CYA students enjoying the sunset from the top tier of the Panathenaic Stadium next to the Academic Center. Photo by Brady Sabolik (FALL '21)
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kris Todd
Chairman, Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; Partner, Kellogg Hansen Todd, PLLC
Alexis G. Phylactopoulos
Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; President, College Year in Athens
Peter Susan Allen (CYA ’63)
Trustees Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; President Emeritus of Anthropology, Rhode Island College

Daphne Hatzopoulos
Secretary, Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens, Trustee Emerita, Boston Museum of Science
Eviza Anagnostou
Director of the Lovelace Art Gallery at Missouri, Cyprus
Michael Blum
Research Scientist and Director of Computing, MIT Media Lab
Andrea Hazen Brown (CYA ’73)
School Psychologist
Dimosthenis Gendos
Director, Center for Hellenistic Studies, Princeton University
Nicholas G. Hatzopoulos (CYA ’90)
Professor of Geomatics, University of Chicago
Julia Hult (CYA ’74)
Community Manager, Solutions Journalism Network
Yanni Ioannides
Max & Herta Neubauer Chair and Professor of Economics, Tufts University
Christine Kondoleon
Director of the Agora Excavations, American School of Classical Studies at Athens
George A. David
Director, Lotus toss Group
Joan Caragianos Jacobsen (CYA ’80)
Ford Lancer Writer, Advisory Board, Woolson Writers Conference, Trustee, New York Historical Society
Mary R. kokkini
Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, Wellesley College
Raphael Minouissis
Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; Dean Emeritus, Department of Economic & Industrial Research (IREE); Greece, Honorary Chairman, ARV yawdogrou S.A.
Alexander Nehamas
Edmund N. Carpenter II Class of 1947 Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Philosophy and Comparative Literature, Princeton University
Anne Rothenberg (CYA ’81)
Truus, The Huntington Library Art Collections and Botanical Gardens
Thasson Veronis
Professor of Political History Emeritus, University of Athens; Vice Chairman, ELIAMEP
Endy Zomosides (CYA ’90)
Executive Director, Hellenic American Leadership Council
Recording Secretary
Cornelia Mayer Hersfeldt (CYA ’66)
Board of Trustees and Special Consultant to the President, College Year in Athens

TRUSTEES EMERITI

John McC. Camp II
Director of the Agora Excavations, American School of Classical Studies at Athens
George A. David
Director, Lotus toss Group
Stephan V. Tracy
Former Director, American School of Classical Studies at Athens; Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University
Charles Kaufman Williams II
Director Emeritus, Corintheion Excavations, American School of Classical Studies

ACADEMIC ADVISORY ROUNDTABLE

Michael Arndt
Associate Professor of Classics and Associate Dean of the Faculty, Tulane University
Jennifer Esdal
Director, Office of Study Abroad, Fairfield University
Hal Haskell
Professor Emeritus of Classics, Southeastern University
Jim Haskell
Professor of Classics, Southeastern University
Alexander Kinesis
Professor, History Department, Harvard College

BOARD OF ADVISORS

P. Nikiforos Diamandis
Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Athens; Former Greek Orthodox Bishop
Jack Davis
Carl W. Blegen Professor of Greek Archeology, University of Cincinnati; Former Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens
Thomas W. Gallantt (CYA ’76)
Nicholas Family Endowed Chair, Professor of Modern Greek History, University of California, San Diego
Michael Hersfeldt
Emest J. Moreland Research Professor of the Social Sciences in the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University

Nikos Ladakis
Professor of Modern Greek, Chair, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan
Thomas J. Miller
Former U.S. Ambassador to Greece; President/CEO, International Executive Service Corps (IESC)
Gregory Nagy
Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature, Harvard University
Alan Shapiro (CYA ’88)
V. H. Collett Vickers Professor Emeritus of Archaeology, The John Hopkins University; Whipple Professor at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1992-93, 2012-13
Vesla Tsouros
Professor of Philosophy/Chair, UC-Santa Barbara

SPRING 2022 | 1

Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: September 1, 2022

ALEXIS PHYLACTOPOULOS, President
**CYA WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Brian Martens

**Lena Papalexopoulou**

CYA is delighted to welcome Lena Papalexopoulou as a member of the Board of Trustees of College Year in Athens. Lena’s experience and input will prove extremely valuable to College Year in Athens.

In 2020, Lena was elected as President of the National Federation of Retail Businesses. She has also served on the boards of companies, the Spanish-Hellenic Union, Merrill Lynch, Johnson & Johnson, and Concept SA, where she served as a member of the Board of Directors. She will assume the role of President and CEO of Tufts University’s International Board of Advisors, where she will work closely with the Dipylon Art Fund, a non-profit foundation, a pioneer in the field of cultural heritage. The Fund supports the publication of Greek inscriptions and publishes it online (with Brady Kiesling) of the late Robert Pitt’s magnum opus, The Monuments and Sites of Athens: A Sourcebook.

FACULTY NEWS

Robert Pitt joined the CYA team in 2014 following seven years as Assistant Director of the British School at Athens. His teaching closely follows his joint ancient interests of Athenian topography and Epigraphy, with courses on the monuments and sites of Athens — long taught at CYA — as well as new classes to map out the study of Greek inscriptions, introducing students to a wide range of subjects illuminated by epigraphy, from shepherds’ graffiti cut into the marble bedrock of ancient Athens to the hills of the great deities and decrees of states, emperors and kings.

