Urban Sustainability class on site at the Antonis Tritsis Environmental Awareness Park
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In a country that has endured so much during an economic crisis which is by no means over, one would think it would be difficult to report the positive or the optimistic. It was with these thoughts that I took a stroll through Athens on a May Sunday morning. This was one of the few Sundays that the law allows shops to open for business. I walked down the hill from Kolonaki to Panepistimiou Street, then on to Syntagma Square, down Ermou Street and on to Plaka, passing by balconies with cascading wisterias and bougainvilleas. Street musicians were adding their own tone.

What I saw was a city of incredible vitality, exuding a powerful energy. There was culture, tourism, and commerce at its best. My wanderings led me to a marvelous exhibition of Konstantinos Volanakis, Greece’s foremost seascape artist. In another principal museum, there was a magnificent exhibition of contemporary photography taking a look inside the physical spaces of Greek public service. In the evenings, there are cultural events, concerts, plays, lectures, book presentations, exhibition openings. Surprisingly, the restaurants and cafes are full; the air is buzzing with excitement. I am always surprised by this phenomenon. Is this a country in despair?

In our own CYA neighborhood in Pangrati, the new Museum of Modern Art, a couple of blocks from the CYA Academic Center, will open its doors before the end of 2018. This is the new arrival in the city, which is getting accustomed to its new Opera House and National Library at Faliron, gifts of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Pangrati, still a typical residential area, is getting its fair share of new modestly-priced hip restaurants and wine-bars. No wonder our students declare themselves fascinated by Athens at the end of their stay.

Here lies the antithesis; there are serious dark issues in Greece today, unreasonably high taxation, large budget surpluses agreed by the government with Greece’s lenders for years to come, high unemployment, and no development in sight. As if this was not enough, there is an inefficient justice system and a restrictive environment in public education. All these are at the root of Greece’s present problems and of its protracted suffering.

But there is the other very bright side. Examples of that are the people’s resilience, the energized civil society particularly active with such causes as the refugee care and the protection of the Greek landscape and its sea from plastics, and the spirit of joie de vivre which apparently never abandons the Greeks.

This is a great place for students to learn. CYA takes them on a “marvelous journey” as Kavafis says, one leading them to paths of intellectual discovery. CYA’s new courses in business ethics, intercultural communication, global cities, cultural heritage management, theater and performance, digital humanities, photography in archaeology are parts of this discovery. There is a great number of workshops in academic writing, legal and medical terminology, and even marble carving.

The discovery was facilitated in May with a student conference on urbanism in Greece throughout the ages and an international conference on Thucydides in June with the participation of several world authorities on the ancient historian.

CYA and its students are doing well; the GoAbroad on-line international program directory awarded CYA a distinction as a top-rated study abroad program and our summer school has more students than ever before.

Greece, one way or another, will pull out of this terrible decade and move forward. CYA will be there as a shining example of the great things Greece is.

ALEXIS PHYLACTOPOULOS, President

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Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: September 1, 2018
On February 5, 2018, on the occasion of CYA Founder’s Day and in honor of former faculty members, CYA hosted a buffet dinner and a screening of *Smyrna: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City*, a documentary by award-winning filmmaker Maria Iliou. Former faculty members had the opportunity to meet with long-time friends and exchange news and warm embraces, as they re-connected over a glass of wine. Members of CYA’s Board of Advisors and Trustees, current faculty and staff, as well as students, had a chance to meet and mingle in a convivial atmosphere.

CYA president Alexis Phylactopoulos gave an opening address, introducing the Chairman of the CYA Board of Trustees, Chris Todd, who flew to Athens for the occasion. Mr. Todd recounted some heartfelt memories of CYA’s founder Ismene, highlighting her strength of character as well as the story of how she established the program with a pioneering class of four female students.

“I learned that the mission of the school was to develop better citizens of the world, to cultivate the civility of young people. By the end of the day, I was smitten. That day changed my life, a phrase that I hear often from students who come here.”
– Chris Todd

Mr. Phylactopoulos followed on by sharing some thoughts about the vision that led his mother, Ismene, to establish CYA and described the critical role played by the original and now deceased instructors of CYA.

Following a delicious dinner and dessert, Maria Iliou introduced her ancestral home, the cosmopolitan port city of Smyrna on the coast of Western Anatolia in the Ottoman Empire and its story from 1900 to 1922 when it was tragically destroyed in a fire ignited by the blaze of nationalism which raged in the aftermath of World War I.

“Cosmopolitan cities don’t disappear; they live within you.”
– Maria Iliou

Iliou discussed how she became fascinated with the memory of this city whose story, she observed, was relatively unknown to the general public in Europe and the US. In her profoundly moving documentary, she was able to share the story of Smyrna and its destruction. The film’s historical consultant, Alexander Kitroeff (CYA visiting professor from Haverford College), explained that the collaboration with Maria Iliou helped him with his own field of work as a historian, learning how to “tell a story”.

The event was a moving experience which brought together people who have been close to CYA from its very early beginnings until now. The evening was shaped by warm reflections, reminders of the rich history of CYA and fond memories of our inspirational founder and the fantastic people who we have had the privilege to work alongside her to build CYA into what it is today.

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CYA Professor Angelos Papadopoulos attended the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, on November 16 to present his work on *Aegean Iconography of Warfare: Images of Battle and Hunting in the Late Bronze Age: Why Is the Aegean So Different from Its Eastern Neighbors?*. The conference attracted over 1,000 scholars and enthusiasts of archaeology, linguistics, geography, epigraphy, anthropology, and other fields related to the study of the ancient Near East. Over 1200 papers and posters were presented. Among the attendees were numerous CYA alumni, colleagues, friends and other faculty members.

Following the conference, Professor Papadopoulos was invited to Mississippi State University (MSU) as a guest scholar. He gave two lectures on his archaeological work: *Studying Warfare in the Aegean during the Late Bronze Age: Myths and Realities* and *Old excavations under a new light: Mycenaean pottery, British excavations and “objects of no value.”* During his visit, he also conducted a special Minoan-style mud-brick making workshop introducing participants to the ancient “recipe” and technique of producing strong, ready to use unbaked mud bricks, a material which housed people and their civilizations for millennia.

