

# THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

Spring 2019



Spring '19 students Cameron Pazol (*The University of Colorado, Boulder*) and Patrick Pallisco (*The Catholic University of America*) at the shore of Lindos, Rhodes

5 PLATEIA STADIΟΥ, ATHENS, GREECE

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After a decade of economic crisis, one that brought great misery and distress to Greek society, the country has turned a page. The new government in place is charging on with a clear mandate from the Greek people to bring about a great change. Greece comes out of this dark decade wounded but with lessons learned.

One lesson is that the public must understand to be vigilant and keep an eye on how the country is run. Greek society must be careful not to succumb to the voice of populists. The derailment of public finances that brought about the economic crisis, was caused in great part by acquiescence to the unproductive and corrupt practices of the parties dominating Greek politics after 1980.

The other lesson learned is that the country needs reforms above all else. While the European lenders were overseeing the implementation of what had been agreed, to some extent reforms were being implemented. This effort must not halt now. Stability of the tax system, a shift of emphasis from over-taxation to growth, and persistent implementation of reforms should turn the economy around and help repatriate some of the thousands young Greek professionals who have left the country in what was a huge brain drain.

The most pressing reforms are the ones on which Greece's lenders were not focusing, education, justice and public safety. Of primary interest to us is the educational system. Unless it is geared to producing happy citizens and not individuals that merely seek a place in a public university, frustration and unemployment will persist and the country will not prosper. Much needs to be done in this area.

Starting from elementary schooling, on to secondary and tertiary education, the emphasis must be on less state control of education but insistence on evaluation of faculty and institutions, measured independence in the running of K-12 education and complete independence to public universities. The latter need to be able to schedule their academic programs in a timely fashion, design the curriculum that fits their needs and enroll only the numbers of students that they can accommodate.

One far reaching reform for public universities can be to offer undergraduate academic programs in the English language. Such a move would attract large numbers of foreign students to Greece, which has everything that an international student may want, warm hospitable people, a beautiful physical environment and lovely weather.

If Greece were to become an academic hub for international students, it would stand to enjoy enormous gains from the direct, indirect, and induced economic impact of this activity. Cyprus has managed to attract thousands of foreign students that have brought not just funds but better quality to its institutions of higher learning.

What would CYA's position be in the Greek educational landscape if there was more competition and more institutions entered the field of study abroad? Undoubtedly, CYA would gain by the increased interest in Greece and by the enlargement of the foreign educational population. CYA's academic standards are such that it welcomes such competition.

Now in its 57<sup>th</sup> year, CYA is a mature institution, a center of excellence with the



strongest ever academic curriculum. It is proud to have a faculty that are not just fine scholars but engaging and inspiring teachers and a staff that is dedicated and committed to keeping CYA's international students safe and supported as they are acquiring intercultural competence in Greece.

Our 10,000 plus alumni are a source of pride and strength. They have a loyalty to the institution that is not evident in any other study abroad program. They support CYA in every way they can and often confess that their time at CYA was the most significant period in their lives.

Above all, CYA has strong governance. Its Board of Trustees is ultimately the pillar of the institution. The school would not have been what it is today without the guidance and the generosity of its Trustees and it could not look into the future with the sense of security that it enjoys.

ALEXIS PHYLACTOPOULOS, *President*

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**Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: September 1, 2019**

## CYA STAFF RETREAT



Earlier this year, CYA President **Alexis Phylactopoulos** revived an old CYA tradition by surprising all administration and staff members with a weekend get-away trip with their families, as an acknowledgment of their hard work and dedication to CYA. During the second weekend of February, CYA employees enjoyed a relaxing retreat at the beautiful Kaltezioti Mansion in Kapsia, a quaint mountainous village of Arcadia, in the central Peloponnese. As Mr. Phylactopoulos mentioned in his remarks

during the first night at the hotel, this retreat had nothing to do with work; it was an “appreciation trip” and the perfect way to get to know each other better outside the CYA premises.

The trip included various site visits, including to the picturesque village of Dimitsana and the open-air Water Power Museum with its restored traditional installations and water-powered mechanisms, followed by dinner at a local taverna, all courtesy of



Above: CYA instructor Angelos Papadopoulos discussing the use of water as a major energy source for pre-industrial societies, next to a building that houses a fulling-tub and a water mill at the Open-Air Water Power Museum at Dimitsana

CYA. The following day, the group visited the Cave of Kapsia with its beautiful stalagmites and stalactites, and the Greek orthodox church of St. Fotini of Mantinea with its most “unorthodox” architectural style. The retreat concluded with a private wine tasting tour at the Semeli vineyard in Nemea, the mythical and historical region of the Peloponnese where the Feats of Hercules occurred, but also known for its excellent wines. This “appreciation trip” was something that all CYA staff members really appreciated.

## CYA FOUNDER’S DAY CELEBRATION 2019

On February 11, 2019, on the occasion of its annual Founder’s Day celebration, CYA honored the memory of its founder, **Ismene Phylactopoulou** and paid tribute to its former faculty members who had made CYA what it is today with their dedication and commitment to their disciplines and to education in general.

Present at the ceremony was Trustee **Ulysses Kyriacopoulos**, current faculty and staff, alumni and friends of CYA. In his opening remarks, President **Alexis Phylactopoulos** recalled the beginning of the institution in 1962 when “Ismene Phylactopoulou took a leap in the dark in starting this venture, combining her educational background with an entrepreneurial restless spirit.”

