Spring '21 students enjoying the sunset on top of Mount Lycabettus
Photo by Sophia Chaltas (Spring '21)
The Bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence was celebrated all over the world this past March with a series of cultural, educational, and festive events. It was a time for remembrance and reflection on the past and future of this new nation, the first nation-state after the Napoleonic wars.

The role of the Greeks in the diaspora in Moldavia and Wallachia, directed by the values of American independence in 1776 and the French Revolution in 1789, by the ideas of the enlightenment, and the words of diaspora Greeks like Rigas and Karais synthesized the intellectual background of a revolution. The influence of classicism in a philhellenic movement in Western Europe fueled by the romantic poetry of Byron, Shelley, and Keats inspired people to become sympathetic to the Greek cause. In America, the poetry of Fitz Greene Halleck and the fiery sermons of people like Edward Everett and Thomas Winthrop in Boston and Nicholas Biddle and George Beddie in Philadelphia mobilized political and economic support. Quite likely the abolitionist movement played a positive role as well.

What is also remarkable is that the uprising of the Greeks in 1821 happened at a time when the Powers of the day, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Prussia, England, and France, had all joined together in the Holy Alliance at the Congress of Vienna to keep a world order that was totally intolerant to nationalist uprisings. It is in this forbidding context that the Friendly Society in Odessa had all joined together in the Holy Alliance at the Congress of Vienna to keep a world order that was totally intolerant to nationalist uprisings. It is in this forbidding context that the Friendly Society in Odessa planned its uprising. Its leader, Alexander Ypsilantis, Greek officer in the Russian army and aid de camp to the Tsar, in his impetuous way preempted the revolution and started military action in Wallachia by collecting a small army of students abroad and in so doing pushed the Greeks of the Peloponnesus to an uprising. Other areas of Greece joined the long and bloody revolt but after seven years of fighting and revolt but after seven years of fighting and

Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: August 15, 2021

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

CYA was born only 130 years after the end of the Greek Revolution. Although dedicated to making our students interculturally competent, there is no doubt that the deeper imprints on CYA’s creation was the study and cultivation of the arts, language, and history of ancient and modern Greece, in essence promoting classical and Greek studies, the elements that shaped public opinion in the 19th century to give Greece its freedom, elements which have provided her soft power ever since. Byron’s “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage” and Shelley’s “Hellas” have influenced generations of viewers thanks to modern technology. Greece its freedom, elements which have provided her soft power ever since. Byron’s “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage” and Shelley’s “Hellas” have influenced generations of viewers thanks to modern technology.

In America, the poetry of Fitz Greene Halleck and the fiery sermons of people like Edward Everett and Thomas Winthrop in Boston and Nicholas Biddle and George Beddie in Philadelphia mobilized political and economic support. Quite likely the abolitionist movement played a positive role as well.

What is also remarkable is that the uprising of the Greeks in 1821 happened at a time when the Powers of the day, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Prussia, England, and France, had all joined together in the Holy Alliance at the Congress of Vienna to keep a world order that was totally intolerant to nationalist uprisings. It is in this forbidding context that the Friendly Society in Odessa planned its uprising. Its leader, Alexander Ypsilantis, Greek officer in the Russian army and aid de camp to the Tsar, in his impetuous way preempted the revolution and started military action in Wallachia by collecting a small army of students abroad and in so doing pushed the Greeks of the Peloponnesus to an uprising. Other areas of Greece joined the long and bloody revolt but after seven years of fighting and revolt but after seven years of fighting and...
The Virtual Lecture Series for the fall season features a variety of lectures on different topics.

**September 16, 2020**  
Democracy: Old & New  
John McK. Camp II

**September 30, 2020**  
Connecting the Brain to Machines: From the Presocratics to Elon Musk  
Nicholas Hatsopoulos

**October 29, 2020**  
When Future Meets the Past: New Archaeological Methodologies in Action  
Hüseyin Öztürk

**November 19, 2020**  
Energy and Climate Change: Rhetoric and Reality  
Raphael Moisiss

**December 16, 2020**  
Discovering the Universe  
Dionysis P. Simopoulos

CYA renewed its Virtual Lecture Series for the fall season, with a focus on fascinating virtual lectures on a variety of topics. The series continues to feature experts from diverse fields, offering insightful and engaging discussions.
Commemorating its founder, Ismene Phylactopoulou, CYA hosted a special lecture on Education Abroad. Guest speaker Brian Whalen, Executive Director of the American International Recruitment Council (AIRC), gave a brief history of education abroad and discussed where things are, and where things are going in the field.

Education abroad has a long past but a relatively short history. Transformative educational journeys to foreign lands resonate deeply in many cultural and intellectual traditions. But only in the past 50 years has education abroad developed as an organized field of higher education. Mr. Whalen discussed:

“What is important to know about the history of education abroad as an academic enterprise? ‘How will the Covid-19 pandemic change this field?’ and ‘what will education abroad look like in the near and long-term future?’

Dr. Brian Whalen is among the most well-known and influential international education leaders, he was the President and CEO of The Forum on Education Abroad for a dozen years. He served as resident director in Italy for the University of Dallas and Boston University, and was the President of the American International Recruitment Council (AIRC), giving a brief history of education abroad and discussed where things are, and where things are going in the field.

