

FALL 2024

# THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS



*Painting by Isabella McClave (FA '23) from Siena College, depicting a scene from the vibrant neighborhood of Pangrati.*

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*Dear friends,*

This year at CYA has been a flurry of connections, the kind that remind us why this work matters. CYA is sustained by the value of dialogue and its potential to bridge time, space, and ideas. We've had the privilege of hosting friends and guests who have brought energy and insight into our community, leaving it richer than before. Among the high points, we welcomed the largest number of alumni visitors in our history—a fitting tribute to the ties that bind our past and present. Every story shared, every memory revisited, brought to life the essence of CYA: the people who shape its legacy and carry it forward.

We also welcomed representatives from a host of universities and colleges for a group site visit, strengthening partnerships with institutions that share our vision for the future of education. These moments of collaboration are dialogues in action: within such situated encounters, ideas spread, taking root in spaces where minds meet and boundaries blur.

This year, we were honored to host two major events: The Forum on Education Abroad's Careers, Internships, and Global Learning (CIGL) and the 7th Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) conferences, which drew educators, thinkers, and study abroad professionals from around the globe. These gatherings sparked dialogues on the urgent challenges and possibilities facing higher education and study abroad today. They left us inspired—and with more than a few ideas about where we go from here.

Through all of it—every gathering, every dialogue—we have been reminded of the profound power of connection. Alumni reaching back across decades, institutions coming together to reimagine what's possible, global communities sharing perspectives: these are the moments that drive CYA forward.

And now, as the year winds down, we say goodbye to another cohort of students. We send them off with



full hearts, knowing their time here—on our campus and in the city of Athens—was its own unique dialogue, one that will shape the foundations of whatever comes next.

Here's to the next chapter—and to the dialogues that continue to shape it.

*Cordially,  
Theoni*

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## The Forum on Education Abroad Conferences in Athens

This October, College Year in Athens (CYA) hosted the [7th Forum on Education Abroad Europe, Middle East, and Africa \(EMEA\) Conference](#), a key event in the international education landscape. Taking place from October 16-18, 2024 at the Athens Conservatoire, this biennial conference brought together academic and institutional leaders from three continents to discuss the future of international education, with a particular focus on community-engaged learning, sustainability, and student well-being in the Mediterranean region.

In addition to the EMEA Conference, the **Careers, Internships, and Global Learning (CIGL) Conference** was held from October 13-15, 2024. This event emphasized the importance of career-

### Key events

**Group Site Visit (Oct. 13-16):** On the occasion of the EMEA Conference, CYA invited Study Abroad Directors from U.S. universities to Athens for a Group Site Visit. On October 13, CYA staff and faculty welcomed participants to the rooftop of the CYA Academic Center, offering stunning sunset views of the Acropolis that sparked connections and conversations.

During their stay, attendees explored Athens' historical treasures, including the Ancient Agora and the Trireme, guided by CYA faculty **Yiannis Karavas**. They also joined CYA faculty **Athena Hadji's** class at the **National Museum of Contemporary Art**, and participated in a workshop titled *(Re)defining 'Duty of Care': Strategies for Cultivating Inclusive Campus Cultures*, facilitated by **CYA faculty Aimee Placas** and CYA Student Affairs Advisor **Jennifer Holland**. This workshop focused on strategies to address divisiveness and conflict while fostering inclusivity and well-being in study abroad environments. Each experience was thoughtfully designed to foster collaboration and inspire a deeper appreciation for the CYA student experience.

**CYA Open House (October 16):** The Forum Conference attendees had the opportunity to



CYA welcomed Forum participants to the rooftop of its Academic Center.

integrated learning opportunities and the professional competencies that students developed through international internships, consulting projects, and globally-focused career preparation.



CYA faculty Robert Pitt with our site visitors at the Ancient Agora of Athens



Group photo of the Pharos 3.0 Summit

experience CYA's academic environment, engage with faculty, students, and alumni, and explore Athens' blend of ancient and modern culture.

**Pharos 3.0 "Capacity-Building and Networking Program for Greek and U.S. Education Institutions and Organizations" Summit** (October 16): This summit was organized by **The Forum on Education Abroad**, with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Athens, funded through a Study Abroad Engagement Grant of the U.S. Department of State and hosted by CYA. **Pharos 3.0** fostered connections between Greek and U.S. higher education institutions and explored opportunities for short-term study programs in Greece. CYA Executive Chair, **Alexis Phylactopoulos** participated in a panel on *Education Abroad Provider Organizations: A Key Partner in the U.S. Higher Education Internationalization Landscape*, moderated by **Dr. Marissa Lombardi**, Vice President and Chief Learning Officer, The Forum on Education Abroad.

During the EMEA Conference, CYA faculty **Aimee Placas** and **Peggy Myresiotou**, CYA's Vice President for Administration, joined **Anders Larsen** and **Ian Terkildsen** from **DIS Scandinavia** for a panel discussion titled *Towards a New Study Abroad Model: Cultural Triangulation*. The session highlighted the innovative collaboration between CYA and DIS, bridging Northern and Southern Europe and moving beyond the traditional home-and-abroad comparison to create a triangulated cultural perspective.



Alexis Phylactopoulos participated in a Pharos 3.0 panel



During their stay, U.S. Study Abroad Directors visited the Athens Waterfront Trireme.

*"This conference was a unique platform that brought together diverse perspectives to explore key issues in study abroad, such as equity, sustainability, and innovation,"* said **Theoni Scourta**, President of CYA. *"It strengthened the collaborative spirit that drives international education forward, preparing students to thrive in an interconnected world."*



(From left): Elizabeth Frohlich, Theoni Scourta, and Melissa A. Torres

**Popi Triantafyllidou**, a valued member of the CYA Administration, played an instrumental role in the seamless coordination of the Forum activities and CYA events. Her exceptional organizational skills and dedication ensured their success.



## CYA hosted a workshop on Afro-Greeks of Avato

On September 25, CYA hosted an insightful workshop titled “Uncovering Hidden Stories: The Afro-Greeks\* of Avato,” presented by the artist duo **Latent Community** (Sotiris Tsiganos and Ionian Bisai). The workshop brought together 18 participants including Fall '24 semester students, members of the CYA community, and visitors from the general public, to explore the intricate history and lived experiences of the black-Greek community residing in Avato, a remote town in northern Greece.

One key focus of the workshop was the artists' exploration of the “politics of memory”—how historical narratives are constructed and the challenges faced by the black-Greek community in being recognized



(From left): Sotiris Tsiganos and Ionian Bisai with Niki Evbuomwan from Student Affairs

as a part of the nation's cultural fabric. Another part of the discussion was the relationship between representation, racial identity, and historical erasure in modern Greece.

*\* The term 'Afro-Greeks' was used by CYA for the event title, it is not a term the Avato locals use to define themselves. The subject of self-determination and wording used were subjects discussed during the workshop.*

## CYA joined the Race for the Cure

On September 29, members of CYA's administration and staff proudly participated in the **Greece Race for the Cure®** Half Marathon (5K Walk). The CYA team (**Maria Tsahas** - Registrar, **Maria Malliou & Vana Bika** - Accounting, and Prof. **Stavroula Alexaki**) stood in solidarity with thousands in the fight against breast cancer.

