



Members of the FMGS Board, Dean Shirley Neumann, Professors Sharon Herbert, Vassilis Lambropoulos, Artemis Leontis, and Kostalena Michelaki (Graduate Student Instructor in Modern Greek) celebrate the inauguration of the C. P. Cavafy Professorship.

THE C. P. CAVAFY PROFESSORSHIP CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Note from the Director, Artemis Leontis, C. P. Cavafy Professor in Modern Greek

It's been 25 years since the Foundation for Modern Greek Studies (FMGS) endowed the Modern Greek professorship in Classical Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan. The Foundation, a local grassroots non-profit organization incorporated in southeast Michigan to promote the study of Greek language and culture, signed a gift agreement with the University in 1999. That same year, UM hired Vassilis Lambropoulos. In March 2000, the FMGS fulfilled its pledge; UM's President Lee Bollinger met with FMGS members to accept their last check and congratulate them. The Professorship was inaugurated in Fall 2001, taking the name of C. P. Cavafy, the world-renowned modern Alexandrian Greek poet.

The C. P. Cavafy Professorship is a vital piece of the Modern Greek Program at UM. What difference has it made? What have we accomplished? Where are we going?

An endowed professorship is both a high honor for a professor and a strategic investment. By offering perpetual support for a professor with expertise in Modern Greek language, literature, and culture, the FMGS made a lasting commitment to program building. This one-time investment in a single faculty position has had a profound impact. It led to new faculty hires who built a dynamic curriculum. The initiative inspired undergraduate and graduate student learning, enhanced library collections, created new community partnerships, generated outreach programs, and gained national and global recognition.

Let's look at the numbers. There are currently three full-time faculty (Despina Margomenou, Will Stroebel, and me), one emeritus professor



On March 22, 2000, UM President Lee Bollinger (1996 to 2002) congratulates members of the FMGS, joined by Vassilis Lambropoulos, the first C.P. Cavafy Professor, and Professor Sharon Herbert, Classical Studies

ALUMNI, reconnect with us!

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moderngreek-request@umich.edu
to share your story.

C. P. CAVAFY PROFESSORSHIP CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

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(Vassilis Lambropoulos), several affiliated faculty, and one librarian (Zachary Quint). We work alongside colleagues and staff in Classical Studies and Comparative Literature and collaborate with many of UM's departments, institutes, centers, schools, and museums.

We offer 12-15 courses annually. Since 1999, we have taught over 7,000 students Modern Greek language (2,000+) and culture (5,000+). Over 150 undergraduates have pursued the Modern Greek major or minor.

Hundreds have studied in Greece and Cyprus, supported by gifts from FMGS, AHEPA District 10, and other generous donors. Each year since 2010, an exceptional graduating senior studying Modern Greek has been awarded the Calliopi Papala Politou prize. We have supervised over 35 graduate students.

Collectively, we write 50-150 recommendation letters every year to support student applications for scholarships, internships, study abroad programs, graduate schools, law schools, medical schools, and jobs. Our students go on to pursue graduate degrees in political science, international studies, engineering, biology, chemistry, genetics, neuroscience, psychology, anthropology, history, literature, economics, law, public health, social work, and medicine. They work in the U.S. State Department, diplomatic corps, Library of Congress, and in museums, schools, universities, legal offices, banks, businesses, offices, clinics, and hospitals. We are proud of their accomplishments.

In our public outreach, the Modern Greek Program has organized 5-30 events annually, totaling over 300 events. These include exhibits, film screenings, lectures, concerts, workshops, panel discussions, conferences, webinars, online interviews, and special endowed events such as the Vakalo Visiting Artist and the FMGS Visiting Scholar series. A highlight in 2024 was FMGS Visiting scholar [Dr. Nicoletta Demetriou's concert, "A Musical Journey to Cyprus: Traditional Songs of Love, Sorrow, and Hope"](#) at Kerrytown Concert House observing the 50th year of a divided Cyprus. Since 2011, we have organized the Ellinomatheia Greek language proficiency exams each May, reaching 300 test-takers from ages 8 to adult.

The [Modern Greek Program website](#) uploads lectures, webinars, essays, and other solicited materials on its [Window to Greece page](#). The [Vassilis Lambropoulos Essays on New Directions in Modern Greek Studies](#) is a new feature annually presenting essays by two faculty from around the country, who offer new perspectives on the state of the field. This endowed series honoring Vassilis Lambropoulos, the first C. P. Cavafy Professor, who directed the Modern Greek Program from 1999 to 2018, bridges the past and future of Modern Greek Studies.

