

FALL 2023

THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS



*Prof. John Karavas and the students of
"Aegean & Ancient Greek Art & Archaeology"
class at the New Acropolis Museum*

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

It is both an honor and a privilege to connect with you in my role as the new President of our school. For those of you who I've not already met with, I was until recently the Academic Director. That position enabled me to witness firsthand the passion and commitment that our faculty and students have consistently demonstrated. It is a legacy that extends beyond the classroom, shaping the narratives of the many students whom we have had the honor to welcome here, while helping them develop a deep appreciation for cultural exchange, and fostering personal growth.

Change is the constant companion of progress, and, as we embrace the future, I am excited about the potential for even greater accomplishments. The dynamic landscape of education is ever-evolving, presenting us with both challenges and new opportunities to innovate and enhance the study abroad experience. It is with this spirit of adaptability and a commitment to excellence that I welcome the future. The spirit of CYA lies in its ability to leverage change, learn, and grow, and I am

confident that, together, we can continue to provide unparalleled educational experiences for generations to come.

To outline, our next steps will involve changes in the areas of academics, infrastructure, and student life. We aim to enhance the existing curriculum, by broadening its scope and inquiry, and incorporating courses in STEM and Entrepreneurship, as well as adding more field study destinations in Greece and abroad. At the same time, we will continue to upgrade our infrastructure and technology, in order to accommodate diverse student needs and foster an accessible, comfortable, and sophisticated learning environment for everyone. Finally, we aspire to open up CYA to a wider context – to a lively intellectual community that integrates students, faculty, their Greek peers, Athenians, and visiting scholars.

To our dedicated alums, your support and engagement are integral to the ongoing success of our school; you are, in fact, the living embodiment of it. Your accomplishments resonate far beyond the borders of our campus, and your continued involvement is a testament to the enduring impact of



our shared journey. I will try to make the most of this platform and use it as a means of interactive candid and open discussion.

In the spirit of growth and transformation, let us collectively author the next chapter of CYA. Together, let us strive for even greater heights, ensuring that our school remains the thriving academic community that it is today and a top destination for those seeking not just an education, but an experience that transcends borders.

*Cordially,
Theoni*

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The OWL is introducing a redesigned format and a new printing timeline. The Fall issue will now cover the events of summer and fall semester and the Spring issue the events of spring semester. To implement this shift, this special Fall issue covers all CYA events from Jan. 2023 to Dec. 2023.

CYA Founder's Day

February 9, marked on the CYA calendar as "Founder's Day", is celebrated each year in a different fashion. This year, on Monday 13 February, we had the opportunity to show to an audience of students, faculty, and friends, a documentary by **Maria Iliou** on Athens (part I of a series) called "Athens, from East to West, 1821-1896". Athens after all is the city where CYA was born and flourished.

On his short introductory remarks, **Alexis Phylactopoulos** said "Today for us at CYA is Founder's Day.

We remember the person who had the thought and the courage to start this organization. Today we look back, drawing courage from that original vision, to help us chart our course in a world, which is very much different from what it was when it all started 60 years ago.

CYA has promoted Hellenic studies, has provided a transformational experience to thousands of American university students (we now count over 12,000 alumni), has contributed to the understanding of Greece by the American



Alexis Phylactopoulos

public, and has boosted the soft power of Greece. It is now the leader in establishing Greece as an important international educational destination."

Classics Faculty Workshop at CYA

Being a member of the association of Liberal Arts Colleges Classics Chairs, CYA hosted a workshop on curricular and pedagogical issues on June 26-29, 2023.

Ten classics chairs or select professors from ten Liberal Arts Colleges were invited to this workshop. **Michael Arnush** from Skidmore College; **Bryan E. Burns** from Wellesley College; **Dustin Dixon** from Grinnell College; **Nanette Goldman** from Macalester College; **Zoe Kontes** [CYA '95 and former CYA Trustee] from Kenyon College; **Peter M. Krentz** from Davidson College; **Ellen Millender** from Reed College; **Hans-Friedrich O. Mueller** from Union College; **Christopher Trinacty '95** from Oberlin College; and **James Newhard '92** from College of Charleston.

The workshop took place at the CYA Academic Center where they met with CYA classics

faculty and engaged in discussions on various topics, such as how to establish discussion-heavy classroom in ancient studies; the post-pandemic disengagement; AI and teaching; decentering classical education; preparing students for a career in classics; CYA curriculum development; and the challenges of teaching in a study abroad program.

During their stay, they had the opportunity to visit the Acropolis

Museum and the archaeological site, go to the Island of Hydra where they visited The DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art, and enjoyed a tour to the archaeological site of Brauron.

This three-day workshop ended with a reception at the CYA rooftop with all the participants, members of our staff, and faculty enjoying the beautiful Athenian sunset.



CYA reception on the AC rooftop



Professor Robert Pitt

Colloquium on Greek Epigraphy and Topography

On Saturday 20 May 2023, College Year in Athens in partnership with The British Epigraphy Society hosted a successful and productive colloquium on the development of Greek Epigraphy and Topography in the 18th and 19th centuries from the manuscripts and archival papers of the early travelers and archaeologists.

We would like to thank Professor **Robert Pitt** for connecting CYA with such distinguished scholars as **Dr. Angelos P. Matthaiou** from the Greek Epigraphic Society, **Dr. Alessia Zambon** from the UVSQ - Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, **Dr. Georgia E. Malouchou** from the British School of Archaeology at Athens, and **Dr. Michael Metcalfe** from the British School at Athens. The colloquium was attended by renowned participants such as **Anne McCabe, Robert McCabe,** and **Dr. John M. Camp** from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

The event took place at the CYA Auditorium and was simultaneously broadcasted online via Zoom. The proceedings will be published by CYA.

6th Annual Student Conference

The 6th Annual Student Conference took place on 8-9 May 2023. This year's theme was "*Greek Heritage Unwrapped: Approaches to the Past in the 21st Century*" and the students participating were: two post-baccalaureate, **Vivienne Colbert** and **Michaela Fielder-Jellsey**; **John Freeman, Mudiwa Mungoshi, Tara Noel, Caitlin Petersen, Meredith Neid**; and two students from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Thessaly, **Dimitra Morosou** and **Erika Tsioukantana**.

This event was important both for the students and our school. All students participating in this year's conference (including



CYA students with Kate Donnelly, Theoni Scourta, and Athena Hadji

those from the University of Thessaly) went through a series of workshops and re-writes with **Kate Donnelly** (Academic Advisor of the Conference Committee) and consultations and reviews with **Athena Hadji** (CYA Art History Professor and Chair of the Committee).

Theoni Scourta thanked both for their professionalism, as well

as all CYA colleagues who encouraged, advised, and supported the students to participate in the Conference.

CYA's **Virtual Lecture Series** remains a vital platform for our school to connect with alumni and friends. We present one-hour lectures featuring guest speakers who excel in diverse academic and professional fields.


So far, CYA has successfully hosted **29 virtual lectures** since its inaugural lecture in June of 2020. We look forward to continuing this enriching engagement in the future.

For a comprehensive review of all our past lectures, please visit our website:

cyathens.org/academics/cya-virtual-lecture-series-archive/

CYA's Virtual Lectures that were broadcasted in 2023 are as follows:

 <p>The poster for the lecture 'Tragedy of the Commons' features a scenic view of a coastline with mountains in the background. The text on the poster includes: 'CYA VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES', 'TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS', 'GUEST SPEAKER STATHIS KALYVAS', 'DISCUSSANT EIRINI KARAMOUIZI', and 'WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023 12 pm (EST) 7 pm (Athens)'.</p>	<p>DATE 18 January 2023</p> <p>TITLE Tragedy of the Commons</p> <p>GUEST SPEAKER Prof. Stathis Kalyvas, <i>Gladstone Professor of Government and fellow of All Souls College at Oxford</i></p> <p>DISCUSSANT Prof. Eirini Karamouzi, <i>Senior Lecturer in Contemporary History at the University of Sheffield</i></p>
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<p>DATE 29 March 2023</p> <p>TITLE Iklaina: Hidden Secrets</p> <p>GUEST SPEAKER Prof. Michael B. Cosmopoulos, <i>The Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Professor in Greek Studies and Professor of Archaeology at the University of Missouri—St. Louis</i></p> <p>DISCUSSANT Prof. Hüseyin Çınar Öztürk, <i>CYA Professor and field archaeologist</i></p>	 <p>The poster for the lecture 'Iklaina: Hidden Secrets' features an aerial view of a coastal area with a large archaeological site. The text on the poster includes: 'CYA VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES', 'IKLAINA Hidden Secrets', 'GUEST SPEAKER MICHAEL COSMOPOULOS', 'DISCUSSANT HÜSEYİN ÇINAR ÖZTÜRK', and 'WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 2023 12 pm (EST) 7 pm (Athens)'.</p>
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DATE

10 May 2023

TITLE

Athens between the two World Wars.

