

SPRING 2024

# THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS



*Students delve into the world of ancient Greek architecture alongside CYA professor Tasos Tanoulas.*

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*Dear friends,*

I am delighted to reconnect with you as we conclude another exciting semester at CYA. This time, I am particularly pleased about the improvements we are making to our academic programs and the supportive environment we are creating for our students.

Our current landscape, including technological advancements and cultural shifts, is evolving at a pace of profound transformation. As we navigate through these complexities, our commitment to strengthening the foundation of our academic program – namely the humanities and social sciences – resonates deeply with our embrace of the technological and AI-driven changes unfolding. Far from being in competition, humanities and social sciences intertwine with STEM, reflecting the symbiotic relationship between tradition and innovation.

College Year in Athens is collaborating with the National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos", the most reputable science institution in Greece, to offer our students stimulating

courses. Our dedication to the humanities serves as a crucial lens through which the ethical and philosophical dimensions shaping scientific inquiry and technological progress are elucidated. This integration establishes the humanities as an indispensable ally to the expanding field of STEM.

Adaptation is a key element of our study abroad program, urging our students to explore diverse cultures. This deliberate exposure allows them to bridge experiential and ideological divides in a constructive manner, fostering a deeper understanding of the perspectives, identities, and intentions of others.

Central to CYA's mission is the recognition of the courage inherent in both speaking up and in listening. Our initiatives, though varied and numerous, share a common goal: to uphold our Duty of Care by cultivating a campus culture grounded in inclusivity and respect, and supporting our community to engage in meaningful, respectful conversations and build stronger, more empathetic connections.

This exchange of knowledge and experience affects CYA faculty and staff, in as meaningful a way as it does our students, broadening our



collective worldview and serving as a counterbalance to the intelligence-driven paradigm.

As you read about this semester's developments at our school, I invite you to reflect on how your time at CYA has enriched your perspective and strengthened your sense of empathy and understanding. If you would like to share a memory or ask a question, email me at [tscourta@cyathens.org](mailto:tscourta@cyathens.org).

Thank you for being an integral part of our shared effort to ensure that our school continues to be a hub of learning and growth.

*Cordially,  
Theoni*

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## Memorandum of Understanding between Study in Greece (SiG) and CYA/DIKEMES

**College Year in Athens/ DIKEMES** and **Study in Greece (SiG)**, Greece's national agency for the internationalization of Higher Education, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the objective to promote Greece as an educational destination and to attract students from American institutions to public Higher Education Institutions in our country.

The collaboration framework between the two entities includes areas of mutual interest, such as the promotion of Greek university programs and the endorsement of international programs in foreign countries. Additionally, the two organizations will jointly organize and participate in education exhibitions, science conventions, seminars, and



research conferences, while developing digital platforms and tools to enhance the international visibility of Greek education.

## AAECG discussion with Jennifer Evanuiik

On February 26, all nine member-schools of **AAECG** (Association of American Educational and Cultural Organizations in Greece) were invited to a discussion with **Jennifer Evanuiik**, Senior Director for International Initiatives at Georgia State University. Ms. Evanuiik discussed expanding critical student services at Greek universities to meet the needs of U.S. study abroad students.

The meeting was under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy and was hosted by CYA.



Alexis Phylactopoulos with Jennifer Evanuiik and Artemis Zenetou (AAECG President)

## Introducing our new team member Mary Lazarikos

**Mary Lazarikos**, our new Director of Marketing & Communications, joined CYA's staff in May 2024. Mary is an accomplished marketing and communications strategist, bringing her expertise to the North American team. With career experience that includes Fortune 100 companies and nonprofit organizations, Mary has a proven track record of developing comprehensive marketing and communication plans. Her portfolio also includes successful rebranding initiatives within the insurance and consulting sectors. Mary is an alumna of Loyola University and Columbia College, both located in Chicago. Thrilled to blend her professional achievements with her Greek American heritage, Mary is dedicated to embracing traditions and fostering connections. Welcome aboard, Mary.



## CYA & National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos"

We are unveiling our brand new course, "*Science Communication*", which capitalizes on our recent partnership with the **National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos"**. This is the first of many new STEM courses coming to CYA.

Led by professor **Aimilia Smyrli**, an astrophysicist and Head of Education at NCSR "Demokritos", students explore the world of scientific research, meeting different researchers, interviewing them, and visiting their labs. From nuclear physics to nanoscience, students learn to share key findings effectively.



CYA students with professor Aimilia Smyrli and Lila Diapouli

On a recent visit, they met with **Lila Diapouli**, researcher at the Institute of Nuclear & Radiological Sciences and Technology Energy & Safety.

She took them to their research facilities at the center, where students had the opportunity to ask questions about the research.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Part of Anne Stewart's book collection goes to CYA Library

Last summer the library was honored to accept the donation of part of Anne Stewart's personal library. The collection consists of 445 titles covering topics in art, sculpture, literature and history. We are immensely grateful for the opportunity to expand our collection and to honor the memory of our beloved Anne in this meaningful way. These books will undoubtedly serve as a lasting tribute to Anne Stewart's memory.



A text reading workshop and scanner

### A remarkable donation of assistive technologies

The CYA Library has received a remarkable donation for the purchase of assistive technologies that will greatly enhance CYA's accessibility and inclusivity.

The donation enabled CYA to acquire a text reading workstation, two laptops with portable text reading scanners and a workstation for converting books to accessible formats. This remarkable donation emphasizes CYA's commitment to ensuring that all students have equal access to educational resources and opportunities. We extend our gratitude to the donor for their invaluable support.

CYA's Virtual Lecture Series, a unique opportunity for us to connect with our alumni and friends, continues to thrive. This series, featuring one-hour sessions with guest speakers who are experts in diverse academic and professional fields, has already enriched our community with valuable insights and knowledge through 3 new virtual lectures this spring.



**DATE**  
March 6, 2024

**TITLE**  
Continuity and Change across the History of the Greek Language

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Brian Joseph '72**, Distinguished University Professor of Linguistics, The Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of Linguistics, The Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Languages and Linguistics at Ohio State University

**DISCUSSANT**  
**Emeritus Professor Dr. Mark Janse**, Honorary Research Professor in Ancient & Asia Minor Greek at Ghent University



**DATE**  
March 13, 2024

**TITLE**  
Crafts of the Sea: Boatbuilding, Fishing, and Seafaring in the Cyclades

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Jacob Moe**, Founder and Principal Investigator of Archipelago Network

**DISCUSSANT**  
**Katerina Velentza**, Maritime Archaeologist



**DATE**  
April 3, 2024

**TITLE**  
American Humanitarianism Abroad: The Greek Commission of the American Red Cross and the American Friends of Greece Between the Wars

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Dr. Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan**, the Dorren Canaday Spitzer Director of Archives, ASCSA

**DISCUSSANT**  
**Professor Jack L. Davis**, the Carl W. Blegen Professor of Greek Archaeology, University of Cincinnati

For a comprehensive review of all our past lectures, please visit our website: [www.cyathens.org](http://www.cyathens.org)