Education abroad has a long past but a relatively short history. The transformative nature of study abroad cannot be understated. For me, my time in Greece helped me to:

• Gain a deeper understanding of a culture different from my own
• Gain the ability to communicate in a language not my own
• Embrace the skills to negotiate everyday elements in new and interesting ways (ordering groceries, making telephone calls, using transportation etc. dining in restaurants, celebrating holidays etc)
• Gain new friendships which have served me through the years
• Learn about oneself and one’s weaknesses and strengths
For me it was an astounding growth experience to be "plunked" down by your mother and Raphael and Jean Demos in an Athens apartment where I couldn’t read a word, didn’t know the Greek alphabet or language, and to know that at the end of the day I could feed myself, get a job and make new friends… that taught me the tools to make my year abroad astounding.

The transformative nature of study abroad cannot be understated. For me, my time in Greece helped me to:
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: CYA’S WINTER SESSION

CYA offers two Winter Session options: participating in an exca-
vation taking place in Voula, a suburb of Athens or a fast-paced course within and about the city of Athens. Anthropology of the City: Exploring Modern Athens with CYA professor Aimee Placas, is a course that studies the different reali-
ties of this city, by exploring, observing, and speaking to people. Class guest Dr. Tyler Boersen, International Press and Media Officer at Develop Athens took students on a walk around the city center and offered insight into ongoing projects (photo). Dr. Boers-
en spoke about Athens as a unique and complex city and highlight-
ed recent interventions that encourage Athenians to imagine and future of an institution which has been dedicated
to the highest quality study abroad education since 1962. Donations make so many things possible from the continu-
ous improvement of our facilities, to the development of new courses, the funding of professor sabbaticals and research, to inviting renowned visiting professors and granting student awards for those less fortunate to name a few. Please give to CYA and together we will make the next 60 years even more special.

DONATE TO CYA

By giving to CYA, alumni and friends help secure the present and future of an institution which has been dedicated to the highest quality study abroad education since 1962. Donations make so many things possible from the continu-
ous improvement of our facilities, to the development of new courses, the funding of professor sabbaticals and research, to inviting renowned visiting professors and granting student awards for those less fortunate to name a few. Please give to CYA and together we will make the next 60 years even more special.

Make a gift by check
Mail a check or money order to:
College Year in Athens
PO Box 390890, Cambridge, MA 02139

Make a gift of stock
By transferring appreciated stock to College Year in Athens, you may be eligible for a tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the stock, provided the gift tax doesn’t increase the stock’s current value. In order for the gift to be acknowled-
ged, it is important to notify CYA of the type and amount of stock you will be giving. You may do this either personally or through your agent or broker. Please contact us for more information. Please email Erica at alumnirelations@cyathens.org.

ALUMNI BOOK CLUB

On October 14th CYA announced their new virtual alumni book club. Ariana Gouderon (Spring ’13), with the help of CYA’s Director of Alumni Relations, Erica Huffman (Spring ’93), spear-headed the project. So far the group has met virtually five times and have read the following books. If you are interested in participating, please email Erica at alumnirelations@cyathens.org.

Outline by Rachel Cusk
Eurydice Street by Sofka Zinoview
Scorpionfish by Natalie Bakopoulos
The Two Faces of January by Patricia Highsmith
Three Summers by Margarita Liberaki

Yesteryear, I was sitting here on a calm day in our apartment when I heard the sound of jets buzzing over Athens. About an hour later, we found out that King Constantine was leading a counter-coup against the Junta in Northern Greece, that there were tanks in Syntagma Square, and fighting up north. The rest of the day was devoted to following all the news we could get, which were very contradictory. Mrs Phyl stayed in Mrs H’s apartment (first night spent in Athens in 30 years — shows how nervous she was. She, like all of us, was hoping the king would be victorious). We talked with her at length. We also listened to a news broadcast in English over the national station, throwing out the most outrageous propaganda. But it eventually became apparent to us that the king had lost and was fleeing the country.

We went to bed at midnight but were woken at 2:00 AM by the loudest explosion we’d ever heard: a large bomb going off very close by! We were absolutely terrified. Silence for half an hour, then a deafening rumble outside our apartment: this time, a tank. It stopped right below us on Democrazia, soldiers jumped out and picked up some men loitering there, piled back in with their pris-

ors, and the tank rumbled off. No lights or cars anywhere, and the only other noise was the sound of the heavy apartment wooden shutters going up and down in the darkened square. It was really, really eerie. Eventually we got to sleep for a few hours. This morning, we found that the military Junta is in complete control, with the King and his family exiled in Rome. The counter-coup was a complete fiasco, but the Junta claimed no bloodshed. Right... people were being tortured all the time in that warehouse across from where Margot Camp lived. They would turn on revving motorcycles at night to dampen the sounds of the screams. It is all so sad. When will Greece ever be free again? But we are all safe, and we sure have seen and experienced some history.”

And for the rest of our academic year, there was a big bomb crater in the middler of Democrazia between all the student apartments and the apartment for the dining room and library. It must have had a 25 feet radius, and been about 12-15 feet deep. It was a con-

1967 COUNTER COUP

Submitted by Lynn (Dominick ’81) Novack

The years before 1967 were years of political instability, with frequent leftist protests and riots. On April 21, 1967, a group of Colonels overthrew a caretak-
er government, one month before the national elections that were predicted to elect the Greek American socialist Andreas Papandreou. Colonel Papadopoulos was named Prime Minister. The Greek Parliament was dissolved, and Syntagma Square stayed mostly empty and the Parlia-
ment Building remained cold and dark.

