



MYCENAEAN FOUNDATION



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Mycenaean Foundation, Inc. (est. 1967)

The Mycenaean Foundation is a non-profit organization that
operates exclusively for scientific, educational, cultural, and
charitable purposes



Mission of the Mycenaean Foundation, Inc.

The Mycenaean Foundation, Inc., established in 1967, is a nonprofit organization, registered under Section 501(c)(3) in the State of Missouri. The Mycenaean Foundation operates exclusively for scientific, educational, cultural, and charitable purposes. Among other contributions, the Foundation cosponsors several important archaeological excavations (Mycenae, Glas, Lamia), subsidizes scholarly publications, provides a summer base of operations for the Mycenae excavation team, offers accommodation for Greek and American scholars working in the region, makes contributions to other organizations, promotes interest in culture, arts, humanities, and science through lectures, workshops, colloquia, and seminars, and fosters Greek-American collaboration.

History of the Mycenaean Foundation, Inc.

The Mycenaean Foundation was registered in the State of Missouri in 1967 at the initiative of the late George Mylonas, renowned archaeologist, archaeology Professor at Washington Univ., St. Louis, and excavator of Mycenae (1952-1988). In the years 1967-1972, the Foundation raised funds and mobilized resources to buy a three-acre portion of land on a hill at Mycenae and build two stunning buildings, the 'Melathron' (1969) and the 'McCarthy House' (1970). These buildings originally served as a summer base of operations for the excavation team of Mycenae, and a regional research and cultural center.



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In the following two decades, the Foundation raised funds to maintain its property in Greece, sponsor Mylonas' excavations, subsidize scholarly publications, and provide accommodation for scholars. The death of George Mylonas in 1988, who had been the soul of the Foundation, disconcerted the Foundation, left the Melathron orphaned, and led to a transitional which was successfully managed by Betty Grossman (1st President, 1967-1996) and Patricia Hecker (2nd President, 1996-1997).



The Melathron under construction (1967-1969)

The imperative need for continued use and maintenance of its property required drastic measures for change. Dr. Malcolm H. Wiener, Aegean archaeologist and philanthropist (3rd President, 1997-2001) and Professor Philip Betancourt (4th President, 2001-2013), Aegean archaeologist, consolidated the Foundation's finances, firmly steered the Mycenaean Foundation into a new period of flourish, and successfully faced the most serious crisis since the inception of the Foundation: in 1999, the Municipality of Mycenae seized by force and illegally occupied the Melathron, which led to a ten-year-long legal battle in the Greek law courts. The litigation ended with the final judgment in favor of the Mycenaean Foundation; the estate was returned to the lawful ownership of the Foundation, albeit in extensive disrepair.

In 2013, the difficult, time-consuming, and expensive task of repairing and renovating both buildings at Mycenae commenced under the leadership of first Greek President, Professor Christofilis Maggidis (5th President, 2013-), Aegean archaeologist and Field Director of Mycenae. The top-of-the-line facilities now comprise 9,000 sq.ft. of living and work space, classrooms, offices, labs, computer rooms, a ceremonial grand hall/library, a central atrium surrounded by porticos, and a small stone-built theater; another large open-air theater on the hill slope suitable for classes and performances is currently under way. The beautifully landscaped and lit grounds extend over three acres of land atop a hill with a breathtaking view of the Argive Plain and Gulf.



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The Melathron has been restored to its former glory to host the American Center for Archaeology at Mycenae (A.C.A.M.) and serve students, scholars, and the general public.



Before-and-after photographs of the Melathron



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*The M.H. Wiener Library (above) and the Peristyle Court of the
Melathron (below)*



Research: Excavations of the Mycenaean Foundation: Mycenae, Glas, Lamia

The Mycenaean Foundation sponsors archaeological fieldwork and research in Greece since the late 1960's.

At Mycenae, the Foundation has been co-sponsoring the archaeological excavations of the citadel, palace, and settlement, directed by Professors G. Mylonas, S. Iakovidis, and recently C. Maggidis, who unearthed the Palatial Workshops and other parts of the citadel, the Lower Town, and recently made the startling discovery of the royal throne of the palace, the famous 'throne of Agamemnon.' In the Kopais, the Foundation co-sponsored the archaeogeophysical survey of the fortified town of Glas (2009-2010), while in central Greece archaeological excavation and survey of the Spercheios Valley and Lamia (2018-2022).

