NEH Application Cover Sheet
Challenge Grants

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Field of Expertise: Humanities

INSTITUTION

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APPLICATION INFORMATION

Title: *THE ASCSA LIBRARIES: A WORLD-CLASS CENTER FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCH*

Grant Period: From 12/2008 to 7/2014

Field of Project: Humanities

Description of Project: The American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) is the preeminent American overseas research institution devoted to the advanced study of all aspects of Greek culture from antiquity to the present day. The School???s two libraries, The Blegen Library and The Gennadius Library, provide unparalleled resources for all aspects of Greek studies, with the Blegen covering virtually the entire field of prehistoric and classical antiquity with holdings of more than 94,000 volumes, and the Gennadius with over 116,000 volumes covering the history, language, literature and art of Greece, especially from the Byzantine period to contemporary times. With strategic planning completed, the ASCSA is embarking upon a Capital Campaign to improve its infrastructure and increase its endowment. With NEH Challenge Grant funding, the ASCSA will renovate parts of its two major research libraries and stabilize their annual operating funds by increasing the dedicated endowments of its libraries.

BUDGET

Fiscal Year # 1	$450,000.00	**Total from NEH**	$990,000.00
Fiscal Year # 2	$250,000.00	**Non-Federal**	$2,970,000.00
Fiscal Year # 3	$150,000.00	**Total**	$3,960,000.00
Fiscal Year # 4	$140,000.00	**Matching Ratio: 3.00 to 1**	

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THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

THE ASCSA LIBRARIES:
A WORLD-CLASS CENTER FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCH

1. Table of Contents	1
2. Abstract	2
3. Challenge Grant Budget	3-4
4. Institutional Fact Summary	5
5. Financial Summary	6
6. Narrative	7-31
7. Directory of the ASCSA with Trustees, Managing Committee, Staff,	
Cooperating Institutions with Representatives	32-67
8. Résumés	68-75
Project Director, Irene Bald Romano, Ph. D.	69-70
Director of School in Athens, Professor Jack Davis	71-72
General Manager of ASCSA, Pantelis Panos	73-74
Capital Campaign Manager, Minna Lee	75
9. Letters of Support	76-95
10. Appendices	96-104
Appendix I: ASCSA Five-Year Giving History	97
Appendix II: Schematic Concept Plans: Gennadius Library (Figures 1-3)	98-101
Appendix III: ASCSA 2008-2009 Lecture Series	102-104

2. Abstract

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) has, for the last 128 years, played a central role in advancing the study of Greek culture, from antiquity to the present day. During this time, what started out as a small one-room library has grown into a one of the world's finest research centers comprising two libraries with combined holdings of over 200,000 volumes representing history, archaeology, languages, art, philosophy, politics and the archaeological sciences. Over 180 U.S. colleges and universities are affiliated with the ASCSA, and American scholars and students from these and other institutions come to Athens to conduct research at our excellent libraries. To advance the research and educational goals of these scholars and students, the Blegen and Gennadius Libraries plan to implement strategies to provide up-to-date facilities to accommodate new technological advances; maintain, preserve, and make accessible their growing holdings; and provide the best services possible to the community of scholars conducting research in the humanistic disciplines supported by the American School. Our request to the NEH is for $990,000, with matching requirements of $2,970,000, for a total of $3,960,000. These funds, to be used to support the School's core mission of teaching and research in the humanities, will provide endowment support as well as partial funding for the capital projects planned for the Blegen and Gennadius Libraries.

For the **Blegen Library,** NEH and matching funds would provide an additional endowment of $800,000 to support the management, care, and use of the library's collections. This increased endowment will give the Library the ability to conduct long-term planning and provide a consistently high level of services and resources for students and scholars using the library. The current collection of the Blegen, with holdings of around 94,000 volumes, provides scholars and students a unique opportunity to conduct research in a non-lending library with one of the best research collections in the world. To advance this high level of research, the maintenance of the collection is a top priority, and to provide optimal temperature and humidity conditions, a new climate-control system will be installed in the library, at a cost of approximately $1,000,000. Technological advances to facilitate long-distance seminars and the use of new video and teleconferencing devices require that the library install a "smart" classroom that can accommodate these new but now more commonly used teaching and presentation technologies, thus enhancing the academic mission of the School. This new seminar room will be larger than the present one, with flexibility to accommodate small seminars (20-30 participants) as well as medium-sized meetings and workshops (30-60) for which there is currently no suitable space. The cost for the new seminar room is approximately $150,000.

The **Gennadius Library,** with 116,000 volumes of rare books, research collections, archives, maps, manuscripts, and other special collections, continues to improve its accessibility and collections management through strategically planned capital projects. This NEH grant and matching funds will provide support for renovation of the West Wing of the Library and the construction of a new extension. Following the recommendations of Mellon Foundation-funded consultants who assessed the School's libraries and collections in 2006-2007, the ASCSA plans create an open-stack space for increased accessibility to non-rare books in a new underground extension. The West Wing will be renovated and will connect the new extension to the rest of the building and provide study space. The NEH and matching funds will provide $1,120,000 towards this project. The Gennadius Library's endowment will also benefit from these new NEH funds, which will support the annual operating budget for its collections, programs, lectures and exhibitions. Additional endowment of approximately $10 million is needed to fully support the annual operation of the Gennadius Library. The funds from this NEH Challenge Grant of $800,000 will bring us closer to this goal.

Support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the resulting matching funds will ensure that the School continues to provide outstanding research collections and facilities to American and international scholars pursuing research projects in the field of humanities.

3. <u>NEH Challenge Grant Budget</u>

Total NEH funds requested	$990,000

Year 1: NEH: $450,000
Year 2: NEH: $250,000
Year 3: NEH: $150,000
Year 4: NEH: $140,000

Total nonfederal contributions	$2,970,000
Total Budget	**$3,960,000**

Planned Expenditures:

I. Direct Costs	
A. Capital Projects:	
a. Gennadius Library Renovation, Phase I [Total construction cost of the Gennadius Library Project is $5.8 million, of which NEH grant and matching funds represent 20%]	$1,120,000
b. Blegen Library HVAC system	$1,000,000
c. Blegen Library Smart room	$150,000
B. Fundraising Costs:	
a. 20% of total annual compensation of Capital Campaign Manager over 4 years	$70,000
b. Travel	$10,000
c. Materials, Printing. Brochures	$10,000
Direct Sub-total	**$2,360,000**
Endowment	
A. Gennadius Library	$800,000
Rate of expendable amount, 4.5%*	
Projected annual income --$36,000	
B.. Blegen Library	$800,000
Rate of expendable amount, 4.5%*	
Projected annual income -- $36,000	
Endowment Sub-total	**$1,600,000**
Total	**$3,960,000**

* The annual budget draw for the American School is based on 4.5% of a 5-year rolling average.