President Phylactopoulos recognized **Kimon Giocarinis**, former CYA Director of Studies, and saluted two professors who have been with CYA for the better part of their academic careers: **Steve Diamant** and



Founder Ismene Phylactopoulou

**Marinetta Papahimona**. Phylactopoulos surprised the two professors by showing photographic mementos from their years at CYA.

The evening continued with CYA Librarian **Georgia Katsarou** who gave an interesting presentation on the **Organization and Digitization Project of the Historical**

**Archives of College Year in Athens**. She presented just a small sample of the many items contained in the archive, including administrative documents, brochures, handbooks, lecture posters, invitations, cards, newsletters, course syllabi, and a rich photographic collection.

The presentation was followed by a short lecture, **Research in Austerity**, by CYA anthropology professor **Aimee Placas**, in which she outlined the research she had done while on a CYA-funded sabbatical. After thanking CYA and her fellow faculty members for their valuable contributions to the project, she described how she had set out to discover if austerity teaches consumers new behaviors, and if so, to what end.

The evening concluded with a buffet dinner, during which guests enjoyed re-connecting with long-time friends, meeting new ones, exchanging news, and sharing stories of their time with CYA.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: RITSA PANAGIOTOU

CYA professor **Ritsa Panagiotou**, who teaches ECON 326, **Crisis and Change in Greece and Europe**, and PSCI 363, **The European Union: Challenges and Strategic Choices**, provides her students exciting opportunities both in and out of the classroom. Last fall her students had the opportunity to attend an Economic Forum and an event organized by ELIAMEP where speakers were discussing “The EU-Turkey Statement and the future of asylum.”

Speakers were experts in the field of migration: CYA professor **Angeliki Dimitriadi** (Professor at CYA and Researcher at ELIAMEP), Professor Ayhan Kaya (Professor at Istanbul Bilgi University), and Peter Kovacs-Olah (Researcher at the Migration Research Institute, Budapest). The event was held in the European Parliament Information Office in Greece, a beautiful

neoclassical building in the center of Athens. A lively discussion took place, on the issues of the EU’s handling of the refugee and migration crisis, the role of Greece and Turkey, the impact of the refugee crisis on the rise of right-wing populism in Europe, and the future of the asylum process. The discussion complimented perfectly the issues currently being examined in Panagiotou’s **Crisis and Change in Greece and Europe** class.

Professor Panagiotou earned an MPhil and a DPhil in International Relations from Oxford University (St. Antony’s College). She has worked as a Research Associate at the European Business School (INSEAD) in Fontainebleau, France, has been a Visiting Professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business and at the University of Athens Postgraduate Programme in Southeast European Studies, was a Visiting Research Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

She has published in many scholarly journals, including *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *Journal of Balkan and Near East Studies*, and *Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*.

In addition to teaching at CYA, she is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre of Planning and Economic Research in Athens. Her research interests include European political economy, the political and economic development of the Balkan region, and the European Union’s Balkan enlargement.



CYA professor Panagiotou and a group of CYA students at the 29th Greek Economy Conference December 2018, entitled “Greece facing the Future: The New Growth Model and Global Challenges”



Professor Panagiotou and a group of CYA students attended an event organized by ELIAMEP (The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy).



## VISIT FROM CYA BOARD MEMBER

**Endy Zemenides** '95, who is a member of the CYA Board of Trustees stopped by to catch up and to visit the CYA MediaLab in December. He is the Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC).

Left to right: CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos, Endy Zemenides, CYA Development Officer Vassilis Simopoulos, and CYA Digital Content Coordinator, Tina Voulgari

## EMILY HOWARD: STUDENT, TRAVELER AND INTERN, OH MY!

*Emily Howard is a junior at Reed College.*

Here at CYA, you'll find that students are always going the extra mile. Whether it's walking through Psyrri in search of the best *souvlaki* or exploring the corners of the ancient Agora for hours, CYAers rarely stay indoors. So it makes sense that on top of studying abroad, CYA students find opportunities to hone their skills and follow their passions both inside and outside of the classroom. **Emily Howard**, a junior from Reed College, is one of our students doing an internship in Athenian journalism, and we took a look at what she's done so far.

Before she even landed in Greece, Emily had started looking up jobs that piqued her interest here in Athens: "I was looking at the CYA website during the summer and I was curious about what kind of extracurriculars people did." Coincidentally, this small search ended up paying off in a big way, as a couple of emails later, Emily landed an internship with *Athens Insider*, a travel magazine that reports on all the creative arts and events happening throughout Athens. Being at the *Athens Insider* office twice a week as an intern, Emily has been one of

the voices behind weekly newsletters that are sent out for people to see what's going on in the creative spheres of Athens. She's covered stories like the photography of Rock n' Roll music scenes in Greece, new Netflix shows coming to the Greek screens, grape harvesting on Mount Athos, and so much more. "As part of CYA, I actually get these newsletters every week, and I always read them with excitement to see what new exhibition or music festival is going on in my local neighborhood."

When asked about how her internship has shaped her abroad experience, Emily stressed that she's had nothing but rewarding experiences. From the commute to the office to the places she goes throughout Athens for her next story, Emily says that working for her internship has given her a chance to see Athens through a different lens: "Going to my internship has been a fun experience because it's a long commute...it's been cool just to see Vouliagmeni, a suburb of Athens that I wouldn't have seen otherwise." One of the most rewarding parts of the internship for Emily is how much she's learned by simply being in her office space. Working with her editor and



mentor Sudha Iliades, Emily stressed that she's learned a lot about different workplace relations, different styles of writing outside that of the typical academic or liberal arts college sphere, and has also gotten a more in-depth look at modern Athenian life and culture, all things that have positively impacted her abroad experience. "Knowing more about Athens culture and events that are happening has...shaped the way that I've been here and been living here...it's a really cool way to get to know the city."