The Mycenaean Foundation also subsidizes scholarly publications and provides a summer base of operations for the excavation team (including a library, study rooms, lab and work space for archaeologists).

For more info, please, visit:

- Mycenae: <http://mycenae-excavations.org>
- Glas: <http://glas-excavations.org>
- Lamia: <http://mycenaeanfoundation.com/spear-project>



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Excavations of the Lower Town at Mycenae (2007-2013)



Excavations at Akrolamia (2019)

Education: Melathron Center at Mycenae and Study Abroad Programs

GREEK ODYSSEY

In 2017 the Mycenaean Foundation established the MELATHRON American Center for Archaeology at Mycenae (<http://www.acamycenae.org>) which offers an undergraduate study abroad program for foreign students (“Greek Odyssey”), accredited by the University of South Carolina (‘school of record’ 2017-2022), endorsed by the International University Alliance (IUA) and the Study-In-Greece (Official Portal of Greece).

The Greek Odyssey study abroad program focuses on archaeology and related disciplines, such as bioarchaeology, geoarchaeology, geophysics, geology, paleoenvironmental studies, archaeometry, archaeoastronomy, cultural heritage management, classical civilization, ancient history, ancient/modern Greek, studio art, art history, and theatrical studies, requiring no prior experience in archaeology, transcending disciplines, and engaging majors from across the spectrum, sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.

The mission of the Greek Odyssey Study Abroad program is to promote an interdisciplinary study of the ancient Mediterranean world and encourage personal and academic growth of the students through a unique combination of practical archaeological experience, integrative education, cultural immersion, and an appreciation for international collaboration.

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For more info, please, visit:

- <http://www.acamycenae.org>



Students and faculty on field trips in Greece (2019)

Allen Miller (Ph.D.), USC's Vice Provost and Director of Global Carolina, USC: *"USC's Greek Odyssey program offers students the extraordinary chance to experience this site directly, while living in a beautiful town on the Aegean coast. Students have the opportunity to learn not only about the history of Greek civilization and the practice of hands-on archaeology but also to take courses in the many scientific and technical disciplines that form the core of the modern practice of archaeology. This is a program for every student, from any major."*

Howard Scher (Ph.D.), Geology Department, USC: *"The Maymester program with the Mycenae Foundation was fantastic. The students seemed to have a great time in our classes and on field trips. Nafplion is a great place to live, and the Melathron of the Foundation was a great place to teach."*

Magdalena Grudzinski-Hall (Ph.D.), Director of Study Abroad, USC: *"The USC Consortium in Greece is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn more about the field of Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, and Classics, combined with an exceptional education abroad experience supported by a partner that we trust and who meets our level of academic standards."*

Jenna Rees-White, Program Manager, USC: *"I could not be more pleased with the accomplishments of the Mycenaean Foundation and the American Center for Archaeology at Mycenae this Maymester. Our students have reported that they had thrilling and unparalleled experiences, and they are enthusiastic about their fellow USC students attending this program in the future."*



HERMES: Global Studies in Ancient and Modern Diplomacy

The Institute of World Politics (IWP), in cooperation with the Mycenaean Foundation, launched a study-abroad opportunity in Greece, beginning in July 2022. During this four-week trip, IWP graduate students stay in the seaside town of Nafplio, where two IWP classes are offered. They also tour some of the great cultural sites in Greece and meet with senior Greek government officials. A two-day symposium on modern diplomacy is held at the Melathron Center as part of the Hermes program.

NOSTOS: cultural immersion program for international high-school students and students of the Greek Diaspora

NOSTOS is a thematic, cultural immersion program in Greece designed for international high school students and students of the Greek diaspora. This 12-day program is organized by the Mycenaean Foundation, offered three times annually (December, July, August), and taught in English by our faculty and guest lecturers.