ALUMNI FROM 1965 RETURN FOR A VISIT

Their time at CYA made them want to return for a visit, after 53 years! Left to right: Michael Capaso, Cassandra Koulet (’65), and Ann Dexter (’65) met with CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos.
**DELPHI ECONOMIC FORUM**

Twenty-two CYA Spring ’18 students with a keen interest in politics, globalization and world affairs had the unique opportunity to be personally invited by the organization’s Founder and Chairman Symeon Tsomokos to attend the Delphi Economic Forum. The Delphi Economic Forum engages business, political, academic, and other top experts to address emerging challenges, influence the national and regional agendas and promote sustainable and socially responsible growth policies for Greece, Europe, and the wider Eastern Mediterranean region. This year the Forum hosted over 400 speakers spanning the fields of politics, economy, business, diplomacy, and academia, as well as think-tank and media representatives.

Led by Professors Romolo Gandolfo and Ritsa Panagiotou, CYA students were afforded this excellent opportunity to be at the center of this prestigious international conference, to network with other young leaders and participate in meaningful discussions with key presenters. Many of the students who attended the Forum are currently taking CYA courses on Crisis and Recovery in Greece and Europe, European Union: Challenges and Strategic Choices, and Immigrants, Citizenship and Nationalism in Europe and were naturally attracted to panels on immigration in Europe and the refugee crisis, topics extremely relevant to these courses, and hot issues in the U.S., too.

Among the speakers was Alexis Phylactopoulos (CYA President) who presented his topic: Greece: International Education Hub on the panel dedicated to educational policy which took place within the impressive Delphi Archeological Museum.

CYA professor Thanos Dokos (Director-General of ELIAMEP - Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy) and CYA Board of Trustees member Thanos Veremis (Vice Chairman, ELIAMEP and Professor of Political History Emeritus, University of Athens) spoke on various other panels.

Students found discussions on education and the youth crisis in Greece eye-opening, as well as talks on the USA/Russia/China trilateral connection. The panels were very dynamic with intense interaction between speakers producing fascinating questions from the audience and discussions. The experience helped students develop their skills in how to best phrase questions especially ones that trigger great responses.

Professor Ritsa Panagiotou commented that everyone was extremely impressed with the level and quality of the speakers and the discourse in general and how gratifying it was to see students so focused, enthusiastic and organized in planning out the panels they wanted to attend. Overall it was a very enriching as well as fun experience for all.

**NEW YORK TIMES’ ARTICLE ON RAFAEL DEMOS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PHILOSOPHY**


In sharing the article with the CYA community, CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos had this to say:

“For those who have not known Rafael or his involvement with CYA, let me say that he and his wife Jean were very supportive in many ways of Ismene Phylactopoulos’ initiative to start CYA. Rafael Demos was legendary at Harvard (among his students was Martin Luther King). When he retired he taught as a visiting professor at McGill and Vanderbilt. He and Jean eventually settled in Athens and CYA had the benefit to have Rafael act as Academic Director and teach a philosophy class. He died in 1968, symbolically in mid-ocean, on one of their trips back to the US.

At a memorial service held on September 18, 1968 Professor Roderick Firth said about Rafael Demos, “Rafael’s effectiveness as a teacher had its roots in the source of all good teaching. He cared — he really cared — about reaching his students, not so much to win them to some particular point of view, for he was able to discuss Plato and William James with equal enthusiasm, but rather to open their eyes to the delights that he himself found in the study of philosophy. There is no substitute for this kind of motivation.”

We’d like to share this comment on the article posted by CYA Alumna Lynne Novack (CYA ’67-'68, Senior Fellow at the Tower Center, SMU) which indicates just what an impression Rafael Demos left on his students.

Rafael Demos was our philosophy professor at the College Year in Athens when I was a student there in 1967-68, after he had retired from Harvard. What a magnificent person he was, as was his wife Jean Demos. We were a small group of students, and Mr. and Mrs. Demos traveled by bus with us to classical antiquity sites around Greece — so we got to know him well. He was kind enough to play chess with me several times — he always won, of course. And the stories of his friendships with Bertrand Russell and TS Eliot were fascinating and so self-deprecating. Truly, I loved that man and was devastated when he passed away not long after my time with him. Thank you for illuminating and honoring him for me once again.
THE PEOPLE OF CYA — AN INTERVIEW WITH GEORGIA KATSAROU, CYA’S LIBRARIAN

On the third floor of CYA, tucked away in the library, is one of our best-kept secrets, Georgia Katsarou, our Librarian. Since joining CYA in 2006, she has been the key person our faculty and students go to for her expertise. Georgia is a goldmine of useful information regarding academic research and study.

Born and raised in Athens, Georgia received her Bachelor’s Degree in Library Studies at the Technological Educational Institute of Athens, and her Master’s in Information and Library Studies at the University of Aberystwyth. She lives in Athens with her husband and their two children, Marina aged seven and Nikolas aged four. In her spare time, Georgia enjoys fiction and reading stories aloud to her children, but her unique talent is to create beautifully intricate embroideries that bring to life the beauty of the things that inspire her. To see her work, visit http://gk.kokohihi.com/. She also runs a hand embroidery workshop for CYA students during the semester.

How/Why did you choose to be a librarian?
Everything started when I first went to my neighborhood’s public library at the age of seven. The environment was so friendly, warm and welcoming that I kept going frequently and when I discovered that you can study this profession I knew that this would be the ideal job for me. I still remember the first books that I borrowed, they were Spot’s stories by Eric Hill.

Briefly describe some of the things you do at CYA. A typical day?
A typical day includes lots of work on the library catalog and generally on the library information systems. I need to check that they work correctly and that they are accessible and to keep their content up to date. Also, a great part of the day is devoted to helping students with their research. The rest of the day, I search for useful information resources that we could add to our collection. The daily schedule changes of course during the exams’ period and at the beginning and the end of the semester.

In recent years I have also started a challenging project which is to organize CYA’s historical archive both physically and electronically. It is a project that requires time, concentration and devotion but the outcome is so satisfying that it’s worth every single effort.

