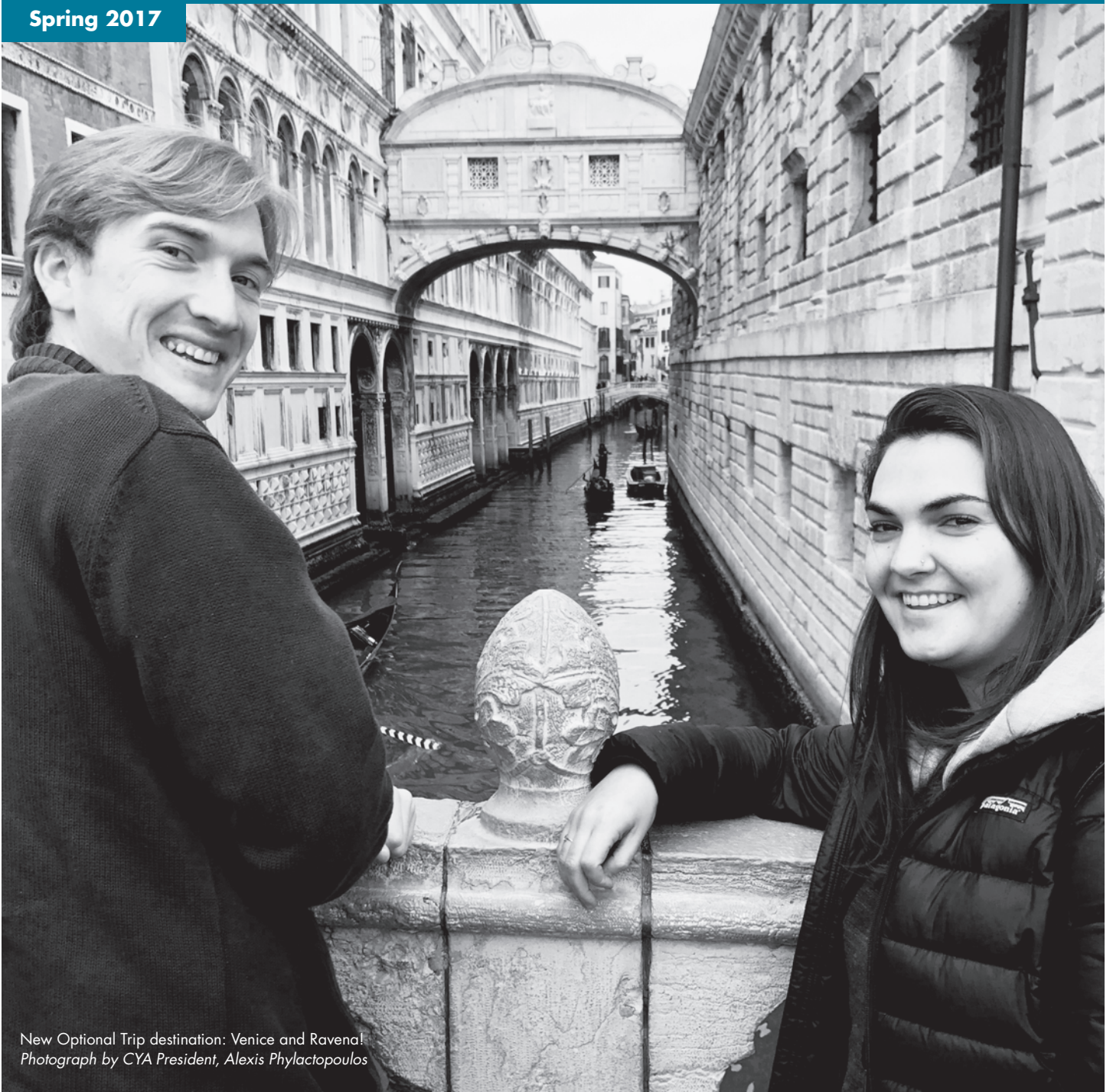


THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

Spring 2017



New Optional Trip destination: Venice and Ravenna!
Photograph by CYA President, Alexis Phylactopoulos

5 PLATEIA STADIΟΥ, ATHENS, GREECE

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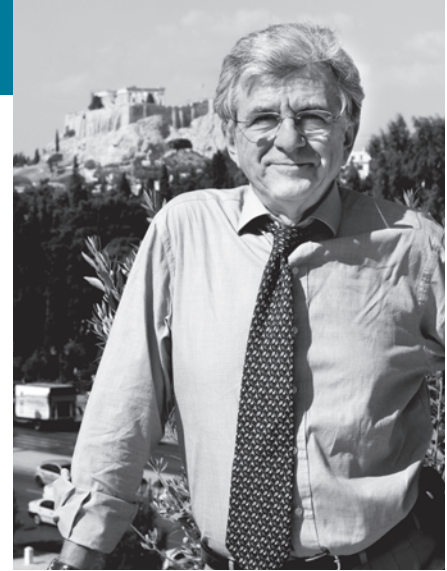
Lauren Chow, Administrative Support Coordinator

As the CYA spring semester is winding down we are having a hard time keeping up with all that is going on in the school. This was a very eventful semester. Our first Student Conference was held in early May with the theme *Greece and Beyond: Notions of Identity in the Greek World*. We listened to presentations that were thoroughly researched and carefully prepared, a great way for CYA students to learn about presenting in an academic conference. The Attic Tragedy and Comedy students delighted us with a performance of a segment of Aristophanes' *The Frogs*, an inspiring way to complete their course. There were other academic novelties: a classical and modern Greek languages lab, operated by two Greek university philology graduate students, who helped CYA classicists with their queries on ancient Greek and Latin; an introduction to effective poster design and presentation guided students in the secrets of poster construction, a very useful tool as they prepare themselves for academic conferences in the future; a marble carving workshop, for years a very successful extracurricular activity at CYA, exposed carvers to the intricacies of chiseling marble, giving them a unique appreciation of how difficult it is to work this material, let alone create masterpieces with it; a Media Lab with four CYA pioneer interns operated this semester offering an in-house opportunity for students interested in building their portfolio, knowledge and skills in digital media and communications; a digital archaeology workshop ran for the first time this semester as a precursor to a regular course on this subject.

Has the school changed over the years? The essential ingredients are the same as they were in 1962, but now, 55 years later, CYA's program is redesigned since our times demand direct engagement with the local culture. Schools cannot but respond to this call and adjust their program to the academic needs of their students. CYA embraces firmly intercultural learning by adjusting and remodeling its offerings accordingly. The Greek financial crisis, the troubles of European integration, and the migratory movements are all subjects studied at CYA today.