- **Nostos I** (winter 2021): Thessaloniki, Mt. Pelion, Delphi, and Athens
- **Nostos II** (July 2022): Athens and the Peloponnese (Mycenae, Tiryns, Nafplio, Epidauros, Monemvasia, Elafonisos, Mystras, Diros Cave, Pylos, Navarino Bay and Voidokoilia beach, Olympia, Dimitsana, Doxa Lake, Corinth, Vouraikos gorge hike and rack train ride, cruise to Vouliagmeni lake/Heraion)
- **Nostos III** (summer): Athens and Cycladic Islands (Santorini, Melos, Mykonos, Delos, Paros, Naxos and Koufonisia)



- **Nostos IV** (summer): Athens and Crete (Knossos, Archanes, Phaistos, Malia, Spinalonga, Agios Nikolaos and Lasithi plain, Hiraklio, Rethymno, Chania, swimming at Balos and Elafonisi, Samaria gorge hike)
- **Nostos V** (summer): Athens and Ionian Islands (Lefkada, Zakynthos, Kephallonia, Ithaca, Paxoi, Antipaxoi)
- **Nostos VI** (August 2022): Thessaloniki and Epirus (Ioannina, Dodona, Zagoria, Vikos gorge hike and Drakolimni, Acheron river cruise, Syvota, Parga)
- **Nostos VII** (summer): Thessaloniki and Macedonia (Pella, Vergina, Dion, Mt. Olympus hike, Kastoria, Chalkidici, Mt. Athos cruise)

The NOSTOS cultural immersion program consists of two parts:

- Part 1: two weeks of online preparatory classes in the history and archaeology of ancient Greece, ancient Greek art, archaeoastronomy, and basic language instruction in Modern Greek, culminating with a 3-5 page research paper on select ancient Greek monuments and masterpieces (which the students will present to their group on-site during their trip to Greece).
- Part 2: a 12-day trip to Greece, which includes faculty-led field trips to famous archaeological sites and museums on mainland Greece and the Greek islands, enriched with guest lectures on the history and archaeology of Greece, workshops in drawing, painting and archaeoastronomy, real field training in our unique outdoor dig simulator, and various outdoor activities in landscapes of unique natural beauty (such as swimming at the shores of Nafplion, Poros, Voidokoilia, Elafonissos, in the Pheneos lake or the Neda river waterfalls; mountain hiking at Dimitsana and Mani, climbing the volcano at Methana, and hiking in the Vouraikos gorge), designed for students to



experience the spirit of Greece and embrace local authenticity. Students will be also accompanied by designated chaperones (any institution enrolling ten students or more will be allowed to send a chaperone of their choice free of charge).

The students who successfully complete the two-part program will receive a certificate of participation from the Mycenaean Foundation. The NOSTOS program is a unique educational and cultural immersion gateway for high school students from all over the world to the land of myth, history and natural beauty, and for the students of the Greek diaspora a return to the homeland of their own parents and grandparents.

This is a free, award trip for "Athena class" donors and Friends of the Foundation (with donations of 4,000 euros or more to the Mycenaean Foundation within the year).

Practical Training: Dig Simulator

A unique dig simulator of unparalleled complexity and unprecedented size (300 m² or 3,000 sq. feet, 1-1.5 m deep) will be constructed on the lowest terrace of the hill slope, south of the Melathron (Simulated Excavation Field).

The A.T.R.E.U.S. field program (Archaeological Training in Excavation and Underground Survey) and the dig simulator at Mycenae, which finds no parallel in Greece, will facilitate intensive, interdisciplinary ‘hands-on’ education and practical field training for undergraduate and graduate students in real conditions in the controlled environment of a simulated excavation field (aerial, ground, and geophysical survey, excavation, restoration, digital applications). The dig simulator will feature reconstructed architectural ruins and diagnostic archaeological contexts, plotted portable finds and spatial distribution of physical remains, including artifacts and ecofacts, and reproduced stratigraphy filled with different types of sediment (<http://acamycenae.org/curriculum>).

The dig simulator will not only serve for field training, but will also facilitate experimental archaeology: faculty and students will be experimenting with the application of different geophysical survey methods and their varying degree of effectiveness with different types of sediment, depths, and diagnostic contexts.

The dig simulator program will also be made available to archaeologists of the Greek Archaeological Service to train on the latest field methods and use of electronic equipment.