The Junta stayed in place until 1974, when it was toppled after the Greek military lost more than half of Cyprus to the Turks, where they remain to this day.

December 14, 1967

The Day After the Counter Coup...

“Yesterday, I was sitting here on a calm day in our apartment when I heard the sound of jets buzzing over Athens. About an hour later, we found out that King Constantine was leading a counter-coup against the Junta in Northern Greece, that there were tanks in Syntagma Square, and fighting up north. The rest of the day was devoted to following all the scraps of news we could get, which were very contradictory. Mrs Phyl stayed in Mrs H’s apartment (first night spent in Athens in 30 years — shows how nervous she was. She, like all of us, was hoping the king would be victorious). We talked with her at length. We also listened to a news broadcast in English over the national station, throwing out the most outrageous propaganda. But it eventually became apparent to us that the king had lost and was fleeing the country.

We went to bed at midnight but were woken at 2:00 AM by the loudest explosion we’d ever heard: a large bomb going off very close by! We were absolutely terrified. Silence for half an hour, then a deafening rumble outside our apartment: this time, a tank. It stopped right below us on Democrazia, soldiers jumped out and picked up some men loitering there, piled back in with their pris-
ors, and the tank rumbled off. No lights or cars anywhere, and the only other noise was the sound of the heavy apartment wooden shutters going up and down in the darkened square. It was really, really eerie. Eventually we got to sleep for a few hours. This morning, we found out that the military Junta is in complete control, with the King and his family exiled in Rome. The counter-coup was a complete fiasco, but the Junta claimed no bloodshed. Right... people were being tortured all the time in that warehouse across from where Margot Camp lived. They would turn on revving motorcycles at night to dampen the sounds of the screams. It is all so sad. When will Greece ever be free again? But we are all safe, and we sure have seen and experienced some history.”

And for the rest of our academic year, there was a big bomb crater in the middler of Democrazia between all the student apartments and the apartment for the dining room and library. It must have had a 25 feet radius, and been about 12-15 feet deep. It was a con-

ADDENDUM

During our year there, we were forbidden to speak about politics with anyone, lest we get ourselves and them into trouble. We were forbidden to listen to music by Theodorakis and other leading composers who were leftist. It was a scary time, politically, as it was also the year of a Greek-Turkish standoff over Cyprus (resolved peacefully with negotiations led by Cyprus Vine), and in the U.S., the assassination of Martin Luther King, followed by the assassina-
tion of Bobby Kennedy.

ADDENDUM

Lynn Dominick Novack, Senator Ferrare, John G. Traver Center on Polit-
ical Studies at Southern Methodist University (SMU), spent her career organizing programs in foreign policy and national security at various universities and non-profit organizations. She and her husband John divide their time between Dallas, TX and Patagonia, Chile.

Lynn Dominick, Katharine Wald, and Elizabeth Britton at Sounion
A ll of us have enjoyed cooking during lockdown. Some people have cooked good old recipes and others preferred to explore new cuisines and tastes. This time, the Librarian recommends cookbooks that will bring back to your memory tastes and smells from Greece. Dishes that will keep you company until the next time that you visit Greece and eat under the shadow of an old tree at a taverna, a few meters from the beach.

The Country Cooking of Greece
by Diane Kochilas.

“Two hundred recipes range from whole grains and a diversity of nutritious Greek greens to hand-shaped pastries and the briny bounty of the Mediterranean and Aegean seas. This book is the guide to the next wave of Greek artisanal products we will come to use and appreciate, such as grape must and mastic.

More than just a cookbook, this is a cultural guide. Learn to navigate the tavern scene, the extensive Greek holiday meals, and the drinking rituals that now spread, heavy with regional specialties such as you might find in any traditional taverna.”

The Greek Vegetarian: More than 100 recipes inspired by the traditional dishes and flavors of Greece
by Diane Kochilas.
New York: St. Martin’s Griffin, 1996.

“In this authoritative, exuberant cookbook, renowned culinary expert Diane Kochilas shares recipes for cold and warm mezes, salads, pastas and grains, stews and one-pot dishes, baked vegetables and bean specialties, stuffed vegetables, soups, savory past and basic breads, and dishes that feature eggs. Brimming with classic dishes, regional favorites, and inspired innovations, The Greek Vegetarian pays tribute to one of the world’s most venerable and healthful cuisines.”

Prospero’s Kitchen: Rustic Ionian Cooking.
by James Chatto and W.L. Martin.

“A Kitchen in Corfu takes as its subject the gathering of food and cooking in Loussas, a small village in northern Corfu where the old traditions of living and eating still flourish. The book’s shape follows the landscape: the hills and sea, the olive groves and vineyards, orchards and vegetable gardens where the villagers hunt and grow their food.”

Cookbook of the Jews of Greece
by Nicholas Stavroulakis.

“The Cookbook of the Jews of Greece is more than a cookbook, for, in addition to the 287 recipes, some unique and others unusual variations on familiar Persian, Arab, Turkish, and Greek dishes, it is lastingly illustrated by the author with over sixty drawings of Jewish life throughout Greece and documented with descriptions of local customs and traditions that were the settings for a rich and varied cuisine.”