GUEST SPEAKER

Bruce Clark, author, journalist, and broadcaster with a lifelong interest in the history and language of Greece

DISCUSSANT

Prof. Alexander Kitroeff, Professor Emeritus of History at Haverford College and current professor of History at CYA

DATE

4 October 2023

TITLE

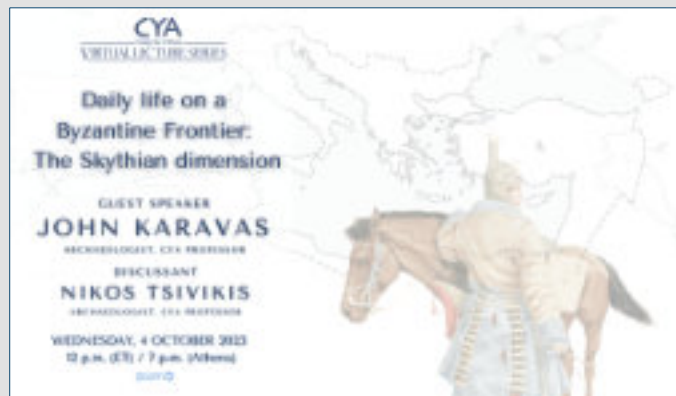
Daily Life on a Byzantine Frontier:
The Skythian Dimension

GUEST SPEAKER

Prof. John Karavas, Professor of History and Archaeology at CYA

DISCUSSANT

Prof. Nikos Tzivikis, Byzantine Archaeologist and Art Historian at CYA



DATE

29 November 2023

TITLE

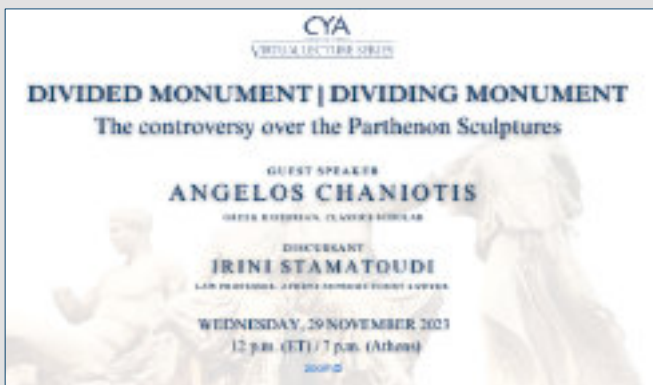
Divided Monument, Dividing Monument: The controversy over the Parthenon Sculptures

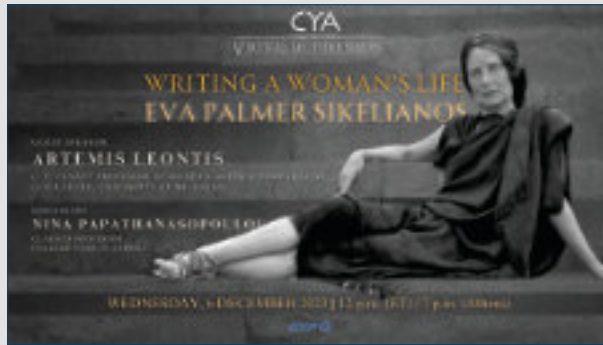
GUEST SPEAKER

Prof. Angelos Chaniotis, Professor in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton

DISCUSSANT

Prof. Irini Stamatoudi, Law Professor at the University of Nicosia, and a lawyer at the Supreme Court of Athens





DATE

6 December 2023

TITLE

Writing a Woman's Life: Eva Palmer Sikelianos

GUEST SPEAKER

Prof. Artemis Leontis, *C. P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan*

DISCUSSANT

Prof. Nina Papatheanopoulos, *Professor of Classics at CYA, specializing in Greek Theater, Classical mythology*

CYA HELLENIC EXECUTIVE PROGRAM



CYA's **Hellenic Executive Program**, a dynamic collaboration between College Year in Athens and the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), recently offered its fifth seminar. This exclusive program delivers a comprehensive exploration of Greek history and culture, bridging the gap from ancient civilizations to contemporary developments.

Our latest seminar, "*Byzantium Re-Visited: The Eastern Roman Empire and its Lasting Legacy*," led by Prof. **John Karavas** from October 21, 2023, to December 2, 2023, took a deep dive into the Byzantine Empire's history, tracing its Christianization in the 4th century BCE to the monumental fall of Constantinople in the 15th century.

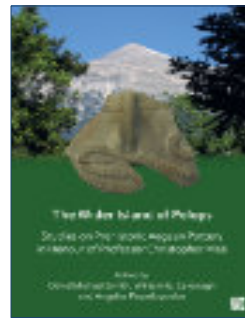


Faculty Publications

At CYA, we are proud to state that our faculty is doing far more than teaching, mentoring and tutoring students during the semester and summer courses. Our faculty members are active, top-level researchers in the international academic arena. Experts in their field, anthropologists, sociologists, historians, political analysts and many more, CYA professors publish their research in peer-reviewed international journals, in edited volumes and in monographs. A selection of these publications can be seen here:



Robert Pitt published a corpus of the inscribed Attic funerary monuments of the British Museum with texts, translations, commentaries and illustrations of the stones, and introductions to Attic funerary epigraphy and monuments, and a history of the collection and the early travellers that brought the pieces to the UK.



Angelos Papadopoulos in collaboration with Dave Smith and William Cavanagh published the proceedings of a conference in the memory of Prof. Christopher Mee that focuses on the myriad ways in which pottery was created, utilized, and experienced in the prehistoric Aegean, across a period of more than 4000 years between the Middle Neolithic and the Early Iron Age transition.



Despina Iosif in collaboration with Maro Triantafyllou published in Greek a book on some of the most characteristic examples of paradoxical and strange stories from the Hellenistic and Roman periods that seems to defy logic and the laws of nature.



On a different note, our very own **Penelope Mountjoy** was the recipient of an edited volume on ceramic studies in her honour in order to celebrate her outstanding scholarship in the field of Mycenaean pottery in the Aegean and beyond with the most appropriate title "The Lady of Pottery" edited by A.L. D'Agata and P. Pavúk.

CYA's 127th Board Meeting 14-15 July 2023

CYA's 127th Board Meeting took place on Saturday 15 July 2023. The day before, CYA welcomed Trustees, faculty and staff to the traditional Luncheon at Ismene Hall and later that evening, **Alexis** and **Mariella Phylactopoulou** hosted a very emotional and heart-warming dinner, full of memories, at their house in Kifissia where Mr. Phylactopoulos handed over the Presidency of CYA to the "very able hands of a dear colleague, *Theoni Scourta*".

Among the guests present were Trustee Emeritus **John Camp**, and CYA friend **Stratos Efthymiou**, Greece's former Consul General in Boston and newly-appointed spokesman for the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The dinner took place at the Phylactopoulos' garden, a garden that "is intimately associated with CYA's history".

"It was in this garden that H.D.F. Kitto, one of our pioneer and celebrity professors, was photographed while rolling his cigarette..."

In his remarks, Mr. Phylactopoulos mentioned several significant CYA professors and administrators that stood by him and this institution, rain or shine, for over 37 years, before and during his Presidency.

"I cannot forget those who were with us when I took over in 1986 and stayed on, several of them for many years, decades, and are now alive and kicking.

*Their names may not say much to some of you but I owe them a salute for all they have done for us: **Steve Diamant, Mimika Demetra, Marinetta Papahimona, Tessa Dinsmoor, Nanno Marinatos, Michael Herzfeld** - who is here tonight - **Penelope Mountjoy, Akis Papataxiarchis, John Raish, Polymnia Athanassiadi.***

I owe them much gratitude for all they have done for CYA and for the thousands of students whose lives they have transformed and for those whose career orientation they have changed for the better.

*In that year, 1986, the administration list contains **Cornelia Herzfeld**. Nea has more years connected with CYA than anyone else, I believe.*



Trustees' dinner at the Phylactopoulos' garden in Kifissia



Faculty-Trustees Luncheon at the CYA dining hall

*Finally, the Trustees list of 1986 includes **Daphne Hatsopoulos**, who is our Board Chair and benefactor and who is the most senior Trustee. We thank her with all our heart for her commitment and generosity.*

*Other Trustees in 1986 were **Peter Allen** still on the Board, **Wendy White**, who is still connected with us, and **Charles Kaufman Williams II.***

*One other person whose inspiration, commitment, and support to me and to the school was absolutely critical over the last 20 years, was our former Chair of the Board, **Chris Todd**. We thank him."*

"CYA is the product of many people and not a one person's affair...this is the ethos I want to leave as legacy to my successor", he concluded.

The evening was a success and will surely be well-remembered by all.

A brief visit at CYA



(Clockwise): Theoni Scourta, Billy Simopoulos, Angelos Papadopoulos, Alexis Phylactopoulos, and Theo Melas-Kyriazi

CYA Trustee **Theo Melas-Kyriazi** visited CYA during a brief trip to Greece in September and had lunch with Executive Chair **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, President **Theoni Scourta**, Director of Studies, **Angelos Papadopoulos**, and Development Officer **Billy Simopoulos**. Theo had a chance to see our school in action and meet our students.