What is the biggest challenge of your job?
To make information easily retrievable and accessible. Our students study at CYA for one or two semesters, so they don’t have a lot of time to discover the collection and the library resources fully. I do my best to organize everything in such a way so that when they need something, they can find it easily. This may sound easy to do, but nowadays that we have to manage both print and electronic collections, it is a little bit complicated.

What is the most satisfying thing about your job?
Assisting students with their research and seeing how content they are with the result of their work. Also, it’s nice when both students and faculty praise the quality of our collection.

How has your role changed over the years? How has new technology changed things?
Librarians have seen a lot of change over the years in every aspect of their job, from the transition to integrated library systems to the way that information is delivered to users. The library space is also changing. I was recently reading an article that was explaining that now, in the age of online reference material, academic libraries withdraw print collections to make room for more study space, tutoring centers, and maker spaces.

What other libraries can CYA students access in Athens?
One of the most important libraries in Athens that CYA students can access is the Byleng Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, a research library on prehistoric and classical archaeology of the Mediterranean region, classical languages, history, and culture. Also, they can visit the Gennadius Library with a significant collection on Greek history, literature and art from antiquity until modern times. And of course The National Library of Greece but we have to wait until it opens again because it is currently relocating from the old historic building to

a new, modern building equipped with the latest technology.

Have you learned anything from CYA students?
I continuously learn from CYA students. I learn, or at least I try to learn, how young people of their age think and what their habits are. We always believe that we understand younger generations when in fact, we don’t. We have to talk to them, listen to them and understand them to offer them something.

Do you have a favorite Greek author/Greek book that you can recommend?
It is very tough to decide because very few Greek books have been translated into English. Out of those that have been translated the last decade, I would recommend Alexandros Papadiamantis’ The Murderess, translated by Peter Levi (New York Review Books, 2010) and the poems in Austerity Measures: the New Greek Poetry, edited by Karen Van Dick (Penguin, 2016).

Favorite Quote?
Can I share a verse instead? It is from one of my favorite poems, The Sovereign Sun by Odysseus Elytis (trl. by Kimon Friar). Where the Sun says about Greece:

O come you shores and come you seas vineyards and golden olive trees out of my noonday’s interim come listen to my bulletin “No matter what lands I roam and love This is the land I’m enamored of.”

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kiki Lewis, CYA Alumni Ambassador from Pacific Lutheran University, for winning the Fall ‘17 semester travel voucher! This $500 prize is awarded to the most active ambassador each semester. Thanks to Kiki for going above and beyond her role and contributing energy and enthusiasm to the CYA Ambassador team!
THE GREEK STONES SPEAK: GREEK EPIGRAPHY WITH PROFESSOR PITT

Fall Semester 2017 saw CYA running a new Classics course: The Greek Stones Speak: An Introduction to Greek Epigraphy, taught by professor Robert K. Pitt, combining tours of inscriptions on sites and in museums around Athens with a series of classes on how inscribed texts can illuminate all areas of the Ancient World, including Greek dialects and early scripts, graffiti and magic, language formulae in state decrees and royal letters, and the interactions of Greek with other languages.

This introduction to Greek epigraphy offers a practical guide to one of the ancient world’s most interesting types of evidence — inscriptions. Texts inscribed on stone and other materials give us insights into antiquity that the literary sources cannot, bringing us closer to the ordinary individuals who composed, carved and read them. Inscriptions illuminate almost every aspect of the ancient world, from the monumental public laws, decrees and royal pronouncements that effected state policies to the everyday shopping lists and graffiti scratched on potsherds.

The course investigates the origins of written Greek, examines a variety of types of texts (decrees, dedications, funerary epigraphs, curses), and explores the historical topics which inscriptions inform (democracy, law, empire, literacy and bilingualism). Much of the course will be spent on sites and in museums looking at and working with inscriptions, especially at the Epigraphic Museum (the world’s largest collection of Greek inscriptions), and will include a strong practical element, guiding the student through the skills needed to read and interpret both the stones themselves as well as demystifying their publications, opening up a wealth of historical, linguistic, and archaeological material.

The strong practical element of this course invites students to analyze texts inscribed on stone and other materials to gain insights into antiquity that the literary sources cannot, bringing them closer to the ordinary individuals who composed, carved and read them. Students visited several museums:

The Athens Epigraphic Museum: the class visited several ‘Fifth-Century Athens’ inscriptions at the Epigraphic Museum, which houses the world’s largest such collection. Some of the monuments included: The Athenian Tribute Lists, the Casualty Lists, the Egesta Decree, and the Inventories of the Parthenon.

The British School at Athens: Using the epigraphic collection of the British School of Athens, the class looked at practical techniques needed for reading and recording inscriptions and learned how to make paper casts (squeezes) of Ancient Greek inscriptions. Using some inscriptions in the collection of the British School, the class also learned how to write and how to decipher an epigraphic edition.

The Theater of Dionysos: The lesson on “Theater and Spectacle: Winners and Losers in the Public Arena” saw the class visit the Theatre of Dionysos. Drama played an important role in the Athenian social, political, and religious life. Students learned how inscriptions were set up to commemorate victorious playwrights, actors, choruses, and sponsors.

The Acropolis Museum: Professor Pitt took students to see the Acropolis Museum’s collection of inscribed statue bases from the Pre-Persian period. They had the opportunity to take a close look at the dedications to the gods in Archaic Athens and earn about the people who were setting up these expensive gifts.

This outstanding course guides students through the skills needed to read and interpret both the stones themselves as well as demystifying their publications, opening up a wealth of historical, linguistic, and archaeological material.

NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

Spring Semester 2018 was full of new and exciting offerings for students, including two new courses: The Greek Jews: History, Identity, and Memory taught by visiting professor Alexander Kitroeff, Associate Professor of History at Haverford College, and a new business course: Business, Ethics and Politics taught by philosophy professor Evgenia Mylonaki.

