

SPRING 2025

THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS



CYA's Philosophy of Nature and Environmental Studies field study at Lake Kerkini

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alexis G. Phylactopoulos

Executive Chair, Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens

Yannis Ioannides

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; Max & Herta Neubauer Chair & Professor of Economics, Tufts University

Nicholas G. Hatsopoulos (SP '83)

Secretary of the Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; Professor of Neuroscience, University of Chicago

Theo Melas-Kyriazi

Treasurer, Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; Chief Financial Officer, Levitronix Technologies LLC

Peter Sutton Allen (FY '65)

Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Rhode Island College

Evita Arapoglou

Director of the Leventis Art Gallery at Nicosia, Cyprus

Michail Bletsas

Research Scientist and Director of Computing, MIT Media Lab

Andrea Hannon Brown (FA '72)

School Psychologist

Anastassis G. David

Chairman of the Board, Coca Cola HBC AG

Daphne Hatsopoulos

Trustee Emerita, Boston Museum of Science

George Komodikis

Member-Advisory Board, Ipswich Investment Management Co., Inc.

Christine Kondoleon

George and Margo Behrakis Chair of Greek and Roman Art, Department of Art of Ancient Greece and Rome, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Robert Kriscunas (FA '71)

General Counsel IP Timberlands, LP (retired); Director Global Forest Partners LP (retired); Chairman, Turtle Creek Conservancy, Dallas, TX

Brian Martens (WI '08, SP '08)

Lecturer in Archaeology and Ancient History, University of St. Andrews

Alexander Moissis

Vice President, Corporate Development, M&A Execution, SAP

Yiannis Monovoukas

Founder and Manager, Helios Global Investments LLC

Lena Papalexopoulou

Vice President of the Board of Directors, Desmos Non-Profit Foundation; Board Member, CAA, Columbia University; Chair, International Board of Advisors, Tufts University

Elaine Papoulias (FA '90)

Executive Director, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University

Bliss Perry (SP '20)

Product Lead, Palantir Technologies

Constantine P. Petropoulos

Chairman Emeritus, Petros Petropoulos A.E.B.E.

Gerry Ranglas

CEO, R & V Management

Deborah Wince-Smith (FY '71)

President & CEO, U.S. Council on Competitiveness, Washington D.C.

Peter J. Zarifis (SP '83)

Managing Director – Director of Wealth Management, Whittier Trust

Endy Zemenides (SP '95)

Executive Director, Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC)

Cornelia Mayer Herzfeld (FY '66)

Recording Secretary of the Board of Trustees

TRUSTEES EMERITI

John McK. Camp II

Former Director of the Agora Excavations, American School of Classical Studies at Athens

George A. David

Director, Leventis Group

Joan Caraganis Jakobson (FY '65)

Free-Lance Writer; Advisory Board, Wesleyan Writers Conference; Trustee, New York Historical Society

Mary R. Lefkowitz

Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities Emerita, Wellesley College

Raphael Moissis

Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; Chair Emeritus, Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE) – Greece; Honorary Chairman, AB Vassilopoulos S.A.

Alexander Nehamas

Edmund N. Carpenter II Class of 1943 Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Philosophy and Comparative Literature, Princeton University

Anne Rothenberg (FY '66)

Trustee, The Huntington Library Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

K. Chris Todd

Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, College Year in Athens; Partner, Kellogg Hansen Todd Figel & Frederick, PLLC

Thanos Veremis

Professor of Political History Emeritus, University of Athens; Vice Chairman, ELIAMEP

BOARD OF ADVISORS

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros

Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Athens; Member of the Athens Academy; Former European Ombudsman

Jack Davis

Carl W. Blegen Professor of Greek Archaeology, University of Cincinnati; Former Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens

Thomas W. Gallant (FY '76)

Nicholas Family Endowed Chair, Professor of Modern Greek History, University of California, San Diego

Michael Herzfeld

Ernest E. Monrad Research Professor of the Social Sciences in the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University

Artemis Leontis

Professor of Modern Greek; Chair, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan

Thomas J. Miller

Former U.S. Ambassador to Greece; President/CEO, International Executive Service Corps (IESC)

Gregory Nagy

Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature, Harvard University

Alan Shapiro (FY '69)

W.H.Collins Vickers Professor of Archaeology Emeritus and Academy Professor, The Johns Hopkins University; Whitehead Professor at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1992-93, 2012-13

Voula Tsouna

Professor of Philosophy/Chair, UC-Santa Barbara

ADVISORS EMERITI

Christos Doumas

Professor of Archaeology Emeritus, University of Athens; Director, Excavations at Akrotiri, Thera

Gerald Lalonde

Professor Emeritus of Classics, Grinnell College

Lily Macrakis

Professor Emerita, Modern European History, Hellenic College-Holy Cross

Stephen V. Tracy

Former Director, American School of Classical Studies at Athens; Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University

Charles Kaufman Williams II

Director Emeritus, Corinth Excavations, American School of Classical Studies

ACADEMIC ADVISORY ROUNDTABLE

Michael Arnush

Associate Professor of Classics and Associate Dean of the Faculty, Skidmore College

Jennifer Ewald

Associate Vice-Provost, Global Strategy, Fairfield University

Eve Geroulis

Executive Lecturer, MSM Program Director, Loyola University Chicago

Alexander Kitroeff

Professor Emeritus, History Department, Haverford College

Zoe Kontes (FY '95)

NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor of Classics, Kenyon College

Nicolas Prevelakis

Associate Senior Lecturer on Social Studies at Harvard's Committee on Degrees in Social Studies and Assistant Director of Curricular Development at the Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University.

Sanjaya Thakur

Professor of Classics, Colorado College

Margaret Wiedenhoef

Executive Director, Center for International Programs, Kalamazoo College

Dear friends,

In any given semester at CYA, there are moments that defy easy accounting. You know them when you see them: a student pausing before the royal tombs at Aegae; another leaning into the breeze from an olive grove in the Peloponnese; someone else, still damp from the Aegean, trying to put into words something they don't quite understand yet.

Field Study is where these moments happen. Far from a detour from our semester program, Field Study is the part where education stops behaving like information transfer and starts resembling something closer to transformation. Our students move through Greece caught up in a process of learning that resists easy summaries, as participants in a slow, often unfinished negotiation between understanding, feeling, and simply being there.

Each semester, our Field Study winds through the geography of Greece: to the fortifications of the mainland, the layered histories of Crete, the monasteries perched atop the rocks of Meteora, the quiet, persistent pulse of Northern Greece and the Peloponnese. And beyond Greece, optional trips to European destinations allow students to widen their lens still further, testing their observations across new cultural terrain.

Of course, not all encounters are easy. History here does not stay politely in the past. Myth bleeds into memory; beauty coexists with grief; language gets scrambled; expectations unravel. Much of the learning happens somewhere in the space between what students thought they knew and what they have to figure out, live, in real time.

