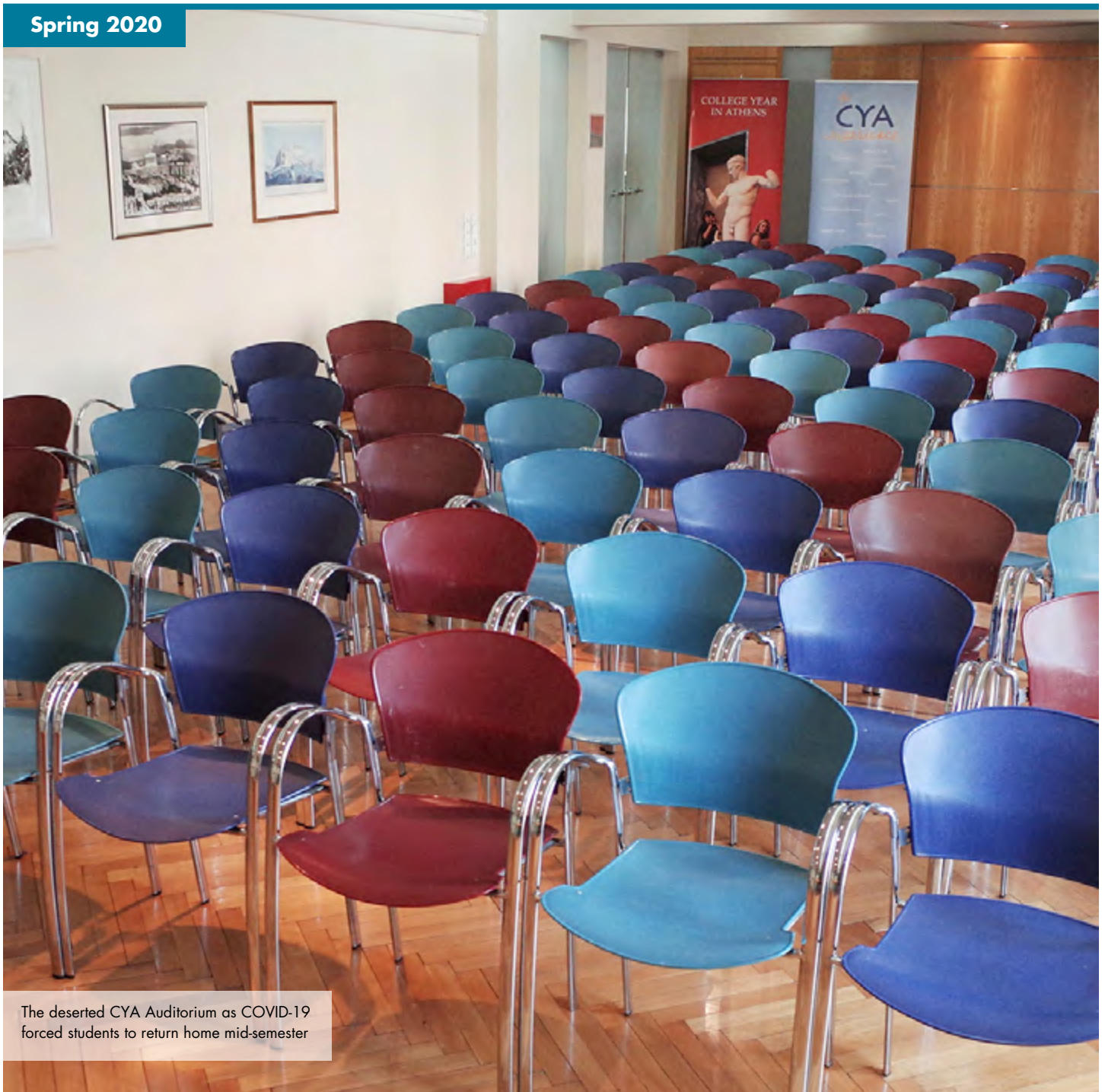


THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

Spring 2020



The deserted CYA Auditorium as COVID-19 forced students to return home mid-semester

5 PLATEIA STADIU, ATHENS, GREECE

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These were five very eventful months for the world, for Greece, and for CYA. By mid-February when the COVID-19 impact was starting to be felt in Greece, neighboring Turkey launched an unprecedented attack on Greece's northeastern border at the river Evros by weaponizing hordes of immigrants seeking to break through the border. The move was part of Turkey's continuous revisionist efforts, meant to destabilize the Greek government and blackmail the European Union. It backfired, the Greek border forces withstood the pressure with some European assistance and the attempt was aborted after weeks of tension.

While all this was taking place, the COVID-19 first cases appeared in Greece. The story of how this was managed has been reported extensively. Apparently Greece's centralized administrative structure was instrumental and the government's decisiveness was critical. Measures were taken very early on, health was given priority over the economy, a severe lockdown was imposed and surprisingly the Greek public complied and thus the Greek National Health System sustained the pressures of COVID-19 treatment, despite its limited number of ICUs.

The Coronavirus pandemic has proven the old adage that there's a silver lining in some clouds or that one can find opportunities even in the most acute difficulties. The use of technology by the public sector, adopted in a big scale in the course of a couple of weeks, transformed the lives of citizens and simplified processes, which had been anachronistic and time consuming. Permits to exit the lockdown for specific reasons were received by text messages in seconds, medical prescriptions can now

be sent by doctors to patients' pharmacy online eliminating the need of a visit to the doctor or the hospital, the use of fax was banned in the civil service, working from home and teleconferencing became a routine almost overnight.

The Greek National Health System, neglected after a decade of economic hardship showed resilience, provided the necessary medical care, reestablished people's confidence in the public sector, and reminded us of the great human capital of the country. The public sector has followed the banks who underwent a similar shake up, moving steadily in a fully digitized mode a few months earlier.

The international image of Greece improved drastically from an irresponsible state to that of a serious, effective and modern one. Finally, the Greeks were again proud of their country as they were during the 2004 Olympics.

Education was another area where reason and good management prevailed. The energetic Minister of Education, Niki Kerameus, ordered schools closed from K-12 to universities on March 11. CYA had to abide and sent its students to work from their apartments with synchronous online teaching. Within days, the CDC raised all of Europe to alert level 3 and most of our partner institutions recalled their students. Overnight all of about 150 CYA spring students had to leave Greece in haste and return home. Within 15 days the CYA faculty accomplished what was unimaginable. They made the transition to online asynchronous teaching (with some synchronous opportunities) and helped our students continue their Greek CYA experience from their homes in the U.S.



CYA itself has thus gone through a rapid transition into heavy use of technology and has entered a new phase in its development. The virtual world and study abroad are an oxymoron because the latter is based on students' direct proximity to the sites and their immersion in the local culture. Perhaps for a while we have to reinvent the substance of study abroad.

Frankly, we do not know what the next months will bring. We do not know whether there will be students attending CYA in the fall of 2020. Our school will use these months ahead to regroup, reassess its mission and plot a course that will see it survive the very difficult months ahead. CYA has weathered many crises in the past; none was as challenging as the present one but the confidence and loyalty of a dedicated staff and stellar faculty and the support of our alumni will see us through.

ALEXIS PHYLACTOPOULOS, *President*

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

KITTY KYRIACOPOULOS

It is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of **Kitty Kyriacopoulos**. A long-time benefactor of CYA, Kitty served on the Board of Trustees for 15 years and later as Trustee Emerita, and supported CYA's drive to acquire essential facilities next to the Panathenaic Stadium. Kitty was a preeminent figure in Greece, leaving her mark on Greek society and serving as a role model for professional women. She was particularly interested in education, which drew her to the cause of CYA. Her guidance and support helped CYA in its development, making it the institution it is today. She is survived by her children, Ulysses (Member, CYA Board of Trustees) and Nicole, and Florica, her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



In July 2009, Kitty Kyriacopoulos generously hosted CYA's annual Board of Trustees meeting on the island of Milos. Above, Kitty playing a game of Tavli (backgammon) with fellow Trustee George David during a break between Board meetings.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to budget constraints as a result 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 (2021).

FOUNDER'S DAY

On February 13, 2020, CYA honored the memory of CYA Founder **Ismene Phylactopoulou** at its annual Founder's Day event. Ismene's resilient and innovative spirit enabled her to achieve her goals, making her an "example of female emancipation and a role model for young women," as President **Alexis Phylactopoulos** stated in his speech. At the event, memories of Ismene and CYA's past were shared with faculty, staff, and alumni.



Former CYA professor Mimika Dimitra and Nadia Meliniotis, Executive Director of Student Affairs.



CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos speaks to guests

The night served as a reflection on CYA's history and the dedication of its staff and faculty. Although CYA's inspiring past and promising future were highlights of the celebration, President Phylactopoulos also stressed its present: "CYA today has what it had back in 1962: great people who work with passion, with the feeling that CYA belongs to them because come to think of it, it does. CYA is its people, its faculty, its administration, its staff. Without them, without you, CYA is nothing."