NEH Challenge Grants previously held by the ASCSA

1. CF-0765-79 (in 1979; $300,000 NEH award, with match of $1,351,496; for the Centennial Fund to expand the ASCSA's Blegen Library and administrative facilities, increase regular member enrollment, and enhance fundraising capability)
2. CH-20336-97 (in 1997; $625,000 NEH award, with match of $3,125,000; for the campaign to endow, renovate, and modernize the Main Building of the ASCSA's Gennadius Library)
3. CH-20733-00 (in 2000; $30,000 NEH award, with total match of $60,000, for emergency earthquake repairs to ASCSA facilities)

4. Institutional Fact Summary

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) is the preeminent American overseas research institution devoted to the advanced study of all aspects of Greek culture from antiquity to the present day. The ASCSA was America's first overseas research center, founded in 1881 by a consortium of nine American universities to provide their graduate students and scholars a base for studying the history and civilization of the Greek world. The School's consortium now consists of over 180 U.S. colleges and universities.

The ASCSA is a non-profit institution incorporated in the U.S. and governed by a Board of Trustees composed of 20 leaders from the academic, business, legal, and non-profit worlds. Another distinguished Board of 23 members provides general oversight of the Gennadius Library. The consortium of colleges and universities oversees the operation of the ASCSA through a Managing Committee representing each of these institutions. A staff of 95 academic, administrative, other professional and support personnel in Greece and 14 in the U.S. administration and publications office in Princeton, NJ carry out the work of the School.

As a *teaching institution*, the ASCSA provides American graduate students a year-long academic program (serving ca. 50 to 70 graduate students), giving them the opportunity of studying at first hand the sites and monuments of Greece focusing on the history, language, art, archaeology and culture of Greece from antiquity, through the Byzantine and Ottoman periods, to the present day. In addition, the American School offers two intensive 6-week summer sessions, for undergraduate students, high school teachers, and college faculty (40 participants), as well as a 6-week summer course in Medieval Greek (12 students).

As a *research center*, the School provides significant resources for American postgraduate scholars (ca. 350 annually) pursuing their studies in fields ranging from antiquity to modern Greece. The combined holdings of the Blegen Library and Gennadius Library provide unparalleled resources for all aspects of Greek studies. The Blegen Library covers virtually the entire field of prehistoric and classical antiquity with holdings of more than 94,000 volumes. A significant expansion in the original mission of the School was made possible in 1922 by a gift of some 26,000 rare books, manuscripts, and archives from Johannes Gennadius. It was Gennadius' dream that the library become "a world center for the study of Hellenism." The Gennadius Library has grown to over 116,000 volumes today and is an exceptional resource for scholars from North America, Greece, and other European countries on the history, language, literature and art of Greece, especially from the Byzantine period to modern times.

Graduate students are trained at two of the most important excavation sites in Greece: at Ancient Corinth, where the ASCSA began work in 1896; and at the Athenian Agora, the ancient commercial and political center of Athens, where ASCSA excavations began in 1931. The creation of the Wiener Laboratory in 1992 enabled the ASCSA to move into new fields of archaeological science including geoarchaeology, palaeobotany, and skeletal biology.

The ASCSA does not charge tuition for its programs. The fees are modest and represent a small percentage of the costs of administering the academic programs. The School awards over $600,000 annually in fellowships and scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty from secondary schools, college and universities, and independent scholars.

The ASCSA's Publications Office in Princeton, NJ annually produces six to eight scholarly monographs, scientific studies, or popular books related to the mission of the School. One of its most important roles is publishing the final reports of excavations at Corinth and the Athenian Agora; there are now over 30 volumes in the Agora series and over 40 in the Corinth series. The journal *Hesperia* has been published quarterly since 1932 and is one of the world's leading venues for scholarship on Greek studies. The School's newly redesigned website (www.ascsa.edu.gr) also provides a vehicle for disseminating information about the work and resources of the ASCSA to a wide international audience. Since its launch in March 2008, it has received 157,887 visits by 65,851 unique visitors from 76 countries.

6. Narrative

THE ASCSA LIBRARIES: A WORLD-CLASS CENTER FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCH

Mission and History of the School

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) is the preeminent American overseas research institution devoted to the advanced study of all aspects of Greek culture from antiquity to the present day. Though the methodologies have changed and the scholarly disciplines have broadened, the mission of the ASCSA has remained constant over its distinguished 128-year history: teaching; research; archaeological exploration; and publication and dissemination of research. The ASCSA was founded in 1881 under the leadership of Charles Eliot Norton of Harvard University with the intention of being a place

> *. . . where young scholars might carry on the study of Greek thought and life to the best advantage, and where those who were proposing to become teachers of Greek might gain such acquaintance with the land and such knowledge of its ancient monuments as should give a quality to their teaching unattainable without this experience.*

Today, the ASCSA provides graduate students and scholars from a consortium of 182 North American colleges and universities a base for research and study in Greece through a rigorous academic year program, two summer sessions, and an advanced Medieval Greek summer program. American institutions with curricula in classics, classical archaeology, art history, history, linguistic studies, Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern Greek studies, among others, regard the outstanding academic programs, excavations, libraries and other facilities of the ASCSA as extensions of their own institutions' programs and scholarly resources. The ASCSA's academic program for postgraduate students is viewed by many institutions as a requirement for the well-rounded Ph.D. Many of today's leading faculty in American universities in these core humanistic disciplines are alumni/ae of the School. The experience of conducting research and studying both primary and secondary sources in Greece is also imparted to many students through their teaching. The ASCSA has had a significant impact on thousands of scholars over four generations who have participated in its programs and conducted research in Greece under its auspices. The ASCSA represents "the best

and the brightest" of American scholarship and education in Greece, a place of strategic, historical, economic, and social importance from antiquity to the present.

The ASCSA is a non-profit educational institution incorporated in the U.S. and governed by a Board of Trustees composed of outstanding individuals from the academic, business, legal, and non-profit worlds. Another Board provides general oversight of the Gennadius Library. A consortium of 182 North American colleges and universities oversees the academic program and operation of the ASCSA through a Managing Committee composed of 324 representatives from these institutions. It is a tribute to the important role the ASCSA serves within North American institutions of higher education that these volunteer Managing Committee members are committed to assisting the School by attending full meetings twice annually and serving on committees on admissions and fellowships, libraries and archives, technology, and publications, among others.

Located in the heart of Athens on the slopes of Mt. Lykavvitos, the School campus comprises two major libraries, an archaeological laboratory, a computer laboratory, archives, a dormitory and dining hall, residences for the Director and faculty, and the main administration building. The School's U.S. administrative and publications offices are located in Princeton, NJ.

