

## **YOUR IMPACT**

To our dedicated friends at the Hellenic Heritage Foundation:

Thank you for your tremendous support of York University and our joint commitment to the preservation and promotion of Hellenic culture and heritage. Almost 20 years ago, your foresight created the Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History – the catalyst for the launch of our unique Hellenic Studies program. Since then, your ongoing support and guidance has enabled excellence in academic programming, leadership, teaching, community engagement and student scholarship, and has fostered a leading-edge academic community focused on Greek language, heritage, culture and history.

As a direct result of your one-of-a-kind philanthropy to and advocacy of Hellenic studies at York, we have blossomed into an international hub for Modern Greek education. Not only are we driving significant contributions in the Hellenic studies in Canada and around the world, but through your ten named scholarships, we are cultivating the leading scholars of tomorrow who will be responsible for continuing and enhancing these contributions.

We are incredibly grateful to have partners like you in our corner as we continue transforming York into a globally connected university with far-reaching influence. Thanks to you, our impact to date has been vast, and now we are challenging ourselves, our alumni and our friends to ignite future possibilities and empower our students to change the world.

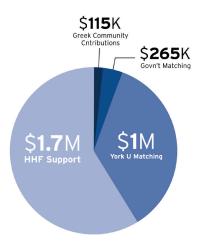
In this report, you will find details of the impact that your giving has made at York University so far, and I am eager to discover the exciting possibilities that await as our relationship grows and evolves in the coming years.

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**Jeff O'Hagan** Vice-President, Advancement

\$3.1M

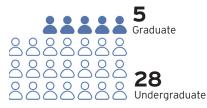
in financial impact enabled by the HHF for Hellenic studies at York University



HHF impact breakdown (by funding source)

\$194K

in student financial aid generated by ten HHF scholarships and helping to support 33 students to date:



\$**52**K

expected total annual support for HHF student scholarship recipients in perpetuity

# YOUR IMPACT AT YORK

## TIMELINE | 2000-2017

Over the past 17 years, the partnership between the HHF and York University has resulted in significant achievements. Together, we have developed a robust and active Hellenic Studies program that promotes excellence in research, teaching and scholarship. We are just getting started, and we are excited to continue on this journey of growth and success.



Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History is established at York University Greek History

2000



HHF establishes first Hellenic Heritage Foundation Graduate Fellowship in Modern

2006

HHF community establishes five undergraduate scholarships for students studying Greek history, language and literature at York

HHF establishes second Hellenic Heritage Foundation Graduate Fellowship in Modern Greek History

2010



HHF helps York secure \$1M donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) for exchanges for students from Greece; announcement made at the HHF's June gala

HHF board member Steve Mirkopoulos accompanies York delegation on trip to Greece (Athens & Thessaloniki) to cultivate new and existing academic partnerships, and participate in the Canada-Greece University Partnership Forum

2013



Professor Gekas teaches an intensive summer abroad course, Greece: a Modern History, from 1800 to the present, in Greece

2015



Professor Gekas hosts a student research **conference** to highlight undergraduate and graduate research on Greece

"The History of Language and Immigration of Greeks in Canada" launches as a collaboration involving York, Simon Fraser University, McGill University and the University of Patras in Greece (with Gekas as key contributor). As the first pan-Canada study of its kind, it will include interviews (conducted in Greek) with first-generation Greek immigrants who settled in different places across Canada between 1955 and 1975. The project will create the first virtual museum of Greek immigration to Canada.

Professor Gekas awarded a fellowship by the Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program to travel to Greece to conduct academic projects with peers at the University of Crete. As a result, York and the University of Crete establish a formal memorandum of understanding.

