THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS



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Andering in the streets close to CYA in Pangrati, bustling with energy, particularly around the brand new Modern Art Museum of the Vassilis and Elisa Goulandris Foundation in CYA's neighborhood, one would not guess how much this city has gone through in the last decade.

Athens today is in a marvelously joyful mood. Indeed, in spite of the thousands of jobs that were lost, the incomes that were dashed, and the brain drain of half a million young professionals, Athenians surprised themselves with their resilience and their ability to adjust to a new life with less. Their joie de vivre is always there, as CYA students find out with relish.

After the recent change of government, prospects look bright. There is a consistent effort to lighten the unreasonably high tax load imposed by the previous government and the emphasis is now on attracting investments and promoting growth of the economy. This mix will hopefully allow Greece lower budget surpluses than the ones agreed with its lenders. Other bold moves are drastically changing behavioral patterns, like the smoking ban in all public spaces, the lifting of the so-called university asylum-which used to prevent police action in university spaces—the digitization of taxation compliance, and the emphasis on law enforcement in general, all indications of a new state of normalcy.

The dark clouds on the horizon come from Greece's neighbors to the East in the form of new waves of migrants arriving on Greece's eastern islands. Most worrisome are the belligerent moves of the troublemaker in Turkey involving constant claims on Greek sovereignty and sovereign rights with violations of Greece's airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone. The eastern Mediterranean, the subject of academic study at CYA, has entered a phase of high volatility.

It is in this climate of guarded optimism that CYA operates today managing to increase its enrollment at a steady 10% annually. The school offers a rich curriculum that extends well into the social sciences with the introduction of new courses in psychology, cultural heritage/tourist development, the anthropology of the Athens urban space, and new summer courses on health and healing in the ancient world at the island of Kos, and sustainable development on island communities with service learning at the island of Lesvos. This rich curriculum stays true to the mission of CYA, which is to bring to students what Greece and the east Mediterranean have to offer, but adjusting courses in ways that meet the demands of the Generation Z.

Gone are the days of the "grand tour" or of the pioneering spirit of CYA's early years' students, who would truly engage with their adopted space. Generation Z has no time to spare as the world around it is forever changing with jobs becoming obsolete before students even have time to train for them. It is a generation with a great appetite for volunteerism that works for the common good and internships that open a better path to the job market. They have a constant need to stay in touch, while studying abroad, with what they have left behind through the use of electronics and the social media.

One has to admire the Generation Z for its belief in new social norms that are respectful of diversity—racial, ethnic,



religious, gender—and one has to admire their concern for the environment left to us as a global patrimony. They are fighters for good causes, somewhat different from those of past generations. But then, of course, all generations are different from one another. It is amusing in this context to read a quote from an interview by Ismene Phylactopoulou to the Athenian in 1981 right after her retirement: "But it was a period about ten years ago when I thought I'd have to give it up. They were so free in their behavior, free in the way they talked and acted. They were anti-American, anti-Greek, anti-everything. This was the hippie period and the period of the junta. As far as I know they didn't take drugs but they never dressed or wear shoes, never combed their hair and went to classes like that. But I've learned since then that they are really nice people."

ALEXIS PHYLACTOPOULOS, President

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Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: March 15, 2020

ANSCOMBE AT 100: ON ACTION AND LIVING WELL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

A nscombe at 100: on Action and Living Well International Conference, organized by CYA-College Year in Athens and ACPA-American Catholic Philosophical Association, took place in Athens on 15-16 June.

On the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Anscombe, one of the most significant philosophers of the twentieth century, an international group of scholars presented papers that investigated how Anscombe understands the differences and connections between theorizing about human action and theorizing about ethics or living well.

The conference organizing committee consisted of Jennifer A. Frey, University of South Carolina and **Evgenia Mylonaki**, College Year in Athens.

On Saturday 15 June, Mylonaki and Frey opened the conference with remarks on the significance of studying Anscombe's work. The international group of speakers participating at the first day of the conference included John Hacker-Wright (University of Guelph), Talbot Brewer (University of Virginia), Candace Vogler (University of Chicago), and Cyrille Michon, (Université de Nantes). The lectures were followed by a welcoming reception hosted at the rooftop of the CYA Academic Center, overlooking the Acropolis and the Panathenaic Stadium.

The panel of speakers of the second day of the conference was comprised of Anselm Müller (University of Chicago), Matthias Haase (University of Chicago), and Constantine Sandis (University of Hertfordshire). Each presentation was followed by numerous interesting and engaging questions.



Conference participants

The participation of a number of respondents to all the sessions of the Anscombe at 100 conference was a key point in the overall discourse: Christos Douskos (Hellenic Open University), Jennifer A. Frey (University of South Carolina), Kim Frost (Syracuse University), Triantafyllos Gouvas (Monash University), Evgenia Mylonaki (College Year in Athens), Miltos Theodosiou (L' École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales), and Stelios Virvidakis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens).



Rooftop reception



Left: Jennifer Frey, at right: Evgenia Mylonaki

CYA AT THE PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION 2019 ALUMNI RECEPTION

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation (PHSF) is dedicated to promoting education and leadership. The organization recognizes and honors exceptional undergraduate students of Hellenic descent, supporting their efforts with significant monetary awards based on academic merit and financial need.

CYA was honored to be represented by CYA Trustee and alumnus **Endy Zemenides** '94, who is the Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council. He spoke about his experience at CYA and how it affected his life and career. Thanks to a donation from CYA Trustee **Daphne Hatsopoulos** to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, College Year in Athens sponsored the Welcome Reception for the foundation's Alumni Weekend in Chicago in June. The reception, which was co-sponsored by CYA and Holland & Knight, was a great start to the Alumni Weekend, as well as an excellent opportunity for students to network and acclimate.

THIRD CYA ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE RECAP

The Third Annual CYA Student Conference "The Iconography of Power: Art, Politics, Propaganda and Religion in the Mediterranean across Time" took place on May 2-3, 2019.