Migration is a huge worldwide phenomenon. It can be viewed as a threat or as an opportunity to instill new dynamism in aging societies and dysfunctional economies. The world appears divided into those who want to open their societies and their hearts and those who want to barricade themselves behind closed borders shutting out the "others", their ideas, and their trade. CYA gives the opportunity to its students not only to debate these issues in the classroom, but also, through NGOs and refugee organizations, to engage in them directly by doing volunteer work at refugee centers, soup kitchens, clothes recycling centers or day care stations for migrant children. This direct involvement offers students an insider's view of immigration conditions and promotes empathy towards the unfortunate people who are trapped in Greece these days.

Most CYA classes now have an intercultural learning component engaging students with the Athenian scene. This used to be



the prerogative of classical courses; now practically every class has the opportunity to join the action: a visit to Parliament to watch a heated political debate in a politics and society class; a visit to a replica of an ancient trireme to give students a taste of the pain and toil of those ancient rowers who moved the ship forward; a stroll through Plato's Academy to discuss in a Philosophy class; a visit to the Monastery of Dafni is a welcome addition to the Byzantine art class; and walking tours of Athens to discover the "other" Athens, which can be both magical and controversial—there is no end to the hands-on opportunities that CYA offers these days.

Greece, as always, plays a very special role in the study of ancient civilizations but because of its current predicament, it is also a fascinating laboratory in politics, society, and economics. The present generation of CYA students is lucky to be able to experience both.

ALEXIS PHYLACTOPOULOS, *President*

ADDRESSES

GREECE

DIKEMES
5 Plateia Stadiou
GR-116 35 Athens, Greece
Tel: +30 210 7560-749
Fax: +30 210 7561-497
E-mail: programs@dikemes.edu.gr

USA

COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS
PO BOX 390890
Cambridge, MA 02139
Tel: 617 868-8200
Fax: 617 868-8207
E-mail: info@cyathens.org

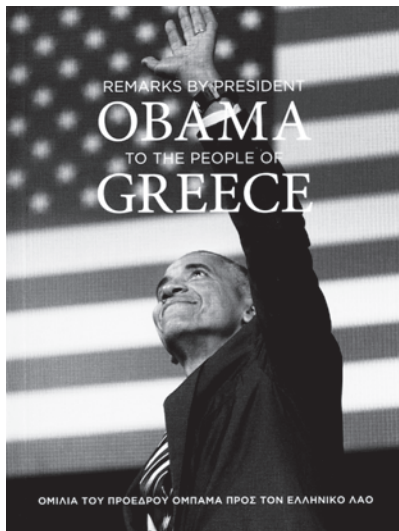
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Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: September 1, 2017

“I BREATHED THE SAME AIR AS MY PRESIDENT”

HELLO GREECE! Yassas! Kalispera! These were the words with which President Barack Obama began his speech at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens on November 16, 2016.



A group of 25 lucky CYA students had the opportunity to attend this once in a lifetime event and see their President up close and live, a courtesy extended to CYA by the US Embassy in Athens. “I breathed the same air as my President!” tweeted one student. They cheered their President, those from Chicago louder than all.

President Obama spoke about the importance of democracy, the ideals of *philotimo* and citizenship and the importance of supporting the youth as a means to development and progress. He emphasized the need for debt relief to tackle the nation’s persistent debt issues and praised Greece for its stance in admitting tens of thousands of Syrian refugees who are fleeing the civil war. President Obama’s ultimate message was that of hope, and for strong democracy so that we, the citizens, can instigate change for the future.

“...the most important office in any country is not president or prime minister. The most important title is ‘citizen.’ And in all of our nations, it will always be our citizens who decide the kind of countries we will be, the ideals that we will reach for, and the values that will define us. In this great, imperfect, but necessary system of self-government, power and progress will always come from the demos — from ‘We, the people.’ And I’m confident that as long as we are true to that system of self government, that our futures will be bright.”

—US President Barack Obama

CYA STUDENTS ATTEND THE DELPHI ECONOMIC FORUM

A handful of CYA students had the unique privilege to attend the second Economic Forum in Delphi which took place in March 2017. The Forum, which brings together politicians, journalists, leaders, policy makers, and experts in the fields of business, education, economics and many more, aims to identify the main global trends, assess their implications and review the resulting challenges and policy options confronting decision-makers of the wider Eastern Mediterranean Region. This year’s theme was: Outlook for Greece and the Region Vision 2020-2030.

“From speeches by foreign ambassadors, to discussions about the Greek diaspora and the refugee crisis, CYA students were able to experience this agenda setting first-hand and even ask a few questions, participating in important discussions with Greek officials and ambassadors.”

—Emily Creighton CYA ’17

Representing CYA at the event were Professor Gandolfo, 14 students and CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos, as well as two CYA alumni, forum panelists Endy Zemenides (spring ’95) and Deborah Wince-Smith (’70-’71).

Endy Zemenides is the Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), a national Greek-American advocacy organization. He oversees staff and fellows in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C., and leads the organization’s advocacy efforts at the federal, state and local levels, as well as HALC’s public education programs. Zemenides is in the Leadership Circles of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs (CCGA), where he also was one of the CCGA’s Emerging Leaders Fellows.

Deborah Wince-Smith is the President and CEO of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, a coalition of CEOs, University Presidents, National Laboratory Directors and Labor Leaders committed to driving U.S. productivity and prosperity. She is the Founder and President of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) a network of global competitiveness organizations from around the world.

During the Forum, two interns of the CYA medialab, Emily Creighton and Alyssa Mendez, took extra notes in order to create a story for the CYA blog. Emily also created the hashtag **#CYAtakesDelphi**, tweeting interesting moments live from the conferences! (you can find the story about Delphi in cyablog.net/topics/studentblog)



Some of the lucky students who attended the Forum: (left to right) Margaret Mullen, Alyssa Mendez, Leilah Rodriguez, Elizabeth Hascher, Allison Estey, Amy Halstead, Madison Orozco, professor Romolo Gandolfo.

CYA LECTURE SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF GREECE

Since fall 2015, Professor Robert Pitt, CYA faculty member and former Assistant Director, British School at Athens, has been presenting a series of thematic lectures designed to give CYA students an alternative look at what makes up the history of Greece while also preparing them for the field trips that CYA offers.

The series of six evening lectures introduce students to the history of Greece from the earliest human activity through the great classical cities and sanctuaries, the Byzantine, Frankish, and Ottoman powers that ruled after Antiquity, the formation of the Modern Greek State, and the political and military struggles of the 20th century which still overshadow much of the present political and cultural climate.

As well as traditional historical sweeps through various periods, the series focuses on the deconstruction of the Greeks through their eating and drinking, and the landscapes and seascapes that surround them, in order to investigate the ever-present underlying currents that direct Mediterranean life.