The Greek Jews: History, Identity, and Memory
This course explores the history of the Greek Jews from 1821 to the present, focusing on: their rich cultural and religious traditions; communal life; incorporation into Greek society and the events that shaped their lives - including the Holocaust and its remembrance. The Greek Jews include primarily two communities, the Romaniotes and the Sephardim. The Romanies have been present in the Greek lands for centuries and are considered the oldest Jewish community in Europe. The Sephardic Jews settled in the Greek lands after their expulsion from Spain in 1492. Their large concentration in Salonica — present-day Thessaloniki — made the city known as “Mother of Israel.” This course studies the evolution of this extraordinary blend of Jewish history and culture, its place in Greek society, the devastation endured in the Holocaust, and its survival and memorialization in present-day Greece and Israel.

Business, Ethics and Politics
It is the aim of this class to enable students to think through the philosophical character of some of the problems we all face and that have to do with the contemporary forms of business and to enable all of us to do philosophy together. This course examines some of the standard issues in Business Ethics and Politics and takes a look at what deeper philosophical problems (both ethical and political) lie at the source of these issues. The main form of Business the class was concerned with is the corporate form of Business in capitalism. Among other things, students had the chance to attend guest Philosophy lectures as well as the opportunity to interview a corporate lawyer, a representative of a corporation, a representative of an NGO and more. In the class, students familiarized themselves with fundamental ethical and political philosophical theories, appreciate how philosophical theories help us frame problems arising from the activity and the nature of contemporary forms of business, consider alternative solutions to these business problems, and finally, consider alternative forms of business which attempt to solve these problems.
ADOPTING A FAMILY AWAY FROM HOME — DISCOVERING CYA HOMESTAYS

Lighting the fireplace, escaping to a beach house for a day, cooking genuine Greek food, laughing, dancing, sharing deep thoughts about the world, are just some of the memories CYA students have been sharing with us about their lives in their host homes during their semester in Athens.

Homestays had been a feature of CYA in the 90’s and beginning in 2014 the homestay program started running consistently every semester. Thanks to the careful work of Nadia Meliniotis, our Executive Director of Student Affairs, it has been a huge success! Each semester, Nadia matches students who have indicated an interest in the program with a host family with complementary interests, lifestyles, or hobbies. She carefully vets the homestay families and makes sure the process is smooth and successful by following up with students and host parents throughout the semester.

The homestay experience is meant not simply as an alternative to our CYA apartments; it is an enrichment of the study abroad experience, an immersion into Greek culture and the Greek family lifestyle, and an opportunity to gain life-long relationships and a second home halfway across the world. Below we learn more about two students from fall 2017 who lived in homestays:

**What Do Students Gain From a Homestay?**
- Full immersion in the culture
- An understanding of Greek family life and the extended family concept
- Substantial interaction with locals/family — including conversations on politics, culture, migration, financial issues, etc.
- Immersion in the Greek language
- Since they have to commute, they get to experience “real city life” and meet locals
- The chance to attend cultural events in the city with their host family
- Sometimes the chance to travel with their host family to villages/vacation homes
- Long-lasting relationships
- The possibility of returning to Greece to stay with the family again
- Excellent homemade Greek food

**Alleluia Tyus**
*Fall 2017*
*University of Southern California*

Alle’s face lit up with a smile when he began talking about Fotini. He said: “She’s wonderful. A very straightforward person. We laugh all the time — laughing is a big part of our relationship — we have very similar personalities, she was the one to break the first joke, and we’ve been laughing ever since.”

Alle went on to tell us how grateful he is to Fotini (he calls her mum) for allowing him personal space and time and modeling her plans around his workload. We wondered what kind of things they did together. “A lot of the things we did were spontaneous, we didn’t plan on them. One time I got sick and she nursed me back to health, I was in the house for a couple of days and at the end she was like ‘you’re going to the beach house with me’ so we spent a day in the countryside, it was amazing, and I learned a lot about Greek culture.”

Fotini lives in an area outside the center of Athens, so Alle used public transport to go to class every day. “I learned so much just by being on public transport in Greece. There’s more here that could ever be advertised on any commercial, there are lives here, there’s culture. I learned some of those intricacies just by going on public transport from home to school, it’s like an essay.”

Alle was apprehensive about the homestay decision before coming to Greece. The biggest part of that had to do with the fear of missing out on the socializing with his peers. He is now glad he made that decision. “I would never have done dorms instead of homestay […] choosing to leave the American bubble was definitely worth it.”

When asked for the best memories with his host mother: “So many! She’s so loving it’s ridiculous, she’s so caring. From her bringing me hot chocolate at night, lighting the fireplace, dancing in the living room. There are more ways of communicating with people than just language.”

**Shannon Stout**
*Fall 2017, Siena College*

We had the pleasure to be invited to host mother Ioanna’s home for a cup of tea to learn more about homestays. It is a beautiful house surrounded by trees, in an area just outside the center of Athens, called Papagos. Ioanna has lived here since she was six, when there were very few houses in the area. Shannon loves the little park at the front of the house, which she can see from her bedroom balcony.

Ioanna and Shannon are relaxed and joyful around each other, we quickly realized they have nicknames for each other! Shannon calls her host mum ‘Loca’ and Ioanna has named her ‘Blancita’ (white) because the summer they met, Ioanna thought Shannon was very pale. “I was actually tanned,” says Shannon and laughs. In conversation, we noticed the two of them had gotten in the habit of teaching each other their language. (When Ioanna was talking about the time she ‘rewound’ the house, Shannon kindly corrected, ‘renovated’).

“For me, the homestay is a much better option, to be able to have a family in Greece is really beneficial. Just to have Loca here to explain things I’ve been experiencing… coming back from school and talking about my day or here’s this Greek word, what does it mean? She is also an awesome cook! It is incredible to be able to have the traditional tastes of Greece and come to understand what home food is like.” Ioanna says: “She eats everything, she’s so good! In Greece, we use olive oil and we cook the vegetables, this is a blessing.”
A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR STAVROULAKIS

We received one more memory in honor of Professor Stavroulakos in the Fall 2017 OWL, and we wanted to share it here:

A few days before our winter break was to begin in December 1976, Professor Nicos Stavroulakis overheard me lamenting that my lack of funds was making it impractical for me to travel anywhere for the holidays. Meeting family in Paris or skiing in Switzerland were not options for me. The next day, Professor Stavroulakis presented me with a beautifully hand-written three week itinerary for Syria, Israel and Jordan and explained how one might experience a fascinating holiday on the cheap. His description of the trip I experienced could not have been more precise.

