Reflection from Jeff Koons’ Gazing Ball Tripod: Prof. Hadji’s Curating class visiting the Jeff Koons exhibition Apollo at the DESTE Foundation’s Project Space at Hydra (photo by Alexis Phylactopoulos)
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

FALL 2022 | 1

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ADDRESS:

Greece
Dikemes
5 Plateia Stadiou
GR-113 55 Athens, Greece
Tel: +30 210 756-749
Fax: +30 210 756-497
E-mail: program@dikemes.edu.gr

USA
College Year in Athens
P.O. Box 390890
PO BOX 390890
Cambridge, MA 02139
Tel: 617 888-8205
Fax: 617 888-8207
E-mail: info@cyathens.org

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THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECEPTION

Among the many dignitaries and leading political and academic figures attending the reception were U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Mr. George Tsunis, and Greek Education Minister, Ms. Niki Kerameus.

Ambassador Tsounis, in his address during the Reception spoke about the spirit and perseverance of CYA founder, Ismene Phylactopoulou, and praised CYA for developing thousands of friends of Greece in the U.S. and across the world. Minister Niki Krameus in her brief address thanked President Phylactopoulos for his tireless efforts to set up a successful model of cooperation with American universities, which has been tremendously valuable in the ministry’s current efforts to create collaborations between Greece’s public universities and leading American educational institutions.

HONORS FOR CYA

CYA was featured in the July 13th issue of the Greek-American newspaper National Herald with a piece titled “College Year in Athens Marks 60 Years of Bridge Building, Academic Excellence”, and quoted President Phylactopoulos who described the beginnings of our organization: “This is how CYA was born, a startup with no funds, product of the restless mind of an emancipated woman who did not fear failure, as long as she could explore the limits of her vision, and this she did.”

On October 18th, the Greek newspaper Kathimerini also featured CYA with an article by Margarita Pournara: “The primary reason the CYA program is proud is that it molds its participants into world citizens, with an understanding and appreciation of other cultures.”

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

C YA IS CELEBRATING ITS 60TH YEAR!

For six decades, CYA has been dedicated to fostering an engagement with Greece that encourages personal discovery, growth, and cross-cultural sensitivity.

We kicked off the celebrations with a very successful, week-long alumni reunion trip with alumni from the U.S. who came with their families; and with a reception at the home of CYA President, Alexis Phylactopoulos, in conjunction with the CYA Board of Trustees at which luminaries of the Greek and American community were present.

ALUMNI TRIP

The Alumni Reunion Trip (July 2022) was a big success, with 30 participants. Of them, 17 were alumni representing all six decades of CYA’s existence. Attendees stayed in CYA apartments and followed a detailed itinerary that included a rooftop reception at CYA, a tour of CYA’s facilities, and neighborhood walks, including of course a Kolonaki “stroll down memory lane”. The week-long trip included a visit to the Acropolis and the New Acropolis Museum, a series of thematic walks and visits around central Athens, and a two-day trip to Nauplion with visits to Mycenae and Epidaurus. The schedule still left plenty of time for alumni to explore sites and some venturing on their own; many took the opportunity to visit places from “back in the day.”
ALUMNI TRIP, CONTINUED

As part of the Alumni Trip, Mr. & Mrs. Phylactopoulos hosted a garden reception dinner at their home in Kifissia.

Mr. Phylactopoulos greets dinner guests.

Sam Levine & Mae Hardman Spring ’19
Kip Hughes ’67 with CYA Faculty member Nina Papadimasopoulos
CYA Faculty members Maria Vokal and Michael Neeradakis
Christine Paterson Fall ’88 and Amexa Cox enjoying the reception
Steve Diamant with Harvard Professor and CYA Advisor Michael Herzfeld

UPCOMING EVENTS

Other events commemorating CYA’s 60th anniversary will include a January 6, 2023 reception in New Orleans; a February 2023 Founder’s Day event in Athens; and a May 2023 reception at Washington, D.C.

For more information about the celebratory events and ways to get involved, please visit our 60 Years section of our website.

Mr. Phylactopoulos greets dinner guests.

Contemporary Art Museum; the group got an in-depth look at the museum from CYA Faculty member Athena Hadji
A culinary tour with Carolina Doriti and a walk around the Varvakeios and Psiri area.

The group was very fortunate to get a private tour of the Agora excavations from Professor John Camp.