CYA Welcomes its new Trustee



CYA Trustee Bliss Perry

Jordan "Bliss" Perry studied at CYA during the Covid semester of Spring 2020. Bliss attended Harvard University and received a joint A.B. in Computer Science and Classics. He was elected to the Board as an Alumnus Trustee for a two-year term starting on July 1, 2023. He is now working as a Product Lead at Palantir Technologies, a data analytics company in Washington D.C.

Gerry Ranglas wins an AHEPA Award



CYA Trustee **Gerry Ranglas** and his wife **Jeannie** received the "AHEPA Academy of Achievement in Philanthropy" award during the 101st AHEPA Supreme Convention Grand Banquet on Thursday 27 July 2023 in Las Vegas, NV.

The AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association), founded in Atlanta, GA, in 1922, is the largest and oldest Hellenic Heritage organization of its kind. Its mission is to promote the values of Hellenism, including philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and individual and family excellence.

Gerry and Jeannie's exceptional dedication to the community, both in public and private spheres, has been recognized and appreciated and this award is a testament to their selfless efforts and the significant impact they have made in improving the lives of others.



(From left): Alexis Phylactopoulos, Professor Ritsa Panagiotou, General David H. Petraeus, and CYA students

CYA Students at the DELPHI Economic Forum

On April 26-29, esteemed individuals in Politics, Business, Diplomacy, and Civic Society gathered at this year's Delphi Economic Forum annual conference to engage in meaningful discussions about the state of the world.

CYA always values the opportunity to send students to the DEF where they gain international conference experience and connections. This year, students, along with professors **Romolo Gandolfo & Ritsa Panagiotou**, got the chance to meet General **David H Petraeus**, former Commander of the United States Central Command.

During the conference, **Alexis Phylactopoulos** had the opportunity to participate in two panel discussions, "Greece as an Educational Hub" and "Classics in Praxis".

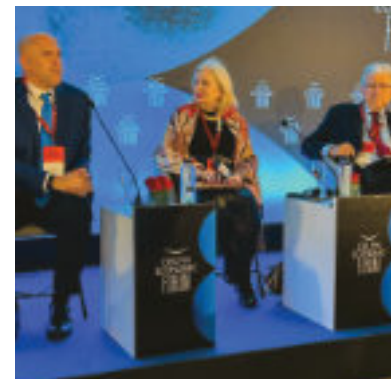
In the first one Mr. Phylactopoulos, along with

alumni Trustees **Deborah L. Wince-Smith '71**, President of Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) and **Endy Zemenides '95**, Executive Director of Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC) discussed the importance of Greece welcoming more international students and the transformative opportunities that foreign study and inclusive education can create for Greece and Hellenism.

In the panel discussion "Classics in Praxis" organized and chaired by **Evgenia Manolidou**, Head of Studies at Elliniki Agogi, Mr. Phylactopoulos stressed the importance of "learning Ancient Greek as a way to approach the substance of the ancient texts, but also to introduce discipline in a student's mind and encourage critical thinking".



Participants of the "Classics in Praxis" panel



Endy Zemenides, Deborah Wince-Smith, and Alexis Phylactopoulos

75th Annual Conference NAFSA

As part of our regular outreach and promotional effort, on May 30-June 2, a CYA contingent attended in Washington DC, the 75th Annual Conference of NAFSA, the largest association dedicated to international education and exchange. It was a week of networking, and forging partnerships. CYA President **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, was accompanied by CYA's V.P. for Administration **Peggy Myresiotou**, Associate Director of CYA's North American Office **Alexia Lingaas**, Student Advisor **Rachael Bittick**, and CYA Development Officer **Vassilis Simopoulos**.

On May 31, CYA hosted a reception for partner institutions, alumni, donors, and other friends of CYA to commemorate its 60th Anniversary. The reception was an opportunity to reconnect, socialize with old friends, and recognize the impact and far-reaching community CYA has established over the past 60 years. Among our guests were **Alexandra Papadopoulou**, the Greek Ambassador to Washington D.C. who honored us with her presence, **Spiros Dimolitsas**, Senior Vice President for Research & Chief Technology Officer at Georgetown University, and **Christos Michalakelis**, President at Study in Greece.



(From left): Rachael Bittick, Alexia Lingaas, Alexis Phylactopoulos, Peggy Myresiotou, and Billy Simopoulos



Alexis Phylactopoulos with Spiros Dimolitsas, Alexandra Papadopoulou, and Christos Michalakelis

NHS Heritage Greece Program Planned at CYA



Participants of the NHS' 2023 Annual Heritage Weekend

Alexis Phylactopoulos, in his new role as Executive Chairman of CYA's Board of Trustees, was privileged to attend National Hellenic Society's 2023 Annual Heritage Weekend in Las Vegas on 5-8 October.

Heritage Weekend & Classic (HW&C) is renowned for being the Greek American community's best event for relaxing, informal and great fun with NHS' signature *parea*.

During the NHS talks, Mr. Phylactopoulos stressed the importance of the increased number of students of Greek heritage attending CYA to learn the language, earn credits, and discover their roots. He also announced CYA's plans to participate in the NHS Greek Heritage program in summer 2024 by hosting a cohort of Greek-American students.



Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Phylactopoulos with Katerina Sokou



Alexis Phylactopoulos with Greek-American chef, Diane Kochilas

Toronto Economic Forum



Alexis Phylactopoulos with Claudia Carydis, Dimitris Androutsos, and George Sarsaroudis

On October 23, **Alexis Phylactopoulos** travelled to Toronto to participate in the Toronto Economic Forum II, which was organized by the Delphi Economic Forum in collaboration with the Hellenic Initiative Canada and proudly associated with the Canada-Greece Chamber of Commerce and the Hellenic Canadian Board of Trade.

Distinguished speakers exchanged views on the partnership opportunities between Canada and Greece in a panel discussion chaired by **Katerina Sokou**. Mr. Phylactopoulos stressed how instrumental CYA has been in strengthening educational ties between North America and Greece for over 60 years. He also referred to the challenges students and academic institutions from Canada and Greece face in higher education.

Study in Greece Conference

The importance of internationalization for the future of Greece's higher education system was emphasized during the Study in Greece conference entitled "*Reflecting on the Past – Gazing into the Future of Higher Education*", which was held at the Ministry of Education on Wednesday 15 November.

This event was the result of a collaborative endeavor between the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and Study in Greece, united by a shared commitment to advancing the cause of international education and elevating Greece to the forefront of study destinations. Among the speakers was **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, who noted the need for a framework to regulate private, non-profit universities.



The keynote speakers of the SiG session on Greek higher education

SPRING 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



CYA students exploring the flavors of Greece, mastering the art of stuffed peppers with tomatoes (γέμιστά) and cheese pie (τυρόπιτα).



Rest stop eats - CYAers experience some Greek street food during their field study trip to Northern Greece! (Photo: Amanda Zabaneh from University of Southern California)



At CYA, we believe hands-on experience and field study are essential and irreplaceable aspects of learning. In the environmental studies course "Cultural Landscapes" students bring together nature and culture to form a holistic interpretation of local natural history.



CYAers put themselves to the test in March by running the Athens Half Marathon. The race ends at the Panathenaic Stadium, right in front of CYA, and was a great experience for everyone who ran or showed up to cheer them on!



The oracle has spoken... it's going to be a great semester! Students kicked off the first of many educational adventures in January in traditional CYA fashion - at Delphi and Hosios Loukas Monastery.

FALL 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



CYA's new President, Theoni Scourta, began her term with a warm gesture - personally greeting arriving students at Athens Airport. It's a promising start to a journey filled with inspiration and growth!



One of the earliest vaulted tunnels in Greece near Ancient Nemea where students read inscriptions made by ancient Greek athletes.



On October 18, CYA and the Greece-Bhutan Friendship Association hosted a lecture by Dr. Lopen Karma Phuntsho, former monk and renowned Bhutanese scholar specializing in Buddhism, Tibetan & Himalayan Studies, and Bhutan.



On November 30, we had the pleasure of hosting two distinguished alumnae, Daphne (Pezaris '91) Maramaldi and Maria (Karapelou '91) Brown. During their spontaneous visit, Daphne and Maria had the opportunity to explore the academic center, reminiscing about their time as students.



To celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving, CYA staff got together on Thursday 23 November for lunch, where we had the opportunity to reflect on the highlights and positive experiences that have shaped our journey this year.



Students establish balance amid their academic adventures at CYA with weekly yoga sessions in a relaxed, friendly environment under the guidance of Dimitris Papadakis.

Former US Ambassador visits CYA

Former US Ambassador to Greece and CYA Advisor **Thomas Miller** and his wife **Bonnie Miller '96** visited College Year in Athens' offices on July 17, 2023 with their three grandchildren, **Payton**, **Mitchell**, and **Olivia**.

Payton is being accepted to the Computer Science Master's program at George Mason, Mitchell will be a Freshman at Radford University and 10-year-old Olivia is already anxious to go to college herself.

Despite the heat wave, they all enjoyed a short tour of the premises, met with several members of our faculty and staff, and had a cordial conversation about the future of CYA with their dear friend Alexis Phylactopoulos.