The Sea, The Sea! Making History in the Mediterranean explores the importance of geography, climate, and the relationship of the sea to the development of cultures. **Greek Travel and Tourism from Pausanias to the Selfie-Stick** looks at the role of the earliest travelers to Greece in the formation of Western notions of Hellenism and the most important industry in



Professor Robert Pitt lecturing CYA students

contemporary Greece—tourism—and the effect it has had on the country. **The Olive and the Vine: a History of Greek Food** introduces students to the products of the land and how food and drink has shaped life.

The lectures **Histories of the Peloponnese, Delphi: Oracles and Pilgrims at the Center of the World** and **Macedonia: Making Borders at the Edges of Greece** also prepare students for three field trips (to the Peloponnese, Delphi, and Macedonia), placing the sites into wider contexts and helping students to deepen their own experiences of the country as they travel through it.

NICOS STAVROULAKIS DIES AT 88



It was with sorrow that CYA learned of the death, in late May in Chania, Crete, of Nicos Stavroulakis, who taught courses in Byzantine art history and in Middle East religions for almost 20 years, from 1972 to 1991. He was a charismatic teacher, who touched the lives of the 592 CYA students who took his courses.

He was a scholar of Islamic studies, a painter, as well as excellent cook and author of a cookbook that seeks the roots of Greek Jews through their cooking.

Stavroulakis studied in the US and the UK, and taught Byzantine and Ottoman Art at the Universities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. He was the driving force behind the creation of the

Jewish Museum of Greece and he was also instrumental in the creation of the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki.

Nicos Stavroulakis campaigned for the restoration of the Etsz Hayyim Synagogue of Chania, Crete, which was completed in 1999 under his personal attention and care.

During CYA's field trips to Crete in recent years, many students had the opportunity to visit the Synagogue and hear Nicos Stavroulakis' captivating talks about the history of Jews in Greece and in Crete in particular.

We invite CYA alumni to send in memories or tributes (which will be published in the fall issue of The Owl newsletter) in honor of Nicos Stavroulakis. Please send them to alumni@cyathens.org or by mail to PO Box 390890, Cambridge, MA 02139.

CYA RECEPTION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS AT THE AIA/SCS ANNUAL MEETING

The AIA conference is always an excellent opportunity for CYA to reconnect with alumni, old friends and meet new people. Erica Huffman, Director of Alumni Relations, and Theoni Scourta, Vice President for Academic Affairs who also attended the meeting, hosted a wonderful CYA reception for Alumni and Friends. Local area alumni, our faculty, institutional partners and friends enjoyed an evening of congenial conversation.

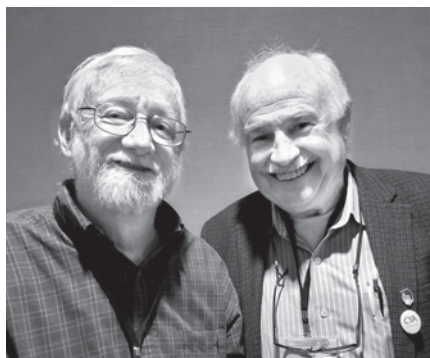


Nathaniel Durant (CYA '11), Emily Hanscam (CYA '11), CYA professor John Karavas, Robert Mosher (CYA '14), Jonathan Quiery (CYA '08)

Below: Steve Kaminski and Zoe Kontes (CYA '95)



Brendan Burke (CYA '89), Nancy Sultan (CYA Summer '99), Camilla MacKay (CYA '89)



Stephen Koob (CYA '71) and Peter Allen (CYA '65)



Theoni Scourta (CYA's Vice President for Academic Affairs) and Rebecca Ammerman (Colgate University)



Jessica Lamont (CYA summer '06), John Oakley (College of William and Mary), Susan Allen, Ann (Mackey) Brownley (CYA '73), Peter Allen (CYA '65)



Kristen Jones, Nicholas Gill (CYA '16), Jade Wells (CYA '14), Shane Curro

FACULTY REPRESENTS CYA AT THE AIA/SCS JOINT ANNUAL MEETING IN TORONTO

Professor of Ancient History & Archaeology at CYA and Director of the Halmyris excavation, Dr. John Karavas, presented a paper titled *Excavations at Halmyris: A Field report of the 2014 – 2016 Seasons* at the 118th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and the Society for Classical Studies (SCS) which took place on January 7 in Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Karavas presented a preliminary report on his excavations at the site of Halmyris, the project he has been running in Romania for the last 10 years. He was at the AIA/SCS conference to not only acquaint people with the site, but also inform people of the various projects he has been working on over the last few years, including those in conjunction with CYA.

According to Dr. Karavas: "Halmyris is a multifaceted site; it's a major military and political site, it's a commercial hub, an economic and industrial center and an important religious center, especially for Early Christianity; so it tends to combine many different and diverse aspects of life, especially in a region

that is not very well known or highlighted. Every summer we employ volunteers from practically all over the world. We get an average of 40 people per season, a lot of them happen to be former students of mine from CYA who had heard of the project and therefore decided to come and join us. Some of them are now nearing the completion of their PhDs.



PROFILE: NADIA MELINIOTIS | THE STUDENT AFFAIRS ASPECT OF STUDY ABROAD

Nadia Meliniotis is a name well recognized and much admired among CYA students, alumni and staff alike. As one of the longest running members of staff, she is a main player in CYA's operation. For over 28 years Nadia has been devoted to empowering CYA students to make the most of their study abroad experience, igniting their passion and wonder, and spreading her contagious love of Greece!

After completing the German High School in Athens, Nadia attended Wilkes University in Pennsylvania and earned a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations. She received her Master's Degree at La Verne University (Athens branch) in Counseling Education/Education-Special Emphasis; this paved the way toward her career at CYA.

Nadia has two sons, ages 34 and 36 and a 6-year-old grandson. She exercises daily, ran the Athens Classic Marathon in 2003, regularly hikes the Greek mountains (including a hike to the top of Mt. Olympus), and dances Tango Argentino three times a week! She has attended many conferences and presented at the Forum on Education Abroad's European Conference (hosted by CYA) in October 2016. She speaks Greek, English and German fluently and is proficient in Italian and French. Nadia also serves as an important role model to students, clearly she "practices what she preaches," exemplifying a balanced lifestyle, engaging socially, physically and intellectually with her world.

How/why did you choose Student Affairs as your profession?

I did not choose it! Student Affairs chose me! I studied Political Science and International Relations and I always wanted to be a diplomat. When this position came



my way, I immediately thought I had a lot to offer, wanted to inject the Greek culture into all the students and make them love Greece as much as I do. Is this part of diplomacy? Maybe!!

As Executive Director of Student Affairs, I assist students in overcoming potential obstacles to their learning and experience. To do this, I get to know the students inside out, understand their needs, aspirations and interests but I am also aware of their worries, challenges, goals, and priorities. I understand their motivations and difficulties— from homesickness to financial concerns to bigger issues such as academic challenges or cultural or emotional struggles.