Greece Race for the Cure® is a powerful annual event in Athens organized by the **Hellenic Association of Women with Breast Cancer 'Alma Zois,'** in collaboration with the **Susan G. Komen for the Cure®**. This inspiring event raises awareness and funds for breast cancer research while uniting participants in a shared commitment to support those affected.



Thousands of people participated in the Race for the Cure event

## Introducing our Media Lab interns of Fall 2024

Every semester, the CYA Media Lab is happy to gain new collaborators! This semester, our interns are **Cayla Friedman**, **Soussana Kimbouris**, **Max Wright**, and **Jove Gorsline**.

**Cayla** is a junior at College of the Holy Cross where she studies Sociology. She joined the media lab because of her passion for media and marketing.

**Soussana** is a junior at Kalamazoo College studying Psychology. She loves writing and photography which she plans to utilize to give prospect students an accurate depiction of the student experience at CYA.



(From left): Cayla Friedman, Soussana Kimbouris, Max Wright, and Jove Gorsline

**Max**, also a junior at Kalamazoo College, is double majoring in Classical Civilization and Theater Arts. Back at home, Max helps run the social media accounts for her school's theater and musical groups.

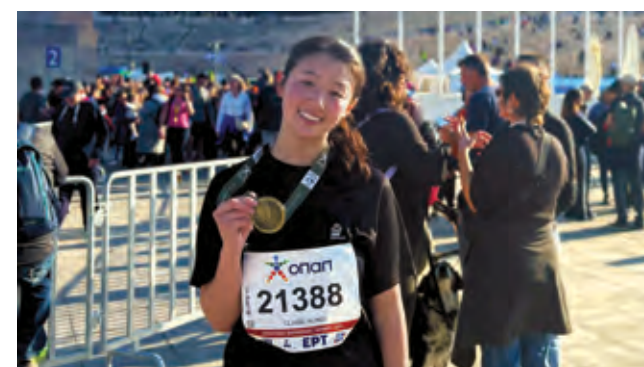
**Jove** is a senior at Tufts University studying Psychology and minoring in Asian American studies. At Tufts, Jove is a layout designer and staff artist for the Tufts Observer, the school's literary magazine.

## Athens Authentic Marathon

Heart, hustle, and history on November 10. Two CYA students, **Claire Kung** from Union College and **Celia Faroh** from the University of Notre Dame ran the iconic Athens Authentic Marathon. In a show of support, some of our staff joined the fun with the 5K run.



Celia Faroh (top), Claire Kung (left), Vasso Matrakouka and Niki Evbuomwan (right)





## CYA at NAFSA

As an organization dedicated to providing transformative study abroad experiences in Athens, attending **NAFSA Association of International Educators'** annual conference on May 28-31 in New Orleans was highly enriching.

Members of the CYA administrative team spent their time connecting with like-minded educators in our shared commitment to promoting global citizenship and contributing to the international education community.



(From left): Peggy Myresiotou, Alexis Phylactopoulos, Alexia Lingaas, and Jennifer Holland

(From left): Annie Dawson, Jennifer Holland, Peggy Myresiotou, and Alexia Lingaas

## 10th International Summer University

**Alexis Phylactopoulos**, Executive Chair of the CYA Board of Trustees, participated in the **10th International Summer University "Greek Language, Culture, and Mass Media."** His presentation focused on the internationalization of higher education in Greece and CYA's commitment to promoting both modern and ancient Greek language to American university students.

The event, held from May 28 to June 2, 2024, at the **Maliotis Cultural Center of Hellenic College Holy Cross** in Boston, was centered around the theme: *"Spreading and Teaching the Greek Language in the Greek Diaspora in the U.S.A."*

Panhellenic educators, students, and graduate researchers were brought together for an intensive study of various topics, including teaching methodologies for Greek language education in diaspora schools, the use of new technological tools, the impact of mass media, and other relevant issues related to language preservation and dissemination.



Alexis Phylactopoulos during his presentation

## NHS Heritage Weekend

CYA was represented on October 10-13 at **The National Hellenic Society's Heritage Weekend & Classic** by CYA's Development Officer, **Billy Simopoulos**, who also presented during the organization's Annual Meeting. Heritage Weekend proved to be the ideal platform to strengthen relationships and promote CYA's mission. NHS flagship program, **Heritage Greece®**, in which CYA participates, was a central theme throughout the weekend.



Billy Simopoulos in front of The Parthenon in Centennial Park, Nashville, TN

The NHS is an association of visionary Greek-American leaders dedicated to celebrating, preserving, and promoting Greek heritage with an emphasis on the next generation. Their annual gathering this year took place in Nashville, TN where distinguished members of the Greek American community gathered. Learn more about the NHS at: [www.nationalhellenicsociety.org](http://www.nationalhellenicsociety.org)



Panel discussions and cultural presentations were the highlights of the event.

## Toronto Economic Forum

On November 7, CYA's Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, attended the **Toronto Economic Forum III**. Organized by the **Delphi Economic Forum**, in partnership with the **Hellenic Initiative Canada**, this event featured a range of discussions. Mr. Phylactopoulos participated in a panel discussion and presented insights on *"The Untapped Potential of Cooperation in Education."*

We look forward to leveraging our extensive network to foster meaningful collaborations between Canada and Greece, supported by the strong engagement of the vibrant Greek Canadian community.



The panel of the Toronto Economic Forum



The **CYA Virtual Lecture Series** continues to flourish as a unique opportunity to connect with our alumni and friends worldwide. This fall, we welcomed **Eve Geroulis**, who captivated our audience with her lecture, *"Generation WTF: What's the Future of Useful Knowledge in the Age of Disruption."*

Loyola University faculty Geroulis emphasized the need for education to balance technological advancements like AI with critical human values such as creativity, empathy, and purpose. Her "STEM<sup>2</sup>" approach integrates technical skills and the humanities to prepare students for a rapidly changing world, fostering well-rounded individuals ready to embrace complexity and lifelong learning.



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



Scan to view VLS playlist

## HELLENIC EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

This fall, CYA's [Hellenic Executive Program](#), in partnership with the [Hellenic American Leadership Council \(HALC\)](#), continued engaging lifelong learners with its seventh seminar, from November 9 to December 21.

The seminar, *"Cyprus: Hostage to History & Geography?"*, with a special focus on the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of 1974—a turning point in Cyprus's modern history—was led by renowned historian and longtime CYA faculty **Alexander Kitroeff**. This highly anticipated six-week course took participants on an in-depth journey through Cyprus's fascinating and tumultuous history, from antiquity to the modern day.

Whether you are deepening your understanding of Greece and its history or reconnecting with the CYA community, the CYA Hellenic Executive Program is a unique way to continue the lifelong journey of learning that CYA inspires.

For more information about CYA's Hellenic Executive



Program and to stay updated on upcoming seminars, visit: <https://cyathens.org/academics/cya-hellenic-executive-program/>

## A symposium on Greek athletics: Honoring Hal Evjen

On June 22, College Year in Athens (CYA) hosted a memorable event titled *"Beyond the Skamma: A Symposium on Greek Athletics"* in honor of the late Professor **Harold "Hal" Evjen**, a distinguished scholar of ancient Greek athletics and a beloved member of the CYA community.

This day-long symposium featured 10 original papers presented by eminent scholars in the field, including CYA faculty members **John Karavas**, **Nikos Tsvikis**, and **Angelos Papadopoulos**.