There's no set curriculum for this. Field Study is less about accumulating facts and more about developing the habits of attention that modern life tends to erode. It teaches things rarely taught explicitly: a tolerance for ambiguity, the ability to hold competing truths, paying attention without rushing to sort. Many of you reading this will remember what it felt like — moving through unfamiliar landscapes with curiosity intact, watching the semester unfold in places where history doesn't behave like history at all, but shows up in the light, in the food, in the conversations you didn't expect to have. You know what it means to leave with questions lodged just beneath the surface — not tidy ones, not the kind that resolve by the time the grades are in, but the kind that stay with you, quietly, for years.

This issue of The Owl turns its attention to Field Study as it stands now, and as it continues to shift. Some things have changed: new



itineraries, new questions, new students asking them. More changes are coming. What remains is the way Field Study interrupts the familiar rhythms of academic life and replaces them with something slower, more open, and harder to pin down. As alumni, you may see glimpses of your own experience here. Field Study has always reflected the country around it, and the people moving through it. I hope these pages stir memory, but also suggest what's still unfolding, and why that matters.

Cordially,
Theoni

GREECE

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

USA

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.cyathens.org/blog/
facebook.com/cyathens
instagram.com/cyathens
x.com/cyathens
linkedin/College Year in Athens
youtube/College Year in Athens

Celebrating Founder's Day – and a New Tradition

Even those who never had the chance to meet the formidable **Mrs. Phyl** can feel the force of her vision. It was her bold, almost unthinkable idea that set everything in motion—an idea that, in its time, seemed improbable but has since bound together everyone reading this newsletter. Every year we celebrate **Founder's Day** in her honor but this time, we marked the occasion with something new: the **Founder's Day Award**, created to recognize faculty and staff who have shown extraordinary dedication to academic excellence and student well-being.

The very first recipient? None other than **Nadia Meliniotis**, our longtime Executive Director of Student Affairs—someone many of you surely remember! For more than three decades, Nadia was at the heart of the CYA student experience. She welcomed, guided, and supported generations of students, always with warmth, wisdom, and an energy that never seemed to run out.

The ceremony on February 25 brought together alumni, faculty, and staff to celebrate both Mrs. Phyl's legacy and Nadia's impact. CYA President **Theoni Scourta** introduced the event, followed by remarks from **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees. A highlight of the evening was a conversation between Nadia and **Jennifer Holland (SP '99)**, now CYA's Student Affairs Lead Advisor, on the essential "duty of care" in study abroad. They delved into how the notion of "home space" in a study abroad



Ismene and George Phylactopoulos with CYA students at the Acropolis

context has evolved—from physical comfort to emotional belonging—and how this impacts students' personal development. Nadia and Jennifer also discussed how CYA's support systems have evolved in step with rising mental health concerns and a generational shift toward valuing

psychological safety and inclusion.

The night wrapped up with a heartfelt speech from Nadia, a small gift in appreciation of her years of service, and a lively reception filled with memories and laughter.



Nadia receiving her special gift from CYA President Theoni Scourta

CYA Welcomes Dr. Angeliki Dimitriadi as Academic Director

We are pleased to announce that CYA Professor **Dr. Angeliki Dimitriadi** has assumed the role of Academic Director as of January 2025. Angeliki brings a wealth of experience as both a scholar and an administrator, along with a deep commitment to CYA's academic mission and values.

Dr. Dimitriadi is a political scientist specializing in irregular migration and asylum, with a focus on how migration policies intersect with human mobility, deterrence strategies, and protection frameworks. Her research examines migration management at the European

Union's external borders, governance systems within the EU, and the external dimension of EU migration policy.

She holds a PhD from the Democritus University of Thrace, where she studied transit migration from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. She also holds an MA in War Studies from King's College London and a BSc in International Relations & History from the London School of Economics.

With extensive research experience, she previously served for a decade as a

Senior research fellow and Head of the migration program at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). She has been teaching at CYA since 2016 and was adjunct lecturer at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens between 2019-2024.

We are excited to welcome Angeliki into this new leadership role and look forward to her contributions in shaping CYA's academic future.



Niki Evbuomwan and Billy Simopoulos at the "Snack Pack" event

"Snack Pack" Event During Exams Week

CYA offered a welcome break for students by hosting a "Snack Pack" event, designed to provide both a quick refreshment and a warm introduction to life as a future CYA alum.

Students enjoyed snacks and received helpful information about staying connected with CYA after completion of the Program. Staff from Student Affairs and the Development

Office were on hand to support students and check in during this busy time.

As an added bonus, three lucky students won Amazon gift cards through a raffle drawing!

We are excited to keep in touch with this amazing group as they complete their time at CYA and join our vibrant community of over 11,500 alumni worldwide.

A.G. Leventis Foundation Grant

In September 2024, CYA submitted a grant application to the [A.G. Leventis Foundation](#), seeking support to enhance the technological infrastructure across our classrooms.

We are proud to announce that the Foundation has awarded CYA a generous grant, which will be used to modernize two classrooms and replace outdated equipment, significantly improving the learning environment for our students.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the A.G. Leventis Foundation for their continued support of CYA's mission and to everyone who contributed to this important milestone.

Lectures

On April 29, CYA had the pleasure of welcoming **Paula Debnar**, Professor Emeritus of Classics at Mount Holyoke College, who delivered a lecture to faculty and students titled “*Lies and Liars in Thucydides.*” The lecture focused on Thucydides’ treatment of lies and liars in the History. Prof. Debnar argued that the historian’s presentation of individual liars helps readers perceive his attitude toward their lies. At the same time, motives for lying, as well as the identity of the audience and their reasons for being deceived, figure large in Thucydides’ implicit judgments of lies. Taken as a whole, his treatment of lies and liars underscores a significant theme of the History:

over the course of the war men increasingly privilege personal ambition and acquisition of power over the good of their cities (cf. 2.65).

On February 4, **Dr. Andrew Gunther** delivered an online guest lecture titled “*The Climate Crisis: Meeting the Moment,*” as part of the course ENVR 374, led by Professor **Bailey Green**. Open to all CYA students, the lecture focused on the intersection of environmental science and policy. Dr. Gunther, a prominent environmental expert with decades of experience in climate, air, and water policy, shared insights from his extensive work in both scientific research and public service.

As part of CYA’s academic activities, **JJ Lugardo (SP ’19)**—a PhD candidate in Classics at Stanford University—delivered a fascinating talk on April 1, titled “*Incarceration and the Athenian State: Rethinking Punishment in Classical Greece.*” Drawing on both material and textual evidence, Lugardo challenged the long-standing view that prisons were absent in ancient Athens. Instead, she proposed a broader understanding of carceral practices as integral to the sociopolitical fabric of the city. Her research highlights how spaces of confinement, though not punitive in the modern sense, played a significant role in shaping civic identity and intra-elite dynamics in the Athenian proto-democratic state.

New CYA Course

Since Spring 2025, CYA has partnered with the [Athens Conservatoire](#) to offer students a unique opportunity to explore ancient Greek drama through a rhythmical and kinetic approach in the new course, *Greek Beats: The Hidden Rhythm of Ancient Theater*. Using a contemporary lens, students examine movement, rhythm, and presence as essential tools for understanding the Chorus and its symbolic role in ancient tragedies. Through 24 hands-on sessions led by instructors from the Conservatoire, participants engage with the ways in which rhythm and space shape collective identity, decision-making, and symbolic expression.