## NEW COURSES

*We are excited to announce that CYA will begin offering Psychology courses starting this fall.*

### FALL SEMESTER

**The Biology of Consciousness**, a Neuroscience/Psychology course, will be taught by Dr. **Nicholas G. Hatsopoulos** '83, a Professor at the Dept. of Organismal Biology and Anatomy at The University of Chicago and member of the CYA Board of Trustees.

Consciousness has been considered one of the great mysteries in human existence. Historically, psychologists and neuroscientists have largely ignored the problem of conscious awareness because it was considered subjective falling outside the realm of scientific inquiry. However, over the past several decades scientists have begun to try to tackle the problem using modern scientific tools. In fact, several

years ago, a new journal was established entitled *Neuroscience of Consciousness*. The course will begin by trying to define the term and consider the so-called "hard" and "easy" problems of consciousness. A brief history of ancient civilizations' views on mental experience will be discussed with particular attention to Greek thinkers from the classical period. The class will then go over basic neuroscientific concepts and methods that are being used to study the neural correlates of consciousness. Different states of consciousness and disruptions of consciousness in human patients will be explored. The course will touch on the related problems of intentionality and free will and finally discuss prevailing scientific theories of consciousness.

### SPRING SEMESTER

**Trauma and the Remaking of the Self** will be taught by **Eleni Koukouna**, professional psychologist, who has extensive practice with refugees, migrants, and unaccompanied minors. This module provides an overview of current psychological theories and research in the understanding of human responses to psychological trauma and life adversities. Topics include acute stress reactions, and post-traumatic stress disorders resulting from interpersonal and family violence, sexual victimization, traumatic loss and death, disaster, and other critical life events. Resilience and post-traumatic growth in the face of life challenges will be discussed in the second part of the module. There will be a special focus on cultural and gender issues in relation to human traumatic stress reactions and resilient functioning.



## DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT CYA

*Kalei Oliver (Fall '18) is an intern for the CYA MediaLab and a junior at Wellesley College. She studies Anthropology with a focus in South American Indigenous Archaeology, and has a minor in Cinema and Media Studies.*

When exploring programs abroad, CYA initially sparked my interest due to its unique course offerings. One of the courses I was most excited about taking was **Introduction to Digital Archaeology and Virtual Reality**.

Digital methods in archaeology are quickly gaining popularity in the discipline, yet not many universities or programs offer coursework in this area. Luckily, CYA has Dr. **Hüseyin Öztürk** to teach us both the theoretical and practical side of Digital Archaeology.

The goal of the class is to acquaint us with the most recent digital tools and methods, but it also helps us develop a practical skill set. To begin to accomplish this, our first assignment was a 3D model of a small object of our choice. For about a week, the Academic Center here at CYA was full of makeshift little studios, where students of all photography skill levels were attempting to take hundreds of technically perfect photographs. We then ran these photographs through photogrammetry 3D modeling software.

From potatoes to matchboxes to souvenir owls, we all tried and tried again to get our little models perfect.



Dr. Öztürk and students working with digital tools

Upon completing the models of our trinkets, we got some more hands-on experience on a school field trip to the Peloponnese. While in Nafplio, CYA professor Öztürk took the class to Karathonas Beach to practice drone photography. After a brief introduction, all of us got to fly the drone as well as control the picture taking software through an app on a cell phone. It was a lovely sunset at a beautiful beach, the perfect setting to learn a new skill. Check out some of our photographs from the drone as well as of the students flying it!

For archaeology students like myself, spending countless hours in the lab getting actual practical experience in an up-and-coming subfield is a priceless experience.

The same goes for Kyle Doney, a computer science and classics double major, who says he gets the best of both worlds, as this class is "the perfect way to combine these two majors."

Many of us have additionally been volunteering at the Wiener Lab in the American School of Classical Studies, where we also get to see scientific and digital methods being employed in archaeology.

I'm so glad to have these opportunities and I think all of us are proud of the results we have gotten from our work.

Thank you professor Öztürk!



Above: Students learned to use drones and to create models using the most recent digital tools.

Left: A drone's eye view of the students



## GARDEN PARTY FOR CYA STUDENTS AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN ATHENS

On October 4, 2018, U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt and his wife Mary Pyatt, held a garden party to welcome the new CYA Fall '18 students.

One hundred and forty students from fifty five U.S. universities, CYA faculty and staff spent an afternoon at the Ambassador's residence, enjoying the company and cordiality of the Embassy staff, the warm weather, and an American-style poolside barbeque.

Along with **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, President of CYA, present at the party were **Theoni Scourta**, VP of Academic Affairs, and CYA faculty members **Athena Hadji** (Cultural Heritage), **Dimitris Kritsotakis** (Classics), **Panagiota Maragou** (Environmental Studies), **Ritsa Panagiotou** (Political Science), **Athena Stourna** (Performance and Theater), and **Maria Vidali** (Urbanism/Architecture).

During his welcome speech, Ambassador Pyatt emphasized the long-standing close relationship between the two countries. He asked the students if they were interested in pursuing a career within the Foreign Service and referred to the various posts his own career has taken him so far, from Asia, to Europe and Latin America.

Ambassador Pyatt spoke about his appreciation for Greece, the country's rich culture, beautiful people, and important past. "There is no other place in the world where you can touch history the way you can in Greece," he said.

He referred to the excellent work done by CYA and urged students to live this experience to the fullest, and to act as good ambassadors for the United States.

CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos, thanked the Ambassador and his wife for

their warm hospitality: "Your gesture today to invite the students of CYA underlines the importance you assign to the educational factor as part of the relationship between the US and Greece." He recognized the excellent work done by Ambassador Pyatt and his tireless efforts in improving relations between the US and Greece that are today far warmer and closer than they have been since World War II. "College Year in Athens—now in its 56th year—has been doing its part, too, by acting as an educational and cultural bridge between the two countries."

At the end of his remarks, Mr. Phylactopoulos presented the Ambassador with a gift: an art book with photographs of Greek monuments taken by Robert McCabe in the 1950's.





## ABIGAIL CHERNILA: MY INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

*Abigail Chernila, (CYA '18) is an Economics major at Bryn Mawr College.*

The Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE) is a private, non-profit, public-benefit research organization that occupies a unique position in Greek society; it is an independent body promoting research on current problems and prospects for the Greek economy while generating reliable information, analysis, and proposals for action that can be of great value to decision makers in the context of economic policy making.

When **Abigail Chernila** (CYA '18) began considering her study abroad options, she visited the CYA website to research the various organizations which CYA collaborates with. As an Economics major at Bryn Mawr College, IOBE caught her attention. She immediately contacted the CYA Director of Student Affairs, **Nadia Melinioti**, who secured her a research internship within this prestigious organization.

Abi describes her research project, which fits within the International Macroeconomic and Finance Units of IOBE, as follows: "The project focuses on measuring the impacts of different Brexit scenarios on bilateral trade relations between Britain and Greece. It seeks to quantify the impact possible scenarios will have on the trade of goods and services, the flow of human capital, and investments." George Gatopoulos, a senior researcher at IOBE and Abi's supervisor, explains the challenges of the project: "It is true that there is not a lot of visibility in terms of the policy outcomes of the ongoing discussions, so what we can do on our side is to just consider some scenarios while simultaneously talking with stakeholders, for instance with business people that are somehow active in one or both of these countries, and investigating how they think they could be affected by whatever outcome occurs. At this stage, we will have to wait and see what ultimately emerges before developing more concrete conclusions and findings."

Prior to doing research at IOBE, Abi interned at Bloomberg as an Equity Research Analyst for Bloomberg Intelligence, and at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in the Office of Compliance Investigations and Examinations. Interning in Greece is different, she told us, as it is more



Abigail with George Gatopoulos, Senior Researcher at IOBE

self-driven. "Because IOBE is a smaller organization, I get to help with a wide variety of projects and do impactful work. This makes the research exciting, challenging, and very rewarding." Abi also explains how this internship has influenced her thoughts about her future career: "Before doing research at IOBE, I was not considering a career in economics, as I wanted to pursue equity research. However, I find the work at IOBE extremely interesting and I now know that I want to continue focusing on European macroeconomics on any career path I choose!"

Abi decided to stay in Greece and at CYA as a full-year student. She is very happy with the way this internship fit so well into her busy schedule: "Having this oppor-

tunity while studying abroad has ensured that I organize my time well. Knowing that I have a block of time set aside for research motivates me to do my coursework efficiently. Combined with the custom of doing things later in Greece, this leaves me with plenty of time to have a fun social life and to explore all that Athens has to offer. Additionally, I am still able to travel on the weekends as the internship takes place during the week."

IOBE General Director Nikos Vettas told us that he is extremely happy with Abi's work so far, praising her excellent research skills and professionalism. This is one of the many reasons he is keen to extend the partnership between IOBE and CYA in the future.

### CLIMATE CHANGE LECTURE

On October 8, 2018 **Henry Jakubowski**, Ph.D. Professor of Chemistry College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, Director of the Fall 2018 CSBSJU program at CYA, gave a lecture on **Climate Change and a Solution with Dividends**.

Scientists believe that climate change and its consequences are the most critical issues facing humankind. Yet the

scientific consensus that present climate change is caused by humans has not been accepted by many people in the present populist and politicized era. This presentation focused on the science and consequences of climate change, the barriers to addressing it, and an emerging bipartisan approach that gives hope that humanity can indeed face this challenge.

## CYA RECEPTION



Left to right: Vincent and Adamantia (Marathakis S'96) Hormovitis, Theoni Scourta (VP for Academics, CYA), Ann Brownlee '73 (U Penn), Robert Pitt (CYA), Erica Huffman '93 (Director of Alumni Relations, CYA)



Robert Pitt

CYA's Vice President for Academics, **Theoni Scourta** along with CYA professor **Robert Pitt** and CYA Director of Alumni Relations, **Erica Huffman** '93, joined partners, friends and alumni of CYA at a reception in San Diego, CA on January 4th. The reception was held at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, where Classicists from all over the world convene to present findings and discuss trends in the field.

Robert Pitt gave a talk on epigraphy and epigraphers in the 18th century in his presentation, **Inscription Hunting and Early Travelers in the Near East: The Cases of Pococke and Chandler Compared**.

**Zoë Kontes** '95 (Associate Professor and Chair of Classics, Kenyon College), a member of CYA's Board of Trustees and a Summer 2019 visiting professor, also participated in the conference, speaking on **Podcasting the Classics** and presenting *Looted*, her own narrative podcast series on the illicit trade in antiquities. In Summer 2019, she will be teaching a course on Illegal Antiquities at CYA, where issues concerning the looting of ancient sites, the international trade in art objects and antiquities, authenticity and forgery, museum management and conservation, and the preservation of cultural property will be discussed.