In memoriam

Robert Pitt, a renowned ancient historian and classicist, died peacefully at his home in Pangrati on Saturday 8 January 2022, at the age of 56. Kimon served CYA loyally from 1977 to 2005 as Director of Studies and for some years as instructor of Greek history. He had received his PhD in History from the University of Wisconsin and had taught at Eidon College before coming to CYA at the invitation of Mrs. Phyl who had known him as a student of hers at Athens College.

A deeply educated man, known for his gentlemanly manners, his culture, and his humor, he worked closely both with Lewis Cafekas and Alexios Phylactopoulos. Kimon and Alexios were particularly fond of each other and worked together on all CYA affairs including the relocation of the school from Kolonaki to two other locations, and finally to its present premises next to the Kallimarmaro. Kimon was responsible for the first large diversification of the curriculum by the adoption of other courses outside the classical core of the program. Immediately after his retirement, he accepted the onerous task of writing a book on the first 45 years of CYA, which remains the basic reference source on CYA’s formative period. To honor him CYA established in 2012 a scholarship in his name.

CYA Faculty member Steve Diamant wrote:

“For some reason, I find it difficult to write about one of the most valued colleagues of my professional life: Kimon Giocarinis. My tenure at CYA covered Kimon’s entire tenure so perhaps I knew him as well as anyone. But what can I say that is not already well known? That he came to CYA to fill the most basic role — his kindness, his patience, his erudition and most of all his humanity — is something known to all of us. So perhaps the only thing left for me to say is to say much I honor and appreciate the fact that I was able to work with and to know him for so many years.

The CYA community will miss Kimon greatly. He is survived by his three daughters, Aliki, Helen, and Io.”

Please note

Due to budget constraints because of COVID-19, CYA will not print the alumni newsletter this spring. We have every intention to resume print copies as soon as we can.

**Make a donation**

Donate now — Help CYA continue to provide a unique and extraordinary study abroad experience.

**Mail**

Make a gift by check — mail a check or money order to: College Year in Athens

PO Box 398080, Cambridge, MA 02109

**Wires Transfer**

Bank of America, ABA 2601995

103 Federal Street Boston, MA 02129

Acct. 0000581-69755 (College Year in Athens, Inc.)

*Please notify development@cyathens.org when you have made the transfer.

**ADDITIONAL WAYS TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO CYA**

Gifts of Stock

By transferring appreciated stock to College Year in Athens, you may be eligible for a tax deduction equal to the stock’s full fair market value, avoiding the capital gains tax on its increased value. For your gift to be acknowledged, it is essential to notify CYA of the type and amount of stock you will be giving. You may do this either personally or through your agent or broker.

Matching Gifts

Your employer may match your charitable donations, multiplying the impact of your gift. To learn if your organization participates, please contact your Human Resources Office.

Named Scholarships

What better way to support a deserving CYA student than through a named scholarship? You can honor a special person and give the incredible experience of College Year in Athens to an academically qualified student who would not otherwise attend.

Recurring, Monthly Giving

This is an easy way to make your support for CYA go further, with less impact on your budget. Automatic monthly contributions help CYA administration with its budgetary planning, while at the same time allowing your automatic contributions to be spaced out over 12 months. Implementing this kind of support is simple to set up online—and simple to terminate should the need arise. Please take a moment to learn more about this easy way to be a part of CYA’s exciting new opportunities to maintain and improve its world-class educational program.

Amazon Smile

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

**maketheimpact@cyathens.org**

**Kimon Giocarinis**

With great sadness, we announce the passing of Professor Kimon Giocarinis, who died peacefully at his home in Pangrati on Saturday 8 January 2022, at the age of 56. Kimon served CYA loyally from 1977 to 2005 as Director of Studies and for some years as instructor of Greek history. He had received his PhD in History from the University of Wisconsin and had taught at Eidon College before coming to CYA at the invitation of Mrs. Phyl who had known him as a student of hers at Athens College.

For some reason, I find it difficult to write about one of the most valued colleagues of my professional life: Kimon Giocarinis. My tenure at CYA covered Kimon’s entire tenure so perhaps I knew him as well as anyone. But what can I say that is not already well known? That he came to CYA to fill the most basic role — his kindness, his patience, his erudition and most of all his humanity — is something known to all of us. So perhaps the only thing left for me to say is to say much I honor and appreciate the fact that I was able to work with and to know him for so many years.

The CYA community will miss Kimon greatly. He is survived by his three daughters, Aliki, Helen, and Io.”

**In memoriam**

Robert Pitt

Robert Pitt joined the CYA team in 2014 following seven years as Assistant Director of the British School at Athens. His teaching closely follows his joint ancient interests of Athenian topography and Epigraphy, with courses on the monuments and sites of Athens — long taught at CYA — as well as new classes to map out the study of Greek inscriptions, introducing students to a wide range of subjects illuminated by epigraphy, from shepherds’ graffiti cut into the marble bedrock of ancient Athens to the hills of the great deities and decrees of states, emperors and kings.