Upon reading of his passing in the Fall 2017 edition of The Owl, I located and re-read my travel journal from my trip to the Middle East and discovered it had been quite inexpensive; roundtrip airfare from Athens to Amman was $35; a 75 cent cab ride from Amman to Jerash in Jordan, a distance of almost 40 miles; $1.50 per night hotels, memorable feasts for $2 to $4; a ride with four Kuwaiti diplomats from the Jordanian-Syrian border to Damascus (free but they were hoping for more); a home stay with two veterinary students in Hama, Syria, Hayil Al-Faraj and Mohamad Ali Baaj, and two nights in a cave in Petra with a family of Bedouins, discovering over and over that Arab hospitality is a thing.

Inexpensive but fascinating, indeed. Christmas Day in Palmyra exploring the Valley of Tombs and the Arab Castle on the hilltop with a student from Cairo who spoke no English but appreciated my attempts at Arabic; Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Damascus in Syria, Jericho, Jerusalem, Hebron in Israel, Madaba, Petra and Aqaba in Jordan where I discovered Florida-like palm trees and weather so warm that it prevented me from returning to school on time. When I nonchalantly returned a day or two late for classes, I was greeted with a stern lecture from Mrs. Phyl who knew I had been traveling alone in the Middle East.

Many of the things I saw on that trip have since been destroyed. I’m afraid to even try to search for my friends in Hama after what it and other Syrian cities have been subject to during the last seven years. Professor Stavroulakis provided me with three of the most memorable weeks of my life. The letters from students who knew Professor Stavroulakis published in your last newsletter included many stories like mine and I was glad to see that I was not the only one who benefited from his knowledge and generosity.

Tom Herr, CYA ’77

ALUMNI PROFILE: ZOE TILLMAN

Zoe attended CYA in Fall ’01 and served as an Alum Ambassador thereafter. She attended CYA from The University of Pennsylvania and majored in Sociology. Zoe currently works as a reporter for BuzzFeed News in Washington, DC, where she covers federal courts and justice.

How has CYA influenced you?

How do you think Study Abroad contributes to a student’s overall education? To their world view?

Studying abroad encourages you to get really comfortable asking questions and thinking creatively to solve problems — everything from figuring out how to do laundry and how to buy groceries to how to apply what you’re reading in class to what you see around you. I think that’s a skill carries through to the coursework you do and beyond.

Your Job:

How did you decide to study abroad with CYA?

I was taking a lot of Classics classes, and knew I wanted to continue that in studying abroad. The program my college offered in Rome required some background in Italian, which I didn’t have, so I ended up at CYA in a way by default, although I was also interested in how site-focused CYA was.

How did you become interested in your field?

What role did CYA play in that, if any?

I’ve wanted to be a journalist for as long as I can remember. Studying abroad helped me hone skills that I think made me a stronger reporter going forward — learning how to explore a new and unfamiliar place, talking to strangers and building trust, and feeling okay outside my comfort zone.

What were some challenges you faced in your career? Did your time or experience at CYA offer any help in overcoming the obstacles?

My job brings me into contact with a lot of different people from different backgrounds — I came back from CYA a more open-minded person, which I think helped me be a better reporter.

At CYA:

Where did you live as a CYA student?

I lived in Kolonaki — my street closed down for a farmer’s market one day a week, and negotiating with vendors was great for practicing my Greek!

Do you have a favorite story about your time at CYA?

Too many to choose — traveling around Greece with people who would become close friends; hiking the Samaria Gorge with a fellow student on the program whom I later married (Hi Schuyler Null); ordering “grilled cheese” at a restaurant and learning that it meant, literally, a giant piece of grilled cheese; tutoring a Greek boy in English — he taught me how to curse in Greek; the list goes on!

What is your favorite thing about Athens?

My favorite thing about Athens was the sense of history there and the commitment the city has to preserving that history. There was something pretty special about going down into the metro and seeing the walls of artifacts behind glass, or looking up and having the Acropolis as part of the cityscape. I love that it’s a part of daily life there.
On January 5th, CYA hosted its yearly reception in conjunction with the joint meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and the Society for Classical Studies (SCS).

This year, the event was held at the Copley Square Marriott in Boston. Alexis Phylactopoulos (CYA President), Theoni Scourta (CYA Vice President of Academics), and Robert Pitt (CYA Professor) were present from Greece; all three attended the AIA/SCS meeting, where Professor Pitt presented his paper on *New Inscribed Clamps and Dowels from the Athenian Propylaia*.

The event was also attended by CYA’s Cambridge-based team: Cornelia Herzfeld (Special Consultant to the President), Katie Sievers (Associate Director, Campus Relations), Maria Marakas (Bursar, Office Manager), Grace Twardy (Student Relations Coordinator) and Lauren Chow (Administrative Support Coordinator).

The CYA team enjoyed meeting and reconnecting with alumni, friends, and colleagues from the Boston area and Archaeology and Classical Studies fields. Despite the freezing Boston temperatures and fresh snow, it was a warm and lively evening; attendees ate and drank, shared research plans or favorite memories from Greece, and made new connections within the extended CYA family.

For some alumni, it was the first time reuniting with CYA classmates from across the country. The evening was a heartwarming reflection of the close ties within the vibrant CYA community. CYA thanks all who braved the weather to join the evening’s festivities.
Maggie Kukoski (CYA ’11) and Kathleen Garland (CYA ’11) were roommates in Athens.

