

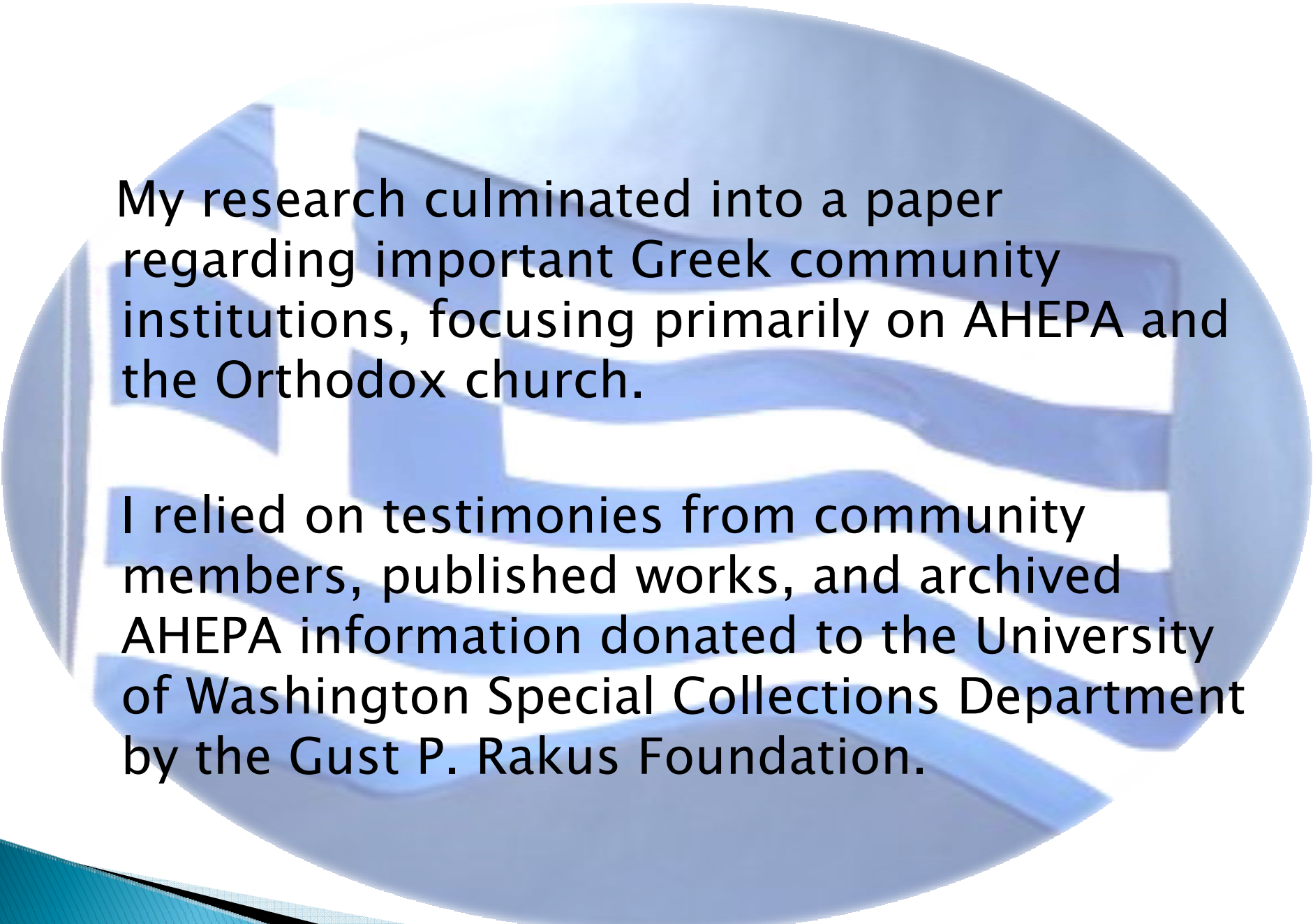
My work with AHEPA archives

By Lucia Petersen



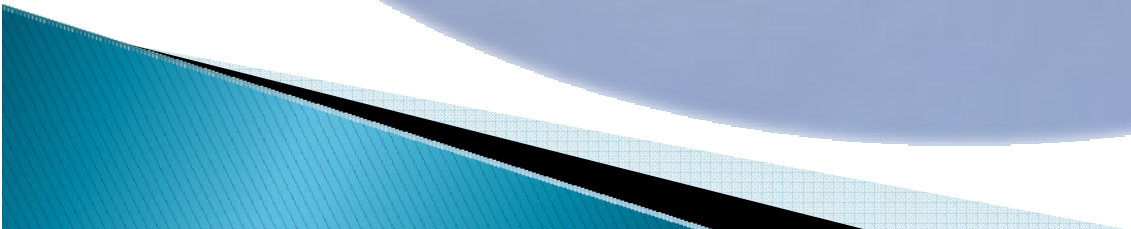
My thesis

In February 2008, I began working on an undergraduate thesis about the Greek-American community in Seattle, Washington and surrounding areas. I am a senior at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, and