CYA professor **Nanno Marinatos** gave a speech on CYA's past and present. She discussed her history and roles at CYA as well as her experience as a Professor and Chair of Classics at the U of IL. She was able to touch upon the history of CYA, the changes in Classics and curricula today and how CYA has navigated these changes very successfully.

Professor Marinatos discussed Mr. Phylactopoulos' vision for CYA and the fact that he realized while Classics had to remain one of the cores of the program, it had to be only one part of a broader focus. If Greek Classical studies were not made relevant to American students in the 21st century, shrinkage was inevitable and there was even the danger of total extinction. CYA's current curriculum is diverse and includes Greece's classical heritage as well as many disciplines from the social sciences.

In closing, Nanno shared some personal stories about her years teaching at CYA and working with Dr. **Kimon Giocarinis**, then Director of Studies.

Evgenia Mylonaki

Last July, Evgenia Mylonaki represented CYA at The Iris Murdoch Centenary Conference at the University of Oxford. Iris Murdoch is one of the most prominent philosophers, fiction writers and public intellectuals of the 20th century. Her philosophical work covers a major part of the history of philosophy, but also the philosophical traditions and the established disciplines in the field. The conference was organized by the Iris Murdoch Research Centre of the University of Chichester and by St Anne's College and Somerville College of the University of Oxford.

It was attended by more than 130 delegates from around the world and, besides the specialist talks, it included an exhibition of material from the Iris Murdoch's archive and a number of public events on literature, theatre and music. Evgenia presented a paper on Iris Murdoch's conception of Moral Perception. The paper was well received.

Ritsa Panagiotou

Ritsa Panagiotou represented CYA at the 29th Conference of the Eurasian Business and Economics Society organized in cooperation with the Instituto Univeristario de Lisboa. The Conference took place on October 10-12, 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal. Ritsa's paper was entitled **The Western Balkans between Russia and the EU: Another Challenge to Enlargement** and was presented in the Political Economy and Public Economics panel.

Athena Stourna

Athena's most recent publication is a book chapter published in France, *Un théâtre de vérité face à une hydre de Lerne : Les combats du théâtre documentaire en Grèce contre les différentes hypostases de la censure*, in Béatrice Picon-Vallin et Erica Magris (eds.), *Les Théâtres documentaires dans le monde. Histoire et actualité*, Montpellier, Editions Deuxième époque, 2019). This study approaches the emergence and evolution of Documentary Theatre in Greece, from the early 1970s up until the present day.

In 2019, Athena was the recipient of a research grant from Princeton University to study the personal archives of Greek scenographer George Vakalo, focusing on the period Vakalo spent in Paris (1921-1940) where he collaborated with some of the most prominent innovators of French theatre, such as Charles Dullin and Jacques Copeau. This research will take the form of

a scholarly article tentatively titled *The 20th century Reform of French Theatre and Scenography: The Case of George Vakalo*.

Despina Iosif

Despina coauthored with Henry Jakubowski, Professor of Chemistry at College of St. Benedict/St. John's University **Galen and Modern Healing**, *Postaugustum* 3, 2019, p. 13-29. Based on his voluminous writings and the number of centuries that medical healers adopted his healing canon, Galen was probably the single most influential medical healer in Western medicine of all time. The article explores Galen's life and medicine, and shows how the ideas of this man are consistent with and can still illuminate evolving paradigms for explaining and treating disease, illness and relieving human suffering.

Alexandra Alexandridou

Alexandra participated in the following conferences:

The 15th Congress of the Fédération internationale des associations d'études classiques and the Classical Association annual conference 2019 in London on 5-8 July 2019 where she presented a paper **Tracing Regionalism in Funerary Practices. Mortuary Strategies, Social and Kinship Dynamics in early Greece**. Panel: Changing Regional Dynamics in the Mediterranean: Material Culture, Economy, and Cult organized by Chr. Constantakopoulou.

Seeking the Parian Thesmophorion (together with Ilia Daifa). Paros V. Paros through the Ages. Institute of Paros, 22-24 June 2019, Paros, Greece.

Cult and Dedications at Despotiko of Antiparos (together with Yannis Kourayos and Ilia Daifa). Sanctuaries and Cult in the Aegean, Greek Ministry of Culture, 11-15 September 2019, Lemnos, Varos Village, Greece.

Maria Vidali

Maria presented in the 17th conference Arquitectonics Network: Mind, Land and Society, at the Technical University of Catalonia UPC, School of Architecture ETSAB, in Barcelona, 29th-31st of May 2019 a paper titled: **Narrative, metaphor and fiction as tools in architectural education**.

Athena Hadji

2019 has been a busy year for Athena, with three published articles and a conference talk. Athena contributed two chapters (one co-authored with Professor A. Sampson) to the edited volume *Early Cycladic Sculpture*. Her work examined respectively Early

Cycladic anthropomorphic sculpture from Euboea and the island of Rhodes, hitherto unpublished. The third article was a preliminary publication of her research on contemporary Athenian graffiti and street art as a fellow of the Athens School of Fine Arts and the Independent Social Research Foundation. Last but not least, in October 2019, she gave a talk on the issue of violence and graffiti-related vandalism at the Mind and Violence conference at Oxford University.

Angelos Papadopoulos

During 2019 Dr. Angelos Papadopoulos worked as a Postdoctoral Associate in the research program entitled **Cypriot Connectivity in the Mediterranean from the Late Bronze to the end of the Classical period: An Interdisciplinary Approach (CyCoMed)**. He had the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Giorgos Bourogiannis, the Principal Investigator of this project (2018-2021) conducted at the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF) and funded by the Hellenic Foundation for the Research and Innovation. The preliminary results were presented in Athens and Louvain-la-Neuve.



2019 was a very productive year for Dr. Papadopoulos as two publications appeared both as contributions to conference proceedings: a) *Exceptional objects from old excavations. The case of Aegean artefacts at Egkomi (1896 excavations)* and b) *Mneme and propaganda in the early Late Bronze Age Aegean: The case of the "Siege Rhyton"*. In addition, Dr. Papadopoulos with Assist. Prof. Anna Osterholtz (MSU) received a research grant for the publication of a Bronze Age cemetery in Paphos, Cyprus, excavated by Papadopoulos in 2008.

CYA STUDENTS ATTEND ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Students from professor **Romolo Gandolfo's** class *Contemporary Greek Politics and Society* attended the 30th Annual Greek Economic Summit, hosted by the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, at the Athenaeum Intercontinental hotel in December 2019. This year's theme, "Turning the Odds" reflected the country's dynamic efforts to turn the page and rapidly return to a sustainable path of growth and global competitiveness amid the challenges facing countries and economies today. Professor Gandolfo and his students attended talks by political figures, industry leaders, experts and influencers such as the Minister of Finance Christos Staikouras, the Chairman of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) Theodore Fessas, and the US Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt. The students were very excited about attending this top-level conference, and happy to discover that, thanks to the courses they were taking at CYA, they could fully enjoy these presentations and place them in a meaningful economic and political context.



Fall '19 students Sadie Brownlee (Pacific Lutheran University), Michael Conlin-Brandenburg (Grinnell College), Joseph Simone (University of Notre Dame), and Alyssa Czaban (University of Southern California).

FULBRIGHT OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION NIGHT

On November 20, CYA hosted a casual dinner event for students interested in learning more about or applying to a Fulbright Program in Greece. The Fulbright Awards Program offers **scholarships to US Citizens** for academic research and/or lecturing in all disciplines at various educational, cultural, and research organizations in Greece. For more information visit <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/>.

The purpose of the gathering, aside from a nice dinner and mingling with interesting people, was to facilitate networking and inform anyone curious about grant opportunities. Fulbright participants and staff also attended and were able to give students some great insight into the program, process, and experience.



CYA Administrators post-presentation

COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS HOSTED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE IN BOSTON

In early January, CYA had the honor of being hosted at the Consulate General of Greece in Boston by Consul General Stratos Efthymiou. Consul Efthymiou noted CYA's important history of inspiring students and philhellenes to come to Greece for academic purposes, enriching the country's academic and cultural landscape.

Alexis Phylactopoulos, President of CYA, and **Daphne Hatsopoulos**, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and wife of the late **George N. Hatsopoulos**, a historic benefactor of CYA, spoke at the reception.



CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos and Consul General Stratos Efthymiou



CYA friends and alumni attended the event

CYA LIBRARY

In fall 2019 the CYA Library was given some much needed extra space by expanding to an adjoining room which now hosts the Reserve Collection as well as a long study table. A very pleasant reading corner was created by the new layout with two comfortable armchairs in the section where the Reserve Collection used to be, and more room was given to the Main Collection for its further enrichment.



CYA STUDENT MAKING THE MOST OF HER SEMESTER IN GREECE

CYA student Kate Foster made the most of her time in Greece.