He has worked closely with the Dipylon Society for the Study of Ancient Topography, producing a translation of Atene-Ma-tis Theoharakis’s book, The Ancient Circuit Wall of Athens (Oxford, 2019), helping with the related mobile app ‘Walk the Wall Athens’, which offers an interactive guide to those wanting to follow the ancient course of Athens’ great fortification walls, searching out the visible preserved remains, as well as aiding in the publication online (with Brady Kiesling) of the late Judith Binder’s magnum opus, The Monuments and Sites of Athens: A Sourcebook, herself a former CYA professor and grande dame of Athenian Topography.

Robert used the long pandemic lockdowns in Greece to work on two projects close to his heart. The first is a volume of the inscribed Athenian funerary monuments held at the British Museum, a corpus of 80 gravestones from the Archaic to Late Roman periods that include beautifully sculpted and engraved marble vessels and funerary columns inscribed with Greek epitaphs (with one Phoenician bilingual) and poems to the dead. It is being published this year as part of the Attic Inscriptions in the United Kingdom project, which aims to publish all Athenian inscriptions held in UK collections along with the fascinating stories of their acquisition by travelers, traders, diplomats, of the 17th century onwards. The second is a book about an epigraphic manuscript that he discovered unprinted in the British Museum Library by the renowned surgeon and bibliomaniac, Dr. Anthony Askew, who copied some 200 inscriptions during a voyage to Greece in 1748. The book will explore the wealth of previously unknown epigraphic material, but will also tell Askew’s story, presenting his story to his acquisitions by travelers, traders, diplomats, of the 17th century onwards. The second is a book about an epigraphic manuscript that he discovered unprinted in the British Museum Library by the renowned surgeon and bibliomaniac, Dr. Anthony Askew, who copied some 200 inscriptions during a voyage to Greece in 1748. The book will explore the wealth of previously unknown epigraphic material, but will also tell Askew’s story, presenting his story to
**CYA HELLENIC EXECUTIVE PROGRAM**

CYA recently completed its second educational seminar titled *Greece Enters the Twentieth Century*, taught by Professor Alexander Kitroeff. Offered November through December of 2021, the course focused on the political, cultural, and social changes that occurred from the 1860s to the 1920s describing, assessing, and explaining the transformation Greece experienced during this period. Fifteen executive students enrolled and participated in this six-session seminar, many of whom were return students and alumni.

A third seminar on Modern Greek History is being offered in the spring since many of the participants requested that we continue this program. This third course, titled *Greece and the Challenges of Europeanization: 1936-2021*, serves as a continuation of the two first sessions offered in spring 2021, *The Emergence of the Modern Greek State*, and fall 2021, *Greece Enters the Twentieth Century*. This six-session virtual seminar examines Greece’s history from the mid-twentieth century to the present, an era when world and European trends along with geopolitical developments in Eastern Mediterranean shaped Greek society’s evolution domestically. Professor Kitroeff has turned out to be a perfect match for the executive program.

**Link to Video Preview**

**CYA VOLUNTEER WORK: COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INTERNSHIPS**

Nadia Meliniotis has spent 32 years establishing connections with nonprofits and organizations in Athens. The result has been an amazing variety of volunteer/internship and community service options for CYA students. As you read the list below, bear in mind that volunteerism allows students an entirely deeper experience of living and studying in Greece. And it is vital. CYA made it a priority, Nadia made it a reality. Volunteerism enhances the students’ study abroad experience. It allows them to immerse themselves in Greek culture and to learn about local communities in Athens. Through volunteering the students are able to expand on the knowledge they receive in the classroom and gain valuable experience that they remember for the rest of their lives.

You can learn more about some of our opportunities [here](#).

**THE OUT OF CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE**

**CYA has collaborations with over eighty nonprofit organizations.**
- A long history in volunteer work / community service.
- The volunteer network was established in 1990.

**Benefits of volunteering:**
- Builds bonds, creates friends, minimizes loneliness
- Helps maintain good mental health
- Improves self-esteem, confidence, feelings of self-worth
- Increases socializing
- Opens the volunteer up to better job prospects

**NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO’S)**

- Praxis
- Amurtel
- Archipelagos 2nd Hand Shop
- Ania
- To Patitagia (The Flight)
- DESMOS
- Helping Hands
- Welcome
- Home Project
- IKORA
- Orange House
- Doctors of the World (MdM)
- Doctors without Borders
- Missions of Charity
- Greek Forum of Immigrants
- Pompomakis
- Salvation Army
- The Steps
- Solidarity Now
- One Child One World
- Melissa Network for Women
- Solidarity Now
- The Greek Food Bank
- Caritas
- Social Value
- Embracing Social Responsibility
- Diagnos
- Shadis
- Social Hackers Academy
- Color Youth
- Rainbow School
- Friends of the Child
- Faros
- Action Aid
- Amnesty International
- Melinos Network for Women
- Metadra
- One Child One World
- Solidarity Now
- The Greek Food Bank

**IN MEMORIAM**

CYA lost three individuals closely connected with CYA this spring. They were valued members of the CYA community. Read more in the Letter from the President on page 1.

Edmund (Mike) Keeley taught at CYA in the 60s, was a Trustee for 9 years, and remained as a Trustee Emeritus. Mike Keeley’s contribution to Hellenic Studies in the US was enormous. You can read more [here](#).

