INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

SUMMER 2009

Dr. Kathryn A. Kozaitis, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at GSU conducted ethnographic research in Thessaloniki, Greece. She worked with self-identified “katheftou Ellines” (“pure Greeks”), and new, post 1990s immigrants from the Balkans, including Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Pakistan, Ukraine, Poland, and Russia. These economic immigrants have settled in neighborhoods in the city, and in surrounding coastal towns - home to Asia Minor refugees who settled in the peripheries of Thessaloniki following the exchange of Christian and Muslim populations between Greece and Turkey in 1923. She examined constructions, negotiations, and accommodations by Greek hosts of foreigners, and practices of contradictory perceptions of immigrants as an asset in the economic development of Greece, but a threat to its imagined and desired cultural homogeneity. Dr. Kozaitis presented preliminary research on this topic at the meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Philadelphia - November 2009. The Center for Hellenic Studies provided travel support for Dr. Kozaitis’ research trip to Greece.

Dr. Patrick K. Freer, Associate Professor of Choral Music Education, presented a philosophical research session for the Greek Society for Music Education (Athens) on Saturday, October 31, 2009. Appearing in the same session were three presenters who each used Dr. Freer’s work as the basis for their research projects reported at the conference. As a result of Freer’s session, he was invited to visit the Music High School of Thessaloniki on Wednesday, November 4, 2009. While there, he taught the school’s choral and music theory classes, met for extended conversations with the music faculty, and received permission from the school’s administration to pursue a research project with selected students. The project will be subject to GSU IRB approval, with data collection anticipated in spring 2010. Dr. Freer also presented a lecture to graduate music education students, faculty, and area schoolteachers at Aristotle University (Thessaloniki) on Wednesday, November 4, 2009. The lecture was a survey of recent research concerning young adolescents and music learning. As a result of that lecture, two students expressed interest in doctoral studies at GSU, one as part of the reciprocal GSU-Aristotle agreement. Dr. Freer will work with another graduate student in early 2010 to co-author two research articles for Greek journals. Dr. Freer also set in motion the possibility for research collaborations between the music education faculty at Georgia State University and Dr. Eleni Lapadaki, Associate Professor of Music Education at Aristotle University. The Center for Hellenic Studies provided travel support for Dr. Freer’s research trip to Greece.

MAY 2010

Dr. Lee Orr, Professor of Music History in the GSU School of Music was invited by Aristotle University to give a lecture on the American avant-garde at the School of Music Studies in May 2010.
The Center worked actively with student Caroline Burke, a rising senior English major for a trip to Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece to study for the fall semester. Caroline is the Center’s first student to study at Aristotle as part of the Student and Faculty Exchange Agreement worked out between GSU and Aristotle. Furthermore, as a direct result of Dr. Patrick Freer’s work in Greece in the fall of 2009, the original agreement between GSU and Aristotle has been amended to include the exchange of graduate students. The Center anticipates one graduate student from Aristotle to study at GSU in the Spring 2011 semester.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 4, 2005

The Center sponsored a concert in conjunction with the School of Music entitled Odyssea I featuring music by Professor Dinos Constantinides (Boyd Professor of Composition at Louisiana State University). Professor Constantinides was invited to the Georgia State University campus where he gave a master class within the School of Music outlining his creative activities and the influences of Greek culture on his artistic output. The concert was held at 7:30 PM in the Kopleff Recital Hall on the GSU campus as part of the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble Concert Series within the School of Music.

In addition to celebrating Greek artistry, the concert was a celebration in honor of the newly established Chair of Modern Greek Studies within the College of Arts & Sciences. Both Professor Constantinides and Dr. George Kleris, President of the American Foundation for Hellenic Studies spoke at the event.

FEBRUARY 20, 2006

The October 4 concert, featuring music by Professor Constantinides was professionally recorded by ACA Digital Records and broadcast on WABE-FM 90.1 (Atlanta NPR affiliate) and streamed live to a world-wide audience on the Internet at 9:00 PM ET.

OCTOBER 3, 2006

The Center sponsored a concert entitled Odyssea II. This concert took place in the Rialto Center for the Arts and featured contemporary music written exclusively by Greek composers. The repertoire for the concert was determined by an international call for scores. This was an unprecedented effort in recognizing Greek artistry in the field of music composition. As a result of this score call, the Center received recognition from around the United States and the International Community.

FEBRUARY 20-23, 2008

The Center co-sponsored the National Conference of the Society of Composers, Inc. on the GSU campus. The Center specifically made possible a residency of the acclaimed composer, George Tsontakis, recent recipient of the Charles Ives Living Award by the American Academy of Arts and Letters as well as the winner of the 2005 University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award for his
Violin Concerto No. 2. Mr. Tsontakis was in residence throughout the conference and, in addition to having his works featured throughout the four days, conducted a master class and served as special keynote speaker at the Grand Banquet.

MARCH 11, 2008

The Center sponsored the premiere of a new work by Nickitas Demos entitled, *Elegy for Myris*. Based upon poetry by Constantine P. Cavafy, the work was translated from the original Greek into English especially for this composition and performance by Professor Gregory Jusdanis, Director of Modern Greek Studies at the *Ohio State University*.

The performance took place at the nationally recognized *Spivey Hall* and was recorded for future broadcast on NPR affiliate, WABE-FM 90.1. Dr. Jusdanis was also featured in a pre-concert lecture about the poem and Cavafy. The concert received a positive review by the Atlanta Journal Constitution that was posted on March 21, 2008.

OCTOBER 7, 2008

The Center sponsored a concert entitled *Odysseia III*. This concert featured a contemporary program of music written by Greek composers or inspired by Greek themes. The concert was held at 7:30 PM in the *Kopleff Recital Hall* on the GSU campus as part of the *neoPhonia New Music Ensemble Concert Series* within the School of Music.