Given the name of the C. P. Cavafy Professorship, the Modern Greek Program is especially attentive to Cavafy's work. This includes the world of Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean in which Cavafy lived and the ever-new contexts in which people read him today. [The exhibit "Cavafy's World" at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology and UM Museum of Art in 2002](#) celebrated the endowment of the Cavafy Professorship. [The Cavafy Forum](#) on our website presents new, original work. It includes the C. P. Cavafy Music Resource Guide with over 100 entries of musical settings of Cavafy's poetry. Two events have marked the C. P. Cavafy Professorship's 25th year: the concert ["Out of Time, Out of Place," featuring Michael Mallis's song cycle "Another Shore, Another Country,"](#) which sets Cavafy's poetry to music, and a webinar presenting [Maria Boletsi's new book, *Specters of Cavafy*](#), which inaugurates the series [Greek / Modern Intersections published by UM Press](#). A webinar will take place next May on Cavafy's new biography (see page 12.)

Our curriculum is built on strong pedagogical foundations and dynamic teaching approaches. This year Dr. Margomenou introduced the innovative third-year language class, "Seeds of Peace: Cross Cultural Talk in the Middle East," taught by a team of instructors in Greek, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, and Armenian. Students study Greek twice a week with Dr. Margomenou and participate in a joint session with all students and instructors once a week. The course is grounded in peace studies, a pedagogical approach focusing on the philosophy, language, and practice of non-violence. It weaves



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Ciara Barrick (center) with Lena Grimm (left) and Amanda Kubic (right) in Nicosia, Cyprus.

When I first arrived in Cyprus in 2013, I was an undergraduate studying English Literature and Ancient Greece. I'd long loved the literary, imaginative landscape of the ancient world—what poet John Keats called the “realms of gold”—and jumped at the chance to travel to Nicosia as a professor's assistant. On my way, I read Lawrence Durrell's *Bitter Lemons* (1957), still the most widely-read English text about Cyprus. (Preparing for the journey to a foreign land through its literature is a good way to learn about it, although *Bitter Lemons* teaches more about Durrell than about Cyprus). Durrell himself brought *A Lady's Impression of Cyprus* (1893) by Elizabeth Lewis on his boat ride from Venice to Cyprus. A few years later, I left the island with texts under my arm—again like Durrell. Whereas he carried his own three works written during his three years on the island (*Tree of Idleness*, *Justine*, and *Bitter Lemons*), I left with volumes of the best collection of contemporary Cypriot literature there is: the literary journal, *Cadences: A Journal*

for Literature and the Arts in Cyprus, which ran from 2004 to 2020.

I acquired my first volume at *Cadences'* 2013 launch event, a tribute to the late artist and writer, Niki Marangou. Writers from all over the Eastern Mediterranean gathered to mourn—through poetry and prose, in all languages of the Levant. For myself, a girl from a small island off the coast of South Jersey, the evening was eye-opening. It taught me about multilingualism, plural spaces, and collective loss. I also saw Cyprus as a microcosm for an always-shifting region, where wor(l)ds rubbing against each other produce a generative f(r)iction that sparks creativity.

I lived in Cyprus from 2015 to 2017 and have visited the island many times since then. The multitude of perspectives, languages, and experiences I witnessed at the *Cadences* launch would continue to unfurl before me. That first transformative night in Cyprus gave way to many other transformative experiences: watching the whirling dervishes, marveling at Panagia tou Asinou, attending Shakespeare performances at the amphitheatre at Kourion, hiking the Crusader castles in the Pentadactylos, enjoying the shade of Selimiye Mosque, listening to the barn swallows and chaffinches at Kykkos Monastery, ascending into the Troodos mountains where prickly pear cacti give way to Cyprus cedar pines, enjoying bellydancing performances, counting flamingos in the Larnaca salt lake, and listening to a mentor speak passionately about Mariza Koch.

Cyprus, as I've come to know it in the last twelve years, is a place where understandings of belonging, history, and culture are constantly in flux, where the natural and spiritual world hang over landscape like fog, where time and space get turned upside down. The island opens questions about borders and border-crossing, about identity, language, and ethnicity, about gender and sexuality, about translations and transformations of all kinds, about islands, about our shared ecological crisis, about imagined worlds and the building of the future.