Aetzopolis Museum; tour led by CYA Faculty member Robert Pitt

Lunch at “Ta Karamanlidika tou Fan” restaurant

Jean Dresley and Kathy (Dresley) ’79 Khirallah pictured here at the Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center, where CYA Faculty member Engany Tousi led a tour.

Kip Hughes ’67 with CYA Faculty member Nina Papadimasopoulos

A culinary tour with Carolina Doriti and a walk around the Varvakeios and Psiri area.

Group photo at Mycenae’s Lion’s Gate

Epidaurus

Group photo at Mycenae’s Lion’s Gate
CyA Publication

CyA is excited to share news of our first academic publication, *Thucydides the Athenian*, edited by Nanno Marinatos and Robert Pitt.

This volume of proceedings stems from the conference “Thucydides the Athenian” hosted by College Year in Athens in Summer 2018 and organized by the editors. The series of papers discusses Pericles and Thucydides in their Athenian contexts, and explores the theme of personalities and individuals both in the History itself and in scholarship on the inscribed Athenian funerary monuments of the British Museum, part of the Attic Inscriptions in the UK project (AIUK), funded by the AHRC, to (re)publish all the Athenian inscriptions held in UK collections. Link here.

The accompanying website, Attic Inscriptions Online, provides translations and brief notes on the inscriptions, aimed at the general reader. Website here.

Library News

CyA Librarian, Georgia Katsarou, made a virtual presentation along with Anne Wittrick, librarian at Loyola University Chicago; John Felice, Rome Center; and Cristina Bellini, librarian at New York University Florence with the title “Host Institution Academic Libraries and Librarians in Long-Term Education Abroad” at the 18th Annual Conference of the Forum on Education Abroad. They discussed the importance of having organized libraries managed by professional librarians in study abroad programs, and presented viable solutions on collection development and technology applications for small-scale libraries. They also presented projects that can help with student engagement. This presentation was an effort to spread the word that libraries are an essential part of education even when students are away from their home institutions.

An Honor for Endy Zemenides (CyA ’95)

We are proud that CyA Trustee and alumnus Endy Zemenides, Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), was recognized for his contribution to Hellenism by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis during his official visit to Washington.

Endy was awarded the insignia of the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix. This honor is awarded to people who have contributed to enhancing Greece’s stature by distinguishing themselves in the fields of public administration, science, commerce, industry and shipping, and the arts and letters.

Congratulations Endy on such an important distinction!

New Greek Citizens

We are proud to announce that Christine Kondoleon, a CyA Trustee and George and Margo Bevartas Chair of Greek and Roman Art, in the Department of Art of Ancient Greece and Rome at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston was sworn in as a Greek citizen at the Consulate-General of Greece in Boston.

Honorary Degree

CyA Trustee, Director of Computing at the MIT Media Lab, and research scientist Michail Bletsas was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of the Aegean/Neoclassical Aegina’s Department of Cultural Technology and Communication!

The honor was awarded to him by the University’s Rector and CyA alumn Chryssi Vitsilaki (1977).

Michael Bletsas with wife Argyro at the award ceremony.

CyA Welcomes New Trustee

CyA is delighted to welcome Deborah L. Wince-Smith (CyA ’70) as a member of the Board of Trustees of College Year in Athens. Deborah’s long experience and expertise will prove extremely valuable to CyA’s mission. Deborah’s long experience and expertise will prove extremely valuable to CyA’s mission.

Deborah is the President & CEO of the Council on Competitiveness, a non-partisan leadership coalition of CEOs, University Presidents, Labor Union Leaders, and National Laboratory Directors, all committed to developing policy solutions and national initiatives to drive future productivity growth, prosperity for all Americans, and the global success of American business.

She has more than 20 years of experience as a senior U.S. government official, as the first Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy in the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Administration of President George H.W. Bush, and as the Assistant Director for International Affairs in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Reagan Administration.

She served as a Senate-confirmed member of the Oversight Board of the Internal Revenue Service in the Administrations of President George W. Bush and President Barack H. Obama.

Faculty News

Robert Pitt published a volume of the inscribed Athenian funerary monuments of the British Museum, part of the Attic Inscriptions in the UK project (AIUK), funded by the AHRC, to (re)publish all the Athenian inscriptions held in UK collections. Link here.