The CYA team enjoyed meeting and reconnecting with experts from the Archaeology and Classical Studies fields, including **Brendan Burke** '89 (Associate Professor with the Department of Greek and Roman Studies, University of Victoria), **Jack Davis** (Carl W. Blegen Professor of Greek



Theoni Scourta (VP for Academics, CYA), Hal Haskell (Professor of Classics, Southwestern University and Member, CYA Academic Advisory Roundtable)





Left to right: Brian Martens S'08 (Chester Dale Fellow, Metropolitan Museum of Art), Trevor Van Damme (Ph.D. candidate, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA), Sanjaya Thakur (Associate Professor, Chair of Classics, Colorado College)

Archaeology, University of Cincinnati; Former Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens), **Laetitia La Follette** '75 (Professor of History of Art and Architecture, University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Katherine Schwab (Professor of Art History, Fairfield University), **Alan Shapiro** '69 (W.H. Collins Vickers Professor of Archaeology, The Johns Hopkins University; Whitehead Professor at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1992-93, 2012-13), and Sharon Stoker (Senior Research Associate, University of Cincinnati).

Local area alumni also joined the event; **Marilyn Cade** '68 (Newport Hospital School of Nursing) and her husband Jerry, and **Adamantia** (Marathakis '96) **Hormovitis** (Union College), her husband Vincent and their daughter attended the reception and enjoyed meeting fellow CYA alumni and CYA staff.

Overall, the reception was an excellent opportunity for all attendees to re-establish ties and make new connections within the extended CYA family. It was also a fun evening, with guests sharing favorite CYA memories and reminiscing about their time in Greece.



Zoë Kontes



Left to right: Robert Pitt (CYA), Helma Dik (Associate Professor in Classics and the College, University of Chicago), and Leon Wash (University of Chicago, Classics Department, Graduate Student)

## ALUMNI PROFILE: STAVROULA (VIVIAN) HARITOS, CYA SUMMER '03



*Vivian Haritos is the Director of Development at Pan-Hellenic Scholarship Foundation*

It is hard to believe that I attended CYA for a semester abroad over 16 years ago. All of these years later, I still consider CYA one of my most cherished experiences as a college student and young adult—I made lifelong friendships, rediscovered my ancestral home, and gained a world-class education—in fact, a CYA classmate even attended my wedding last year!

As a Junior at the University of Illinois at Chicago, I remember holding the CYA pamphlet in my hands, which I pulled from a display in the Academic office outlining semesters abroad. While marketing and communications have certainly changed since the early 2000's, one thing remains constant: My belief in CYA, their mission, and the tremendous benefit and personal impact of study abroad.

For me, CYA not only provided superior academic offerings, but a community of individuals from all over the world who shared a common passion. These individuals helped weave a rich tapestry comprised of curiosity and love for Greece, her history, and her culture. I recall vividly my two wonderful professors—renowned academ-

ics Dr. **Nanno Marinatos**, along with Dr. **Steven Diamant**, and their enthusiasm for the material they were teaching.

As an Art History major and Classics minor, the course syllabi, on-site trips, reading materials, and in-class lectures were all expertly assembled to provide a better understanding of Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations. Our trips as a class were unforgettable; we went to Crete, explored the Peloponnese, and stood in awe at the ruins of Akrotiri and Knossos, with ample behind-the-scenes experiences through historical sites, museums, and archaeological excavations that had not even been published yet.

It felt special because it was special—and that is the reason we must continue to support CYA.

Since completing my studies, I went on to pursue my passion in the Arts, and have gained experience through a variety of non-profit work in exhibitions, education, and public programming. Today, I am proud to represent another organization that I consider special—The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, where I currently serve as Director of Development. Founded in 2002 by Chris P. Tomaras, the PanHellenic has gone on to award \$3.25+ million in scholarships to almost 500 of the top Greek American undergraduates in the United States. For more information, please visit [www.panhellenicsf.org](http://www.panhellenicsf.org). Our next scholar-

ship application will be available on October 1st and qualifying undergraduates are encouraged to apply by January 31, 2020.

In 2018, things seemed to come full-circle when the PanHellenic received a generous Corporate Sponsorship from CYA. We were honored to welcome Campus Relations Manager, **Alexia Lingaas**, along with CYA Alumna **Marissa Linzi '10** to Chicago for our Alumni Weekend, where they represented CYA and shared the tremendous benefit of study abroad with our Alumni and Scholars.

This past June 14-16, CYA continued their generous support of the Foundation with a Corporate Sponsorship that helped kick-off our Alumni Weekend at Holland and Knight. CYA Board of Trustee member, **Endy Zemenides** CYA '95, represented CYA and shared his personal experience as an alum. In addition to the Welcome Reception sponsored by CYA, the Foundation held a third annual Mentorship Luncheon sponsored by The Hellenic Initiative, where fourteen mentors shared valuable knowledge and insight with our scholarship recipients. The weekend culminated with our Awards Ceremony and Gala, where the Foundation awarded \$250,000 in scholarships, and announced a new internship initiative. The Foundation welcomed over 600 guests to our 2019 Alumni Weekend events.

Lastly, I wish to thank everyone at CYA who make these life-changing experiences possible—may you continue to flourish and thrive for generations to come. Thank you.



Getting some shade at Akrotiri, Santorini



Last class meeting at the Acropolis, Athens



## FALL 2018 STUDENT AMBASSADOR AWARD



We are excited to announce the winner of the Fall 2018 Flight Voucher: **Shaienne Nickerson** (Fall '18) from UNC Chapel Hill!

Each semester CYA partners with STA Travel to award a \$500 flight voucher to the ambassador who has been the most effective in sharing his/her CYA story. Throughout the Fall '18 semester, Shai went above and beyond her volunteer role, putting a huge amount of work into promoting the CYA program. She represented CYA at study abroad fairs, wrote about the program in various publications, met with UNC professors and study abroad officers, and participated in webinars, focus groups, and other study abroad information sessions. Shai also created various media projects detailing all aspects of her study abroad experience.