How has your role changed over the years?

My job requires patience, interest in cultural differences, respect for others, tolerance for ambiguity, and these values have not changed through the years. Self-awareness, kindness, decisiveness and a non-judgmental attitude are necessary at all times. Personal circumstances, such as physical disability, financial handicap, family distress, medical and psychological problems etc. can affect a student's learning and lifestyle, and I try to deal with these issues to the best of my abilities. Lesser issues like getting along with peers and roommates, minor psychological issues, loneliness, feelings of inadequacy, difficulty in adapting to the new country— through

the years I have dealt with each one of these issues, always with a great deal of love and concern. As a result, I spend a lot of one-on-one time with students. I always have an open door and am available for consultation on any matter.

How have CYA students changed since you started working at CYA in 1989?

They are more involved in social media rather than personal communication and conversation and are aware of global and political issues. However, I wouldn't say they are more mature.

What pedagogical changes do you see on the horizon in your discipline?

Students must develop their talents more and explore new passions. Their education should go well beyond their coursework. The "Out of the Classroom Experience" should form a vital part of their life in Greece, creating unique opportunities for friendship and learning. Their activities should complement their studies.

I very much enjoy helping students find extra-curricular activities— my contacts throughout Athens and Greece allow me to find placements for every student. Engagement is so very important, socially and intellectually— it changes the person and makes the cultural experience that much deeper. Study abroad itself is so important because it helps one understand and celebrate the human differences among people.



I don't force my advice upon students. Part of their experience is learning to take responsibility for their own affairs—that personal growth that one gets when they study overseas, immersed in a different culture.

What is the biggest challenge of your job? The biggest reward?

The biggest challenge is to satisfy the most difficult inquiry a student might have. The biggest reward is when students come back to visit or call and e-mail. Knowing that what I contributed has had a profound effect on their lives is the greatest satisfaction. Being in touch with students from past years, attending events (such as weddings) hearing their news as they graduate, get a job, get married, have children, send their children to CYA, etc. gives me great pleasure.

What are one or two of your proudest professional accomplishments?

I always enjoy when students come with problems and not knowing if studying abroad was the right choice for them and by the end of the semester the transformation is phenomenal.

How do you think Study Abroad contributes to a student's overall education?

I feel that becoming an educated person (outside of the classroom) means learning a lot of facts and mastering techniques of reasoning. But it also means something more. It means learning how to be a human being capable of love and imagination. How to appreciate everything in a foreign country; how to escape from your boundaries and enjoy the new experience. I still meet, though, students who have difficulty understanding people different from themselves, whose imagination rarely ventures beyond their local setting. It is a great challenge for me to have to deal with this kind of student and be able to see the great change at the end of the semester.

What is your #1 best advice you always give CYA students when you meet them at Orientation?

There is no better way to experience a culture than being a part of it. The more engaging the experience, the more students feel that they have learned about another culture. Their experience will not only be a lifelong one but also one of learning of life.

WITH SYMPATHY



CYA was deeply saddened to learn that John Jakobson, beloved husband of our longtime fellow Trustee and now Trustee Emerita, Joan Caraganis Jakobson (CYA '65) passed away in April 2017. John had an illustrious career, was a gentleman of great wit, elegant style, and a sincere willingness to help others. Along with Joan, he had always been very supportive of CYA. He will be dearly missed.

A SPECIAL GUEST AT FOUNDER'S DAY LUNCHEON

This year on Founder's Day, February 9, CYA took the opportunity to greet and salute Dr. Kimon Giocarinis, who gave the better part of his professional life to the service of this institution. Kimon, who was CYA's Academic Director for 30 years and who retired in 2005, joined CYA staff and faculty for a luncheon at the school's dining room. Old and new friends spent a few hours reminiscing with him, and filling him in with more recent news. Kimon was presented with a photo album from CYA's archives, which gave him much pleasure.



Leafing through the photo album. Front (L-R): Nike Makres, Tassoula Diamant, Kimon Giocarinis, Romolo Gandolfo. Back: Popi Baloglu, Anne Stewart

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

When she heard about the difficulties of the Syrian refugees, and how her second home country of Greece was struggling to help out, **Mary (Matson) Latta** (CYA '82) was moved to action! She wanted to help with refugees. As she searched on www.greecevol.info for a cause to help, her daughter, Carolyn, who attended CYA in Spring 2011, mentioned that CYA students had been able to work with refugees recently. So Mary got in touch with CYA. What followed was an amazing experience.

First, Mary reached out to her fellow CYA roommates and friends from the Class of '82. **Laura Belglio-Gold** (CYA '82) answered that call and she and Mary would go on to travel to Greece to volunteer—what fun for two roommates from years ago to get reacquainted, to visit their old stomping grounds and to visit the city that was their home all those years ago. Laura and Mary had several friends who donated money to the cause of The Orange House—nearly \$1500 was raised by the end of their stay in Greece.

Mary and Laura decided they would go to Greece to volunteer! After some prep work and laying the groundwork with Nadia Meliniotis at CYA, they were off! They carried extra suitcases with them, full of educational things and fun things (bubbles, etc.). When the airline heard what they were doing, they were allowed to take the suitcases free of charge—little did they know that this (people along the way GIVING), would be the common theme of their entire trip—from the bookstore owners, Odile Brehier (Lexikopoleio near CYA), Areti Georgili (The Free Thinking Zone Bookstore) who donated books and more, the café that donated bread, to the Campfire Innovation leader, Ioanna Theodorou, who assisted them and inspired them, to the families they volunteered with. This was one of the most rewarding parts of the experience to them.

“The Orange House (and Greece in general) is accomplishing so much with so little. The unpretentious generosity is inspiring.” —Laura



Nine roommates from the apartment on 59 Deinokratous, on a class trip to the ancient theater of Epidaurus (Spring 1982)



At the end of their talk at CYA, Laura and Mary were presented with CYA commemorative tiles. (left to right) Nadia, Laura, Mary, and Alexis Phylactopoulos.

The Orange House

Mary and Laura volunteered at the Orange House, one of many projects run by the organization Zaatar <http://zaatarngo.org> whose mission is to provide a safe space for refugees to rest, learn, feel empowered and grow. Zaatar is fortunate to have some funding from the UK, but much of what they do is only possible due to donations and volunteers. The Orange House opened in Exarcheia in 2016 and is housing, classroom, a safe space and more! Refugees can come for classes, activities, assistance and support. Laundry, showers for women and children, and lunch are vital amenities they provide as well. The Orange House helps all refugees, however, their emphasis is on women, children (especially unaccompanied minors), and LGBT refugees. To learn more specifically about the Orange House, visit <https://edgeryders.eu/en/orange-house-athens>

SOME FACTS

- Over 1 million individuals have entered Greece as refugees in the last 15 months.
- Approximately 60,000 are effectively trapped there at any one time.
- 30-35% are under the age of 21.
- Most have missed anywhere from 7 months to 7 years of education.
- While younger children can enter the Greek school system, youth over the age of 15 are no longer eligible to participate.
- Depression and a sense of hopelessness is rampant amongst youth and yet they have little control or agency in their situation.