The combined holdings of the School's two libraries, The Blegen Library and The Gennadius Library, provide unparalleled resources for all aspects of Greek studies. The Blegen Library covers virtually the entire field of prehistoric and classical antiquity with holdings of more than 94,000 volumes, supporting the scholarly work of both students and faculty from the affiliated U.S. universities and colleges, as well as Greek students and scholars and other readers. A significant expansion in the original mission of the School was made possible in 1922 by a gift of some 26,000 rare books, manuscripts, and archives from John Gennadius, bibliophile and former Greek ambassador to Great Britain. It was Gennadius' dream that the Gennadius Library become "a world center for the study of Hellenism." That library has grown to over 116,000 volumes today and is an exceptional resource for scholars from the U.S., Greece, and other countries on the history, language, literature and art of Greece, especially from the Byzantine period to contemporary times.

American graduate students are trained at the excavation sites in Ancient Corinth, where the ASCSA began work in 1896, and at the Athenian Agora, the ancient commercial and political center of Athens, where ASCSA excavations began in 1931. At both of these important sites the ASCSA supports study centers for on-going research. Archaeological excavations by American universities at other sites in Greece are conducted under the auspices of the ASCSA with the permission of the Greek Ministry of Culture. The creation of the Wiener Laboratory in 1992 enabled the ASCSA to move into new fields of archaeological science including geoarchaeology, palaeobotany, and studies of human skeletal and faunal remains.

The American School is a community of humanities scholars that includes graduate students and senior scholars. Each year over 350 American students and scholars come to the School to use the research facilities. Long active in teaching young scholars, the School also attaches great importance to the value of individual research and to the creative energies stimulated by a vital intellectual community, within its walls and without. At the School itself, students and senior scholars alike are invited to present their research in informal Tea Talks, held nearly every week in Loring Hall, the School's residence facility, and the School also has a public lecture program of more than 18 formal lectures per year, presented by major scholars in diverse fields, both in residence at the School or invited from elsewhere. A new auditorium that seats over 300, Cotsen Hall, makes these events more accessible to a much larger audience than previously. By exchange with sister organizations throughout the Mediterranean, visiting researchers and lecturers enrich the scholarly climate of the School with their expertise.

The ASCSA's Publications Office, based in Princeton, New Jersey, exists to disseminate the work of the School, and to publish other important works on Greek studies to the highest editorial and production standards. The School's quarterly, peer-reviewed journal, *Hesperia*, is one of the leading periodical venues for scholarly research in Greek archaeology and has a wide international circulation. In 2007 *Hesperia* celebrated 75 years of publishing. The School also maintains an active books program with over 150 titles in print. These include excavation reports, single-author

monographs, edited volumes, and color guidebooks, and around ten new titles are produced every year. The Office is guided by a Publications Committee of the Managing Committee composed of leading North American scholars.

The School's website, http://www.ascsa.edu.gr, was launched in the spring of 2008, and is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the School and those who want to gain access to the School's research facilities. A 2006 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation enabled the School to hire a leading firm of web consultants, MStoner LLC, who worked with staff, alumni/ae, and other stakeholders to design a site that is informational, educational and useful to its constituents. This site articulates the peerless educational opportunities the School offers to postgraduate students, provides free access to a growing range of electronic resources for scholars as well as the interested general public, and promotes internal communication between the School's departments and archaeological research centers. The website also provides an interface to a sophisticated institutional repository, capable of archiving and presenting complex archaeological databases as well as an exciting range of digital images and texts made possible by a major grant from the European Union. Since its launch in March 2008, the School's website has received 157,887 visits by 65,851 unique visitors worldwide.

Strategic and Master Planning: Preparing for the ASCSA's Future

Through several studies conducted over the past decade, the Managing Committee and Boards of Trustees of the American School have articulated strategic goals for the School that include: 1) Strengthening and enriching the **academic program**; 2) Supporting the highest standard of excellence in **research**, including the development of new avenues for understanding the Greek world; 3) Providing the resources to make the **excavations** at Ancient Corinth and the Agora *the* models for multi-disciplinary and technologically-advanced archaeological work in the archaeological world; 4) Improving, expanding and maintaining the School's **facilities** to support the research and teaching mission; 5) Improving the **technological infrastructure** necessary to support and enhance the School's programs; 6) Disseminating research findings to a wide **international audience** through

publications, events, and state-of-the-art online access; and 7) Strengthening the **financial base** of the School's operations.

Emerging from these strategic planning efforts is a set of specific priorities to strengthen the School's foundation for the future by focusing on the academic programs, addressing facility issues, and ensuring financial stability: 1) Expand and enhance **academic facilities and technologies**, including some reconfiguration of the Main Administrative Building and Blegen Library; new climate control systems and an improved seminar room in the Blegen Library; relocation and expansion of the Wiener Laboratory; construction of a new study center and storage facility at Ancient Corinth; and continuing investment in state-of-the-art technologies for research and for communicating the results of that research. 2) Renovation of the **West Wing of the Gennadius Library** to provide greater access to the Library's non-rare books, consolidate the archives in the Blegen Library with those in the Gennadius Library, improve the exhibition areas, and implement current best-practices in managing its collections. 3) Expand and enhance **student residential facilities**, by modernizing systems in Loring Hall and the Annex, including installing air conditioning, providing private or semi-private bathrooms, creating more single rooms and more rooms for married couples and senior scholars. 4) Increase the **endowment** not only to provide a stronger base of predictable revenues for staff salaries and benefits in the face of fluctuating economic conditions, but also to support academic initiatives that are critical for the future of the institution. 5) Strengthen the **annual operating fund**, in support of our on-going programs, faculty, staff, and students over the next three fiscal years, by generating a total of at least $1,000,000. To address these priorities, in July 2008, the Trustees of the School and of the Gennadius Library launched a major fundraising campaign with a total goal of at least $50,000,000.

The NEH and the ASCSA: Providing World-Class Humanities Libraries for the Future

The ASCSA Capital Campaign will endeavor to raise at least $50,000,000 to ensure the continued health and leadership role of the School among America's overseas research institutions and among important humanities centers worldwide. Our request to the NEH is limited to our most

important humanities resource—the ASCSA libraries. More specifically, an NEH award would be used to support a portion of the Blegen and Gennadius Libraries' capital projects and to augment the endowment from which the operating budgets of these two libraries are derived. The recognized importance of an NEH-awarded project would certainly provide the much-needed leverage for the School to garner further gifts and pledges.

Currently, the dedicated endowment for the Gennadius Library supports only 50% of its operating budget, and for the Blegen Library, about 67% of its operation. For both libraries, the School's general endowment and revenue from gifts and grants, as well as some earned revenue from reproduction fees, provide the balance. Around $10 million more in endowment is needed to put the Gennadius Library on a stable footing for the future, and around $4 million for the Blegen would bring its endowment to a level where it could continue to serve the community of scholars at the current exceptionally high level. A portion of these additional endowment funds are being sought from this NEH Challenge Grant.