The conference stimulated a broad-based and multi-disciplinary discussion on the fundamental role of images in shaping ideologies, beliefs, and identities. The temporal focus of the papers extended from the fifth c. BCE to the present, and topics ranged from the study of statues and monumental structures to examination of modern day photographs and feminist graffiti daubed on the walls of contemporary Athens.

This conference involved a record number of participants, and its success proves that an event which started as an academic experiment has now become a CYA institution.

Day One

On the first day of the conference, eleven CYA students came together to present their research and exchange ideas on the iconography of power during antiquity. CYA Vice President for Academic Affairs **Theoni Scourta** opened the day by highlighting how this annual event affords students the valuable opportunity to present their academic research within a conference setting, having followed every step in the preparation process. Later, CYA Archaeology Professor and Conference Chair Angelos Papadopoulos praised the participants on how they had presented the results of their research, discussed issues of methodology, and responded to a variety of questions from the audience of CYA students and professors: "They stood at the conference podium bravely and this will most definitely be a major milestone in their academic careers."



Keynote speaker Pavlos Samios

CYA students Joshua Anthony (University of Notre Dame), Hao Wei Hampshire College), Colin Shields (College of Charleston), Erin Robichaud (College of Wooster), Max Shiller (Valparaiso University), Jenna Weatherwax (Grand Valley State University) and Mathilda Harris (University of Wisconsin, La Crosse) presented their papers on day one. Their conference presentations were followed by a poster presentation by Marren Higgins (Wheaton College), Zoe Ousouljoglou (Skidmore College) and Parker Sarra (DePaul University).

Day Two

The second day of the conference examined the iconography of power in a contemporary context and was chaired by CYA Cultural Heritage and Art History Professor **Athena Hadji**. It included six papers by CYA students **Daniel Te** (Princeton University), **Caroline Farrell** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), **Daija Solano** (Fairfield University), **Ashleigh David** (University of Pennsylvania), **Anna Vargas** (Wellesley College), and **Sam Kennedy** (University of Notre Dame).

Left to right: Marren Higgins, Parker Sarra, and Zoe Ousouljoglou.





Dr. Athena Hadji and Daniel Te



Joshua Anthony

Keynote Lecture

The conference also featured keynote speaker Pavlos Samios, a renowned Greek artist. In a lecture entitled **Re-envisioned: The Color and Design of the Parthenon Frieze**, Samios presented his ideas on the composition, colors, scale, and techniques used in the Parthenon frieze. His fascinating presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session, with active participation from both our US students and the Athenian audience.

The lecture was followed by a reception on the rooftop of the CYA Academic Center overlooking the Acropolis—the perfect setting for the guests to continue their discussion about the Parthenon Marbles.

50-YEAR REUNION

On May 17-19 a handful of alumni gathered in NYC for a reunion in honor of the 50 years since they attended CYA. Spearheaded by **Alan Shapiro** '69 and **Karl Petruso** '70, a total of ten alumni (and two spouses) came together to reminisce and catch up. Alumni enjoyed a reception Friday night where CYA Faculty member **Tessa Dinsmoor** was a surprise guest and CYA's Director of Alumni Relations, **Erica Huffman** '93, also attended. Highlights of the weekend included a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and a boat tour around Manhattan!





Left to right: John Chock '69, Lydia (Cox '69) Chock, Erica Huffman '93, Donna Sadler '70, Hedra Packman '69, Karl Petruso '70, Nancy Petruso Donna DiPaolo '70, Lucinda (Buck '70) Alwa, Tessa Dinsmoor, Alan Shapiro '69

Left to right: Spyros Stavrakas '70, Donna DiPaolo '70, Hedra Packman '69, Donna Sadler '70, Alan Shapiro '69, Barbara Stetson '70 (and her mother), Lucinda (Buck '70) Alwa, John Chock '69, Lydia (Cox '69) Chock, Karl Petruso '70



In July CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos thanked Executive Director of Student Affairs Nadia Meliniotis for completing 30 years of loving dedication to CYA students. He presented her with a commemorative plaque and spoke about her valuable work through those years. Congratulations Nadia!

WOULD YOU CONSIDER... BECOMING A RECURRING DONOR TO CYA?

Donating monthly (or any other frequency) to CYA is so easy—just set it up online at www.cyathens.org/ givenow. This is an easy way to support CYA with less impact on your budget, plus:

- Automatic monthly contributions help CYA administration with its budgetary planning
- Implementing this kind of support is simple to set up online and simple to terminate, should you decide to do so
- A small monthly gift (i.e. \$10/month) is \$120 year!

Thank you!

A GREEK FOOTBALL DERBY!

By CYA Professor Rosa Vasilaki

n Sunday March 17th the **Sociology of Dissent** course took a field trip to a Panathinaikos-Olympiakos football game.

The course looks at a wide array of facets of resistance and dissent in Greece and Europe, including the political domain, everyday life, popular culture, sports, and social institutions. Dissent has been usually associated with progressive causes and positive social transformation, however, the multiple manifestations of crisis in the West have given rise to ideologies with strong anti-establishment rhetoric coupled with an agenda of social exclusion, which also perceive themselves as practicing dissent. Our field trip aimed at exploring those social and political aspects of football and, in particular, the way football fan clubs are vehicles for local and national politics and the way football fans form their own dissenting identities and image of the self.

Football in Europe, and in particular football fan clubs, have been entangled in social life since the inception of the game. As modernity and mass urbanization gradually erased traditional forms of belonging, football fan clubs emerged-among other types of association—as a form of symbolic citizenship, as a new form of kinship in the context of impersonal modern cities. Besides this social function, football fan clubs in Greece have been entangled in the political life and in the multiple ways national and social history become a vehicle to express rivalries, discontent, and ultimately a particular form of dissent. Hence, some of the typical rivalries between football clubs in Greece reflect (older) social and political divisions of the turbulent history of the Greek state: inner-city (Panathinaikos) vs. suburbs (Olympiakos), the rising middle class strata (Panathinaikos, Aris, Iraklis) vs. the working class (Olympiakos, PAOK), the North (PAOK) vs. South (Olympiakos), or the "native" (Olympiakos, Panathinaikos, Aris, Iraklis) vs. the "newcomers-refugees from Minor Asia" (AEK, Panionios, PAOK).