The presentations explored the cultural impact and enduring legacy of ancient Greek athletics, offering fresh perspectives on its historical and societal impact.

The conference, chaired by CYA faculty member **Robert Pitt** and made possible through the generous support of Professor **Hara Tzavella-Evjen**, was open to the wider CYA community. Attendees participated both in person and online.

For more information about the symposium, please visit:



Alexis Phylactopoulos, Prof. Hara Tzavella-Evjen, and her son Adam Evjen

[www.cyathens.org/beyond-the-skamma-a-symposium-on-greek-athletics-in-memory-of-harold-hal-evjen](http://www.cyathens.org/beyond-the-skamma-a-symposium-on-greek-athletics-in-memory-of-harold-hal-evjen)

## Workshops

Three workshops took place at CYA during the Fall 2024 semester. In October, Dr. **Thanos Dokos** organized four meetings for our students under the title *"Understanding the Evolving Crisis in The Middle East"*. This workshop focused on the current regional security environment and the dynamics and consequences of the evolving crises in Gaza, the

West Bank and Lebanon, as well as the conflict between Israel and Iran. In collaboration with the **Athens Conservatoire**, a cross-disciplinary workshop series *"Ancient Drama: A Present Experience"* was organized in November, delivered by four Conservatoire instructors. Its objective was to bridge ancient drama with modern experience through

movement, rhythm, voice and dramaturgy. CYA instructors **Stella Papayanni** and **Lida Triantafilidou** are currently running a specialized workshop on Modern Greek Language, allowing students to discover the joy of Greek language through theatrical drama techniques.

## Lectures

In terms of public outreach, on November 20, CYA had the pleasure to accommodate **Dr. Scarlett Kingsley**, Associate Professor of Classics at Agnes Scott College, Elizabeth A. Whitehead Distinguished Scholar at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) who delivered a fascinating lecture on *"The Perils of Agrarianism: The Breakdown of the Hoplite-*

*Farmer in the Fifth Century BCE"*. In this lecture, Dr. Kingsley illustrated the conceptual opposition of the spear and the plough in the fifth century BCE and argued that Cyrus' words represent Persia's commitment to an imperial, militaristic identity and that this resonates with the Histories' (by Herodotus) presentation of the nascent imperialist Athenians.



Dr. Scarlett Kingsley



## CYA Board of Trustees meeting on the island of Paros

The 130th meeting of the College Year in Athens Board of Trustees took place on the picturesque island of Paros on July 9.

Preceding the meeting, a retreat was held on July 8, where Trustees engaged in insightful discussions about the future of CYA. The retreat concluded with a delightful dinner at the Phylactopoulos house, attended by Trustees and members of the administration, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and shared purpose.

The Board meeting the following day centered on strategic planning and reaffirmed CYA's steadfast commitment to academic excellence, ensuring the program's enduring impact on students for years to come.



(From left): Alexis Phylactopoulos, Gerry Ranglas, and Deborah Wince-Smith



Peter Zarifes with CYA President Theoni Scourta



(From left): Billy Simopoulos, Robert Kriscunas, Andrea Hannon-Brown, and Blake Brown

## CYA welcomes its new Trustee

We are pleased to introduce our newly elected board member, **Robert (Bob) Kriscunas (FA '71)**.

During his time at CYA, Bob was deeply influenced by the immersive educational experiences, notably his time spent with **Dr. Binder** and her class excursions to the Acropolis. These experiences left a lasting impression on him.

Bob is an attorney based in Dallas, Texas, where he founded RAKriscunas PLLC. His practice areas include Business, International, and Real Estate law.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bob and his wife Suzanne, who is a member of the Board of Trustees at Denison University, have demonstrated a strong commitment to education and philanthropy. We look forward to having Bob on the Board.



Robert Kriscunas with his wife Suzanne

## Bliss Perry received a Fulbright grant

CYA Alumnus Trustee, **Bliss Perry (SP '20)**, was awarded the Fulbright Graduate Studies at Greek State Universities Award. After spending spring 2020 in Greece studying at CYA, Bliss returned to Athens this year to pursue an M.Sc. in Southeast European Studies: Politics, History, Economics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, where he joined a cohort of students from Greece, the Balkans, and beyond. This program focuses on regional political, economic, and security trends, such as EU enlargement, conflict resolution in the Western Balkans, Greece's economic resurgence, and shifting relations with Turkey.

For his dissertation, Bliss plans to examine Greece's potential as a transnational hub for artificial intelligence in Southeast Europe and the East Mediterranean. Outside the classroom, Bliss is eager to engage with Athens' tech and AI scenes, improve his Modern Greek and backgammon skills, and continue his quest to find the best souvlaki in the city.

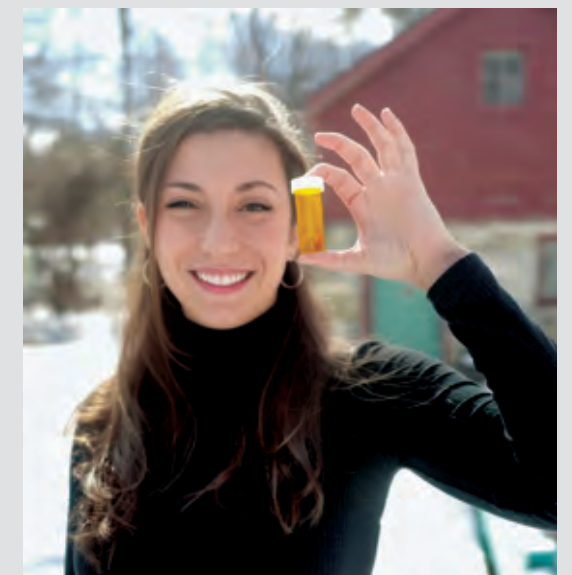


Bliss is eager to continue his studies in Greece.

## Former Alumna Trustee Julia Hotz presented her book at CYA

On July 9, **Julia Hotz (FA '13)** journalist and former member of CYA's Board of Trustees (Alumna Trustee from 2018 to 2022), came to CYA to discuss her new book, ***The Connection Cure: The Prescriptive Power of Movement, Nature, Art, Service, and Belonging*** -- the world's first book about the science, the stories, and the spread of social prescribing.

Inspired by the ancient Greek principles of health and wellness learned in Greece, she talked about her book and led the audience in an interactive exercise reflecting on different versions of the book's central question: "What matters to you?"





## Emily Joseph and Tiara Takyi at Booktique

Fall 2024 CYA students **Emily Joseph** and **Tiara Takyi**, Strategic Management majors at the University of Notre Dame are getting a front-row seat to small business life in Athens at [Booktique](#) bookstore. Booktique is an indie bookstore located in Kolonaki that strives to be not just a local bilingual bookstore, but one of the best in Athens.



From market research to TikTok strategies, they're helping launch Greece's first book vending machine with owner Fani Charitaki. "Learning how Athens and Greece operate in terms of small businesses has been really enriching...that comparison was really eye-opening," they shared.

*(From left): Emily and Tiara with Booktique owner Fani Charitaki*

## Nicole Moccio at NCR



*Nicole Moccio enjoyed her time working at NCR.*

**Nicole Moccio (SP '24)** from Fairfield University, majoring in Business Management and International Business with a minor in Humanitarian Action, spent her spring semester volunteering at the [Δίκτυο για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού](#) (Network for Children's Rights), an NGO committed to advocating for children's rights across Greece.