A self-proclaimed mythology fan, Kate was attracted to Greece's rich history long before she arrived here. For her, living in Athens has provided her the chance to explore various aspects of the country's history. She has had the chance to visit famous ancient sites from the Acropolis to the temple at Delphi to the palace of Knossos. Just two weeks ago, Kate even ran the 5k race of the Athens Authentic Marathon. But these experiences are only one part of her study abroad experience.

As a biology major, most of Kate's classes were aimed to fulfill her general education requirements back at her home institution of University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. However, she has been doing much more than just studying. When not in class or on CYA field trips, she dedicated a lot of her time to volunteering in the local community. Every week, Kate shadowed well-known surgeon Dr. Spyros Smparounis at the Metropolitan General Hospital.

When the doctor had patients, Kate interacted with them firsthand, learning about their illness and how to treat them with the doctor. Kate even had the opportunity to witness a surgery in the room! On less busy days, Dr. Smparounis gave Kate lessons about illnesses and medical emergencies and how to treat them. As an EMT, Kate was interested in the differences between the Greek and American healthcare systems. Here in Greece, there is a universal healthcare program as well as private options. Meanwhile, in America, healthcare is mainly private. One week, Kate sat in on a lesson from Dr. Smparounis about the cutting-edge da Vinci Robotic Surgery System. Getting the chance to work closely with a renowned surgeon and developing a friendship "is once in a lifetime" Kate declared.

When she was not working with Dr. Smparounis at the hospital, Kate was also volunteering with an organization called Medical Volunteers International (MVI). MVI is a non-profit that provides medical assistance to refugees. Once a week, Kate went to one of their women and children's clinics and assisted doctors as they saw patients. On their busiest day, fourteen patients came through during the few hours she was there. She got to work alongside the doctors as they listened to patients



Kate with Dr. Spyros Smparounis, the surgeon she has been shadowing

about their symptoms, ask follow-up questions, and determine a diagnosis. Unlike at many internship and volunteering experiences in the US, at MVI Kate got to provide real input and contributions to the doctors she worked with. She said that this work has given her the chance to see "what's actually going on and how the process occurs and to look at the symptoms and go 'okay, I think it's this.'" Every time she went in, she got another opportunity to put the skills and knowledge she has gained in the classroom to the test.

One of Kate's favorite parts of her volunteer work was that she felt she's been able to provide more continuity at the clinic than usual. The doctors she works with are volunteering their time and efforts, so they often stay for about two weeks before switching out with a new doctor. Kate, on the other hand, had been helping at the clinic mid-September through the end of the semester. After she had been coming for weeks, she felt confident helping doctors recognize recurring patients and checking on their previous problems before helping them with new ones.

This was far from Kate's first time venturing out into the medical field. She is a certified EMT, has worked in a burn clinic and trauma center, and has shadowed a variety

of different medical professionals already. But even with all this experience under her belt already, she feels that her experiences here in Greece have been unique. While shadowing in the US is just "watching," she describes her work here shadowing and with the volunteer organization as more "interactive" and "involved." She's had the chance to speak up and give her opinion to real medical professionals in a way that she hasn't had the chance to in the US. While she has loved the work she has done in the US previously, she admits that "it's one thing to learn it in the classroom but it's another to actually go and to see what you're learning in class in action and to see the consequences of it." In her volunteer work in Greece, Kate got to witness the healing impact her help has had on real people.

This healing impact is all the more meaningful because Medical Volunteers International assists refugees. For Kate, it was different than caring for patients at a hospital back in the US. Without the work of organizations like MVI, it can be extremely difficult for refugees to find medical care. In countries like Greece, where so many refugees have arrived in the past few years, this kind of humanitarian aid is critical. By seeing up close the situations of these refugees, Kate has gained more than just medical experience from her volunteering – she feels that her work at MVI has "opened up a whole new realm of sympathy."

When it comes to future CYA students who are considering volunteering, Kate's advice was simple: "don't be hesitant... it's going to be great."

For her amazing work throughout her time at CYA, Kate was named the Student of the Semester for fall '19! Bravo Kate!

By Abby Wolfe, Fall '19, who attended CYA from The University of Notre Dame

CYA STUDENTS PUBLISH PAPERS IN JOURNAL

Recently, four CYA students, **Blaine Cheramie**, Fall '19, **Nicole Tubman**, Fall '19, **Sophia Sarro**, Fall '19, and **Joshua Anthony**, Spring '19, published articles in the *Post Augustum Journal*. The *Post Augustum* is an online journal dedicated to the history of the Mediterranean world during the first Christian centuries. The journal was created and run by CYA Professor **Despina Iosif** and **D.J. Kyrtatas**, Professor at the University of Thessaly, along with other historians who specialize in the period. Original scholarly articles, research, and book reviews from both Greek and international scholars are featured on the e-journal.

Noting the incredible achievement of publishing a scholarly article as an undergraduate, Professor Iosif said, "Giving exceptional current and former CYA students the chance for their first scholarly publication, a publication which will proudly appear on their CVs, is very important for me. Caring about our students and their scholarly achievements does not of course stop when they leave CYA."

The alumni themselves were thrilled about the opportunity to be published in the *Post Augustum*. Blaine Cheramie described her feelings about getting published: "Through CYA and my Religions of the Middle East course with Professor Despina Iosif, I was able to achieve something I never expected during my semester abroad! The experience of writing an article to be published is an exciting mélange of nerves and the feeling of finally being heard." Sophia Sarro reflected on the access to the broader academic world she gained through being featured in the *Post Augustum*, stating,

"When Professor Iosif brought up the possibility of publishing our papers, I was ecstatic. It felt like instead of exploring the topic itself - which was fun enough on its own - we could actually add to and influence the great body of academic literature from which we learned."

The CYA alumni published articles addressing a broad range of topics regarding early Christianity and the ancient Mediterranean world. Nicole Tubman conducted research on the connection between the ancient figure of Pan and the Christian devil, using artistic imagery and ancient sources. The paper touched on her interests in folklore, Greek mythology, and art. "It was like putting together a puzzle in a sense, matching the imagery and the reasoning behind it. It felt more like a personal project than a school assignment in the end, it was so enjoyable," Nicole expressed.

Joshua Anthony published two articles in the *Post Augustum*. The journal was a perfect fit for Joshua, as "most of [his] research falls on this line between classical antiquity and early Christianity, and *Post Augustum* happens to specialize precisely in this [period]." In his first paper, Joshua examined the relationship between "Christianity and Roman culture in late antique Germanic kingdoms," while his second was focused on "the theological significance of Greek literary motifs in the composition of St Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts."

Blaine's piece, titled "Intersections of Martyrdom and Gender," focuses on female Christian martyrdom in the Roman Empire. Blaine was "inspired to write on this subject after reading the Diary of Perpetua and studying martyrdom in Professor

Iosif's class." After working closely with Professor Iosif, Blaine settled "on themes of piety, gender, and transformation as lenses through which to examine incredibly interesting stories [of female Christian martyrs]."

Inspired by Professor Iosif's course Religions of the Middle East, Sophia wrote her piece for the *Post Augustum* about the Book of Enoch. While her paper dealt heavily with the Christian canon, Professor Iosif's suggestion to branch out from Christianity led Sophia to explore the creation of the Jewish canon as well.

Publishing an article in a scholarly journal is not just an academic achievement, but also a personal and professional one. Joshua wrote: "Connecting with Professor Iosif through CYA was and continues to be a tremendous blessing for [his] academic and professional development. *Post Augustum* provided me with an experience in academic publication and has catapulted my research to the next level." The sentiment was shared by the other alumni who were published: "now, being able to say that I have a published piece in a journal (among so many other opportunities provided by CYA), I know that I have gained professional experience on top of all the good memories," Blaine noted. She added, "I am so grateful to Professor Despina Iosif for how she connected with and believed in [me] and all of her students, and for this incredible chance to share my thoughts with a larger, global classical community!"

Congratulations to all the CYA alumni who were published in the **Post Augustum!**

EURIPIDES PLAY | THE SUPPLIANTS



On December 17, students and faculty enjoyed a production of Euripides' tragedy *The Suppliants* put on by Professor **Demetrios Kritsotakis'** Ancient Greek students. Their performance was moving as well as fresh and original and was thoroughly enjoyed by audience and actors alike.

CYA held a reception for Alumni and Friends January 4th in Washington, DC. The event was held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America/Society for Classical Studies. CYA President, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, CYA Vice President for Academic Affairs, **Theoni Scourta**, and CYA Director of Alumni Relations, **Erica Huffman '93**, attended the event along with nearly 70 guests, including local area alumni/parents and conference attendees.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of College Year in Athens, **Chris Todd**, and Treasurer of the CYA Board of Trustees, **Peter Allen '65**, joined CYA Advisory Roundtable member and Adjunct Professor at Southwestern University **Pam Haskell**, CYA Advisory Roundtable member and Chair, Classics at Southwestern University **Hal Haskell** and CYA faculty members **Jeff Vanderpool** and **Nina Papathanasopoulou** along with former CYA faculty member **Tessa Dinsmoor** at the festive occasion.