These rivalries are expressed often via rituals, such as chanting and slogans. The carnivalesque experience in the stadium allows for the temporary suspension of social order, a suspension of rules, norms, and hierarchy, but also for an experience of "collective efferves-cence." Violent incidents also occur in clashes between football fan clubs inside or outside the stadiums. Violence in such circumstances is often described as senseless, however, for sociology violence is a social event and as such loaded with meanings. First, the



CYA professor Angelos Papadopoulos (left) and CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos (right) attended the game.

practice of symbolic and physical violence is a means both for the formation of the football fans' identity and for validation of its authenticity. Second, the rival—that is the opponent but also the police as the most visible representative of the State—becomes a representation of all forms of social injustice, a real scapegoat whose symbolic sacrifice would allow for an equally symbolic restoration of justice.

In the stadium, our class observed such events from a safe distance. The lively discussion on our way back to the CYA was followed by the analysis of the experience and its theoretical contextualization during class the next day.

Rosa Vasilaki holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Bristol (UK) and a Ph.D. in History from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (France). She has taught history and sociology on undergraduate and postgraduate level and conducted research in a number of universities in Greece, Israel, and the UK. She is currently a research fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) working for the Enhancing the Integration of Women, Beneficiaries of International Protection by Development and Implementation of Multifaceted Integration Training (INTEGRA-TRAIN) project.



CYA professor John Karavas [Sports, Games and Spectacles in the Graeco-Roman World] also invited his students to the game.

ATTENTION CYA ALUMNI:

If you participated in the Athens Marathon while you were a student, we would love to hear from you! Please email Erica Huffman at alumni@cyathens.org.

JAYLA'S TAKE ON THE DIVERSITY ABROAD CONFERENCE



i everyone! My name is Jayla Stevenson and I am a Senior at Wellesley College studying Philosophy and Africana Studies. In the Fall of 2017 I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Athens, Greece with College Year in Athens. The following summer I returned to Greece for a summer course with CYA entitled Philosophy and Film. I currently represent the program as an ambassador working with my study abroad office to prepare and encourage students to study abroad. These opportunities have afforded me life-long friendships and connections.

CYA recently sponsored my attendance at the Diversity Abroad Conference in Boston, MA where I was further motivated to think about my study abroad experience and career trajectory. The event was part of the fifth annual Global Leadership Summit (GSLS): the premiere conference for students from diverse backgrounds who have participated in study abroad programs. This conference, intended to develop skills as it relates to being a global citizen and preparing students to delve deeper into identity formation abroad, exceeded my expectations. It took place over a short weekend and during that time I was introduced to potential life-long partnerships and students who are committed to bettering our world through activism.

Group Sessions and Workshops

We hit the ground running with the start of the program as we discussed the intersections of our identities, what it means to advocate for others, and how to build inclusive environments. We began by setting our own expectations and community guidelines that were inclusive and this set the tone for an amazing weekend. The summit provided a safe space for students, including myself, to hold critical conversations on our experiences abroad. The various group sessions, such as one session titled **Critical Conversations on Personal Identity in Education Abroad Pt. 1**, allowed me to open up to others about my experience as a Black woman studying abroad in Athens, Greece. Through these sessions, I was challenged to reflect on my experience abroad in ways that I had not before with interactive group workshops and personal worksheets. These activities pushed me to map out my multiple identities and visualize how they impact the spaces I am in while also introducing new terminology.

I also realized the ways in which the spaces I flourish in are not inclusive to others who do not share my identity and the ways in which I am privileged in such spaces. For example, we learned that many cities abroad are not wheel-chair accessible and met students and professionals who are working to advocate for accessible campuses abroad. We also learned how the students themselves make the activities conducted in study abroad programs accessible to people with varying disabilities. The amazing keynote speakers and workshop leaders provided us with real-world tools to navigate such situations and provided us with tips and resources to advocate for others who may not be able to do so themselves.

Other workshops taught us how to leverage our experiences in the professional world. Continuing with group workshops, we listed our skills and shared with another about our experiences returning from abroad and holding leadership positions as it related to our study abroad experience on campus. As a CYA ambassador, I shared my own experiences hosting study abroad panels and my commitment to sharing my abroad experience with prospective students. Jayla Stevenson

Networking Speed Dating

Next, we participated in a networking speed dating event. Though anxious about meeting professionals and completely embarrassing myself, the global leadership summit paired us with other students and together we speed-dated with professionals who work in global leadership such as study abroad offices. In my free time, I ate lunch with students from across the U.S. and we later attended the awards gala and innovation competition: my favorite part of the summit.

Innovation Competition

During the Innovation competition, I watched fellow students and professionals in the study broad field pitch their ideas for inclusive study abroad programs and/or organizations in three minutes for a chance to win funding. This competition showcased the amazing talent and transformative programs being conducted across the globe that provides access to study abroad to diverse and under-represented students.

Dinner and the Bachata

We later gathered for dinner at the conference's beautiful awards gala that awarded professionals and students for their work in advancing diversity abroad. Later, my global leadership student cohort went out to a Havana Club in Boston where we danced the Bachata and celebrated a fellow student's birthday. In that short weekend, I cultivated relationships with students who will change the very idea of what it means to study abroad, ate amazing food, and met professionals who are advocating for the kind of change we want to see abroad and locally.

CYA ALUMNUS RETURNS TO "WHERE IT ALL STARTED" TO TEACH!

A lumnus Alan Shapiro ('69), Professor of Classics and W. H. Collins Vickers Professor of Archaeology Emeritus at Johns Hopkins, came back to CYA this summer to teach The Dawn of Greek Art, From Homer to the Persian Wars. The course explores the early development of Greek art against the backdrop of the formative period of Greek civilization: the Rise of the Polis, the Age of Colonization, and the emergence of Athens as a cultural and artistic center.

Alan Shapiro tells us he is happy to be back "where it all started" and share his love of archaic Greek art with a new generation of students who might one day follow a path like his.