At NCR, Nicole conducted funding research to help identify potential donors, significantly contributing to diversifying the

organization's funding portfolio. She collaborated with her supervisor to create a company profile that effectively showcases NCR's mission and values, a resource that will be invaluable for future fundraising efforts.

Reflecting on her time at NCR, Nicole shared how much she learned from her coworkers and the fresh perspectives they offered. It was her first experience working in an office environment, which initially felt a bit nerve-wracking. However, she described it as a deeply rewarding period of growth. "Being here in Greece and having the opportunity to work with them gave me a whole new perspective on Greek culture," she added.

Nicole's journey to CYA exemplifies the transformative power of blending academic studies with meaningful volunteer work, cultivating both personal and professional development.

## Sophia Schwartz at Petagma



*Sophia Schwartz (right) with a group of people at Petagma*

**Sophia Schwartz (FA '24)**, a Psychology major from Kalamazoo College, is volunteering with [Petagma](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with mental disabilities. In her role, Sophia provides hands-on assistance with daily care, facilitates creative activities, and promotes social interaction, making a meaningful impact in the lives of those she serves.

## Caroline Rowe at the Forensic Anthropology Unit



**Caroline Rowe (FA '24)**, an Anthropology major from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, is interning this semester with the Forensic Anthropology Unit at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School. Professor **Konstantinos Moraitis**, a leading expert in forensic anthropology, expressed enthusiasm for Caroline's role, stating, "Caroline brings

valuable academic insights and a global perspective to our Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, which houses the Forensic Anthropology Unit." During her internship, Caroline is not only sharing her academic expertise but also actively contributing to forensic anthropology casework, providing essential support in this highly specialized field.

## MEET OUR STAFF

### Anesu Mukombiwa (FY '22)



**Anesu Mukombiwa (FY '22)** joined CYA as our Social Media Coordinator-North America Office. Anesu, born and raised in Zimbabwe, is a CYA alumna and an engaging multimedia storyteller. Her journey has taken her across the globe—from Zimbabwe to the USA, Greece, and China—nurturing a deep appreciation for diverse narratives and a passionate commitment to enriching the

storytelling landscape. As a recent graduate of Skidmore College, Anesu holds a Bachelor's degree in English. Her background in videography, photography, and creative writing underscores her versatile approach to storytelling. Anesu is instrumental in amplifying our voice and connecting with our audience through innovative and engaging content.

### Tessa Borchardt (FA '19)

**Tessa Borchardt (FA '19)** joined the North America Office's team in July 2024 as Program Coordinator. She attended CYA in Fall 2019 while pursuing her bachelor's in Classics and Psychology at Lewis and Clark College.

After completing her undergraduate degree, she obtained her Master's in Classical Art and Archaeology

at King's College London, where she worked in Student Affairs for the Classics Department. After she finished her Master's, Tessa represented CYA during the 2023-24 recruitment season as a Campus Relations Rep. She is thrilled to be a part of the CYA team again and share her passion for international education, Greek culture, and history with students.





## Returning to CYA

CYA is always delighted to welcome alumni back to Athens, whether for a quick stop or an extended visit. Alumni are hosted by CYA Administrators and enjoy personalized tours of our facilities, our Library, and often lunch in the Dining Hall. They meet with staff members, including our Development Officer, **Billy Simopoulos**, the Student Affairs team, and others who are available.

During these visits, alumni receive updates on CYA's latest developments, learn about upcoming projects, and share fond memories. A highlight is visiting the Registrar's Office, where **Maria Tsahas** and **Anthi Papageorgiou** pull out their student files—old photos and grades are always a hit!

At the Student Affairs Office, **Jennifer Holland (SP '99)** invites alumni to leave a note in the visitor's book, adding a personal touch to their memorable trip down memory lane.

## William "Buck" Crowe (FY '03)

**William "Buck" Crowe (FY '03)** visited CYA on June 11, accompanied by two recently graduated seniors, Matthew and Mishba, from Indian Springs School in Birmingham, Alabama. Buck, who teaches Latin and Greek at the school, was on an educational tour of Greece, bringing two students along.



Buck, Matthew and Mishba during their visit to CYA

## Ariana Gunderson (SP '13)



(From left): Vasso Matrakouka, Ariana with her parents, and Angelos Papadopoulos

On June 11, **Ariana Gunderson (SP '13)** and her parents, Robin and Steve, also visited the CYA facilities. Ariana, who participated in our program during the Spring 2013 semester and was here during CYA's Alumni Trip in 2022, had been in Athens for a month as an assistant teacher for a study abroad program run by ACG Deree for Indiana University. She expressed how honored

she felt to guide students on a journey that was so meaningful to her 11 years ago. Ariana had the opportunity to show her parents where she spent her time during her semester abroad, transforming her descriptions into tangible experiences for them.

## Ellen Parker (FY '95)

**Ellen Parker (FY '95)** visited CYA on June 13, accompanied by her 16-year-old son, Parker. Upon their arrival, they also visited the Acropolis and Kerameikos, which brought fond memories to Ellen, and went on a trip around the Peloponnese before heading back home.



(From left): Popi Triantafyllidou, Ellen with her son Parker, and Jennifer Holland

## Alexa Pallas (FY '68)

On June 14, CYA alumna **Alexa Pallas** visited CYA with her sisters, **Stefanie Stafford** and **Joanna Pulakis**. Alexa, who attended CYA's full-year program in 1967-68, toured the facilities and reconnected with **Mr. Phylactopoulos** and several staff members. "I am in awe of how the school has grown since my wonderful

year in 1967-68 and the quality of the staff and professors," Alexa shared with Mr. Phylactopoulos. "That year in Greece was the best year of my life, as it opened up the world to me and all of the possibilities life has to offer."



Alexis Phylactopoulos with Alexa and her two sisters, Stefanie and Joanna

## Ruth Chute (FY '63)



Ruth posing next to the plaque of the first CYA Class of 1963

CYA was honored to welcome a very special guest to our academic center on June 17; **Ruth Chute**, one of the pioneering students from CYA's inaugural class of 1962-1963, along with her husband, the enthusiastic Philhellene, **Whitman Knapp**.

The reunion was a deeply emotional and nostalgic event, underscoring the enduring bond between our alumna and CYA. Ruth's return is a powerful testament to the lasting impact of our institution and the lifelong connections it fosters.

We are also proud to note that Whitman Knapp is a regular attendee of CYA's Hellenic Executive Program, marking him as a distinguished CYA Executive Alumnus.

## John Bostick (FY '80)

**John Bostick** visited CYA on September 12, marking his first time back in Athens since 1987, when he participated in a CYA alumni reunion. Before that, he had spent the 1979-1980 academic year in Athens as a full-year student at CYA, attending through Wabash College by way of DePauw University and **John Baughman** (DePauw's Resident Director in 1972 and 1982).

Currently working in the non-profit healthcare sector, John has had a varied and multifaceted career. He spent over 25 years teaching culinary lessons at a public culinary school, with a particular passion for Greek cuisine. During his visit, John reminisced about his days at CYA and his interactions with professors like **Kimon Giocarinis**, **Steve Diamant**, and **Panayiotis Zaronis**. John, who has been practicing his Greek, was in Athens with his wife, Erin.



John writing in the CYA visitors' book.