2017



Professor Thomas Gallant serves as inaugural HHF Chair in Modern Greek History



2002

The Hellenic Studies program at York University in partnership with the HHF



2009

Professor Sakis Gekas named second HHF Chair in Modern Greek History



2012

HHF establishes two more undergraduate named scholarships in honour of lifetime achievement award-winners, Dr. Dimitrios Oreopoulos and Justice **Andromache Karakatsanis** 

HHF establishes Hellenic Heritage Foundation International Graduate Fellowship in Modern Greek History

**Greek Canadian History Project** founded by HHF Chair, Sakis Gekas, and HHF Fellowship recipient and PhD candidate, Chris Grafos



2014

Greek Canadian History Project presents a major exhibit at Toronto City Hall celebrating 150 years of Greeks in Toronto: "Memory and Migration: A History of Greek Immigrants in Toronto, 1864-2014"



2016

Professor Gekas publishes Xenocracy: State, Class, and Colonialism in the Ionian Islands, **1815-1864** about the territorial reconfigurations in the Ionian area following the wars in the nineteenth century



## WHERE WE STARTED

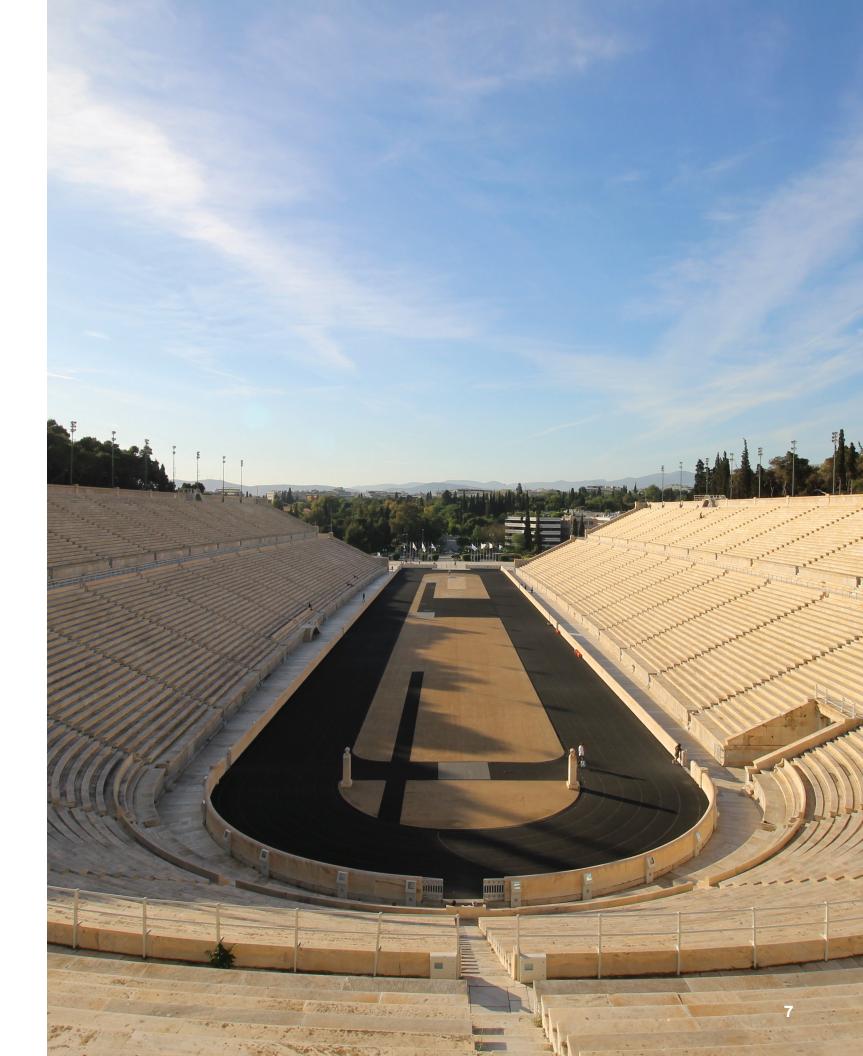
### A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF HELLENIC STUDIES

Since 1996, the **Hellenic Heritage Foundation (HHF)** has dedicated itself to the preservation, promotion, advancement and integration of Hellenic education, culture and heritage in all facets of Canadian society. Of particular importance is their mission to equip the Greek community's youth with the tools and resources necessary to understand their history and culture and to share this experience with the broader community. One of the channels through which they enact this mission is higher education.