Scan to view VLS archive

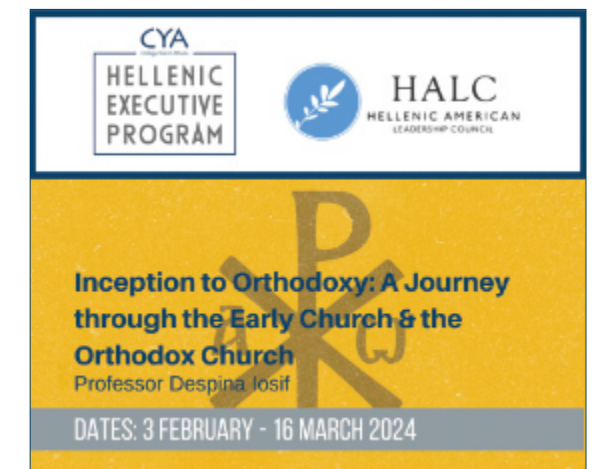


Scan to view VLS playlist

### Inception to Orthodoxy

Our latest seminar in the [CYA Hellenic Executive Program](#) titled "Inception to Orthodoxy: A Journey through the Early Church & the Orthodox Church" with professor **Despina Iosif**, began on February 3 and ended on March 16, 2024. This executive course was a journey to the history, faith, liturgy and spirituality of the Eastern Orthodox Church, the largest of the Eastern Christian Churches. Special emphasis was given on the early Christian world and early Christian values, since keeping tradition is of the utmost importance for the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Participants became familiar with the rich history, heritage and tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church, discussed Christianity's formative years, had the opportunity to dispel popular myths, challenge misconceptions about early Christianity, and discover the common spiritual foundation and background of Christianity in East and West.



## Academics beyond the courses

During Spring 2024, several stimulating workshops and a series of evening lectures were held at CYA. These events are an important part of our academic life, as they allow scholars, students, researchers and even the administrative staff to come together and discuss several themes and issues.

### Workshops

The workshops were open to all students and the participants received a Certificate. These informal gatherings facilitated conversation and in depth analysis between students and their instructors on themes related or even beyond the courses offered at CYA. Dr. **Bailey Green** ran a workshop entitled *Water, Sanitation, Health: From London to Marathon to Water & Sanitation for All* that concluded by taking all participants and other CYA students on a day-trip to the Marathon Dam with a complimentary visit to the field of the famous 490 BCE Battle of Marathon (February and April).

In March, professor **Nanno Marinatos** discussed aspects of war through ancient writings in her *War and Thucydides*

workshop, while Dr. **Thanos Dokos** introduced students to the theme of *Managing the Next Crisis in the Middle East: A Simulation Exercise*.

Also in March, CYA Advisor, professor **Michael Herzfeld** conducted two workshops: *Facing and Acing Graduate School Admissions*, for CYA students, and *Inside the Editorial Office: What You Need to Know about How Peer Review Publications Operate*, for faculty. These practical seminars not only provide valuable insights but also equip students with the necessary tools to secure admission to their desired universities and assist faculty in achieving publication in top journals within their respective fields.



Students visited the Marathon Dam during Dr. Bailey Green's workshop.

Finally, Dr. **Demetrios Kritsotakis'** *From the Manuscript to Classroom: The Palaeographical Tradition of the Latin Language* workshop was offered in April offering a fresh look to this field.

It is worth mentioning that the workshops by Dr. Green and Dr. Kritsotakis functioned as pilot cases, leading to the development of two new courses set to be introduced in the next academic year.

### Lectures

Three superb lectures took place at CYA, in the Daphne & George Hatsopoulos Hall, open to all interested parties from inside and outside CYA. They all had great attendance and we were honored to enjoy the fruits of the latest research of the presenters: professor **Ellen Millender** (Reed College) offered a fascinating exploration to *Classical Sparta and the spectacle of hoplite warfare*.

Our second lecture was on *Roman Greece and Global Imperialism: An Ancient and Modern Story* by CYA alumna **Jessica Tilley '16** (PhD candidate, Florida State University) who offered a different view on the subject.

Our third lecture for the semester was entitled *45 Years of Conflict: US-Iran Relations* by Dr. **Andrew Scott Cooper** (International Hellenic University) discussing the history of a fascinating relationship.



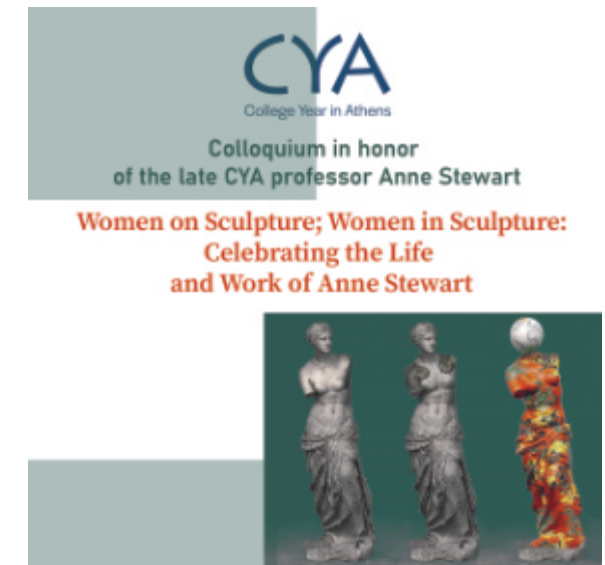
Professor Ellen Millender at her CYA lecture

## Colloquium

As a prelude to the Student Conference, a one-day colloquium in the memory of our beloved CYA professor, **Anne Stewart**, entitled *Women on Sculpture; Women in Sculpture: Celebrating the Life and Work of Anne Stewart* was organized at CYA. Our four speakers were: Dr. **Athena Hadji** (CYA), professor **Bonna Wescoat** (American School of Classical Studies at Athens), Dr. **Charis Kanellopoulou** (Open University of Cyprus) and Dr. **Aspassia Kouzoupi** (University of Thessaly).

This joyful and stimulating event, truly appropriate to celebrate our Anne, took place on April 20.

Both the Student Conference and the Colloquium were organized by Dr. Athena Hadji.



## 7th Annual CYA Student Conference

Eight CYA students presented their work in the **7th Annual CYA Student Conference** (April 22-23) on *The Sculpted Body: Sculpture through Time* following the tradition established in the previous years. The hard work of preparation of the students was evident throughout the event; over the course of the two days, the CYA community attended the presentations, while the ensuing Q&A sessions attested vividly to the high quality of the presenters' work, as well as to the engagement of the audience.



CYA professor Athena Hadji on the first day of the Conference

These events highlight the dedication of CYA to teaching, research, public outreach, and to offering our students and faculty a platform to discuss and exchange their views on a variety of topics.

## CYA Trustee Lena Papalexopoulou receives the Social Impact Award

It always gives us great pleasure to bring to your attention the accomplishments of CYA Trustees. On December 1, **Lena Papalexopoulou** received the Social Impact Award from the American College of Greece during the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of ACG's presence in Greece. The Social Impact Award acknowledges the exceptional efforts of alumni or individuals who have made a significant positive impact on Greek society. It celebrates their contributions, demonstrating a genuine commitment to philanthropy, community service, and driving meaningful change. *"I feel grateful, humbled, and honored to receive this award", she said. "This recognition fuels my passion to continue striving to promote education as a force of good and driving meaningful change through community service"*.



Lena Papalexopoulou receiving her award at the ACG event

## Board of Trustees meeting and reception in Boston

The 128th meeting of the Board of Trustees of College Year in Athens was held on Sunday 14 January. The meeting, chaired by **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, took place at the Maliotis Cultural Center on the Hellenic College campus, in hybrid form.