We would also like to congratulate our two runners-up, **Peyton Anderson** (Fall '18) from USC and **Angelica Karafas** (Fall '18) from UNC Chapel Hill. They are very active ambassadors who proudly represent our program and successfully share their personal experiences of Greece. Of course, a big thank you goes out to all our ambassadors for putting in such a lot of time and effort to help promote CYA on their campuses. Their contribution is invaluable to us! CYA ambassadors are rewarded with a two-week stay at a CYA apartment when they decide to revisit Greece, and we always look forward to welcoming them in Athens! Kudos to our North American Office team for their outstanding work and invaluable support for our student ambassadors! We can't wait to see what the program will achieve in the future.

### FALL '18 MEDIA LAB INTERNS

*CYA was lucky to have three great Media Lab Interns during fall semester:*

**Caroline Farrell**, a junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill double majoring in Media and Journalism and Studio Art, with a minor in Russian language. **Barbara Kasomenakis**, who is from Queens NY and attends Skidmore College studying English Literature and Art History. **Anna Vargas**, a junior at Wellesley College studying Media Arts and Sciences.

## COOKING CORNER

### SPANAKORIZO, GREEK SPINACH RICE

Serves 6

Spanakorizo, or spinach rice, is one of the great, classic, simple vegetarian dishes of the Greek table. It can be totally vegan, or it can be served with feta or greek yogurt as well as a sunnyside up egg. A squeeze of lemon over the rice, which is how Greeks eat it, make this an even greater nutritional bomb, as the lemon helps our bodies absorb the iron in the spinach.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 3 scallions, trimmed and
- 1 medium fennel bulb, trimmed and chopped
- 1 cup long- or medium-grain Greek rice
- 1 ½ pounds fresh spinach, stems remove, coarsely chopped
- ½ bunch fresh dill, snipped or chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Extra virgin Greek olive oil as needed (about 2/3 cup)
- 1 – 2 fresh lemons
- Feta cheese or Greek yogurt for serving

#### Preparation:

Heat ½ cup of olive oil in wide pot. Saute onions, scallions, and fennel until soft, about 10 minutes, over medium-low heat. Stir in the garlic. Add the rice. Stir to coat with the oil. Add spinach in batches and stir to cook down, until all of it has been added.

Season with salt and pepper. Add 2 cups water or vegetable stock. Cook over low heat, covered, until rice is very tender, about 45 minutes. Add more water or stock if necessary.

Add dill five minutes before end and stir gently to wilt.

Stir remaining olive oil, lemon juice, additional salt and pepper to taste just after removing from heat. Serve with Greek feta or Greek yogurt.

Adapted from *Ikaria: Lessons on Food, Life and Longevity from the Greek Island Where People Forget to Die* (Rodale)

## CYA STUDENTS SET OUT TO DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF TRADITIONAL GREEK CHEESE MAKING

Last October, a group of cheese-loving CYA students and Executive Director of Student Affairs, **Nadia Meliniotis**, visited one of Greece's most famous creameries: the Kostarelos Cheese and Dairy Family Business.

Established in 1937, the Kostarelos family firm has been producing fine cheese and dairy products in their own facilities for three generations. Kyriakos Kostarelos met us at their store and production plant in Markopoulo, a quiet suburb in East Attica. This is where his grandfather had a tavern in the 1930s, offering guests cheese and yogurt made out of milk from his farm. Since then, the business has grown and today they have seven retail stores in Attica while also exporting products to selected delis in Paris and London.



After meeting Kyriakos, everyone donned caps and uniforms and stepped inside the production facilities. Feta is the star of Greek cheeses and we got to explore how it is produced using traditional methods.

The group saw where the cheese curdles and even the oak barrels where it matures for up to twelve months! Kyriakos' father, Christos Kostarelos, was on hand to demonstrate the traditional technique of straining yogurt using cotton bags! This is the centuries-old technique that creates the unmistakable taste of Greek yogurt.



Next, students made their way to the cheese tasting area, where they were presented with a mouthwatering platter of Greece's finest cheeses! Creamy *anthotyro*, piquant *graviera*, wine-soaked *kra-sotyri*, nutty *melipasto* and, of course, two types of *feta* cheese: the pungent hard version and the soft buttery one. The tasting concluded in the sweetest possible way, enjoying the most beloved Greek dessert: strained yogurt with sour cherry topping!

CYAers thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Studying in Greece also means immersing yourself in the Greek way of life; gastronomy is a major part of this. It was very interesting to not only taste truly exceptional cheeses but also meet the people behind them and witness first hand their passion for the craft of cheese making, quality and tradition!



Georgi Asher, Laurel Borchardt, and Chelsea Alford after crossing the finishing line

## CYA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE 36TH ATHENS MARATHON

Congratulations to the CYA students who ran and completed the Athens Authentic Marathon 2018. CYA staff and faculty are proud of their great achievements!

The Athens Authentic Marathon has long been a special feature of the CYA experience. Running any marathon is a special occasion, but those 26.2 miles run on Sunday by CYAers **Georgi Asher** (Kalamazoo College), **Laurel Borchardt** (Hope College), **Chelsea Alford** (Furman

University), **Jordan Ertl** (St. Olaf College) and **Tommy Andre** (Union College), are even more special because this is the route Pheidippides ran more than two millennia ago to deliver news of a military victory against the Persians at the Battle of Marathon. Awareness of this history combined with a sense of personal achievement is what makes this an experience CYA students will never forget. After hours of perseverance, all runners finish at the Kallimarmaro stadium, right next to the CYA Academic Center.