The course encourages students to explore how spatial forms—such as the circle or line—convey meaning in

Tragedy and Comedy, and how movement can evolve from personal expression into a powerful symbolic language.



Students exploring ancient Greek drama through a rhythmical and kinetic approach

The Annual Student Conference



Students and faculty at the conference

The **8th Annual Student Conference** took place at CYA on May 6. This year's theme was *Communal Belonging, Migration, and Citizenship in the Ancient and Modern World*.

Held in the **Daphne & George Hatsopoulos Hall** at CYA, the

8th Annual Student Conference featured a full-day program of student research presentations, exploring themes of identity, migration, and political belonging across time. Spanning antiquity and contemporary issues, the conference brought together

diverse disciplinary approaches and student perspectives, fostering critical reflection on perennial questions of belonging and exclusion.

Modern Greek Workshop

In the Spring 2025 CYA Modern Greek Faculty, **Stella Papayanni** and **Elena Kostadima** (Language Lab), ran an interactive workshop designed for students. Aimed at beginners, the workshop offered a fun and engaging environment to practice Greek while connecting with their peers.



A modern muse in an ancient role

Euripides' *Helen*

The Advanced Ancient Greek Class presented a performance of Euripides' *Helen* on May 14. Directed by CYA Faculty member **Demetrios Kritsotakis**, the production offered students and guests the opportunity to experience an exceptional performance bringing ancient drama to life.

An Innovative Performance

Our Classics faculty member, **Nina Papathanasopoulou**, presented her new production, *Martha Graham & Greek Myth: Clytemnestra*, in March 2025 in five sold-out performances at ELER—Eleni Erimou Theater in Athens. This original production combines classical philology with the art of modern dance to explore the Greek-themed works of revolutionary

20th-century American artist and choreographer Martha Graham, who was deeply inspired by the myths and the culture of the ancient Greeks.

"Dr. Nina Papathanasopoulou draws on Martha Graham's technique and artistic vision to offer a spellbinding experience that blends the world of contemporary dance and Greek mythology," wrote [Athens Insider](#) in a glowing review of the performance.



Dancer Vassia Koliou and Nina Papathanasopoulou in "Martha Graham & Greek Myth: Clytemnestra." Photo by Dimitris Mamaloukos.

Seeing Nature: Philosophical and Environmental Perspectives

by **Jason Xygkis**, CYA Philosophy faculty, and **Stamatis Zogaris**, former CYA Environmental Science faculty, currently CYA Field Study leader.



As the effects of environmental degradation become more visible and urgent, it's clear that many of our proposed solutions fall short, rooted in the idea that nature is a utility, existing primarily to serve humans. CYA's **Philosophy of Nature and Environmental Studies Field Study** invites students to approach the crisis differently: by asking more fundamental questions about how we see, value, and relate to the natural world.

Through a blend of philosophical inquiry and ecological fieldwork, students travel through the diverse and dramatic landscapes of Northern Greece and the Peloponnese—coastal wetlands, mountain ridges, lagoons, and rivers—and experience nature not just as observers, but as active participants. Along the way, they explore humanity's relationship with nature through key thinkers, while engaging in activities like birding, biodiversity assessments, and landscape evaluation. The result is a layered and transformative encounter with both landscape and thought, letting these domains inform each other. Students move between observation and contemplation across a range of settings—from awe-inspiring natural areas to degraded and threatened ecosystems often juxtaposed to urban sprawl or famed historic sites—turning Greece's ecosystems into living classrooms.

Questioning Our Separation from Nature: Philosophy and Ecology in the Field

The strength of the program lies in how it weaves together the intellectual and the sensory, inviting students to reflect on their place in the natural world through both philosophical inquiry and embodied observation. Learning to identify a falcon in flight or spotting a rare wild orchid prompts us to consider how we assign value to the non-human world and what assumptions underlie our ways of seeing. Philosophy helps make sense of these moments, while abstract ideas gain new meaning when encountered in context, whether in the crash of waves against the shore or the scent of pine in mountain air. This integration allows students to connect with the inherent dynamism of the landscape and its non-human inhabitants in ways that feel both immediate and meaningful.

The program invites students to grapple with a fundamental tension at the heart of Western thought: the longstanding division between the human self and the natural "other." This dualism has shaped everything from policy frameworks to everyday habits. During the field trip, this worldview is traced back to its origins in ancient

Greek and Christian thought, where Plato's dualism separates spirit from matter and humanity is elevated to the top of the cosmic hierarchy, only to be unsettled by encounters with alternative visions. Against these frameworks, German Romanticism embraces nature as a poetic and sacred unity, while Daoist thought proposes a world without hierarchy, transcending anthropocentrism entirely. Students are thus invited to recognize nature's intrinsic sanctity, to regard animals and ecosystems as kin rather than resources, and to embody the Daoist injunction to 'love the world as your own body.'

Sites of Encounter: Where Theory Meets Terrain

These philosophical perspectives find tangible expression in Greece's varied and dramatic landscapes. Through disciplined observation of diverse ecosystems, theoretical concepts about nature's sacredness, purpose, and the relationship between human and non-human life take on concrete form. Each location we visit becomes a dialogue partner, sparking the question: Can we cultivate an ecological consciousness that bridges contemplative and scientific traditions?

Hiking through the coastal wetlands of **Strofylia National Park**, students examine Plato's elevation of the mind over the physical world, an idea that has shaped contemporary attitudes toward the environment. This is contrasted with

the views of the Presocratic philosophers, who saw nature as alive, rational, and sacred, with the human intellect harmoniously reflecting this dynamic order. The study of vegetation leads students to question biodiversity conservation management, while assessing the ecological integrity of the wetland and reflecting on what it means to ascribe intrinsic value to nature.

At **Lake Kerkini**, near the Bulgarian border, students glide across the water by boat, binoculars in hand. They spot pelicans, cormorants, grebes, even water buffalo grazing in the vast lakeshore landscape. More than an exercise in ecological monitoring, this session is an opportunity to discuss Aristotle's view of nature as a dynamic, interconnected, and purpose-driven whole. Using a field scope and online identification apps, students tally a checklist of birds seen and heard, searching for the rarities. For many, this is one of the program's highlights, where theory meets wonder and ancient wisdom illuminates modern ecology.

At **Meteora**, where towering rock pillars are topped by centuries-old monasteries, students engage with medieval Christian thought that placed humans at the apex of creation. Feeling the chilly drizzle fall, students contrast this view with the revolutionary vision of St. Francis of Assisi, recognizing animals, wind, and even celestial bodies as siblings of humanity. Walking and surveying the terrain, students examine both the symbolic and physical formations, learning to





read the geological and ecological signatures of the place while reconsidering that long-standing worldview.

