

Newsletter Spring 2022

Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

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.



Faculty 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)

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.

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

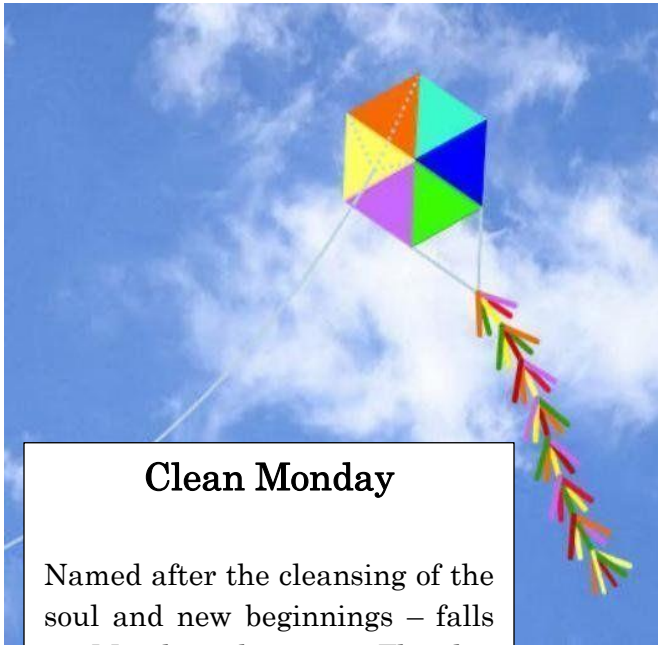
Wednesday, 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm Remsen Hall, Remsen 300

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> (Xarteto: Mikis Theothorakis)



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.



CENTER FOR BYZANTINE AND
MODERN GREEK STUDIES

ADVISORY COUNCIL

President

Christ Stratakis

Members

Christopher Philip
Giannakos Andrew
Marinakis Markos
Metaxas John
Tsivikos Savvas
Vaggelatos Kostas
Marangoudakis Charles
Mihaltses Heada
Papanicolaou Panicos
Papathanasiou Leandros
Valiotis Efstathios

IKAROS HELLENIC ORTHODOX CLUB

Ikaros Hellenic Club has been an integral part of Queens College since the 1970s. It has served as a place of community for Greek, Cypriot, and the entire Queens College Student Body.

Executive Board

Maritsa Koutsouras (President)
Stephanie Szpylka (Vice President)
Demi Kapetanakis (Secretary)
Theodore Pigis (Treasure)

Office Information

Director: Gerasimus Katsan

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Assistant Director:

Maria Athanasopoulou

Email: Maria.Athanasopoulou@qc.cuny.edu

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 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.

#	Course #	Name of Course	Semester	Grade
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Date: _____

Signature: _____