At the end of my first trip to Cyprus, I left English Literature and the colonial text I'd carried behind for Comparative Literature, in particular, comparative Cypriot literature. I came to the University of Michigan for PhD studies in 2021. Now entering my fifth year, I have been enriched by dialogue in the Modern Greek Program and am currently a PhD candidate on a Constantine A. Tsangadas Fellowship. My dissertation focuses on *Cadences* as an “archive of relation,” exploring how this literary document records the creative and intellectual community's relation to language, place, and history. During my most recent trip this spring, I interviewed several creative people who were part of that community.

My Cyprus is inseparable from the language used by its creative community to describe it, as language and space mutually inflect and inform one another. As I continue to move about Cyprus, I have kept *Cadences* at my side. Cyprus's own poems and prose have served as a guide to the divided island landscape.

Ciara Barrick is a doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature and holds an MA from King's College London and BA from Stockton University. Her dissertation focuses on the Cypriot literary journal *Cadences: a journal for literature and the arts in Cyprus* (2004–2020). Her interests include island studies, queer ecologies, translation, archives, architecture/landscape, and autotheory.

FACULTY NEWS

Jim Cogswell, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Professor of Art & Design, affiliated faculty in Modern Greek, is collaborating with Anastasia Bakogianni of Massey University, New Zealand on a book about his [Vinyl Euripides installation at the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation in Athens](#) (2022). He has received funding from the Center for Japanese Studies to travel to Japan this fall and again in winter 2027 for his new installation, tentatively called “Flames of War.” He will be on sabbatical next academic year, splitting his time between Japan, Taos, and Ann Arbor, with a potential trip to Athens in January to work with Dr. Bakogianni on the book and to exhibit new drawings at the Cacoyannis Foundation.

Vassilis Lambropoulos, C. P. Cavafy Professor Emeritus, continues to lead an active scholarly life in the U.S. and Greece. By his account, “I publish in English and Greek; I participate in panels, roundtables, and book launches; I gave an endowed lecture; I serve on advisory boards; I collaborate with colleagues; I direct a website where I commission original essays on contemporary Greek poetics;

I comment on drafts of new Greek poetry; I advise graduate students; I post regularly on my two blogs, [Piano, Poetry, Pantelis, Politics](#), and [The Tragedy of Revolution](#)). My paper exploring the rich potential of Cavafy musical settings, “[Conversing with Cavafy through Music](#),” was just published in the book [Approaches to Teaching the Works of C. P. Cavafy](#) (MLA, 2025). In general, I have never been more creative in my career.”

Artemis Leontis, C. P. Cavafy Professor and Director of the Modern Greek Program, delivered the [Nikos Kazantzakis Lecture at UC Berkeley on “Women Talking in a Closet of the Archive of Hellenism”](#) in March 2025. She is writing a book on Eva Palmer’s long hidden collection of letters in the Center for Asia Minor Studies in Athens, highlighting how endangered archives shape collective memory. She is leading two digitization projects: Palmer’s correspondence and (with Amanda Kubic) Jim Pyrros’ “Greek Anti-Junta Struggle Papers” in the Labadie Collection, Hatcher Graduate Library. As editor of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, she organized the Special Session, “The Present and Future of the *JMGS*” at the MGSA Symposium in Princeton (October 2024).



Dr. Despina Margomenou

Despina Margomenou, Lecturer IV in Modern Greek, worked with a group of colleagues from U-M Middle East Studies (Modern Hebrew, Turkish, Armenian, and Turkish) to develop and teach the new course “Seeds of Peace.” The team was awarded a U-M New Initiatives/New Instruction (NINI) grant in June 2025. She was selected and participated as a U-M Delegate in the Global Summit of Peace Education in collaboration with UNESCO. She also presented a paper with her collaborator Dr. Roumpou about interdisciplinary research on food storage for the conference celebrating 40 years of excavations at Thessaloniki Toumba (Greece). She continues her work as a member of the academic committee of the Panhellenic Scholarship.

Zachary Quint, Classics and Modern Greek Librarian, attended the 20th Thessaloniki Book Fair in Thessaloniki, Greece. He writes, “It was a pleasure and an honor to explore the city with Despina Margomenou and stroll through the publisher exhibit halls with Vassilis Lambropoulos.” During a Special Session at the MGSA symposium in Princeton (October 2024), he collaborated with librarians and digital humanities scholars to discuss the development of digital Greek resources. He continues to acquire books from Greece and Cyprus in order to develop a Greek collection that offers a plethora of experiences and perspectives.