Daphne Hatsopoulos holding up a copy of CYA's first catalog during her speech

Copy of the first CYA catalog

On the occasion of the meeting, CYA Trustee **Daphne Hatsopoulos** hosted a reception at the Museum of Science in Boston, where alumni and friends of CYA were invited. Reflecting on our institution's rich history, we envision a future inspired by our heritage, building on the foundations we have established.



(from left): CYA Trustee Daphne Hatsopoulos, Alexis Phylactopoulos, and Chrysoula Kourkounti (Exec. Director of the Maliotis Culture Center of Hellenic College Holy Cross)

## CYA Trustee in a fireside chat with the President of the Hellenic Republic

A very important and interesting three-day conference took place on Feb. 29-Mar. 2 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the "Metapolitefsi", the period since the re-establishment of democracy in Greece in 1974. There were many panels and presentations by persons who played an important role in Greek public life in these 50 years.

A highlight of the final day of the conference was an interview with the President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellariopoulou. The interview was conducted by a Greek journalist, Michalis Tsintsinis, and



(from left): Katerina Sakellariopoulou, Michalis Tsintsinis, and Elaine Papoulias

our fellow Trustee, **Elaine Papoulias '91**, in her role as Executive Director of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard. Thanks to Elaine, some CYA students and a couple of faculty were invited to attend the conference.

## CYA Trustee Emerita Mary R. Lefkowitz receives Athens Prize at the ASCSA Gala

On May 9, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) hosted its eighth annual Gala in New York City. This year, the Trustees of the American School honored **Mary R. Lefkowitz** with the Athens Prize for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge of ancient Greece.

The Athens Prize is an emblem of excellence in ancient Greek scholarship. Previous recipients have been archaeologist and CYA Trustee Emeritus **John Camp**, Aegean prehistorian **Malcolm Wiener**, epigrapher **Ronald Stroud**, and economic historian **Edward Cohen**.

Mary R. Lefkowitz is Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities Emerita at Wellesley College. Best known to non-Classicalists for her book, *Not Out of Africa* (1996), she is the author of books and articles about ancient Greek literature and culture,



including most recently, *Euripides and the Gods*, and co-editor of *The Greek Plays*, *The Greek Histories*, and *Women's Life in Greece and Rome* (4th edition). She holds a B.A. from Wellesley and a Ph.D. from Radcliffe, plus honorary degrees from Trinity College, Grinnell College, and the University of Patras, and is a recipient of a National Humanities Medal.

## AIA/SCS 2024 Joint Annual Meeting & CYA Reception

The 2024 **AIA** (Archaeological Institute of America) and **SCS** (Society for Classical Studies) Joint Annual Meeting took place January 4-7 in Chicago, IL. CYA leadership, including Exec. Chair of the Board of Trustees **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, President **Theoni Scourta**, Director of Studies **Angelos Papadopoulos**, Director of Alumni Relations **Erica Huffman (SP'93)**, and CYA professor **Nina Papathanasopoulou**, attended the meeting, which featured the presentation of individual papers and panels, workshops, roundtable discussions, seminars, and much more.



(from left): Alexis Phylactopoulos, Theoni Scourta, and Nina Papathanasopoulou



(from left): Jim Newhard '92, Allie Davis '18 (PhD Candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)



(from left): Alexis Phylactopoulos, Barbara Hennessy '89, Jim Newhard '92, Professor of Classics at College of Charleston, and Hibben (Silvo) Rothschild (SP '07), former CYA staff



(from left): Elizabeth Fisher (Professor of Classics and Archaeology at Randolph-Macon College), Mary Kay Karzas '74, and Warren Reiss

On January 8, in conjunction with the annual AIA meeting, CYA hosted a reception for alumni and friends. Attendees were local area alumni, friends, and colleagues who were at the conference. They all enjoyed an evening of networking and had the opportunity to see old friends, create fresh connections and strengthen enduring ones within the CYA community.

## The Forum on Education Abroad's 20th Annual Conference

On March 20-22, members of the College Year in Athens team attended The Forum on Education Abroad's 20th Annual Conference in Boston. They met with partners and forged new connections expected to advance international education initiatives.

On March 21, Trustees, alumni, friends, and partners, joined us for a reception held to celebrate CYA's 60th anniversary, hosted by the Consulate General of Greece in Boston.

We look forward to hosting both the CIGL (Careers, Internships and Global Learning) & EMEA (European, Middle East and Africa) Forum Conferences in Athens on October 13-18!



Some members of the CYA team at the Boston reception

## CYA's presence at the Delphi Economic Forum IX

CYA had yet another powerful presence at the IX Delphi Economic Forum, entitled "*The Great Transition*", that focused on global changes.

**Michalis Bletsas** (CYA Trustee), in his new role as the Governor of the National Cybersecurity Authority, emphasized the importance of ensuring a high level of security at the national level.

**Alexis Phylactopoulos** (Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees) participated in a panel discussion entitled "*Higher Education collaborative arrangements: What does the future hold?*" on the future of higher education in Greece.

**Deborah Wince-Smith '71** (CYA Trustee) moderated a panel discussion, "*Competing in the Next Economy: A Comparative Look at Innovation and Competitiveness Initiatives Across Europe*", on national competitiveness strategy and strategic collaboration to drive innovation-based growth, prosperity, and security.

**Endy Zemenides '95** (CYA Trustee) chaired two sessions on "*America's Future in the Middle East*" and "*The Fourth & Fifth Seas*". He also participated in a panel discussion "*From the Pillar of Stability to Indispensable Ally*", emphasizing Greece's evolving regional role and its strengthened alliance with the U.S.



CYA students with their professors Romolo Gandolfo and Ritsa Panagiotou at the Delphi Forum



CYA students met Greece's former Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras.

**Nikiforos Diamandouros**, CYA Advisor; Member of the Athens Academy; Former European Ombudsman; and Professor Emeritus at the University of Athens, analyzed the predominant value systems of Greece in a panel discussion on "*Values and value system in post-authoritarian Greece*".

**Theofanis Tasis**, Lecturer in Contemporary Philosophy at CYA & Alpen-Adria Universität, discussed the ethical considerations surrounding AI.

For one more year, CYA students seized the opportunity for a day visit to the Delphi Economic Forum, attending sessions on economics and diplomacy. It was a significant opportunity to network and gain international conference experience. They even met and were photographed with Greece's former Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras.

SPRING 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Spring semester kicked off with an immersive orientation in the timeless landscapes of Delphi and Olympia.



Our CYA Librarian, Georgia Katsarou, with Tal Sloan and Evie Redding, Spring 2024 semester students, learning how to embroider "Attican" designs



In conjunction with Wellness Week, staff and faculty supported one another through the Athens Half Marathon 5K.



Professor Karavas with the students during the field trip to Northern Greece



Getting creative with a craft night where CYAers had the opportunity to write on postcards they have collected during their travels or create their own.



The wisdom of the past meets the fresh perspectives of the present: CYA Trustees Peter Allen '65 and Bliss Perry (SP '20) at the CYA reception in Boston.

SPRING 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Witnessing the ceremonial handover of the Olympic Flame from Greece to France for the upcoming 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, on April 26. While some attended the ceremony, other students and staff observed this event from a unique perspective: our balcony overlooking the stadium.



CYA students immersed themselves in an optional field study excursion to Crete, where they visited a ceramics workshop.



CYA staff and faculty participated in an energizing pilates session together, strengthening their bonds as a team.