## THE DAVID/SPIROPOULOS FELLOWSHIP OF TUFTS UNIVERSITY

CYA has a longtime relationship with Tufts University, over 100 students have attended CYA, beginning in 1971. Part of that relationship includes the David Scholarship (now the David/Spiropoulos Fellowship). This scholarship was funded through the generosity of **George A. David** (Trustee Emeritus CYA Board of Trustees, Director, Leventis Group) and currently by **Anastassis David** (Member, CYA Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Board, Coca Cola HBC AG) and **Marina Spiropoulos**.

The George A. David and Marina Spiropoulos Fellows Award provides support for two Tufts students to spend a semester studying at the College Year in Athens program in Athens, Greece. The award is open to all Tufts University students, with "preference given to students majoring in History, Classics, Archaeology, Greek, Latin, or Greek and Latin." Since 2004 fifteen Tufts University students have attended CYA on the David/Spiropoulos Fellowship. The Fall '18 recipient was **Alexandra Strong**, an Anthropology major/English minor who, among other things, served as a CYA Media Lab intern while in Athens.

To learn more about the student experiences, check out the Tufts University blog in which the David and Spiropoulos award recipients have written about their experiences at CYA <http://davidspiropoulos.blogspot.com>.



Vassilis (Billy) Simopoulos (CYA Development Officer), Alexandra Strong (Fall '18, from Tufts University), and Anastassis David, (CYA Board Member and Chairman of the Board, Coca Cola HBC AG), meeting in Mr. David's office in downtown Athens

*If you are interested in learning how you can establish a scholarship at your home university for students to attend CYA, please contact Vassilis Simopoulos at [vsimop@dikemes.edu.gr](mailto:vsimop@dikemes.edu.gr)*

## CLASS OF 1970/1971 REUNION

The class of 1970/1971 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 26th. 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 delightfully 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 [palenquemo@yahoo.com](mailto:palenquemo@yahoo.com) or Steven [sgsmozart@gmail.com](mailto:sgsmozart@gmail.com). Another email will be coming soon with information about where to stay in Athens, Skopelos and the Mani.

## 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](https://smile.amazon.com).

## CYA ON THE ROAD

This fall CYA participated in 85 Study Abroad Fairs in over 20 states across the U.S., promoting the life-changing experience of living and studying in Greece. For more than two months, our tireless team was on the road, engaging with partners and students and spreading the word about the benefits of studying abroad.

Thank you to our Campus Relations Travel Reps, Student Ambassadors, and alumni, who, along with our staff, represented CYA at the recruiting events and fairs. Their enthusiasm and love for Greece and CYA truly made a difference this fair season. It is their sharing of personal stories with interested students on their home campuses that plays a vital role in communicating the CYA Study Abroad experience.



Adiya King and three ambassadors at UNC



Grace Twardy, CYA Senior Coordinator of Student Relations with CYA Ambassador Deandra Duarte (Fall '18) at the St. Michael's College Study Abroad Fair



USC students Lillian (Peyton) Anderson (Alum Ambassador), middle: Jayme Hughes, right: Ben Rich



CYA's Senior Coordinator of Student Relations, Grace Twardy, with CYA Ambassador Ian O'Shaughnessy (Fall '18) at The Colorado College Study Abroad Fair



**Luke Alberts**, Summer '18, writes: After graduation, I will be a fully certified History Teacher teaching History to High School students in Syracuse!

**Gretchen Bednarz**, Spring '18, will be an au pair in Barcelona this summer! For 2019-2020 she earned a fellowship called the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals in Germany.

**Caroline Herman**, Spring '18, was awarded the Undergraduate Prize in Greek studies at the University of North Carolina.

**Dev Khalsa**, Summer '18, writes: Moved back to Oregon, went to Paris and London. Enjoy keeping in touch with CYA students online.

**Peyton Lindley**, Fall '18, writes: I graduated in December with Bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Criminal Justice. I am serving in the AmeriCorps VISTA through a non-profit in Indianapolis that does job/internship matching for college students and recent grads. I plan to attend law school in the fall of 2020 and go into cultural/heritage law.

**Brittney Decimus**, Fall '17, writes: I accepted my offer into the PhD program at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign! I'll be studying Human Development and Family Studies there!

**Melanie** (Blanton Sum '15) **Gaum** wrote: I finished my graduate degree in Museum and Cultural Heritage Studies from Florida State University in 2018, and also got married! Our honeymoon was in Rome and Santorini. I took my husband to Akrotiri, the site I studied during my CYA trip in 2015, and many more places I had been to. I then moved to Texas with my husband and got a job as the assistant curator at the Buddy Holly Center, a music museum dedicated to the 1950's early rock and roll star Buddy Holly. We will be moving to Macon, Georgia in the fall and I will pursue a career in science and children's museums.

**Maris Nieves**, Fall '15, wrote: I moved to Phoenix for a year of post-graduate service and was able to catch up/hang out with **Angelica Sisson**, Fall '15! I met a former program staffer who did CYA a few years before me which was an amazing experience to hear about. It's such a small world. I now live in Boston and work at an education non-profit.



**Susannah** (Snowden '94) **Smith** writes: Introducing Adelaide June Smith! CYA Class of '39! Born May 7, 2019 in the Cayman Islands where Susannah lives with her husband Don Smith and works as an underwater photographer."