Susan Spencer '69 and Peter Allen '65 (Providence College, retired)



Chris Richter (Hollins University), Tina Saloway (Hollins University), Alan Shapiro '69 (Johns Hopkins University), John Oakley (College of William and Mary, retired)



CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos, Chairman of CYA's Board of Trustees Chris Todd, Sam Holzman '10, Peter Bell '96

CYA professor Jeff Vanderpool presents his poster at the [#aiascs](#) poster session! [#CYAthens](#)





Cathy Keane '91, Gretchen Meyers '91 and Amanda Wilcox

Several alumni in the field were able to join as well, including: Professor of Classics and W. H. Collins Vickers Professor of Archaeology Emeritus at Johns Hopkins University **Alan Shapiro** '69, Senior Associate Member, postdoc at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens **Sam Holzman** '10, Research Associate, Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College **Mary Dabney** '75, Professor of Classics at Washington University in St. Louis **Cathy Keane** '91, Associate Professor of Classics at Franklin and Marshall **Gretchen Meyers** '91, and Assistant Professor of Classics at Knox College **Mitchell Parks** '07. The event is a great opportunity to re-connect with friends and fellow CYA alumni and friends as well as meet new people. Great food and conversation made for a fun night!



Caroline Dorey '18, Allie Davis '18 and Theoni Scourta



Pam Haskell, Tessa Dinsmoor, Mary Dabney '75

Robert Caudill, Marlee Miller, Erik DeMarche '10, Sam Holzman '10, and Catharine Judson '09



Mitchell Parks '07 and Mike Balderrama '07



SPRING 2020: A PICTORIAL OF A SEMESTER CUT SHORT

The outbreak of COVID-19 this past March and the rapid sequence of events forced our Spring 2020 students into a hasty departure, in order to reach home before the U.S. lockdown. It was a sad time at CYA, saying good-bye to our students so soon after we had welcomed them to Athens.

And when schools were ordered closed and students had to leave, CYA was quick to respond to the task of salvaging the semester.



Students had been enjoying classes in the open, on archaeological sites, in cafés. They also had time to enjoy a trip to Delphi and another to the Peloponnese.



When dining facilities were ordered to close, CYA continued to offer lunch as take-out. Students took it in stride, coming to the Academic Center to pick up packets for all their apartment-mates.



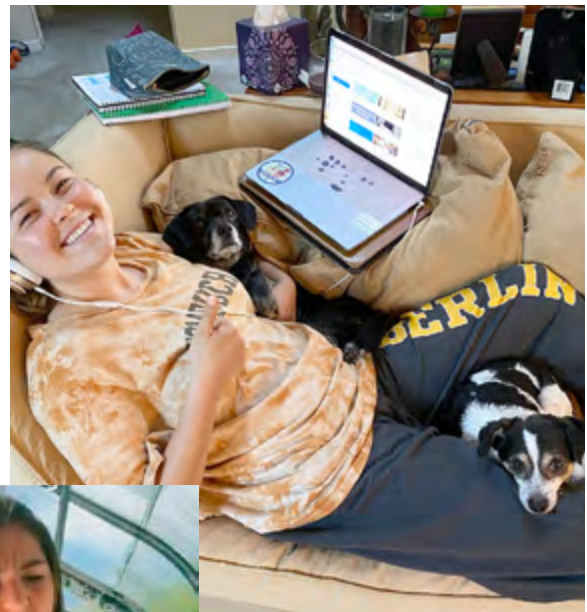
Faculty rushed to turn their on-site teaching into online sessions, a job which they did admirably well with the help of our Media Lab colleagues who videotaped them both in the classroom and out on the field.

Some instructors even added short entertaining spots to their sessions, to offer moral support and break the monotony of online class.

Missing the Spring 2020 class, CYA organized two live sessions to bring a feeling of Greece to students at home. The first was a live tzatziki-making session with Nadia and Meni! The second was a Syrtaki dance lesson with several administrators dancing to the tunes of Zorba the Greek, while others clapped encouragingly off camera! To view these and other videos link to our YouTube page [here](#)



Although studying under lockdown instead of studying abroad was hard, students responded commendably – sometimes aided by their beloved pets!



They even cooked Greek dishes based on recipes from CYA faculty and staff and shared their delicious plates with CYA!

No farewell party this spring, no hugs, no tears. Instead, a heartfelt wish to see all our Spring 2020 students again, soon, under less stressful circumstances.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The customary end-of-semester faculty meeting meeting of Spring '20 was moved this time from a conference room to a virtual one. Thanks to digital technology, more than 30 faculty members and several Administrators joined in on May 13 to hear the latest from President Phylactopoulos and to exchange views and news with their colleagues.



CYA LECTURE SERIES, FALL 2019

On September 24, **Richard Seaford**, Professor Emeritus of Classics and Ancient History, University of Exeter, gave an inspirational talk on **Ancient Greece and the Perils of the Twenty-first Century: The Importance of Limit** elaborating on what we can learn from Ancient Greece as a tool for confronting the disintegrative tendencies of the twenty-first century.



Dr. Seaford wrote:

"This lecture draws on recent research in order to suggest a way in which ancient Greece can be an inspiration for us in confronting the disintegrative tendencies of the twenty-first century. I started by comparing the relief sculptures of the Assyrians with those of the Greeks, equally beautiful but very different in spirit. What emerges is the distinctiveness of two Greek ideas: firstly, of conflict as either harmonious or rule-bound, and secondly of the individual person as autonomous. Both harmony and rules constitute limitation of the autonomous individual, be it in musical or athletic competitions, commerce, or warfare. The importance of limit is central to various spheres of Greek culture: aesthetics, economics, cosmology, ethics, and politics. Modern societies are generally rule-bound, but increasing vulnerable to the social, environmental, and psychological destructiveness of the creed of unlimited acquisitive individualism, by which the ancient Greeks would be horrified. For them limit and self-limitation were not bleakly negative but rather might belong to a compelling vision that was aesthetic, emotional, and intellectual."

On October 2, **John S. Pezaris '83**, member of the research faculty in the Department of Neurosurgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School, gave a talk on progress toward artificial sight and restoration of vision to the blind. John attended CYA in spring of 1983.

According to Dr. Pezaris, "Blindness is a wide-spread condition with millions of people affected worldwide. The primary causes are diseases of the eye that leave the rest of the visual brain largely intact. In the Pezaris Laboratory at the Massachusetts General Hospital, we hypothesize that by sending signals from an external camera directly into the brain, we can provide restoration of sight, at least in crude form. This talk reviewed our efforts to realize this idea through the creation of a visual prosthesis. While technically challenging, the research also raises questions about the nature of visual perception that we have explored through simulations of artificial vision."



Tatiana Flessas, Associate Professor of Law, London School of Economics and a foremost expert in Cultural Property and Heritage Law, Art Law, Property Law and Social Theory, gave a lecture on **Legal Issues in the Parthenon Marbles Conflict** on October 29. Dr. Flessas is an honorary fellow at Kent Law School, attached to the Centre for Heritage Studies.

The Parthenon, or Elgin, Marbles debate is one of the oldest and most contentious cultural property disputes. Greece and the UK have been arguing about the claim that the Parthenon Marbles should be repatriated since 1833. As new initiatives are launched for the return of the marbles, Dr. Flessas discussed the legal barriers to their return and raised some questions about the difficulty of repatriation cases more generally.



On November 19, CYA professor **Nina Papathanasopoulou** spoke about Martha Graham's iconic ballet *Night Journey*, a retelling of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, where Graham reinterprets the tragedy through Jocasta's eyes, peering into her psyche. Choreographer **Penny Diamantopoulou**, who has studied at the Martha Graham School and is now teaching the Graham technique at the National School of Dance (Athens, Greece), provided valuable insight into the performative aspects of Graham's piece. The two speakers prepared the audience to fully appreciate the riveting performance that followed, by students from the National School of Dance.

On December 18, CYA hosted a lecture by **Jenifer Neils**, Director of The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, titled **Re-reading the Parthenon Sculptures**. The event was organized by The Princeton University Athens Center for Research and Hellenic Studies and the Princeton Club of Greece, and sponsored by CYA.

Since 1750 dilettanti and scholars have been challenged by the sculptural program of the Temple of Athena Parthenon, and each generation has produced its own interpretations. This talk presented some of the newest ideas about what the ancient Athenians might be attempting to express in this, one of the most ambitious, iconographic programs of all antiquity.