(Clockwise) Thomas Miller, Theoni Scourta, Alexis Phylactopoulos, Peyton, Mitchell, Bonnie, and Olivia



Payton, Mitchell, and Olivia (from left to right)

A Heartfelt Encounter: Zoe Kontes meets the first «William C. Kontes '99 Memorial Scholarship» recipient

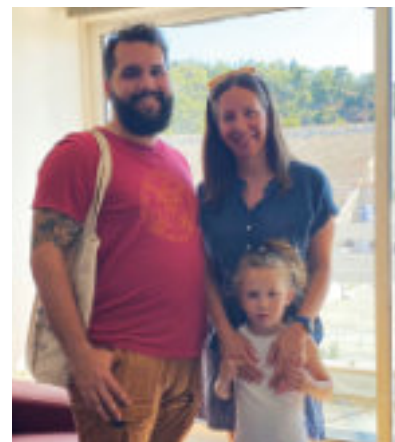
On Tuesday 18 July 2023, CYA Professor and former Trustee **Zoë Kontes '95** had the opportunity to meet **Luis Rodriguez-Perez '21**, the deserving recipient of the William C. Kontes '99 Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was established in 2021 by Zoë and CYA, honoring the life of her brother, **William Constantine Kontes '99**.

master's thesis at UCLA) was truly pleasant and heartwarming. Zoë had the chance to learn about Luis' passion for digital archaeology and how this scholarship played a crucial role in shaping his career path. Witnessing this impact was truly meaningful, and Zoë expressed her happiness in seeing such a deserving individual benefit from the scholarship.

reviewed the overwhelming support the award has received, which has been instrumental in enabling the scholarship's success.

The meeting between Zoë (who was teaching her course "Plundering Greek Antiquity: Collectors, Museums, and Archaeological Ethics") and Luis (who was working at the Agora and doing research for his

Additionally, on Thursday 20 July, Zoë met with **Maria Tsahas**, **Maria Marakas**, **Nea Herzfeld**, and **Billy Simopoulos** and discussed the progress of the scholarship. During this fruitful meeting, they



Luis with Zoe and her daughter Popi

Canadian Faculty-Led Groups



On Wednesday 5 July 2023, CYA invited the students from our two Canadian faculty-led groups (U of Toronto with their professor, **Toula Kourgiantakis**, and York University with Prof. **Sakis Gekas**) to meet Mr. **Neil Swain**, Chargé d' Affaires of the Embassy of Canada. Also present at this special gathering was Mr. **Konstantinos Katsigiannis**, President of the Canada-Greece Chamber of Commerce. This was a successful event that everybody enjoyed and a great boost to our common efforts to increase numbers of Canadian students in Greece.

ELIAMEP: A Presentation on Greece-US Relations

On Tuesday 26 September, CYA had the pleasure of hosting a policy paper presentation by **Katerina Sokou**, a distinguished Theodore Coulombis Research Fellow, on Greece-US Relations, organized by ELIAMEP (Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy).

Alexis Phylactopoulos welcomed everyone present with a brief greeting on behalf of CYA and **Loukas Tsoukalis**, the President of the Board of

ELIAMEP offered the opening remarks.

Maria Olson, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Greece, and Ambassador **Alexandra Papadopoulou**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, addressed the event. An engaging discussion between Sokou and Prof. **Thanos Dokos**, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister followed, moderated by ERT news anchor **Apostolos Magiriadis**.



IN MEMORIAM - Alain Toumayan

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Alain Toumayan** on October 4, 2023. Alain has been a member of the CYA Academic Advisory Roundtable since 2018. Alain was an Emeritus Professor of French and Francophone Studies and served the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Notre Dame for over 34 years (1989-2023). He was an

alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania and earned his Ph.D. from Yale University.

"What made Alain exceptional was his ability to see the broader picture in the field of study abroad; his viewpoint and remarks always considered all sides of a situation, whether academic or related to student affairs and extracurricular experiences" says CYA President, **Theoni Scourta**.



We express our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Vicki, and to his sons, Georges-Philippe and Nicolas.

CYA's Presence at the Authentic Athens Marathon

We are delighted that on Sunday 12 November 2023, nine of our students successfully completed the full marathon: **Jeremy Laboe**, **Felicity Sorenson**, **Courtney Albertson**, **Grace Acheson**, **Devynn Wilderman**, **Benji Hess**, **Danny McCarthy**, **Sam Rabaey**, and **Patrick Kingston**.

It's always encouraging to see our students actively engaging with the local culture and taking on challenges beyond the academic realm. The marathon provided them with a unique opportunity to connect with the city on a different level. Here's a glimpse of their triumphant moments.



Grace Acheson



Jeremy Laboe

Work in Progress: CYA Study Center

Our plans for the creation of a Study Center are progressing. In the first week of November, we invited an architect consultant from Boston, **Jeff Hoover**, to have a week of consultations with our architects, **Stephan Buerger** and **Demetra Katsota**. He also had a meeting with stakeholders in which CYA Trustee **Lena Papalexopoulou** participated and gave valuable input, and another with students and faculty. We all profited from the opinions expressed, particularly those by the students. Finally, a very productive meeting was held with the top CYA administrative officers, the Librarian, and the Development Officer.



Jeff Hoover and Stephan Buerger



Kate, Tyanna, Kellen, and Alexa (from left to right)

CYA Media Lab Interns for Fall 2023

Every semester, the CYA Media Lab is happy to gain new collaborators! This semester, our interns are (from left): **Kate Harges**, a senior at Connecticut College majoring in Psychology, **Tyanna Xavier**, a junior at Siena College, **Kellen Seth**, a junior at Bates College double majoring in both Philosophy and Rhetoric, and Film/Screen studies and **Alexa Macaulay**, a junior at Trinity College double majoring in Economics and Psychology. You can look forward to seeing their creative projects, articles and stories.

Campus Relations Representatives



Tessa Borchardt

Tessa studied Classics and Psychology at Lewis and Clark College, where she participated in a faculty-led CYA program in Fall 2019, and later, after graduation, the summer excavation program in June 2021. The hands-on experience of her CYA programs proved to be the most beneficial and enjoyable part of her academic studies, and encouraged her to pursue her master's degree. She completed her master's in Classical Art and Archaeology at King's College London in 2022. Tessa is excited to share her passion for study abroad as a Campus Relations Representative.



Hannah Chayet

Hannah graduated from Haverford College in May 2023 where she studied Classics and Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her love of travel and Greek history led her to CYA which allowed her to study abroad in Athens in spring 2022. The incredible opportunities that CYA provides academically, socially and culturally fostered lifelong friendships and irreplaceable memories that she hopes to help current students achieve as a Campus Relations Representative.



Leighton Young

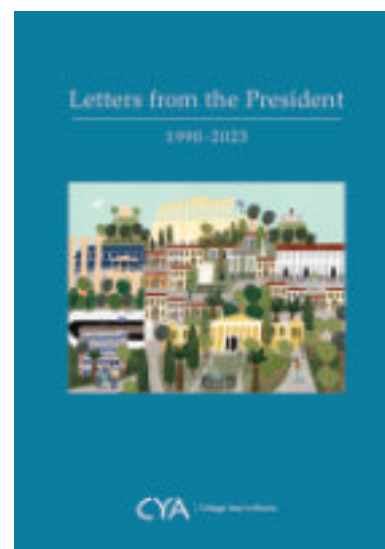
Leighton attended Colby College, in Waterville, Maine, from 2019 to 2023, majoring in Government and Classical Civilization. He attended CYA in the spring of 2022, where he studied Ancient History, Sculpture, Archaeology, and Modern Greek. Studying at CYA allowed him to further explore his academic passions as well as connect to his cultural roots as a Greek-American. He is extremely excited to carry over his passion for working with students and advocating for international education as a Campus Relations Representative!

CYA EDITIONS

Letters from the President

As we celebrated a remarkable milestone in the history of College Year in Athens this past year, we have the pleasure to share with you a labor of love that has been several decades in the making. A book chronicling the rich tapestry of CYA's history, encapsulated in a series of letters that have been published in The Owl.

The letters, written by **Alexis Phylactopoulos** who served as President of CYA for 37 years, trace the development of CYA from year to year often in the context of events taking place in Greece and around the world. This book serves as both a tribute to our cherished past and a testament to the enduring legacy of CYA.





CYA & Solidarity Now

CYA and SolidarityNow Join Forces to Foster Cross-Cultural Understanding and Empower Young People

We are thrilled to announce that CYA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SolidarityNow, a Greek non-profit humanitarian organization. This collaboration marks a significant step in our mission to promote cross-cultural sensitivity and empower young individuals from diverse backgrounds.

SolidarityNow, founded in 2013, has been at the forefront of addressing the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups in our society. Their dedication to inclusive education, livelihood opportunities, social protection and inclusion, and the protection of human rights aligns closely with CYA's values. Through this collaboration, we aim to amplify our efforts and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

Under this MoU, CYA will serve as a conduit for interested students to participate in various programs and activities organized by SolidarityNow. These initiatives range from English and computer lessons to creative playing and administrative support. Additionally, CYA will facilitate internships for students within SolidarityNow's support services, providing them with valuable real-world experience.