A quieter, more meditative experience awaits at **Kaiafas Lagoon**, on the southern Ionian coast. There, Daoist philosophy introduces the concept of nature as an underlying reality operating beyond human control, like the natural rhythm of wind and water. Students sit in silence and listen to the waves, letting their analytical minds rest as an exercise in ‘unselfing.’ One participant noted, *“This was the first time in years I simply sat with classmates, without phones or chatter—it was profoundly revealing.”* These meditative sessions, often cited as another standout moment of the trip, are paired with fieldwork: studying dune coastal plant communities, tracing the ecological succession from coastal meadows to wind-pruned pine woods, pondering the rhythms and evolving processes of the shoreline. The experience is not about withdrawing from the world, but returning to it with new attention.

Near **Voidokoilia Beach**, the spirit of German Romanticism is brought into the open. After reading the poetry of Hölderlin, the group tries writing their own, inspired by the beauty of the crescent beach and the unexpected appearance of flamingos. Romanticism’s celebration of nature as a grand and sacred whole, where every tree and

wave is infused with divine vitality, finds fertile ground here. Students document biodiversity, linking Romantic ideals to tangible ecosystem science.

The program also doesn’t shy away from difficult or contradictory realities. At the **Aliakmon River**, near Ancient Vergina, students confront an industrial hydroelectric dam that has altered the river’s natural flow. The site becomes an entry point into the work of Heidegger, who argued that technology is not merely machines but a way of enframing nature as a ‘standing reserve’ of resources to be used. Students debate whether even renewable energy can escape this reductionist framework. It is a debate that leaves them unsettled, questioning whether even ‘green’ solutions perpetuate the very thinking that endangers the planet.

A Different Kind of Learning

In the end, what students take away from the Philosophy of Nature and Environmental Studies Field Study is often not a single insight, but a shift in orientation. Some will remember the birds they spotted or the poems they wrote. Others might recall a moment of stillness by the water’s edge, or the scent of pine in the air. Some might forget the specifics and still carry with them a deeper sense of what it means to learn from the world, not just about it.

In a time of ecological uncertainty, this field study offers something rare: a way of seeing that moves beyond control, beyond separation, and toward a more meaningful connection with the living world.



A Lasting Honor: CYA Announces the Brian D. Joseph Chair in Classics

In the fall of 1971, a linguistics student from Yale arrived in Athens to spend a year at College Year in Athens. That year would eventually lead, in a roundabout way, to one of the biggest academic developments in CYA's recent history.

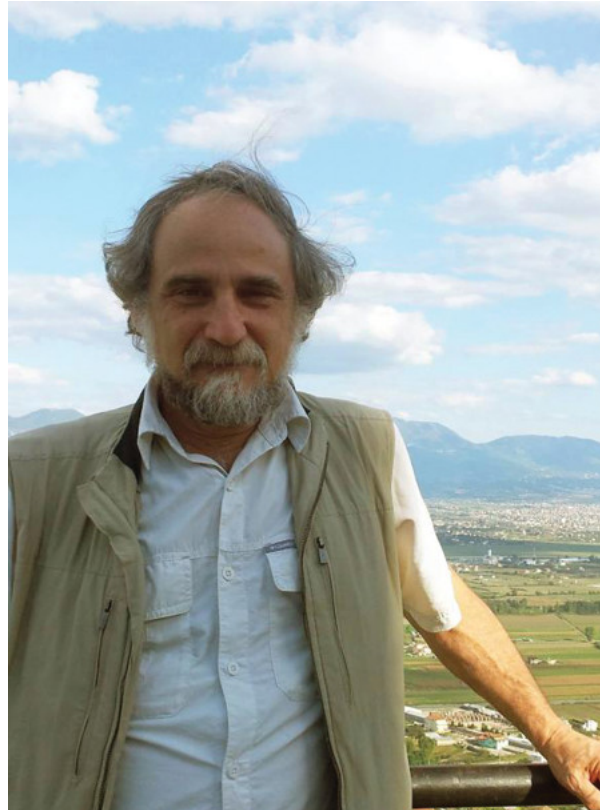
We are excited to announce the establishment of the **Brian D. Joseph Chair in Classics**, an endowed visiting professorship, which will bring accomplished scholars to Athens to teach and pursue original research in Classics and related fields. Beginning in September 2026, the Chair honors Professor **Brian D. Joseph (FY '72)**, who, in the years that followed his semester at CYA, went on to become one of the most influential linguists in the field of Historical Linguistics, focusing on Greek, Balkan, and Indo-European languages. After earning degrees at Yale and Harvard, Professor Joseph joined the faculty at The Ohio State University. He has also been elected to the American Philosophical Society, Academia Europaea, and other scholarly bodies for his contributions to the field.

"All I can say is 'Wow!'" Joseph responded upon receiving the news. *"I am indescribably honored to have the Chair named after me... I'm flattered beyond belief that my time at CYA had such an impact."*

The position was made possible through a gift from a fellow CYA alumnus from spring 1972, who remembered Brian D. Joseph as having played an integral part in what made their time at CYA especially memorable.

"In recognition of your impact on the donor's experience at CYA... they have requested that this Chair be named in your honor," wrote Alexis Phylactopoulos, Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees, in his message to Professor Joseph. *"This is a landmark achievement for CYA and a lasting tribute to your name, legacy, and connection to our institution."*


The Brian D. Joseph Chair in Classics honors the kind of influence that extends beyond the classroom and informs, in more or less direct ways, how a person carries their education forward.



Professor Brian D. Joseph (FY '72)

"I am indescribably honored to have the Chair named after me... I'm flattered beyond belief that my time at CYA had such an impact."

CYA's Virtual Lecture Series (VLS) remains a valuable way to reconnect with our alumni and extended community. This spring, the series featured two compelling one-hour sessions led by distinguished guest speakers from diverse academic and professional backgrounds.



DATE
March 26, 2025

TITLE
From Temple to Church to Museum:
The Hephaisteion After Antiquity

GUEST SPEAKER
Anne McCabe, *Research Associate, Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents, Oxford*

DISCUSSANT
Robert K. Pitt, *CYA Professor, Greek History and Epigraphy*

Wednesday, 26 March 2025
12 pm (ET) / 6 pm (Athens)

DATE
April 30, 2025

TITLE
The Longevity Project

GUEST SPEAKERS
Stelios Zavvos, *Founder & CEO of Zeus Group, Founder & Chairman of the Board of SolidarityNow, President of the Harvard Business School Club of Greece*
Constantine Stratakis, *Medical Geneticist & Endocrinologist, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Athens Medical School, Chief of Clinical Genetics, Human Longevity*



THE LONGEVITY PROJECT
Are we able to achieve a longer lifespan combined with a similar span?
What is the current status and the promising upcoming future evolution?

SPEAKERS
Stelios Zavvos
Founder & CEO of Zeus Group
Founder & Chairman of the Board of SolidarityNow
President of the Harvard Business School Club of Greece

Constantine Stratakis
Medical Geneticist & Endocrinologist
Professor of Pediatrics, University of Athens Medical School
Chief of Clinical Genetics, Human Longevity

Wednesday, 30 April 2025
12 pm (ET) / 7 pm (Athens)

HELLENIC EXECUTIVE PROGRAM



CYA's Hellenic Executive Program (HEP) continues to offer online seminars for alumni, community members, and lifelong learners seeking to

expand their knowledge on all topics associated with Greece.