Every moment spent in Rhodes was a lesson in living history for the CYAers.



As the spring '24 semester concludes, we hope that our students' time at CYA has been transformative, enriched with lasting memories and meaningful connections. Greece and CYA will always be their second home, ready to welcome them back.

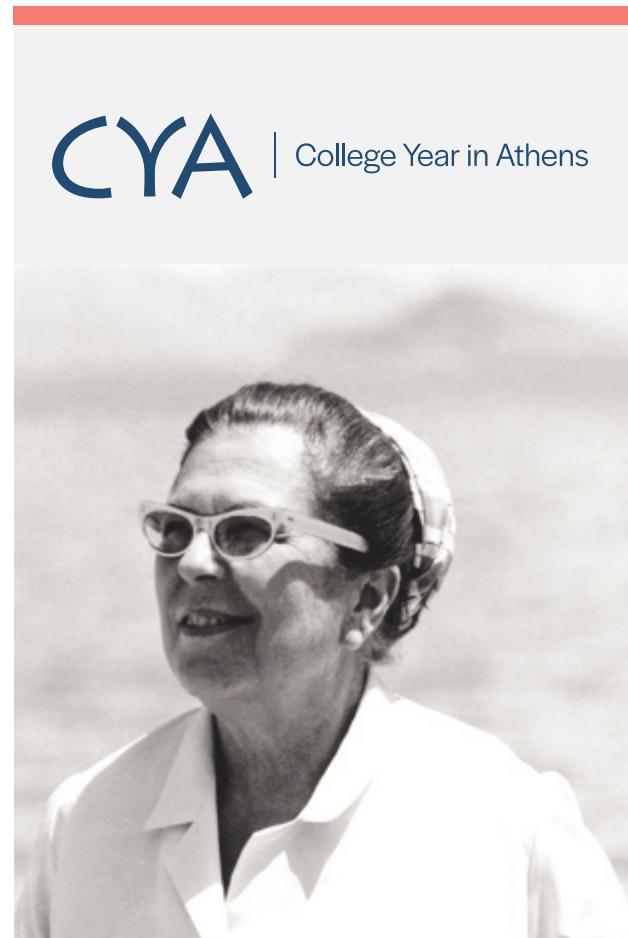


## Introducing the Founder's Day Award

Traditionally, Founder's Day on February 9 marks the establishment of CYA and pays tribute to the pioneering spirit of Ismene Phylactopoulou (1907-1983), CYA's Founder, whose visionary leadership and dedication to intercultural education have shaped the academic journey of many people throughout the years.

*A refugee from Smyrna, **Ismene Phylactopoulou** survived the city's 1922 destruction. She received a scholarship to study in the U.S. at Wellesley College, returning with a deepened appreciation for Greece's cultural significance. Ismene embarked on establishing a rigorous academic program in Athens, tailored for students from U.S. colleges and universities; this is how CYA, in its distinctive form, was born. Mrs. Phylactopoulou served as CYA Director for two decades, and, in acknowledgment of her remarkable impact on study abroad, she was bestowed with a Doctorate of Humane Letters from DePauw University.*

In the spirit of innovation and excellence that has guided College Year in Athens since its inception, and in memory of those who have built our school's reputation, upon which its continued success relies, we are proud to introduce the "Founder's Award for Excellence." Designed to recognize and honor individuals who have showcased exceptional dedication and innovation in their roles at CYA, this award embodies the values and aspirations that Mrs. Phylactopoulou instilled in College Year in Athens.



CYA's Founder, Ismene Phylactopoulou (1907-1983)

The award is open to both faculty and staff members, past and active. Faculty nominees should demonstrate outstanding pedagogical skills, effective communication, curriculum expertise, and a passion for fostering academic excellence. Staff nominees should exhibit exceptional commitment to advancing the mission and success of CYA, showcasing resourcefulness, cultural competency, collaboration, and knowledge of policies. In upholding Mrs. Phyl's legacy and her vision for transformative education abroad, both groups significantly contribute to supporting students' academic and personal growth, while also enhancing the overall effectiveness of CYA's program.

Visit our website for forthcoming announcements and additional details.

## Finding zen with CYA's Wellness Week

As midterm exams approached, we prioritized the wellness of students, faculty, and staff with a range of activities, similar to the ones organized in the fall. This semester we offered donkey bonding, tranquil hikes, nourishing meals, pottery workshops, yoga sessions and even a stress-relieving "Rage Room" to help students unwind and find balance.

At CYA, we are dedicated to fostering not only academic growth, but also holistic wellness. Students are equipped to tackle their academic endeavors with renewed energy and a sense of inner harmony.



Students went for hiking during Wellness Week.



## Strolling through Athens' hidden gems with Niki

This semester **Niki-Vanessa Ebuomwan** from Students Affairs led students on exciting adventures across the city. Niki unveiled Athens through a migrant's eyes, sharing her experiences and introducing students to inspiring migrant entrepreneurs. From Exarchia to Kypseli, from the local thrift stores to the flea markets, each step unveiled a new facet of Athens.

Miguel Hernandez, from Macalester College, was thrilled to partake in these excursions and encourages fellow students to do the same:



Led by Niki, students embarked on a fascinating stroll through Kypseli, one of Athens' multicultural gems.

*"Exploring beyond the beaten path isn't just about taking walks. It's about embracing the journey and seeking new horizons. Let's embark on more adventures and find our rhythm!"*

## Tucker Limon at Khora Center



Introducing **Tucker Limon**, a **University of Notre Dame** student double majoring in Arabic and Global Affairs, with a passion for making a difference.

This semester, Tucker dedicated his time to volunteering at **Khora Center** in Athens, a space where refugees find support through a soup kitchen and free shop, offering food, clothing, and a welcoming atmosphere.

Tucker thrived at the free shop, engaging with volunteers and refugees from diverse backgrounds, all while honing his conversational Arabic skills.

While at CYA, he took two classes directly related to his majors, “*Borders, Boundaries, and Human Mobility*” with professor **Angeliki Dimitriadi**, and “*Immigrants, Citizenship, and Nationalism in Europe*” with professor **Romolo Gandolfo**, which presented a unique opportunity:

*“Being here in this setting and actually being able to apply [my learnings] to where I’m volunteering specifically and see the policies and the mobility in the classroom, and then actually be able to see that on the ground in Khora, being able to help people, learn about their stories a little, see how it actually affects people - it’s definitely something that I wouldn’t get back home in the U.S.”*



Tucker Limon (University of Notre Dame)

For Tucker, the ability to merge his studies with meaningful volunteer work was essential. *“I’m able to feel some fulfillment helping people. If you want to do some groundwork and actually make a difference in people’s lives in a way that you can see tangibly, definitely go here. It’s a great opportunity.”*

## Hope Smith at Anemon Productions



Hope Smith (Pomona College)

**Hope Smith** from **Pomona College** explored international film production this semester with a volunteer role at **Anemon Productions**, organized by CYA.

Currently, she’s immersed in unraveling the tale of ancient Greek warriors from Thebes through documentary filmmaking. Having mostly worked in scripted content previously, this was an opportunity for her to learn a whole other side of the filmmaking industry! As she geared up for a summer film internship in L.A., Hope admitted that it has been great keeping up her involvement with the film world while studying abroad.

This experience showed how her Athens adventure could pave the way for Hollywood dreams!