Odysseas Kyriacopoulos was a Trustee for over a decade with keen interest in CYA affairs, and a significant benefactor. You can read more about Odysseas [here](#).

Polyvios Vintiadis, an accomplished businessman, was a loyal member of the CYA community. He made a significant contribution to the governance of CYA as a Trustee for 21 years, Treasurer for 12 years, and Trustee Emeritus since 2010. Learn more about Polyvios [here](#).

**NADIA MELINIOTIS RETIRES**

Nadia Meliniotis, Executive Director of Student Affairs, retired this January after 32 years with CYA. Nadia oversaw all aspects of Student Affairs at CYA and grew the role over the course of her tenure. She dedicated her time focusing on the interpersonal, social, cultural, emotional, spiritual, recreational, and health aspects of students’ welfare. She also coordinated internships, volunteer work and homestays. Nadia established relationships with over 75 local organizations and thanks to her efforts, CYA students have been volunteering, working and participating in work and activities that have impacted their CYA experience in many ways.

Nadia attended the German High School in Athens and earned a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. She received her master’s degree in Counseling Education/Education-Special Emphasis at La Verne University (Athens branch).

As CYA President, Alexis Phylactopoulos, pointed out: “Even though they say that nobody is irreplaceable, Nadia is a difficult act to follow. She will be missed tremendously by students, faculty, and staff. We all wish Nadia good health and happiness as she moves forward in life.”

Several alumni, faculty, staff and colleagues had wonderful things to say about Nadia. Here are just a few:

Thank you for your tremendous dedication to CYA! You were so welcoming and helpful to me during my time in Athens. You created a home away from home for all of the students while we were abroad. I am deeply grateful for your service and so fortunate to know you! - Cuca Fernandez Fisher, Fall ‘05

We will all miss you tremendously! A mother figure for all students, with genuine love for all students! - Despinis Iouf, CYA faculty

Congratulations on your retirement! You were an amazing part of my study abroad experience and I’ll never forget all of the opportunities you provided us.

Jan O’Shaughnessy, Fall ’18

It has been 30 years since I was in Athens, so I understand logically that it is time for your retirement but wow! You brought so much light and heart to each of us and were the embodiment of Greek hospitality. My time at CYA was life changing and I am greatly grateful to you for all the love and energy that you put into your 32 years. Best wishes for many joyous and healthy years ahead.

Kelly McCutcheon Adams, Spring ‘92

Dear Nadia,

I only met you in person once, when I visited CYA but the work and support you gave to our students was evident even before I came to Greece to see it in person. The experiences outside the classrooms that you oversee and the friendly helpfulness you offered made for some of the best study abroad opportunities for our students. Union College is forever grateful to you for all you did during your career at CYA. Best of luck on the next adventure your life brings!

Lana Atkins, Union College

**THE OWL**

SPRING 2022 • 7

4  |  SPRING 2022 • THE OWL  |  5
I remember when he died, it was in the Spring of 1998, around the time when the legendary modern Greek politician Constantine Karamanlis also passed away. I also remember the time when we first met, my colleague and I had lunch together three years earlier at the brasserie Philosophe, near the Grand Arch of La Défense in Paris. He had just been hired at Business Objects, our business software start-up company which was headquartered nearby. Prompted by the restaurant’s name, I was pleased to discover that my new work colleague was familiar with Greek philosophy, something relatively unusual for an American from the state of Indiana.

After our lunch that sunny day, we walked to the Grand Arch and sat on its steps with a view to the center of Paris. The surroundings there are impressive, but also depressing. Cement and glass everywhere, with sales that had shot through the roof. Nevertheless, Brian and I would always make time to play with their grandchildren when they came to visit from Boston. “You know,” he said to me that first time we sat on the stairs of the Grand Arch of La Défense, “I spent a semester studying in Greece in the Spring of 1974 as a student of Indiana's DePauw university. While I was there, I witnessed that year’s historic events right before the fall of the Colonels’ Dictatorship, the Junta.”

“Where did you study?” I asked. “I attended a program called CYA, College Year in Athens,” he replied.

I was already familiar with the program, which brings college students from the US to Greece each year. It had been created by Ismene Phylactopoulou (1907-1983), the grandmother of family friends Nicho and Martha Hatzopoulos. Ismene and her husband George were also legends as former teachers at my high school, Athens College. My brother and I had visited their house near Athens many times to play with their grandchildren.

“Miss Mrs. Phyl?” Brian asked. He was very surprised and almost teared up with emotion. That’s how students called the school’s founder, “Mrs. Phyl.”

“I had an unforgettable time in Greece then,” he added.

My new colleague and I would often find time to chat. I also met Myriam, his French wife, and their two young children, Nathanael and Meredith (both married now I am told).

In 1974, I returned to the States and to Silicon Valley to support our company’s expansion in the Americas. Our theme song when we started our American campaign was The Conquest of Paradise by Greek composer Vangelis (Papathanasopoulos), from the movie 1492 (about the voyage of Christopher Columbus). That’s how we viewed our mission then, a mission that was successful thanks in part to Brian’s contribution.