His class met entirely on-site, taking advantage of the rich collections of Athens and Attica, where Archaic Greek art can be studied in original works as nowhere else in the world. Students also participated in two memorable field trips to Delphi and the Cycladic islands of Paros and Naxos.



Professor Shapiro and students on Naxos

CLASS OF 1970-71 REUNION

The class of 1970-71 is continuing to work on their upcoming 50th reunion in 2020. People are invited to arrive in Athens on whatever date works for them and then marking off September 17 to 20 for a great gathering in various venues around town, including Welcome Cocktail party, dinners and tours. This will be followed by an extension to the island of Skópelos on September 21, repeating our evening get-togethers, and returning to Athens on September 25 or 26. For those who have more time we have an even further extension!!!! Steven and Mo are planning on going down to the Mani via rented vans for as long as alumni desire. We have wonderful help from **Erica Huffman**, CYA Alumni Relations and everyone is excited and enthusiastic.

As an update, we did manage to invite two of our professors, **Peter Green**, who politely declined, but wants to be kept apprised of the event, as does **Tessa Dinsmoor**, who will be in the Mani, but sadly not during the same month.

If you have not received information via email, please do NOT hesitate to contact Mo Carpenter **palenquemo@yahoo.com** or Steven Schulz **sgsmozart@gmail.com**. Another email will be coming soon with information about where to stay in Athens, Skopelos and the Mani.



On February 13, members of CYA Staff surprised modern Greek professor Marinetta Papahimona for her birthday. Marinetta has been teaching at CYA for 40 years. About 1,870 students learned their first modern Greek in her classroom. Happy Birthday Marinetta!

AMAZON SMILE

Thank you to our alumni and friends who used AMAZON SMILE for CYA donations. For those of you who want to know more, please visit **smile.amazon.com.**

NAFSA CONFERENCE AND EXPO

On the occasion of the annual NAFSA Conference and Expo, which took place at the end of May in Washington, DC, CYA hosted a reception for alumni, trustees, friends and partners at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. It was a wonderful evening and an excellent occasion to connect with the extended CYA family, celebrate valuable partnerships and share favorite CYA memories.

CYA President **Alexis Phylactopoulos** and CYA administrators from Athens and the North American Office had the opportunity to meet with study-abroad partners and colleagues, while also exploring new potential collaborations.

About the NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo: The premier global professional learning and networking event that unites nearly 10,000 attendees each year from more than 3,500 institutions and organizations from over 100 countries. It is the most comprehensive international education event serving the diverse needs of the entire international education community.



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CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos, Rev. Stefanos Alexopoulos (former CYA faculty; Associate Professor of Liturgical Studies/ Sacramental Theology at the Catholic University's School of Theology and Religious Studies), Vice President for Academic Affairs Theoni Scourta



Elaine Rigas '93 with CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos



Rigas '93, Jennifer Schmitz '93, Brian Sample '95, Zoe Tillman '08, Chris Lasek '14, Jessica



Alexia Lingaas (CYA's Institutional Relations Manager), Cheyenne Paulson '15, Noa Gelb '17



Sugarman '15, Schuyler Null '08

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Peggy Myrestiou (CYA Vice President for Administration), Stuart and Mary (Matson '82) Latta



Schuyler Null '08 and Zoe Tillman '08 with Zoe's parents, Gail Hochhauser (Senior Director, Organizational Advancement NAFSA: Association of International Educators) and Martin Tillman (Consultant)

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CLASS OF 1988-89 PILOT PROGRAM: MINI REUNION

CYA alumni from 1988-89 and their guests participated in a mini-reunion in late July. Participants were part of an effort to expand our Alumni Relations at CYA and to provide future opportunities for alumni to return to visit. With the help of **Joe Garnjobst**, Class Agent for the class of '89, CYA piloted a program of bringing together alumni for a class reunion in Athens by opening this to a small group of alumni, a "test group," with the hope that this event would spur other alumni to plan class reunion events in Athens as well. Participants were: **Jim Rubenstein**, **Dave Morehouse**, **Su-Lin Jones**, and Joe Garnjobst, all of whom had attended CYA for the full year.

Monday's Welcome Reception was a great start to the week and alumni enjoyed reminiscing, sharing photos and memories and meeting with CYA Administrators, including **Popy Baloglu** (Director of Housing and Catering), **Nadia Melinioti** (Executive Director of Student Affairs), **Jennifer Holland** (Student Affairs Advisor) and **Vassilis Simopoulos** (Development Officer).

On Tuesday there was a tour of CYA's facilities, followed by a luncheon. This allowed for some productive discussions which led to more fun reminiscing. After lunch, CYA President **Alexis Phy-lactopoulos**, who was on his first years as President of CYA when these alumni were students, joined the group for a chat and got to know each of them better. Phylactopoulos learned about their current professional and personal status and heard stories of their time as students at CYA—especially how meaningful their CYA experience had been. It was apparent that everyone enjoyed each other's company and stories. As Garnjobst '89, now a professor of Classics at Hillsdale College in Michigan, wrote in CYA's scrap book:

"The magic continues! After thirty years the transformational experience we had here still touches our lives. Having the chance to share these memories with my fellow classmates of the class of '89 speaks volumes to the great work that CYA does. Words cannot express my gratitude for all that I have received."

Following the meeting, the group went on a neighborhood walk through the Kolonaki neighborhood to visit their old stomping grounds. Despite the torturous heat, the class of '89 walked all around Kolonaki, visiting the building where the old CYA office



The group pictured at the CYA Academic Center overlooking the Panathenaic stadium with CYA staff members Popi Baloglu, Jennifer Holland ('99), Nadia Meliniotis, and Vassilis Simopoulos





Dr. Camp takes the group on a tour at the Ancient Agora of Athens.

was on 59 Deinokratous Street, and laughed on almost every corner thinking about their shenanigans as students studying abroad.