This spring's seven-week course, *Greek America: Past, Present, and Future* (May 3–June 21), led by Professor **Alexander Kitroeff**, offered an in-depth exploration of the evolution of Greek identity in North America. The course examined key institutions, leadership, and the future of Greek America, and featured a special session on the Greek Canadian experience, presented by **Dr. Sakis Gekas** of York University.



Scan to view VLS Playlist

For a comprehensive review of all our past lectures, please visit our website: www.cyathens.org

CYA's Winter Board Meeting in Boston



Symeon Tegos, Consul General of Greece in Boston, CYA Trustee Yiannis Monovoukas, and Mrs. Mariella Phylactopoulou



CYA Trustees Theo Melas-Kyriazi, Andrea Hannon-Brown (FA '72), and Robert Kriscunas (FA '71)

CYA's Board of Trustees gathered in Boston on January 12 for their annual meeting, continuing their committed work to advance the institution's mission.

Following the meeting, a special reception was held at the Museum of Science, graciously hosted by former Board Chair **Daphne Hatsopoulos**. The evening brought together alumni, friends, and distinguished guests, including **Symeon Tegos**, Consul General of Greece in Boston; **Dr. Paula Johnson**, President of Wellesley College; and **Anastasia Christofilopoulou**, Curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



(From left): Alexia Lingaas, Associate (Associate Director - North America), Maria Marakas (Bursar and Manager of the North American Office), Theoni Scourta (President of CYA)

Celebrating a Distinguished Honor

CYA Trustee **Lena Papalexopoulou** has been awarded the Alumni Medal, the highest honor presented by the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA). This prestigious award recognizes alumni whose exceptional commitment and service have made a lasting impact on the Columbia community.

For more than two decades, Lena has been a dedicated and visionary leader—serving as President of CAA Greece, a

member of the CAA Board, and a key catalyst in establishing the Athens Columbia Global Center. Her ability to bring people and institutions together across borders continues to inspire.

Lena received the Alumni Medal during Columbia University's Commencement and was celebrated at the Columbia Alumni Leaders Experience on May 21.



CYA Trustee Lena Papalexopoulou at the Columbia ceremony

2025 AIA/SCS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

Each year, CYA participates in the joint [Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America \(AIA\) and the Society for Classical Studies \(SCS\)](#), a cherished opportunity to reconnect with alumni, faculty, and friends. This January, CYA President **Theoni Scourta**, Director of Alumni Relations **Erica Huffman (SP '93)**, and CYA Faculty members **Hüseyin Çınar Öztürk** and **Nina Papathanasopoulou** traveled to Philadelphia for the conference—and for our signature alumni reception. The reception brought together over 50 guests, including more than 20 alumni.

During the conference, Nina Papathanasopoulou presented on the literary and visual influences behind Martha Graham's Greek-themed dances, while Hüseyin Öztürk shared findings from his fieldwork in Karystos, Euboea, focusing on prehistoric architecture and landscape management.



CYA President Theoni Scourta, Prof. Michael Laughy from Washington and Lee University, and Prof. Zoe Kontes (FY '95) from Kenyon College



Nina Papathanasopoulou, AnnMarie Whalen, Erica Huffman (SP '93), and Brian Whalen

Connecting with Alumni and Partners in Toronto

This March, members of the CYA team traveled to Toronto to take part in the [2025 Forum on Education Abroad Annual Conference](#). While in Toronto, CYA hosted a special reception at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. The event brought together alumni, partners, and friends of the program for an evening filled with meaningful connections.

We were honored to welcome members of our extended community, including representatives from the Consulate General of Greece in Toronto, the Cultural Counselor of Greece, the Hellenic Heritage Foundation, and international education professionals. A special highlight was reconnecting with CYA alumni across generations, including **Liz Knebli (FY '69)**, **Shai Nickerson (SP '18)**, **Victoria Boerner (SU '14)**, **Koumoundouros (SU '24)** and **Eleni Mitropoulos (SU '24)**.



Alexis Phylactopoulos with alumna Liz Knebli (FY '69)



Vasso Matrakouka (Short Term Programs Manager), Popi Triantafyllidou (Director of Strategic Planning), Ramona Kirsch (Hollins U), Alexia Lingaas (Associate Director-North America), and Tessa Borchardt (Program Coordinator and Alumna (SU '21))

Delphi Economic Forum

Continuing a valued annual tradition, CYA once again participated in the [Delphi Economic Forum \(DEF\)](#)—Greece’s premier international platform for dialogue on global policy, economics, and education.

This year, CYA’s Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, joined the Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Prof. **Gerasimos Siasos**, in a timely panel on the evolving relationship between public and private higher education in Greece. Representing CYA’s long-standing commitment to academic partnership and international exchange, Mr. Phylactopoulos underscored CYA’s unique role in bridging international students with Greece’s public academic institutions and fostering meaningful collaboration across educational sectors.

A group of CYA students—led by CYA Professor **Ritsa Panagiotou**—also attended the Forum, where some of today’s most pressing global issues were discussed and analyzed. CYA provides students with opportunities like these, where the classroom extends to the world stage, and education becomes a living dialogue.

11th International Summer University

The [11th International Summer University: Greek Language, Culture, and Media](#), themed “*Diaspora Mass Media: Challenges and Prospects for the Greek Language and Culture*,” was held in Boston from May 24–29 at the Maliotis Cultural Center of Hellenic College-Holy Cross.

This unique program brought together a diverse group of participants—including journalists, undergraduate and graduate students, educators, scholars, and professionals with a shared interest in Hellenic culture—under the framework of lifelong learning.

The opening day featured inspiring remarks from distinguished leaders and officials. Among them was CYA’s Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, who spoke



Alexis Phylactopoulos and Gerasimos Siasos during the panel discussion



The group of CYA students that attended the DEF



Nikoletta Tsitsanoudis-Mallidis with Alexis Phylactopoulos

about the role of CYA in providing college education in Greece to students of Hellenic origin. The program was expertly moderated by Professor **Nikoletta Tsitsanoudis-Mallidis**, Dean at the University of Ioannina and Founder of the Summer University, in collaboration with **Chrysoula Kourkounti**, Executive Director of the Maliotis Cultural Center.

Shadowing a Neurosurgeon in Athens



(From left): Grace, Cormic, and Max at Evangelismos

Three Spring 2025 students had the amazing opportunity to shadow renowned Neurosurgeon Dr. Korfias and his team at **Evangelismos Hospital** in Athens. **Cormic McNamara (SP '25)** and **Max Reinhardt (SP '25)**, both from

the College of the Holy Cross, and **Grace Medalen (SP '25)**, from Hope College had the opportunity to interpret CT and MRI scans and to assist with suturing and administering medications. Each day involved a combination of observation and hands-on learning.