The HHF has long pioneered the idea that the past, present and future of Hellenic knowledge and culture centres on a robust academic program that offers students a vibrant, in-depth cultural learning experience, that conducts high-impact research and scholarship, and that engages the community through knowledge mobilization. As a world-class academic and research institution committed to preparing globally engaged citizens, mobilizing new ways of thinking and building stronger communities, with values based in diversity and cross-cultural experiences, **York University** was ready and willing to pledge its support to this groundbreaking vision.

And from this mutual understanding was born a partnership unlike any other before it. In 2000, York University and the HHF began a journey together to establish a program that would ensure the preservation of Hellenic culture by educating future scholars who could study the vast wealth of learnings available through Hellenic studies and who could share these learnings with the world.

This journey first began with the creation of the **Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History** and the official establishment of the **Hellenic Studies program** at York University. For the past 15 years, the program has continued to promote our shared vision, thanks in particular to the HHF and the support of the local Greek community, which has since expanded to include a plethora of student supports designed to recruit future Hellenic scholars to the program and to ensure their progression through undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral levels.



# PRESERVING & PROMOTING HELLENIC CULTURE THROUGH TEACHING & RESEARCH

# THE HELLENIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION CHAIR IN MODERN GREEK HISTORY

The **Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History** drives Hellenic Studies programming, research and scholarship at York University through the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. As the first step towards the fulfillment of HHF's vision for a Hellenic Studies program, the Chair's primary goals were to lay the groundwork by educating a new generation of Greek scholars, increasing research capacities and coordinating a host of public outreach activities. And since its establishment in 2000, the Chair position has been critical in amplifying the profile of Hellenic Studies at York University.

The current HHF Chair, **Sakis Gekas** (see inset), has held the position since 2009. "The Hellenic Heritage Foundation demonstrated great vision in the creation of the Chair at York," says Gekas. "In many ways, it fits perfectly within the historical

Greek context of educating the next generation. When Greeks from the islands began settling in Venice in the 1500s, the first things they built were churches and schools. They raised funds to establish scholarships for people from their islands to study in Venice. The HHF carries on with that tradition of Greeks coming together to support a collective goal."

The Chair's multifaceted duties include coordinating the Hellenic Studies program, teaching courses, providing mentorship and supervision to undergraduate and graduate students, furthering partnerships with external institutions, pursuing leading-edge research in the field of Modern Greek studies, and initiating events to engage the wider community.

For many, including Jonathan Edmondson, former Chair of York's Department of History, the HHF have created an embodiment of their mission to preserve and promote Hellenic culture through the Chair position: "Without the HHF Chair in Modern Greek History, it would have been impossible to launch the Hellenic Studies program at York. The presence of the HHF Chair in the Department of History has significantly enhanced our research and teaching mission. Under the leadership of Professor Sakis Gekas, it has facilitated an ongoing series of colloquium and visiting speakers, and has even allowed for gathering and preservation of archival materials documenting the experience of Greek immigrants to Canada. The Chair role has allowed Professor Gekas to develop rich cultural experiences for students such as study abroad courses, which has broadened horizons for a diverse range of students enrolled in Hellenic Studies or across a number of other disciplines at York University."

