



HELLENIC LINK-MIDWEST
A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
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A Eureka Moment in Time: The Wonder and Legacy of the Greek Intellectual Revolution

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, Hellenic Link-Midwest will present Dr. Voula Saridakis from the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry in a lecture titled “A Eureka Moment in Time: The Wonder and Legacy of the Greek Intellectual Revolution”. The event will take place at 3:00 pm at the lecture hall of the Holy Taxiarchai and Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, Illinois. Admission is free.

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How did early Greek thinkers shift from myth to reason and set the stage for centuries of scientific and philosophical inquiry? This talk will trace the origins and evolution of scientific and philosophical thought in the ancient Greek world, where early thinkers began exploring nature and the cosmos through observation and reason rather than mythology. Figures such as Thales and Anaximander asked bold questions about nature and the universe, laying the groundwork for a rational investigation of the world.

We will explore the key contributions of individuals such as Plato, Aristotle, Ptolemy, and Archimedes. Plato focused on abstract thinking and the search for perfect forms, shaping ideas about reality for centuries. Aristotle took a more hands-on approach, combining careful observation with logical thinking to explore everything from biology to physics to ethics. Ptolemy’s model of the universe, with Earth at the center, became the standard view for over a thousand years. Archimedes – famous for shouting “Eureka!” – made major advances in mathematics and physics, laying the groundwork for mechanics and engineering.

This talk concludes with the rich legacy of Greek science and philosophy. Many texts were preserved, translated, and expanded upon by Islamic scholars such as Al-Kindi, Avicenna, and Averroes. These works entered Europe through Islamic and Latin translations, becoming foundational texts in medieval universities and laying the groundwork for the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution. Through this exploration, we will see how ancient Greek thought created intellectual tools that continue to shape scientific and philosophical inquiry today.

Dr. Saridakis is Head Curator at the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, overseeing the care of over 35,000 artifacts and developing exhibit content, including the recent Henry Crown Space Center. A historian of science and technology and NASA Solar System Ambassador, she holds a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and has 19 years of college teaching experience in history and related fields. She has spoken at major conferences, appeared on the History Channel and Atlas Obscura, and has been featured in numerous media outlets such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, WBEZ radio, Fox News, NBC and ABC.

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