Director’s Message

Professor Gerasimus Katsan and Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou were recently appointed as Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. After two years of the COVID pandemic we are excited that the doors are open, classes are being held, and a new vision for the Center has emerged. In this first semester of the Center’s reopening there is much progress to report. With the invaluable help of Associate Provost Alicia Alvero and the support of President Frank Wu, we have been working to make the Center’s physical space, including its unusually rich collections library, organized and accessible for academic and non-academic researchers alike. We are making substantial progress in ongoing projects and we invite you to support our efforts.
Facult of CBMGS

The Center's faculty is drawn from academics within Queens College as well from other

**Director:** Dr. Gerasimus Katsan
(European Languages and Literatures)

Dr. Elena Frangakis-Syrett (History)

Dr. Warren Woodfin (Byzantine Art, History)

Dr. Nicholas Alexiou (Sociology)

Dr. Maria Athanasopoulou
(European Languages and Literatures)

Dr. Fevronia Soumakis
(European Languages and Literatures)

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**In Memorium**

Dan Georgakas
(1938-2021)

CBMGS will hold a special memorial speech for beloved scholar Dan Georgakas by Professor Nikos Alexiou. Dan Georgakas was an author, editor of the American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues, consulting editor of Cineaste film quarterly, a biweekly columnist for the National Herald, and served for many years as the Director of the Greek American Studies project at the Center.

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**The Mission of the Center of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies**

The mission of the Center of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at Queens College is to present programs reflecting Hellenic Culture to the Greek and Cypriot Students and community. Established in 1974 by the professor Harry J. Psomiades, the Center continues to offer a variety of course offering in Modern Greek Language, Literature, History and Culture. Also, the Center offers rich cultural material on Modern Greece, as well as Cyprus. The picture of Hellenism would be incomplete if we did not include the Ottoman era and the Greek Revolution and the worlds of Byzantium and classical Greece.

**Main Activities**

In order to fulfill its objectives the Center is engaged in the following activities:

- Offers an inter-disciplinary academic program that leads to a BA in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, the only of its kind in the United States.
- Organizes lectures, seminars, conferences and exhibits on the Greek American community as well as on the history, society, culture and politics of Greece and Cyprus.
- Publishes the Journal of Modern Hellenism.
- Has a book publication series.
- Has a 6,000-volume specialized library collection that covers a variety of fields on Hellenism that include the Byzantine period. The arts, language, literature, culture, history, society, economy and politics of Greece and Cyprus. Greek American themes such as literature, culture and politics. The Center’s library complements the Queen’s College library of volumes that among others cover the Greek classics.
- Offers Scholarships and Emergency Financial Assistance to students.
Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at Queens College  
Preliminary Spring Calendar of Events, 2022 All are invited,  
Free and Open to the Public

SPRING 2022 EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7:  INTERNATIONAL GREEK LANGUAGE DAY  
with Professor Gerasimus Katsan  
Monday, 12:15 PM - 1:30 pm, (via Zoom)

MARCH 7:  CULTURAL TRADITIONS IN GREECE: Karnavali & Clean  
Monday with Professor Maria Athanasopoulou. The event will  
include some Traditional Greek Lenten Foods  
Monday, 12:15 pm -1:30 pm Remsen Hall, Remsen 300

APRIL 4:  IN MEMORIUM DAN GEORGAKAS (1938-2021)  
the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek  
Studies held a special memorial speech by Professor Nikos Alexiou .  
Monday,12:15 PM - 1:30 pm (via Zoom)

MAY 11:  NOVEL COMICS : History, Thrill and Imagination in Contemporary Greek Comics.  
with Professor Kristina Gedgaudaite, visiting scholar, Princeton University  
Wednesday, 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm Remsen Hall, Remsen 300

MAY 26:  GRADUATION CEREMONY: Student scholarships and achievements will be awarded at the  
Center’s 44th Annual Graduation Ceremony on Thursday at 6:30 pm.  Remsen Hall,  
Remsen 300
Greek Spring Culture and customs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSujHbm-rG8 (Xartetoj: Mikis Theodorakis)

Clean Monday

Named after the cleansing of the soul and new beginnings – falls on March 7 this year. The day takes its name from the cleansing of the soul and the new beginning that the day symbolizes, as it is placed 40 days before the resurrection of Christ. This is also the starting point for the fasting period of the Orthodox religion. A symbolic tradition takes place on this day that finds its roots deep in ancient times and is still practiced in Greece today – kite flying!

Fasting Traditional Foods

“Martaki”

Every March 1st, local custom has it that all Greeks make and wear a twisted-woven-threads white & red bracelet. This is the 'Martaki' (little March) bracelet, typically made by children on the first day of the month using red and white woven threads twisted around each other.
The Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies is a community supported entity. We hope to earn the trust and affection of our supporters who individually and collectively, have made it possible to carry out our mission.

We humbly accept donations of any size; any and all assistance is appreciated.

Thank you for Your Ongoing Support
Queens College  
Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies  

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  

*Application will not be accepted without attached copy of unofficial transcript*  
**ONLY STUDENTS THAT WILL BE PRESENT AT GRADUATION CEREMONY ARE ELIGIBLE**  

Dear Student,

In our continuous efforts to support students attending courses by the Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies, we are pleased to announce that the Center will award as previously a certain number of scholarships for student achievement in the field of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. The scholarships will be awarded at the **Center’s 44th Annual Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, May 26th, 2022 at 6:30 pm.** To be eligible to apply, you must have taken or are taking **two** courses offered by the Center. For information, call the Center at 718-997-4520 or come and visit us at Jefferson Hall, Room 302.

**DEADLINE FOR FILING THE APPLICATION WITH ATTACHED TRANSCRIPT IS FRIDAY, MAY 6th, 2022**

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

**Name**  
Last __________________________ First __________________________

Social Security Number: __________________________ or CUNY 1st ID Number: __________________________

**Address**  
Street____________________________________ Apt.# _______ City ________ State_______ ZIP_______

Tel. (______) ______________________ Email:_________________________________________________

Semester in which you expect to graduate. __________________________

ARE YOU A GRADUATING SENIOR? ______________  ACCEPTED TO GRADUATE SCHOOL? _________

Have you received a scholarship previously by the Center? __________

Are you planning to complete a:  
A. Major ________  
B. Minor ________

What part of Greece or Cyprus are your parents from?  
Mother___________________  
Father__________________

In the following list enter all courses completed or being taken now from the Center. Grades will be verified.

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