Cretan Cuisine for everyone

A book that includes information on the culture of the Cretan cuisine and the home cooking traditions. Easy and fast recipes with step-by-step photos.

As previously announced, CYA is offering Virtual Internships. In CYA’s virtual internship program, a CYA faculty member supervises a curriculum that supplements the student’s internship project, running activities that increase cultural immersion, facilitate intercultural communication, and give the intern the tools needed to make the most of an international internship experience virtually.

CYA Faculty member Aimee Places is running internships this winter with Emma Pierce, a student from the College of Charleston.

This is what Emma shared:

“My name is Emma Pierce and I am a junior studying at the College of Charleston. This semester I am doing an online internship with ELIAMEP, a Greek foreign-policy research institute, through CYA. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and will be engaging in a 12-week research project entitled “Familiar Strangers”. I will be collaborating with one other intern who is located in Europe and we will work together to explore the perceptions that the people living on either side of the Atlantic have about each other. I am responsible for researching how American citizens and the government view Europeans and the EU. My work will be focused from the beginning of the Obama administration to the beginning of the Biden administration. The first half of my internship will be dedicated to academic research. I will discover what academia has to offer in regard to America’s perception of Europe. The second half of my internship will be creatively based. I will conduct interviews with friends, professors, researchers of my choice as well as create my own questions and surveys in order to further my understanding. ELIAMEP’s social media platforms will also be at my disposal during this portion of the internship so I can ask questions as well as report my findings to the public. At the end of the internship, I will write a paper in which I compile my research findings and ELIAMEP will use this information to better understand the ways in which people on either side of the “Big Pond” view one another.

More and more students are participating in Gap Year programming worldwide and CYA is happy to announce its new Gap Year Program which gives students the opportunity to enrich their life experience before college.

For those students taking a Gap Year, CYA offers an amazing opportunity. Students will experience Greece and Greek culture in depth while living in the center of Athens but also traveling around the country. Trips around the country and on-site and experiential learning get students outside of the classroom and into the world, expanding their worldview and preparing them for their future studies.

CYA will offer this opportunity every semester, and each offering will be centered around fascinating themes from Ancient to Modern Greece. For more information visit the Gap Year Programs page on our website.

GAP YEAR

CYA has added Gap Year Programs to its outstanding academic offerings!

PICTURE YOURSELF IN GREECE THIS SUMMER

Learn more and apply here

SUMMER SESSION I (June 2 - June 30, 2021)
ARCH 346 / HIST 346 The Strangeness of Ancient Greece: Diversity, Difference and Regionality among the Greek States (Athens, Peloponnese)
ARCH 321 Examining in the Aegean: The Despotiko Field School (Paros, Antiparos)
ARTH 356 / CHT 356 The Present Past: Re-imagining Greece through Heritage (Athens, Cret, Rhodes)
LIT 348 Becoming a Traveler: Writing in Greece (Athens, Paros, Nauplion)

SUMMER SESSION II (June 30 - July 28, 2021)
ECON 343 / POLSCI 343 Plague, Politics, & Pandemics: Classical Athens as Parable for Modern Greece and Europe (Athens, Delphi, Delos, Mykonos)
ANTH 325 The Anthropology of Food in Greece: the Mediterranean Diet and More (Athens, Naxos, Ikaria)
ARCH 347 When Egypt meets the Aegean: Interconnections in the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean (Thera [Santorini], Crete, Athens)
REL 351 The Geography of Faith: Paul and the Emergence of Christianity in Greece (Athens, Corinth, Philippi, Thessalonika)
URBS 334 Greek Island Architecture, Culture, and Identity (Naxos, Amorgos, Santorini, Tinos)
VIRTUAL MARATHON, ACTUAL RUNNING!

Two Fall 2020 CYAers ran the Athens Authentic Marathon during lockdown.

Every year in Athens, thousands of runners have the opportunity to participate in the Athens Authentic Marathon, covering the same ground as Pheidippides, the hero of a legend that inspired modern Marathons. (Pheidippides was a messenger, who is said to have run from Marathon to Athens to bring news of the Greek victory over the Persians at the Battle of Marathon, in 490 BC.)

Like most things this past year, the 2020 Athens Marathon was different. Due to the restrictions for the prevention of Covid-19, the Marathon was held virtually! This meant that participants could run on a chosen path around their neighborhood, and track their distance digitally, in order to cover the official 26 miles.

Fall 2020 students Benji Hess and Jennifer Frank, decided to participate, Benji running the full Marathon and Jennifer the 5k race.

We spoke to them about their experience and found that they were both excited to have participated!

Jennifer: I am very glad that Greece decided to hold the Virtual Marathon this year. It was very fun to participate in, and it felt great to be part of such an important annual tradition.

Benji: The experience was absolutely incredible. Although I didn’t keep up with my training before the event, I somehow managed to make the distance (with a couple gas-station breaks along the way, ha!).

What route did you decide to take?

Jennifer: In order to find a good route, I looked up the 5k route from past years. It took me by the National Garden, the Temple of Zeus, and the University of Athens. I listened to music and enjoyed sightseeing as I ran.

Benji: I decided to head south. My halfway point was Voulusiagmen, and I managed to hit Ilissos, Aegiroupoli, and Glyfada along the way. I left Athens at around five in the morning, and I caught the sunrise right as I was approaching the coast—it was an incredible experience to be running while the city was waking up!

