

## **Concordians visit and study Greece**

As part of Concordia's 2010 May Session, a group of 12 students and one additional adult accompanied Dr. Patrick Bayens to Greece and the Aegean. The academic foci were three-fold: to explore the importance of location for ancient religious sites; to probe the political and religious claims of Imperial Rome in the Greek provinces, especially as it pertains to architecture; and to study the claims of apostolic Christianity against those of Imperial Rome.

Sites visited included, on the mainland, the Athens Acropolis, with its often-missed Temple to Roma and Augustus; the Greek and Roman Agoras; Hadrian's colossal temple for the worship of himself as "Olympian Zeus"; Delphi, site of the ancient Oracle; and Cape Sounion, with its Temple of Poseidon. A five-day Aegean cruise took the class to the breathtaking islands of Mykonos and Santorini; Patmos, where the students entered the cave where St. John wrote the Apocalypse; Ephesus, with its incredible archaeological remains, including the Temple of Domitian, the Library of Celsus, and 25,000-seat theater where a bound Paul once proclaimed Christ. Rhodes gave the group an opportunity to explore the ancient acropolis at Lindos, as well as the walled city of Rhodes Town, the best-preserved medieval site in Europe; and Crete afforded the opportunity to see the remains of the Minoan civilization at the restored Palace of Knossos. Great food, swimming, lots of sunshine, and incredible vistas gave the students memories that will last a long, long, time.



At the Acropolis.



On the Aegean Sea.