## Molly Moore at Polyglosso

**Molly Moore**, is an Elementary Education major and ESL (English as a Second Language) minor, from **Hope College**. In conjunction with her studies at CYA, Molly volunteered at **Polyglosso**, empowering Greek students to master English.

*“Because of this volunteering experience, I am still getting that connection to cross-cultural teaching experiences, I am still connected to the field of education even though I’m not taking any education classes with CYA,”* Molly noted. Through administering speaking exams and engaging in interactive language activities, she was honing her teaching skills and staying connected to her passion for education: *“This is my first experience teaching in an “English as a Second Language” setting, which is super helpful for me to understand what it’s like and if I like it, which I do. It has made me feel confident in my abilities as a teacher and my ability to help students learn.”*



Molly Moore (Hope College)

## Jaylah Wilson at the Melissa Network



Jaylah Wilson (USC)

Introducing **Jaylah Wilson**, a senior at **University of Southern California** studying political science, who spent her free time in Athens volunteering at the **Melissa Network**- a haven for migrant women and their children.

Interacting with locals and students, Jaylah delved into Greek culture and made an impact while she was here. *“I think the [best] experiences come from when you get to interact with people in a more meaningful way.”*

*I’ve really enjoyed that and it’s really shaped my experience here.”*

Jaylah also found that being abroad solidified insights from her Political Science studies. *“A lot of the same issues, rhetoric, conflicts, social issues that are facing Greece in terms of the perception and reception of immigrants may seem like an issue that is specific to Greece, but we experience a lot of that in the United States as well,”* she noted.

*“So seeing those similarities makes you realize that the political landscape, the different laws and the systems might be different, but the people aren’t very different.”*

Jaylah’s journey showcases the transformative power of volunteering and studying abroad, fostering empathy, understanding, and a global perspective.

## Sam Sidders at the Athens Conservatoire



Sam Sidders (Williams College)

**Sam Sidders** from **Williams College**, joined the orchestra at the **Athens Conservatoire**, finding it a rewarding experience after missing the ensemble playing back home. Participating in the orchestra not only allowed her to meet young Greek people outside of her study abroad program but also provided an opportunity to practice her Greek and connect more deeply with the language.

## Returning to CYA

For countless alumni, *College Year in Athens* was a transformative experience that shaped their life. Now, they're returning, some of them with their families, sharing stories and rediscovering the magic of CYA.

### Jim Rodgers '84

On March 7, we welcomed **Jim Rodgers**, a CYA alumnus from 1983-84, accompanied by his stepmother, Sandy. Jim was on a 10-day visit to Greece, exploring Athens and planning trips to Crete, the Peloponnese, and Delphi. Remarkably, this trip marked his first return to Athens since his student days.

Jim, currently employed at Verizon in a role quite different from his academic background in psychology, reminisced about his time at CYA, especially his experiences in Kolonaki and his travels during his year. Our Development Officer, **Billy Simopoulos**, had the opportunity to show him around



our facilities, including a visit to **Georgia Katsarou** at the Library and **Maria Tsahas** at the Registrar's office, where he reviewed his student folder. The tour also included the cafeteria, the classroom building, and the site on Ironda Street, where we

are excited to develop our new study center. Jim was impressed with the breadth of activities we offer, particularly noting our sustainability efforts and expressing admiration for the updated design of the OWL.

### Noa Gelb '17

**Noa Gelb**, a CYA alumna from the 2017 Winter intersession and Spring 2017 semester, visited CYA on April 24. Noa was in Athens, celebrating Passover, and took this opportunity to reconnect with CYA.

Upon her arrival, **Billy Simopoulos**, welcomed her and provided a comprehensive tour of the facilities, ensuring she was informed of all recent developments at CYA. During her visit, Noa engaged with several staff members, including briefly interacting with **Georgia Katsarou**, as well as **Jennifer Holland** and **Angela Kouvara** from our Student Affairs Office. Noa fondly reminisced about her



(from left): Billy, Jennifer, Noa, Sofia, and Angela

time at CYA, sharing positive memories and experiences that shaped her subsequent endeavors. Currently residing in Edinburgh, Scotland, she continues her passion for the arts as an actress, while contributing to education as a teacher, and to the healthcare sector as a

member of Scotland's Health Care Medical Board.

And if her face looks familiar, Noa's professional achievements include a role in the 2021 blockbuster movie "*Don't Look Up*", alongside noted actors Meryl Streep and Leonardo DiCaprio.

## Greg Goutos (SP'81)

**Greg Goutos**, a SP'81 alumnus, visited CYA on May 1, with his wife, Natalie. Greg and Natalie visited Athens as their daughter was undertaking a three-month residency at Lalaounis Jewelry.

This visit marked Greg's first return to Athens since his student days at CYA, 43 years ago. Upon their arrival, Jennifer warmly greeted them and led the tour of our facilities. He also



met with Angela and discussed the various student support activities at CYA, such as internships and homestays. Interestingly, one of our summer students will intern at Lalaounis Jewelry and may have the chance to meet Greg's daughter.

Greg Goutos with his wife Natalie

## Matthew Sickinger (FA'18)



Matthew visiting Jennifer at the Student Affairs Office

**Matthew Sickinger**, a FA'18 alumnus, visited CYA on May 15. Matthew came to Athens with his father, **James Sickinger**, an archeologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Classics at Florida State University, and the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Classical Studies at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens from 2002 to 2005.

This was the first time Matthew visited Athens since his student days at CYA. Billy led the tour of our facilities, and Jennifer had lunch with him at CYA's dining hall. Matthew was pleased to find that much of what he remembered remained unchanged, giving him a sense of familiarity. Having double majored in Classics and Economics at Davidson College, he is now working as a Bank Examiner for the FDIC in North Carolina.

## Donald Haggis '82



Donald Haggis at the CYA Academic Center

CYA welcomed back **Donald Haggis**, a distinguished alumnus from the class of 1982, for a visit to the Academic Center on May 21. Haggis, who spent a full year studying at CYA, returned to engage in an insightful discussion with Alexis Phylactopoulos, Theoni Scourta, and Angelos Papadopoulos. During his visit, Donald reminisced about his enriching experience as a full-year student and shared updates about his current endeavors. He is now the Nicholas A. Cassas Distinguished Term Professor of Greek Studies and Chair of the Classics Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is leading a student consortium on excavations in Crete this summer. Haggis' strong connection to CYA continues through his family, as his daughter **Alex** also attended CYA in the fall of 2017.



## CYA alumnus Steven Rales wins an Oscar

**Steven Rales '72**, who attended CYA from Depauw University, won an Oscar for Best Live-Action Short Film as producer of the film *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar*. Steven Rales works closely with filmmaker Wes Anderson, who won the Oscar alongside Rales. Rales' company has produced films such as *Moonrise Kingdom*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, and *Isle of Dogs*. *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar* chronicles a variety of stories, but the main one follows Henry Sugar— who is able to see through objects and predict the future with the help of a book he stole. The 40-minute film is currently streaming on Netflix.

We are proud to count Steven among our distinguished alumni and eagerly anticipate witnessing his continued triumphs in the world of cinema.

## John Freeman was named class salutatorian at Princeton



CYA alumnus, **John Freeman (SP'23)**, was named salutatorian of his class at Princeton University. Freeman was a Classics major from Chicago, IL, receiving certificates in German and Hellenic studies.