Lessons in the classroom at The Orange House

“The refugee residents and day visitors at The Orange House are people who live with such strength, courage, and the ability to survive tragedy. I will treasure their beautiful smiles and warm hugs, and keep them in my prayers.”

— Mary

With their backgrounds in education, Mary and Laura were most interested in assisting the children with education (while they are waiting on bureaucracy to allow them in Greek schools). They say the biggest challenge was getting the kids to be able to sit still for learning. While their path will be difficult, these kids are truly being helped by the Orange House and volunteers. It is inspirational.

Coming full circle

On February 22, 2017, Mary and Laura returned to CYA. This time, they were there to give a presentation: “A Journey from Students to Research Volunteers.” They spoke about how Athens has changed—from the days of being 21 years old and living in an apartment in Kolonaki with seven other women, on top of a bakery.

“We cashed American Express traveler’s checks when we needed drachmas, and made a rare phone call home by running to the OTE office in Omonia and securing a phone

booth. Now in Pangrati, our apartment had Wi-Fi, an ATM around the corner, and still sat on top of a wonderful bakery, only this time we went for the coffee, not the pastries.”

They told their backwards journey from Greece 1982 to 2017, from Athens, Lesvos, the camps to the beach. After the presentation, several CYA students came up to ask how they could help. And in the end, two CYA students, Emily Creighton and Sarah Ritten, started working as volunteers as well.

Lesvos

While in Greece, they did visit Lesvos as well, in order to learn more about the refugee crisis and how it is affecting Greece. Mary says she would like to go back again, for more than just one weekend. It was so impactful.

Jump starting a movement

Since returning home to the US, Mary and Laura have already planned to return to

Greece and they have founded a nonprofit. Their NGO, which they started with friends Barbara Harrison and Aida Khalil Tressell, is called KITAB (which means book in Arabic and several other languages) and is dedicated to working with teen and adult refugees residing in Greece. You can learn more on their Facebook page, Kitab World Education.

“KITAB is an international non-profit organization dedicated to working with teen and adult refugees residing in Greece. KITAB students are provided with the resources and mentorship for continuing education, certifications and skills for job readiness and productive world citizenship.”

They are currently in need of financial donations:

\$10 buys a student transport to school

\$25 buys a dictionary and school supplies

\$50 a Microsoft license, memory stick and case for a new computer

\$250 buys a new laptop

If you can help, or if you want to get in touch, you can reach Mary at Mary@kitabngo.org and Laura at Laura@kitabngo.org or via their FB site.

If you are interested in donating, please visit

<https://www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/kitab-education-ngo-for-int-l-refugee-youth>

Bubbles on the sidewalk in front of The Orange House provided much needed fresh air and laughter for the students.



DWELLING AMONG THE GODS



By Justin Brendel (CYA Fall 2016)

“And don’t touch the small orange and black animal. He is poisonous.” I never saw this notorious salamander along the stunning four-hour hike up Mt. Olympus, but our guide seemed very adamant about avoiding it. I wish I had seen the thing because now I’m not sure it’s real. Christos took every opportunity he was given to tease the group. As our guide, it was his job to prepare us, pace us, and push us through what was unknown and though he did not take his job lightly, he always made room for jokes (as any proper Greek would). Before we even stepped foot on our designated trail, Christos had told us multiple stories about human encounters with ‘mines’ left behind by pack-mules. These mules apparently walk six kilometers up the mountain every day carrying various tools and supplies to a shelter and marking their trail by the feces they leave behind. Accordingly, a man on one of Christos’ previous trips had lost his balance on the mountain trail and fallen head first into a mule ‘mine.’ Queue gasps and delayed laughter from my entire group. Christos knew how to draw a crowd.

We started climbing Mt. Olympus from Prionia, the highest point on the mountain accessible by car/bus. Looking back, this was a really good idea because it could have taken 4-5 hours simply to hike from the mountain’s base to Prionia. While Prionia is a good pit stop for hikers (it has bathrooms, a small taverna, a fresh water spring, etc.), I’m glad it was our starting point.

The six-kilometer hike to Shelter A (Spilios Agapitos) took my group 3.5 hours to complete. The trail, E4, was well designated and

fairly wide as it is the most travelled trail on the mountain by man and mule. There were not many side paths to get lost on, so even when my group raced ahead, I felt completely confident of my solo navigation skills. Christos kept referring to the trail as ‘the road’ as if it were some mountainside autobahn. And to Christos it was. The man has spent twenty years as a Mt. Olympus guide, helping groups quite literally gain perspective. With his leadership, many tourists, short-time residents, and long-time locals have seen a side of Greece that few Greeks ever get the privilege to see and experience. Since the age of seventeen, Christos has also worked on a mountain rescue squad, which sees most of its action in Mt. Olympus’ harsh winter conditions. While Christos loves to joke, the mountain doesn’t; he has seen many search and rescue missions end in the uncovering of half-frozen corpses. But, again, this is in the winter. My group hiked in the fall. Mt. Olympus Pro-tip: Don’t hike in the winter unless you really know what you’re doing.

Christos has dedicated most of his life and certainly his livelihood to Mt. Olympus. Even though he had hiked this mountain countless times and a trail like E4 was not challenging for him, I was amazed at his passion and excitement. He was in wonder of the mountain’s characteristics, respectful of its dangers, and curiously searching for something new to appreciate. His face lit up consistently and it was contagious. Inspired by my guide, I began to look up from the rocky trail and around at the incredible landscape. Sure I stumbled a few times on protruding rocks and tree roots, but the scenery was absolutely worth it.

Birds, huge boulders, and steep inclines make this hike stunning, but the trees set it apart as intrinsically unique. Old pine, beech, and fir trees litter the green forest that E4 initially parades through, creating bursts of color in every direction. The size of these trees is nothing like anything I have seen in Greece; they are huge. The sheer number of trees, met with their size, will leave any Mt. Olympus hiker feeling small and humble.

Hiking, in my experience, always leads to great conversation. Something about being with people, working towards a common goal, and having an extended amount of time together engenders vulnerability. As the caboose, I felt like I had some sort of authoritative role in our excursion, so I began putting the four or five people around me in what I call the proverbial ‘hot seat.’ I asked random, thoughtful questions like, “How are you most like your mother?” and, “What has been the most challenging obstacle you have faced/overcome this past year?” My fellow hikers did not find it strange that I was asking these difficult questions, but simply took time to think through and articulate their answers. I learned a lot about my group members: one had been raised Muslim, one had recently endured the death of his best friend, one had been violently bitten by a duck, and another had once broken her ankle chasing a very average-tasting American breakfast pastry. The stories told were unforgettable, filled with laughs and hints of nostalgia. In sharing our memories, we were making new memories. I made great friends hiking Mt. Olympus.