On Wednesday, Phylactopoulos arranged for and took the group for a very special tour of the Ancient Agora. **Dr. John Camp**, Director of the Agora Excavations, American School of Classical Studies in Athens and Trustee Emeritus of the CYA Board of Trustees, was happy to lead the group on a brief tour within the dig of the Stoa Poikile located on the north side of the Ancient Agora of Athens. The Stoa Poikile was one of the most famous sites in ancient Athens, owing its fame to the paintings and war booty displayed in it.

CYA looks forward to feedback and suggestions from this year's attendees and is excited to start planning for more visit options in the future. If you are interested in hosting or attending a reunion, a trip, or other alumni event, please contact CYA's Director of Alumni Relations, Erica Huffman, at alumni@cyathens.org.

NOTES FROM CLASS OF '88-'89

Dear Nadia and CYA

Thank you so much for hosting our mini reunion ('89). My time in Athens was the best, most memorable year of my life. I am smiling just thinking of it. I hope to be back soon and wish I had kept the connection to CYA over the last 30 years. Better late than ever.

Su-lin Jones, Carleton 1989

Dear Nadia,

The Magic continues! After 30 years the transformational experience we had here still touches our lives.

Having the chance to share these memories with my fellow classmates of the class "88-89" speaks volumes to the great work that CYA does. Words cannot express my gratitude for all that I have received.

Joe Garnjobst

Dear Nadia,

It has been the most lovely experience getting to reconnect with CYA and my former classmates. Thank you for the most gracious and generous hospitality

Jim Rubenstein

Dear Nadia, CYA staff and faculty,

Thirty years ago has sometimes seemed liked ancient history; sometimes like it was just yesterday. They were truly the best, most carefree, most memorable and wonderful days of my life—even if now I feel some frustration mixed with a touch of sadness about how much has been lost in memory. It's the rarest of treats—an honor—to be able to come back and see how much has changed and grown.

Thank you so much for making this particular "NOΣTOΣ" special with your warm welcome home

Dave Morehouse '88-89 and Ava and Toni Malada"

CRONOS: THE PASSAGE OF TIME

by Dave Morehouse

'Ανδρα μοι ἔννεπε, μοῦσα, πολύτροπον, ὃς μάλα πολλὰ πλάγχθη, ἐπεὶ Τροίης ἱερὸν πτολίεθρον ἔπερσεν.

Tell me about a complicated man. Muse, tell me how he wandered and was lost when he had wrecked the holy town of Troy.

- Homer, The Odyssey, translated by Emily Wilson

t was a rough passage from Piraeus to Iraklio. No rougher, perhaps, than the initial weeks with the Pomona contingent at the start of our collective junior-year-abroad experience at College Year in Athens in the fall of 1988. I wasn't getting along well with the group, whose agenda, it was becoming clear, was decidedly different from mine. Ironically, given the group's Bacchic inclinations, my error had to do with too much ouzo on a long ferry ride to the Cyclades—a story best left to the scraps of memory I have left of a turbid night that anticipated the roiling emesis of many of my new peers on the boat to Crete.

As it turned out, the Cretan leg of the journey was enriching and enjoyable-the heights of Lato as memorable as the curiously reconstructed remains of Knossos-regardless of my evident social ostracism. But I couldn't shake the nagging feeling that the year I had planned, scrimped, saved for was off to a bad start, and that Scylla or Charybdis (I could never recall which was which, to be honest) would swallow me whole if I didn't find some way to turn it around.

The three-hour ferry ride to Santorini, which was the back half of the weeklong trip, brought us into the imposing shadow of the rim of the caldera in mid-afternoon. This was followed by a cringe-inducing jaunt by bus up the vertiginous switchbacks of the caldera wall, and then to the north of the island for the obligatory celebration of the Aegean sunset from the whitewashed and azure-dappled thresholds of Oia, at that time not quite overrun yet by selfie-addled tourists from every corner of the globe.

Evening brought us back toward Fira, where we split up for dinner on our own, in whatever social groups we fell into by choice or by accident. As darkness engulfed the town and the restaurants and shops began to light up for the evening's diversions, I found myself in a random cluster of my new classmates, all on the hunt for a place to eat. I had a pang of apprehension: would I have anyone to dine with or would I end up in an awkward social group or...alone? It was then, as I climbed the deep, broad steps of the island's capital, that I met Joe and Alex-and my CYA experience truly began.

*

I was happy, I knew that. While experiencing happiness, we have difficulty in being conscious of it. Only when the happiness is past and we look back on it do we suddenly realize—sometimes with astonishment—how happy we had been.

-Nikos Kazantzakis, Zorba the Greek

*

More than thirty years have passed since that moment I met Joe and Alex on those steps in Fira. Since then, I've been back to Greece three times now: once within a few years of CYA, when I

CRONOS, continued on page 20

FROM THE BLOG

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RENOWNED GREEK AUTHOR, GIANNIS MAKRIDAKIS

his was part of an assignment designed for **Advanced Modern Greek I** and CYA Spring '19 student **Viviana Tsangaropoulos** eagerly accepted the challenge. But, truth be told, the assignment was far more ambitious: Viviana read in Greek one of his most distinguished books, *Anamisis Denekes*, a crime story about immigration in the US and return to Greece, relocation and otherness; she prepared the questions for the interview; she did the interview itself and then she had to transliterate it into Greek and translate it into English.

The course's instructor Dr. Eleni Fassa contacted the author and his publishers and they all responded enthusiastically. So, in April 2019 a meeting was arranged at the Hestia Publishing House where Viviana had the opportunity to interview Makridakis on issues regarding not only his books and literature, but, as you will read, politics, the Greek crisis, and even the modern conception of feminism (she is a political science major after all...). On top of this fascinating discussion, we had the chance to meet the editor and director of Hestia, Eva Karaitidi, and to have a guided tour in one of the oldest Publishing Houses in Greece and Europe.

The teaching of languages, ancient and modern, is usually confined to a classroom. At CYA we beg to differ. Learning in action and experiencing language in its manifold forms and aspects is our unwavering commitment.

I've read that you studied mathematics in college. How did you decide to become an author? Are mathematics and writing related?