During your semester with CYA, what did you like doing for exercise?

Jennifer: Throughout the semester, I enjoyed running through the National Gardens and in the Panathenaic Stadium by CYA! These spots were so easily accessible from our neighborhood, which I’m very grateful for.

Benji: I would take walks almost every night, normally to one of the Western hills past the Acropolis.

We would like to end this article by sharing Benji’s beautiful memory of the end of his Virtual Marathon Run:

The end of my race was particularly special, Jennifer and Theo Karplus (Fall ’20) met me at the Panathenaic Stadium right as I was finishing up with a banner made of trash bags, ha! Running through it, they took me home and surprised me with a brunch. All of my classmates were there waiting, and we had a lovely Sunday morning meal. I’ll never forget that moment or the feeling I got to share it with.

FIVE THINGS I’M GRATEFUL FOR THIS SEMESTER

By Jacki Healy (Fall ’20)

This year has been nothing like I expected, in both the best and worst ways. From COVID-19 and lockdowns to social justice movements and presidential elections, 2020 has been a challenge and a contradiction to everything we’d anticipated. But 2020 has also brought so much good: new ways of communicating, creating, and connecting. New friendships, new challenges, new successes, new experiences.

In 2020, and this semester particularly, I have so much to be grateful for. Here are 5 of them, in no particular order.

Delicious Food

This one is quite self-explanatory, but Greek food!!! I have been here for two months and have not had a single bad meal. I’ve tried so many new things, tasted different dishes, and absolutely fallen in love with Greek cuisine. The only part that I’m not thankful for is how much I’m going to miss it when I go home!

Amazing Support

Thanks to the huge network of CYA staff and admin, our incredible support of my family, my therapist, my professors, and the CYA administration and staff, this experience wouldn’t be anything close to how wonderful it is. My family keeps me grounded and connected to things at home, while cheering me on and encouraging me to experience all Greece has to offer. My therapist has helped me work through the emotional and mental effects of changing plans and varying lockdown restrictions. My professors have been great about adapting to ever-shifting schedules, instruction formats, and availability of on-site learning. And, most especially, I’m thankful for the CYA staff and administration, who have done so much to make our time here the best it can possibly be. From rescheduling field study trips, to keeping us informed about new regulations, to encouraging our Greek language practice; to providing us with art supplies and other fun things to do during lockdown, they have made this such a fun and exciting experience!

Incredible Friends

With only nine of us total studying at CYA this term, it was inestimable that we’d spend a lot of time together and hopefully get along. However, I can’t believe how good friends we all have become! I feel so lucky to be here in Greece with this incredible group of people. We’ve been through adventures, challenges, quarantines, and more together, and we’ve definitely bonded and had a lot of fun. This semester has been full of memories and stories for a lifetime, and even if we don’t stay in touch, I will definitely hold these people and this time in my heart.

The sun has now dipped below the tree line, the Acropolis is lit up in all its glory, and the sky’s faint colors have deepened and darkened into a richly colored sunset. A slight chill is now blanketing Athens, but I’m still warmed by all the joy, gratitude, and love I have for these things and more.

All this to say, I am very very thankful for this place, these people, and this incredible experience.

Jacki Healy (Fall ’20) is currently a sophomore at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. She is interested in history, classics, theatre, psychology, and museum studies.

Grecian Skylines

Photo taken at Meteora on September 27, 2020

Right now, faint colors are starting to paint the Athenian horizon, a view I’ll never get tired of. But it’s not only this spot at this moment that is beautiful, every single place I’ve been in Greece has an incredible view. Be it sunrise, sunset, midday, or even cloudy and raining, every skyline in Greece is a stunning view. Each time, it makes me pause – and not just to take a picture. They are all unique and breathtaking, and the views bring me a feeling of awe and peace. They are the prettiest reminders of how blessed I am to be studying abroad and exploring a new place during this crazy time!

This Current Moment

I’m sitting cross-legged on the third floor balcony of CYA. In the sun, it’s just warm enough to go without a jacket, probably one of the last times I’ll be able to do so this term. I’m looking out over some kids laughing and riding bikes near the Panathenaic Stadium, and a bit to the right is the Parthenon in the distance. I’m listening to my favorite playlist of happy songs, and the sun is huge in the sky as it starts to descend. It seems surreal. At the beginning of this year, I never would have guessed that I’d be here, basking in the glow of the Mediterranean sun setting, feeling nothing but gratitude for everything in my life. I am so thankful.

FIVE THINGS I’M GRATEFUL FOR

2020 Photo taken at Lissos Gorge in Crete.

As I’ve already mentioned, this year and this semester have been rife with trying circumstances. If it weren’t for the incredible support of my family, my therapist, my professors, and the CYA administration and staff, this experience wouldn’t be anything close to how wonderful it is. My family keeps me grounded and connected to things at home, while cheering me on and encouraging me to experience all Greece has to offer. My therapist has helped me work through the emotional and mental effects of changing plans and varying lockdown restrictions. My professors have been great about adapting to ever-shifting schedules, instruction formats, and availability of on-site learning. And, most especially, I’m thankful for the CYA staff and administration, who have done so much to make our time here the best it can possibly be. From rescheduling field study trips, to keeping us informed about new regulations, to encouraging our Greek language practice; to providing us with art supplies and other fun things to do during lockdown, they have made this such a fun and exciting experience!
Maria Malliou joined the CYA/DIKEMES family in 1995 as an Accountant and is currently CYA’s main financial officer. She was born in Stuttgart, Germany, where she lived with her family before repatriating back to Greece. Mrs. Malliou holds a B.A. in Accounting from the Piraeus Technical Institute and an M.A. in Banking from the Hellenic Open University. She lives in Athens with her husband Spyros and their two sons Fotis and Sotiris. Fotis is currently attending his second year at the Technical University of Crete studying Electrical and Computer Engineering, while Sotiris is in his second year of Lyceum which is the equivalent of being in the Junior year of high school.