**Liisa Penrose Balzar** '86 lives in Rockville, Maryland just outside Washington DC. She is in her twelfth year of teaching elementary school. She has taught first grade, fifth grade and now fourth grade. Her daughter, Gracie, has completed her first year at St. Mary's College of Maryland and is preparing for her own study abroad experience for her sophomore year in Shanghai, China at Fudan University. Liisa can be reached at [liisabalzar@mac.com](mailto:liisabalzar@mac.com).

**Deborah L. Wince-Smith** '71 was presented the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service from the University of South Carolina for her many years of dedicated service in federal government to advance this country's aspirations in the field of technology; for her continuing efforts to promote competitiveness and



protection of intellectual property; and for her resolute service on behalf of national innovation policy and technology commercialization. Follow Deborah on Twitter, [@DWinceSmith](https://twitter.com/DWinceSmith)

**Peter Allen** '65: Our big news is our first grandchild, Sigfrid Tillinghast, born July 24, 2018. He lives 15 minutes away, so we see him frequently. I continue to enjoy my



retirement and now serve on nine not-for-profit boards, including CYA and Anatolia College in Thessaloniki.

**Dan Cohn-Sherbok** '65 has a new book out: *Jews: Nearly Everything You wanted to Know But Were Too Afraid To Ask* (Equinox, 2019).

**Joan** (Caraganis '65) **Jakobson**: I'm still living in my apartment in NYC and look forward to a CYA alumni get-together.

**Nancy** (Newell '65) **Jones**: Hardly seems possible that I have been retired for eight years. These days I divide my time between Maine, New York and the southern California desert, visiting family and friends, cooking up fun adventures and seeing live theater. It also takes a bunch of time to stay healthy at this point in my life. Wishing health and happiness to all my really old CYA buddies.

## WILLIAM CONSTANTINE KONTES '99



Will and his family with Nadia Meliniotis (CYA Executive Director of Student Affairs) and Popy Baloglu (CYA Director of Housing & Catering)

CYA is deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved alum, **Will Kontes** '99.

William Constantine Kontes, beloved husband, father, son, brother, and uncle, died unexpectedly at age 41 on April 14, 2019. Well-known for his skilled leadership, generosity, humor, strength of character, dynamic personality, and kindness to all, Will excelled at everything he did. He was a great advocate for the people and causes he believed in, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Will is survived by his wife Kim Boyer Kontes, son Constantine William Kontes, and daughter Sophia Alexandra Kontes; his father C. William Kontes (Iris), sisters Alexa Kontes, Zoë Kontes (CYA '95), Laura Kontes Ames (Kevin), nephews Kevin and William Ames, and niece Kalliope Kontes. He was predeceased by his mother Laura Staehle Johnson.

Will and his family travelled to Greece in April and had a nice visit to CYA. Mr. Phylactopoulos had this to say:

"I had a great meeting with Will, Kim, Constantinos, and Sofia. I was so glad to see him again after so many years and he seemed to be enjoying his Greek visit and



Mr. Phylactopoulos (CYA President) meeting Will and his wife Kim and children

his reunion with his past and meeting the old timers at CYA. We did not visit for long but it was a meeting of the heart. We reminisced about his time at CYA in 1998 and how we had all gone to Macedonia at the height of the Kosovo crisis, the CYA buses guarded by police escort for a week.

Will represented what CYA strives to achieve, helping young people become successful citizens of the world, well anchored in Hellenism, and happy individuals."

### CYA ADMINISTRATION

#### Executive

**Alexis Phylactopoulos**, President  
**Elina Sinopoulou**, Assistant to the President

#### Academics

**Theoni Scourta**, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
**Maria Tsahas**, Registrar  
**Georgia Katsarou**, Librarian  
**Despina Iosif**, Academic Advisor

#### Administration

**Peggy Myresiotou**, Vice President for Administration  
**Anthi Papageorgiou**, Staff Assistant  
**Giota Vouzna**, Staff Assistant  
**Alex Makropoulos**, Staff Assistant

#### Development

**Vassilis Simopoulos**, Development Officer

#### Educational Travel & Short-Term Programs

**Vasso Matrakouka**, Short-Term Programs Manager  
**Vassilis Karavassilis**, Short-Term Programs Coordinator  
**Evgenia Ghizas**, Special Project Administrator

#### Financial/Accounting

**Maria Malliou**, Financial Officer  
**Vana Bica**, Accountant

#### Housing/Food

**Popi Baloglu**, Director of Housing & Catering  
**Kallia Alexandridi**, Housing & Catering Assistant  
**Michalis Alexandridis**, Maintenance

#### Media Lab

**Sofia Stavropoulou**, Social Media Coordinator  
**Tina Voulgari**, Digital Content Coordinator

#### Strategic Planning

**Popi Triantafyllidi**, Director of Strategic Planning

#### Student Affairs/Services

**Nadia Meliniotis**, Executive Director of Student Affairs  
**Jennifer Holland**, Student Affairs Advisor

#### US Administration

**Alexia Lingaas**, Campus Relations Manager  
**Hailey Lovett**, Administrative Support Coordinator  
**Erica Huffman**, Director of Alumni Relations  
**Maria Marakas**, Bursar and Manager of the North American Office



Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS ALUMNI/AE NEWS & INFORMATION

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E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

If the above is a temporary address, please indicate how long you expect it to be valid (until? \_\_\_\_\_), and give below a more permanent address or telephone through which you can be found:

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\_\_\_\_\_

\*Our system is to list fall semester and spring semester students as belonging to the class of the full academic year (e.g., people who attended in fall 1990 and spring 1991 both belong to the class of '91). Summer students are listed by the year they attended.

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE & MAJOR(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
CURRENT OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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