



Eleni Gizas, Steinmetz Family Foundation Fellow, Corinth Excavations

CORINTH EXCAVATIONS

Students in Greece, Italy, and Syria Connect with Archaeology, Each Other

The Corinth Excavations have begun two new virtual collaborations as part of their outreach program.

First, the Associazione per la Valorizzazione dell'Archeologia e della Storia Antica (AVASA), an Italian research institute affiliated with the Tell Mozan/Urkesh Archaeological Project in Syria, invited the Corinth Excavations to participate in their School Project in fall 2019. The educational program unites middle and high school students from different regions of the world through the shared experience of living in archaeologically rich areas.

In its role in the School Project, the Corinth Excavations connected Greek high school students from *Homo educandus* *Αγωγή* in Corinth with Italian students from the Antonio Rosmini High School of Human Sciences in Domodossola. Steinmetz Family Foundation Museum Fellow Eleni Gizas offered lessons about the history and archaeology of Corinth to both the Greek and Italian students via Skype. The students' classroom teachers extended the exchange through eTwinning, a collaborative platform for schools whose countries participate in Erasmus+, the European Union's program to support education, training, youth, and sports in Europe. Plans were also in place for the Italian students to visit their Greek friends in May 2020, but, unfortunately, COVID-19 made this culminating element impossible.

Second, the Urkesh One-on-One Project provided another opportunity for meaningful outreach and exchange. This initiative prompts students in Greece, Italy, and Syria to discover their own local history through archaeology and to exchange these histories with one another virtually.



With the help of Rania Sazakli, Manager of Public Programs at the Municipal Library of Corinth, seven students (ages 11–15) enrolled in the program.

During the first two Skype sessions, Gizas and a mentor of the participants in Syria helped the students prepare short presentations on the following topics: ancient Greek/Corinthian monuments or artifacts, sites in modern Corinth, personal interests and hobbies, and Greek cuisine. The Greek and Syrian students were then matched and had the opportunity to share their presentations in subsequent Skype sessions.

In addition to improving their presentation and English skills, the Greek students expressed that this project taught them more about the monuments of Greece and Syria and about their importance; that it was meaningful to talk to young people their age about important topics; and that they enjoyed learning about everyday life in Syria. They were particularly shocked to learn that students in Syria go to school on Sundays!



On November 10, “Archaeology for a Young Future,” the outreach program that encompasses the Urkesh Project, was awarded the ILUDICARE Special Prize, a European Heritage/Europa Nostra Award that spotlights European change-makers in heritage-led innovation and international relations. On November 11, the Urkesh Project and the Corinth Excavations presented a lecture for the Center for Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies (CAMNES). Gizas, invited by Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, UCLA Professors Emeriti and Co-directors of the Tell Mozan/Urkesh Archaeological Project, to present alongside the AVASA team, discussed the role of the Corinth Excavations in expanding this initiative to Greece, and the project's wider context in the work of the Steinmetz Fellowship. It is hoped that more Greek students will participate in the Urkesh Project and that a physical exchange between the students might be realized in the near future.



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Professor Jenifer Neils in "Athenian Pottery Up Close" at the Stoa of Attalos, part of the American School's ongoing webinar series featuring distinguished faculty and scholars. Story on page 8



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