The collections of the Blegen and Gennadius Libraries serve as important research tools for members of the American School, both students and academic professionals, members of the other foreign schools in Athens, staff of the Greek Archaeological Service, and the academic and scholarly community of Greece in general. With over 22,000 combined reader visits per year, these libraries are an integral part of the community of humanities scholars and students in Greece. Their importance, both as places to conduct research as well as to facilitate exchange and foster a sense of community, cannot be underestimated. As the first American overseas research center, the ASCSA was founded on the belief that the principles which we learn from the ancient Greek world are fundamental to the ideas which govern and shape modern thought, modern politics, and modern civil discourse. The fact that the original establishment included a library is based on the principle that scholarly communication of the ideas we study must be disseminated by their formal presentation in published form, and by the collection and organization of the resulting publications in a well-ordered, easily accessible library.

The Blegen Library: A Leading Research Library for Ancient Greek Studies

a. Brief History and Collections

The Blegen Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens was founded in 1888 with a single reading room. Since then, additions were made in 1915 and 1959. In 1981-1982, with funding from the NEH, the Blegen Library was renovated primarily by rearranging the configuration of the administrative offices to achieve greater efficiency and to provide additional space for library stacks and better visitor control. In 1991, an extensive new wing was added, nearly doubling the interior space.

Today, the Blegen Library holds more than 94,000 volumes (with acquisitions of approximately 1500 volumes per year), including nearly 700 periodical titles (current and past), and 200 electronic subscriptions (JSTOR and others). The Blegen Library's collection covers virtually the entire field of classical antiquity, with special emphasis on the language, literature, art and archaeology of Greece. The Blegen also houses a collection of rare archaeological books, a unique collection of maps and works of early travelers, and maintains a collection of newspaper clippings about archaeological work in Greece.

The Blegen Library (combined with the Gennadius Library) provides access to a variety of CD-ROM and hard-disk based resources (such as the *Byzantinische Zeitschrift Bibliographie* and Dumbarton Oaks Hagiography database) as well as licensed online resources (such as the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* database of Greek texts and JSTOR electronic journal archive). Over 1,100 reader cards have been issued for regular users of the Blegen Library, distributed to many Greek scholars as well as to members of the School and faculty from affiliated North American institutions. The total number of visits to the library including all visitors and members comes to about 13,000 a year.

The School's libraries provide a lifeline to American and international academics from smaller or under-resourced institutions working on the ancient world or the history of Greece and provide remote as well as on-site access to a range of materials. The Blegen Library is, for example, one of the only institutions in Athens where JSTOR is available. It is, therefore, heavily used, and in the last

academic year, 18,758 articles were viewed and 11,804 pdfs downloaded from JSTOR in the ASCSA libraries. Recently, the libraries of the American School established an electronic union catalogue, called AMBROSIA, with the library of the British School at Athens (located on an adjoining property to the American School), so that their combined resources are easily accessed on the Internet (http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/ambrosia).

b. The Archives in the Blegen Library

The Archives of the American School are currently housed in two locations on the School's main campus. One repository is in the basement of the Blegen Library, and the other is across the street in the Gennadius Library. The Blegen Archives contain rich photographic collections, as well as administrative papers of the American School, and records of the School's archaeological excavations reaching back to the late 19th century. Of the almost 7,000 archival photographs scanned with a 2006 grant from the European Union, almost half are fragile glass plates for which digitization serves a vital preservation function. Another important group of 3,000 photos come from the collections of Dorothy Burr Thompson, a distinguished archaeologist who traveled around Greece and the Middle East in the 1920s and 1930s, highlights from which are presented in a bilingual English-Greek educational module on the School's website, providing period detail of much interest to the general public. The database of the Alison Frantz photographic collection contains almost 2,500 entries, especially of sites and monuments in Greece, as well as many photographs of artifacts in museums around Europe.

The photographs preserved in the ASCSA Archives are in great demand by scholars around the world. Industrialization and tourism have transformed the landscape of Greece over the last fifty years, and many archaeological monuments have been among the casualties of development. Study of past photographic records is essential preparation for new excavations and surveys, because important details about land-use and previously-recorded archaeological remains can be harvested. Photographs of artifacts, meanwhile, are invaluable resources for scholars: The high costs of purchasing images directly from museums often impede scholarship and scholarly publication, so the Frantz archive

(which does not charge permissions fees) is much in demand by art historians.

The Archives in the Blegen Library include administrative records of the ASCSA (including an increasing amount of e-mail correspondence), the "institutional memory" that is essential to the smooth-running and historical framework of the School today. They also contain the excavation records of sites at which the ASCSA has conducted fieldwork (apart from the Agora and Corinth records that are kept at those sites). The Lerna excavations database, for example, includes 8,776 entries and is heavily used by scholars preparing publications of this important type-site for the study of prehistoric Greece. Personal papers of leading archaeologists such as Carl W. Blegen and Homer A. Thompson contain valuable archaeological information about the sites at which they worked, including the Palace of Nestor at Pylos and the Athenian Agora, as well as shedding light on institutional and international history.

The Gennadeion: A Center of Excellence for Byzantine to Modern Greek Studies

a. History of the Gennadius Library

In 1922, Johannes Gennadius donated his personal library and papers to the American School. The core of this collection, now at 116,000 volumes (and growing by approximately 1,000 volumes per year), consists of his bequest of 26,000 books and manuscripts. To house the collection of this prominent late 19th and early 20th century Greek diplomat, scholar, and bibliophile, a stately marble neo-classical building was designed by American architects John Van Pelt and W. Stuart Thompson and built just north of the original School grounds. The Greek government helped the School acquire the necessary land, and the Carnegie Foundation made possible the construction of the new library and that of the two adjacent residences, Canaday House and East House (marked on figures 1 and 2). The Gennadeion was dedicated in 1926 and is now a national landmark.

In 1972 the East and West Wings were added to the building (see figures 1-3). The West Wing was outfitted with shelving for stack space on the basement level, and the ground floor of the West Wing was turned into an exhibition space, called the Basil Room (on figure 1 in area marked "study"). The Stathatos Room, a permanent "period" room donated by Helen Stathatos with wooden

panels from a church in northern Greece and icons and pottery from the 16th and 17th centuries, was installed later (shown on figure 2 in proposed new location on first basement level). Unfortunately, the basic construction of the 1970s was poorly done. The materials and systems used were inferior, leaving the wings vulnerable to water seepage; the electrical and heating systems were sub-par; and the load-bearing capacity of the floor slabs was not sufficient to safely support the weight of the book stacks.

