“In many areas – from medicine to nanotechnology, climate change and the arts – the generous donations from our community are contributing to extraordinary discoveries.”

-Dr Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The University of Sydney

Committed to excellence

Established in 1852 as the founding faculty of the University of Sydney, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) has a long and proud history of rigorous research and innovative teaching methods across the humanities and social sciences.

Today FASS has grown to comprise five schools with over 400 academic staff and close to 10,000 students – including more than 500 PhD candidates. It has established research partnerships with leading institutions across Europe, North America, the Middle East, China and Southeast Asia.

School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry

One of the faculty’s leading academic centres for scholarly research and achievement is home to the Departments of Archaeology, Classics and Ancient History, Gender and Cultural Studies, History and Philosophy - the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry (SOPHI).

SOPHI’s academics are made up of the most preeminent scholars in the world, along with an exciting array of early and mid career researchers.

But in order for FASS to continue to attract such high-level talent and maintain its leadership position in research and teaching, donor support is crucial.

The late Nicholas Anthony Aroney’s generous giving over several years across three vital initiatives have been instrumental in assisting FASS to reach its full potential. The three initiatives include:

• the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research Fund
• the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens’ publication of *The Archaeology of Kythera*, and
• the Modern Greek Biennial Conference (2012).

Such valued donor support is also an important source of ongoing inspiration and motivation for staff and students alike.

This report is an update for the trustees of the Estate of Nicholas Anthony Aroney on the projects supported by the late Mr Aroney’s generosity. It is also a small token of sincere gratitude, on behalf of FASS and the broader University community.
Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research Fund

Established in 2014 in perpetuity, the purpose of the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research Fund is to supply financial awards to support academic staff and/or postgraduate students to undertake scholarly research. The aim of the research is to promote learning and education in Greek language, Greek culture or Greek history. The fund’s awards are made public in two rounds of announcements each year.

Recipients and outcomes

In 2016 the second round of Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research Fund recipients was awarded to a diverse group of researchers from a range of departments including Classics and Ancient History, English and Archaeology. The next round of recipients are scheduled to be announced later this year.

Round 2 recipients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipients</th>
<th>Area of research</th>
<th>Project Amount</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Richard Miles</td>
<td>Classics and Ancient History</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>The Spread of Greek Writing and Architecture in Byzantine, North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professors Eric Csapo and Peter Wilson</td>
<td>Classics and Ancient History</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>The Theatrical Revolution: The Expansion of Theatre Outside Athens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anastasia Nicephore</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>PhD: Plato’s Reality: Baudrillard’s Nostalgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ted Robinson</td>
<td>Archaeology</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>The Greek Sanctuaries on the Gaggera Hill, Selinous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The University of Sydney and Australian Archaeological Institute of Athens (AAIA) have conducted excavations at Nea Paphos as part of the Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project.
Associate Professor Richard Miles

A world-renowned ancient world historian, Associate Professor Richard Miles is a published author of a number of books including, Carthage Must Be Destroyed and Ancient Worlds: The Search for Western Civilisation. Associate Professor Miles has also written and hosted a number of television documentaries including Carthage, the Roman Holocaust (ABC), Ancient Worlds (BBC) and Archaeology: A Secret History (SBS).

Along with his many academic awards and professional accomplishments, Associate Professor Miles holds a number of posts at the University of Sydney including, Head of SOPHI and Research Director, Ancient North Africa Research Network and Pannonia Project. Prior to arriving in Sydney he taught at the UK’s prestigious University of Cambridge.

Associate Professor Miles is working on a new book, The Rise of Decline - a global history examining our ongoing obsession with political, economic and moral decline.

The support from the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research Fund provides valuable assistance to Associate Professor Miles’ ongoing research project, The Spread of Greek Writing and Architecture in Byzantine, North Africa.

As a recipient of the award in 2015, Associate Professor Miles continues his investigation into the impact Greek culture had on the Maghreb region of North Africa and in 2016 his research will focus largely on the permeation of Greek language, architecture and artistic motifs in the Maghreb.

Professors Eric Csapo and Peter Wilson

The University of Sydney’s Eric Csapo is a Professor of Classics and his colleague Peter Wilson holds the post of the Peter Richie Professor of Classics. Together the Professors’ research interests span a broad range of areas including ancient and classical theatre, Greek and Latin literature and culture, Greek mythology, Greek and Roman social history and the sociology of Greek music.

Their current focus is a collaborative research project on the growth of the Greek theatre – the world’s first medium of mass communication that rapidly shaped Greek national identity as well as contributed to Athenian cultural and political hegemony.

Assisted by vital funding from the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Estate the duo will extend the scholarship on Greek drama through their project titled, The Theatrical Revolution: The Expansion of Theatre Outside Athens. This line of inquiry will focus on the cultural, political and economic impacts of theatre in Greek city-states and beyond.
Greek theatre’s rise has valuable insights for contemporary Australian concerns owing to its power to transform political practices, business, personal relationships and ideas.

Professor Csapo is also currently working to publish a multi-volume social and economic history of the Classical theatre.