## Holly Davis (FA '90) & Randall Haight (FA '90)



Visiting Alexis Phylactopoulos at his office

On July 24, CYA alumni **Holly Davis** and **Randall Haight**, from the class of Fall 1990, visited the CYA facilities along with their two sons and their best friend. Randall and Holly attended CYA during the same period, having come from Pomona College, where they met and began dating after returning from CYA.

## Barbara Stetson (FY '70)

**Barbara Stetson (FY '70)**, an active and engaged CYA alumna, book club member, and benefactor, visited CYA on September 13.

This was Barbara's first return to CYA after 54 years, and she was visibly thrilled to be back. She was traveling in Greece with her cousin Blair and an English group, planning to visit Syros, Paros, Naxos, and Santorini, as well as take day trips to Delos and Mykonos.



(From left): Barbara with Jennifer Holland and Niki Evbuomwan

## JJ "Juno" Lugardo (SP '19)

**JJ "Juno" Lugardo**, who attended CYA from Princeton, stopped by on October 24. Juno, who is currently in Athens



Juno with CYA faculty John Karavas

conducting research for her PhD in Classics at Stanford focusing on Ancient Incarceration, got a chance to meet up with her former CYA faculty, **John Karavas**, whose Alexander class had inspired her to pursue further studies. Juno also met with CYA Academic Director, **Angelos Papadopoulos**, to discuss potentially giving a lecture on her research to the upcoming class when she returns to Athens next year.

## Matt Biergans (FY '95)



(From left): Angelos Papadopoulos, Matt, and John Bostick

**Matt Biergans** visited CYA on September 12. Matt, who visits Greece annually, speaks fluent Greek, and enjoys spending time in Ikaria. Currently working in the financial aid department at Notre Dame, Matt mentioned that **Leighton Young (SP '22)**, a former CYA staff member and alumnus, encouraged him to visit CYA during his trip to Athens.

## Carrie Duncan (FY '99)

**Carrie Duncan** returned to CYA on November 11, marking this her first visit back since her full academic year here in 1998-1999. Now working in the Office of International Affairs at Lehigh University, Carrie is in Greece for a work trip to promote a summer program in entrepreneurship and global leadership for high school students.



Carrie looking at her file at the Registrar's Office.

## Michael Sullivan (SP '88)

CYA welcomed **Michael Sullivan (SP '88)** on September 25, who visited with his longtime friend from Knox College, **Hanse**. They were accompanied by **Nadia Melinioti**, CYA legend, who worked at our institution for over 30 years as the Executive Director of Student Affairs and was present during Michael's time as a student. Michael

shared how he first heard about CYA: A professor at Knox College had a CYA brochure in his office, which he showed to Michael, and that was all it took. After Michael returned from his semester at CYA, he shared his experiences with other students, including **Wendy Toole**, his future wife and a CYA alumna from 1990-91. Fast

forward to today, and their son, Finn, is now a student at CYA. While Michael might have liked to take credit for recruiting **Finn**, it turns out Finn's journey was quite different—after taking an ancient Greek class in college, he decided to study abroad in Greece. It was Finn who brought up CYA to his father, not the other way around!

## Marianthi Thanopoulos (SP '99)

**Marianthi** with her husband **Christo** and children, **William** and **Katerina**, met with **Nadia Meliniotis** in July for lunch at the **Museum of Cycladic Art**. Marianthi specializes in Economic Development for a Chicago suburb and is currently producing a documentary on refugee children of the Greek Civil War.



Marianthi enjoying a pleasant dinner with Nadia and her family.



Michael with Nadia and his friend Hanse

## Elaine Rigas (SP '93)

**Elaine** visited Greece this August (as she does every summer) with her 8 year old son, **Dino**, her sister in law, and niece. She enrolled her son in a summer camp for a week at the Nautical Club in Vouliagmeni to immerse him in the Greek language, culture, and sports and plans to enroll him next summer. She hopes her son will attend CYA in the future and love it as much as she did.



Elaine with her son Dino

## Adam Fletcher (SP '03)



Adam with his wife Marissa and Nadia

**Adam's** connection to Greece didn't end with his CYA spring semester in 2003. In 2004, he returned to work at the Athens

Olympics, further deepening his bond with the country. Today, Adam teaches high school Latin and occasionally Ancient Greek at University School near Cleveland, Ohio. His wife, **Marissa**, who also teaches at University School, shares his passion for language and culture as an elementary Spanish teacher. Together, they have made it an annual tradition to visit Greece, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. During their visit this summer, they met with **Prof. Steven Diamant** and **Nadia Meliniotis**.



## Curtis Vreeland (SP '72)

### Back to Athens after 50 years: A journey through time with CYA

"So, this is your first visit to CYA after 50 years?" asked CYA President **Theoni Scourta**. "You must see so many changes," she added. My wife **Lynn** and I had the pleasure of visiting the school in September 2024.

Indeed, I have seen many changes since my student days in the spring of 1972. As **Billy Simopoulos**, CYA Development Officer, very kindly escorted us around the facilities, I had time to reflect on the school's evolution. I left with the impression that 1972 was an inflection point in the history of the school and Greece. More on this later. Let me first describe what led me to CYA.

Like so many CYA students, I have a love of history and had applied to CYA to study archaeology and anthropology. I was one of 104 students that year. On many days, the streets had a modest level of traffic and smog obscured the Acropolis. Our classes were held at the Hellenic American Union. Our apartment was in the Kolonaki area, and I had two roommates, **Steven Rales (SP '72)** and **Brian Joseph (SP '72)**. One of them owned a Vespa, and when I needed an evening break from studying, I would motor up to the Acropolis, which was then easily accessible, where the full moon shone through the columns and only the barking of a stray dog or two broke the silence.

The school's mission at the time was to offer "a program of studies in Greek civilization." The faculty reflected this. My instructors were giants in classical studies. **Judith Binder** taught ancient Greek archaeology and **H.D.F. Kitto** ancient Greek language and Attic tragedy. **A.R. Burns** taught ancient Greek history and **Franz Tritsch**, who earned his archaeological chops working with Sir Arthur Evans excavating Knossos, taught Asia Minor history. The faculty now is three times larger and much more diverse.

In the Greek countryside the cruel legacy of WWII was still evident. We passed through one Cretan town filled with widows dressed in black, the consequence of a cruel Nazi reprisal when all the



CYA President Theoni Scourta, with Curtis and his wife Lynn

village men were shot. Some of our professors had first-hand experience with the war. Burns, for example, was head of British intelligence in Aleppo and one night a crew of Greek fishermen reported suspicious construction on Keros. He alerted High Command, and a team of saboteurs was dispatched to blow up what was the makings of a German heavy gun emplacement, later immortalized in a 1961 movie **The Guns of Navarone** starring Gregory Peck, David Niven, Anthony Quinn, and Irene Papas.

Travel to the islands was leisurely and uncrowded. The cruise ships and mega-yachts hadn't arrived yet. Early one Saturday morning, a schoolmate and I took the ferry from Mykonos to Delos to explore the ruins. I recall that the site was almost deserted and that the fields among the ruins were an explosion of red, blue, and



CYA students enjoying the view at the Acropolis.