Shelter A, aka Spilios Agapitos, sits 2100 meters above sea level overlooking the town of Litochoro. The shelter's balcony is a prime spot for sunset/sunrise watching as well as stargazing. We arrived at the shelter around 8:30 p.m., well after dark, but before the kitchen closed at 9:00 p.m. The stars were unbelievable. It's no wonder that the ancients believed gods dwelled on Mt. Olympus because the Milky Way, visible with the naked eye, appears to open right above it. If I had tried to count the stars, I would still be on Mt. Olympus now.

The rooms were as expected, cramped and cold, but Christos claimed we were, "Dwelling with the gods," which allowed little room for complaining. Fortunately, unlimited blankets were provided so the cold was easily averted. I got little sleep because I could not stop thinking about the stars beyond the door to my room; I anxiously arose at 1:00 a.m. to see if I had missed any kind of stellar activity. The mountain air was freezing, but during the forty-five seconds I spent outside my door I witnessed three shooting stars majestically traverse a good portion of my line of sight. Satisfied, I finally slept, waking up a few hours later for the sunrise.

The next morning, we ascended the mountain's Skala summit only forty minutes from Shelter A. This summit is not the highest summit on Mt. Olympus, but it is a stunning one nonetheless. I do not have much to say about the summit aside from that reaching it meant we accomplished our goal. The journey meant more to me as I saw various members of my group overcome fatigue, hunger, and mental obstacles



in order to make it to the summit. One of my friends didn't even make it because she had "emptied her tank" the day before. We all had developed some form of mental toughness along the hike and now the surrounding mountains, our new friends, and Greece below was our witness.

Then we descended. The hike down featured more rich conversation and story exchange, as time seemed to drift through the delicate fir-tree leaves we passed. Apparently, none of us had seen Zeus, but we all felt a bit wiser and more mature.

Back in Prionia we celebrated our feat by jumping into the frigid Enipea Spring. My body was numb within fifteen seconds, but the experience was well worth it. I even drank the frigid water as I sat in it. My group had bonded and friendships had developed, but we still weren't sure that the black and orange salamander was real, much less poisonous. Maybe next time we can catch one for Christos.

Justin is a Religion major at Haverford College.

MAKE A DONATION

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

Online

Visit www.cyathens.org/give_now

By Mail

Make a gift by check – mail a check or money order to:

College Year in Athens,
PO Box 390890, Cambridge, MA
02139

By 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

when you have made the transfer.

Three more ways to make a tax-deductible contribution to CYA

1. Gifts of stock

By transferring appreciated stock to College Year in Athens, you may be eligible for a tax deduction equal to full fair market value of the stock, avoiding the capital gains tax on the stock's increased value. In order for your gift to be acknowledged, it is important 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.

2. 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.

3. Named scholarships

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

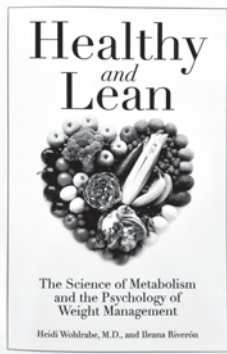
SOCRATES' APOLOGY

On Feb 5, a group of CYA students attended Plato's *Socrates' Apology* at the Theater of the Fine Arts School in Tavros, downtown Athens. This was a reenactment of Socrates' trial and the students who attended were so thrilled to see the play in Ancient Greek (there were subtitles in Modern Greek and English) and attend with a full audience, which included the Greek Minister of Culture.



Photo (left to right): Rachel Gallagher, Curtis Stokes, Sarah Arrington, Michael McKenna, Lydia Koniordou (Greek Minister of Culture), Matthew Dodig, Nick Beals, Safiyah Riddle, and William Edwards

A BOOK READING



Ileana (Lilly) Riverón (CYA Spring 2016) is the co-author (with Dr. Heidi Wohrabe) of *Healthy and Lean: The Science of Metabolism and the Psychology of Weight Management*. In the book she uses humor and easy-to-digest (pardon the pun) explanations of nutritional science concepts to help readers “escape fad diets and become happy, healthy and lean for life,” making it useful and accessible in a sustainable way that distinguishes it from “dieting” books we see lining bookstore shelves. Ileana gave a book reading at the Harvard Coop in Cambridge, MA, on March 2nd. Since the event was so close to CYA's North American Office, our U.S.-based staff couldn't miss it!



Lilly (left) pictured with Alexia Lingaas, Katie Sievers and Lauren Chow

GROWING PAINS

We are in the process of moving the Greek and US databases to the cloud and combining all the information. As a result, we have had (temporarily) to switch all our records to reflect the names with which students were originally registered with CYA. Please bear with us. Thank you for your patience.

CYA THROUGH A FAMILY – MEET THE GALLAGHERS



In the fall of 1990, just a few months after their engagement, Christine and Gordon Gallagher embarked on an adventure—they left North America to study abroad in Greece, with CollegeYear in Athens. The experience was life-changing, and they returned home with a deep love for Greece.

Twenty-seven years later, they find themselves once again in the CYA academic center, sitting in the lounge area, gazing at the captivating view of the Parthenon. They have come with their two younger sons, Noah and Gabriel, and this time they are paying a visit to a very special Athenian: Their eldest daughter, Rachel!

Rachel studied in CYA during this Spring Semester and has lived her own Greek tale! When the Gallagher family met, past memories mixed with news of exciting new adventures. Happiness was overflowing. We spoke to Rachel about her family, herself, and her CYA experience.

What had you heard about Greece before coming here?

So many amazing things, I just grew up hearing about how much my parents loved Greece. One of the best parts is my mum falling in love with Greek cooking! So growing up we would have a lot of Greek food.

When my parents came back for the reunion trip in 2007, my mum also learned how to make Galaktoboureko—it's been great. I've heard about the amazing people, and the culture!

Above: The Gallagher family in Greece, 2016
At right, Christine and Gordon in Athens, 1990

Were they the ones who encouraged you to study in Greece?

No. I always grew up hearing about it but I really wanted classes taught in English, without wanting to go to England. I wanted to do something that was totally different. So that narrowed things down. I also loved that in CYA I could have a political and philosophical focus and take classes that went towards my major. Greece is gorgeous, my parents obviously loved it so much and they talked to me about it, but I would've discovered it on my own!

What were your parents' impressions of Greece then and now?