This immersive learning experience placed them at the intersection of theory and practice, offering them a rare vantage point into the complexities of neurosurgical care. A highlight of the experience was observing a complex craniotomy to remove an olfactory meningioma.

The procedure offered a firsthand look at the precision of neurosurgery and the intricate collaboration required in the operating room.

Reflecting on the experience, Grace shared: *"I'm so grateful that CYA connected us with Dr. Korfias and gave us the chance to work alongside his neurosurgery team. This is an experience you can't get back home. My time abroad, along with my classes at CYA, has been incredible. The professors are so passionate about their work, and I'm learning so much."*

Exploring VR Technology



Alexandra Chase (SP '25) interned at the **University of Athens' Neuroscience Lab**, where she explored how humans interact with technology. Alexandra is a Computer Science major/Neuroscience Minor from The College of the Holy Cross.

Her work focused on developing new input methods for Virtual Reality, using haptic feedback and hand gestures for tasks like entering a PIN in a VR setting. Under the mentorship of a PhD student, Alexandra collaborated with graduate students from Greece and the Netherlands,

contributing to the design and testing of the system through shared, cloud-based development.

"Holy Cross has great labs," she said, "but this one has the newest headsets and top-tier hand-tracking tech I've always wanted to work with. It draws on both my computer science and neuroscience background, especially in understanding how people physically interact with technology."



Sweet Lessons at a Neighborhood Bakery



Adeline (right) with Mrs. Konstantina Hatzopoulou, the bakery manager

Adeline Hayden (SP '25), an Accounting/Finance double major from the University of Notre Dame, traded textbooks for aprons at **Pastry Family**, a beloved neighborhood bakery in Athens, where she volunteered this semester. Known for its European-style pastries, fruit

tarts, ice cream cakes, and traditional Greek sweets like baklava and kataifi, the bakery became both a classroom and a community for Adeline. Her tasks varied from day to day—measuring ingredients, dipping chocolates, decorating cookies—but the true value of the experience lay beyond the recipes. *“I was looking to try something I wouldn’t have otherwise been able to do,”* Adeline said. *“This experience has allowed me to better understand what it’s like to live and work in Athens.”*

In addition to mastering pastry techniques, Adeline learned about how a local business runs and teams collaborate, and how culture is expressed through everyday interactions.

Volunteering at the Blegen Library

Each semester, CYA students with a passion for Classical Studies have the exceptional opportunity to volunteer at the **Blegen Library**, one of the world’s premier research libraries for classical studies, housed at the **American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA)**.

Volunteers work closely with rare collections, assist in organizing archival materials, and gain valuable exposure to the field of library science. Through this engagement, students not only deepen their academic interests but also contribute to an institution that has shaped the study of the ancient world for over a century.



CYA students at the Blegen Library

Students who volunteered at the Blegen Library in the Spring semester were from the following partner schools: Smith College, St. Olaf College, Swarthmore College, Trinity College, University of Michigan, Vassar College, Wheaton College, Willamette University, and Williams College.

From City Streets to Countryside



Lucy Hathaway at Petra Farm

Over spring break, four CYA students chose a different kind of getaway: immersing themselves in hands-on learning at two remarkable farms in Greece.

Alexis Coughlin (SP '25), an Archaeology/Classics major from Connecticut College and **Kevin Amon (SP '25)**, an Anthropology major from Furman University, traveled to **Cherry Land Farm** in Kernitsa, where the cherry trees were just beginning to blush across the hillsides. There, they cared for goats, sheep, and donkeys, and even pitched in with meal prep in the farm’s kitchen.

Meanwhile, on Paros Island, **Olive Coburn (SP '25)**, an Environmental Studies major from St. Olaf College, and **Lucy Hathaway (SP '25)**, a History major from the College of the Holy Cross, joined longtime CYA partner **Alkis Downward** at **Petra Farm**. With the Aegean Sea as their backdrop, they harvested wild greens and herbs, experiencing the rhythms of sustainable farming in one of Greece’s most picturesque landscapes.

SPRING 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Spring students arrive in Athens full of excitement for the new semester, eager to meet new people and explore Greece.



Angeliki Anagnostopoulou, faculty member in Modern Greek, accompanies her students to the local open-air farmer's market (laiki), where they practice buying fruits and vegetables in Greek.



Our first CYA Field Study of Spring 2025 took our students to Olympia where they ran at the ancient Stadium.



In CYA professor Angelos Papadopoulos' course on Ancient Technologies and Materials, students explore archaeological discoveries at the Evangelismos and Monastiraki metro stations, tracing Athens' history from the Archaic to the Roman era.



Wellness Week at CYA set a positive tone for the semester, offering moments to care for both body and mind. Whether it was the creativity sparked in ceramics, or the serenity of visiting a donkey sanctuary, students took the time to recharge and prepare for the journey ahead.



SPRING 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



CYA Professor Maria Vidali's Contemporary Stories in an Ancient City class explored Athens firsthand, tracing ancient roots in modern neighborhoods from Plaka to the Acropolis.



CYA Field Study is not a tour. It is a different kind of learning.



CYA students explored the layered history of Rhodes during an optional field study led by CYA Professors Athena Hadji and Romolo Gandolfo.



CYA Professor Demetrios Kritsotakis' Latin Paleography class visited the Gennadius Library to explore rare texts, including the first printed Greek edition of Homer's Iliad, published in 1488.



At the 2025 NAFSA Annual Conference in San Diego, CYA joined international education professionals to engage with this year's theme: "Purpose, Place, and Partnership."



CYA hosted an evening reception at a local Greek restaurant, bringing together trustees, alumni, partners, and friends. Among the guests, CYA Trustee Gerry Ranglas joined Mr. and Mrs. Phylactopoulos in celebrating the occasion.

Returning to CYA

We look forward to welcoming alumni back for visits where they are warmly greeted and hosted by CYA staff and faculty. Visitors receive tours of our campus, including the Library and classrooms, often capped off with lunch in the Dining Hall. A favorite stop is the Registrar’s Office, where **Maria Tsahas** and **Anthi Papageorgiou** often surprise visitors by pulling out their original student files—complete with old photos and grade reports, sparking plenty of nostalgia. At the Student Affairs Office, **Jennifer Holland (SP ’99)** invites alumni to leave a note in the Visitors’ Book—a heartfelt tradition that adds a personal touch to each memorable return to CYA.

Michael Flynn (SP ’92)



(From left): Billy Simopoulos (Development Officer) with Michael Flynn and his family

On February 28, **Michael Flynn (SP ’92)** visited CYA with his family, marking his first return since his student days.

Michael is currently the Executive Director of the Global Detention Project, a Geneva-based NGO dedicated to

investigating immigration detention worldwide. He holds a BA in Philosophy from DePaul University and a PhD in International Studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Although based in Geneva, Michael is currently working in Jordan, while his wife serves with the United Nations.

His visit was filled with nostalgia and gratitude, as he reconnected with CYA, witnessed its growth, and fondly reminisced about his time in Athens.