I viewed this as a chance to research topics that have long been of interest to me, as well as a way to connect with my Greek heritage.



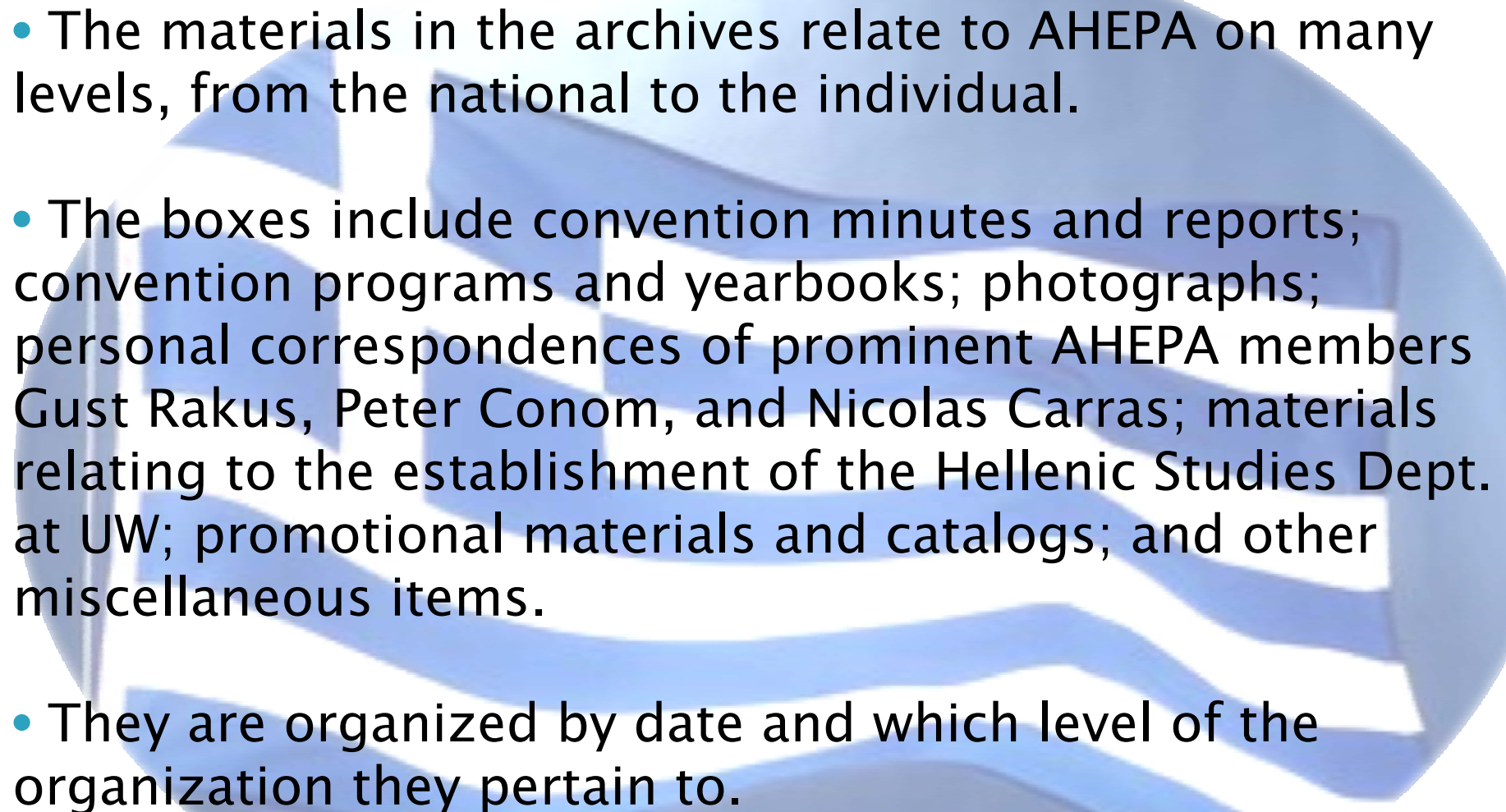
My research culminated into a paper regarding important Greek community institutions, focusing primarily on AHEPA and the Orthodox church.