Alumni and Friends of CYA enjoying the reception

Stratos Efthymiou (Consul General of Greece), Marshall (Zane) Jordan (CYA ’17), Alexis Phylactopoulos (CYA President), Lauren Montieth (CYA Fall ’16)

Jakob Froelich (CYA Fall ’15) and Connor North (CYA Fall ’15) — The reception was a reunion for them; they haven’t seen each other since Athens.
Each year since 2008, CYA has been offering its students the opportunity to participate in an excavation before the start of the spring semester and work alongside Greek students from the Archaeology Department of the University of Athens. This past January, CYA was delighted to also receive a group of Australian students from the University of Sydney’s Department of Archaeology, a development spearheaded by Professor Lesley Beaumont (Associate Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Sydney). For three weeks Australians and Americans shared this unique experience with their Greek counterparts, working daily on the dig and sharing their observations and accomplishments. The program was lauded a great success, especially due to the overall number and diversity of participants, and it was a great benefit for the Australian, Greek, and U.S. participants at Voula to collaborate, develop friendships, and network with future international colleagues. CYA hopes that this success will open the doors to students from other Australian universities to join the excavation in the near future.

This year’s excavation, led by CYA professors John Karavas (Excavation Director) and Angelos Papadopoulos (Field Supervisor), in cooperation with the Piraeus Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, focused on the ruins of a large Agora, and its architectural remains. The most significant discoveries included a bronze mid-3rd-century coin and a sea-shell (Bolinus Brandaris) traditionally boiled to extract an imperial purple or porphyranatural dye used for clothing. The findings fit in with the context and activities of the area of the Agora at Aixonidai Halai and reaffirm its long-standing and uninterrupted occupation throughout antiquity.

This site contains ruins of large ancient blocks, suggesting the presence of a large and significant public building. Excavations to date have unearthed material from the Byzantine, Roman, Hellenistic and Classical periods, including a sarcophagus, three Roman kilns and a marble lion of as yet unknown date or purpose.
CYA students presented the results of their findings at the Annual Voula Field School Conference, which took place at the CYA Academic Centre on March 27th, 2018.

Voula Field School students, Rebecca Bowles (Emory University), Allison Davis (College of Charleston), Carolyn Dorey (College of Charleston), Abigail Ferguson (University of Notre Dame), Will Feuer (University of Michigan), Winston Klapper (Lawrence University), John McLaughlin (Harvard University) and Alexandra O’Connor (University of Notre Dame), enthusiastically presented their findings and shared their drawings, examples of their context and bag register sheets and even an on-site time-lapse video of all three-weeks of the excavation.

It was fun to hear the students share personal accounts and reflections of their experience. Some students recalled memories of painstakingly excavating small stones, others described their surprise to learn that dirt can be analyzed to unveil important details about the context of the site.

CYA Students, faculty, and staff, including Theoni Scourta, CYA’s VP of Academic Affairs came out to support the students, as well as Eftychia Lygouri (Site Director), and her colleague Maria Giamalidi of the Piraeus Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities. Professors John Karavas and Angelos Papadopoulos (Excavation Supervisors) gave an opening address introducing the history of the excavation and summing up the overall success of the course.

Some of the highlights:
Allison Davis (College of Charleston) presented her 3D model of the site, which she created independently using the skills she learned in the fall semester Digital Archaeology course taught by Professor Hüseyin Öztürk and utilizing the GIS software available at CYA.

Students discussed the benefits of working in ceramics, metallurgy and bone labs in addition to their classes which exposed them to information about the most up-to-date archaeology methodology. They learned about non-invasive GIS archaeology, aspects of stratigraphic excavation, material culture, artifact processing and cataloging, dating techniques and how to illustrate findings.

CYA is proud that its program—from very humble beginnings almost ten years ago—has now expanded into an international field school. It gives students the opportunity to obtain full credit towards their degree and participate in a hands-on excavation. Voula Field School provides excellent exposure to the field combining on-site practice with follow-up lessons and workshops consolidating their learning.
In February, CYA’s Katie Sievers (Associate Director, Campus Relations) attended the 10th Annual Workshop on Intercultural Skills Enhancement (WISE) Conference in Winston-Salem, NC. Put on by Wake Forest University, the WISE Conference is an opportunity for faculty, university administrators, and study abroad professionals to develop the knowledge and skills needed to help students advance their intercultural skills and awareness during their abroad experiences. Over the course of two days, 275 registrants from across the U.S. and six other countries attended a keynote speech by Farzana Nayani and participated in a broad range of sessions and presentations. Katie brought back tools that will help CYA better prepare students to engage mindfully with the Greek context and, consistently with CYA’s mission, return home committed to furthering intercultural understanding in their communities.

From March 21st to 23rd, CYA administrators attended the Forum on Education Abroad’s 14th Annual Conference in downtown Boston to meet with colleagues and attend sessions related to the conference theme, Building on Strong Foundations: Best Practices for an Evolving Field. Alexis Phylactopoulos (CYA President) attended from Athens, and North American administrators Katie Sievers (Associate Director, Campus Relations), Grace Twardy (Senior Coordinator, Student Relations) and Lauren Chow (Coordinator, Ambassador Program and Administrative Support), attended from just across the river in Cambridge.

On April 20th, staff from our North American Office attended the Boston Area Study Abroad Association (BASAA) Conference at Simmons College. Lauren Chow presented a session on re-entry in which our Ambassador Jayla Stevenson spoke on a student panel.

We are thrilled to announce our new initiative for Alumni Networking which aims to connect CYA alumni who are seeking a job with alumni who have an internship or a job opening available or experience or insight to share. We want to help our recent graduates as they enter the professional field and we know our amazing alumni have much to offer.

CYA WELCOMES NEW FUNDRAISING OFFICER

CYA is happy to announce that Vassilis Simopoulos has joined the team as the Fundraising Officer. He was born and raised in Athens, Greece and received a BA degree in Communication from the University of Southern California and a Master of Liberal Arts degree in Government from Harvard University. His professional interests focus on various service and non-profit organizations in the public and private sectors. His work with nonprofits includes serving as Project Manager for the Lascaris foundation and HOPEgenesis NPO.

Vassilis is looking forward to working closely with our alumni, who are vital to CYA’s success; their support, both financial and otherwise, is key to CYA’s future. To that end, he will be working closely with the Alumni Relations Director, Erica Huffman, as well as with our Social Media team with the goal of raising money to support CYA’s mission.

