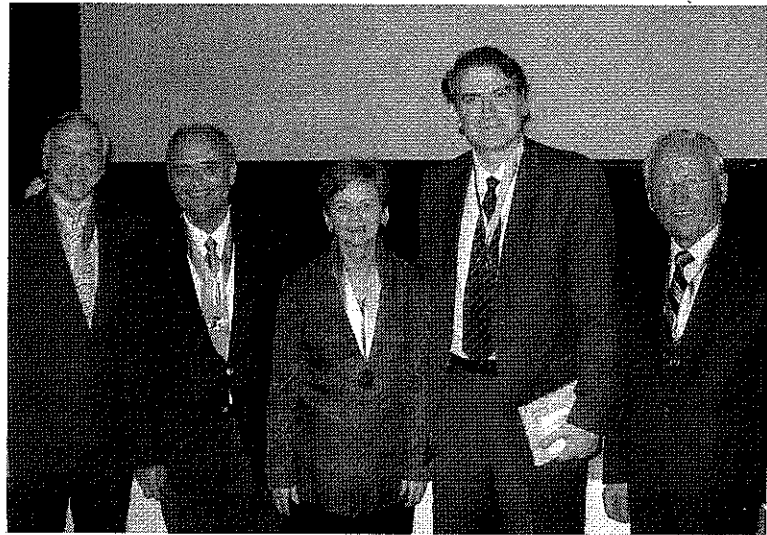


Rouvelas Endowment Boosts University of Washington Hellenic Studies Program

SEATTLE - The University of Washington Hellenic Studies Program held a Celebration Dinner and Auction in Seattle on November 13th at the St. Demetrios Church Community Center, as the program continues toward its goal of funding a full-time position. The highlight of the evening was the announcement by Washington, D.C., attorney Emanuel Rouvelas of the establishment of the Eleftherios and Mary Rouvelas Endowed Writing Prize in Hellenic Studies in memory of his parents. The endowment will fund an outstanding writing prize for students in the Hellenic Studies program. The award is in keeping with the Hellenic tradition as recorded in *The Iliad*, ancient Olympic games, and Athenian theater competitions. Prizes can extend Hellenic studies by incentivizing research and writing (or other activity) by providing winners with recognition and financial support. Emanuel and his wife Marilyn, author of the popular *Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs in America* are both Washington state natives and attended UW. The 12-year-old Hellenic Studies Program currently has over 400 students taking a variety of courses including a quarter of study abroad in Athens or Ioannina.



Among those participating in the recent event were (Photo, left to right): John T. John, president of the Hellenes of the Northwest and a co-founder of the program; Emanuel and Marilyn Rouvelas; Dr. Angelos Pangratis, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States; and Dr. Theodore Kaltsounis, UW Professor Emeritus and co-founder of the Hellenic Studies Program. Other speakers included Dr. Christine Ingebritsen, UW Professor of Scandinavian Studies and Director of the Center of West European Studies, and Dr. Resat Kasaba, Director of the UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. The program has received generous donations from the governments of Greece and Cyprus, the Onassis Foundation, the John P. Angel Foundation, the Vidalakis family, and numerous members of the Greek-American community. Last year, the "300 Spartans" campaign was launched to attract 300 people to give \$1000 each to reach the final amount needed to fund the position.

The Hellenic Studies Program at the University of Washington

First initiated by a gift of \$80,000 from the Hellenes of the Northwest in 1998, the Hellenic Studies Program began in the 2000-01 academic year. It is a scholarly curriculum concerned with Hellenic history and culture from ancient times to the present. Its inclusion as an area of emphasis within the undergraduate degree program in European Studies at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies demonstrates the breadth and scope of the Hellenic Studies specialization.

Creating the Program

Before 1998, several departments provided the opportunity to study Ancient and Byzantine Greek history and culture. However, Modern Greece had little presence in our curriculum nor were the existing courses integrated to create an interdisciplinary area of emphasis. The gift from the Hellenes of the Northwest provided the challenge to construct a program that incorporated courses from the existing curriculum but also to add new courses focused on Modern Greece. An essential new ingredient was instruction in Modern Greek language. Courses that focused on more recent history and culture of Greece were also initiated, thanks to generous funding from the Onassis Foundation and other sources. One academic quarter of study in Greece is also required.

Growth of the Program

During the first year of the program in 2000-01, 124 students enrolled in four courses: Modern Greek Language (36), Greek History 7000 BC to the Present (59), Greece, the EU and the Balkans (5), Modern Greek History (24). In 2009-10, 414 students took courses in the program: Modern Greek language (150), Pre-classical Greek history (70), Classical Greek history (90), Hellenistic Greek History (70), Modern Greek history (34), Three special topics courses on Greece (48), orientation course for study at the University of Ioannina, Greece (22), an academic quarter of study in Ioannina (24).

Future of the Program

After almost ten years in operation, the program is still considered to be in its development stage. To make it permanent, the endowment we started more than 12 years ago must reach the level that can support, from the proceeds, a full-time faculty member in Hellenic Studies. Such a faculty member will coordinate the program and teach the courses on Modern Greece. Originally, \$1.0 million endowment was enough for that purpose. At the present time, however, that amount is not enough; a minimum of \$1.5 million is