Tell us what you do for CYA; what is your role?

As the Financial Officer of DIKEMES I am solely responsible for financial state-ments between DIKEMES and the three of us had a particularly good collaboration. I want to express my grat-itude for having the opportunity to work with Mr. Christoforidis, who stood by me all these years and from whom I learned so much about life and work.

Tell us what you do for CYA; what is your role?

The Accounting Department, based in Athens, is vital to CYA’s operations and we are fortunate to have a fantastic duo who keep CYA running.

What do you like most about your job?

It is really exciting to work as an Accountant in an academic institution where one is able to meet young people full of energy and different points of view, making one feel that this job is not only about numbers but also a place full of young knowledgeable-able faces.

Why do you think study abroad is important?

Studying abroad is really important, it is the perfect way to truly learn a different culture by being part of it. While in college, I had the opportunity to be an Erasmus student and live abroad, but I did not take that chance and I regret it. For that reason, I am strongly encouraging my sons to take the opportunity and study abroad as I believe it will definitely make an impact on their lives.

Vana Bika

Maria Malliou

Apart from being an Accountant at CYA/ DIKEMES I am also a mother. I have eleven-year-old twins boys and an eight-year-old girl. When I am not at work, I have a busy day with my family at home.

What is the most about your job?

What I like most about accounting is that you organize and manage the books for people and companies. I like the attention to detail that’s needed, and that can help people achieve their financial goals. Also, it is a demanding job because new things are constantly emerging, and I need to stay informed by attending seminars and studying, so this keeps me on my toes. I never get bored of it: there is always something to do and something new to learn.

What have you studied and where?

I studied Accounting in Messolonghi and got my B.A. in Accounting from the Techno-logical Education institute in 1997. While working and practicing at an accounting office I took examinations for the University of Piraeus. I received my B.A. in Business Administration in 2007, while already working at CYA/DIKEMES.

If you were not an Accountant, what job would you choose to have?

If I were not an accountant, I would like to become a special education teacher. It’s something completely different from what I’m doing right now. There are many chil-dren who due to some neurological issues cannot attend school. As a special educa-tion teacher, I would help these children and their families learn basic principles of education that they would use so that in the future these children would be able to move on and live on their own.

How do you spend your free time/weekends?

Apart from being an Accountant at CYA/ DIKEMES I am also a mother. I have eleven-year-old twin boys and an eight-year-old girl. When I am not at work, I have a busy day with my family at home.

What is the most about your job?

What I like most about accounting is that you organize and manage the books for people and companies. I like the attention to detail that’s needed, and that can help people achieve their financial goals. Also, it is a demanding job because new things are constantly emerging, and I need to stay informed by attending seminars and studying, so this keeps me on my toes. I never get bored of it: there is always something to do and something new to learn.

What have you studied and where?

I studied Accounting in Messolonghi and got my B.A. in Accounting from the Techno-logical Education institute in 1997. While working and practicing at an accounting office I took examinations for the University of Piraeus. I received my B.A. in Business Administration in 2007, while already working at CYA/DIKEMES.

If you were not an Accountant, what job would you choose to have?

If I were not an accountant, I would like to become a special education teacher. It’s something completely different from what I’m doing right now. There are many chil-dren who due to some neurological issues cannot attend school. As a special educa-tion teacher, I would help these children and their families learn basic principles of education that they would use so that in the future these children would be able to move on and live on their own.

Why do you think study abroad is important?

Studying abroad is necessary because students can see and get to know new places, differ-ent from those where they live. They meet different cultures and mentalities of people, and of course create new friendships. They learn the language of the country or at least how to communicate with its citizens, visit its archeological monuments, and they leave with their suitcases full of experiences that will be unforgettable in their lives.

For us who work in a study abroad pro-gram it is particularly important because it gives us strength, joy and keeps us young. We wish all our students to leave Greece having achieved what they came for and live happy and exciting lives. Only then do we consider that we did our job properly.

On February 16, Athenians woke up to an unusual scenery: Cyclone Medea had covered everything in snow, even the Parthenon! Below, residents enjoying the unexpected treat on the Stadium plaza in front of CYA.
A SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER DESPITE COVID-19

In Fall ’20, some things were different, but some things remained the same.

Adjustments had to be made in class… but plenty of opportunities to study al fresco…

A MAGICAL MOUNT OLYMPUS HIKE

by Theo Karplus (Fall ’20)

In September 2020, seven of our nine fall students hiked to the second highest peak (Skolio) of Mt. Olympus. The weather was amazing, they could even see all the way to Mt. Athos. They were led by Christos Nicolopoulos, an experienced mountain guide, with whom CYA has been working for many years.

MediaLab intern Theo Karplus wrote this blog about the event:

There is no mountain range comparable to the awe-striking Mount Olympus in Greece.