**Anastasia Nicephore**

Anastasia Nicephore is a high achieving PhD candidate studying within the Department of English. The support from the Estate of Nicholas Anthony Aroney is vital in assisting the doctoral student’s work on her thesis, *Plato’s Reality: Baudrillard’s Nostalgia* - a comparative study of classical literary theory and ontological modes of postmodern thinking. Her work will ruminate on the philosophy of truth and reality.

Anastasia has published numerous articles on cultural anxieties, postcolonial theory and disparate narratives within the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. She is also the author of *Organised Hallucinations: Literary Topoi of (Post) Colonial Disease*.

**Dr Ted Robinson**

Archaeologist and senior lecturer at the University, Dr Ted Robinson’s research interests focus largely on Southern Italy in the period before Roman conquest. He leads an ongoing program for the chemical analysis of South Italian ceramics and is interested in exploring the colonial relationships in South Italy through iconographic sources. His research has been published many times and he is the author of the book, *The Italic People of Ancient Apulia: New Evidence from Pottery for Workshops, Markets, and Customs*.

The Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research Fund supports Dr Robinson’s work to create a digital platform, which will bring together topographical and historical records of Gaggera Hill which is part of an archaeological park in the ancient Greek city of Selinous. Selinous lies on the south-western coast of Sicily, Italy. On Gaggera Hill there are the remains of an ancient sanctuary with a temple dedicated to the goddess of fertility, Demeter Malophoros.

Dr Robinson is focused on creating a detailed, three-dimensional digital plan of Gaggera Hill from acquired excavation data, as well as his own excavation plans. The outputs of this research will have an immense impact on the academic scholarship as well as the community and tourist experience of the Archaeological Park of Selinous.

The Archaeology of Kythera book cover displays the rugged coast of Kythera.

Kythera is an island in Greece lying opposite the south-eastern tip of the Peloponnese peninsula. From ancient times until the mid nineteenth century, Kythera was a crossroad for merchants, sailors, and conquerors. As such, it has had a long and varied history and has been impacted by many civilisations and cultures. This is reflected in its architecture, which has been influenced by centuries of coexistence of the Greek, Venetian, and Ottoman cultures.

In Ancient Greek mythology, Kythera was considered to be the island of Aphrodite, the Goddess of love.

Outcomes

The Archaeology of Kythera is an important book and reference tool about the material culture and history of the island from Neolithic times until the modern era. It is co-authored by Professor Timothy E Gregory (Ohio State University, USA) and Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory (AAIA).

The splendidly illustrated volume (416 pages, with over 300 colour photos) is the result of decades of research and reflects the authors’ unrivalled knowledge of, and deep familiarity with the island. An initial print run of 500 copies were published in December 2015 - receiving much positive feedback.
To celebrate the publication of the book and to hear co-authors Dr Gregory and Dr Tzortsopoulou-Gregory share their research insights, the Kytherian Society of California hosted an exclusive event in the US on 9 January 2016. More than 60 academics and keen historians attended on the day.

A word from the AAIA Deputy Director

Dr Stavros Paspalas

“The donation went a significant way towards covering the production costs of *The Archaeology of Kythera*, reducing the copy price of the book very substantially. Indeed, the subsidy covered over half of the production costs.

I can happily report that Professor Jean-Paul Descoeudres and his team at Mediterranean Archaeology ensured that the book was published 12 months after the receipt of the final manuscript.

500 copies of the book were published in December 2015, and the publication has received a very warm welcome.”

Modern Greek Biennial Conference

In 2012 the Estate donated $10,000 to the Department of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Sydney along with the Modern Greek Studies of Australia and New Zealand to host and organise the 11th Modern Greek Biennial Conference. This event, *Crisis, Criticism and Critique in Contemporary Greek Studies*, took place at the University on 7-9 December 2012.

The conference aimed to delve into the impact the current Greek economic crisis had on all levels of contemporary Greek life - particularly the effect the crisis was having on Greek studies abroad. It was also dedicated to the exploration of the new cultural paradigm emerging for Greek studies and the parameters likely to shape the area in the future.

Organised by the University of Sydney’s Professor Vrasidas Karalis, Dr Anthony Dracopoulos and Dr Panayota Nazou the three day forum was a huge success, attracting many high profile national and international Greek studies experts including:

- Professor George Leontsini – Professor of Modern Greek History (University of Athens),
- Professor Andrew Horton - Professor of Film and Video Studies (University of Oklahoma), and
- Professor Dimitris Papanikolaou - Professor of Medieval and Modern Languages (Oxford University).
Estate of Nicholas Anthony Aroney

Thank you

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney is deeply appreciative of the generosity and foresight shown by the late Nicholas Anthony Aroney.

Posthumously Mr Aroney has enabled the faculty to establish the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research Fund - an exceptional, annual scholarship program promoting research, learning and education in Greek language, culture and history. The Estate’s wide ranging support has also been instrumental in providing support to the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens as well as assisting the University in its role as host and organiser of the 2012 Modern Greek Biennial Conference.

To the trustees of the Estate of Nicholas Anthony Aroney, once again we thank you. We look forward to continuing to update you on future recipients and outcomes.

For more information:
Guy Houghton | Associate Director, Development
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences |
T + 61 2 9036 6269 | E guy.houghton@sydney.edu.au