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Will Stroebel, Assistant Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature, published [*Literature's Refuge: Rewriting the Mediterranean Borderscape*](#), a pathbreaking new literary map of the Eastern Mediterranean written in a jargon-free, accessible language that welcomes non-specialist readers. It reaches deep into the archives of Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Cyprus, enriching the Greek canon with a range of voices, some well-known and beloved, like Cavafy, and others lost, unknown, or suppressed until now. (Use the discount code P327 at the link above to drop the purchase price by 30%.) Professor Stroebel also helped revive Meditopos, an interdisciplinary grad-faculty workshop that explores Mediterranean connections across national borders. He teaches a range of undergraduate classes and is an active voice on the Executive Board of the MGSA, the flagship organization for Modern Greek in North America.



Will Stroebel, in the port of Chania, Crete, observes the announcement of his book presentation at the Book Festival of Chania.

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peace-related topics into the language syllabus, providing an interactive space for students to learn about each other and develop tools for discussing differences and respecting linguistic pluralism. The teaching model places Greek in its historical multilingual contexts. Historically, users of Greek have communicated alongside people who speak their other ancient languages. In “Seeds of Peace” Greek learners communicate with students from the diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds of the Eastern Mediterranean, giving them opportunities to explore language commonalities and differences together. For that one hour a week, at least, the course fosters equitable, peaceful coexistence.

Certainly, we have faced many challenges, from the 2020 pandemic shutdown to the current fiscal restraints that will limit outreach this year. Thankfully, our Modern Greek classes have not seen the declining enrollments experienced by other foreign language programs across the country. Students want to learn Greek. They enjoy a supportive community of faculty and students. They value their immersion in the language and culture classes, and we love working with them. One challenge we will face in the next five years is my impending retirement. For the Program to continue offering the current level of instruction, faculty, students, and members of the larger community will need to advocate for a new hire.

For now, the Modern Greek Program is very much alive. Our subject remains infinitely interesting. As faculty we are working on research projects on both sides of the Atlantic and contributing to Modern Greek Studies nationally and internationally (see the faculty page). Our undergraduate and graduate students are doing excellent work (please see the newsletter student page). We reach people through talks on campus and through other means such as webinars, recorded interviews, and digitally presented projects. One such project is “[The Middle East in Detroit](#),” to which Professor Will Stroebel has contributed translations of Greek language sources. We are planning a carefully selected slate of events for the academic year 2025-2026 (see page 12).

This is what we are celebrating in 2025: the inspiring gift of the FMGS, the large volume of work accomplished by Modern Greek faculty and students, the challenges, our community conversations, and the immeasurable joy of 25 years’ growing and discovering the Greek world together.

Here’s to another 25 years!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: DEGREES, HONORS 2024-2025



Modern Greek Language and Literature graduates at the 2025 Classical Studies department graduation: (left to right) Andreanna Fekaris, Marina Zarembo, Christiana Kapetaneas, and Anastasia Papageorgiou.

Student Undergraduate Degrees, Honors, Master's, PhDs 2024-2025

Andreanna Fekaris, 2025 BS: major in Biology, Health, and Society; minor in Modern Greek Language and Culture; Minor in Statistics. She is applying to medical schools and hopes to become a physician.

Evangelia Kahremanis, 2024 BS: majors in Neuroscience and Modern Greek Language and Culture. She especially enjoyed her summer studies in Thessaloniki and Athens. "Traveling to historical and archaeological sites gave me insight into the foundations of my Greek heritage. Σας ευχαριστώ για 4 υπέροχα χρόνια στο Νεοελληνικό Τμήμα!" This fall she will pursue a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering at Columbia University.

Christiana Kapetaneas, 2025 BS: majors in Biology, Health and Society and in Modern Greek Language and Culture. She was a student athlete tutor. "Being involved in the Modern Greek Program significantly influenced my personal and academic growth. Learning about Greek history broadened my global perspective and deepened my appreciation for culture. It helped me understand my grandparents' sacrifices and motivated me to honor my family's legacy." Christiana is applying to medical school: "This cultural awareness is vital to my identity and will be invaluable in my future career as a physician."

Sydney Kostoglanis, 2025 Master's in Transcultural Studies. MA Thesis: "A Decade of Devastation through the Lens of Difficult Heritage: An Analysis of World War II, the Greek Civil War and Earthquake of 1953 in Kefalonia, Greece," Artemis Leontis, supervisor. The thesis seeks to understand how people on the island of Kefalonia make sense of each of the three events. "My research is primarily based on the descendants because, as a descendant myself, I have felt the effects on the island through my grandmother." Using the lens of "difficult heritage," a past that is meaningful but contested, the thesis studies how Kefalonian memories treat each of the three "difficult" events very differently.



