



**HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST**  
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE  
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## **The Poet Posidippus in the Court of Ptolemy II**

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Professor *Elizabeth Kosmetatou* in a lecture titled: *The Poet Posidippus in the Court of Ptolemy II*. The event will take place at 3:00 pm in Room 1610, at the Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Admission will be free.

*Please park at the Faculty/Staff parking lot C and enter through door entrance #37. Please arrive between 2:30-3:00 pm so we can start the lecture promptly at 3:00 pm, as we have the room reserved until 5:00 pm only.*

In 2001 scholars of the Hellenistic world celebrated the publication of an almost complete poetry book attributed to the poet Posidippus, who was previously known from a handful of epigrams that survived in the *Greek Anthology*. Posidippus was from Pella in Macedonia and flourished as an epigrammatist, and possibly also as a diplomat, in the court of Ptolemy II in Alexandria (3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE). The new book, preserving 112 epigrams, 110 of which were previously unknown, offers unique insights into the lives of the Greeks in Egypt, especially their connection to Greece and Greek customs.

It covers topics from the conventional, like poems on tombs, to the unusual (on Ptolemaic victories at Panhellenic games to stones or “turnings”). Evidence suggests that the epigrams may have been dedicated to widower Ptolemy II’s new *de facto* queen, Berenice Syra, who was his daughter by his former disgraced queen Arsinoe I, and who replaced in importance his beloved mistress Bilistiche. The new Posidippus papyrus offers us glimpses and insights to the court of Ptolemy II and potentially its inner intrigues.

*Dr. Elizabeth Kosmetatou* joined the History Department of the University of Illinois–Springfield in 2008, where she teaches Greek and Roman History & Archaeology. She has participated in archeological excavations in Greece and Turkey including Epidaurus, Vergina, Midea, and Sagalassos. Her research interests include Classical and Hellenistic Greek history and archaeology, early Rome, Greek and Latin epigraphy and numismatics, cultural studies, and political theory.

Professor Kosmetatou, holds a Ph.D. degree in Classics from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Arts in Classics from the same University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Archeology and Art History from the University of Athens, Greece.

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