CYA STUDENTS HELP PROTECT ATTICA'S VITAL WETLANDS: VRAVRONA CLEANUP WITH HELMEPA

During Fall semester 2019, nine CYA students participated in a cleanup of the Vravrona wetlands with HELMEPA, the Hellenic Marine Protection Association. **Mike Pakuris** (Rollins College), **Sophia Musiak** (Oberlin College), **Lydia Bontrager** (Kalamazoo College), **Blaikie Cheramie** (Scripps College), **Alex Gallaher** (Pacific Lutheran University), **Veda Chandwani** (Siena College), **Annelisea Brand** (The College of Wooster), **Genevieve Fisher** (Wellesley College), and **Abigail Brown** (Gettysburg College) participated in the event.



Alex Gallaher and Abigail Brown give a “thumbs up” to the cleanup!

In total, CYAers filled five large bags with trash. CYA’s participation in the recent wetlands cleanup provided the students the opportunity not only to help remove waste from the sensitive ecosystem but also to make connections in the environmental field.

Guided by the Assistant Executive Coordinator of HELMEPA himself, Costas Triantafyllou, the student volunteers spent the afternoon clearing out trash and waste from Vravrona’s vital wetlands, while learning important information about Greece’s landscape and how to protect it from pollution. Vravrona, a prominent location in antiquity, has been recognized as a protected natural site by the European

Union Habitats Directive and the Natura 2000 European network of protected areas. Included in this network are sites that house important ecosystems and wildlife habitats that are in danger of destruction. Vravrona’s unique placement on the Erasinos River renders it suitable for many rare and sensitive ecosystems in Attica. For this reason, maintaining Vravrona’s natural landscape is of the utmost importance.

Students met with environmentalists from all over the world, and they learned about interesting internship positions available to them. “This is exactly the type of international exchange I was going for” Blaikie Cheramie declared after speaking with the Executive Officer of the Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA), Julie Nash. The cleanup also provided opportunities for continued participation in environmental activities with HELMEPA. Abigail Brown, a student who took part in the cleanup, went on to volunteer with HELMEPA for the duration of the semester.

HELMEPA’s mission is to engage the public, especially young people, in environmental protection and education. Beyond frequent beach and wetland cleanup events, HELMEPA offers classes to children about the environment, ecosystems in Greece, and how to protect the planet. This collaboration between CYA and HELMEPA was made possible by the work of CYA’s Executive Director of Student Affairs, Nadia Melinioti, who organized the event.



Mike Pakuris and Nadia Melinioti, Executive Director of Student Affairs, enjoying their volunteer efforts!

TWO CYA'ERS DESCRIBE THEIR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES: VEDA CHANDWANI AND SOPHIA MUSIAK

With the help of CYA's Executive Director of Student Affairs, **Nadia Meliniotis**, CYAers have the chance to volunteer in many different fields, enriching their study abroad experience by engaging in important charitable work. Two Fall 2019 students, **Veda Chandwani** (Siena College) and **Sophia Musiak** (Oberlin College), describe their eye-opening experiences working for medical and environmental causes.

Veda volunteered with *Medical Volunteers International* (MVI). MVI provides necessary healthcare to refugees, including medicine and access to doctors. As Veda noted, "it's extremely important that refugees are able to get this help, as many cross the border without the medications they need" for chronic conditions such as diabetes and high cholesterol. Veda volunteered at MVI's clinic called STEPs, in triage, "where [patients] stand in a line to see a doctor." Veda assisted doctors and staff by translating Hindi and Urdu to English, and back. She also distributed medicine to those in need, and helped decide who needed medical attention beyond that which the clinic could provide.

This experience was extremely important for Veda, a pre-med student at Siena College. She remarked, "volunteering while I studied abroad in Greece has opened me up to the rest of the country and the variety of people that live here... volunteering with MVI has made me more aware of the world. I hope I will be able to come back later in life, once I have my M.D., and be a visiting doctor working with MVI."



Veda (left) volunteering at Medical Volunteers International



Sophia enjoying her time at ARCHELON

Sophia worked with ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Center in Glyfada, a beach-side southern suburb of Athens. ARCHELON, as Sophia stated, "works on conserving the sea turtle's habitats, [educating] the public about [sea turtles], and provides medical and rehabilitation services [to the turtles]." As the negative human impact on turtles and their habitats is evident, ARCHELON does incredibly important work in helping these sensitive animals thrive in Greece. Sophia often interacted with turtles directly during her time at ARCHELON, by feeding injured sea turtles and cleaning their tanks.

Through her volunteer experience at ARCHELON, Sophia met many people in the environmental and conservation fields from Greece and Europe. She also had the chance to see parts of Athens that are very different than the urban city center, an aspect of her time volunteering that she considered very special. Having the opportunity "to give back to the community while doing something [she is] passionate about" enhanced Sophia's study abroad experience, one that she "would do all over again!"

NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE NEWS

CYA on the Road!

CYA's Fall 2019 recruitment season was a huge success thanks to our amazing Campus Relations Representatives! CYA Campus Reps visited over 85 campuses throughout the U.S. and met with prospective and accepted students, faculty, study abroad staff and CYA alumni. The Fall 2019 Campus Rep team included **Rachael Bittick** (Fall '17) from the University of Michigan, **Cara Johnson** (Fall '17) from Gettysburg College, and **Emily Parker** (Fall '17) from Macalester College. Thank you for your continued commitment and support to CYA.



IIE Presentation

CYA's Institutional Relations Manager, **Alexia Lingaas** spoke at the Institute of International Education during the NAFSA 2019 Conference in Washington D.C. Alexia talked about the importance of cultural exchange in study abroad, emphasizing the need for international experiences and partnerships that enable students to easily go abroad. These transformative international experiences will shape the next generation of global citizens.

Fall 2019 CYA Ambassador Flight Award Recipient

Each semester, CYA partners with STA Travel to award a \$500 Flight Voucher to the most active CYA Student Ambassador. We're happy to announce that this year's winner is **Rachel Klein** (Fall '19) from Wesleyan University! CYA Ambassadors are awarded many perks, including a free two-week stay in a CYA apartment, in appreciation for their participation in the program. Congratulations Rachel! Thank you so much for your continued support and commitment to CYA. Enjoy your next adventure!

STAFF ORIENTATION TRIP

Last fall, CYA's Student Advisor, **Hailey Lovett**, visited our campus in Athens for two weeks. Hailey, who joined CYA in May 2018, oversees the application and pre-departure process for students. This includes the role of the Ambassador Program Coordinator. She loves having the opportunity of working with students both before they get to Greece and after they return to their home campuses! This trip to Athens allowed Hailey to interact with CYA staff and faculty, and to learn about what the CYA experience means from the student's perspective!

While visiting Athens I had the opportunity to see and experience all parts of CYA, Athens, and greater Greece.

Sitting in on several of CYA's classes, I thoroughly enjoyed a learning environment where inclusiveness was fostered by the professors' teaching style, and where students were not afraid to ask questions, to debate their opinions, and to dive deeper into their various topics. It made me want to be a student again!

I was also able to meet and interact with most of the CYA staff and faculty. It was great to create deeper relationships with several of my colleagues, and feel at ease with everyone from day one, which helped me understand the bonding students express in their messages and blogs after their semester at CYA! During my short visit I met many students who potentially could become CYA's Student Ambassadors, sharing their CYA experience and encouraging others on their home campuses to consider the life-changing opportunity to study abroad in Greece.

One of my favorite activities was to take nightly strolls throughout the streets of downtown Athens. Every night while in Athens, sometimes with CYA colleagues, sometimes on my own, I would walk from my Pangrati apartment to downtown Athens and explore the various neighborhoods. I felt that, by doing this almost every day, I was able to get a better idea of what Athens is like as a city. When I arrived, I felt slightly intimidated by this monumental city, but by the end of my trip, I truly felt like I had a home here!

The highlight of my time in Greece was definitely joining the trip to Metsovo, Ioannina, and Meteora, led by two wonderful professors, **Aimee Placas** and **John Karavas**! I really appreciated this trip as an opportunity to get to know the students better and experience with them some of the activities they participate in! This fantastic trip allowed us to see and experience the Northeastern region of Greece. For three whole days we visited historical sites and museums, UNESCO-protected villages and unique sites, enjoyed breathtaking sceneries, and experienced the Greek



Hailey above Monastiraki square

culture away from the hustle and bustle of Athens. Seeing this part of Greece really opened my eyes to a side of the country that, perhaps, not many people get to experience. From the mountainside town of Metsovo to the towering rock formations in Meteora, this was one of my most favorite trips I have ever been on!

I am using this experience and new knowledge to better advise students as they begin

their CYA journey. It is my job to make sure that from the moment they start an application to when they land in Greece, their questions are answered and they feel prepared to make their time studying abroad a positive and successful experience. Having been given the opportunity to see exactly what goes into creating the CYA experience, I feel as though I can help these students in a much greater capacity!

VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

In our effort to stay connected with our community and engage with our students, alumni, friends, and partners, CYA is launching a series of virtual events and happenings. Through a series of virtual activities, lectures, webinars, and cultural/historical walks in Athens, we will be able to interact in ways different from what we previously knew.