A Philhellene in Life and in Death

I traveled often from California to Athens at the time and so would Brian frequently. On one of those trips, he revealed to me that he had been struck by cancer. He had started chemotherapy at the nearby American hospital in Neuilly, had lost his hair, but continued to come to the office, always with a smile. After all, he was familiar with the philosophy tests of the Stoics and fought his battle with patience and determination.

In early 1998 I heard that he had been hospitalized. “I spoke to him the other day,” said one colleague on a call from Paris. “He was as friendly as always on the phone, but also tried to prepare me very gently for the worst.”

In 1999 I returned to California, but had lost touch. I was surprised to hear that he had passed away at the age of 44. The tragic call arrived a few days later: Brian Baker had passed away at the age of 44. I cried. An urgent message from Paris followed. Before leaving us, dear Brian asked for the music of Mikis Theodorakis to be played at his memorial service. The internet was not as developed then as it is today, so I immediately dispatched a cassette tape with the great Greek composer’s songs.

Ancient and Modern, continues on page 14

A Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, Alex Moissis ’74, who became a Philhellene thanks to a
VALERIE TALLAND

Valentine Talland ’80

Did you know what you wanted to study and focus on academically?
No—as is pretty clear from the above description of my rousing education. However, I think that for those of us who don’t have a clear passion at an early age for a specific career, it is the constellation of experiences, mentors, and chance encounters that can conspire to reveal what we find interesting. It takes some patience, but the result can be extremely rewarding. I have really loved my career in art conservation, finding it consistently interesting and challenging and affording me countless opportunities to develop new skills and collaborate with fascinating people.

What is something at CYA that you absolutely loved being a part of?
As a Classics student, I arrived at CYA (as I’m sure is true for many others) with a predisposition in favor of antiquity and a Greece that existed primarily in literature. I was immediately engaged by contemporary Greece and the historical and political events that shaped a country that balanced the interface of Asia and Europe for millennia. I loved learning a little about contemporary Greece and the Greeks. Also, coming from a remote setting like Colby’s, I loved being in cosmopolitan Athens. It was exciting to be surrounded by great museums and busy galleries representing international artists, there were also the occasional invitations to events at the American and British Embassies that always felt very sophisticated.

CYA students lived in Kolonaki at that time, so there were also periodic celebrity sightings, that included evening conversations with students.

Tell us about your success of your company.
Increasingly, working with living artists is a feature I treasure most about being an art conservator. I have consulted with artists interested in the provasability and traceability of their materials and working practices. The challenge for me is to be informative but not interfere with the creative process. This work has led to collaborations that I value deeply.

I also serve[d] on the boards of several arts-focused non-profit organizations. Through these experiences, I’ve gained insight into the fragility of an arts ecosystem that relies substantially on private philanthropy, as is the case in the US. This fragility has been particularly dire for performing artists, whose business models (through ticket sales, residencies, teaching, etc.) has been critically undermined by the COVID pandemic.

In response, in 2020, I co-founded the Movement Arts Creation Studio (MACS), a non-profit (501c3) incubator committed to supporting and augmenting the creation of original work by dance, circus, and movement artists in the Boston area. Movement arts rely significantly on large studio spaces and peer/company artists to realize research, rehearsal, and performance. These requirements present financial and operational burdens, especially to emerging and mid-career movement artists to develop and advance their work. MACS seeks to lessen these burdens by providing accessible, affordable studio space and financial support through grants and consultancy expertise. Historically, funding for dance in Boston has been hierarchical, favoring large-company ballet over other genres. MACS is dedicated to advancing breadth among movement arts genres, engaging peer experts in the review process. I invite you to find more information about MACS at www.movearts.org.

On the CYA Experience

You spent a full year with College Year in Athens in 1979-80. Did the CYA experience have any impact on your career development?
The education and insight from studying at CYA were critical to my professional education and career development. Most of my career has been as a conservator at museums, serving twenty-seven years at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Conservation is a science-oriented discipline practiced best by a combination of academic rigor and creative problem-solving. The CYA curricula certainly developed that combination of skills.

More specific to the topics studied at CYA—arts conservation and young conservator, I continued to work with antiquities on-site at various excavations, including Olympia and Ashkelon, and I worked with a European team of conservators and scientists to study pollution-generated degradation problems found on marble and limestone monuments in Italy. Having subject expertise in ancient art history and archaeology was extremely valuable for that work.

Personal

Who have been your strongest influences in life?
Danai Thimme was my strongest professional influence. She was the first conservator who took a chance on me, and she was a brilliant mentor and became a beloved friend.

My family has provided me with valuable influence. My mother has remained for 93 years genuinely interested in (and very knowledgeable about) everything, and she finds joy in that curiosity. My sister has intentionally and inadvertently challenged me to do and be better at any endeavor.

My husband and daughter teach me that the best mind is an open one, and they are never stingy to reward me when I get that lesson right.

What are you most proud of accomplishing?
It should not be construed as my accomplishment, but I am proud to have worked with students, interns, followers, and others who have become admirable art conservators.

