

An Update from the Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies

Summer 2014

- ◆ **The Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies is an international centre for education, research, and outreach in Greek civilization in the period following Alexander the Great. We promote interdisciplinary and partnered projects that explore the many changes that happened in the Mediterranean societies at that time, and the impact of an increasingly Hellenized world. With more than 100 research associates from around the globe, the Institute seeks to impart a better understanding of Greek and other Mediterranean cultures.**

Recent Events

- The Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto partnered with the Institute to present a lecture by Professor Olga Palagia of Athens University. This leading expert on Greek sculpture presented a wide-ranging lecture on “The Impact of Alexander on the Arts of Greece” to a full house at the ROM in March of this year. The interest of the audience members demonstrated the ongoing popularity of Alexander and the cultural legacy of Hellenistic art.
- The Institute provides support to students in Classical Studies through a travel bursary that allows them to see the Greek and other materials in person. Partnering with the Canadian Institute in Greece that is located in Athens, the Institute sponsors the 3-month internship at CIG. From January until May 2014, senior Classics student Tanner Rudnick worked at the Institute. He writes, “The museums allowed me to see in person artefacts and relics which North American students can usually find only in photographs and textbooks. I came to immensely respect both the challenges of working with the material record and the incredible information which can be gleaned from such material remains.” Tanner’s trip was made possible thanks to the NA Engineering Travel Award.



Professor Olga Palagia

- The Pan-Macedonian Association of Ontario has undertaken to contribute \$10,000 per year over the next three years to the Institute for Hellenistic Studies. Placed in the Director’s Endowment Fund, the moneys are helping the Institute to reach its goal of matching the recently obtained challenge gift of \$100,000 from NA Engineering of Stratford Ontario. The Fund will be used to promote the Institute’s goals in education, research, and community outreach.



View of the Acropolis from the ruins of the Temple of Olympian Zeus



View of Lycabettus Hill and eastern Athens from the Acropolis

Current Faculty Research

- Professor Sheila Ager has recently been contracted by Routledge Press to write a biography of Ptolemy the First. Having served as a general under Alexander the Great, Ptolemy became the founder of the Ptolemaic Kingdom and dynasty in Egypt and North Africa. We will understand much more about the successors of Alexander, and about this powerful ruler in particular, from a study of his life and career.
- Professor Craig Hardiman is an expert in the domestic architecture of the Hellenistic era. He is currently conducting research into the ways in which people of that time arranged, furnished, and decorated their homes. Studies of this sort help us to appreciate the social and aesthetic values of different people throughout the ages.



Ptolemy I Louvre
Museum

Upcoming Events

- Spring 2015: the Department of Classics will lead a class of students and teachers on a course abroad in Greece. On-site lectures, tours by leading experts, and access to the materials and museums are the highlights.
- Fall 2015: the Institute will host an issue of the electronic journal *AITIA*, in which 9 authors explain how the Hellenistic Age viewed new and old, present and past, tradition and innovation. This theme is relevant to today's changing views of tradition, establishment, and even history itself.
- Fall 2016: the Institute will host an International Conference on *Celebrity, Fame and Infamy in the Hellenistic World*. Lectures by 20 of our research associates on topics of historical and contemporary relevance. Why did these notions become so prominent in the Hellenistic age and what does that mean for us today?
- Winter 2016: We will organize a Waterloo Study Day on Hellenistic Queens. How do we explain the rise in the status, power, and influence of women with direct access to ruling positions at the time? What circumstances made it possible for certain individuals, like Cleopatra, to attain to the highest positions in society?

Our Immediate Goals and Opportunities

- Ensure the long-term viability of the student internship at the Canadian Institute in Greece (Athens).
- Succeed in obtaining dollar-for-dollar matching funds for the NAE Engineering Challenge Gift of \$100,000.
- Enhance our relationship with the Royal Ontario Museum to bring more community-oriented events to the Greater Toronto Area.
- Collaborate with the Onassis Foundation in securing a Visiting Professorship at the Institute for Fall Term 2015.

Contact Us

Director Dr. Riemer Faber,
Department of Classical Studies
University of Waterloo,
200 University Avenue West,
Waterloo, ON
N2L 3G1
Email: hellenistic@uwaterloo.ca