I relied on testimonies from community members, published works, and archived AHEPA information donated to the University of Washington Special Collections Department by the Gust P. Rakus Foundation.



The Gust P. Rakus Archives

The Gust P. Rakus archives are five boxes of AHEPA materials, collected by AHEPAns Gust Rakus and Peter Conom from 1953–2003, and donated by Tom Rakus to the UW Special Collections Department. These materials finished being reviewed and catalogued in March 2008.

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- The materials in the archives relate to AHEPA on many levels, from the national to the individual.
 - The boxes include convention minutes and reports; convention programs and yearbooks; photographs; personal correspondences of prominent AHEPA members Gust Rakus, Peter Conom, and Nicolas Carras; materials relating to the establishment of the Hellenic Studies Dept. at UW; promotional materials and catalogs; and other miscellaneous items.
 - They are organized by date and which level of the organization they pertain to.

Official Program

SEVENTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

ORDER of AHEPA

American - Hellenic - Educational
Progressive - Association



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

In the Evergreen Playground

AUGUST 12-18, 1940

Convention Headquarters

OLYMPIC HOTEL

FIRWOOD DISTRICT #22 ORDER OF AHEPA FIFTY-EIGHTH CONVENTION



THEY WORKED on railroads... in the forests... in the mines... to fill the boxes that helped war-torn Greece recover... and contributed to the Northwest's growth.



JUNE 30, JULY 1 & 2, 1989 • WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON

The future of the archives

Although the depth and scope of the archives has proven very useful to my research, in their current state, they are not very accessible to members of AHEPA or interested public.

As we live in an age of digital information, I believe these materials would be best preserved in this format.

What I will be working on

In the upcoming months, I will be working to get these materials into digital format.

This process includes identifying and organizing the relevant materials, scanning them onto a computer, and uploading them to the AHEPA District #22 website. I also have other materials to upload, including a box donated by Harry Platis.

Goal for the website

The ultimate objective is to have these materials uploaded and organized on the Dist. 22 website in such a way that they will be accessible and appealing to everyone.

Convention minutes, programs, yearbooks and Dist. 22 publications, such as the AHEPA mentor, will be in chronological order for viewing on the website. Photographs and historical information will also be included. Once this is completed, the website will be a gateway for easy and comprehensive research, as well as for anyone interested in taking a more cursory look at some of AHEPA's history.

Wishing you a happy and successful District Convention!

For more information, questions, or suggestions, please contact Tony Maroussis or myself. I can be reached via email at lucia_m@comcast.net, or at (206) 280-6101. And please visit ahepad22.org see the materials once they have been uploaded. Thank you!

