

ARISTOTLE WEEK AND CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND DEMOCRACY

REPORT ON EVENTS

Aristotle Week (March 21-25, 2016) was a week full of events that made a large segment of the UA's faculty and students aware not only of the ancient philosopher's significance but also of the Alabama Greece Initiative, a research/teaching collaboration UA has established with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Below there is a brief overview of the various events that took place during Aristotle Week.

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY VISITING PROFESSORS

During Aristotle Week, there were five professors from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki present on the UA campus, participating in various events, giving lectures, visiting classes, giving class presentations and workshops, and participating in the Women & Democracy conference:

Dr. Lila Karakosta, Theatre, Scenography

Dr. Katerina Kitsi, English, 19th century British Literature

Dr. Anna-Maria Konsta, Law, Comparative & International Law

Dr. Eleni Papazoglou, Theatre, Ancient Greek Drama

Dr. Youli Theodosiadou, English, Southern American Literature

PUBLICITY on ARISTOTLE WEEK

1. Article in the UA News:

“UA, Aristotle University Collaborate to Celebrate Aristotle's 2,400th Birthday”

<http://uanews.ua.edu/2016/03/ua-aristotle-university-collaborate-to-celebrate-aristotles-2400th-birthday/>

2. **“Aristotle Week” Display, Gorgas Library:**

A display of maps, books, coins, artifacts and student quotes that highlight Aristotle’s life and contribution to the Western civilization

3. **Famous Quotes from Aristotle:**

Displayed on A&S social media and electronic signs around campus

4. **Information on Greece and the AL/Greece Initiative:**

Displayed on A&S social media and electronic signs around campus

5. **Student Essay Competition:** “Aristotle’s Contribution to the Advancement of Knowledge in the Western World”

ARISTOTLE WEEK EVENTS

Monday, March 21

1. Dr. Konsta met with the Law School International Program Committee.
2. “UA/Aristotle: Alabama Greece Reunion” – AUPh guests and former members of the “Alabama Greece Initiative” met for a reception at the home of Dr. Andy and Lauren Fitch.
3. Drs. Kitsi and Theodosiadou visited Dr. Crank’s graduate class (EN 640) and interacted with the students.
4. Dr. Papazoglou visited Dr. Burch’s “Theater History” class.

Tuesday, March 22

1. Dr. Richard Richards (Chair, dept. of Philosophy) gave the official **Aristotle Week Lecture** on “Aristotle’s Evolutionary Spirit”. The talk was recording and a file will soon become available on a UA web site.

2. Drs. Karakosta, Papazoglou, and Konsta gave talks to UA departments related to their disciplines: Theatre & Dance, Modern Languages & Classics, and English.

Wednesday, March 23

1. Drs. Konsta, Kitsi, and Papazoglou gave talks to UA classes and departments related to their disciplines: The School of Law, an Honors College class on 'Women from Antiquity through Today', Theatre & Dance, and English.
2. "Dinner & Discussion" - A round-table event in honor of the guest professors from Aristotle University. The discussion aimed at presenting the Alabama Greece Initiative to other sectors of the University of Alabama, as it continues to cultivate research exchanges and friendships between the UA and Aristotle University.

Thursday, March 24

Conference

A major part of Aristotle Week was the two-day conference on "Women, Democracy & the Ideology of Exclusion: From Antiquity to the 20th Century," held at the UA, on March 24 and 25. An array of scholarly papers engaged the views of ancient Greek thinkers on the hierarchy between the genders and their socio-political role, but especially focused on Aristotle's views, discussing both his works and their reception during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Aristotle's impact on Western culture is universally acknowledged and scholars still continue today exploring the meaning and significance of his intellectual output.

The conference was attended by a large number of UA faculty and students as well as from visiting scholars from around the world and members from the community.

This conference is the direct result of Dean Olin's vision in founding the Alabama Greece Initiative with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Dr. Summers' research collaborator at Aristotle University is Dr. Kitsi, an expert in British literature and feminist studies. As a result of this collaboration, the panel of presenters in this conference (in addition to scholars

from Europe, Canada and the US) included 4 faculty from Aristotle University and 7 from the University of Alabama.

At the inception of the conference, the guests from Aristotle University offered gifts to Dr. Robert Olin, A&S Dean, and Dr. Luoheng Han, A&S Associate Dean, in appreciation of the A&S invitation that was extended to them to visit the UA campus and participate in the Aristotle Week events and the Conference.

Conference Program - Day 1 (Thursday, March 24, 2016)

- 9:00 am Dr. Robert Olin, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Alabama
Welcome Address [delivered by Associate Dean Han]
- 9:15 am Solon's Laws and the Origin of "Female Inferiority" in Classical Athens
Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers, University of Alabama
- 10:00 am Power Over is Power To: the Relationship between Legal Guardianship and
Citizenship in Classical Athens, Naomi Campa, Oberlin College
- 10:30 am Herodotus' *Histories* and Female Inferiority
Helen Tank, University of Birmingham, UK
- 11:00 am Women's *kleos* in Thucydides
Kelly Shannon, University of Alabama
- 11:30 am Politics of the Deformed: Women, Slaves, and Democracy in Aristotle
Velvet Yates, University of Florida
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 2:30 Tragic Women: Between Ritual and Emotion, Public and Private, Civic and
Personal, Eleni Papazoglou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- 3:00 Sexual Violence as Political Oppression on Athenian Vases
Allison Surtees, University of Winnipeg
- 3:30 Plantation Mistresses: Hidden Truths and the Ideology of Exclusion
Youli Theodosiadou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- 4:00 Woman Reclaimed: Female Subversion of Male Violence in Early Modern Spain,
Xabier Granja, University of Alabama

Conference Program - Day 2 (Friday, March 25, 2016)

- 10:00 am The Materiality of Agency: Volume One of the Oaxaca Manuscript by Madre María de San José (1656-1719, New Spain/Mexico)
Connie Janiga-Perkins, University of Alabama
- 10:30 am Women and French Democracy, 1789-1804: Between the Guillotine and the Limitations of the Civil Code, Metka Zupančič, University of Alabama
- 11:00 am The Queen, the Humanist, and Popular Sovereignty in Sixteenth-Century Scotland, Tricia McElroy, University of Alabama
- 11:30 Maria Edgeworth's *Mme. de Fleury*: Education, Economics, and Anti-Revolutionary Activism
Deborah Weiss, University of Alabama
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 2:30 pm From Solon's Democracy in Classical Athens to Women's Suffrage in Twentieth Century Britain
Katerina Kitsi, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- 3:00 pm The Legal Culture of Women's Rights in the 19th and 20th Century Greece
Anna-Maria Konsta, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- 3:30 pm Roundtable Meeting: Authors & Presenters (205 Gorgas)

1. **Conference Closing Reception:** At the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center
2. **Staged Reading:** Aristophanes' "*Women at the Assembly*" (Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center)