They came three times—in 1990, 2007 and now—so they have seen three very different times in Greece. The first was before the Eurozone, the second was the hype of everything right before the crash, and now, post-crash. They said it just felt entirely different each time. In 1990 it felt more middle-eastern, the Drachma was still used, to make a phone call they used phonebooths at the kiosk...after visiting in 2007 they said everything was very expensive! And now the prices are a lot lower but it's so much more modern than the first time they were here. It's so interesting to observe these changes over different periods of time.



What are your impressions of Greece and CYA?

I think that I have the same great feelings about it as they did. (It's crazy that Nadia and Mr. Phyl were here when they were here! They said Nadia looks exactly the same!). Such wonderful people and country, I love the culture and the food—Oh my God. I also love how close Greece is to everything, I've travelled almost every weekend! I think when I go back home it will take a little while to process everything, I'll say to myself "Wow, I've done all these cool things!" Right now I'm on the run but when you finally stop you can look back at it and be like "Wow. That was such an adventure!"—and that's the beauty of CYA, that it's been an adventure.

A lot of us have been travelling around the islands too, which has been so much fun! Not to mention Europe—I went to Rome, Brussels, Vienna, Budapest, Tel Aviv, then Croatia. And it feels like we just got here!

Do you think your little brothers will also come to Greece to study in CYA?

I hope so, it would be fantastic if they did!

Please Note: Fall students are denoted with an “A,” Spring students with a “B,” full year with an “AB,” and Summer with an “S.”

If you are interested in keeping up with the latest at CYA and in serving as the connecting hub between your classmates, learn more about the Class Agent role by contacting Erica Huffman at: alumni@cyathens.org.

2015 – 2016

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

2014 – 2015

Class Agents:

FALL: Colleen Nugent
nugentc@union.edu

SPRING: Mariela Martinez
mariela.martinez@laverne.edu

Amber Braun (A) writes: “I spent an incredible winter season in Vail, Colorado. I worked in Lionshead Children’s Ski School for kids 3-6. It was a dream! Skiing almost every day and the scenery and weather was delightful. I would love to spend another season there in the future. I moved to Oregon in the beginning of March for a job with the Forest Service at Wolf Creek Job Corp. The weather is an adjustment but it is beautiful out here.”

2013 – 2014

Class Agents:

FALL:

Oliver Ayer oayer@villanova.edu

Camen Pihó camen_pihó@brown.edu

SPRING:

Chris Lasek chrislasek@gmail.com

2012 – 2013

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

2011 – 2012

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

Daniel Tolan (B) wrote the following in the CYA Alumni Book when he stopped by: “It is always a joy to return to see you all, and I am always taken aback by what open heart I am greeted by! I am stopping by after spending Πασχα and Μ.Εβδομαδα in Πατριο, where I will be getting married this summer! All of these blessings can be directly traced back to the time I spent at CYA. At present I am writing a doctoral dissertation that focuses on both patristics on Hellenistic philosophy, an interest which was fostered by my time spent with you all. CYA gave me a truly holistic education,

granting me an immense opportunity to learn both inside the classroom and out in the real world.

I am truly thankful for all that CYA has given me, because it both fostered academic interests and shaped my way of life.”

Ashley Wich (B) was a Fulbright Scholar – Teaching Fellow at Athens College (2015-16) and gave a very well-received speech at the Fulbright reception at the US Ambassador’s residence in Athens in June.

2010 – 2011

Class Agent:

Hannah Ringheim
hlingheim@gmail.com

2009 – 2010

Class Agents:

FALL:

Will Eberle will.eberle13@gmail.com

SPRING:

Andreas Glimenakis

glimenakis.andreas@gmail.com

Ethan Baron ethanrbaron@gmail.com

2008 – 2009

Class Agent:

Ariel Perkins ariel.perkins@gmail.com

2007 – 2008

Class Agents:

FALL:

Amy Hoeg amy.hoeg@gmail.com

SPRING:

Aubrie Boersen

aubrie.boersen@gmail.com

Terence O’Neill

terence.oneill23@gmail.com

Alexander Callen (B) and his wife, Dr. Rachel Tamaroff, welcomed a son, Jacob David, on November 29, 2016.

2006 – 2007

Class Agent:

Catherine (Hibben) Silvo

hsilvo@gmail.com

2005 – 2006

Class Agents:

FALL: Erin Meyers erin12m@gmail.com

SPRING: Bernadette Bolan

bernsb@gmail.com

2004 – 2005

Class Agent: Lucianna Ravasio

lucianna.ravasio@gmail.com

2003 – 2004

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

2002 – 2003

Class Agent: Adam Fletcher
adamfletcher@yahoo.com

Adam Fletcher (B) writes: “Currently I’m teaching Latin in Cleveland, Ohio (and trying to convince the school to let me teach Ancient Greek). I had been living in New Mexico and in a few years I’ll probably venture out someplace new for another adventure. I think spending so much time in Greece gave me that sense of wanderlust—it was so wonderful to be able to walk out the door and have the freedom to explore. How I’d love to be a CYA student again!”

2001 – 2002

Class Agent: Jennifer Kreft
jennykreft1981@gmail.com

2000 – 2001

Class Agents:

Dan Leon dleon@illinois.edu

Anthony Platis agplatis@yahoo.com

1999 – 2000

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1998 – 1999

Class Agent: Ryan Tipps
rtipps@bdsarco.org

1997 – 1998

Class Agents:

FALL:

Maro Sevastopoulos

maro_rose@yahoo.com

SPRING: Jocelyn D. Martindale

jmartindale@pressganey.com

Abby Wentworth (B) writes: “I live in Alaska where I play in the mountains and the sea. In the winter I try to travel when possible. I have done lots of things, but am currently a welder/fabricator. I am pretty sure I would not be where I am today had I not attended CYA. Thank you to everyone I knew then for sharing such a meaningful experience.”

1996 – 1997

Class Agent: Steve Maselunas
smaselunas@charter.net

1995 – 1996

Class Agent: Vasilios Roussos
vasilios@gmail.com

1994 – 1995

Class Agent: Laura Ament Taylor
tidndutch@bigpond.com

1993 – 1994

Class Agent: Susannah Snowden-Smith
susannah_snowden@hotmail.com

1992 – 1993

Class Agent: Joel Green
joel@joelgreenstudios.com

1991 – 1992

Class Agent: Delton Henderson
delton@solveregroup.com

1990 – 1991

Class Agent:
Daphne Pizaris Maramaldi
dmaramal@fas.harvard.edu

Benjamin Mendoza (A) writes: "I will be celebrating my 20th wedding anniversary with my wife Doris Pau Mendoza in June. We live in Danville, CA with our 11-year-old son. I have been teaching high school math in the district we live in for nearly 20 years. Life is good. I have fond memories of my semester in Greece: the culture, the sights, the people and the Ploughman."