CYA's **Virtual Lecture Series** will be a forum of exchanging thoughts in a virtual environment and a podium in which people related to CYA, and active in their community, will be able to share their expertise or experience with a broader public. Visit our website or social media sites for information.

ATHENA'S ODYSSEY

By Adam Fletcher '03

On an especially hot August afternoon in Athens, I remarked to a coworker, *είναι πολύ ζέστη σήμερα*. Fanning her face, my coworker quickly corrected me, *πάρα πολύ ζέστη*. I asked her to explain the difference—when you would use one word instead of the other—and she put it this way: *πολύ* is like a glass that's full, and *πάρα πολύ* is like a glass that's overflowing.

I was in Athens that summer for the Olympics, working for NBC, the American television studio providing coverage of the games. After my Spring 2003 semester at CYA, which I consider among the most transformative experiences of my life, I was determined to find a way to return to Greece. Because Athens was set to host 2004 Olympics, my father suggested I try to get on NBC's crew. I called NBC's offices in New York, they told me to send over a resume, and a few months later they agreed to hire me as an assistant on their studio lighting crew. It was an utterly unglamorous position—I was hired as a "local" and had to pay for my own airfare and find my own accommodations—but it was a way back to Greece. That summer was grueling: I worked 14-hour days for two months straight with only one day off. And yet by the time the Olympics ended, I had saved enough money to be able to live on my own in Athens for a couple months.

In the early evening of September 11th, 2004, a Saturday about two weeks after the games had ended, I began my usual walk to Carrefour, located on the busy Vas. Sofias, to pick up some groceries. About halfway there, sitting alone and hunched up in front one of the large apartments lining the road, was a small gray kitten. It concerned me that there were no other cats, neither its siblings nor its mother, around. Almost immediately, and without much thought, I told myself that if the cat were still there on my way back, I would take it home with me. Even now, I still can't say what it was about that cat and that moment that so inspired me. I had interacted with hundreds of strays in Athens both during my time at CYA and during the Olympics—and at the time this particular cat seemed unremarkable: just a tiny short-haired gray kitten with stripes, but without any especially striking features. If the Fates are real, then surely they were at work this day.

Knowing that the stores were closed on Sundays, I hurried on to Carrefour, made sure to buy some cat food and litter, and



rushed back to collect the kitten I hoped was still there. She was, only now she was awake and playing, and no longer seemed quite so vulnerable and helpless! I tried to scoop her up and carry her off, but she kept wriggling and squirming, making it impossible to take her with me. I rushed home, dropped off my groceries, and looked for something in which I could carry her. The only thing I could find was the box holding the memorabilia NBC had given me, so I dumped everything out and rushed back to find the kitten, and fortunately she was still there. Before taking her, I asked a man walking out of a nearby apartment whether the cat was his, or anyone else's. He said she had showed up a couple of days before but didn't think she belonged to anyone, and thought it was fine if I took her. I scooped her up and dropped her into the box, and had to keep the flaps closed because she was jumping up and down inside trying to escape. I remember peeking into the box, looking into her eyes, and deciding that her name would be Athena. It seemed apropos to name her after the goddess whose name her birth city also shared.

We bonded during our first evening together. She filled her belly, she played, and she made herself comfortable on my bed. She was also covered in fleas, and so with a pair of tweezers I painstakingly removed as many as I could. Using a damp cloth, I wiped her down and bathed her, and eventually she fell asleep, resting partly on my chest and partly cradled in my right arm—the same place she slept most nights for the next 15 years. At the end of that October, I brought her back from Greece to my home in Cleveland, and from Cleveland we eventually moved to Albuquerque and then, about nine years later, back to Cleveland. Everywhere I went, she went—a life full of adventure.

This past December I lost my beloved Athena, and I've grieved for her every day since. If it's possible for a person and an animal to be soulmates, then surely Athena and I were soulmates—inseparable, best friends. In the days immediately following her passing, I struggled at first to express to friends just how much Athena meant to me. But then my mind went back to the conversation I had had on that hot August afternoon in the summer of 2004, coincidentally about the time Athena entered this world: *πολύ* is like a glass that's full, and *πάρα πολύ* is like a glass that's overflowing. I think that's how my love for Athena was—always overflowing. Life will never be the same without her, but how fortunate I have been—and how indebted I am to CYA for starting me on the path toward the friendship of a lifetime.

A MEMORY OF EASTER AT CYA

By Steve Gratwick '90

Thirty years ago this week, it was spring vacation at CYA, and I was lucky enough to be able to travel to Israel with some friends from the program. We had few plans other than to arrive in Jerusalem via El Al, and backpack around the country. We started by going through long and heavy security before leaving Athens. Officers of some sort then boarded the plane, and sat in the front row next to the cockpit, carrying machine guns. A large group of Ethiopian passengers followed, (possibly Jews emigrating), with a goat and several ducks. The short flight was otherwise uneventful, and we made our way to a comfortable youth hostel by the Old City once we arrived. I think we stayed in Israel about ten days, and saw as much as we could, including a lot of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea and Eilat. We met some energetic Germans along the way who traveled with us for most of the trip as well, adding to the adventure.

Although I had also visited Egypt in the fall semester, (on a terrific tour with Nanno Marinatos), I think seeing Israel was even more memorable for me. I had taken Professor Zaronis' course on History and Politics of the Middle East, (one of the best, for sure), so I wasn't a completely blank slate when I arrived in Jerusalem. But it was still a milestone for me, even beyond Athens,

Memory, continued on page 21

MEET THE 2019-2020 MEDIA LAB INTERNS!

Each semester, CYA's MediaLab welcomes a group of interns to the team.

FALL INTERNS:

The MediaLab was excited to welcome two media interns for the Fall '19 semester: Claire Jeantheau and Abby Wolfe! They spent the semester sharing their own study abroad experiences and highlighting the experiences of other students through the CYA blog and social media. Get to know a bit about them here:

Claire Jeantheau

"Hi, I'm Claire! I'm a junior at Dickinson College studying Classics, Education, and social entrepreneurship. Between my classical language and philosophy classes at CYA, I'm looking forward to exploring all the hills, ancient sites, and museums around Athens—and satisfying my new love of koulouri bread rings!"

Abby Wolfe

"Hi! I'm Abby, and I am a junior at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. I am a Political Science major and Sociology minor, and could not be more excited to be spending this semester in Athens! While here, I'm taking classes on the modern politics of Greece and the financial crisis, as well as business ethics and communications. Back at my home institution, I work for the media company that films and airs all Notre Dame athletics on networks like ESPN3 or NBCSN. During my summers, I have worked at a technology summer camp for kids. In my free time, I love reading a good book or going on long hikes. My time in Greece has been incredible so far, and I cannot wait for what's to come!"



Fall semester interns Claire Jeantheau and Abby Wolfe



The spring-2020 interns (L-R): Zoe Covey, Hannah Ziomek, Jess Ho, Sheridan Blitz, Nicole Brzyz, Veronica (Nika) Schoonover, Jane Tully, Simon Wang, and Jenny Cheung

SPRING INTERNS

In spring 2020, the MediaLab was happy to gain nine new collaborators! The MediaLab worked with this new group of interns on exciting, creative projects throughout the semester. The interns worked on interviews, articles, videos, collaborative projects and creative social media campaigns. When CYA Students were called to fly back home due to the pandemic, the CYA MediaLab offered interns the option to continue collaborating with CYA in the form of a virtual internship. 8 out of nine interns decided to pursue the online opportunity. Their work not only continued, but flourished online! Graphic design projects, video collages, articles and Instagram takeovers were completed by the interns during the lockdown, all while dealing with the multiple difficulties and stress caused by the pandemic.

Meet the Spring '20 MediaLab interns as they introduced themselves on the CYA blog, in the beginning of the semester:

Jess Ho

"Hi there! My name is Jess! I'm originally from New Milford, Connecticut, but I am currently studying global cultural studies and marketing at Washington University in St. Louis. I'm super excited to be exploring Greek culture and cuisine and visiting classical era ruins in the next four months. In my free time, I enjoy longboarding, guitar,

spontaneous traveling, and any means of creative expression. I am incredibly excited to document all of my incredible experiences within Greece!"

Hannah Ziomek

"Hi, my name is Hannah and I'm a junior at Skidmore College. I'm a potential double major in Classics and English and I love to write! I'm excited to be a part of the media lab team and really get to experience Greece this semester."

Jenny Cheung

"Jenny Cheung is a junior studying Business Administration and History at the University of Southern California (USC). She is currently working as a content creation intern at Insider Publications in Athens and is passionate about social media, digital marketing, and entrepreneurship. In her free time, she enjoys designing websites, traveling, and reading."