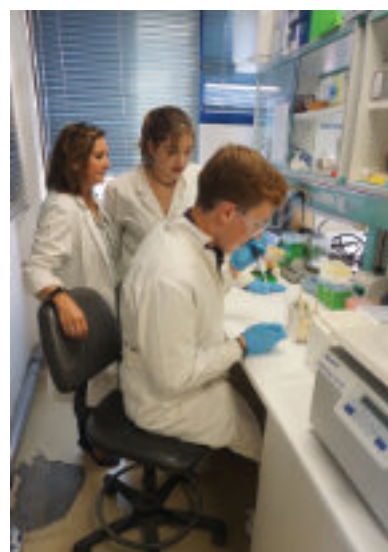
Antoinette and Patrick at the Farm

Odyssey Eco Farm

A volunteering activity took place for the first time at Odyssey Eco Farm in Poros during Easter. **Antoinette Frascone** and **Patrick Nistl**, both from the College of the Holy Cross, had the opportunity to participate and had an incredible time. They helped with planting, cleaning the vegetable garden, and picking oranges and lemons for 7 hours for each of their 4 days staying there. The owner had an amazing time too and she would love to have more CYA students next semester!

Pasteur Institute

Nolan Randall interned at the Pasteur Institute in the fall. He had joined the team led by **Dr. Sgouras**, who heads the Vaccine Unit at the Pasteur Institute's laboratory, along with other slightly older peers from Greece. All of them were enthusiastic about it, and Nolan was very punctual and enjoyed this internship.



Nolan Randall (Union College)

MedINA

Mia Iannios interned at the Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA) in the fall. She primarily assisted the Development and Communication department. Both sides were very pleased with this collaboration!



*Mia Iannios
(The George Washington University)*



CYA
College Year in Athens

CYA Wellness Week is coming!

Join in on free activities to destress and feel good!

- 1) Food:** Five days of not having to convince yourself that healthy food actually tastes good
- 2) Ceramics:** Seize the clay!
- 3) Rage room:** If you're angry and you know it, smash some things
- 4) Sound bath:** Gong-ive myself a what bath?!
- 5) There's most yoga** and then there's **Ashtanga**
- 6) Mindfulness at the Museum:** we swear, it's not Panic! at the Disco's rival band
- 7) Healing:** You hold the don-key
- 8) Sunday Philopappou Walk:** Leave your prints** on the hill: Sunday morning walk to Philopappos Monument

(**Gaius Julius Antiochus Epiphanes Philopappos was Prince of the Commagene Kingdom)

WHEN?
Nov 27- Dec 3

WHERE?
On and off campus
Details to be announced

HOW?
Just join in the fun

STAY TUNED
for sign-up details!

Wellness Week

Between 27 November and 3 December, CYA organized a variety of activities with the purpose of encouraging the social, physical, and mental well-being for the members of the CYA community.

Our students and staff enjoyed a mindful and relaxed state under the guidance of a sound therapist and her sound healing instruments during the sound bath meditation; they visited a donkey sanctuary where they had the chance to interact with the donkeys; explored meaningful and deep connections with art at the Goulandris Museum, and even took a morning walk to the Philopappou Hill.



Returning to CYA

For countless alumni, College Year in Athens became the cornerstone of their academic journey, an odyssey that broadened their horizons. Back then, they were young, adventurous, and eager to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of Greek culture, and history.

Now, after decades of forging their own paths, these devoted alumni are embarking on an exciting new adventure, returning to CYA, this time with their families by their side. As we delve into the heartwarming stories, shared reminiscences, and unique experiences of these alumni and their loved ones, we rediscover the enduring magic that CYA holds for all those who once called it home.

Chase Rowland/Kalya Stanten

Chase Rowland (SP'17) and **Kalya Stanten (SP'17)** dropped by CYA on August 31, 2023.

They were visiting Greece for the first time since they attended school here. Chase just finished law school in Missouri and is awaiting his bar examination results. He has been in Greece for a month and revisited the places he visited while a student at CYA (Delphi, Nafplion, etc.). Kalya works at a biomedical company in the Bay Area, San Francisco.

Billy Simopoulos, our Development Officer, showed them around the Academic Center, where they had a chance to talk to **Georgia Katsarou**, CYA Librarian, and **Maria Tsahas**, Registrar.



Chase and Kalya with Billy Simopoulos and Maria Tsahas

Paul Demplo

Paul Damplo (FA'01) visited CYA with his family and in-laws.

It is Paul's first time back at CYA since he was a student here in 2001. Paul talked to Georgia in the Library, and Jennifer had Paul sign the Alumni notebook.

Paul mentioned that he was a student here during 9/11, which made the experience much more intense, being away from home, but also bonded the group further with Mr. Phyl and the staff's efforts.

Paul now works in finance but enjoys reading the newsletter and keeping up with CYA news. He plans to come every ten years-he has family here, since his mom is Greek-and hopes his two sons will attend CYA when they go to college.



Paul with his family and Billy Simopoulos

Stelle Valsamis

CYA alumna **Stelle Valsamis (SP '99)** visited CYA on June 30, 2023 with her husband **Evangelo (Angelo)**, her three daughters **Sofia, Penelope, and Anastasia**, and her Greek cousin **Dimitris Liourdis**, who lives right next door to CYA's academic center! This was Stelle's first time back at CYA since being a student. Our Development Officer, **Billy Simopoulos**, showed them around the facilities and gave the girls some CYA swag. **Jennifer Holland '99**, our Student Affairs Advisor, showed up and recognized Stelle, as the two of them studied at CYA at the same time! Stelle wrote in the Alumni notebook that Jennifer keeps. They also visited the Registrar's office, where **Maria Tsahas** showed Stelle's student file. As always, this part of the tour brings a few chuckles. Stelle's kids and Angelo loved seeing that Stelle wasn't a straight-A (or all-A) student! The girls loved seeing where their mother went to school in Greece and are looking forward to coming here when they go to college.



Stelle with her family and Billy Simopoulos



At the Registrar's Office with Maria Tsahas

Terry Crone

Terry Crone '73 came to Athens on August 30, 2023 for the first time after 50 years. He visited the Academic Center, met with **Theoni Scourta** and **Angelos Papadopoulos** and then had lunch with the entire CYA Fall 2023 class at CYA's dining hall. He also went to the Registrar's Office, where he had the chance to review the DePauw student record we have on file for his class. The next day **Alexis Phylactopoulos** and **Billy Simopoulos** joined him for

lunch at Kolonaki and then walked around the old neighborhood, where Terry shared some of his CYA stories and took pictures in front of his old CYA apartment on 42 Xenokratous Street. Terry also participated in CYA's Orientation Field trip to Delphi during the weekend (2-3 Sept). This long standing CYA tradition allows students and staff to bond while exploring the historical site. This trip was a chance for him to relive part of his CYA experience

once again and undoubtedly made his return to Greece even more memorable.



KAREN DONNE VITELLI '65

1944-2023

A Life Well Lived

Read this touching tribute, written by her classmate and friend, CYA alumnus and board member, Peter Allen '65

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I report the death of our dear friend and my CYA classmate, Karen Donne (Kaddee) Vitelli. She died on September 12, 2023 at the age of 79 in the town of Dresden, Maine where she had been living since her retirement from Indiana University in 2006.

Kaddee was born on June 6 (D-day), 1944 in San Francisco where her father was stationed with the U.S. Navy, but moved early to Easton, Pennsylvania where her father got a job in the English department at Lafayette University. Her mother was an artist with a strong interest in the theatre. She was the oldest of five siblings, all of whom were named after characters in books her father was teaching at the time. However, nobody can remember which Karen Kaddee was named after.

After graduating from high school in Easton, Kaddee attended the College of Wooster in Ohio. As a major in Classics, she decided to spend her junior year at a relatively new study abroad program, College Year in Athens, where she could get firsthand experience in the classic and archaeology. I met her in Athens that September after 12 days at sea on the S.S. Queen Frederika along with several of our CYA classmates. Kaddee and I soon discovered

that we had a lot in common. We were both children of English professors who had served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific in World War II and both of us had four siblings.

Altogether there were 25 of us at CYA that year, 7 men and 18 women. The men lived on Deinokratous St. next to the bakery above Dante Square and the weekly laiki farmers' market and the women on Didotou St. across from the Hellenic American Union where our classes were held. Kaddee was very bright and a serious student, already well versed in the classics, yet she found time to go out some evenings, accompanying classmate Joan Caraganis and others to the fashionable club at 17 Voukourestiou St. and the lounge on the top floor of the Hilton Hotel where one of them often joined the band to belt out torch songs and ballads.

At the end of that academic year, Kaddee, fellow classmate Pam (Jones '65) Clarke, and I spent almost two months volunteering with the Greek Archaeological Service with our archaeology professor Dr. Nicholas Yalouris who was Ephor of Antiquities for the southwest Peloponnesos. At the archaeological site of Olympia the museum had been badly damaged by an earthquake that year and everything had to be removed and relocated to a new structure which had been under construction and was nearly completed. Fortunately,

it had not been damaged by the quake. We were not involved with moving the statues, metopes and other large objects that had been on display in the museum galleries; rather we inventoried and catalogued smaller artifacts in the museum's apothekes (storehouses). There were thousands of items, many still wrapped in German newspapers from the 1870s with identification tags written by Wilhelm Dorpfeld, the famous German archaeologist who worked at Olympia. Small bronze votive offerings were so numerous that we ended up sorting them according to types (bovine, etc.) and placing them in wooden boxes, recording them as "250 figurines..." We found many hidden treasures including a number of white marble Cycladic figurines that were just becoming very popular with collectors and now make up a significant portion of objects on display at the Cycladic Museum in Athens. In the evenings there after dinner, Dr. Yalouris, who had an avocational interest in astronomy, would take us to the ancient site for star watching. It was quite magical to wander about, pausing to observe some constellation or other or just to view the ruins in the shadows of a full moon.