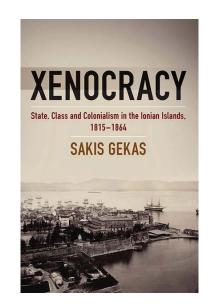


SAKIS GEKAS, PhD Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History

A renowned expert on Modern Greece, Professor Sakis Gekas studied history in Greece and England and worked at universities in the UK and Italy before arriving at York University. Gekas' research focuses on the history of the Greek state, British colonialism in the Mediterranean and pre-1945 Greek immigration to Canada. He teaches courses on Greek history ranging from 1800 to the present, and focuses on topics such as Greek migration and diaspora, and the impact of colonialism on Hellenic populations of the past.

In his role as HHF Chair, and his standing as one of the foremost experts in Modern Greek history, Professor Gekas has published a wealth of seminal works in the form of books, journal articles and conference papers in both Greek and English. This innovative work not only reflects Professor Gekas' profound impact on Hellenic scholarship at York and across the global academic community, but it also raises the profile of the University's thought leadership, shining a spotlight on the world-class scholars currently making their impact on our campuses. Among Gekas' most noteworthy publications is his most recent – published in January 2017, *Xenocracy:*State, Class, and Colonialism in the Ionian Islands, 1815-1864 focuses on the history of British colonial rule in the Ionian Islands and Greece.

In keeping with the Chair's mission of educating audiences both in and outside of York University's classrooms, Professor Gekas also helps to raise the profile of Hellenic Studies through a comprehensive calendar of events, lectures and other community engagement



initiatives. Gekas has been a featured speaker at a number of engagements during his tenure, including a recent community conversation in March 2017 called "The Greek Immigrant Experience: Then and Now". Exploring the changing nature of the Greek identity in Canada, Gekas shared with participants the challenges and achievements that have faced Greek-Canadians since the early twentieth century.

Internationalization has also remained at the forefront of Professor Gekas' outreach, and an important avenue through which York University is able to continue in its aim of building connectivity at all levels. With partnerships already solidified between York and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Athens, Gekas travelled to Greece with a delegation in May 2017 to discuss the establishment of a formal agreement between York University and the University of Crete. This agreement would create more opportunities for research collaborations and allow up to four students from Crete to study at York in Toronto.

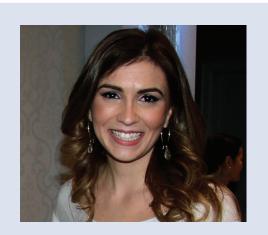


Of utmost importance to the mandate of both the HHF Chair and York's Hellenic Studies program is research activity. Cutting-edge, boundary-pushing research and knowledge mobilization greatly improves the institution's ability to attract and retain the best and brightest, making it a critical element in our aim to cultivate greater interest in Hellenic studies.

Professor Gekas' research efforts lead the way for Hellenic Studies at York, with areas of interest including the history of the first Greek-Canadians (who arrived in the lead up to the Second World War) and the history of the 19th-century Greek state. Gekas' research excellence was recognized in March 2017 with a prestigious fellowship awarded by the Greek Diaspora Fellowing Program. The fellowship offered Gekas the opportunity to engage in intensive academic projects alongside peers at the University of Crete, boosting the visibility of Hellenic Studies at York and fostering international partnerships that will help prepare our students to become globally engaged citizens and scholars.



HHF Chair Sakis Gekas



#### **ELAINA LAMPROPOULOS**

BA, BEd '13, MA '14

- 2012 Dagonas Family Scholarship Recipient
- 2014 HHF Fellowship in Modern Greek History Recipient

"My master's degree, supervised by Professor Gekas, challenged me in a way I never thought possible. It allowed me to pursue exciting research and interact with people who actually lived history. None of this would have been possible without HHF funding, which brought my research to life and allowed me to focus solely on my education without the need to find a part-time job. The opportunities that HHF has enabled strengthened my academic research and I am now considering my PhD."

In addition to his own endeavours, Professor Gekas also focuses heavily on creating opportunities for students to get involved in exciting research projects taking place within the program and to showcase their work across the University. A prime example of this commitment is a **student research conference**, "Research on Greece", which is hosted by the HHF Chair and invites students to present their recent and ongoing findings. This year's conference in March featured topics ranging from Greece's far-right Golden Dawn party to the experiences of Greek political refugees in the Soviet Union.