Amanda Kubic (center) at the Rackham Graduate School commencement, where she was "hooded" for her earning PhD in Comparative Literature by her supervisors, Yopie Prins and Artemis Leontis.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: DEGREES, HONORS 2024-2025

Amanda Kubic, 2025 PhD in Comparative Literature. Dissertation: “Animating Antiquity: Classical (Dis)embodiments by Modern Women,” Artemis Leontis and Yopie Prins, co-supervisors. She will be a Marilena Laskaridis Research Fellow at the University of Amsterdam in Winter 2025 for a project titled, “Choreographing a Modern Greek Nation: Koula Pratsika, ΚΣΟΤ, and their Afterlives.” Amanda received fellowships from the Institute for Humanities and Rackham Graduate School, and the Rackham Outstanding GSI award.

Georgia “Gigi” Niforos, 2025 BA: Art and Design; minor in Modern Greek.

Anastasia Papageorgiou, 2025 triple major: BS in User Experience Design, School of Information; BA in Modern Greek Language and Literature (LSA); BA in Arts and Ideas in the Humanities (Residential College); minor in Computer Science. She plans to complete her master’s in Human-Computer Inter-action with the hope of one day working in the healthcare industry. Outside of class, she enjoys reading, drawing, attending hockey games, and spending time with her friends. Her message is succinct: “Ευχαριστώ την οικογένειά μου για όλη σας τη στήριξη και την Άρτεμη για τις συμβουλές της.”

Alexandros Triandafillidis, 2025 BA: major in History with High Honors; minor in International Studies. Honors Thesis, “Between Spite and Romance: Re-evaluating Andreas Papandreou’s Foreign Policy Legacy, 1981–1989,” Professor David Tamoyo, advisor. As a sophomore conducting work in the Modern Greek Program, he discovered the Anti-Greek Junta Struggle “James Pyrros Papers” in Hatcher Library’s Special Collections. “This archive was the first time I interacted with Modern Greek political history, and was a catalyst for the pursuit of this thesis.”

Emmanuel Vordonis, 2025 BA: major in History with High Honors; major in Political Science; minor in Modern Greek Language and Culture. Honors thesis, “One Island, Two Peoples, Many Stories: An Overview of the 1974 Intervention in Cyprus and its Historiography,” Professor Will Stroebe, advisor.

Marina Zaremba, 2025 BA: majors in Economics and Modern Greek Language and Culture; minor in Entrepreneurship. “My studies in Modern Greek taught me so much about my heritage and the history of Greece. After graduation, I will be working at a local employment law firm for one year before heading off to law school. I have absolutely loved my time at Michigan, especially in the Modern Greek program, and I am so grateful for everyone that guided me along the way. Thank you!”



Emmanuel Vordonis, another 2025 Modern Greek Language and Culture graduate.



Sydney Kostoglanis celebrating her MA in Transcultural Studies at the Comparative Literature department graduation with her supervisor, Artemis Leontis.

STUDENT PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS, STUDY ABROAD, AND RESEARCH

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. Three students received the Calliopi Papala Politou Modern Greek Senior Prize in 2025. The decision to give three awards is a testimony to the high quality of each student's work in Modern Greek and overall achievements.

Christiana Kapetaneas, 2025 BS: majors in Biology, Health and Society and in Modern Greek Language and Culture.

Anastasia Papageorgiou, 2025 triple major: BS in User Experience Design (School of Information); BA in Modern Greek Language and Literature and minor in Computer Science (LSA); BA in Arts and Ideas in the Humanities (Residential College).

Marina Zaremba, 2025: BA majors in Economics and Modern Greek Language and Culture; Minor in Entrepreneurship.

Modern Greek Translation Awards

The following students won prizes for superior work on a sight translation exam (Phillips/Modern Greek translation award) and for their literary translations judged for their quality by translation experts (Contexts for Classics Translation award).