In 1999 the Main Building (the original structure) of the Gennadius Library was extensively renovated, funded in part by NEH, and additional space was added below the East Wing for library stacks and administrative offices. Other capital improvements in the Main Building and East Wing also included the replacement of roof insulation, the addition of a water drainage system and a new heating and air conditioning system, the re-wiring of the electrical system, and the installation of an advance fire detection and fire-fighting system. In 2002 the full renovation of the East Wing was completed, and soon after, an auditorium to serve the entire School community was constructed adjacent to the East Wing of the Gennadius Library, with underground levels for library and archives space. Dedicated in January 2005, it was named Cotsen Hall after Lloyd E. Cotsen, its donor and President of the Board of Trustees of the School (1996-1999), and Chairman of the Board of the Gennadius Library (2001-present).

The West Wing of the Gennadius Library was never fully renovated, and it is in this area that the new capital project will take place. Modest renovations in the 1990's included only the most basic construction and building upgrades to keep the wing from further deterioration but still not making it fully useable. The basement of the West Wing is currently used for storage, as there is no heating or cooling system; the second floor is not used. The Basil Room on the ground floor is still used as an exhibition space, though without heat or air conditioning, and the exhibitions are limited to certain seasons and are of short duration so as not to expose the collections to the varying temperatures and lack of environmental controls.

b. The Collections of the Gennadius Library

The Gennadius Library of the American School is one of Greece's national treasures. The collections of the Gennadius Library comprise vital sources for American and international scholars conducting research on the post-classical history of Greece and its neighboring countries. The Library houses a richly diverse collection of books, rare bindings, archives, manuscripts, and works of art illuminating Hellenic culture and civilization from antiquity to modern times. The riches of Greek classical civilization are represented by fine editions of Homer, Thucydides, Herodotus, the great tragedians, and many others. Rare Bibles and liturgical works record the millennial history of the Greek Orthodox Church and neighboring faiths, and the riches of Byzantine civilization are reflected in unique manuscripts and precious icons.

The rediscovery of Greece and the civilizations of the eastern Mediterranean are captured in the Library's world-famous collection of books and diaries written by travelers and explorers, as well as thousands of old maps. In addition, the Library houses exceptional 18th century folio volumes documenting the birth of classical art history and archaeology, along with the notebooks, diaries and letters of Heinrich Schliemann, excavator of Troy and Mycenae. Alongside descriptions of the cities and sites of past civilizations are numerous volumes recording the flora and fauna of Greece and the eastern Mediterranean from the 18th to 19th century. The early modern Greek landscape is preserved in hundreds of watercolors by Edward Lear, made during his extensive travels between 1848-1864.

Among materials from the 1821 Greek War of Independence, of particular interest is Gennadius's assemblage of memorabilia associated with the poet George Gordon, Lord Byron, the most famous of Philhellenes. The Library also possesses a unique series of paintings of the War created for General Makriyannis – one of only two sets in existence, the other one kept in Windsor Castle.

The rapidly expanding Archives contain eyewitness accounts documenting the Greek War of Independence and the last years of the Ottoman Empire written by Greeks, Ottomans, and Philhellenes alike, such as Ali Pasha, Theodoros Kolokotronis, Samuel G. Howe, and Ion Dragoumis. An EU grant, received in 2006 allowed the digitization of over 12,000 personal papers and

photographs from the archives of Dragoumis, a prominent intellectual and politician, and over 32,000 scans of pages of the scrapbooks compiled by Johannes Gennadius, the founder of the library. Together, these materials are invaluable primary sources for students of 19th and early 20th century Greek history and culture.

Arts and literature in the Archives are embodied in the papers of Greece's Nobel Prize-winning poets, George Seferis and Odysseus Elytis, those of the composer and conductor Dimitri Mitropoulos. The recently acquired personal archives of Constantine Tsatsos, President of the Greek Republic (1975-1980) provide primary materials for the study of the history and politics of late 20th century Greece.

The American School is committed to the preservation and dissemination of these rare resources and has been moving ahead with a digital archive to make much of this material available to scholars, students, and the general public through an online access of indexes and scanned images of primary materials, via the School's new website, www.ascsa.edu.gr. Perhaps more than any other part of the School, the range of collections in the Gennadius Library invites users outside traditional academia and within the general public. For example, over 1,350 digitized musical scores and other papers of the Greek composer, Dimitris Mitropoulos, are in constant demand from performers and fees from public performance licenses provide a modest income for the School. Many other important, and potentially popular, collections of papers have been catalogued and are in the process of being digitized, including an invaluable collection of literature related to travel in the Mediterranean and Near East, an impressive collection of early maps (part of the initiative of the Digital Library for International Research [DLIR] of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers [CAORC], and the papers of the discoverer of Troy, Heinrich Schliemann (the database of Schliemann's papers includes 53,803 entries).

The Library Project: Strategic Planning for the Future

Since 2003, the School has been engaged in planning the reorganization of its information-management facilities (consisting of two libraries, the Archives, and IT Department) to better manage

the libraries, the collections, and to support digital scholarship, especially in the field of archaeology. In 2003 and 2005 visiting committees of information specialists, led by Susan Perry, a senior consultant to the Mellon Foundation, visited the School to analyze its library and information systems. The recommendations of these consultants focused on enhancing the skills of the professional library staff and software and hardware development. In 2006, a grant of $290,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation was received to catalyze the process of achieving these goals. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant, and the planning activities funded by the Foundation that preceded it, have allowed the staff and leadership of the School to improve their knowledge of the current best-practices in library and resource management and to identify the gaps that the institution needs to fill. The period since 2003 has seen substantial planning and consensus-building, involving staff from both the Greek and U.S. offices of the American School, including those in the libraries and the archives.

As well as providing staff training, the Mellon grant paid for consultants in the areas of workflow and acquisitions planning to visit Athens and examine and improve processes. Dilys Morris, formerly of Iowa State University, inspected technical services functions while Donald Skemer of Princeton University's Firestone Library reported on acquisitions and special collections. The visiting committees and the consultants recommended the following improvements to the libraries: 1) Provide open-stacks access to the majority of research books in the Gennadius Library; 2) Consolidate duplicate technical services functions (ordering, cataloguing, binding) that occur in the two libraries; 3) Improve the climate control system in the Blegen Library for optimal preservation of the collection and working conditions for the staff and users; and 4) Improve the capacity of the IT system of the School. The aim of the proposed NEH grant is to realize two of these improvements. (The process of consolidating technical services has already begun and the improved capacity of the IT Department is being addressed in other proposals, with the guidance of consultants and a newly formed IT Committee of the Managing Committee of the School.)