By offering students these important and highly valuable experiential opportunities, Gekas is also enabling a pipeline for undergraduate students to capitalize on their burgeoning interests in Greek culture and history and further pursue their Hellenic education by making the jump to graduate research. In fact, three students who made this very transition – including HHF scholarship recipient Elaina Lampropoulos (see inset) – are currently working with Gekas on a compelling research collaboration between York, Simon Fraser University, McGill University and the University of Patras in Greece: "The History of Language and Immigration of Greeks in Canada".

The first pan-Canadian study of its kind, this project uses interviews with first-generation Greek immigrants across the country to determine how memories and immigrant narratives have be shaped by time, and how various Greek dialects and accents are represented. Once complete, the project will lead to the first virtual museum of Greek immigration to Canada, set for launch in 2019.

#### PRESERVING THE PAST

The Greek Canadian History Project (GCHP)

The brainchild of Professor Gekas and former HHF Fellow Chris Grafos (PhD '16), the **Greek Canadian History Project (GCHP)** is an important element of the Chair's community outreach activities. The GCHP is designed as an information repository that identifies, acquires, digitizes, preserves and provides access to primary source materials reflecting the experiences of Canada's Greek immigrants and their descendants. The materials, collected from private individuals and organizations in the Greek-Canadian community, are housed in the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections of York University Libraries. On top of their archival initiatives, GCHP also presents lectures on its findings to the larger community to build awareness of Greek-Canadians' cultural mark on Canada.



"Through the GCHP, I have seen a profound difference in the way people speak about Greek-Canadians," shares Grafos. "Our photos and narratives have played a significant role in the way people understand and consume Greek Canada, and immigrant Canada in general. People are taking the message seriously. We hope that the GCHP will become fundamental in illuminating the history and events that have shaped the experiences of Greek immigrants in Canada and their descendants."

Above all, the GCHP elevates the importance of preserving the memories and experiences of ordinary yet extraordinary Greek-Canadians. Its goal is to promote the value of personal collections – items such as papers, diaries, photographs, books, pamphlets, audio and video materials that contribute to broad understandings of the social, cultural and economic practices of Greeks in Canada. The largest donation to date is from George Papadatos, a Greek national who sought refuge in Canada and was active in Toronto's anti-dictatorship movement. His collection includes thousands of materials, including tapes, recordings, posters, speeches, newspaper clippings, photos and more.

Gekas and Grafos were selected and awarded funding to participate in the 2018 Myseum Intersections festival for the project, "Gateway to Greektown: A Guided Historical Walking Tour of the Danforth."





# CREATING AN ACADEMIC HUB FOR HELLENIC HISTORY & CULTURE

### THE HELLENIC STUDIES PROGRAM AT YORK

The first of its kind in Ontario, the **Hellenic Studies program** is housed within York University's Department of Humanities in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. It offers students the opportunity to explore Greece's ancient and modern periods through an interdisciplinary program encompassing Greek history, language, literature and culture. The program not only helps Greek-Canadian students to discover their identity through academic study of their heritage, but also draws in students from all backgrounds to discover Greece's historical and cultural richness.

Undergraduate students in the program have the option of pursuing their BA Honours, BA or BA Minor in Hellenic Studies. The program is ideally suited for students who wish to pursue a teaching or research career in Hellenic/Modern Greek Studies, History or Literature or even those who wish to undertake a career in journalism, law, business, by combining a major in Hellenic Studies with another degree. Students in Hellenic Studies can also chose a range of courses from other programs, such as Humanities and European Studies, excel in another European language or combine their degree with a different program.