Curtis in Nemrut Dagı, Turkey

yellow flowers. In the afternoon, the winds picked up and the last ferry couldn't attempt the crossing to retrieve us. Then, as now, there were no accommodations on the island, but the warden kindly shared his dinner and told us to find a sheltered spot to sleep. We settled into a 3rd century BCE gymnasium next to the stadium and drank water from a basin that was replenished by percolating groundwater. My semester at CYA marked the final years of the Junta of the Colonels. While we students weren't aware of the rampant repression and human rights abuses, some incidents were very public, like the bombing of the American Cultural Center and general economic malaise. Also, in the grim military spirit of the times, the Junta had banned plate throwing and its exuberant variations like tearing of shirts in tavernas. We male students wore our hair short so as not to be labeled as submissive hippies. A New York Times article printed at the time commented that Athens "looks like a cemetery that's no way to have fun." So, my return to CYA after 50 years allowed me the opportunity to gauge how things had changed. I felt like a living fossil. The staff was very welcoming and clearly proud of their new facilities, location, and growth. The halls were filled with excited students experiencing their first week of classes. Its curriculum has expanded to include STEM courses, business, communication, and international relations. Who could ask for a better geographical location that touches three continents: Europe, Africa, and Asia. Also, dear to any parent, Greece remains a safe and non-macho environment, a situation which might account for its 3 to 1 female /male ratio, up from 2 to 1 during my time. Athens was bustling with energy, so different from the 1970s when tourists

spent a brief 24 hours in the city before heading to the islands.

### How did CYA influence the trajectory of my professional career?

Upon completing my studies, I traveled overland through Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan to visit some of the historical sites that **Professor Tritsch** had described. I traveled by local bus and stayed in small towns, something absolutely unthinkable now. Later, I used my anthropology skills during a four-year Peace Corps deployment in a Sherpa area of Nepal and as Manager of International Operations for Hershey, a position that took me to many of the major cocoa growing regions - all third world countries - around the world. In short, CYA allowed me to learn from the past respectfully and this helped me to shape my future responsibly.



Curtis and Lynn at the Registrar's Office

## Alumni Reunion June 6-8, 2025

The class of 1974-75 is putting together a 50th reunion, to be held in **San Francisco, CA.**

For more information, those interested can contact CYA alumnus from the class, **John Roth** at [cya50years@gmail.com](mailto:cya50years@gmail.com)



## Kevin Cassidy (FA '84) returns to Greece to conquer the Athens Marathon

**Kevin Cassidy**, a Fall '84 CYA alumnus, made an inspiring return to Greece after 40 years to run in the Athens Authentic Marathon.

*"The Marathon was a spectacular experience! Everything went perfectly, and I was able to enjoy myself immensely,"* Kevin shared. *"The fan support was incredible, and I had a strong sense of running through both ancient and modern Greek history—as well as my own."*

For Kevin, the journey was deeply nostalgic. *"Being here in Greece again has brought back so many memories I hadn't thought of in years,"* he reflected. One such memory took him back to 1984, when he stood as a spectator at the Marble Stadium watching his roommate, **Mike**



(Left): Kevin today (Right): Kevin with Mike in 1984 - Photo credit: Jeff Ritzenhaler (FA '84)

**Ketover (FA '84)** from Amherst College, complete the Marathon. At the time, Kevin believed running a marathon was something he would never achieve.

Forty years later, Kevin proved himself wrong. After months of dedicated training, he crossed the finish line with an impressive

time of 3 hours, 38 minutes, and 40 seconds, placing 41st in his runner's block and 2,400th overall out of 21,000 participants.

Kevin's journey is a testament to the saying: **Where there is a will, there is a way!**

## CYA Alumnus shines at the first Greek Youth Diaspora Symposium

On November 27–28, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the inaugural Greek Youth Diaspora Symposium: *"Diaspora Dialogues: Connecting Young Voices Around the World"* at the **"Hellenic Cosmos" Cultural Center** in Athens.

This landmark event aimed to empower the new generation of the Greek Diaspora through youth hospitality programs organized by the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The symposium brought together young individuals aged 18–25 from across the globe to



Billy Simopoulos, Demetrios Fotopoulos, and Maria Tsahas

exchange ideas and perspectives on topics relevant to the diaspora's role in the

modern world. Among the inspiring voices was **Demetrios Fotopoulos (FA '23)**, a Psychology major at the University of Notre Dame and proud CYA alumnus. Demetrios participated as a panelist in the session titled *"Social Cohesion through Youth Participation: Challenges and Opportunities."*

Reflecting on his experience, Demetrios shared: *"I am proud to represent CYA in this way as an alumnus of the Greek American diaspora. The CYA program is incredible, and I always hold it in my mind and close to my heart."*

## Join our Book Club

Are you passionate about Greece and great books? Our dedicated CYA Alumni Book Club meets on Zoom on the 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 PM Eastern to discuss fascinating titles inspired by Greece.

Here is a sample of books discussed lately:

*One Hundred Saturdays* by **Michael Frank** (Sept. 30)

*Classical Spies* by **Susan Heuck Allen** (Oct. 28)

*Glorious Exploits* by **Ferdia Lennon** (Nov. 25)

*Olives* by **A.E. Stallings** (Dec. 16)

Interested in joining?

Reach out to **Erica Huffman (SP '93)**, Director of Alumni Relations, at [alumni@cyathens.org](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org). We'd love to see you there!



## COOKING CLASSICS 101

### Melomakarona (Christmas Honey Cookies)



#### Ingredients:

##### For the syrup

500 g water  
800 g granulated sugar  
150 g honey  
3 stick(s) cinnamon  
3 whole cloves  
1 orange, cut in half

##### 1st mix

400 g orange juice  
400 g seed oil  
180 g olive oil

50 g icing sugar  
1/2 teaspoon(s) ground cloves  
2-3 teaspoon(s) cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon(s) ground nutme  
1 teaspoon(s) baking soda  
orange zest, of 2 oranges

##### 2nd mix

1 kilo all-purpose flour  
200 g semolina, fine

##### To Serve

Honey, walnuts

#### Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 190\* C (370\*F) set to fan.
- To make the cookies, you need to prepare 2 separate mixtures.
- For the first mixture, add all of the ingredients in a large bowl. Mix, using a hand whisk.
- In a separate bowl, add all of the ingredients for the second mixture.
- Combine the first and second mixture.
- Mix by hand, very gently and for a very short time (10 seconds at the most). If you mix longer, the mixture will split or curdle.
- Mold cookie dough into oval shapes, 3-4 cm in length, 30 g each. Try to keep them as similar as possible.
- Bake for about 20-25 minutes, until they are crunchy and golden brown.
- As soon as you remove them from the oven, soak the hot cookies in the syrup for 10 seconds.
- Allow them to drain on a wire rack.
- Drizzle with honey and chopped walnuts.



## Campus Relations Representatives

CYA Campus Relations Representatives are alumni of the Program who join the North American CYA team for four months to help recruit prospective CYA students. Campus Reps are a vital part of the team as they spend the fall season traveling around the country to partner schools where they attend study abroad fairs, share their personal experience with students and meet with faculty and study abroad staff. This fall semester the North American team visited over 120 colleges and universities.



### Sofia Novak (SP '23)

Sofia graduated from DePaul University in June 2024 with a major in Economics and minors in Environmental Sustainability and Art History. In searching for new and exciting experiences, she chose to study abroad with CYA in Spring 2023. The enriching classes at CYA ignited her passion for Art History, leading her to declare it as a minor upon her return. Her time at CYA was marked by unforgettable memories and lasting friendships. As a Campus Relations Representative, Sofia eagerly shared her enthusiasm for CYA's study abroad program with prospective students!