Irmgard Pallas, Modern Greek I Intermediate Translation Award, 2024

Vasiliki Amourgianos, Modern Greek II Advanced intermediate Translation Award, 2024

Georgia Pallas, Modern Greek I Intermediate Translation Award, 2025

Marina Zaremba, Modern Greek II Advanced Intermediate Translation Award, 2025

Joana Hila, Contexts for Classics Translation Award, 2024), "[Biography of an unimportant relative](#)" in *Μια φορά κάθε τοπίο και ολότελα* by Katerina Iliopoulou

Christiana Kapetaneas, Contexts for Classics Translation Award, 2024, "[Argonauts](#)," by Giorgos Seferis; and "[The complaint of the rhapsodic Syrian refugee](#)"

Anastasia Papageorgiou, Contexts for Classics Translation Award, 2024, "[Wandering journal](#)" in *Μια φορά κάθε τοπίο και ολότελα* by Katerina Iliopoulou, an adaptation of travel writing by Jacques Lacarrière, Hans Christian Andersen, and Hugo von Hofmannsthal.

Panhellenic Scholarships

While our students receive many external awards that we don't hear about, the highly competitive Panhellenic Scholarships are widely publicized. In 2025, **Vasiliki Amourgianos**, **Konstantinos Hatzopoulos**, and **Dimitri Sitaras**, three students in our Program were recipients. Εύγε!

Grants for Study Abroad and Research

Vasiliki Amourgianos, rising senior in Neuroscience and Modern Greek Literature and Culture, was awarded the Carrie Arbor Scholarship to study at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens' Summer Course in the Modern Greek Language (summer 2024).

Ciara Barrick, PhD candidate in Comparative Literature (see her "My Cyprus") and winner of 2025 Rackham Outstanding GSI award, received the Constantine A. Tsangadas Trust Fellowship (2024–2025) and Tsangadas Trust support to attend the Modern Greek Studies Symposium (Princeton, 2024) and to conduct research in Cyprus (Spring 2025).

Spencer Cook, PhD candidate in Anthropology who studies cross-border trade in Cyprus and the surrounding regions, received Constantine A. Tsangadas Trust support both to attend the Modern Greek Studies Symposium (Princeton, 2024) and to present a paper at the Society for Modern Greek Studies Graduate Research Colloquium at U Reading in Spring 2025.

Rachel Deveyra, undergraduate in the School of Art & Design, received support from the Modern Greek Fund to participate in "Metals and Jewelry in Greece," a faculty-led course run by the Lalaounis Jewelry Museum in Athens, and Hephaistos Summer School's "Archaeology, History and Technology of Western Jewelry under the light of the Acropolis" program.

STUDENT PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS, STUDY ABROAD, AND RESEARCH

Alexandria French, rising junior in Biomedical Engineering, received FMGS support and this year's Kalliopi Kontou-Filis & Matthews Fund student grant to study at the American College of Thessaloniki (Winter 2025).

Evangelia Kahremais, BS 2024, received AHEPA District 10 Student Support funds and a Carrie Arbour Scholarship scholarship to study advanced Greek at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens' Summer Course in the Modern Greek Language (summer 2024).

Drosos Kardulias, PhD student in Anthropology and Archaeology, received Constantine A. Tsangadas Trust funding for his Medieval Roman Archaeological Survey of Kalymnos (summer 2025). His research focuses on the Late Antique-Early Medieval transition on Kalymnos, examining how peripheral populations are affected by warfare, imperial hegemony, societal changes, and the logistics of premodern states.

Sydney Kostoglanis, MA student in Transcultural Studies, received Constantine A. Tsangadas Trust funding to conduct field research on the island of Kefalonia for her master's thesis in Transcultural Studies (summer 2024).

Amanda Kubic, PhD in Comparative Literature, received Constantine A. Tsangadas Trust funding in summer 2024 for immersive advanced Modern Greek language study at the Athens Center. She held a Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship in Winter 2025 to finish and defend her dissertation.

Isabella Marks, rising junior in the School of Public Policy, received FMGS and Modern Greek Fund support to attend the American Hellenic Institute Foundation foreign policy trip to Greece and Cyprus (summer 2025).

Eleni Medero, rising junior pursuing majors in Modern Greek and Political Science, received Modern Greek Fund and the AHEPA Auto District 10 support for study at the Ikarian Centre (summer 2024).

Paul Przeslawski, rising junior in Psychology, History, and Modern Greek, received AHEPA District 10 Modern Greek Fund support to study in College Year in Athens (Spring/Summer 2025). During his studies, he worked alongside the Greek NGO [Archipelagos](#) in Lipsi.

