

## Inaugural Lecture Series by Webster's Athens Campus

Webster University's Athens campus inaugurated a lecture series on international relations, history and politics on September 25, 2015.

The inaugural lecture titled "Crisis in the Middle East: Iran, Syria, ISIS and the Implications for Europe" was delivered by Mr. Tom Gross, renowned journalist, international affairs commentator and human rights campaigner specializing in the Middle East. In 2014, former Pentagon official Michael Rubin wrote that *"Tom Gross is probably Europe's leading observer of the Middle East."*



*(Mr. Tom Gross)*

The lecture addressed the prospects for any near-term solution in Syria; concerns about ISIS territorial control and the multiple reasons that people join its ranks; the challenges of the migrant-refugee crisis that European Union member countries need to confront; Iran's regional discourse; and, US policy toward a turbulent Middle East.



*(From from Left to Right: Antonia Dimou, Director of Admissions, John Nomikos, Head of International Relations, History and Politics Department, and Tom Gross)*

The lecture was attended by diplomats, military and security officers, students, academicians and journalists.



*(From from Left to Right: Ellie Despotaki, Academic Advisor and Special Programs Coordinator; Susie Michaelides, Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Tom Mazarakis, Director of Operations; Antonia Dimou, Director of Admissions; John Nomikos, Head of International Relations, History and Politics Department; and Nadia Black, Intern)*

The lecture comes as part of Webster's focus on depth learning, experience, understanding and critical analysis of world affairs from thought leaders.