#### **GREECE AS THE CLASSROOM**

Expanding students' horizons through summer-abroad programming

Under Professor Gekas' leadership, the Hellenic Studies program not only provides rich learning experiences through courses at York University, but also offers experiential opportunities that go beyond the confines of our campuses and allow students to discover Greek history and culture through direct exposure to the people, places and ideas they study. One such opportunity is summer-abroad courses, which enhance students' personal and educational development by building global competencies, fostering independence, increasing cultural awareness and helping students gain international academic experience.

During summer 2015 and 2016, students from York's Hellenic Studies program were invited to participate in an **intensive study-abroad course** developed by Professor Gekas himself: "Greece: A Modern History, from 1800 to the Present". Following two weeks of classroom instruction at York, students travelled to Athens where they spent one month immersed in Greek history and visited every museum, archive and historical site available to them. As part of the course curriculum, students also toured the country, visiting such locations as Nafplio, Mykonos, Crete, Santorini and ancient sites in both Delphi and Knossos. Finally, on top of their historical exposure, students were also privy to the country's current political and social climate, becoming first-hand witnesses to contemporary Greek history.

This opportunity has attracted students from a wide range of academic and cultural backgrounds and, with a small class size of only 18 students per year, has provided participants with an intimate learning experience unlike any other.



#### **AMANDA MATHEW** BSc '17

 2016 Dr. Dimitrios Oreopoulous Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient

"I don't have Greek heritage, but I've always had a passion for travelling. When I first discovered that York offered study abroad opportunities during the summer, the Modern Greek history course immediately caught my attention.

Hellenic Studies has truly changed my life. Learning about Greek history and culture first-hand was a priceless experience that I would not trade for anything. I gained such a profound appreciation for the country, the culture and the people, and I cannot wait until I have the opportunity to go back. The trip unleashed in me a love for history that I did not even know I had.

Thanks to the opportunities created by the HHF, including my scholarship, I am now able to build on the newfound mindset I developed during my life-changing experience in Greece. The scholarship not only helped me financially, but it has also made me realize the importance of stepping out of your comfort zone and exploring new areas of knowledge.

Thank you to the Hellenic Heritage Foundation for sparking the flame of learning in me, and in so many others."

# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HELLENIC STUDIES SCHOLARS

### HHF SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Scholarships and fellowships at all academic levels are vital in giving students the confidence, encouragement and financial support to pursue their passions – and through ten awards, the HHF is enhancing access to Hellenic studies for new generations of students and ensuring that interest in this field not only grows, but persists over time.

Of the ten awards, seven are undergraduate scholarships named in honour of notable members of the local Greek community. Two domestic graduate fellowships and one international graduate fellowship are also available to provide MA and PhD candidates with funds necessary to pursue research, attend conferences and focus intensively on their studies.

Since the awards' inception, the HHF has helped more than 30 students fulfill their academic potential. The awards are as follows:

- Dr. Dimitrios Oreopoulos Undergraduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies
- Justice Karakatsanis Undergraduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies
- The Jimmy the Greek Scholarship
- The Chris Tarnaris Memorial Scholarship
- The Dagonas Family Scholarship
- The Olympia and Spyros Thomas Scholarship
- The John Alexopoulos Memorial Scholarship
- HHF Graduate Fellowship in Modern Greek History
- HHF Graduate Fellowship (2010) in Modern Greek History
- HHF International Graduate Fellowship in Modern Greek History

# HHF INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN MODERN GREEK HISTORY

Bringing the world to York University

Awarded for the first time in the 2016-17 academic year, the HHF International Graduate Fellowship provides MA or PhD recipients studying Modern Greek History with the funds needed to live and study in Canada for the duration of their graduate degrees at York.

"Created with the generous support of York University and the HHF, the HHF International Graduate Fellowship in Modern Greek History promotes original research," shares Professor Gekas. "The Department of History and the HHF Chair benefit immensely from the meaningful contribution of the Fellowship to the training of young historians in the history of Greece. We are grateful for the support for Modern Greek historical studies at this cross roads of Mediterranean and European historiography."