What’s your favorite inspirational quote and why?
I write this at a time when we are all stunned and consumed by the news about the war in Ukraine, so this quote is not necessarily my favorite, but one that is on my mind:
“Nations reel and stagger on their way; they make ludicrous mistakes; they commit frightful wrongs; they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable.”
W. E. B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction in America (1935)

NEW TEAM MEMBERS AT CYA’S NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE

Rachael Bittick Student Advisor

Marisa Hopwood Social Media Coordinator

Rachael Bittick (Fall ’17) joined the NAO team in May 2021. Her study abroad experience with CYA was not only life-changing on a personal level, but also on a professional one! After graduating from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, she dove headfirst into exploring Student Affairs within the field of Higher Education. She loved working in International Education when she served as a CYA Campus Relations Rep in fall 2019 and is thrilled to be back in the CYA family. She works primarily with accepted students as they prepare to embark on their study abroad adventure with CYA. Rachael’s favorite moments as a Student Advisor for CYA are when she gets to see or hear students’ excitement and passion during the pre-departure process, and when those same students return with new perspectives and stories to share with her!

Marisa Hopwood, who graduated from Smith College with a BA in English Language and Literature and a minor in Film and Media Studies, joined the NAO team in November 2021. Marisa spent the first few years of her career working in the entertainment industry before switching to academics. Studying abroad at Queen Mary University of London was one of Marisa’s most transformative college experiences, and it created a passion for the union of travel and higher education. Marisa is thrilled to bring her social media talents to her role and to help spread the word about CYA!
Fall 2021 students enjoyed a variety of activities and events throughout the semester.

October 3, 2021 This past week, students learned how to make spanokopita (spinach pie), gigandes (giant beans), and tzatziki at cooking class!

October 7, 2021 Students in “Americans and the Greek Revolution” recently visited the National Gallery of Athens with instructor Alexander Kitroeff, getting up close to art influenced by the Greek War of Independence.

October 25, 2021 A field trip to a museum by the sea sounds great to us! This weekend students in our The Art and Craft of Curating: Making Sense of Art in the 21st Century course visited The Greek Gift exhibition at the Deste Foundation Project Space where they received a detailed tour about the ins and outs of the exhibition’s curatorial processes.

November 18, 2021 CYA students took a trip to a local football match with their Sociology of Dissent class recently with Professor Rosa Vasilaki! During the match, they observed the social and political aspects of football and, in particular, the way football fan clubs are vehicles for local and national politics and the way football fans form their own dissenting identities and image of the self.

November 4, 2021 This week, CYA students are in the Peloponnese exploring ancient sites like Mycenae and the picturesque town of Nafplio as well as Epidaurus, Sparta, and Olympia.

November 15, 2021 Student life in Athens includes many exciting opportunities. This weekend, several CYAers took the chance to participate in the historic Athens Authentic Marathon or the accompanying 10k and 5k races.

November 22, 2021 Students have many opportunities to volunteer while studying with CYA. Recently, a group of students spent their day volunteering at the Diomedes Botanical Gardens in Athens, helping tend to the gardens and keep the space looking great for the many visitors who come to learn and enjoy the peaceful green environment.
ATHENS BECAME OUR STAGE
Exploring the City through Theater and Performance.

When I was looking at classes to register for before coming to Athens, I was trying to think a little more about my intentions this semester. I really wanted to try to find things out and take classes that would, first, be different from what I had taken before at my home institution, and second, would allow me to learn, hands-on, about Athens and its culture. I have always held performing arts close to my heart. Coming from a very artistic background, it was heartbreaking to figure out at an early age that I would never be a musical genius like my father, but it was amazing to find my place on the stage through other mediums. Theater, then, became my secret best friend that I would confide in when I needed an escape. I never pursued theater academically beyond an introductory course. Taking a class about something I love and am so intrigued by sounded idyllic, especially in this city that I was certain I would grow to love and was extremely curious about.

From the first day I walked into the classroom for Performing (in) Athens: Exploring the City through Theater and Performance, I knew I would be getting the experience I needed from the class. Professor Athena Stourna’s cheerful disposition and creative spirit were aligned perfectly with the content of the class, and I knew she would encourage us to think outside the box. Athena Stourna is scenographer, theater maker, and researcher whose practice spans across multiple themes. As artistic director of the multinational Olympus Theater Company, she has created many national and international productions. With her guidance, Athens became our stage. From street performances to video assignments, during this semester we have used our voices and our bodies to learn about this city and I’ve loved it.

Learning outside of the classroom has been a priority since day one. On the very first day of class, we explored our neighborhood and adjacent areas and were encouraged to take it all in, imagine ourselves as part of the city because we now were. During the earlier months of this semester, we had most of our classes outside, and because of this, we were able to take sunny Athens in for as long as we could. But one of the most amazing things about this class was how many opportunities we had to actually enjoy the vibrant Athens theater scene. From ancient theater plays on ancient stages to performances about contemporary topics on urban and refurbished industrial spaces, we have been lucky enough to see it all.

We were extremely happy to watch live performances and explore Athens through its rich cultural life. Our class watched an array of shows in different types of venues around town: Piranesi para na colmener, a documentary play, in which nine adolescent girls from Chile spoke out about the violence against women, at the Patras 260 Theatre, the Ancient Greek tragedy Orestes by Euripides at the Roman open-air Herodion Theatre, the concert of Van Gogh – Chalepas at the old Hotel Bageion, at Omonoia Square. We also had the chance to meet, walk and talk with performance artists Mariana Kútulas-Vrsalovi, Alexandros Mistriotis, and Alexandros Vamvakoukas, who shared their experience of living and working in the arts sector in Greece.