The accompanying website, Attic Inscriptions Online, provides translations and brief notes on the inscriptions, aimed at the general reader. Website here.
MY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AT KORA BAKERY

By Lucy Anderson, Spring '22, Mt. Holyoke College

Before traveling to Athens for my semester abroad with College Year in Athens (CYA) this past spring, I reached out to inquire about potential volunteer opportunities that I could take part in when I arrived. I really wanted to get the most out of my time abroad and felt that volunteering would be a great way to meet local Athenians and be immersed in day-to-day life in Greece.

As an avid home baker with a massive sweet tooth, I was particularly intrigued by the idea of volunteering in a Greek bakery. With help from CYA’s amazing Student Affairs Advisor, Angela Kourava, I ended up getting connected with Kora Bakery. Kora is a new and very well-loved bakery in the Kolonaki neighborhood of Athens that specializes in sourdough breads and vienneries. Utilizing long fermentation methods that make their baked goods more nutrient-rich and digestible than traditional store-bought breads, Kora Bakery is dedicated to making high-quality (and delicious) breads and pastries. Besides their emphasis on high-quality goods, I was also very drawn to Kora due to their prioritization of environmentally responsible and charitable practices to support the local community.

After applying to the bakery and interviewing with one of the co-founders, Ianhth Michalaki, I began work at Kora in early February. I volunteered there twice a week throughout the semester, primarily helping with the preparation of bakery goods (e.g., cutting brownies, baking cookies, assisting with pastry preparation, making granola, etc.) and packaging products, especially around Valentine’s Day and Easter. Overall, I really loved my experience volunteering at Kora Bakery! Volunteering at Kora was truly a highlight of my week every week. Throughout the semester, the staff there went out of their way to be welcoming and kind to me, and were very patient as I learned. They even prepared an Easter basket with lots of delicious goodies for me and my family to enjoy when they visited over spring break! I felt proud to contribute to the amazing products they produced and support a business I really admired.

At Kora Bakery or another organization that aligns with your interests, I believe that volunteering is a great way to further immerse yourself in Greek culture while abroad. My volunteer position taught me a lot about both how professional bakers run as well as what everyday life is like for Greeks. I am grateful to the staff at Kora for their continued kindness to me and to CYA for setting this opportunity up for me. It was truly one of my favorite parts of my study abroad experience. I look forward to visiting Kora again when I eventually return to Greece.

MY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AT BLUE CYCLE

Kate Philips, Spring 2022 Semester, Skidmore College

As a country surrounded by the stunning blue sea, Greece provides gorgeous beaches for tourists and numerous ports for fishers. While the human connection with water is beautiful, it does not exist without a consequence: excessive marine waste. Although much of this waste remains in the water, some waste is recycled. Recycling plants often transport the recycled materials to companies in industries using unsustainable production practices. For example, the fast fashion industry is notorious for wasting water in clothing production and emitting greenhouse gases while transporting goods.

Okay, the sad part is over. Luckily, Blue Cycle is taking action. The 2019 start-up collects marine waste, such as fishing nets, and recycles the material. Then, Blue Cycle uses a 3D printer to create new products. Through this process, Blue Cycle’s employees can recycle waste and develop new products—sustainably! Blue Cycle creates and sells many items, including furniture and home goods. Additionally, Blue Cycle partners with other organizations. For example, a nearby school gives Blue Cycle hard plastic toys to be recycled and reused as Jenga blocks.

As a Spring 2022 CYA student, I was lucky enough to intern at Blue Cycle. Every Tuesday, I took the green line to Piraeus and walked to Blue Cycle’s warehouse, about ten minutes from the port. Eirini Avgoustaiki, Blue Cycle’s wonderful secretary, gave me a variety of tasks. I spent time doing inventory, researching grants for start-ups, and smoothing out Jenga blocks (a shockingly fun task)!

I loved seeing the entire recycling process in action and having the opportunity to support such a fantastic organization. I hope other CYA students are lucky enough to intern at Blue Cycle!

OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM: VOLUNTEERING

MY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AT BLUE CYCLE

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February 23: Welcome to CYA! Director of Housing and Catering, Popi Baloglu, with Olympia Kappatou, the Housing and Catering Manager.

February 23: Museum of the Olive and Greek Olive Oil in Sparta (Peloponnese field trip)

February 23: Mycenae (Peloponnese Field Trip)

March 11: Being inside the Parthenon is a once in a lifetime experience!