This trip, organized by CYA, was a memorable experience for every student who participated. From the sunset breaks on the first day, to stargazing at the overnight lodge, to celebrating at the peak and dipping our toes into the waterfalls at the bottom, every moment was special and unique.

Jennifer Frank says that hiking up Mount Olympus was truly unforgettable: “With such historical significance and interesting mythology surrounding it, I was so glad CYA proposed this trip”. She mentions some of her favorite parts of the hike being the view of the milky way at night, hearing everyone’s voices echo through the valleys, and the incredible bonding experience that students shared with each other.

Dima Rentel speaks of the stunning and vibrant color palette of the mountain: “We got our three primary colors on the trip – the deepest greens from all the trees and foliage around us, the most stunning blue from the clearest sky, and a vibrant red when we woke up for the sunrise!” For him, the highlight of the hike, along with the beautiful scenery, was being able to spend quality time with his CYA friends.

Two more students agree that it was a great opportunity to grow closer to other CYA students. Spending a night together in a shelter on top of a mountain after a steady day of hiking creates a special connection. Speaking of connections, Gwyn Stith adds: “The mountain’s deep connection with Ancient Greek religion adds a spiritual significance to the experience, and the view at the top took my breath away.”

Another perspective relating to the difference between life in the mountains and life back in Athens was added by Elliot Rydell, who mentions that the contrast between the stillness of nature and the typically bustling city sounds students are accustomed to is very noteworthy. For him, “the times when one is able to hear only bird calls echoing off of forested cliff-sides are, in a way, just as important for our individual education as our classwork.”

Like all my fellow CYAers who participated in this excursion, I too appreciated having the opportunity to unleash my inner mountain-climber and conquer the terrain of Mount Olympus. It was a profound, once-in-a-lifetime experience that we all value both collectively as well as personally.

To “summit up”, Mount Olympus was spectacular!

Theo Karplus is a junior at Knox College. She is double majoring in Business and Political Science.
As virtual technology became part of our daily life, it was exciting to be able to hold a series of very successful reunions online; it was wonderful having alumni join us from all parts of the world, who would have not been able to participate in person. CYA Administra- tors and faculty really enjoyed catching up with former students, and best of all, our alumni got to share their memories with others from the same decade, and to fill each other in on what they are up to these days.

Each semester, CYA’s Media Lab welcomes a group of interns into the team. In the Fall semester, the Media Lab welcomed Jacki Healy and Theodora Karplus! The two interns collaborated with the Media Team on exciting, creative projects throughout the semester.

Hello! My name is Theo and I’m a junior at Knox College. I’m double majoring in Business and Political Science! I am interested in creativity and entrepreneurship, which is why I started my own lifestyle/ travel blog on Instagram and YouTube expressing my passions. I am thankful for the opportunity to have worked with CYA during such an unprecedented semester and really go behind the scenes exploring my experience abroad. Some of my other interests are rock & roll music, working out (especially hiking), art, cooking/baking, and trying new things!

MELTEDatisfied community! 

Hello and Fox, everyone! I’m Claire, and this February, about a year after I returned home from studying abroad in Athens, I started working as CYA’s Social Media and Digital Content intern. This is my senior year at Dickinson College, where I study classics and educational studies. My Fall 2019 semester with CYA was one of my most transformative college experiences—from working with Mediablab to diving into philosophy to exploring the Athens subway system—and I’m so excited to showcase the stories of other students past and present as well as others that have yet to come! My philosophy on life is to always learn, so was excited to be working with CYA’s media team and learning about content creation and marketing. I feel so lucky and blessed to have spent a crazy semester in beautiful Athens; I truly was living my dreams!
SNOWFALL IN FEBRUARY 1967

Do you have memories to share? Please send them to alumni@cyathens.org and you may be featured in the next issue of The Owl.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MO CARPENTER ’71

- Joan (Crider ’71) Marxmiller at the site of Tyrins reenacting carrying an amphora of water up into the walls of the city
- Hillary (Roe ’71) Maternich standing outside of the Lions Gate at Mycenae
- Stephen Fay (’71) doing a Joe Cocker impression in our apartment

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY SUSAN BLAKE ’67

- Snowfall in February 1967

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

CYA alumnus Jack Hermansen ’71 gifted us this ticket to the archaeological site of Epidaurus as a memento from his year with CYA.
2020 Stella Hadjiyannis (Spring ’20) writes: This summer we are hoping to have a CYA reunion (spring 2020) since our time got cut short due to the pandemic. I’m looking forward to reconnecting with my final semesters at Gustavus (small liberal arts school in MN) & job searching!”

2018 Amanda Yoo (Spring ’18) writes: After working at an art and technology start up in Los Angeles from 2018-2020, I left to fulfill my dream of working at Disney! It was far by the best job I ever had, but unfortunately cut short due to the pandemic. I’m looking forward to returning once the pandemic is over. I’m still in contact with a few CYAers and have seen them occasionally during our 2013 Spring semester. I also returned to Athens in 2018 and it felt like returning home. I can’t wait to be back and walk through Pangrati again!