The recommendations of the Mellon consultants were well received by the leadership of the

School, including the Director of the Gennadius Library and the Head of the Blegen Library. Plans were therefore developed to create open-stacks and study areas in the Gennadius Library by renovating and reconfiguring the existing space in the West Wing and constructing an underground extension to the west of the library. For the Blegen, an investigation into the current standards for collections management as well as new technological developments in climate control systems was begun. In addition, students and scholars participating in the School's seminars brought the inadequate size and lack of technological capabilities of the current seminar room to the attention of the School's administration, suggesting built-in upgrades so that PowerPoint and teleconferencing could be conducted with ease. All of the above-mentioned goals are necessary for enhancing the capability of the American School to advance the research and teaching of the humanities for American scholars and students. The total construction costs for the Library Project are estimated at around $6,950,000, approximately $1,150,000 for the Blegen renovations and $5,800,000 for the Gennadius Library. The requested NEH and matching funds designated for capital projects ($2,270,000) would provide about 33% of the total cost, fully funding the Blegen renovations, and funding approximately 20% of the Gennadius renovations. The remaining NEH Challenge Grant funds will go towards increasing the dedicated endowments of these libraries ($1,600,000) from which their operating budgets are derived, and for fundraising costs ($90,000).

a. Blegen Library Renovations

One of the critical capital projects for which NEH funding is being requested is in the Blegen Library. The goals for the Blegen renovations include the installation of a well-functioning climate control system and the creation of a new "smart classroom." The climate control system will provide optimal conditions for the preservation of the collection and for the students and scholars conducting research in the library. There is a climate-control system in the new wing of the Blegen Library that was installed in 1991, but was never extended to the older parts of the library or tied to a centralized system. Temperatures and humidity vary considerably in different parts of the building, producing pockets of extremely cold or warm areas. The system also does not filter out gases that are harmful to

books, manuscripts, maps, and works on paper, and does little to control humidity levels in the entire library.

The current requirements for the optimal care of objects housed in museums, libraries, and archives have recently been established by scientific organizations and institutes in Europe, with the following recommendations: 1) for the proper maintenance of books and to minimize their damage the temperature range must be between 64˚F and 75˚F with only a slight variance; 2) the recommended range for relative humidity must be 40% to 50%, again with only a slight variance, and should never fall under 40% or exceed 65%. The air must be kept free of particles and harmful gases, and must circulate 4 to 8 times per hour, depending on the room's height.

The existing air-conditioning system in the Blegen Library does not meet the above requirements. At present, the system consists of preheated air conditioning units which are unable to filter the incoming air sufficiently. In addition, it lacks the sound barriers required to prevent high levels of noise, which can often disturb those using the library. The new system will also be more powerful and be able to achieve desired temperature conditions when the outdoor temperature exceeds 99˚F, which the current system cannot achieve because the heat pump is too small. And finally, the humidity devices do not have the automations necessary to adjust the relative humidity in the building.

To remedy these shortcomings in the climate control system currently in the Blegen Library and to meet the temperature and humidity recommendations for the optimal care of books, a new Building Management System (BMS) will be installed in the Blegen Library. This system will include new central air conditioning units equipped with high performance dust filters, special air pollutant filters, a humidification system, sound barriers, and be an energy efficiency system. The existing mechanical room where cold and hot water are produced will be refurbished, including the installation of a new heat pump and new collectors, distributors and circulators for the heating and cooling of water. Ducts which are too small to allow noiseless passage of the increased air quantity will be replaced. Supply and discharge air nozzles will be replaced with new ones equipped with flow

control dampers. The planned modifications and improvements to the air conditioning system will make it possible to achieve the conditions necessary to maintain and preserve the books housed in the Blegen Library, and provide comfortable temperatures for those conducting research and working in the library. Since many scholars visit Athens during the summer months, when they normally do not have teaching responsibilities, it is important to have comfortable conditions in the libraries, especially with the summer temperatures increasing and the high pollution levels adding to the discomfort. The cost of this project is estimated at about $1 million, which the NEH and matching funds will cover in full, and it will take approximately six months to accomplish.

The second project in the Blegen Library will be to create a “smart classroom” using the latest technology for long-distance teleconferencing and the latest presentation equipment. Technology serves the study of the humanities when it can bring creative minds together and facilitate the exchange of information. The proposed seminar room, on the lower level of the Blegen Library, is in the process of being designed with a flexible plan that will allow for multiple configurations both in the size and layout of the seating arrangement. It will accommodate approximately 30 participants in one format, and up to 60 people in another. The current seminar room at the School accommodates only 20, in very cramped quarters, and contains no built-in capability for PowerPoint presentations or teleconferencing. While Cotsen Hall provides a wonderful auditorium for a crowd of over 300, it is not suitable for a seminar or small workshop of students and faculty. Since scholarly exchange in various settings -- on sites, in museums, in seminars and in larger lecture forums are all critical for the academic program and the intellectual climate of the American School, the lack of a suitable seminar room or “smart classroom” is a deficiency that the leadership of the School has recognized and is committed to rectifying. Estimated costs for the creation of this “smart classroom” are approximately $150,000. The NEH and matching funds will completely cover the costs of this project, which will take approximately two months to complete.

The plans outlined above for the Blegen Library would improve the ambient environment, for both the research collection and for the library’s users and bring new teaching and communicating

technologies to the library. Since the Blegen Library renovations are discreet projects which can be carried out with some ease, we estimate that with continued fundraising success, we will be able to begin these projects within two years (Spring 2011). Pantelis Panos, the General Manager at the ASCSA, who oversaw the construction of Cotsen Hall and the renovations of the East Wing of the Gennadius Library and has over 20 years of experience with construction and building management, will be overseeing the construction in Greece. He will be reporting to Professor Jack Davis, the Director of the School in Athens, and to Dr. Irene Romano, the Administrative Director in Princeton, NJ. In addition, Karen Bohrer, Head Librarian of the Blegen Library, will be working closely with Mr. Panos and Dr. Davis in the planning and execution of the "smart classroom." Ms. Bohrer, who came to the ASCSA in October of 2008, recently oversaw the installation of a "smart classroom" at her previous post at Anatolia College, and therefore is perfectly suited to this task.

The Gennadius Library Capital Project

Phase I: Renovations of the West Wing and Construction of New Extension

New plans to renovate the West Wing of the Gennadius Library and construct an underground extension to the west of the present building will greatly improve the accessibility that scholars and students have to the research materials in the Library's collection, and allow for a reorganization of the interior space to optimize the management and display of the library's holdings. Following the recommendations of the consultants supported by the Mellon Foundation in the 2003-2005 assessment of the School's libraries, leadership of the School has concurred in their desire to create a large open-stack space for non-rare books and proposed that a new underground construction be added to the Gennadius Library's West Wing. Library Director, Dr. Maria Georgopoulou and the leadership of the Gennadius Library Board of Trustees have played a major role in the planning of the renovations and will continue to be critical as the project unfolds, not only with oversight but especially with fundraising that will be needed to bring the project to fruition.