OCTOBER 14, 2008

Nickitas Demos, Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies, received the premiere of his new work, *First Rain*, at the 43rd *Dimitria Festival* in Thessaloniki, Greece. Over 400 people gathered at the Megaro Musiki for the performance given by the *Aris Quartet* (made up of GSU Faculty members Christos Galileas, violin, Tania Maxwell Clements, viola, Martha Gerschefski, cello and Brandt Fredriksen, piano) as well as baritone W. Dwight Coleman, Director of the GSU School of Music. The composition is a setting of the poem of the same name by the renowned modern Greek poet *Angelos Sikelianos*. The text was set to music in English through a translation made especially for this performance by the preeminent Modern Greek Scholar, Gregogy Jusdanis, Director of the Modern Greek Studies Program at the Ohio State University.

Dr. Demos, in a pre-concert talk, outlined the significance of the poetry and how it was symbolic of the work being done by the Center for Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

The Center co-sponsored a photographic exhibition of the opera singer, *Maria Callas* in the Rialto Center for the Arts (September 3 – 28, 2009). On the opening night of the exhibition, the Center presented an opening reception and musical concert on September 3, 2009 for the opening of the exhibition in conjunction with the *Consulate of Greece* and the Georgia State University School of Music.

MARCH 15 – 19, 2010

The Center co-sponsored an international symposium, the *Odysseia Symposium*, on the campus of Georgia State University. This symposium was co-sponsored with the School of Music and the Center
for Collaborative International Arts (CENCIA). Cultural events associated with the symposium included three musical performances. The first concert, given by the professional new music ensemble Bent Frequency, presented the music of experimental Greek composer, Georges Aperghis on March 15, 2010. The second concert featured works by Greek composers Christos Samaras (Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece), Theodore Antoniou (Athens, Greece and Professor Emeritus, Boston University) and Nickitas Demos by the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble on March 16, 2010. This concert featured guest artists, Nevart-Veron Galileas, flute (The New Conservatory, Thessaloniki, Greece) and Theofilos Sotiriadis, alto saxophone (Thessaloniki, Greece). The third concert, given by the GSU Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Michael Palmer, Associate Professor, Charles Thomas Wurm Distinguished Professor of Orchestral Studies. The concert featured “Lamento” by Christos Samaras for solo violin and orchestra and the premiere of the “Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra” by Nickitas Demos with soloists Christos Galileas (Coordinator of Strings at the GSU School of Music), violin and Brandt Fredriksen (Associate Professor of Piano and Chamber Music at the GSU School of Music), piano on March 19, 2010. This concert also featured artwork created by Ralph Gilbert, Associate Dean for the Fine Arts within the College of Arts and Sciences at GSU. The artwork, impressions of Dean Gilbert’s trip to Thessaloniki during the summer of 2009, was superimposed over the orchestra during the premiere of the “Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra” by Nickitas Demos. Also part of the symposium, master classes for School of Music students were given by Nevart-Veron Galileas, Theofilos Sotiriadis, Theodore Antoniou and Christos Samaras (March 16 – 19, 2010).

MARCH 22 – 23, 2010

As part of the celebration of Greek Independence Day (March 25), the Center sponsored a tour of the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble and presented the same program given at the Odysseia Symposium by the ensemble on March 16. The group visited and performed at the Schare Recital Hall, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ on March 22, 2010. While at Rutgers, a master class was given by Ken Long (Coordinator of Woodwind Studies at the GSU School of Music). The ensemble also performed at the Georgian Room, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA on March 23, 2010. While at Kutztown University, master classes for Kutztown University music and art students were given by Nevart-Veron Galileas, Theofilos Sotiriadis, Christos Galileas, Brandt Fredriksen, Dwight Coleman (Director of the GSU School of Music), Ken Long, Nickitas Demos and Ralph Gilbert.

ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES

MARCH 26, 2006

The Center sponsored a lecture by Professor Vassilis Lambropoulos, C. P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Michigan at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral on the occasion of Greek Independence Day. Dr. George Kleris, President of the American Foundation for Hellenic Studies was also invited to speak at this event.

MARCH 27, 2006

The Center co-sponsored a lecture given by Professor Lambropoulos on the Plummer Lecture Series within the College of Arts and Sciences in Speakers Auditorium located within the Student Center on the campus of Georgia State University.
APRIL 13, 2007

The Center sponsored a lecture by Professor Gregory Jusdanis, Director of Modern Greek Studies at the Ohio State University. Dr. Jusdanis is the author of The Necessary Nation (Princeton, 2001); Belated Modernity and Aesthetic Culture: Inventing National Literature (Minneapolis, 1991); and The Poetics of Cavafy: Textuality, Eroticism, History (Princeton, 1987). The lecture took place in the Aderhold Learning Center on the campus of Georgia State University. Dr. Jusdanis spoke on the topic: Cavafy: From the Outside Looking In. His lecture was an exploration of Cavafy’s poetry with an emphasis on his depiction of Hellenism.

APRIL 2, 2009

The Center sponsored a lecture given by Dr. Rossitza Schroeder entitled “Hagia Sophia: The Great Church in the Middle Ages.” The lecture took place in the Aderhold Learning Center on the campus of Georgia State University.

MARCH 15, 2010

As part of the Odysseia Symposium and its ongoing Academic Lecture Series, the Center presented a talk by noted scholar, Dr. Gregory Jusdanis (Director of the Modern Greek Studies Program at Ohio State University) on the poetry of Giorgos Seferis on March 15, 2010 in the Aderhold Learning Center. Dr. Jusdanis also spoke briefly at the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble concert on March 16 concerning the poem, “Helen,” by Seferis.