I studied mathematics because I loved them and I wanted to become a mathematician. After I finished University and I started working as a math tutor, I realized I didn't feel fulfilled with my job and I wanted to do something else. Slowly I realized I wanted to do anthropological research which was not a profession in Greece at this point (1997). I was trying to find something that interested me and it simply did not exist. I started with a tape recorder and a camera and walked around Chios and did small interviews with the natives. I wanted to understand the history of Chios through these interviews. After eight or ten years of doing this, it drove me towards writing. I wrote a few books and entered the world of literature without knowing this research would be taking me there.



I am currently reading your book, "Anamisis Ntenekes" and I am finding the dialect of Chios beautiful but difficult to read, given my first language is not Greek. Was it easy for you to write in this dialect? You grew up in Chios but moved away. Is it difficult for someone to write in a dialect when the common language is something else?

The Chios dialect is what I grew up with so it was not difficult to write in. It comes out of me naturally. It must be difficult to write in this dialect if the common, mainstream language is different. I do not have much contact with television, so I was not influenced by modern Greek as much as others may have been. In art, you express yourself how you feel.

The heroes in your novels are mostly men. Why?

I'm psychoanalyzing this question and thinking it through. I have written women characters but many of my characters are men. Most likely because I am more comfortable and familiar with the male brain and way of thinking. However, I have interacted with many older women in Chios, most around my mother's age, and they were the most influential women in my life so I understand their way of thinking. I think that women are superior to men in the development of emotions and thinking. I'd like to write more female characters. Do you think that the cultivation of the Earth can help get Greece out of the crisis?

I think that the cultivation of the earth and human interaction with the Earth is a basic step for humans to have free thought and to be one with nature. I don't think that everyone needs to rely on the cultivation of the earth but I think that it is a balance you must achieve and we have forgotten about it. We have forgotten the basics and I think that the earth centers you in a mental way. I think the cultivation of the Earth is important for humans and their emotional development.

What is your opinion of the crisis? Do you think it can be solved?

The crisis is cultural. We are currently living in a capitalistic society and it all leads to destruction. Because capitalism leads to destruction, the first sign of that destruction that we see is the economy. If our attention was on the earth, we would see that the environment is also being destroyed. So the crisis is not necessarily economic, but cultural and found in all realms of our society. We need to change our perspective and instead of looking just at the economy, we must also direct our attention to the environment and take care of it. If we all stopped taking advantage of the environment and wasting energy, we could allow the earth to take a deep breath and I believe it would positively affect the economy as well.



Viviana Tsangaropoulos and CYA instructor Eleni Fassa with author Giannis Makridakis

I know that you live in Chios. Chios is one of the islands that has taken in a large number of refugees. Have you spoken to them? Are you interested in them? Have you helped them?

Yes, Chios has accepted many refugees during the refugee crisis. I was and I am close to the refugees. I hosted a Syrian family in my home during the winter. We are all people and everyone may end up in a difficult time in their lives and everyone has the right to ask for help. I was involved on the topic of immigration as a researcher because I first researched refugees of Chios that had fled during WWII. The pattern of immigration was the exact opposite as it is now in that in 1941, people from Chios were fleeing to the area of Syria and now they are coming from Syria to Chios. This tells you that you could easily be in a similar situation at any moment and that you must acknowledge the refugees and interact with them with empathy and understanding.

Do you vote in the elections?

Yes, I vote in the elections. I am not someone who doesn't vote because I want to dismantle the system. I vote because of my background in mathematics and it makes sense to me. You don't vote to give others the responsibility. Every day, I work to be an active citizen because to vote is not enough. You must show your politics and be active in them every day. To be close to people, to take a seat and show my opinion is important.

There has been a rise of neo-Fascism in Europe. Why do you think this has happened? Do you believe that the financial and refugee crises have contributed to this?

The period we are living in now shows us that when in the lead up to WWII, fascism was not sudden, but there was a development over time as there is now. And capitalist crises cause discontent in the public which leads to support for extremist. This is how nature works. If you put chickens in a coop and have a specific kind of corn for them to eat and then you throw in another five chickens, the old chickens will attack the new ones. This is what happens with all animals: they protect their home and their food. Even humans do the same. Though there is a difference with humans because we are more intelligent, we are able to think critically. But yes, there has been a rise in fascism because of the economic crisis. Unintelligent people come out and become politicians and create fascist movements. Unfortunately, humankind may have the memory of a goldfish and has forgotten WWII. But I hope that we haven't and that we will not let fascism rise again. Now there are different ways to communicate among ourselves as well. I hope that we will not let fascism rise again.

COOKING CORNER

FETA BOUYOURDI

Ingredients:

1/2 lb Feta Cheese, cut in 1/2 inch-thick slices

3-4 round slices of a ripe tomato

1 small chili or jalapeno pepper sliced thinly, or a pinch of chili pepper flakes

- A pinch of oregano
- A pinch of black pepper
- 4-5 tbsp olive oil

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 400 F. Slice tomato in roundlets and let them drain on kitchen paper. Slice chili peppers in thin slices. Lightly oil a shallow, oven-to-table dish and put the feta slices in it. Place the tomato slices on top of the feta without covering it completely, and spread the chili peppers or flakes on top, to your taste, depending on how hot you like it. Dust with oregano and black pepper and sprinkle with olive oil.

Bake for 20-30 minutes until tomatoes are cooked and the feta gets a golden color. Alternatively, instead of a dish you may use aluminum foil which you fold and seal on top, and bake for 15-20 minutes, then open foil and serve as is.

Serve as an appetizer with plenty of fresh, crusty bread and a glass of chilled wine or ouzo.

DISCOVERING ANCIENT GREEK MUSIC IN ATHENS

By Barbara Kasomenakis

eet Mary McLoughlin! She is a rising senior at the College of Wooster studying classics and history. This past week I chatted with Mary about her work at Archaeopolis, "a pioneering hub of Ancient Greek events that provides experiences that portray life in Ancient Greece." Archaeopolis is known to produce movies, host Ancient Greek catering sessions using ancient recipes, hold Ancient Greek days with arts, clothes, and recreations, and make a ton of their own swords, clothes, ceramics, and instruments—all in Ancient Greek style! Back in February, students from CYA visited Archaeopolis for an ancient music workshop. From then on, Mary was hooked.