Presently, all of the Gennadius Library collections are in closed stacks, and if a patron needs to examine any books or materials, even materials deemed **not** rare, one of four "runners" has to

retrieve the requested volume or volumes. In the new open stacks configuration, researchers will be able to browse the shelves and have direct access to the non-rare research materials, making the process of researching more efficient. At the same time, this new configuration relieves the Library's staff of the daily retrieving and re-shelving of books in the collection and allows a redistribution of the library's scarce human resources to better support the care and management of the overall collections.

Currently, we have preliminary plans and cost estimates for the Gennadius Library capital projects from an Athenian-based architectural firm, Kyriakides & Associates. The new extension, adjacent to the Gennadius Library West Wing, will be built underground in two levels under the area marked "plaza" in figure 1 and marked "stacks" in figures 2 and 3. The total area of library stack space gained with this new construction will be 340 square meters, or 1,115 square feet. The foundations of this new underground construction will be built to withstand the addition of a superstructure of up to three floors, should that be required at anytime in the future. Creating solutions for the present while allowing for expansion in the future was an important component of the planning process.

The West Wing (with its second floor and basement in disrepair and largely unusable, and its ground floor in use as a less than optimal exhibition space) will be renovated also. It will be linked to the new extension, provide for more study, stacks, and storage spaces, and create a small exhibition area (see figures 1-3). Other adjustments will include the move of the Stathatos room (a donated room of wooden panels from a church in northern Greece, including rare Cretan icons and Iznik and other pottery of the 16th and 17th centuries) from its current location on the main floor to the floor directly below it so that all of the exhibition spaces are eventually contiguous (see figure 2, and see below, Phase II).

The estimated costs for Phase I of the Gennadius Library renovations total approximately $5.8 million, with NEH and matching funds providing approximately 20% of these costs. Because the Gennadius Library has it own dedicated Board of Trustees, composed of many Greeks and Greek-

Americans with ties to generous philanthropists who support Hellenic causes, we are confident that the remaining funds will be raised. As was the case with the Campaign of 1997-2005, an NEH Challenge Grant will be very important in this effort and provide evidence to these donors that the project had been deemed worthy at the highest levels of the U.S. government. With fundraising and project planning firmly in place, groundbreaking will probably occur sometime in the Spring of 2013. Once construction begins, Phase I will be completed in about 15 month's time.

Phase II: Renovations for the Exhibition Hall and the Consolidation of Archives

In Phase II of this renovation and reorganization project (for which NEH funds are not being requested at this time), the entire area below the Main Building of the Gennadius Library will be renovated as an exhibition space, equipped with proper climate control, lighting, and case design suitable for the delicate nature of many of the School's collections. It will replace the Basil Room in the West Wing (marked "study" on figure 1), which currently serves as a small exhibition space but is inadequate in size for the current exhibits and has very poor lighting and no climate control. With the exhibition function removed to a larger and more suitable location, the plans are to convert the Basil Room into a reading/study/computer resource area.

Consolidating the School's two archival repositories and special collections in the East Wing of the Gennadius Library is another goal of Phase II (see figures 2 and 3). Currently, the School's archives are housed in two locations (in the Gennadius Library and across the street in the basement of the Blegen Library). Combining these collections in one location will improve the efficiency of their management and allow scholars to do archival research in a single facility with a space and staff large enough for the increasing number of users of the American School's archival materials.

Impact of NEH Challenge Grant for Humanities Research and Teaching at ASCSA

The projects supported by this NEH Challenge Grant will significantly enhance humanities research and teaching at the American School. Since the School's founding over 128 years ago, teaching, research and the dissemination of knowledge have been its core mission. The American

School's two libraries are at the very center of that mission. The School's research facilities are used by every scholar and student who comes to the School. Its large and superb holdings of humanities volumes in one location are a paradise for many scholars who are conducting cutting-edge independent research projects. It not only promotes independent scholarship and facilitates dissertation research, but the Blegen is also used heavily by students for the reports they prepare for the traveling seminars throughout Greece during the year-long academic program. And, since the 1970's, the School's libraries have been open to students and scholars of all nationalities. All these types of usage promote the study of the humanities and the dissemination of humanities-centered scholarship. Although the ASCSA does not keep track of the number of publications that result from research conducted at least partially in the Blegen and Gennadius Libraries, authors who use the School's libraries customarily donate a copy of their work. In 2008, over 30 such books were donated to the ASCSA libraries. The impact of these scholarly humanities publications over the course of decades has been immense.

The Library Project, if funded by the NEH, will allow the School to continue to provide outstanding humanities research opportunities to all the constituents mentioned above. It will also improve access to the School's research collections, particularly in the Gennadeion, provide more efficient climate control both for the collections and the library users, and facilitate better communication and teaching with the addition of the "smart classroom." Although the School was founded to foster classical studies, one of its great strengths today is the breadth of the humanistic disciplines relating to all aspects of Greek area studies from antiquity to modern times that it supports. With the florescence of Hellenic Studies programs in the United States, especially within the last 30 years, increasing numbers of American graduate students and scholars are coming to the American School with well-defined interests in the Byzantine and later periods of Greek history and culture. They are drawn to the American School by the Gennadeion -- an intellectual center fostering Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies with a peerless research library, archives, and special collections. The monthly lectures, exhibitions, and other programs the Gennadeion sponsors

(including the Medieval Greek Summer Seminar every other year), the in-house academic expertise (Dr. Maria Georgopoulou, Director; Dr. Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, Archivist; and other library staff) as well as visiting faculty and fellows, including those who funded by NEH's FPIRI Program, make up a lively center conducive to nurturing students and stimulating scholarly exchange in post-classical Greek studies.

With NEH support of The Library Project, the Gennadius Library's growing research holdings will become more accessible to students and scholars in an open stacks configuration, allowing research to be conducted more efficiently and permitting researchers to browse the shelves for related works, which is still, even in this computer age, an important element of a scholar's *modus operandi*. New spaces in the renovated West Wing will be devoted to carrels, study tables and computer consoles to accommodate more researchers who now fill every table in the Main Reading Room and who are sometimes turned away for lack of space on certain days.

The new climate control system in the Blegen Library will help preserve this important research collection, as well as make the library spaces a more comfortable and healthy environment, conducive for serious and sustained study all year round. These improvements will encourage the continued study of the humanities by students and scholars from throughout the U.S. and advance the integration of different aspects of Greek culture into the study of humanities throughout the world. Providing an improved, technologically well-equipped and larger seminar room will allow American students and scholars from many disciplines and of all levels (undergraduates and secondary school teachers in the two summer programs, graduate students in the academic year program, junior and senior faculty and other scholars who come from institutions across the U.S. year-round) to fully engage in sharing knowledge with one another and, through teleconferencing, with students and colleagues in classrooms throughout the U.S.

Increased endowment for both the Blegen and Gennadius Libraries will help bolster their ongoing annual operating funds for staff, facilities maintenance, acquisitions, fellowships, visiting faculty, and scholarly programs associated with these two libraries. Especially now, with the

contracting economy and declining endowments, it is important for every academic institution to focus on increasing endowment levels.