Students in Professor Johannes Foufopoulos's lab at the School for Environment and Sustainability received support from the Constantine A. Tsangadas Trust for research in Naxos, Greece: **Erin Baldwin**, **Quitong Fan**, **Jeffrey Ferrer**, **Wanqi Li**, and **Henry Wallace** (summer 2024); and **Colin Richter** and **Ivy McDonald** (summer 2025). Richter's and McDonald's research focuses on understanding herpetofaunal communities in the Aegean Islands and the impact of human activity on reptile distribution and population genetics.

Ana Santory Rodriguez, PhD student in Classical Studies with keen interests in performances of ancient tragedy in Latin America, received Constantine A.

Tsangadas Trust support to participate in the British and American Drama Academic (BADA) Greek Theater Summer Program.

Ava Thomas, a rising junior majoring in International Studies with a minor in Modern Greek and a minor in Education for Empowerment, received FMGS support for study at the Ikarian Centre (summer 2024).

Irene Thomas, a rising junior majoring in Biology and studying Modern Greek language, received FMGS support for study at the Ikarian Centre (summer 2024).



Irmgard Pallas, winner of the Modern Greek I Intermediate Translation Award, 2024.



Anastasia Papageorgiou, Christiana Kapetaneas, and Johana Hila, winners of the Contexts for Classics Translation Award, 2024.

STUDENT STUDY AND RESEARCH ABROAD

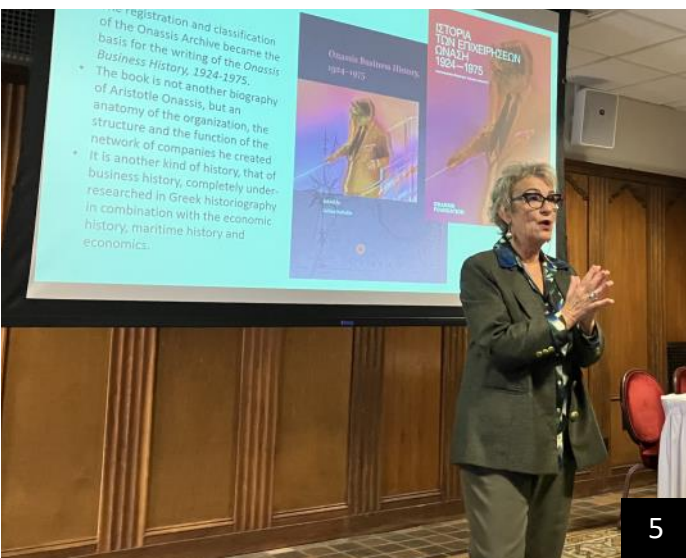


Page 10 (left to right): 1) **Ava Thomas**, **Eleni Medero**, and **Irena Thomas** cook a meal (one of their Greek language program's activities) at the Ikarian Centre (Summer 2024). 2) **Paul Przeslawski** on the Acropolis in Athens (June 2025). 3) **Collin Richter** gathers microclimate data in 2x2 meter plots across the island of Naxos. 4) **Collin Richter** and **Ivy McDonald** observe variability across the landscape. Their goal is to use these conditions to predict reptile habitat (June 2025).

Page 11 (left to right): 1) **Dr. Nicoletta Demetriou**, FMGS Visiting scholar in 2023–2024, with **Nikitas Tampakis** perform “A Musical Journey to Cyprus: Traditional Songs of Love, Sorrow, and Hope,” observing the 50th year of a divided Cyprus (April 2024). 2) **Dr. Demetriou** tours the Kelsey Museum with Modern Greek students. 3) **Archimandrite Porphyrios**, Greek Orthodox monk from the Monastery of St. Catherine at Sinai, Egypt and specialist in Byzantine manuscripts, discusses UM's Greek manuscripts with Special Collections Curator **Pablo Alvarez**, Professor **Paroma Chatarjee**, and PhD student **Ryan Abramowitz**, both in History of Art. **Artemis Leontis** and **Will Stroebel** served as translators. 4) **Konstantinos Tsitelikis**, FMGS Visiting Scholar in 2024–2025 and Professor, University of Macedonia, speaks on “The Greek-Turkish Population Exchange of 1923 as an Ambiguous Paradigm between Peace and Violence” to a full house at the Michigan League (October 2024). 5) **Gelina Harlaftis**, Director, Institute for Mediterranean Studies and Professor, University of Crete, speaks on her new book, “Onassis Business History 1924–1975: The Creation of an Archive and a Book” (November 2024). 6) **The Kombos Collective** with musicians **Michael Malis** (piano), **Constantine Novotny** (baritone), and **Ellie Falaris Ganelin** (flute) at Kerrytown Concert House following their performance, “Out of Time, Out of Place,” featuring Malis's song cycle “Another Shore, Another Country” set to C.P. Cavafy's poetry. The concert is part of the C. P. Cavafy Professorship 25th anniversary celebration (January 2025). Not pictured are these speakers from 2024–2025: **Penelope Papailias**, University of Thessaly (October 2025); **Marissia Fragkou**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (December 2025), **Yona Stamatis**, University of Illinois, Springfield (January 2025), and **Maria Boletsi** (University of Amsterdam) with **Will Stroebel** (UM) (May 2025).