2013 Ariana Gunderson Spring ’13 will begin her Anthropology Ph.D. studies at the University of Bloomington in fall of 2021, with a research focus on food. She would be overjoyed to meet any fellow CYA alumni living in Bloomington!

arianagunderson.com

2010 Erika Hakens-Prantil (Spring ’10) moved to the NYC area and started a new job as a technology publishing company as a Lead Project manager after working for nearly ten years in non-profit in southern Illinois and Columbus, Ohio.

2001 Sheila Lalwani (Fall ’01) has been missing Greece since she left!

2000 Dan Leon (Fall ’00), an Assistant Professor of classics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has a new book coming out in April: Artemis the Hunter: Writing the Greek Past in the Roman Empire. Check it out here.

2000 Jennifer (Kolnik) Marks (Spring ’00) graduated from Brandeis University (Spring 2020) with a MA in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies. She was admitted to the doctoral program in Classics (classical archaeology) at Johns Hopkins University (Fall 2021). Jennifer will be pursuing research in Minoan archaeology and the material culture of Crete in antiquity. Her interests include craft specialization during the Early Minoan period, notably metallurgy as it applies to the fabrication of jewelry and use in mortuary practices, as well as zoomorphic weaving and the exploration of ethnoarchaeology to this specific craft tradition.

1999 Professionally, Ryan Tipp (Spring ’99) is close to hitting the five-year mark as the Managing Editor of AGADAILY.com, a digital agricultural news publication he founded that has grown to one of the largest outlets in the nation and has won numerous awards in the farming industry. Recently, Ryan has covered difficult and sensitive topics, including an enterpriseing exploration of the challenges facing Black farmers and of the impacts cancel culture can have on those involved in food production. Ryan lives in Virginia on a small garlic farm with his wife and two kids. Even before the pandemic, Ryan rediscovered his love of running and has been tackling the Monticello trail every weekend and having fun competing in races.

1995 Zoe Kontes (1994–95), a professor of Archaeology at Kymion College, GR, has a podcast about illegal antiquities. It is available on Apple and Spotify and Stitcher. Check it out at https://footed.blubrry.com/. Episodes 2 and 5 have CYA faculty participating.

1990 Ben Worth (90-91) moved back to his hometown of Lexington, VA to work as the academic Vice President at his local community college, Danby Lancaster. He has been spending his time while quarantining learning to play the upright bass.

1976 Stephen Polezonis (Fall ’76) was elected President of the Connecticut Association of Optometrists, October 2020. The CAO represents approximately 360 Doctors of Optometry, and is the state affiliate of the American Optometric Association.

1975 John Roth (74-75) writes: After 40 years of teaching Latin and/or Greek at various prep schools I have retired. The timing was perfect and I am enjoying easy distance teaching from a computer. Future travel plans are on hold for now but we are looking forward to it. We just bought a house in Albuquerque and will eventually share time between here and Virginia Beach. I recently walked Hadrian’s and the Antonine Wall and look forward to the German rhines.

1974 Connie (Nordshein) Wooldridge (73-74) My husband and I are mostly hunkering down here in Indianapolis and waiting for the pandemic to become an endemic. The lockdown has given me time to push forward with the nonfiction book project I’ve been working on for seven or eight years. I can almost see the light at the end of the tunnel. Two of our four kids live in Colorado and Washington State, which has given Carl and me an excuse to put our lives on the line and actually travel on an airplane... with wings. It might have been the most exciting thing we’ve done all year!!

1968 Lynn Dominick Novack (68–69) writes: My husband John and I ended up stranded through the austral winter at our “summer” place in Patagonia, Chile. Thank god for Netflix and Amazon Prime as we were able to listen to the great lectures offered by CYA. And through that, I was able to be a volunteer for the Western Foundation of America (MAFA).”

1965 Peter Allen (’64-’65) is a co-founder of a new organization named Mount Athos Foundation of America (MAFA). “I joined the Friends of Mount Athos (FSMA) 39 years ago because I had spent ten days on the Holy Mountain in the ’70s and loved the place. But FSMA is a British organization and donations are not tax deductible in the States, so a group of us founded MAFA which is 501c3 entity and thus donations are tax deductible in the States. We raise money to help the monasteries and promote scholarship about the community. For example, we donated money to help monks who came down with COVID and funds to repair a roof that was washed out by a freak storm last year. We also give scholarships to individuals doing research on the community. I know many CYA male students visited the monastic community when they were at CYA and I hope they are still interested. Please contact me if you would like to join or donate to MAFA. pallen@rice.edu.”

ADDRESS

GREECE

DIKEMES

5 Patission Stadion

GR-118 35 Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 210 7351-749

Fax: +30 210 7351-748

E-mail: e-podos@ dikemes.gr

USA

COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

PO BOX 390890

Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel: 617 868-8200

Fax: 617 868-8207

E-mail: info@cyathens.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

cyathensblog.org

facebook.com/cyathens

instagram.com/cyathens

twitter.com/cyathens

linkedin.com/school/15310699

CYA YouTube channel

Please note
Due to budget constraints because of COVID-19, CYA will not print the alumni newsletter this year. We have every intention to resume print copies as soon as we can.
### COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS ALUMNI/AE NEWS AND INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CYA YEAR*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS (if different from label)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOBILE PHONE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-MAIL ADDRESS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the above is a temporary address, please indicate how long you expect it to be valid (until?   )

To update your address, please visit this link

*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 and MAJOR(s)**

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

**CURRENT OCCUPATION**

**WORK ADDRESS**

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

New address? To update your address, use this link