Later that summer we moved to ancient Pylos where we helped prepare exhibits of artifacts in the newly constructed museum there. Kaddee, who had exquisite handwriting, did the labels for the items on display while Pam and I sorted through

artifacts and did some cataloguing. There was an all star cast of archaeological illuminati at Pylos that summer - Carl Blegen (the principal excavator of Pylos), Marion Rawson, Mabel Lang, and the Dutch illustrator, Piet de Jong whose renderings of what Knossos might have looked like are probably wrong, but nevertheless compelling. The ancient Pylos he recreated was probably more accurate. We interacted with them all day and ate dinner with them in the evenings. Kaddee and Pam slept in the dig house and I was lodged at the local E class hotel in a room overlooking an outdoor cinema which nightly regaled me with very dated B class movies until 1 a.m.

« We had all spent a spectacular year (at CYA) that changed our lives forever. »

Kaddee and Pam flew back to the States in August and I boarded a freighter in Piraeus, bound for New York. Our first stop was Thessaloniki (both north and east of our westerly destination), but, after stops in Carrara, Italy, and Sardinia, we passed out of the Mediterranean and steamed through the North Atlantic, arriving in New York City 26 days after our departure from Piraeus. Kaddee returned for her senior year at Wooster, Pam to Vassar for hers, and I to Middlebury for mine. We had all spent a spectacular year that changed our lives forever.

Kaddee graduated from Wooster in 1966. Her year in Greece with CYA had instilled in her a yen for travel and a desire to return to Greece, so she looked for a vocation that would allow both. She loved to tell the story of her career choice, how she decided to become either

an airline stewardess or an archaeologist. In her senior year she was accepted into a stewardess training program by Delta Airlines and was all set to do it when the letter came from the University of Pennsylvania inviting her to join the graduate program in archaeology. Needless to say, she opted for Penn. All of this is discussed in detail in the book she published in 2023 (the year of her death): *Do I Really Want to be an Archaeologist? Letters from the field 1968-1974*.

Initially attracted to underwater archaeology at Penn, Kaddee had to settle for land archaeology as she had contracted tuberculosis as a child and SCUBA diving would have been a major challenge. She was plagued by the TB her entire life, but she did not let it hold her back and it did not limit her archaeological endeavors. Other than her summer at Olympia and Pylos, Kaddee's first professional archaeological experience was in 1968 at Franchthi Cave in the northeast Peloponnesos where she served as project artist for Tom Jacobson's excavations there. At the end of that summer she

stayed on in Greece as the University of Pennsylvania fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. In the summer of 1969 she rejoined the Franchthi Cave project and did a stint in Turkey at the archaeological site of Gordion.

Kaddee returned to Penn for two years before taking a job in the Ancient Studies Department at the University of Maryland Baltimore County where she taught for seven years during which, among other things, she directed the excavation of an 8000-year-old Native American site on the university's campus. She continued her Greek excavations Greece in the summers and completed her doctoral dissertation on the Middle Neolithic pottery of the Franchthi Cave for Penn in 1974.

In 1978 Kaddee was hired by Indiana University where she taught in the relatively new Program in Classical Archaeology, becoming Chair of the Department a mere nine years later, at which time she was also promoted to full professor in the Department of



Karen Donne (Kaddee) Vitelli

Anthropology. Five years later she assumed the supervision of the interdisciplinary research and publication program which resulted in the series, Excavations at Franchthi Cave, Greece. She remained at IU for the remainder of her career and continued her association with the archaeology of Franchthi Cave and other excavations in Greece during this time.

Kaddee was a responsible and prolific scholar from the beginning and her contributions to the field of Classical Archaeology are legendary. In 1977, just three years after completing her dissertation, she published an analysis of potters' marks on ceramics from Franchthi Cave and the nearby site of ancient Lerna. She continued to publish regularly for the next three plus decades, both books and articles in professional journals. Major works include volumes on the Neolithic pottery of Franchthi Cave and Lerna published in 1993, 1999, and 2007. Rather than dry academic descriptions of ancient ceramic artifacts, these works include analyses of the production processes and speculation on the social settings and in which these vessels were produced and used. In addition to her scholarly publications, Kaddee wrote books for the general public including *Archaeological Ethics* (1996) and *Do I Really Want to be an Archaeologist? Letters from the Field 1968-1974* (2023).

Kaddee was also a pioneer in the area of experimental archaeology, attempting to reproduce the circumstances under which pottery was produced and used in ancient times by making and firing ceramics using only techniques available to Neolithic potters. Her course in this subject was very popular with IU students for years. All of these accomplishments helped bring

international recognition to the department at IU for its innovative approaches to teaching, fieldwork, and publication.



Besides her extensive and innovative work in "dirt archaeology," Kaddee also made major contributions to the field of archaeological ethics. She brought attention to the damage caused by looting, uninformed collecting, and the unregulated antiquities market. Between 1975 and 1983 she published a regular column in the *Journal of Field Archaeology*, not only on the damage caused by looting and theft, but also on efforts, largely ineffective, to legislate and enforce laws to limit such depredations. In 1980 she published "Implementing the UNESCO Convention: A Challenge for Archaeologists" in the journal, *American Antiquity*, calling for archaeologists to become more involved in the legislative process and more aware of the opposition to limits on the antiquities trade. In order to garner a wider popular audience for these efforts, she published a popular book of case studies, *Archaeological Ethics* (1996), and co-edited *Ethical Issues in Archaeology* (2003), as well as giving many public lectures on the subject. Ultimately, Kaddee understood that looting and uninformed collecting would never be

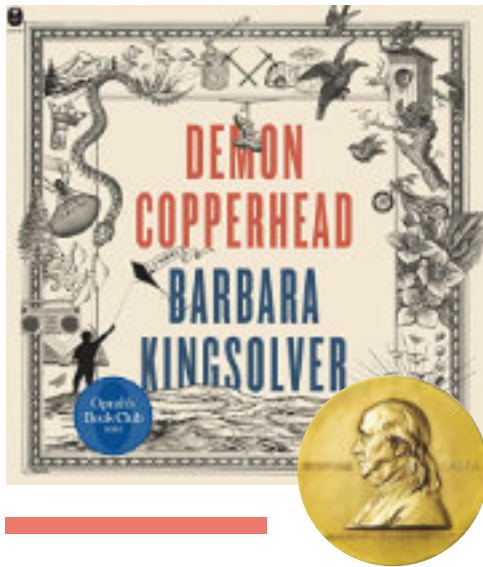
completely eliminated, but she considered it a victory if she only got more people interested and talking about such issues, which she did.

In 1977 Kaddee married her IU colleague, Reginald Heron, a photographer and educator whom she had met in an airport in Europe. He retired from IU in 2002 and Kaddee in 2005. They moved to a house in Dresden, Maine on the Eastern River, a tributary of the Kennebec, where they kept in touch with family, friends, and colleagues. Reg died in 2012 and Kaddee bravely soldiered on alone. In Dresden she was an active member of the community, getting involved in the local Conservation Commission, the annual library plant sale, a garden club, the writing of a monthly column, "Seen in Dresden," and other activities and organizations. An avid gardener and enthusiastic bird watcher, she took full advantage of her surroundings. She was also a loyal member of the Nature Conservancy.

In all respects, Kaddee was a superb scholar, a loyal colleague, a terrific friend, and an overall wonderful person. She will be missed by all who knew her, either directly or through her extensive publications.

She is survived by her younger brother and two sisters as well as several nieces and nephews. Another brother predeceased her by just a few days. She left the bulk of her estate to the Nature Conservancy but singled out CYA for a very generous donation.

Peter S. Allen, with help from Mark Lawall, Tracey Cullen, Lillian and Eloise Vitelli, and some of my classmates.



Congratulations to Barbara Kingsolver '76 for co-winning the 2023 Pulitzer Prize!

Barbara Kingsolver is the author of ten bestselling works of fiction, including the novels *Unsheltered*, *Flight Behavior*, *The Lacuna*, *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Animal Dreams*, *The Bean Trees*, and *Pigs in Heaven*, as well as books of poetry, essays, and creative nonfiction. Kingsolver's work has been translated into more than twenty languages and has earned literary awards and a devoted readership at home and abroad. She was awarded the **National Humanities Medal**, our country's highest honor for service through the arts, as well as the **Dayton Literary Peace Prize** for the body of her work. She lives with her family on a farm in southern Appalachia.