A student global ambassador for the University's Study Abroad Program, he described his study abroad experiences as his most

meaningful academic experience during college.

Freeman studied the monuments and topography of Athens at CYA during his junior spring semester and then traveled to Rome for his senior fall semester.

*"Learning in a Princeton classroom is incredible and very rewarding, but it still doesn't replace that kind of connection you can get with Greco-Roman history when actually being in Greece and Italy,"* he said in an interview with the 'Prince.'

He wrote two junior papers, one of which was motivated by his abroad experiences, about the repatriation of ancient art, which were published in undergraduate journals at Harvard University and the University of Oxford.

*"To be actually able to go to the Acropolis Museum and see the way that the fragments were incorporated at the museum was really important to my junior paper,"* he said.

## Ereny Morcos (SP'23) awarded a Watson Fellowship



## CYA Alumni Highlight: Dr. Adam Goldwyn's Journey from Athens to Academia



*2002, just a few months after the 9/11 attacks, and by the time I returned it was more or less clear that the US would soon invade Iraq. [...]*

Thinking about important elements of his education at CYA, Goldwyn talks about CYA's emphasis on on-site visits as something that allowed him to observe the continuities of Greek history and culture [...]

Dr. Goldwyn returned to CYA as an instructor in the summer of 2023 and was able to share with his students much of what he had learned about the Byzantine world. *"Teaching at CYA this summer and taking my students to Monastiraki Square was a kind of homecoming, bringing my academic journey from student to professor full circle."*

Since 1962, CYA alumni have gone on to pursue careers expanding across many fields, contributing to the world in unique ways. Many have embarked on fascinating academic careers. In this series of articles, we get in touch with CYA alumni in academia to recall memories from Greece, discuss their current endeavors, reflect on how their studies in Athens influenced their academic interests, and get a sneak peek at their plans for the future.

*Dalven: The Life of a Greek-Jewish Immigrant."*

Dr. Goldwyn's connection with Greece began long before CYA, in the heart of Portland, Oregon. On a visit to the iconic Powell's Books with his aunt, where she bought a book for him called *"The Glorious Adventure"* (1927) by Richard Halliburton, in which the author retraces Odysseus' journey. *"This is my first exposure to Greece. I read all of Halliburton's books and from then on all I wanted to do was travel and write. That was probably the main reason I came to CYA"*. His decision led to a transformative experience that propelled him towards his future studies. When asked about the connection of his CYA studies to his academic career he reflects:

**Dr. Adam Goldwyn**, a CYA alumnus of 2002, currently holds the position of Professor of English at North Dakota State University. With a prolific academic career, Dr. Goldwyn has emerged as a scholar in Byzantine Studies and has published notable books such as *"Byzantine Ecocriticism: Women, Nature, and Power in the Medieval Greek Romance"* and *"Witness Literature in Byzantium: Narrating Slaves, Prisoners, and Refugees"*. Recently his interest has turned towards Jewish Studies in Greece and in Holocaust studies more generally, as reflected in his more recent books, *"Homer, Humanism, Holocaust: Jewish Responses to the Crisis of Enlightenment During World War II"* and a biography *"Rae*

*"Attending CYA was the most important event in my academic career, and I can trace a direct line from the things I learned at CYA to where I am now. I took a class with Nike Makres about the history of Greece from the end of the Peloponnesian War to the death of Alexander the Great, and we learned about the Theban hegemony under Epaminondas and the setting and founding of ancient Messene as a democratic utopia. I went to CYA in January*

*[...] On the subject of his continuous relationship with the people and culture of Greece, he reflects "I often tell my students that I am not only teaching the student they are now, but also the person they will be in ten or twenty years, and I think it was my experience at CYA that gave me this perspective."*

Fascinating in its own right, Adam Goldwyn's journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of international education, shaping not only a career but a lifelong connection with the cultural and historical landscapes that continue to inspire his scholarly exploration. *"I see it now as the defining experience of my undergraduate career and one that, unexpectedly, gave me an enduring love of Greek history, literature, and culture that laid the foundation for a meaningful career"*.

\*\*\* You can read the full article on our blog ([www.cyathens.org/blog](http://www.cyathens.org/blog))

## Join our Book Club

For more than two years, a dedicated group of CYA alumni has been meeting monthly to discuss books centered around Greece. These gatherings, conducted informally via Zoom, are not just about the books; they also serve as a way to reminisce about CYA memories and experiences.

Here are the books read from January to May:

*The Greek Revolution, Part 1* by **Mark Mazower** (Jan. '24)

*The Greek Revolution, Part 2* by **Mark Mazower** (Feb. '24)

*The Archeologist and Selected Sea Stories* by **Andreas Karkavitsas** (Mar. '24)

*Mani: Travels in the Southern Peloponnese* by **Patrick Leigh Fermor** (Apr. '24)

*Wild Abandon* by **Jennifer Barclay** (May '24)

If you are interested in learning more or joining, please email **Erica Huffman (SP'93)**, Director of Alumni Relations, at [alumni@cyathens.org](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org).



## COOKING CLASSICS 101

### Loukoumades (Greek donuts)



#### Ingredients

##### For the dough:

460 g water  
1 pinch granulated sugar  
5 g yeast  
1 pinch salt  
500 g all-purpose flour  
400 ml vegetable oil, for frying

##### For the topping:

Honey  
Ground cinnamon  
Walnuts coarsely chopped

#### Instructions

- In a mixing bowl add the water, the sugar, the yeast, and mix with a hand whisk to dissolve the yeast.
- Add the salt and whisk.
- Transfer the mix into a bowl, cover with plastic wrap, and allow about 1 hour for it to double in volume.
- Add the flour and whisk for 3-4 minutes until the ingredients are homogenized.
- Place a deep frying pan with 400ml vegetable oil over medium-high heat. Ideally, you need the oil to reach 170oC (340o F). Put the remaining vegetable oil in a mug with a spoon.
- Take a little of the dough with your hands and squeeze it in your palm. The mixture that will come out between your thumb and index finger, take it with a spoon. This way, you will help the dough slip into the oil.
- Fry in batches for 4-5 minutes, until they are nicely golden and cooked through. Remove and place on paper towels.
- Serve with honey, cinnamon, and chopped walnuts.

## Meet our staff



### NIKI-VANESSA EVBUOMWAN

**Niki Evbuomwan** is in her senior year of International and European Relations at the University of Piraeus. After studying abroad in France, and an internship at Gen 2.0, she joined CYA as Student Affairs Assistant, focusing on promoting students' cultural immersion, intercultural communication, political awareness and social integration.

Originated from Nigeria, born and raised in Athens, Greece, this mixture of Africa and Europe and the advantage of observing two different worlds has played a major role in the shaping of Niki's personality.