Jayne Tully

"Hi! My name is Jayne Tully and I am currently living in Athens, Greece! I am from Darien, Connecticut and I go to school at Fairfield University which is also located in Connecticut. I'm majoring in Marketing, but I have many passions which include my love for dogs (especially black labs), food, and spending time outdoors, and photography. Looking forward to exploring Greece and all it has to offer!"

SPRING INTERNS, *continued*

Nicole Brzys

"Hello! My name's Nicole and I am currently a sophomore at DePaul University in Chicago. I am studying Communications along with peace and religion. I am a very passionate and curious individual and love learning about people and culture. I am excited to live in a beautiful city for four months and cannot wait to experience all the challenges and rewards that Greece has to offer."

Nika Schoonover

"Hi! I'm Nika, a sophomore studying Journalism and Political Science at DePaul University. I love to study the impact media has on politics and society and hope to be a news reporter after college. I am really excited to study in Athens to explore the rich history and culture of the region. I cannot wait to share these explorations with you through the CYA Media Lab."

Sheridan Blitz

"Hello! My name is Sheridan, I'm a third year from Oberlin College, and I was born and raised in the Bay Area! I'm double majoring in Psychology and Anthropology and double minoring in Philosophy, and Peace and Conflict Studies. At CYA I'm taking philosophy and archaeology classes. I will primarily be one of the photographers for the Media Lab so let me know if you've found any majestic photo op spots! I love to stay active and explore the outdoors, cook lots of yummys, hang out with animals (especially horses), do artsy things, meditate, etc...I am also working on building my own business for integrative plant based lifestyle solutions with a one-on-one consulting model. Also, my favorite color is yellow!"

Simon Wang

"Zhiyuan (Simon) Wang is a junior at Macalester College studying Classics and Mathematics."

Zoe Covey

"Hi, I'm Zoe! I'm a junior at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. As an English major and a Classics minor, I can't wait to combine my love of writing with not only the rich history, but also the vibrant present of Athens. I plan to spend probably too much time looking for places to go running and roller-skating here, as well as seeing, eating, and trying every new thing that I can."

CYA INTRODUCING TWO NEW PROGRAMS

In meeting the challenges of our times, CYA is introducing two new ventures: **A Gap Semester Program** and a **Program of Virtual Internships**.



The Gap Semester Program

is for high-school graduates who elected, or were forced to, forgo their freshman fall semester due to COVID-19 or for anyone else who prefers to take a break from college life. Titled *Learning from the Ancients: a Hands-on Approach to Life from the Ancient Times to Today's Healthy Living*, this 10-week program is based on hands-on activities and is an exceptional way for young people to discover Greece and enrich their academic and life experiences while their college career is on hold (no student visa required).

[More information about the Gap Semester Program here](#)

The Virtual Internships Program

will allow students to gain a more international outlook and experience as well as new skills in the evolving professional landscape, even when they are unable to leave their home country. Students will also participate in online workshops and activities that connect them to Greek culture and society, as well as provide professional development. The internship will be structured according to a plan agreed upon by the student, the CYA faculty advisor, and the host organization.

[More information about the Virtual Internships Program here](#)

The idea for these new programs germinated at this time of crisis, and they were put together based on what we know how to do best: deliver a quality academic program by utilizing our experience, our connections, and the talents of our excellent faculty. CYA has weathered many crises in its long history, and we are certain that with our hard work and the support of our alumni and friends we will come out of this one better and stronger.

Nancy Jones Newell '65

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

Stacey Coates '66 is an educational drama consultant who works with both the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Interact Theatre in Washington, DC. You can learn more [here](#).

Lynne (Novack '68) Dominick

We are staying in our casa in Patagonian Chile for an undetermined time this year, as three different flights to return to the States were canceled by the airlines because of Covid-19. Maybe we will leave in early June, but otherwise, we will hunker down here for the austral winter. We are well and safe, as are our families around the world in Europe, Asia, and in the US. Very thankful!

David Lewis '77

After 25 years of creating concrete sculptures, fountains, and paintings under the name Little and Lewis (google us), George and I retired in 2015. We now devote our time to volunteering and giving back to a community that gave us so much support and love. I sit on several non-profit boards, tend our weedy garden, lament at the state of our country, and often think fondly of CYA and how it influenced parts of my life in the last 4 decades. George and I, together 29 years, (married since 2013) try and visit Greece every couple of years.

Anne (Steinhilper '77) Scott

My husband and I bought a retirement home in Schinokapsala Crete. It's time to come home!

Katherine Fleming, Spring '88, who is Provost at NYU was featured in the Greek Report news portal. A historian, she is the Alexander S. Onassis Professor of Hellenic Culture and Civilization in the Faculty of Arts and Science, and served for many years as the Associate Director and then Director of the Remarque Institute. [Read the article here](#).

Ed Brzytwa, Spring '98

For the last two years I have led the international trade advocacy portfolio for the American Chemistry Council. I work on behalf of US chemical manufacturers to prevent and address barriers to trade and investment and have traveled to every continent except Antarctica. CYA remains a foundational part of my career and life. I will continue to support it in whatever way I can.

Ryan Tipps, Spring '99

I just wrapped up my fourth year as Managing Editor for the digital farming publication [AGDAILY.com](#) — a site that I founded and have enjoyed watching grow. Recently, I took on a second editorial role, this time spearheading the adventure sports website [ActionHub.com](#). It brings together my love of the mountains, with my travels to beaches, national parks and countries like Costa Rica, and it gives me an outlet to help others better savor the outdoors! Especially amid the kind of year we've been having, hitting the trails, camping and kayaking are some of the best things we can still do to have fun and continue experiencing the world around us.

REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1970-1971

Steven and Mo will be sending out an update regarding the 50th year reunion. The fate of the gathering will be decided in the middle of July, and everyone in contact will receive an email.

Bonnie Wright, Fall '01

I manage a team of six education staff and around 250 docents at the Getty Villa, which is one of the two museum sites of the Getty Museum, the other being at the Getty Center. The Getty Villa is the only museum in the U.S. entirely devoted to antiquities! Docents specialize in school tours in-gallery, general public tours in-gallery, or general public tours of the Roman architecture and Roman gardens.

Ana Alvarez, Fall '17 recently finished her first year at Columbia University's Art History and Archaeology PhD program and her first year of life in the Big Apple, although always holding Athens close to her heart.

Emilee Buytkins, Fall '17

I graduated from Union College in 2018 and am on my way to finishing my masters in library science and digital conservation at the Pratt Institute in 2021. On top of that, I got married on the top of a mountain in 2019, got a job working for the NYPL Maps, Genealogy, and Local History research division, and most importantly adopted the most wonderful Wheaten Terrier puppy named Ellie!

Rachael Bittick, Fall '17

In June of 2019, I graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology and Arts and Ideas in the Humanities. After spending last fall as a Campus Relations Representative for CYA, I am now exploring Public Relations as the Digital Content Manager for the Committee to Elect Barnett Jones for Oakland County Sheriff 2020.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER....

A MATCHING GIFT

Does your employer participate in a "Matching Gift" program? This is a wonderful way for CYA to benefit two fold or even more from your generosity and allowing your donation to have a greater overall impact. Kindly check with your HR department and if it is offered, please request a matching gift form from them and send it completed with your gift.

A CLASS GIFT

It is commonly known that there is strength in numbers and that a group of people has more influence or power than one person. Gifts from a CYA year or semester are a great way to make an impact and are a wonderful way for graduated classes to leave their mark on CYA and be remembered for years to come. Kindly contact Vassilis Simopoulos at vsimop@cyathens.org so that we may discuss the needs of CYA and how your "Class Gift" could make a difference!



Steve Gratwick

as I had been there before coming to CYA. So much history, conflict and inspiration in that small piece of Middle Eastern geography, and Zaronis had provided insight and perspective that I would otherwise have lacked.