March 22: Four students ran the Athens 5K!

March 23: Snow on the first day of classes!

January 24: Mycenae (Peloponnese Field Trip)

January 24: Welcome to CYA! Director of Housing and Catering, Popi Baloglu, with Olympia Kappatou, the Housing and Catering Manager.

March 11: Being inside the Parthenon is a once in a lifetime experience!

March 30: A stop at Thermopylae, on the field trip to Thessaloniki

April 8: Students of The Orthodox Church pose with 'tamata' (votives) given to them by course professor Despina Iosif to remember their class visit to Agios Spyridon Church.

April 19: The Topography and Monuments of Athens class with professor Robert Pitt at the Kameiros cemetery

May 13: Saying goodbye never gets any easier! Farewell dinner
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College Year in Athens was created sixty years ago to introduce
young Americans to the Greek culture and establish Greece as
an educational destination. Since 1962, over 11,000 students
have studied at CYA and have experienced first-hand what it
means to be global citizens. By offering an academically rigorous
program of studies combined with the vibrant experience of
day-to-day contact with the people, monuments, and landscape
of Greece—a rapidly evolving country with a uniquely varied past—our students have gotten to know Greece and, most
importantly, got to know themselves.
Thanks to the dedication and determination of our staff, the
resourcefulness of our faculty, the trust of our governance, the
support of our alumni, and the willingness of our students, CYA
has managed to further its mission of offering American universi-
sity students a transformative study abroad experience.
CYA hopes that you will continue to aid and support our insti-
tution. Your generosity will help us fulfill our mission of offering
our American university students a life-changing, trans-cultural
competence that aims to make them world citizens.

THANK YOU

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By transferring appreciated stock to College Year in Athens, you
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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 particular person
and give the incredible experience of College Year in Athens to
an academically qualified student who would not otherwise
attend.
Recurring, Monthly Giving
Monthly giving 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 plan-
ning, while at the same time allowing your automatic contribu-
tions 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.
Planned Giving
Many people choose to support organizations that mean the
most to them with a gift through their will or trust or planned
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What happens when the kids who were way too into the Percy Jackson books grow up and decide to study abroad? They come to Athens, take CYA’s Greek Myth & Religion course with professor Nina Papathanasopoulou, and become 100 times more obsessed—at least I did. Since I was little, I loved learning about the unique and iconic Olympian gods, their favorite humans who became heroes, and their adventurous tales that included every beast or magical creature I could dream of. I took this course expecting to relearn the stories I knew as a kid, and that I would maintain the same interest and enthusiasm I had when I first read them. Now, at the end of the semester, I am blown away by how much Nina’s course reignited and added to my fascination with Greek mythology.

The tales I thought I already knew were brought to life in this course, under a new lens of societal and feminist analysis, through dissecting the words that make up myth to gain etymological understanding, and in adventures throughout Greece during field trips to the settings of the stories and sanctuaries of the gods. Nina prompted us to evaluate ancient Greek stories beyond their religious roles, and helped us in uncovering continuous themes under the surface of the stories—themes that have real-world resonance and offer an open discussion of why certain messages permeate our lives (the meanings of life, death, love, and free will would be brought up, to name a few). The name of Aphrodite took on new meaning as a story all itself and a tribute to the four-inspiring and all-consuming passing of love. The paradoxical characterizations of motherly love and vengeful wrath in the goddess Demeter made new sense under the context of the unpredictable agricultural seasons experienced by ancient Greek farmers. The unique experience of discovering the secrets of the world, the key difference between myself and the millions who came before me is that when I say “you won’t understand unless you study abroad,” I am correct. It is significantly due to my enrollment in this course that I feel enabled to confidently claim that I am built differently. Obviously, I gained a lot academically from my Greek Myth & Religion class, but, in total honesty, the most powerful takeaway is a justified superiority complex towards courses on Greek myth taught in the United States. Conceptually, the content of this course may be covered, but there is nowhere better to learn about Greek myth and religion than its birthplace. To put it plainly, learning about mythology just hits different here. Linguistic analysis coming from the mouth of your professor the native speaker is just more authentic and makes more sense. Socratic seminars in the states? Mid. Discussing ancient philosophical concepts in the city where Socrates himself lived? Elite. Oh, you looked at pictures of the sanctuaries of the gods? Delphi was (respectably) my playground. I feasted the pooches that symbolize Persephone at her mother’s sanctuary, and I can tell you firsthand how magical sunset over the Aegean sea from the temple of Poseidon is. Regardless of less of previous knowledge (as mine was limited to children’s books) or field of study (I am a neuroscience major who does not, and probably will never understand, the minds of my Classics-major peers), professor Papathanasopoulou’s class has value and brings an incredible, unique perspective to a truly interesting subject. I came to Greece as a self-proclaimed annoying mythology nerd. Still, thanks to Nina and the eternal relevance of some really old books, I am leaving with the self-awareness that my current attachment to Greek mythology makes my pre-study abroad interest in the subject look like child’s play.

“IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO STAY UNINTERESTED” — STUDYING MYTH AND RELIGION AT CYA

By Sarah Reidy, CYA Spring 2022

The Myth and Religion Class at the Sanctuary of Demeter at Eleusis

Every American who comes back from studying abroad thinks they have had the unique experience of discovering the secrets of the world. The key difference between myself and the millions who came before me is that when I say “you won’t understand unless you study abroad,” I am correct. It is significantly due to my enrollment in this course that I feel enabled to confidently claim that I am built differently. Obviously, I gained a lot academically from my Greek Myth & Religion class, but, in total honesty, the most powerful takeaway is a justified superiority complex towards courses on Greek myth taught in the United States. Conceptually, the content of this course may be covered, but there is nowhere better to learn about Greek myth and religion than its birthplace. To put it plainly, learning about mythology just hits different here. Linguistic analysis coming from the mouth of your professor the native speaker is just more authentic and makes more sense. Socratic seminars in the states? Mid. Discussing ancient philosophical concepts in the city where Socrates himself lived? Elite. Oh, you looked at pictures of the sanctuaries of the gods? Delphi was (respectably) my playground. I feasted the pooches that symbolize Persephone at her mother’s sanctuary, and I can tell you firsthand how magical sunset over the Aegean sea from the temple of Poseidon is. Regardless of less of previous knowledge (as mine was limited to children’s books) or field of study (I am a neuroscience major who does not, and probably will never understand, the minds of my Classics-major peers), professor Papathanasopoulou’s class has value and brings an incredible, unique perspective to a truly interesting subject. I came to Greece as a self-proclaimed annoying mythology nerd. Still, thanks to Nina and the eternal relevance of some really old books, I am leaving with the self-awareness that my current attachment to Greek mythology makes my pre-study abroad interest in the subject look like child’s play.

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 eggs
- 2 onions (grated)
- 2 garlic cloves (grated)
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup fresh parsley (well chopped)
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup water

Potato Ingredients:

- 6 – 7 potatoes
- salt
- pepper
- oregano
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 cup olive oil
- 1 cup water

Peel the potatoes and cut them in small pieces (small potato will be in approximately four pieces). Rinse them well. Place the potatoes in an oven pan. Add salt, pepper, oregano and then shape the mixture into (approximately) six large biftekia.
FALL '05
Andrew '06 and Ciara (Fernandez '06) Faber welcomed their second child, Maya, in May 2022.

SPRING '98
Ed Brzytwa '98 joined the Consumer Technology Association as Vice President of International Trade in 2021.

SPRING '88
Ron Miller '88 married Emily Comstock on June 11, 2022. Groomsman Eric Marshall (Spring '88) was also in attendance. Ron and Emily then celebrated their honeymoon on the Alumni Trip in Athens. Ron remains employed at Barnes & Thornburg LLP, working in both Washington DC and Indianapolis. Emily works in Quality at Eli Lilly & Co. in Indianapolis.

1979-80
Linda Kordas '80 writes, “I taught Latin in public schools for 38 years. I retired twice (two different schools) and am happily living in New Hampshire with my husband (another Latin teacher) and my cat, Romulus and 14 cute finches. We did a month in Europe this summer: one week in Spain where we met my Greek teacher and his family, one week in France and two weeks in Rome. What a great time!”

FALL 2022 CLASS NOTES

Wedding party photo: Groom Ron Miller '88 with fellow CYA alum, Eric Marshall '88 in the middle of the groomsmen.

Their honeymoon on the Alumni Trip in Athens. Ron remains employed at Barnes & Thornburg LLP, working in both Washington DC and Indianapolis. Emily works in Quality at Eli Lilly & Co. in Indianapolis.

1979-80
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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.

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