One of the most memorable was Orestes, at one of the last showings of the Odeon of Herodes Atticus before it closed for the season. Being there felt magical, first because of the impressive nature of the space. I could not really wrap my head around the reality of where I was. I mean, there I was, sitting in a theater initially built approximately 3,860 years ago, watching a play written approximately 2,000 years ago. Even writing these words down gives me chills, how certain pieces and spaces change and transform but are successful in surviving the test of time. I remember thinking, sitting there trying to make out the words of this play (which was in Greek), that this was the closest we had been to immortality. I also recall getting home and being impressed by how much this performance transcended cultures and language barriers thanks to the beauty of the space and the versatility of movements from the actors.

This class has been culturally enriching, has pushed me to think creatively, has shown me Athens from all its corners, has introduced me to incredibly artistic minds, and last, but definitely not least, has been so much fun!

Daniella Castillo Vasquez, Fall 2021 student & MediaLab Intern

UNDERSTANDING GREEK CULTURE THROUGH CYA RELIGION COURSES
The Religions of the Middle East: A Comparative Approach focuses on the three monotheistic religions of the Middle East: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Monotheism is the shared theological orientation of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam that often embraces almost every aspect of the private and the public life of their followers. Students of this class examine main teachings and simultaneously explore how these teachings manage to affect the everyday lives of their followers. Additionally, students learn about the ways in which Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have constructed their distinctive meanings, compare them, and note the similarities and the deficits to each other.

The Orthodox Church offers students a journey into the Orthodox Church, the largest of the Eastern Christian Churches. Students explore its history, faith, liturgy, and spirituality, based on lectures, readings, audio-visual presentations, discussion, and personal experience. Special emphasis is given to primary sources since tradition is greatly valued by the Orthodox Church. Students are invited to explore how Orthodoxy is lived and practiced in Greece and are expected to submit their own observations and reflections throughout the course.

Understanding Greek Culture, continues on page 19
Ancient and Modern, continued from page 6

I will never forget that experience. Not only because of the memory of the colleague and his untimely death, but also because it showed me how philhellenes are made in our days. Brian had grown up in the States and was a resident of France. He had been sensitized from a young age to the American-English culture and then to the French culture, both of which he appreciated. Nevertheless, to accompany him to his resting place, he chose the music of the great Greek composer whom we mourned recently. As Alexis Phylactopoulos said recently in a newspaper interview: “Our job is to show them how a deeper knowledge of history, of philosophy, of language, and of humanities in general, coupled with the understanding of the culture of other peoples will make them adaptable to different conditions and ways of life. This will help them to successfully face adversities from pandemics to job changes in their careers, decisions related to their personal life and to the selection of the politicians who will govern them. More than anything else, it will help them to envision and to create their own future.” Each time I see photographs with CYA students, I recognize the philhellenes of tomorrow.

A 60-year Crop of Philhellenes

Such was the influence of Ismene, “Mrs. Phyl,” and of George Phylactopoulos in Brian’s life. Their contribution to the creation of modern philhellenes is invaluable. It is a mission that their successors at the program continue today under the guidance of their son Alexis.
By Mo Carpenter, ‘71

joyfully relive some adventures and visit
Connie Nordhielm
Maureen McCloud
Miller Bishop
Carpenter (California)
and enjoyed what could be called “reunion of
sorts” this past covid year.

In early September, Maureen and another
Hellenophile from California, Karen Weston
flew to Athens where they met with Corazol Nordholm and Sandy Leggit (California friend) to stay in a delightful
top floor apartment in Kolonaki. They
started their round with: Benaki Museum,
Je Reviens. We revisited the Acropolis with
something we had never done…we visited
the Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum…..
incredible, and while we bought NOTHING,
we all had a fabulous time.

Connie had never visited the rooftop bar
at the Grand Bretagne, so we all dined
up and went up for drinks, and stayed for
dinner…another delightful evening. We
then sadly left our apartment and hoarded
a flight to Kefalonia, where we rented a car
and eventually made it to our 1980 family
home in Fiscardo…an adorable village
right on the water, and the house came
with its own yaya….the original owner of
the house…we all fell in love with her.
Kefalonia is a mountainous wooded island
with lovely beaches, delightful villages and
delicious food. The water and swimming
were lovely and we had a ball driving
all over the island with great views and
fantastic drops off the edges of the roads.
We then drove to Sami and took the ferry
to Khaki staying in Vathy in a two-story
house overlooking the fantastic historical
port and town. We drove on every single
road the island had, checking beaches and
villages and shopping. Christina Bren-
house lovingly known as Tootsie has a
house on the island, but sadly had just left
for the season….but we think we found it
anywhere in our walks around town.