Georgianna 'Gigi' Papoulias (FA ’92)

On March 11, CYA was delighted to welcome back alumna **Georgianna ‘Gigi’ Papoulias (FA ’92)** for a special visit. Gigi, sister of CYA Trustee **Elaine Papoulias (FA ’90)**, was accompanied by Nadia Meliniotis, with whom she shares a deep connection from her time as a student. Despite being a longtime resident of Athens, this was Gigi’s first chance to explore the many changes and developments at CYA, learn about the numerous improvements made to student

life, including upgraded study areas, and the recently modernized student apartments that reflect CYA’s ongoing commitment to enhancing the student experience

Gigi, who works as a translator for the independent journalism group Solomon and also translates poetry, reflected on how her time at CYA influenced both her professional journey and personal life. After graduating from Boston College, she initially intended to spend

just one summer back in Greece — a plan that gradually extended to a full year and eventually turned into a permanent move.



(From left): Gigi with Maria Tsahas (Registrar)

Patrick Owens (SP '04)



(From left): Angela Kouvara, Jennifer Holland, Patrick Owens and Niki at the Student Affairs Office

On March 17, **Patrick Owens (SP '04)** visited CYA for the first time since his semester abroad.

Patrick is a professor of Classics at Colgate University. Beyond his academic work, he is deeply committed to teaching incarcerated individuals serving life sentences in high-security

penitentiaries. Through his classes, he introduces them to Homer's *Odyssey*, focusing on the timeless theme of the journey home. His students come from diverse educational backgrounds, ranging from advanced degrees to minimal formal education, making his



Patrick with Maria Malliou from the Accounting Office

teaching both a challenging and profoundly rewarding experience.

Alexis Fineman (FA '14)



On April 2, **Alexis Fineman (FA '14)** visited CYA for the first time since her semester abroad over a decade ago.

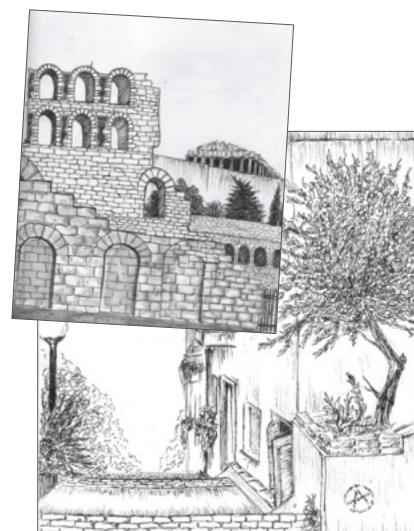
During her time as a student, Alexis was deeply involved with the local community, tutoring Greek teenagers in English—a meaningful connection that came full circle when she

reunited with some of those same students during her recent visit.

Preparing to begin law school this fall with a focus on environmental issues, Alexis was spending a few weeks in Athens before embarking on this next chapter. Since graduating from college, she has been active in civic initiatives, including serving as mayor of her hometown in Northern California, where she advocated for sustainability and public service.

It is worth noting that Alexis was featured in the Spring 2015 issue of the *Owl*, where a selection of her travel sketches from her CYA semester was published.

Currently, Alexis is also exploring her Greek heritage on the island of Andros, hoping to reconnect with family there.



Two of Alexis' sketches featured in the *Owl* of Spring 2015.

Past Meets Present: Family, Heritage, and the Spirit of CYA

On the occasion of the special recognition awarded during Founder's Day, we take a moment to reflect on the legacy of **Nadia Meliniotis**, who retired after more than three decades of service. In honor of this milestone, we share the heartfelt stories from two alumnae whose lives were deeply touched by her support and guidance during their time at CYA.

From Study Abroad to Family Bonds: A Journey Back to Athens

by Rachel Dupont (FA '15)

This past summer I had the incredible opportunity to return to Athens, a city that has always held a special place in my heart. My initial connection to Athens began in Fall 2015 when I studied abroad with CYA.

While studying at CYA nearly a decade ago, I was fortunate enough to be guided by CYA's wonderful Director of Student Affairs, Nadia Melinioti, who helped me uncover a piece of my family history.

Thanks to Nadia, who helped me locate my distant cousins in Greece, with only a last name and the name of a small village in the Peloponnese, I was able to uncover a piece of my family history. Meeting my cousins for the first time was a deeply moving experience, one that left a lasting impression on me.

Fast forward to this summer, I revisited Athens for a short time and was able to spend some quality time with my cousins. Seeing them exceeded all my expectations, and it felt as if no time had gone by since I had last seen them. We reminisced on first meeting each other, ate a TON of delicious Greek food, and I got to introduce them to my fiancé, who fit in like a glove with the rest of the family.

Returning to Athens will always be extra special due to my experience here but also a testament to the powerful impact of cultural and familial connections, facilitated by thoughtful individuals like Nadia. Her assistance was more than just logistical help; it was a bridge that connected me to my heritage and family in a profound way.

My transformative experience with Nadia inspired me to pursue a career in student support within the field of study abroad. Her guidance not only enriched my journey but also motivated me to



Rachel (middle) with her Greek family last summer

help others have similarly impactful experiences. For over a year, I've been supporting study abroad students in London, where I can hopefully give them the experience of a lifetime, like I had with CYA.

As I reflect on my experiences, I am grateful for the chance to rediscover Athens and reconnect with my cousins. Thank you to CYA for a study abroad experience that solidified Athens as a second home and to Nadia for going the extra mile to give a student an unforgettable experience with her family. Athens will always be a place of cherished memories, and I look forward to many more visits with my family, (and Nadia hopefully!) in the future.

How Our 17-Year-Old Spent the Summer in Athens

by Daphne (Pezaris) Maramaldi (FY '91, SU '99)

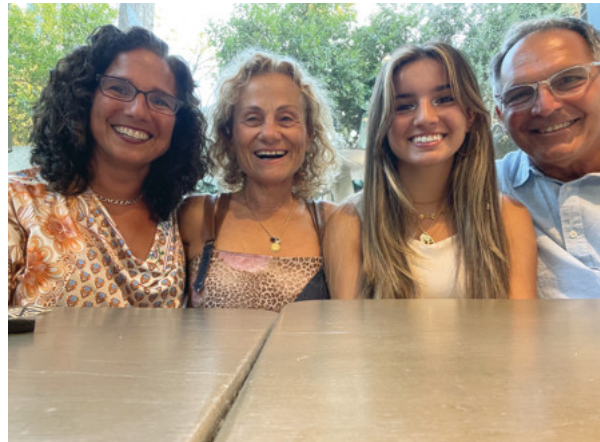
“Mom, Dad, what do you think of me volunteering in Athens this summer?”

What do we think of it? As a CYA alumna and a study abroad professional, I loved the idea. (The CYA that Alexis Phylactopoulos led for decades was the springboard of my professional career. So, yes, I loved the idea.) Remembering that Nadia Melinioti had cultivated over 200 volunteering opportunities for CYA students, my husband and I thought, perhaps, some of those organizations could use some help during the summer.