Through CYA's Executive Director of Student Affairs, **Nadia Meliniotis**, Mary was able to secure an internship at Archaeopolis, where she does everything from assisting at events to preparing slideshows and writing blurbs for different websites. However, Mary's main motive for joining the space came from her attraction to Ancient Greek music and instruments. She



CYA students visit Archaeopolis. (Source: Greek Reporter)

told me that it was Sappho who initially drew her to ancient music and has influenced her plans for study back in the US: "I want to do a project on Sappho where I build a *barbitos* and learn to play it and sing Sappho. I don't know if I can really do that, but I will try." Mary, I am sure this is possible!

Mary tells me that the *barbitos* is a kind of longer lute that women favored. She chose it because we have no extensive record of how it was played, and because of that, there is less musical theory to learn!

Many thanks go to Giorgos Katsos at Archaeopolis, one of the many Athenians who have helped to make Mary's time in Greece immersive and unforgettable.

As we parted, I asked Mary why she became a classics major. She told me that she loves "stories and storytelling." For Mary, "Sappho tells beautiful stories and they need to be told. I believe stories change the world. Let's tell ones that are worthwhile."

Barbara Kasomenakis, Spring '19, was an intern for the CYA MediaLab. She is a junior at Skidmore College. Barbara studies English and is minoring in Art History.

CYA ADVISOR MICHAEL HERZFELD'S FIRST BOOK TO BE REPUBLISHED IN JUNE



OURS ONCE MORE

Folklore, Ideology, and the Making of Modern Greece

By Michael Herzfeld Epilogue by Sharon Macdonald

As announced on the Berghahn Books website: "When this work—one that contributes to both the history and anthropology fields—first appeared in 1982, it was hailed as a landmark study of the role of folklore in nation-building.

In this expanded edition, a new introduction by the author and an epilogue by Sharon Macdonald document its importance for current debates about Greece's often contested place in the complex politics of the European Union."

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ALUMNI RETURNING TO ATHENS: EXCERPTS FROM NADIA'S "GUEST BOOK"



Daniel Tolan (Spring '12) and his wife Maria visited August 12th, 2019; he wrote:

Dear Nadia,

It is wonderful to see you again! You, CYA, and Pangrati have a special place in my heart and it is a joy to be back and to share it all with my wife, Maria. This year I enjoyed spending some time in Athina as a participant in a Byzantine Greek program at the Gennadius Library—learning some Modern Greek at CYA was an immense help! Now, I am entering the fourth year of my PhD in Philosophy of Religion at Clare College, Cambridge.

Thank you for your continued support. πολλή αγάπη Daniel and Maria



June 26, 2019: Travis Wilson '91 writes:

Nadia and CYA,

It is great to be back home in Athens, 28 years after my first stay as a CYA student. The CYA experience, the faculty and the friends I made shaped my life and helped make me the person I am today. I had no idea in January of 1991 how impactful the experience at CYA would have on me and the rest of my life.

With all my thanks Travis Wilson DePauw University '92

August 8th, 2019 Reid Harreid (Spring '16) writes:

Dear Nadia,

It is such a dream to be back here στην Αθήνα! I can't believe it has been three years, as I feel like no time has passed at all. I cannot thank you and the CYA faculty and staff enough for everything I learned here, from language to showing me the secret special places in this city and country. What a joy to return to my favorite place on earth and share it with someone I love. I will be back many times, I promise!

So much love, Reid Herreid





Alex Costas '01 I have been living in Athens, Greece the last 15 years. After completing an Athens based double master's in archeology and business I have been busy working on heritage preservation and awareness projects with local NGOs and nonprofits as well as leading private and group cultural tours in Athens CYA alum Vicki (Duncan '91) Gardner and her family returned to Athens for a visit. They spent a day touring Athens with Alexandros Costa (CYA Fall '00 and former Admin Staff in Athens). Here they are on the Acropolis.

as well as in Greece and Europe. My passion for Greece, culture, and travel is expressed in my tours as a local guide, sharing what I love best about Athens and Greece with guests. You can reach Alex at alex.k.costas@gmail.com.

WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS



CYA's Librarian, **Georgia Katsarou**, attended the 85th World Library and Information Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions that took place in Athens between August 24 and 30. The Congress focused on the topic "Libraries: dialogue for change" and attracted approximately 3,500 librarians and information professionals from all over the world. The sessions offered invaluable information about new trends in the libraries and provoked discussion on the new services that libraries must offer and the new roles that librarians must play in a rapidly changing world. While networking with other librarians, Georgia met Karen Frenchu , (CYA Summer '07) who is now a special librarian. CYA would like to thank the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation for funding Georgia's participation to the Congress.

(g)

CYA SAYS NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

As of this Semester, CYA has eliminated the use of singleuse plastic across student services and staff facilities. We believe in the significance of every small step towards relieving the planet from the overload of plastic waste and we plan on continuing to take steps towards reducing CYA's environmental footprint.

DONALD "SKIP" BURHANS

By Maureen Carpenter '71



The CYA class of 1970-71 has lost a dear and delightful friend with the passing of **Donald "Skip" Burhans** '71. Skip was the most wonderful, intelligent, caring man....a true companion to all of us, and we shall all miss him dearly, especially with the upcoming reunion, where we were all so looking forward to his presence.

Skip was born on August 14, 1950 in Peoria Illinois to Dr. Donald and Bobette Burhans. He is survived by his daughter, Kaitlin (David) Beaumont of Denver IA and their four sons: Braven, Cannen, Tysen and Sutten, and his sister Bobette (Stephen) Maginas of Rock Island, IL. Not to be forgotten is his beloved dog Roxie.

At left: Maureen, Skip and Dean

Skip received his BA from Wabash College (Crawfordsville IN) then his Masters at Northern Illinois University (DeKalb IL). He was employed as a Librarian at Bradley University in Peoria Illinois.