The inaugural recipient, **Spyros Papageorgakis**, received his BA from the
University of Athens and MA from the
University of London. In September 2016,
he began his doctoral studies at York
under the supervision of Professor Gekas.

"I chose York University because of the funding opportunities available to me – including the HHF International Graduate Fellowship – and its strength in Modern Greek studies," said Papageorgakis. "In

particular, Professor Gekas' comparative interdisciplinary approach, and our shared research interest in state formation and institutions in 19th-century Greece, were a deciding factor in bringing me to Hellenic Studies at York. I believe that my PhD from York will create new paths for post-doctoral studies and further academic career options.

"Thanks to the HHF's generosity, I can follow my passion to study Greek history and share this with the world. As an international student, I wouldn't have been able to come to Canada and study at York without this award."



#### **DANIEL PEPE** BAA '17

• 2016 Jimmy the Greek Scholarship Recipient

"I first incorporated Hellenic Studies into my Bachelor of Applied Arts degree because I wanted to expand my skill set and meet new people from within the Greek community.

My favourite course of university career was actually "Myth and Imagination within Ancient Greece and Rome." This exceptional course really opened my eyes to the depth and beauty of the classical epics and plays. Each student in the class had a unique relationship to Greece, and we were all able to share in it together.

When I received the Jimmy the Greek Scholarship, made possible by the HHF, I was in total shock. The scholarship did a great deal to help me pay for my tuition, which was a tremendous relief for a student like myself who was not receiving enough government assistance at the time to cover this cost. To me, this award was about so much more than any financial benefit though. I am proud that I am able to apply my appreciation for Greek culture in a meaningful way, and that the HHF recognized this.

Thank you to the HHF for its longstanding faith in students, which continues to inspire, motivate and change students' lives – students like me."

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### WHERE WE ARE GOING

### THE EVOLUTION OF HELLENIC EDUCATION AT YORK

From a visionary idea to a tangible reality, the **Hellenic Studies program** is now connecting York University, our students and our research to the global community, and is ensuring more and more young minds have the chance to understand and appreciate all that Hellenic culture has to offer while sharing this with the world.

Thanks to what the HHF started, there is now a culture of understanding and appreciation around Greek history and culture unlike ever before, with research, scholarship, events and much more finding its way into the everyday activities of the University community. Many students are beginning to see Hellenic Studies as more than just a course or two of interest to supplement their studies in other fields – they are seeing it as a complete academic pursuit, one that offers them a comprehensive and diverse range of study and research into the areas of language, history, literature, art, political science, sociology, and much more.

The activity of the HHF Chair and the Hellenic Studies program has also begun to shine a brighter spotlight on the potential of the program to the community at large, including other philanthropists and organizations who share the commitment to preserve and promote Hellenic culture. By expanding the community of support around Hellenic education at York University, the tools and resources available to our students, faculty and researchers will be greatly enhanced, increasing the program's profile and encouraging burgeoning future scholars to take part.

With the Hellenic Studies program at York University in full throttle, the possibilities for what is to come are truly endless.



ANANYA MUKHERJEE-REED

Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts &

Professional Studies

"With the HHF's support, we are igniting the future of Hellenic education in Canada. As a Faculty that prides itself on programs that offer bold perspectives and a wealth of experiential opportunities, both at home and abroad, the Hellenic Studies program is prime example of our unique approach to academia."

### **BUILDING ACADEMIC PATHWAYS**

### FROM UNDERGRADUATE TO GRADUATE TO POST-GRADUATE

Thanks to the vibrant academic, research and developmental opportunities available through the Hellenic Studies program, as well as the wealth of student awards made available by the HHF, interested students now have the ability to fully realize their passions for Greek history and culture by moving seamlessly from undergraduate study to graduate research to limit-pushing post-graduate work at the highest level of academic and research excellence. One such student is Peter Milonas (BA '13), a PhD candidate studying social and political thought under the supervision of Professor Gekas himself and a former recipient of the Chris Tarnaris Memorial Scholarship.