### Carly Saltsman (SP '23)

Carly graduated from The George Washington University in May 2024 where she studied Political Science with a minor in criminal justice. Her passion for Greek mythology and the origins of democracy piqued her interest in CYA and she studied abroad in Athens in Spring 2023. CYA allowed her to flourish socially, creating lifelong friendships and discovering more about herself, which she was thrilled to share with other students through her role as a Campus Relations Representative.



### Anna Tulenko (FA '22)

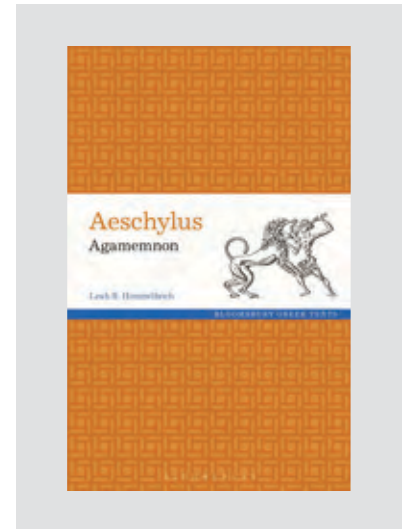


Anna graduated from Pitzer College in Winter 2023 with a major in Art History and a minor in Classics. She studied in Athens with CYA in Fall 2022, where she was able to expand her academic, cultural, and social horizons. Additionally, Anna studied abroad in Cork, Ireland in Fall 2023. Since then, she worked as the Development and Communications Intern at

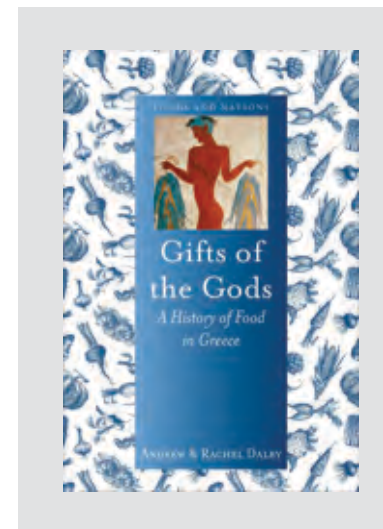
the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. Anna's time abroad, particularly in Athens, solidified her passion for travel, history, and art, and she was happy to share her experiences with other potential CYAers as a Campus Representative.

### Himmelhoch, Leah, ed. *Aeschylus: Agamemnon*. Greek Texts Series. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023.

This accessible edition for students brings the *Agamemnon*, Aeschylus' opening play in the Oresteia trilogy, to life for first-time readers. A hugely popular play in antiquity and with a rich reception history to the present day, this is an essential play for students of classics, drama and the canon of western literature.



### Dalby, Andrew, and Rachel Dalby. *Gifts of the Gods: A History of Food in Greece. Foods and Nations*. London: Reaktion Books, 2018.



*Gifts of the Gods* takes us into the beyond the taverna to offer a unique and comprehensive history of the food of Greece. Andrew and Rachel Dalby discuss how the land was first settled, what was grown, and how certain fruits, herbs and vegetables became a part of local cuisines. Moving through prehistorical and classical Greece, and the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires, they explore the

country's regional food identities as well as the export of Greek food to communities all over the world, culminating with a look at one of the most distinctive features of Greece's food tradition: the country's world-renowned hospitality. Illustrated throughout and featuring traditional recipes that blend historical and modern flavours, *Gifts of the Gods* is a mouth-watering account of a rich and ancient cuisine.

### Alexandratos, Michael. *Queerbetika: Queering Rebetika*. Cycladic Press, 2023.

"*Queerbetika*" is a term used to describe the queering of the genre of rebetika – an urban Greek popular song genre from the late 19th century to the 1950s – through academic or creative interventions. This zine explores queerness and homosexuality in rebetika through its exponents, sites of performance, gay supporters and song lyrics.

This is the first study and anthology in either Greek or English to investigate such an important but overlooked theme in the field of rebetology.



A LITERARY JOURNEY GUIDED BY THE DISCERNING EYE OF CYA LIBRARIAN, GEORGIA KATSAROU.



## Celebrating the generosity of our donors

As we reflect on a remarkable year, we are filled with profound gratitude for the unwavering support of our community of donors. Your generosity has empowered College Year in Athens to continue its mission of offering students a transformative study-abroad experience rooted in academic excellence and cultural immersion.

**From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024**, CYA has been fortunate to witness an incredible outpouring of philanthropy. Together, your gifts have enhanced our academic programs, expanded scholarship opportunities, and enriched the overall student experience. Whether through matching gifts, designated contributions, or support for special initiatives, each gift has played a crucial role in advancing our shared vision.

In the list below, we proudly recognize the collective impact of these contributions, which have been directed toward key areas such as:

- **CYA's Annual Fund**, which sustains the day-to-day operations and ensures continued excellence in our academic offerings.
- **Scholarships**, including the William C. Kontes Memorial Scholarship, which make a CYA education accessible to students in need.
- **Special Projects**, such as the expansion of our academic facilities and resources.
- **CYA's Virtual Lecture Series**, which connects audiences to leading scholars and fosters meaningful discussions on important topics.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every donor who has supported our mission. Your contributions have a lasting impact, enabling us to shape future generations of leaders, thinkers, and global citizens.

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*In honor of Patricia M. Geiger*  
Suzanne (Vargo) Gorhau (FY '87)  
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Susan Ashbrook Harvey (FY '74)  
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Douglas Olcott Jr. (FY '65) & Prof. Marianina Demetrakopoulos Olcott  
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Aleni Pappas (SP '99)  
Christine Paterakis (FA '89) & John Duff  
Christine Petto (FY '85)  
Alexis K. Reape (SP '19)  
Heather Broxson Rostker (FY '92)  
Donna Sadler (FY '70)  
*In honor of Lucinda Alwa for friendship*  
Katherine Schwab (FY '75)  
Mrs. George G. Snowden III  
*In memory of George G. Snowden III*  
Ann Marie Taliercio Tidaback (FY '74)  
◆ Doctor Christopher Trinacty (FA '94)  
Vasiliki Tripodis (FA '93)  
Curtis Vreeland (SP '72)  
Christina West (SP '97)  
Mitchell Wolin (SP '79)  
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◆ Erica Huffman (SP '93)  
Mary Kay Karzas (FY '74)  
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Mathieu & Amy Rugo Zahler (FA' 99)  
Anonymous (2)

*The importance of your donations to CYA cannot be overstated and we thank you for your unwavering support. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your donation, please do not hesitate to contact our development office at [development@cyathens.org](mailto:development@cyathens.org).*

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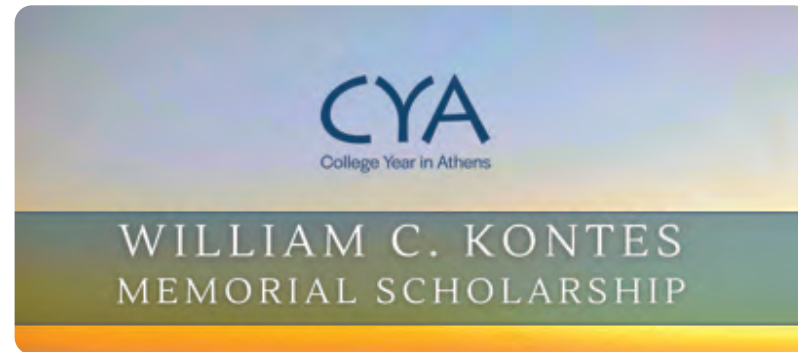
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## Honoring a legacy: The William C. Kontes '99 Memorial

The William C. Kontes '99 Memorial Scholarship, established in 2021 by **Zoë Kontes (FY '95)**, stands as a tribute to William C. Kontes, better known as 'Will,' and the values he cherished: leadership, generosity, and an enduring connection to Greece. This initiative reflects his remarkable life, empowering CYA students with opportunities to grow academically and personally.