We had to fly back to Athens to meet
Steven Schultz and Christina for dinner
in a lovely restaurant in Piraeus. We
all gathered and of course talked the evening
away till it was time to board our ferry to
Crete. OMG did I say ferry? DO NOT
THINK this is the ferry we all remember…..
no it’s like the “love boat”, the Princess
Cruise… it’s so upscale and fancy I couldn’t
believe it. There was NO deck class, where
in 1979 we all hung out and talked for
hours, including talking to Mr. Herzfeld
about our classes and our grades and what
did he think of us, and what did we think
of him….ha. Nope….there is no deck class,
but a fabulous bar inside where we did
imbibe a drink or three. We then left for
our room…no bunk beds… but two lovely
twins with an amazing bathroom. Men
helped get your luggage into the rooms,
and then in the morning helped you again.
We arrived at the same old time in
Heraklion and found out rent a car right at
the port.

Meanwhile Steven Schultz proceeded to
follow the original reunion plans he had
developed and stayed at Shipos (loved the
island and his rental!!) and returned to
the mainland to visit some villages in the
Peloponnesa. We proceeded to drive to Chania,
and found our delightful home on the main
east town in old town….no cars. Just lovely
homes and shops gently moving up a hill
in the historic section of Chania. Every-
thing in Chania was wonderful…the food,
the shops and museums, so much so we
did not want to leave, and our house was
incredible with bathrooms out of House
Beautiful. Just walking the streets was en-
tertaining and we never got tired walking
fifty feet to the best houzogia in town. Con-
nie had enjoyed her three weeks traveling
and it was time for her to return home, in
the meantime Sharon Miller was flying
in from Germany and we managed to all
get together for a dinner in Heraklion…..
we then left Connie at her hotel next to
the airport, and whisked Sharon back to
Chania where we tried to visit the most
beautiful beach on Crete…..we only saw it
from a distance since the road itself was so
congested and seeing what was ahead…
hundreds of car, buses etc. we quickly
turned around and found ourselves a lovely
deserted beach that we really enjoyed.
We did manage a visit to Souda Bay War cem-
etary to the World War II veterans…..I was
looking for D.S. Perdelbury, and thanks
to a simple book of letters and numbers,
we did manage to find it, and sadly we see
all those young men buried in a truly lovely
spot. We then moved on to Sitia where
we rested nightly at the pool. I desperately
tried to drive into Agios Nikolaos (once
my favorite spot…no more) but got madly
lost… incredible… even with the GPS I was
helpless and MAD!!! What had become
of one of the most lovely, prettiest villages
in Crete…..gone. I could barely recognize
Kritsa where we once had a dinner right
down the main street…..again lost…
couldn’t even find the street. But luckily
we went to see Kato Zakros and lovely Gour-
nia, and Mochlos and Malia…..all looking
better than ever.

At Knossos we again got a guide who was
truly in tune with us and managed to keep
us ahead of the crowds that were arriving.
Onward to Phaistos, Agia Triada, so after
about two weeks on Crete it was time for
us to break up. Sharon returned home as
did Sandy, and Karen and I continued with
the ferry to Amorgos. There we rented a
Cycladic house and toured the main city
at Chora….but the main reason for the
visit is the gorgeous monastery Panagia
Hozoriotissa….eight stories high, five
meters wide, clung onto the steepest
hillside ever….there we talked with a
“wanna be” monk….what a character….he
liked women way too much to be a monk.
But the monastery took your breath away.
We then took the ferry to Astypalea where
Nick Bromell had rented his very Greek
guesthouse with a fabulous view of the harbor
and town below. We were up high where
a series of windmills were refurbished along
a small road filled with excellent places to
eat. Off the edge of town, we discovered
an “infant cemetery” the only one know in
the world. You can still see the excavations
of some 3,700 burials, mostly in pithoi of
tiny infants and small children, mostly all
under one year old. These children came
from across the Mediterranean, as far away
as Lebanon and truly a unique and unusual
site ….so many questions, with the excava-
tions continuing this coming summer.

We then flew back to Athens, spent
two days in a favorite…Hotel Mariana in
Napoleon to relax and have the best galatos
in Greece. From there back to Athens,
and the flight home. While we all worried
about covid….we ALL were totally im-
pressed how the Greeks were handling the
situation, and how careful and determined
they were to keep everyone safe. No one
was allowed to enter any shop restaurant,
 museum etc. without a mask, and with
with sites and museums you needed to show
your vaccination forms. We spent a total
of six weeks and could have easily stayed
longer. Covid testing for your return flight
was everywhere, simple, and free. The
Greeks have everything under control,
and according to some shop owners they
were having the best summer season in
years. Greece is still WONDERFUL and we
can’t wait to get back.
Hilary Roe Metternich

It was at a dinner party in Cairo that she met German diplomat Cornelius Metternich. They were married in the cathedral in Mogadishu, Somalia where he had been posted. Hilary spent the next twenty years accompanying Cornelius to various diplomatic postings. While in Mogadishu, Hilary researched and published her book Mongolian Folktales. She invested many hours working on her father Richard Paul Roe’s book The Shakespeare Guide to Italy: Retracing the Bard’s Unknown Travels. She arranged the world’s first Shakespeare Festival in Mogadishu. In later years, Hilary and her husband divided their time between a farm house in the south of France and city life in Pasadena, California. Marvelously witty, with a wonderful sense of humor, Hilary was adored by so many members of our class.

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

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

To update your address, please visit this link

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

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE and MAJOR(s)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

CURRENT OCCUPATION

WORK ADDRESS

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