"As a Greek-Canadian born and raised in Toronto, I was eager to objectively learn about my own culture," said Milonas. "After studying business and economics at the Technological Institute of Patras in Greece, I returned to Canada with a passion to study Modern Greek history. And from that start as an undergraduate student, I was propelled forward into my PhD research on the relationship between Greece's far-right and the mainstream media. The exceptionalism of the Hellenic Studies program and support of the HHF were significant reasons why I had the motivation to continue my studies and pursue a future in academia. I hope the Foundation continues to recognize the academic excellence of future students – it is us who are preserving Greek-Canadian history."

# UNITING GREEK STUDENTS ACROSS CAMPUS

### THE HELLENIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

With the HHF helping to bring Hellenic Studies to the forefront of York's campus culture, Greek students (and those interested in Greek history and culture) are creating their own opportunities to come together, collectively celebrate their shared heritage and showcase this appreciation with the York community.

Through the Hellenic Students' Association (HSA), these students promote Hellenism within the university setting by organizing an array of events throughout the academic year, such as a general meeting for members, academic nights, Greek nights on the Danforth, and an annual Semi-Formal. The HSA also looks for other ways to give back to the Greek community, including engaging with Greek schools, and has even begun collaborations with the Greek Canadian History Project and the York University Libraries Clara Thomas Archives & Special Projects. As a result of their activities, the HSA is working alongside the HHF and York University towards the longevity of Hellenic culture in Canada.



CHRISTINA IONNIDES BA '17

 2015 Justice Andromache Karakatsanis Scholarship Recipient

"Thank you to the HHF for creating the opportunity for Hellenic Studies and culture to grow at York. It was this nurturing learning environment that inspired me to get involved in the Hellenic community on campus and to proudly serve as president of the Hellenic Students' Association for two years. The intersection between Modern Greek history and immigration that I began studying in my undergraduate career also motivated me to pursue a master's degree, which I will be starting at York this Fall.

### **ENABLING A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT**

### OTHER SUPPORT FOR HELLENIC STUDIES AT YORK

The power of HHF's support cannot be underestimated. The Foundation's inspirational impact is highly regarded within the community, and was instrumental in facilitating a \$1-million partnership with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), establishing the **SNF Canada-Greece Fund** at York. This fund gives deserving students from Greek universities the opportunity to live and study at York through a two-pronged imitative: the SNF Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship and the SNF International Visiting Graduate Student Scholar Award.

Thanks to an initial commitment by the HHF, the fund could be activated immediately as the endowment itself matured. This generous contribution meant that Greek students had the opportunity to experience York University and Canada immediately.

"This initiative is particularly meaningful given the current crisis in Greece and its effect on young people," said Marilyn Lambert-Drache, vice-president of York International. "This is a unique opportunity for students from partner universities in Greece to study, all expenses paid, at a top Canadian university. The students are so aware of the uniqueness of the opportunity that they take full advantage of the study abroad experience. We thank the HHF for its willingness to provide immediate funds for this program, so students could take advantage of the opportunity without waiting for the endowment to mature."





## **OUR THANKS TO YOU**

Thank you once again for choosing to partner with York University in the creation of the province's first Hellenic Studies program. Through your generous philanthropy and visionary guidance, and the establishment of the HHF Chair in Modern Greek History and ten student awards, you have demonstrated a shared vision of impact for York University, for the preservation and promotion of Hellenic culture. We are honoured and privileged to work alongside you and the entire Greek-Canadian community in this aim, and we are eager to witness the kind of progressive, pioneering research and scholarship that will continue to evolve from Hellenic Studies at York.

Your support has enabled our impact - and this is only just the beginning.

#### **CONTACT US**

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