And similar to this year, Passover, Easter and Ramadan all fell within about a two week period in April 1990. I wasn't all that religious, but hard not to recognize some significance while traveling then. We spent a few days camping by the Dead Sea, swimming in those intensely salty waters, going on long hikes into the desert, and up Masada very early one morning to see sunrise, which did not disappoint. One evening after dinner on the beach, our group wandered down to see some Bedouins, who had set up camp as well. Their accommodations were much more elaborate and comfortable of course, as this was their traveling home. And while we didn't share any common language, they were incredibly gracious and offered tea and hookah. Feeling relaxed and fortunate with our good luck, we thanked them and eventually walked back to our campsite, only to find a group of Israeli soldiers close by, sitting around a beach fire. They too were friendly and invited us to join them. There on leave for the Passover holiday, they had just come from serving in Lebanon. Several of the soldiers were the same age as us from CYA and our German friends, and the break by the Dead Sea undoubtedly had a different meaning for them. It's a bit of cliché, but I definitely felt the timelessness of that place, as well as the shared humanity

COOKING CORNER

BIFTEKIA (LARGE MEATBALLS) AND POTATOES

From Popi Baloglu, Director of Housing and Catering

Meatball ingredients:

- 2 pounds minced meat (ground beef)
- 2 eggs
- 2 onions (grated)
- 2 garlic cloves (grated)
- 1 cup parsley (well chopped)
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 pound (approx) bread without crusts that has been moistened and then had the water squeezed out
- 1 tablespoon oregano
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

Potatoes ingredients:

- 6 or 7 potatoes
- Salt
- Pepper
- Oregano
- ½ cup lemon juice
- 1 cup olive oil
- 1 cup water

Preparation:

With your hands, mix the minced meat and other ingredients well, then shape the mixture into (approx.) six large biftekia (oblong patties). Peel the potatoes and cut them in small pieces (small potato will be in approximately 4 pieces). Rinse them well. Place the potatoes in an oven pan. Add salt, pepper, oregano and top with the biftekia. Pour in 1 cup of olive oil, ½ cup lemon juice, and 1 cup of water. Cover the pan with foil and bake in a 390 degree oven for approximately one hour. After one hour remove the foil and bake for 10-15 minutes more.

of several different cultures. What did this experience in Israel mean for me? Hard to say exactly, but surely a moment when my appreciation for and understanding of existence shifted, and expanded. And thirty

years later, under very different circumstances, it's good to be reminded of both the fragility and permanence we encounter in life, and just how much we have to be thankful for.

JAMES VINCENT RUSTIGAN '70

August 16, 1943 - April 20, 2020

Jim Rustigan passed away peacefully at his home with his beloved wife, daughter and cat by his side. He had been struggling with complications of a stroke. He was a kind and gentle soul, a family man who dearly loved teaching and traveling. Born and raised in San Francisco,

he attended San Francisco State University where he received a master's degree in the humanities. He then began a long and successful teaching career at San Francisco City College. Jim also traveled the world and inspired his students with stories, visuals and his deep knowledge of cultural history.

In particular, he was an expert on ancient Greek civilization. During the summer of 2019, he teamed up with his daughter for a trip to Athens and to several Greek islands. This was Jim's final trip. It was magnificent! Jim is survived by his wife and daughter and his brother and sister.

Published in San Francisco Chronicle from April 30 to May 3, 2020.

KEITH WARREN ADAMS '74

October 2, 1948 - May 15, 2020



Keith Warren Adams died quietly in his sleep on Friday, May 15, 2020, at Lynchburg General Hospital, of a rare form of leukemia. He was the loving husband of Deborah Durham for 37 years. Keith was born in 1948 in Georgia, to Lewis Adams and Marjorie Wallace Adams, who predeceased him. He grew up in Severna Park, Maryland, and proudly served in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Izmir, Turkey in 1969-71. While there he traveled the country in local buses, exploring its heritage and culture. He graduated from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, and took his junior year at College Year in Athens, where he fell in love with archaeology, gaining experience at the excavations at Franchthi Cave. He then received a master's degree at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in geography, writing about land fragmentation and reconsolidation in Didyma, Greece, which he later published. After studying archaeology at Boston University, he engaged in archaeological work around the world: woodlands and historical sites in New England; contact period work in the Midwest; Iron Age sites in Botswana; Bronze Age in Turkey. After moving to Virginia with his wife, he did a survey of prehistoric sites at Poplar Forest where he then became a Senior Staff archaeolo-

gist working on historical periods. In the Lynchburg region, he also directed field-work at Point of Honor, and more recently worked on projects in Amherst, Fincastle, and New London. He was Director of the Hurt and Proffitt Archaeology and Material Conservation Laboratories, where he was particularly proud of building conservation equipment, and of artifact photography. In the meantime, he also participated in archaeological projects in Botswana, and in the Kaymakç Archaeological Project and the Central Lydia Archaeological Survey in Turkey. He taught archaeology classes at Sweet Briar College and at University of Lynchburg in the 1990s and 2000s. Beyond archaeology, he especially loved to travel with his wife, rebuilding their house in Amherst, cross-country skiing, golf, cooking, his three adoring cats, and good company. He leaves behind a loving

wife, Deborah Durham; his parents-in-law, Susan and Chris Durham; brothers and sisters-in-law, Andrew and Mary and Kip and Andrea; nieces and nephews, many cousins in Georgia; and his very special cousin, Wayne Hanson. We are thankful for the kind and attentive care he received at UMass-Memorial Hospital in Worcester, MA, and Lynchburg General Hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to College Year in Athens, PO Box 390890, Cambridge, MA 02139 or Humane Society of Amherst County, P.O. Box 614, Amherst, VA 24521. Heritage Funeral Service and Crematory 427 Graves Mill Road (434) 239-2405 is assisting the family.

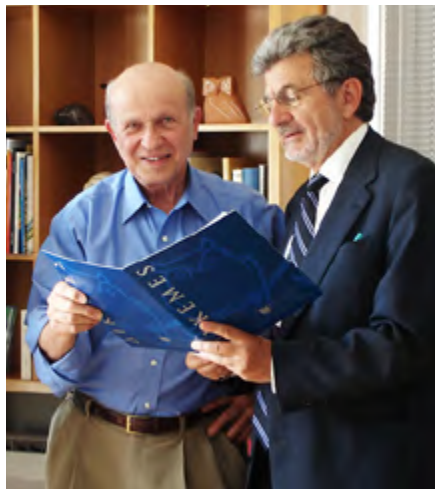
[Keith Adams Obituary here](#)



Group photo from 1973-1974, Keith is sitting front and center.

GENE ROSSIDES

October 23, 1927 - May 16, 2020



Gene Rossides, Founder and President of the American Hellenic Institute Foundation, receives an update on CYA's work from CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos. June 14, 2006.

CYA is sad to announce the passing of **Eugene (Gene) Rossides**, long-term member of CYA's Board of Advisors.

Eugene Telemachus Rossides, was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1927 to Greek and Cypriot parents. In his youth, Eugene was active in college football and is mostly remembered for being instrumental in Columbia's 21-20 victory over Army in October 1947 which broke the Army's 32-game unbeaten streak.

He went into private law practice, became active in Republican politics and spent two and a half years as an assistant to the undersecretary of the Treasury in the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Rossides later held important roles in the election campaigns of Senators Jacob K. Javits and Kenneth B. Keating, both Republicans of New York. After heading Richard M. Nixon's New York presidential campaign office in 1968, he served as an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Nixon administration from 1969 to 1973, overseeing the Customs Service, the Secret Service and other agencies and enforcing rules on trade and tariffs. Rossides was also the first American of Greek descent to be confirmed by the US Senate to an Executive Branch office.

After leaving the administration, he worked at the law firm Rogers & Wells. He was the publisher of *The National Herald*, a Greek-American Newspaper, from 1976 to 1979.

In the wake of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, Rossides founded the American Hellenic Institute in 1974 and his lobbying was crucial in the US government imposing the US arms embargo against Turkey which took effect on February 5, 1975 and remained in place until 1978.

CYA President, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, worked closely with Rossides and his AHI staff when he served as a young diplomat in the Greek Embassy in Washington DC in the mid-70's. Thanks to this connection, Rossides was asked to join the Board of Advisors of CYA and remained until his death as Advisor Emeritus. CYA expresses its sincere condolences to his family.

Excerpts taken from The New York Times and Wikipedia

CYA ADMINISTRATION

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Alexis Phylactopoulos, President
Elina Sinopoulou, Assistant to the President

Academics

Theoni Scourta, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Maria Tsahas, Registrar
Georgia Katsarou, Librarian
Demetrios Kritsotakis, Academic Advisor

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Kristallia Sarlani, Front Desk Coordinator
Alex Makropoulos, Staff Assistant
Anthi Papageorgiou, Staff Assistant
Giota Vouzna, Staff Assistant

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Erica Huffman, (CYA '93)
 Director of Alumni Relations

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Vassilis Simopoulos, Development Officer

Educational Travel & Short-Term Programs

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

Financial/Accounting

Maria Malliou, Financial Officer
Vana Bica, Accountant

Housing/Food

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

Media Lab

Spiros Kourkoulos, Digital Designer
Sofia Stavropoulou, Social Media Coordinator
Anna Wichmann, (CYA '18) Copywriter

Strategic Planning

Popi Triantafyllidi, Director of Strategic Planning

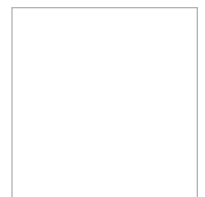
Student Affairs/Services

Nadia Meliniotis, Executive Director of Student Affairs
Jennifer Holland, (CYA '99) Student Affairs Advisor

US Administration

Maria Marakas, Bursar and Manager of the North American Office
Alexia Lingaas, Campus Relations Manager
Hailey Lovett, Student Advisor
Cheyenne Paulson, (CYA Summer '15) Digital Researcher

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

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE and MAJOR(s) _____

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION _____

CURRENT OCCUPATION _____

WORK ADDRESS _____

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