Annie (Zimdars) Hicks (A), writes: "I am married to Kevin Hicks, and we have 2 boys, Colin (19) and Ian (16). My husband and I teach high school at Metamora Township High School in Metamora, Illinois (in the cornfields outside of Peoria, Illinois). I teach Honors American Literature, Honors Humanities, and Humanities. I am very lucky to be able to pass on at least some of what I learned in Athens! My Humanities classes cover (at varying degrees of detail for high school students) ancient Greek art, architecture, philosophy, history, and literature, as well as some of the major cultural elements of ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Rome. I also move through the Byzantine period in art, Medieval Europe, and the Italian Renaissance through Shakespearean England. I love teaching those classes the most! I have a master's degree in Educational Administration and am working on another in Library Science. I take students to Italy and the UK in alternate years, and even made it back to Athens for a few days in 1995!"

1989 – 1990

Class Agent: Steve Gratwick
steve.gratwick@gmail.com

1988 – 1989

Class Agent: Joe Garnjobst
joseph.garnjobst@hillsdale.edu

1987 – 1988

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1986 – 1987

Class Agent: Tina Sorokie
tsorokie@yahoo.com

1985 – 1986

Class Agent: Margaret Miller
mmillerod@yahoo.com

1984 – 1985

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1983 – 1984

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1982 – 1983

Class Agent: Zoe Sakellaropoulou
zoesak@gmail.com

1981 – 1982

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1980 – 1981

Class Agents:
Kimberle Gray kimberle_g@yahoo.com
Scott Dreher scott@dreherlawfirm.com

1979 – 1980

Class Agent:
Valentine Talland vtalland@mac.com

Guy Hedreen (A) published a book, *The Image of the Artist in Archaic and Classical Greece*, Cambridge University Press, 2016. It was recipient of a 2016 Choice Award. He writes: "This book investigates the



development of the socially marginal but technically inventive artist or poet as subject matter and self-conscious artistic persona in ancient Greek vase-painting and poetry."

1978 – 1979

Class Agent: Anastasia Sarantos
anastasiastaskin@aol.com

1977 – 1978

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1976 – 1977

Class Agent: Helen Tangires
htangires@verizon.net

1975 – 1976

Class Agent: Susan Sampliner
ssampliner@321mgt.com

1974 – 1975

Class Agent:
Rick Neville rickneville@comcast.net

John Wallace (B) and **Sarah Reese Wallace (B)** here at the dedication of



Wallace-Stewart Commons, a Faculty Student dining and meeting space at DePauw University October 2016.

1973 – 1974

Class Agent: Ann Marie Taliercio
herelocal150@igc.org

1972 – 1973

Class Agent:
Don Lippincott dflipp3@gmail.com

1971 – 1972

Class Agent:
Mary Clark maryec5276@gmail.com

1970 – 1971

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1969 – 1970

Class Agent:
J. Mara DelliPriscoli
jmara@travelearning.com

1968 – 1969

Class Agents:
Hetty Jardine hetty.jardine@gmail.com
Kelly Cullins tkcullins@gmail.com

1967 – 1968

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1966 – 1967

Class Agent:
Susan Blake ssblake68@gmail.com

Karen Basil Mavrides (AB) lives in Athens with her husband, Manos. Two of their three children live in Athens and one lives in Boston. Son Jeb works with Manos in their project and construction firm. Younger daughter Franka, after a TV career in L.A., is in Athens, in the process of starting a service company to bring filming to Greece.

Susan Blake (AB) and a neighbor, **Miran Choi ('82-'83 B)**, discovered that they are both CYA alums! They have had a wonderful time reminiscing about their time in Greece.

Class Notes, continued on page 18

Tod Sedgwick (AB) writes:

"Ambassador Tod Sedgwick, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia from 2010-2015, was appointed by President Obama to the World War I Centennial Commission. The Commission is charged with commemorating the U.S. involvement in the Great War and to create an appropriate Memorial to the Doughboys in Washington, DC, where surprisingly there is no Memorial to WWI. He lives in Washington DC with his wife, Kate. He recently had dinner with Greek Ambassador Haris Lallacos and his wife Anna at their residence in DC."

Tod can be reached at todsedgwick@gmail.com."

1965 – 1966

Class Agent:

Jennie Tucker

jtucker@oregonwireless.net

1964 – 1965

Class Agent:

Peter Allen pallen@ric.edu

Peter Allen (AB) shares: "I am now enjoying my third year of retirement, although I am retired from my job only, not my career. I still attend professional meetings, give papers, write and publish, but I no longer teach and have few deadlines. I am in touch with many of my CYA classmates and see **Joan Caragannis Jakobson** on occasion. I continue to serve on the CYA board and help a bit with recruiting students.

To my classmates: Please send me your news for future OWLS."

1963 – 1964

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

1962 – 1963

Now Accepting Class Agent Volunteers!

In Memoriam:

CYA has just learned of the passing in 2008 of alumna **Sally Milbourne Hughes** (CYA Fall '74), who attended CYA from DePauw University.

COOKING CORNER

PASTICHIO

Ingredients:

- 1 package of bucatini pasta
(fat spaghetti with the hole running through it)
- 1 lb. of ground meat
- 1 quart milk
- 8 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 eggs
- 6 oz. grated cheese
- 2 cups of water
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 onions
- ½ teaspoon of nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon flour
- Ground pepper to taste
- ½ cup olive oil

Preparation

First step: Sauté the onion in the oil for about 2 minutes. Add the ground meat, mixing well and sauté a bit. Add the tomato sauce and the water. Add salt and pepper and leave it to simmer for about 30 minutes and then remove it from the heat.

Second step: Fill a large pot about half way with water and bring to a boil. Add the pasta to the water along with a pinch of salt. Let the pasta boil for about 10 minutes. Drain and set aside.

Third step: Butter a large casserole dish and put half the pasta in. Add all the ground meat, some grated cheese, and the rest of the pasta.

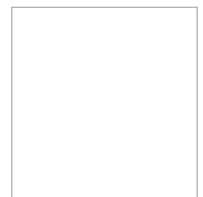
Fourth step: (*Béchamel sauce*) Pour the milk into a saucepan and heat it. Before it comes to a boil add 8 tablespoons of flour and whisk it continuously until it thickens. Remove from heat. Add 2 tablespoons of butter, the eggs, the nutmeg and some ground cheese and mix it up. Pour it over the pasta in the casserole.

Fifth step:

Bake it in the oven at about 390 degrees for 20 minutes.

Date _____

Fold here



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COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS ALUMNI/AE NEWS & INFORMATION

NAME _____ CYA CLASS* _____

ADDRESS (if different from label) _____

TEL Day _____ Evening _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

If the above is a temporary address, please indicate how long you expect it to be valid (until? _____), and give below a more permanent address or telephone through which you can be found:

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

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE & MAJOR(s) _____

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION _____

CURRENT OCCUPATION _____

WORK ADDRESS _____

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