2024-2025 EVENTS IN REVIEW



MODERN GREEK PROGRAM NEWS

Upcoming events in 2025-2026



Friday, September 5 @ 6:30 pm:
Literature's Refuge: Rewriting the Mediterranean Borderscape, presentation of Will Stroebe's new book by Kristin Dickinson, Professor of German and Comparative Literature, and Artemis Leontis in conversation with Professor Stroebe. Literati Bookstore, 124 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor.



Wednesday, October 8 @ 4:00-5:30 pm:
"Historical Trajectories of Hellenism in Asia Minor": lecture by Paschalis Kitromilides, Professor Emeritus, University of Athens, member of Athens Academy. Classical Studies Library, Angell Hall, 2175.



Tuesday, October 21 @ 6:00-8:00 pm:
"An Afternoon with A.E. Stallings, Oxford Professor of Poetry": a public presentation by Prof. Stallings. Pendleton Room, Michigan Union.

Wednesday, October 22 @ 5:30-7:00 pm:
"A Conversation with A.E. Stallings, Oxford Professor of Poetry": about her work as a poet and translator deeply engaged with Greek and Roman literature. Classical Studies Library, Angell Hall, Room 2175.



Winter semester TBA. **"Ottoman Greeks of Southeast Michigan"**: a lecture and community discussion by Yiorgos Topalidis, Visiting Lecturer in Sociology, Flagler College, and head of the **"Ottoman Greeks of the U.S. Digital History Project."**

Tuesday, May 12 @ 12:00 pm: **"Constantine Cavafy: A New Biography: Gregory Jusdanis and Peter Jeffreys in conversation with Artemis Leontis"**: webinar.

"Ellinomatheia" Greek Certificate of Attainment

The U-M Modern Greek Program operates as an examination center for the Ellinomatheia Certificate of Attainment in Modern Greek. The testing is set annually each May by the Centre for the Greek Language of the Hellenic Ministry of Education. UM has offered the exam almost annually since May 2011. Testing took place in 2025 on May 20–21 with 17 students.



UM library staff photo of Janet Crayne © 2013 regents of UM. by Austin Thomason held in Bentley Historical library. CC-BY-NC 4.0 license.

In Memoriam

We remember our colleague **Janet Crayne**, Modern Greek librarian from 1999 to 2017, who died on November 21, 2024. Janet began her work in UM Library in 1993 as the South Slavic bibliographer, cataloger, and supervisor of Slavic technical services. She added Modern Greek to her liaison areas in 1999 and became Head of the Slavic and East European Division in 2003. She was a top American specialist on the Balkans and worked tirelessly to foster collaboration across institutions and nations. She built the Greek collection from the ground up, establishing an annual purchasing plan for new books and acquisition missing titles through extensive purchases and gifts. She also helped the library to acquire books from poet Eleni Vakalo and other significant collections of books, LPs, and papers—including the Greek Anti-Junta Collection of Jim Pyrros, papers of Eva Catafygiotou Topping, and the sketchbooks of artist Sam Karras (with assistance from Dr. Denny Stavros). She was a brilliant, generous, caring, enthusiastic, and dedicated colleague, and we dearly miss her joyful presence. You can read Janet's obituary [here](#).

UM Press Initiates Greek/Modern Intersections Book Series

UM Press inaugurated the new "Greek/Modern Intersections" series with *Specters of Cavafy* by [Maria Boletsis](#) (July 2024). Maria Boletsis is Marilena Laskaridis Endowed Professor of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Amsterdam and Associate Professor in Film and Comparative Literature at Leiden University. The book is the winner of the European Society of Modern Greek Studies prize for the best published monograph in 2024. Artemis Leontis edits the Greek/Modern Intersections series in collaboration with Dr. Ellen Bauerle at UM Press.

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



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