. We visited the Temple of Sangri (Gyroulas) and dared a hike to the top of Mount Zas—also the location of the well-known Neolithic site, the Zas Cave. We were also joined by a

group of undergraduate students from UC Berkeley working with [Dr. Kinsey Brock](#).

The [hiking-trails/ecotourism initiative](#) on Naxos is spearheaded by the Municipality of Naxos and Small Cyclades and supported by NGOs such as Elliniki Etairia—Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage ([Greek Paths of Culture Programme](#)). Our students were accommodated at the Ursuline School (Catholic Archdiocese and Metropolis of Naxos; Rev. Georgios Palamaris). The project was supported in part by the Constantine A. Tsangadas Trust of the Rackham Graduate School, the Modern Greek Fund, and the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies, which endowed the C. P. Cavafy Professorship in Modern Greek and Comparative Literature.



Trails Team at the village of Moni

## FALL EVENTS

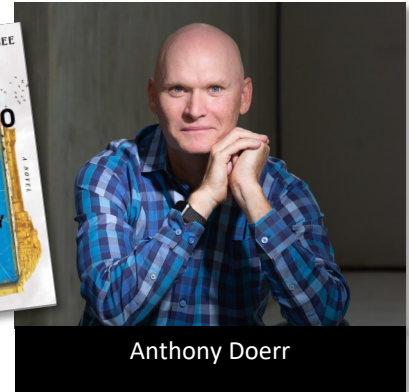
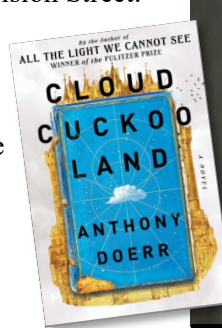
Michigan League, 911 N. University, parking in the Fletcher structure. Weiser Hall, 500 Church street, parking in the Forest Avenue Structure.

“[The Veins of Men](#).” Jim Cogswell, UM Professor, Stamps School of Art and Design: works on paper inspired by Greek poet George Seferis, featured in [Untold Stories, Part I 2023 Stamps Faculty Exhibition](#).

September 15 – December 9, 2023 | Stamps Gallery, 201 South Division Street.

“[An Evening with Anthony Doerr](#)” Mr. Doerr is the 2023 DeRoy-Graf Visiting Professor in Honors. Mr. Doerr is a Pulitzer Prize Winner and *New York Times* best-selling author of “All the Light We Cannot See,” will discuss his book, “Cloud Cuckoo Land” (2021).

Wednesday, October 11, 6:00 pm | Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave. (This event is open to the public.)



Anthony Doerr

“[Metamorphosis: Translation as a Transformative Act](#)”

[Marios Chatziprokopiou](#), Assistant Professor of Performance



Marios Chatziprokopiou

Studies and Writing, University of Thessaly

Tuesday, October 3, 4-5:30 pm | Michigan Room, Michigan League (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Vakalo Family Visiting Artist presentation organized by the Modern Greek Program, Co-sponsored by Contexts for Classics

“[10th Biennial MGSA Workshop in Pedagogy: Translation Across the Curriculum](#)”

Friday & Saturday, November 10-11

Friday 5:30-7:30 pm | Henderson Room, Michigan League (2nd floor)

Keynote presentation and reception

Saturday 9:00 am-4:00 pm | Koessler Room Michigan League (3rd floor)

Workshop with presentations, activities, discussion

Co-organized by the Modern Greek Program and the Modern Greek Studies Association

Co-sponsored by the Department of Comparative Literature and the Learning Resource Center

“[Mass Flight from and in Ukraine: A Game Changer in International Refugee and Migration Politics?](#)”

Philipp Ther, Professor of Central European History, University of Vienna

Monday, December 4, 4-5:30 pm | 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church Street | Annual Distinguished Lecture on Europe

In person or on Zoom; webinar registration required at <https://myumi.ch/y2xJ1>

Organized by the Center for European Studies. Co-sponsored by the Modern Greek Program and other units.

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