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Students working in the dig simulator

Social Outreach: Public Lectures, Symposia, Seminars, Colloquia, Workshops

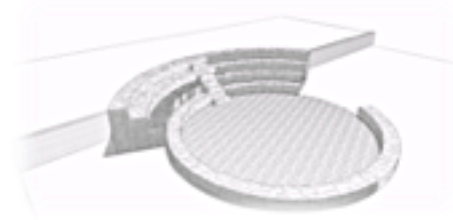
The Mycenaean Foundation contributes to the cultural development of the region and the international profile of Greece. To this end, the Mycenaean Foundation organizes a series of interactive educational activities at the Melathron Center at Mycenae, such as public lectures, symposia, seminars, colloquia, and workshops. These events take place in the M. H. Wiener Library of the Melathron and provide an opportunity to authors, artists, historians, archaeologists, diplomats, scientists and other specialists to present to the public their viewpoints on various ancient topics or contemporary issues (archeology, art, history, geology, folklore, literature, religious studies, music, education, international politics). These events are organized on a regular basis and aim to engage the wider public in conversation, debate, exchange of ideas, and knowledge.

- 1st Educational Seminar: “Water Monuments, Water Resources Management and Folk Musical Tradition on the Occasion of the World Water Day” (March 23, 2019)
- 2nd Educational Seminar: “Greek Musical Tradition through the Centuries: Religious and Popular Style and Ethos: from Antiquity to Byzantine Times” (July 13, 2019)
- “MELATHRON of Mycenae: Semi-centennial of Beneficence;” celebration of fifty years of activity, operation and beneficence of the Mycenaean Foundation (Dec. 2019)



Art Shows, Theatrical and Musical Performances (De Laet theater)

A large theater (200-seat capacity) will be built on the south slope of the Melathron Center. The De Laet theater will be the focal outdoor area of the Melathron to host musical and theatrical performances, public lectures, and philanthropic events organized by the Mycenaean Foundation and the Arete Fund.



Philanthropy & Volunteerism

The Mycenaean Foundation has been contributing to the welfare, education, social awareness, and cultural development of the local communities since the 1960s. The Foundation provided free accommodation for the local medical clinic and the municipality offices (1969-1999), sponsors free public lectures and workshops, offers scholarships, and organizes volunteer projects to clean torrents, coasts, and archaeological sites. The Mycenaean Foundation aims to increase and diversify its philanthropic activities and raise funds for charitable purposes by organizing fundraising events and by hosting musical and theatrical performances for charity.

Friends and Sponsors of the Mycenaean Foundation

The Mycenaean Foundation is a non-profit corporation for scientific, educational, cultural, and charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3). Contributions and donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.



Friends of the Mycenaean Foundation

Please, join us, become Friends of the Mycenaean Foundation and enjoy special benefits: our Friends receive a bi-annual online magazine with news, views, and informative articles on scientific, cultural, and humanitarian topics; free admission to events sponsored and/or organized by the Mycenaean Foundation (performances, concerts, public lectures, colloquia, seminars, workshops); special prices for guided tours of archaeological sites and museums organized by the Mycenaean Foundation; free use of our library and free online access to our fast-expanding digitized collection.

To join as Friends, please, visit at
<http://mycenaeanfoundation.com/fundraising-and-contributions>, then fill out and submit the registration form.

Sponsors and Donors

Your generous sponsorship and tax-deductible donations will enable us to materialize our noble goals.

To donate, please, visit at
<http://mycenaeanfoundation.com/fundraising-and-contributions>
and click “Donate with PayPal or Debit/Credit Card”

You may choose to make a general purpose donation to the Foundation, or designate the specific purpose of your donation: naming-rights sponsorship of facilities; endowed positions or student scholarships; named lectures, workshops, seminars, colloquia; sponsorship of archaeological excavation or the study abroad programs.

For a full list of available sponsorship options, donor tiers and complimentary rewards/benefits, please, visit at
<http://mycenaeanfoundation.com/fundraising-and-contributions>.



Administration



Board of Directors (2019-2021)

- Prof. MAGGIDIS, Christofilis, President
- Prof. ANASTASSIATHE, Maria, Treasurer & Vice-President for Operations in Greece
- DE LAET, Steve, Vice-President for Operations in the US (West Coast)
- WINCE-SMITH, Deborah, Vice-President for Operations in the US (East Coast)
- DE LAET, Dianne, Cultural Ambassador of the Foundation
- WAGMAN, Joseph, member of the Board

Melathron (A.C.A.M.)

- Prof. ANASTASSIATHE, Maria, Director
- PSYCHAS, Adrianos, Assistant Director

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