## CYA's cook, Meni, bids adieu after 19 years

After nearly two decades of dedicated service, the CYA community bids a heartfelt farewell to **Meni Tsochetti**, our beloved cook; the soul of the school's kitchen. Meni's warm presence has been integral to the daily lives of students, faculty, and staff for the past 19 years. Meni's journey at CYA has been marked by her unwavering commitment to serving us all our lunch on a daily basis, knowing everyone's preferences and tastes, and providing delicious meals during special events, such as the dinner parties at the Phylactopoulos' garden during the summer CYA Board meetings or on Thanksgiving. Beyond her daily duties in the cafeteria, Meni also shared her love for Greek cuisine through the cooking classes she gave each semester. These classes were a highlight for many students, as they offered them a chance to learn traditional recipes and cooking techniques firsthand. Although Meni made the decision to leave, it was not an easy choice for her. The bonds she has formed and the memories created over the years have left an indelible mark on her heart. *"This place has been my second home,"* she shared. *"Leaving is a bittersweet moment, as I cherish every memory and every person I've met along the way."* The CYA community is profoundly grateful for Meni's years of service. Her departure marks the end of an era, and she will be deeply missed by all who have had the pleasure of knowing her. As we say goodbye, we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



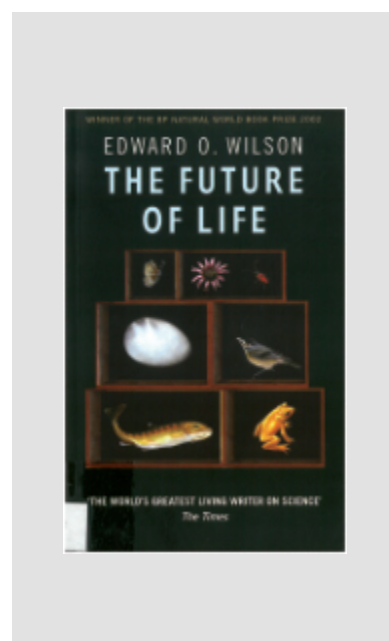
*Thank you, Meni, for 19 wonderful years of dedication and savory meals.*

**Wilson, Edward O. The future of life. London: Abacus, 2002.**

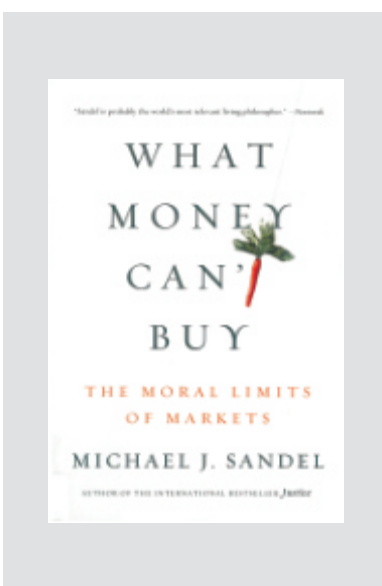
From one of the world's most influential scientists (and two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author) comes his most timely and important book yet: an impassioned call for quick and decisive action to save Earth's biological heritage, and a plan to achieve that rescue.

In this dazzlingly intelligent and ultimately hopeful book, Edward O. Wilson describes what treasures of the natural world we are about to lose forever—in many cases

animals, insects, and plants we have only just discovered, and whose potential to nourish us, protect us, and cure our illnesses is immeasurable—and what we can do to save them. In the process, he explores the ethical and religious bases of the conservation movement and deflates the myth that environmental policy is antithetical to economic growth by illustrating how new methods of conservation can ensure long-term economic well-being.



**Sandel, Michael J. What money can't buy: The moral limits of markets. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012.**



Should we pay children to read books or to get good grades? Should we allow corporations to pay for the right to pollute the atmosphere? Is it ethical to pay people to test risky new drugs or to donate their organs? What

about auctioning admission to elite universities? Selling citizenship to immigrants willing to pay?

In the international bestseller *What Money Can't Buy*, Michael J. Sandel takes up one of the biggest ethical questions of our time: Is there something wrong with a world in which everything is for sale? If so, how can we prevent market values from reaching into spheres of life where they don't belong? What are the moral limits of markets? In recent decades, market values have crowded out nonmarket norms in almost every aspect of life - medicine, education, government, law, art, sports, even family life and personal relations. Without quite realizing it, Sandel argues we have drifted from having a market economy to being a market society. Is this where we want to be?

**Vekinis, George. Mastering technology transfer: From invention to innovation: A step-by-step guide for researchers and inventors. Cham: Springer, 2023.**

Dr. George Vekinis is a Director of Research at the National Center for Scientific Research, "Demokritos". In this book, he describes a systematic transformational process in ten distinct stages, from the birth of the idea, through its technical validation and its economic viability validation, to the final market innovation. The author correlates this process with the "Technology Readiness Levels" which form the backbone of nearly all major R&D programs. In addition, the reader is introduced to the three critical milestones where crucial go/no-go decisions are made.

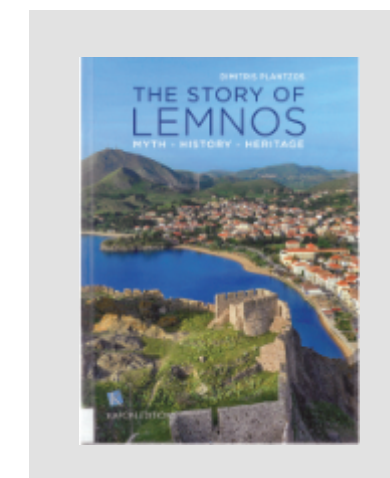
A number of case studies have been added in this new edition and analyzed in some detail.

This guide is based on many years of experience of the author in technology transfer activities both as a mentor and a senior consultant of the European Commission. The book includes a plethora of clear definitions and clarifications as well as valuable strategic advice and insights into many key aspects of the transformational process that will be useful to any inventor wishing to take their invention to its logical conclusion, that of a valuable product or service.



**Plantzos, Dimitris. The story of Lemnos: Myth, history, heritage. Translated by Don Evely. Athens: Kapon, 2022.**

In *The story of Lemnos*, the age-long history of a relatively unknown and somewhat ignored until recently Aegean island turns into a fascinating narrative, a real chronicle of the place and its people. In its pages, readers will find important information about the society, the economy, the political life, the art and the intellectual output of the island over time, from the first nomadic settlements during the late Paleolithic period (ca. 10,500 BC), until today: with extensive references to the prehistoric cities of Poliochni and Myrina, to the important site of Koukonisi, Hephaestia and Kaveirion during the Archaic and Classical Periods (7th-4th centuries BC), Lemnos of the Hellenistic and Roman eras, Lemnos as a Byzantine, Venetian, and Ottoman possession, but also the life of the island and its inhabitants from the liberation of 1912-13 onwards.

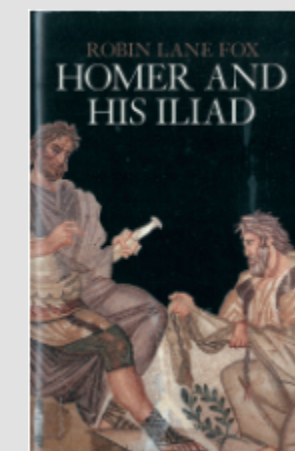


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**Lane Fox, Robin. Homer and his Iliad. London: Allen Lane, 2023.**

Homer's Iliad is the famous epic poem set among the tales of Troy. Its subject is the anger of the hero Achilles and its dreadful consequences for the warring Greeks and Trojans. It was composed more than 2,600 years ago, but still transfixes us with its tale of loss and battle, love and revenge, guided throughout by the active presence of the gods. Its beauty and profound bleakness are intensely moving but great questions remain: where, how and when it was composed and why it has such enduring power?

In this compelling book Robin Lane Fox addresses these questions, drawing on a life-long love and engagement with the poem. He argues for a place, a date and a method for its composition, giving us a sense of alternative approaches and grounding his own in discoveries about long heroic poems composed elsewhere in the world, and the ever-growing evidence of archaeology.