Emily Hanscam (FA'10) «Archaeology & Nationalism: The Politics of the Past»

On Wednesday 1 November, students and CYA community members had the opportunity to attend a lecture by CYA alumna **Dr. Emily Hanscam**. Her lecture "*Archaeology & Nationalism: The Politics of the Past*" delved into Roman origin myths of Romania, the U.S. and the Classical past, and the trouble with methodological nationalism. "*Archaeology was invented to create and sustain the nation. Study of the material remains of the past always has and always will be political*" - Dr. Emily Hanscam.



A Memory of Hydra

"In 1969-1970 we often went to the nearby islands on the weekends and stayed in villagers' homes for a few drachmas. Here is a special memory of mine".

*At the taverna
by the seashore
under the evening sky,
a father leads his son
with a handkerchief
held between their hands.
The bouzouki plays and
men dance in a line of
dancers
as watchers clap
and break plates under the
tables.*

Barbara Stetson '70



Photo by David Kaloczi on Unsplash

Psychology in the Post-pandemic Era, a CYA Course



The global crisis caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 has had far-reaching consequences on all aspects of human life. From health and economy to social dynamics and mental well-being, the pandemic has left an indelible mark on society. At the same time, the modern human being has to face other challenges like the anxiety caused by the escalation of the climate crisis, political uncertainty, and financial crises.

In light of these challenges, the field of psychology has played a crucial role in understanding and addressing the psychological impact they've had on individuals living today. CYA course "Psychology in the Post-Pandemic Era", with CYA prof. **Eleni Koukouna**, delves into the intricacies of psychological theory and helps students apply them to real-world events.

The course covers a broad range of topics, such as the psychological effects of prolonged isolation, grief, anxiety, and uncertainty, or the anxiety caused by the climate crisis. The students delve into strategies for coping with pandemic-related stressors, building resilience, and fostering psychological well-being. By learning about evidence-based

practices and psychological processes, students gain experience with the tools needed in order to be able to assess, support, and guide individuals and communities on their journey to recovery.

"This class has helped to connect those dots when thinking about the way the pandemic affected us now and after. Not only can we see the mental and physical health implications but we can also see the way other issues have been amplified. Whether that is examining the way racism and racial microaggressions have continued to grow or the way the climate crisis somewhat subsided during the pandemic but has also now continued to rise as a global issue."
Yazmine Gnanaratnam (SP'23)

The class has a significant amount of fieldwork. Students visit organizations and day centers that do work on the topics discussed in class. Students have the opportunity to engage in discussions, share experiences, and learn from field professionals. Later, in class, students work in groups to study the input they have from different field visits and readings.

"The group work we do is my favorite part of the class. We communicate with each other in groups of three before we share our thoughts with the whole class. Our professor, Eleni, is incredibly nice and keeps an open mind to what we have to say."
Kaleb Mattson (SP'23)

By fostering a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing mental health in the post-pandemic world, the course encourages students to think critically, study approaches to psychological healing, and develop tools that can prove valuable when working with individuals or groups during current or future crises.



Join our Book Club

A small and determined group of CYA alumni have been meeting monthly for 2 years now to discuss books related to Greece. This group meets informally via zoom and they discuss the book but also CYA memories and experiences, and much more!

In the last three months of 2023 we read:

Mermaid Singing by Charmian Clift

Lament from Epirus by Christopher C. King

Family Papers by Sarah Abrevaya Stein.

The first meeting of the new year will take place on January 22 and they will be discussing part 1 of Mark Mazower's *The Greek Revolution*. If you are interested in learning more or joining, please email **Erica Huffman '93**, Director of Alumni Relations, at alumni@cyathens.org.



COOKING CLASSICS 101

Galatopita (Greek Milk Pie)



Ingredients

- 5 cups whole milk
- 1 cup semolina
- 1 ½ cup granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- lemon zest, of 1 lemon
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 ½ tablespoon butter.

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 180o C (356o F).

In a pot add the milk, the sugar, and transfer over medium heat until it comes to a boil.

In a bowl, add the semolina, the eggs, the vanilla extract, the lemon zest, the salt, and mix very well

With a ladle, slowly add the hot milk from the pot into the bowl with the eggs.

Add the mixture into the pot again, and stir constantly until the cream thickens.

Remove from the heat, add the butter, and mix until it melts.

Butter a 27 cm baking dish and sprinkle with semolina.

Pour the whole mixture and spread it well with a spatula.

Bake for 40 minutes. Remove and set aside to cool.

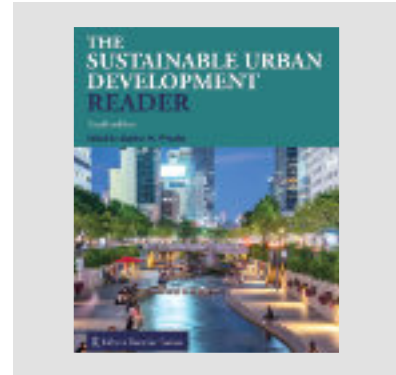
Serve with powdered sugar and cinnamon.

The Sustainable Urban Development Reader

Wheeler, Stephen, ed. *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader*. 4th edition. Abington: Routledge, 2023.

"This thoroughly revised and updated fourth edition of *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader* combines classic and contemporary readings to provide a broad introduction to the topic that is accessible to general and undergraduate audiences. The *Reader* begins by tracing the roots of the sustainable development concept in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries through classic readings. It then explores dimensions of urban sustainability, including land use and urban design, transportation, ecological planning and restoration, energy

and materials use, economic development, social and environmental justice, and green architecture and building. Additional sections cover tools for sustainable development, sustainable development internationally, visions of sustainable community, and case studies from around the world. *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader* remains unique in presenting a broad array of sustainable city readings, each with a concise introduction placing it within the context of this evolving discourse. Presenting an authoritative overview of the field using original sources in a

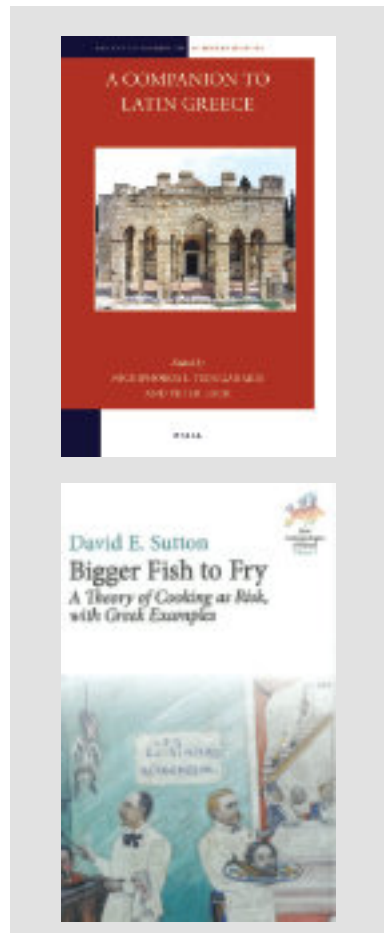


highly readable format, this book is a valuable resource for general readers as well as students and researchers in urban studies, environmental studies, the social sciences, and related fields."

A Companion to Latin Greece

Nikiphoros I. Tsougarakis, and Peter Lock. *A Companion to Latin Greece*. Brill's Companions to European History. Leiden: Brill, 2014.

"The conquest of the Byzantine Empire by the armies of the Fourth Crusade resulted in the foundation of several Latin political entities in the lands of Greece. The *Companion to Latin Greece* offers thematic overviews of the history of the mixed societies that emerged as a result of the conquest. With dedicated chapters on the art, literature, architecture, numismatics, economy, social and religious organisation and the crusading involvement of these Latin states, the volume offers an introduction to the study of Latin Greece and a sampler of the directions in which the field of research is moving."



Bigger Fish to Fry

Sutton, David E. *Bigger Fish to Fry: A Theory of Cooking as Risk, with Greek Examples*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2021.

"What defines cooking as cooking, and why does cooking matter to the understanding of society, cultural change and everyday life? This book explores these questions by proposing a new theory of the meaning of cooking as a willingness to put oneself and one's meals at risk on a daily basis. Richly illustrated with examples from the author's anthropology fieldwork in Greece, *Bigger Fish to Fry* proposes a new approach to the meaning of cooking and how the study of cooking can reshape our understanding of social processes more generally."

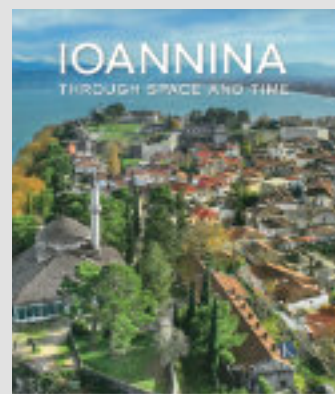
Ioannina: through space and time

Soueref, Konstantinos I., Varvara Papadopoulou, Thetis Xanthaki, Elias Kolovos, Alexander Moissis, and Ioulia Papastavrou. Ioannina : through space and time. Translated by Dimitrios Doumas. Athens: Kapon, 2023.