The Fund-Raising Strategy

The ASCSA is a stable institution, with an active and experienced Board of Trustees, a dedicated professional staff, and a record of fundraising success. Over the past five years (2003–2004 through 2007–2008) the School has received an annual average of $3,827,223 in contributions from all constituents, including trustees, other individuals, foundations, government entities (U.S. and European Union), corporations, other educational institutions, and from special events (See Appendix I, ASCSA Five-year Giving History). Three previous NEH Challenge Grants (1979, 1997, 2000) were successfully completed. In addition, the School carried out a Capital Campaign between 1997 and 2005, raising over $11 million to renovate the Library's East Wing, build a new audience facility for the School, Cotsen Hall, and adding $2.46 million to the endowment for the Gennadius Library. Funding came from an NEH Challenge Grant, and from major foundations, such as the Mellon, Getty, Kress, Niarchos, Leventis, Samourkas, and Onassis, as well as from significant contributions from private donors.

The recent economic climate has produced increasing pressures on the finances of the ASCSA. Even with prudent investments and a conservative system of basing the annual spend rate of 4.5% on a rolling five-year average of the endowment, the School's endowment, at a high of around $187 million just one year ago, had dropped to around $135 million by the end of December 2008. Not unlike most academic institutions, we are facing some cutbacks in our operating budget for at least the next three years. With about 70% of our operating budget coming from the School's endowment, we are in a position, like so many institutions today, of having to increase our fundraising efforts to make up for the recent deficits. It is imperative that the School keep pace with economic realities and strengthen its endowment as it moves forward with upgrades to the physical plant and with vital programs in order to maintain the ASCSA's position as one of America's outstanding humanities centers.

The ASCSA launched a Capital Campaign in July of 2008 with the full support of its Board of Trustees, and has had great success, even under the current contracting economic conditions. This Campaign, with a goal of at least $50 million, addresses facility needs ($20 million), strengthens academic programs ($5 million), ensures financial stability through increased endowment ($25 million), and has put in place a fundraising program that broadens the base of institutional support for the future. Still in the quiet phase of the Campaign, the concerted efforts of all the School's constituents have raised over $20 million in gifts and pledges thus far. Most of these funds have come from long-time board members, other individuals, and foundations (Mellon, Delmas, duPont, among others). We critically need NEH support to leverage additional donations from major prospects -- individuals, foundations, and corporations. The process of cultivating donors has not ceased during this economic downturn, and we are poised, as the economy revives, to appeal to these potential donors and philanthropic institutions. Discussions are already underway with several private donors who have expressed interest in specific parts of The Libraries Project, and we have identified other corporations and foundations that are potential sources for additional major funding for endowment and construction, including Kress, Kresge, Niarchos, Leventis, Samourkas, Kanellopoulos, and Onassis foundations, among others.

The Administrative Director in the U.S. office, with the assistance of a Capital Campaign Manager, a Development Officer, and a Development Assistant, is responsible for the fundraising program of the School. This team is augmented by the professional staff in Athens, led by the Director of the School, assisted by a Development Assistant and many department heads with deep knowledge of Greece and the philanthropic world in Greece and in Europe. Campbell & Company, a national consulting firm, has been assisting in the planning of the Campaign since February 2007 and continues to serve as counsel. The major responsibilities of the Capital Campaign Manager have been the coordination of the campaign (including managing the volunteer effort to attract new individual donors) and researching, writing, and tracking grant funding from government, corporate and foundation entities. The Capital Campaign Manager has directly managed many of the gifts and

pledges recorded to date, and will devote a portion of her time over the next four years to raising the matching funds for the NEH Challenge Grant. It is a percentage of this person's salary, as well as some of the related fund raising costs, that are being requested in direct funds from this grant.

The School also recognizes that there is increasing potential for fundraising in Greece. Even though the climate in general has been uneven in recent months, a new philanthropic spirit, bolstered by recent tax incentives, has emerged in a growing wealthy class and in large international and American corporations with offices and operations in Greece. The ASCSA recently hired a Development Assistant in Athens whose duties include supporting the School Trustees and the Gennadius Library Trustees, who are especially active in Greece with deep connections both in the social and business worlds, in their efforts to raise funds for the Library. A newly re-established "Friends" organization for the Library is also assisting in this effort. The Development Assistant also supports the School's Director in Athens by maintaining the constituent database, especially of Greek constituents, with cultivation and outreach activities, and funding proposals. Fundraising efforts in Greece have already produced significant results.

This project to support the libraries has full institutional commitment -- from the ASCSA's staff to the Managing Committee representing our Cooperating Institutions, to the Boards of Trustees of the School and of the Gennadius Library. Making improvements to the School's two libraries are among the top goals of the School's Capital Campaign. The ASCSA envisions an integrated fundraising effort to produce the $2.97 million in matching funds for the $990,000 requested from the NEH Challenge Grant Program. The sum of the NEH Challenge Grant award and the match is $3,970,000, which is 57% of the total cost of The Library Project, $6,950,000. Based on our past fundraising record, we are confident that we will be able to raise NEH matching requirements as well as the additional $2,980,000 to complete The Library Project.

An NEH Challenge Grant would provide a major boost to the School's Capital Campaign, providing leverage for additional funding from a variety of sources. The School has been very successful in securing support from major funding organizations and many individuals with close ties

to Greece and the American School, but we recognize that in order to keep the School vital and sustain the high level of programs and facilities, the School needs to identify new donors. Recent alumni/ae of the American School are employed in a wide range of industries, and some have significant giving potential. Every student and scholar who has attended the School has used its unparalleled libraries and understands their importance. We believe that The Library Project would resonate with ASCSA alumni/ae and would be an attractive funding opportunity for this constituency.

Conclusion

Increasingly, the importance of the humanities, especially when it involves the investigation of history, philosophy, law, art, politics, and literature, is being understood as vital to the functioning of a rational and healthy democracy. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens has fostered this type of humanistic inquiry for over 128 years, and would like to see this tradition continue for another century or more on our campus in Greece. The importance of a leading research facility for the study and dissemination of knowledge cannot be underestimated, especially at a place like the American School, where the libraries are used more heavily than at any other research library in Athens by a diverse population of Americans and foreign nationals conducing research in Greece, as well as Greek nationals. As Americans, we are proud to share our leading research libraries with the rest of the world, and are pleased to facilitate the expression and exchange of ideas. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens is, however, primarily a nodal point for American humanities research, linking over 180 U.S. universities and colleges in a shared intellectual endeavor. Investment in the School's humanities research libraries at the level of an NEH Challenge Grant, not only impacts the future of scholarship at one institution, but will also have substantial benefits for the American humanities community as a whole.