We all met Skip in Sept. 1970 and he quickly made friends with students and teachers alike. Many of these friendships have lasted for almost 50 years and include his dear fellow CYAers Jack Hermansen '71 and Dean Maragos '71. Somewhere starting about 45 years ago this "stalwart band" of CYAers managed to get together for some 30 reunions (they count reunions as 3 or more people... anything less is a "visit"). While these reunions have mostly been in the Chicago area...they have also taken place in Virginia, Greece and all along the East Coast. The THREE AMIGOS formed the original core of this group: Cathleen Asch '71 joined the group about 15 years ago, and provided much of the needed adult supervision in her lovely home in Barrington, IL. There were guest appearances of other alumni such as Jane Dampeer '71 and Maureen Carpenter '71. Participants included not only the CYAers, but all their children... and later grandchildren, and typically numbered around 25. So, it became a generational tradition....with these alumni getting together with their children who in turn became great friends and continuing on to grandchildren.

We wish to send a heartfelt hug to his daughter Kaitlin and her family and want her to know we all loved Skip and will miss him tremendously.

Skip's family and several CYA alums have made donations to CYA in Skip's memory. If you would like to do so, please visit CYA's web page at https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/cyathens. Donors will be recognized in the alumni newsletter, The OWL.

JULIE CLAIRE SWANER ('67-'68)

On Monday, August 5, 2019, **Julie Claire Swaner**, loving mother of two children and five grandchildren, passed away unexpectedly in her daughter's home at the age of 74.

Julie was born September 22, 1944 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Louise Snow and Robert B. Swaner. She received a B.A. in Humanities (Philosophy) in 1969, an MBA in 1986, and a Ph.D. in Education in 2011. During her undergraduate studies, Julie studied abroad in Athens, Greece. Her B.A. and Ph.D. degrees were conferred by the University of Utah; her MBA was conferred by the University of Connecticut.

Julie started her career as a flight attendant for Western Airlines in the mid-60s and then with Pan Am in the 1970s. After having children, Julie created a gourmet food store and catering company, The Cobble Cookery in Kent, Conn., which was an integral part of the community for nearly 13 years. After moving back to her hometown of Salt Lake City, Julie directed the University of Utah's Alumni Career Programs for 15 years until her retirement in 2016. While passionate about her careers, Julie always made time for family, friends, food, gardening, and travel.

Julie is beloved by her two daughters, Amelia Cason (Ken) of New Rochelle, N.Y. and Katrina Vernon (Matt) of Raleigh, N.C., their father, Lamar Cason, and her sons-in-law. She was an active participant in the lives of her five grandchildren: Madeleine (7), Clara (5), Alex (3), and Louisa and Julia (9 months.) She is survived by her siblings: Kathy Hart of Fresno, CA and Christopher Swaner, Valerie Swaner, and Michele Swaner of Salt Lake City. She is predeceased by her sister, Cynthia Swaner. Julie leaves behind eight nieces, three nephews, and an abundance of extended family and friends who adore her.

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was in graduate school, studying Classics with every ambition of becoming a scholar and teacher of Antiquity, much like what Joe ultimately became.

The second time was twenty-two years later, when I finally brought my folks and my then-wife on a long-overdue trip that I dubbed "American Odyssey," replete with a Wikipedia reader in PDF form that I put together on everything from the history of the Greek language to the greatest hits and heroes of Greek history, all the way from the Cycladic period to the modern debt crisis. I was trying to impress, I guess, but I also simply wanted to give my travelling companions-you know-a little context. The feeling of nostalgia at that time was strong, but the trip wasn't so much about my past as it was about showing my family a good time in a place that was significant to me personally and significant for a million and one reasons very well apart from me. Nostalgia took a rear seat to a present mission, which while successful as such, couldn't forestall the demise of my second marriage, which unfolded acrimoniously within a month of our return stateside.

The third and latest return was this past July, this time in the company of my fiancée, Toni, and her precocious thirteenyear-old daughter, Ava. And for this trip, the context was a small reunion in Athens, marking thirty years since the CYA class of 1988-89—only the second reunion I've ever been to in my life aside from the still-too-innocent-to-matter, ten-year milestone for my Anchorage high school. This time, the focus on the past—the "walk down memory lane"—demanded a reckoning with the passage of time unlike any I had ever experienced.

*

Can't bring back time. Like holding water in your hand.

-James Joyce, Ulysses

*

It's perhaps a truism to say that a reunion, especially when you've passed into middle age, can be emotionally fraught: the inevitable physical, material, or professional comparisons with others; the sharp recognition of lost youth and advancing age; the growing discomfort with the depredations of time. Some may somehow find a way to slide through the gauntlet of life relatively unmolested, but I can't honestly count myself among them. Ever since those bright and shiny days at CYA all those years ago, my life hasn't exactly panned out as I thought it might at that time, and it would be disingenuous for me to say that it wasn't without a tinge or two of regret about choices I consciously made or the ones I failed to make along the way.

As much as we'd like to propel ourselves relentlessly into the future without a glance in the rearview mirror or acknowledgement of regret, the past has a way of imposing itself on our psyches that can be unexpectedly bittersweet (or more aptly, "sweetbitter," as Sappho had it, referring to eros). But it's more than that: it's not just an experience of the ephemera of mixed emotions. The hold the past can exert on us is far more insistent, because the past, as Faulkner noted, "isn't even past." And when the experience lodged in memory is rooted in the exuberant days of youthfree of care, free of any real decisions to make or responsibilities to shoulder beyond the simple purview of a twenty year old living his best life (whether fully aware of it or not), in a very special place and time-then the challenge thereafter can be how to live up to, or just live with, the shining perfection of that moment.

*

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Correction: Last issue we listed Caroline Farell, Barbara Kasomenakis, and Anna Vargas as Fall '18 Media Lab interns when in fact they were Spring '19 Media Lab interns. Apologies for the error. Date ____

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| □ I WOULD LIKE CYA TO CONTACT ME ABOUT A POSSIBLE | MAJOR GIFT. |