NEW INITIATIVE: ALUMNI NETWORKING

We are seeking alumni who may be willing to help recent graduates with job searches, informational interviews, resume and career advice, and possible job placement. If you are interested in getting involved, please visit https://www.cyathens.org/18771/cya-alumni-and-friends/.
A Few Words About Diversity in Education According to Nadia:

Diversity comes in many forms: gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, culture, socioeconomic background, etc. All of these contribute to an individual’s unique experience of the world. Diversity often focuses on the differences, and can be thought of as “the mix.” Inclusion, then, is the act “of making the mix work”; it is the deliberate act of welcoming diversity and creating an environment where many different kinds of people can thrive and succeed. A quality education entails all aspects of diversity including, race, religion, and culture and societal norms. Having a diverse school setting is beneficial because students learn more about how to operate in a global environment with a better view and understanding of how our differences make us stronger. Diversity enriches the educational experience, promotes personal growth and a healthy society, and strengthens communities and workplaces.

While in Florida, Nadia was able to meet up with some CYA alumni, including Kristen Thompson (Spring ’93), Rachel Dupont (Fall ’15), and Scott Jones (“93–’94). Scott wrote: “Very grateful to reunite with Nadia after 25 years! She’s such a great advocate for the school and truly amazing human. Brought back many fond memories of my experiences and people I met in Greece”.

Illustration based on the Combat Agate

**NEW REALITIES AND UNTAPPED POTENTIAL — DIVERSITY ABROAD CONFERENCE 2018**

In April 2018, CYA’s Executive Director of Student Affairs, Nadia Meliniotis attended the Diversity Abroad Conference: New Realities and Untapped Potential in Miami, Florida. Over 500 education professionals, student leaders, employers, and leading graduate program providers met to discuss ways to advance research, develop effective advising tools, and offer learning and development opportunities essential to creating equitable access to global education.

The goal of this year’s conference was to ensure that the next generation of young people from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and experience to be academically, personally, and professionally successful in the 21st-century interconnected world.

As a study abroad institution and Diversity Abroad Network Member, CYA encourages accessibility to global education through its program. Nadia Meliniotis’ participation in the Diversity Abroad Conference is part of the commitment to provide new opportunities for learning and development to young people from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

**FALL LECTURE SERIES**

On November 14, 2017, CYA hosted a lecture, The Greek Crisis and Soccer Club Identities: Athens Bourgeois, Piraeus Proletarians and Asia Minor Refugees by Professor Alexander Kitroeff (Haverford College).

Many European soccer teams have historically reflected identities that go deeper than sports, representing region or city, political or religious affiliation, or class origins. In Spain, Barcelona stands for Catalonia and Real Madrid for a unified country; in Scotland, Celtic F.C. stands for Irish Catholicism, Glasgow Rangers for Protestant Unionism. The origins of Greece’s top soccer clubs also reflect particular identities rooted in the country’s history. But with the Greek Crisis dealing a blow to already declining attendance at soccer stadiums, the question is, can Greece’s top teams claim they are something more than a sports club?

Professor Spiros N. Pollalis (Harvard University) gave a lecture on The Public as Stakeholder in the Development of Elliniko on November 28, 2017. Professor Pollalis approached the development of the former Elliniko airport focusing on the short term and long term benefits and potential harm to the taxpayers and the citizens of Athens. He examined what the objectives of this project should have been, what they finally were, how they were communicated, and how successfully they were met. Spiros N. Pollalis is a professor at Harvard University specializing in sustainability and directs the Zofnass Program at Harvard.

The University of Cincinnati archaeological excavations at the Palace of Nestor, Pylos resumed on May 18, 2015 for the first time since 1969. During the course of the campaign, the so-called grave of the “Griffin Warrior” was discovered a few hundred meters from the Palace. On December 6, 2017, CYA hosted a lecture by Jack Davis and Sharon Stocker, the Co-Directors of the Palace of Nestor excavations titled The Grave of the Griffin Warrior at Pylos. This presentation described the excavation of this remarkable grave and discussed the findings, including the Combat Agate, a gemstone seal bearing intricately carved images of a warrior slaying two enemies, which as been proclaimed one of the greatest masterpieces of Aegean art. This unique, undisturbed burial affords an unparalleled opportunity to examine aspects of early Mycenaean funerary ritual, gender association with grave goods, and burial structure that cannot be obtained through more standard multi-individual burial contexts.

Illustration based on the Combat Agate

Kristen Thompson (Spring ’15), and Scott Jones

While in Florida, Nadia was able to meet up with some CYA alumni, including Kristen Thompson (Spring ’93), Rachel Dupont (Fall ’15), and Scott Jones (“93–’94).

Scott wrote: “Very grateful to reunite with Nadia after 25 years! She’s such a great advocate for the school and truly amazing human. Brought back many fond memories of my experiences and people I met in Greece”.

Illustration based on the Combat Agate
RECEPTION IN NYC

On the occasion of its winter Board Meeting, CYA held a cocktail reception on January 13th which was hosted by Nitzia (Embiricos, CYA ’01-’02) and George Logothetis at The Seleni Institute. In attendance were CYA alumni, Board Members, and friends of the Program. Everyone enjoyed each other’s company, hearing the latest CYA news and watching a video presentation from Athens with a few words from CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos. CYA alumni from over the years enjoyed catching up with one another and learning about the Seleni Institute.

The Seleni Institute, of which Nitzia Logothetis is the Founding Chairwoman and Executive Director, is a global non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the emotional health of individuals and families; you can learn more here: www.seleni.org.

Chris Todd with professor Ron Afzal from Sarah Lawrence College, who is a visiting professor at CYA this summer.

Alan Shapiro (‘69) with Laetitia LaFollette (‘75), both serve on CYA Boards.