Since its inception, the scholarship has achieved remarkable strides, raising more than half a million dollars through 99 contributions from 71 donors. These collective efforts have established an endowment fund with a sustainable strategy, generating approximately 4-5% annual returns. This income ensures the scholarship will continue to support CYA students for years to come. Over \$25,000 has already been awarded to two deserving students, setting a precedent for future recipients. Recently, a long-term allocation plan was approved by CYA's Board of Trustees, dedicating at least \$8,000 per semester to support ambitious, goal-oriented individuals who embody Will's spirit and commitment to excellence. By honoring Will's legacy, the scholarship not only transforms lives but also strengthens the community of alumni and donors who make this possible.

Contributions from our alumni, Will's classmates at CYA, his personal friends, and family members have ensured that the William C. Kontes '99 Memorial Scholarship continues its mission of empowering future leaders. Every gift amplifies its impact, nurturing students and perpetuating Will's enduring legacy. For more on the scholarship visit: <https://cyathens.org/william-c-kontes-memorial-scholarship/>

## An unexpected but delightful encounter

**Zoë Kontes (FY '95)** visited CYA on June 21, accompanied by her daughter, **Popi**, and her niece, **Sofia**, Will's daughter. It was a poignant and meaningful visit, connecting three generations of the Kontes family to CYA's ongoing legacy. The visit took an unexpected and delightful turn with a surprise visit from two more CYA alumni, **Luis Rodriguez Perez (FY '22)** and **India Pruette (FY '24)**. Currently engaged in excavation work at the Agora dig, their presence underscored the enduring connection between our alumni and their continued contributions to archaeology.

Luis, notably, was the first recipient of the William C. Kontes Scholarship, embodying the spirit and values that Will cherished. His success story is a testament to the scholarship's far-reaching impact and role in nurturing future leaders and ambassadors of our institution.



(From left): India, Sofia, Zoe, and Luis

## Dr. Peter Green (1924–2024)

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of **Dr. Peter Green** on September 16, at the age of 99, just three months before his 100th birthday. Dr. Green was an exceptional scholar, a prolific author, and a faculty member at CYA from the fall of 1966 to the spring of 1971. During his time at CYA, he taught Greek Literature (in translation), Greek History, and Advanced Latin. His last course, when he returned briefly in the spring of 1999, focused on Herodotus and the Persian Wars. He was an Advisor Emeritus of the school.

CYA played an important role in his life. In a November 2003 interview with the Classical Association of Iowa's AMICI, Dr. Green shared:

*"So there we were in Greece [...] and I was looking for a job. **Ismene Phylactopoulos**, the guiding spirit of College Year in Athens (still the best of the junior year abroad programs), needed a lecturer in Greek literature and, later, history. By this improbable route I got lured back into teaching classics at tertiary level, and found that with American students I loved it. And, I was told, was good at it. I taught just about everything in Athens, from Greek archaic history to the satires of Juvenal, from 1966-71."*

Born in England, Peter Green served in the Intelligence Corps during World War II before pursuing his studies at Cambridge University. Following the war, he embarked on a successful career in England as both a journalist and historical fiction writer. In the 1960s, he lived with his family in Greece, before accepting a professorship at the University of Texas at Austin in 1971. Upon retirement, Dr. Green and his wife Carin, a CYA alumna, moved to Iowa City, where she joined the Classics Department. During this time, he continued his academic contributions by teaching courses in History and Classics and serving as editor of *Syllecta Classica*, the journal of the Iowa Classics Department.



Professor Green teaching at CYA during the 1969–1970 academic year.

Dr. Green's contributions to the field of Classics were extensive. His celebrated works include *Alexander of Macedon, 356–323 B.C.: A Historical Biography* (1974), *Ovid: The Poems of Exile: Tristia and the Black Sea Letters* (1994), *The Poems of Catullus* (2005), *The Hellenistic Age: A Short History* (2007), *The Iliad by Homer* (2015), and *The Odyssey by Homer* (2018). At the time of his passing, he was finalizing a translation and commentary on *Herodotus' Histories*. This important work will be published by the University of California Press in 2025.

Dr. Peter Green leaves behind an extraordinary legacy. His contributions to the fields of Classics and History will continue to inspire future generations. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



## 2020s

**Rebecca Fox (FA '22)** writes: After graduating from Grinnell College this past May, I am now returning to Greece this fall to earn my master's. I will be moving to Thessaloniki and attending the University of Macedonia to study Human Rights and Migration. I am so excited to return to Greece and get to know more of Greece's amazing people, history, and global importance!

## 2010s

**Edythe Malara-Lutjen (FA '15)** had the opportunity in July 2024 to study Roman Britain in England with the Vergilian Society! A generous scholarship from the Classical Association of the Atlantic States (CAAS) helped make this opportunity possible for Edythe. This professional development experience helped Edythe better understand Roman military forts along Hadrian's Wall and the impact of Roman presence on the local Briton population. Edythe will use this experience to create engaging lessons for her Latin classes at Shaker High School in Latham, NY.

## 1990s

**Karen Amis (SP '99)** passed away on November 24, 2021. Learn more about Karen here: <https://obits.badgerfuneral.com/karen-amis>

## 1970s

**Helen Tangires (FA '76)** writes: "In October 2023 I finally retired from the National Gallery of Art after 36 years as the administrator of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts. It has been wonderful to enjoy more time with family and friends, including a recent reunion with my CYA roommates—**Joanne (Patterson) Deale (FA '76)** and **Laura (Paynter) Humphrey (FA '76)**! We still enjoy sharing stories and photos of our time together in Greece; and we hope one day to have a reunion in Athens.



CYA roommates Helen Tangires, Joanne (Patterson) Deale, and Laura (Paynter) Humphrey in the fall of 1976 (top) and in a recent reunion (bottom).



**Thomas "Taj" Ainlay, Jr (SP '72)** has been selected to receive the Sierra Club's 2024 Volunteer Service Award, which honors volunteers for strong and consistent commitment to the environment or the Club over an extended period of time.

## Katia Domingues (SP '16) at CYA

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, CYA staff came together on November 28 to share a meal and celebrate the connections that make CYA such a special community. We were especially excited to welcome back CYA alumna **Katia Domingues (SP '16)**. Katia, MPH, currently serves as the PEN-Plus Program Manager for the NCDI Poverty Network and the Center for Integration Science in Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also works as a part-time epidemiologist at a local health department in Massachusetts.



Katia (right) with the members of the Student Affairs Office, Niki, Angela, and Jennifer

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### Please note...

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



Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: May 20, 2025





*Summer II students enjoying a visit to Anafiotika with Urbanism professor Maria Vidali.*