## CYA donor appreciation

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our donors for your generous support. Your contributions have played a vital role in providing generations of students with transformative study abroad experiences. The importance of your donations to CYA cannot be overstated and we thank you for your unwavering support. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your donation, please do not hesitate to contact our development office at [development@cyathens.org](mailto:development@cyathens.org).

## Consider giving

College Year in Athens was created sixty-two years ago to introduce young Americans to 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 university students a transformative study abroad experience. CYA hopes that you will continue to aid and support our institution. 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.

### Make a donation

#### Online

[Donate now](#) – Help CYA continue to provide a unique and extraordinary study abroad experience. Use the QR Code.



#### Mail

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

#### Wire Transfer\*

Bank of America, ABA 026009593  
100 Federal Street Boston, MA 02109  
Acct. 0000501-69735 (College Year in Athens, Inc.)  
*\*Please notify [development@cyathens.org](mailto:development@cyathens.org) when you make 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 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 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.

**Planned Giving:** Many people choose to support organizations that mean the most to them with a gift through their will or trust or planned arrangement. These types of gifts are known as planned gifts and are usually fulfilled after one's passing. Planned gifts provide a unique opportunity for one to create a lasting legacy for CYA. It is also a way to make a gift that costs nothing today — or that helps you make a tax-wise investment in your future and CYA's. For more information about leaving a CYA Legacy gift and opportunities for permanence, please contact CYA's Development Office at [development@cyathens.org](mailto:development@cyathens.org).

## 1964

**Bart Jones '64:** Bart passed away March 5, 2023, from Parkinson's disease. Read more here: [www.reed.edu/reed-magazine/in-memoriam/obituaries/2023/bart-jones-1965.html](http://www.reed.edu/reed-magazine/in-memoriam/obituaries/2023/bart-jones-1965.html)

## 1968

**Alexa (Pulakis) Pallas '68:** Going to Greece in June with my two sisters, Stephanie and Joanna. Will be in Athens and will visit CYA after 50+ years with Alexis Phylactopoulos! Then will fly to island of Ikaria where my maternal grandfather was from for a genealogy convention. Will meet cousins for the first time! Am so excited!!!

## 1977

**Helen Tangires '77:** I retired from the National Gallery of Art in October 2023, after 36 years as the administrator of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts. Hope to have more time to spend with family and friends, and for travel.

## 1994

**Christina Luke (SP'94):** Living in Istanbul, working at Koç University, and directing archaeological work in Manisa (Kaymakçı). I've just finished a project about food ([sofra.ku.edu.tr / sofraxhibition.com](http://sofra.ku.edu.tr/sofraexhibition.com)). Our youngest is 16, enduring the stress of international exams, and our oldest is finishing his second year at the Berklee School of Music (Boston and a term in Valencia, Spain) — and missing Türkiye (and we miss him!). Let me know if anyone comes through this region of the world.

**Susannah Snowden-Smith (SP'94):** Our family moved from Grand Cayman to Dubai this past August! So far this has proved an amazing hub for traveling and doing travel photography - whoo hoo! The diving is also meant to be amazing here, with whale sharks just over the border in Oman; I look forward to photographing underwater soon! Our daughter is turning 5 today as I write this! If any 1994 CYA'ers are traveling through Dubai please let me know, it would be wonderful to meet up!

## 1998

**Ed Brzytwa (SP'98):** The Washingtonian included me on the 500 Most Influential People Shaping Policy for 2024. [www.washingtonian.com/2024/05/02/washington-dcs-500-most-influential-people-of-2024/#Trade](http://www.washingtonian.com/2024/05/02/washington-dcs-500-most-influential-people-of-2024/#Trade)

## 1999

**Isaiah Kalinowski (SP'99):** After 15 years working in downtown D.C., at the end of 2021 I (sorta) escaped to just outside the beltway in Virginia, working at a small start-up firm. I'm building out their vaccine injury practice and branching out a bit in my practice areas. My wife and I just celebrated our 19th anniversary, and we have two sons: Phinehas Isaiah (9yo) and Thaddeus Gabriel (5yo). In CYA related news, I just made a big batch of Tzatziki last week. If any of you find yourselves in D.C., hit me up.

**Angela Trakas (SP'99):** Angela passed away in San Francisco, California on September 22, 2022, from cancer. Read more here: [www.sullivansfuneralandcremation.com/obituaries/Angela-Georgia-Trakas?obId=25946720#/obituar](http://www.sullivansfuneralandcremation.com/obituaries/Angela-Georgia-Trakas?obId=25946720#/obituar)

## 2003

**William "Buck" Crowe'03:** Buck teaches Latin and Greek at Indian Springs School in Birmingham, Alabama and brought two freshly graduated seniors on a trip around Greece in June 2024! They rented a car and did 'the classic' trip around the Gulf of Corinth stopping at Delphi, Olympia, Nafplio (and Argolid stuff), and Corinth. In Attica they visited Sunio, Brauron, Marathon, and Eleusis.

## 2015

**Melani (Blanton) Gaum (SU'15):** I just had my 4 year anniversary of working at my public library. I am the Children's Specialist, so I plan and run almost all the programs, order books, design displays, do outreach events, and promote literacy. I also just finished my first course towards earning a Master's in Library Science through Valdosta. I earned a previous Master's in Museum Studies from FSU in 2018. My 6-year wedding anniversary will be in June. I hope to travel to Ireland next spring.

## CYA Trustee receives an Honorary Doctorate

On May 17, the European University of Tirana awarded the title "Doctor Honoris Causa" to CYA Trustee **Deborah L. Wince-Smith '71**, President and Executive Director of the Competitiveness Council: *"For the outstanding contribution to the improvement of competitiveness through the transfer of technology and innovation, as well as the inclusion of Albania in the global competitiveness network, as a tool for increasing economic well-being and preserving the democratic values of society."*



Deborah L. Wince-Smith receiving the award

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**Elina Sinopoulou**, Assistant to the Executive Chair  
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**Maria Tsahas**, Registrar  
**Georgia Katsarou**, Librarian  
**Rosa Vasilaki**, Academic Advisor 2023-24

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**Katerina Kanellopoulou**, Human Resources Coordinator  
**Alex Makropoulos**, Staff Assistant – Safety & Security  
**Anthi Papageorgiou**, Staff Assistant – Student Records  
**Yiota Vouzna**, Staff Assistant – Library

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**Erica Huffman (SP'93)**, Director of Alumni Relations

**DEVELOPMENT**

**Vassilis Simopoulos**, Development Officer

**EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL & SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS**

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**Popi Triantafyllidi**, Director of Strategic Planning

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**Angela Kouvara**, Student Affairs Advisor  
**Niki-Vanesa Evbuomwan**, Student Affairs Assistant

**NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE**

**Alexia Lingaas**, Associate Director – North America  
**Rachael Bittick (FA'17)**, Student Advisor  
**Maria Marakas**, Bursar and Manager of the North American Office (NAO)  
**Annie Dawson**, Student & University Relations Coordinator  
**Leighton Young (SP'22)**, Staff Assistant

**Please note...**

Please use the QR code provided to complete a brief contact information form. By keeping your information current, you will help us ensure you will receive all important updates, invitations, and news from CYA.



Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: November 20, 2024

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COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS ALUMNI/AE NEWS AND INFORMATION

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To update your address, please email [alumni@cyathens.org](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org).

\*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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CURRENT OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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