"Ioannina constitutes a world intertwined with its legends and the elements of nature. A city in which the lake plays a leading role, acting as a scenic artist, but also a narrator. Simultaneously, it is a city which, like the mountains surrounding it, is firmly set on the ground and, at the same time, immersed in the charm of its age-old history. Heroes, religions, myths and memories, all of which are possessions and spoils of this unique Siren, who for thousands of years now has been enticing us into listening to the song of this land. This book attempts to set out on a journey through space and time.

With intermediate "stops" at the ages before and after the invention of script, the Byzantine and post-Byzantine times, the city's conquest by the Ottomans,

the reign of Ali Pasha and the Reform period to his demise and the Liberation. With "stops" at the caves of Perama and Kastritsa, Dodona—the Oracle of earth and sky, with the "high-crested" oak tree and the will of Zeus—the Nissi (Island)—with the significant monastic state and the figures of the ancient Greek philosophers depicted on its wall paintings—the Castle, the city of the past and the present. Man has always been at the centre of this swirl of events through space and time. It seems that his anxieties, as these were expressed in Dodona's oracular tablets when he desperately sought prophecies, or when he silently visited a church, a mosque or a synagogue to pray, have barely changed. To him, time is no different than Plato's perception of it: a moving image of eternity."



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The Conquered: Byzantium and America on the Cusp of Modernity

Kefala, Eleni. The Conquered: Byzantium and America on the Cusp of Modernity. Washington: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2020.

"In the middle of the fifteenth century, ominous portents like columns of fire and dense fog were seen above the skies of Constantinople as the Byzantine capital fell under siege by the Ottomans. Allegedly, similar signs appeared a few decades later and seven thousand miles away, forecasting the fall of the Mexica capital of Tenochtitlan-Tlatelolco to the Spanish and their indigenous allies. After both cities had fallen, some Greeks and Mexica turned to poetry and song to express their anguish at the birth of what has come to be called the "modern" era. This study probes issues of collective

memory and cultural trauma in three sorrowful poems, the "*Lament for Constantinople*," the "*Huexotzinca Piece*," and the "*Tlaxcala Piece*." Composed by anonymous authors soon after the conquest of the two cities, these texts describe the fall of an empire as a fissure in the social fabric and an open wound on the body politic. They are the workings of creators who draw on tradition and historical particulars to articulate, in a familiar language, the trauma of the conquered"



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As we reflect on a remarkable year, marked by CYA's 60th Anniversary, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support we have received from our generous donors. From **July 1, 2022**, to **June 30, 2023**, CYA has been fortunate to witness an amazing outpouring of philanthropy that has significantly contributed to the enhancement of our academic programs, scholarships, and overall student experience. In the list below we have combined all gifts, including matching and designated gifts for donations received in celebration of CYA's 60th Anniversary.

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1960s

Peter Allen '65 shares: I remain on the CYA board (40+ years now!!) although I have not gone to the summer board meeting in Greece for three years due to the pandemic. I have gone to the stateside meetings, however, and have tried to represent our class well there. I am especially sad about my good friend, CYA classmate, and colleague, **Kaddee Vitelli '65**, who died in September (see the obituary/remembrance in this issue of the Owl). She will be missed.

1970s

John Roth '75 writes: Since retiring from teaching in 2020, I have been thinking about the emperor Tiberius and how he may have been misunderstood and maligned in the press. My apologia appears in the Antigone Journal: www.antigonejournal.com/2023/02/uncancelling-tiberius/

Katherine Schwab '75 writes: 2023-2024 marks the 36th and final year of a career as Professor of Art History & Visual Culture at Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT. Instead of winding down this year, I am busier than ever due to a new appointment as Founding Director of the new Arts Institute in the College of Arts and Sciences. Retirement will feel like a long and sustained sabbatical! A move is planned as well, with a relocation to the San Diego area by fall 2024. Annual research trips to Athens remain on track. In recent years it has been really good to reconnect with many of my classmates at CYA from 1974-75. Meanwhile, we are steadily sending Fairfield students to CYA and I keep telling them how lucky they are.

Anne (Steinhilper '77) Scott writes: My husband and I bought a σπίτι on Crete 4 years ago as a part-time retirement home. We spend several months a year there. I'm wondering if any other CYA Alums have done anything similar?

1990s

Jennifer Custer (FA'90) shares: Hi CYA Friends! While I haven't been back to Greece since my CYA time in the fall of 1991, I really enjoy seeing what everyone is up to. My family and I are off to explore Antarctica in February - one last big family adventure

before our daughter heads to university in the fall. For the past 20 years I've worked with the Indiana University School of Medicine, most recently as the Program Manager for the ENLACE Global Health Project - Latin America. Best to All~ Jennifer

Jennifer Engler (FA'90) writes: Senior Consultant at the University of Minnesota in Leadership Coaching and Organizational Development. Planning a return to Crete in 2024!

Christine (Messer FA'90) Gallagher shares: I closed my healthcare practice this past summer. After 32 years in health-related service, I was ready for something new! For the past three years I've also been doing food writing and am a columnist for our newspaper. This has been a blast and I'm now focusing my professional life on food writing, reporting, and culinary judging. In addition, I wrote a cookbook called *Dining Around the World with Friends*. It even features a chapter on Greece! (Email me at allthingsfoodchristine@gmail.com for information on how to order one. You can also follow me on Instagram @allthingsfoodchristine). This empty nest new phase of life has really been a delight to me and my husband, Gordon. We've been together for 34 years now and still treasure our memories as an engaged couple studying at CYA.

Kat (Laprise FA'90) LaTosch: Kat opened her own diversity, equity and inclusion consulting practice, LaTosch Consulting, in 2011 and works with nonprofits in Michigan and across the United States in the areas of racial equity and LGBTQ intersections. She stays connected with fellow CYA-er **Dean Kralios** and reflects fondly upon her CYA experience so many years ago. She lives with her wife Jennifer and their two 18-year-old sons just outside of Detroit, Michigan. She's currently in the process of establishing a Retreat Center in Northern Michigan to help social justice advocates re-ground themselves and do their best to make the world a better place in these turbulent times.

Anthony Tuck (FA'90) writes: I recently returned to Athens for the first time since CYA! I was there for a conference on the archaeological evidence of early wine production and the socio-political environments of its consumption. It was a wonderful conference made all the better by some brilliant wine tastings out in Boeotia. I certainly won't wait so long to return again.

Laura Moseley '91: After completing her graduate education with an MA in Art History at Tufts University in 1992, Laura worked in the Boston area until moving back home to Annapolis in 2016. She works remotely as a Project Manager in lighting sales for a Boston company. In her spare time she enjoys scuba diving, taking ballet classes, and volunteering at the local animal shelter.

Katharine Christmas (SP'91) shares: I've lived in Chicago for 19 years now. My husband and I became empty nesters this fall when our daughter Ellie started at Scripps College, in California. Our son Will is a junior at Harvard College. Will and I were lucky enough to meet up with **Daphne Maramaldi** for a Greek lunch in Cambridge! I tried various careers over the years, across Asia and the US, before realizing that the common denominator between all of my choices (including my year at CYA) was international travel. I became a travel agent about 5 years ago and am enjoying that adventure. Last spring, my job sent me to Corfu for a week - an amazing island and I highly recommend it. Would love to meet up with other CYA alumni in the Chicago area!

Emily Lewis (SP'91) shares: I'll soon celebrate my 8th anniversary as an expat in Paris and couldn't be happier with my decision to build a life in Europe. Check out my amateur vlog about it: @livingindetail on YouTube.

Ed Brzytwa (SP'98) shares: In April 2023, the Washingtonian Magazine included me on its list of the 500 Most Influential People Shaping Policy. You can find me in the trade section here: www.washingtonian.com/2023/04/27/washington-dcs-500-most-influential-people-of-2023/

2010s

Emily Hanscam (FA'10) has a new book! The Lower Danube volume is now free to download from Archaeopress! (Print copies will be available to order soon). Download it here: <https://bit.ly/47p8FCi>. Emily and CYA Professor John Karavas (both pictured below) co-edited this volume.



Shondaray Ducheine (SP'14) shares: After CYA in 2014, I completed a Fulbright teaching fellowship in Greece for two years. I was thrilled to spend more time in a country I saw as my second home. When it was time to leave, I returned to the states and taught 6th grade science at an all-boys school. During my fourth year of teaching, I found myself applying for medical school. I am now obtaining my medical degree from Trinity School of Medicine. I will be matching into a Family Medicine residency program in March 2024!



(from left): Acacia and Melissa staffed the American Corner of the Athens College Christmas Bazaar in December

CYA alumnae in Greece

From 1962-63 Athens College has been bringing American university graduates as Teaching Fellows. In 2013, Fulbright Greece and Athens College formed a partnership and created the Fulbright ETA (English Teaching Assistant) Program.

This year, two CYA alumnae, **Acacia Oyler (SP'22)** and **Melissa Ballow (SP'17)**, serve as Fulbright Teaching Fellows at Athens College.

Acacia Oyler graduated from Trinity University with a BA in Ancient Greek and History and minors in Museum Studies and Ancient Mediterranean Studies. At CYA she studied classics and modern Greek.

Melissa Ballow earned dual degrees in Creative Writing and English: Publishing & Editing from Susquehanna University in May 2018.

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



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

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