Katia Todd (SU ’09), Alexis Phylactopoulos, Alexssa Todd (SPR ’08)
KAGIANAS or STRAPATSADA
(Scrambled Eggs with tomato)

Ingredients:
- 4-5 eggs
- 3 very ripe tomatoes, peeled and chopped (not in blender)
- 2-3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 80 ml olive oil
- Oregano (optional)
- Salt, pepper

Preparation:
Peel and chop the tomatoes. Add a little salt, mix and set aside.
Heat the olive oil in a wide pan. Add the garlic, simmer momentarily and a few seconds later add the tomato. Let it simmer for about 20 minutes, until it absorbs its liquids, without drying out.
Crack the eggs in a bowl, add some salt and pepper and pinch the yolks with a fork. Using the fork, stir to mix the eggs gently. Do not beat the mixture.
Over medium heat, pour the egg mixture in the tomato sauce. Stir gently with the fork until the egg whites are cooked but the mixture is still juicy.
Serve immediately with a generous sprinkle of crumbled Feta cheese on top, and with fresh crusty bread.
Edythe Malara (F’15) wrote: “Last year I earned my Masters in Teaching Latin and my New York State teaching certification in Latin for grades 1-12, and I accepted a Latin teaching position at Shaker High School in Latham, NY! I will be teaching three levels of Latin starting in the fall. My new school loved learning about my study abroad experience with CYA in Greece, and is encouraging me to plan a spring break trip to Italy and Greece with my students for next spring.”

Ariana Gunderson (S’13) wrote: “I’ve moved to Boston, MA to get my Master’s in Gastronomy at Boston University, studying food and memory. I am lucky to have so many fond memories of Greece!”

Stephanie Aron (SP’10) and Alex Sheehan (SP’10) were married on September 13 2017 in Rutherford, CA at Beauilieu Garden; CYA friend Mike Walsh (SPR ’10), who, like Alex, attended DePaul University, officiated. See photos at: https://www.yahoo.com/news/california-garden-wedding-dripping-romance-140036076.html

Alexandra Booth (’07) wrote: “I was a full year student 2008-08. It was absolutely incredible. I have been teaching Latin and History for the last ten years, and my current school, Phoenix Country Day School, is starting a Modern Greek class next year.

Ciara (Fernandez) Faber (F’05) writes: “My husband, Andrew Faber (’05), and I, both alumni from Fall 2005, recently welcomed our first child, Aster Matias. We named him Aster after Asteri, the Greek word for “star” since we met and fell in love in Greece through CYA.”

Stephanie Pitsirilos-Boquin (’97) wrote: “It is nice to see how CYA has grown, I have such fond memories of my year (and subsequent years) in Greece. “She goes on to say,”I got my master’s degree in public health after college, and worked on healthy lifestyle issues for children and families in NYC in schools and community via a hospital outreach program. I got to do things like bring farmers markets to neighborhoods and work with First Lady Michelle Obama’s team in creating her own campaign… I’ve spent the past ten years writing two novels.”

Endy Zemenides (’95), The Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council, wrote an article titled “Tsipras’s Opportunity”, which was published online for ekathimerini. The article, published October 15, 2017, can be viewed here: http://www.ekathimerini.com/222426/opinion/ekathimerini/comment/tsiprass-opportunity

Tim O’Flaherty (S’93) took his Latin students to the State Latin Forum in Orlando, Florida in April. This summer he will take his 18th trip to Rome in which he’ll also be taking his Padauan Learners on what will be his fifth educational tour of the Eternal City.

Tom Seeger (’93) shared: “When leaving CYA I had made an oath with a certain Greek language teacher that I would continue my study of Greek culture and language and tell others of its beauty and wonders. 25 years later I found myself leading my son and a group of other seventh graders through the Plaka to Syntagma square. Like a hero from an Ancient Greek play (Comedy I hope), I had fulfilled my oath. Our guided tour included the Acropolis and its beautiful museum, the Theater at Epidaurus, Mycenae, Olympia, Temple of Poseidon, Greek variety show, and lots of traditional foods. The kids loved dolmades! The gods willing I will return again with my wife and twin daughters too!”

Donald Byrne (’90) and his family moved in January to the tip of the Nicoya Peninsula in Costa Rica. Don teaches English and Classical Studies at a school called Futuro Verde. His two children attend the school. Surfing and yoga are huge pastimes in the local tourist zone.


David Haughton (’75) became a full-time artist as of 0700 on Sunday October 29, 2017, at the end of his last overnight shift in pediatric emergency. He has had several art shows, the latest being an Art Exhibition in March 2018 at Gallery 110 in Seattle.

Class Agent Volunteers are one of our greatest assets and they are a critical link between alumni and CYA. If you are interested in keeping up with the latest at CYA and in serving as the connecting hub between your classmates, let us know. Class agents spend a few hours each month connecting with classmates and touching base with the Director of Alumni Relations. To learn more or to sign up, please email alumni@cyathens.org.

The show was “40+ View of Mount Baker: Homage to Hokusai” and it ran March 1 to 31. Check out David’s work at www.haughton-art.ca.

Carol Poster (’74) has a new book of poetry, Returning to Dust available from Finishing Line Press and Amazon.

Susan Glickman (’73) shares: “I have an update: my fourteenth book will be published in May 2018. It is a YA novel entitled The Discovery of Flight (Toronto: Inanna). I have been going to art school for the past three years, and this book includes original illustrations.

Joan Caraganis, (’65) Jakobson wrote: “When I left Hamilton, MA, where I had grown up, and Columbus, OH, where I had been a student at Ohio State for two years, my first trip abroad was to Athens, Greece. It was a life-changing moment. My year at CYA was remarkable, unforgettable and I feel very fortunate to have been a part of its beginnings. My son, Nicholas, also spent a semester of his junior year of college at CYA and he loved it as much as I did. Mr. and Mrs. Phyl shaped a significant portion of my life and I will be forever grateful to them. I’m still living in NYC, volunteer teaching at a school in East Harlem, as I’ve done for many years, working on another book, and enjoying my children and grandchildren, all of whom live nearby. Would love to hear from any of my 1964-65 classmates.”
change services requested

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COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS ALUMNI/AE NEWS & INFORMATION

NAME ___________________________ CYA CLASS* __________________

ADDRESS (if different from label) __________________________________________

TEL Day __________________________ Evening _____________________________

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:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

*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) __________________________

________________________________________________________________________

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION __________________________

________________________________________________________________________

CURRENT OCCUPATION __________________________

WORK ADDRESS __________________________

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