Not surprisingly, Nadia sprang into action and worked with our daughter Athena to explore her skills and aspirations for the summer. In the end, Athena landed two opportunities: one with Humanity Greece (a service organization that aids people affected by forced displacement) and another with the Hellenic Children’s Museum. Athena also wanted to learn Greek. Nadia’s tutoring suggestion was spot on. She was tutored by the beloved Angeliki Anagnostopoulou, now coined as one of Athena’s favorite teachers ever!

As you can imagine, Athena’s summer was incredible. She spent five weeks in Greece, three of which she volunteered daily. Athena is lucky in that her Yiayia lives in Athens, so housing was not an issue. Just before we left Greece, my husband and I showed her how to navigate the Metro, suggested good study spots, where to grab a quick lunch or leisurely café, etc. Athena happily took it all in and looked forward to negotiating the city on her own.

It didn’t take long for Athena to develop a love for Athens. Don’t get me wrong. It was hot. Really hot. Like 42° C hot. But that didn’t stop her. She met other volunteers from Greece and different parts of the United States. She had experiences that were enlightening, mundane, exciting, frustrating, and challenging. She lived in Kolonaki, volunteered in Omonia, tutored at CYA, and studied in the National Gardens. With a new sense of purpose, she gained confidence, made cultural observations, learned new skills, and honed her interests for her future endeavors.



(From left): Daphne, Nadia, Athena, and Peter Maramaldi (SU '99)

Everything a parent and an alumna would want for their child.

In sum, even in her retirement of two years and 33 years after I left CYA, Nadia stepped up and made our daughter’s dream happen, just as she had for countless others during her tenure at CYA.

Now that Athena is back home and starting her senior year of high school, her first step is to apply to colleges. Her second step will be to apply to study abroad at CYA!

Thank you, CYA and Nadia!



Athena studying at the National Gardens

CYA Connections at the March 25th Celebration in Boston



This year's March 25th celebration at the Consulate General of Greece in Boston was an occasion to reconnect with members of the CYA community. Our Executive Chairman of the Board of Trustees, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, who attended the event, met four CYA alumni—each accompanied by their families—who spoke warmly about their time at CYA.

Among them were: **John Pezaris (SP '83)**, currently with the Mass General Research Institute; **Angela Karogiannis (FA '96)**, now a practicing dentist in Wakefield, MA; **Peter Moschovis, MD (SP '99)**, Pediatric Pulmonologist at Massachusetts General Hospital; and CYA Trustee **Elaine Papoulias (FA '90)**, Director of the Harvard Center for European Studies.

A particularly meaningful moment was Mr. Phylactopoulos' conversation with Dr. Peter Moschovis, whom he remembered as a thoughtful and articulate Classics student. He shared that he went on to major in Philosophy before pursuing a career in medicine. Peter spoke with great fondness about his CYA days, especially his philosophy courses with **John Raish** and **Stelios Rangos** (now Professor at the University of Patras), as well as his time with Nadia Meliniotis.

In Memoriam:

Vicky Zemenides (SP '95)

With deep sorrow, we share the news of the passing of **Vicky (Thanos) Zemenides (SP '95)**, a beloved CYA member and the devoted wife of our Trustee, **Endy Zemenides (SP '95)**. Vicky passed away in mid-April after a long and courageous battle with illness.

A proud CYA alumna, Vicky will be remembered for her strength, grace, and unwavering commitment to her family and community. She and Endy were true partners in every sense—driven by shared values and a dedication to making a difference in the lives of others.

The entire CYA family joins in mourning her loss and extends our deepest condolences to Endy and their three children, Dimitri, Giorgo, and Eirini.

May her memory be eternal.



Endy and Vicky Zemenides

Finding Home in Athens: Kiera's Homestay Experience with CYA

When students choose to study abroad with CYA, they step into an experience alumni call “life-changing.” One shaped not only by what they learn in the classroom, but by how they live every day. For most CYA semester students, that includes living in student apartments located around the area of Pangrati. But a few CYAers chose a different path: the homestay experience.

Living with a local host family is a way to join Greek family life. It's a chance to connect across cultures, pick up the language organically, and be part of a local home. To help prospective students understand what homestay life can feel like, we sat down with **Kiera Hasan**, a Spring '25 CYA student from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, and her host, Nicky, a Greek-American English teacher who has lived in Athens for over 30 years.

Homestay is almost a tradition in Kiera's family, so when it was her turn to study abroad, she wanted to investigate the option. After reaching out to a student who had previously stayed in a homestay through CYA, Kiera felt more confident in her choice. *“I just emailed CYA and said, ‘Hey, I’m trying to decide if I want to do a homestay. Is there someone I could talk to?’ CYA put us in contact, and it really helped.”*

Now, months into her semester abroad, Kiera reflects on what it's been like to live with Nicky in her Athens home. *“It's very different from student apartments,”* she said. *“You're part of a family. And if I have a question, like where on earth to find something, I can just ask someone in my home.”* [...]

Living in a homestay means encountering Greek culture in small, everyday ways – especially around the dinner table. *“I've tried so many foods I wouldn't have otherwise,”* Kiera said. *“Kokkinistó, stifádo, ... so good.”* Nicky makes an effort to introduce students to local flavors they won't find in the student cafeteria. *“I want to give them things they may not get at school,”* she said. *“Something that feels like home.”* [...]

Living outside the main student apartment hub



Nicky and Kiera

meant she had to put in a little more effort to build friendships, Kiera explains, and added that it was worth it. *“I thought it might be harder to make friends without roommates,”* she said. *“But I made an effort, and now I have a great group. It started with the people I sat with at breakfast the first day at CYA!”*

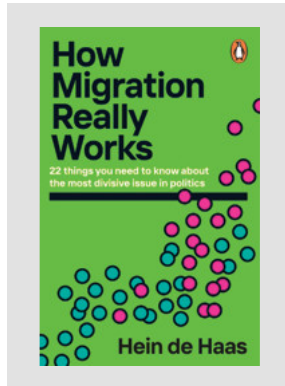
Kiera's daily life in Athens is a balance between classes and friendship, independence and connection. She heads to the Academic Center for classes, eats lunch with friends, and spends afternoons studying or socializing. Evenings at home with Nicky often include shared meals, chats over tea, and competitive Scrabble games. *“In the winter, we'd sit around the fireplace with tea,”* Kiera added. *“It's cozy!”* [...]

Toward the end of our conversation with Nicky and Kiera, they pondered on advice for students weighing their housing options in the future. Kiera suggests thinking about what kind of experience one wants. *“It's really about weighing the pros and cons for yourself,”* she said. *“For me, it came down to what kind of support and experience I wanted while abroad. A homestay gives you the chance to be part of daily life in Athens in a different way. If that sounds like something meaningful to you, then it's worth considering.”* [...]

And the connection doesn't end with the semester. *“We'll definitely stay in touch,”* Kiera said. Nicky added, *“My first student came back to visit me after her program ended. She spent three of her five days in Greece with me! That's what it's about.”*

*** You can read the full article on our blog (www.cyathens.org/blog)

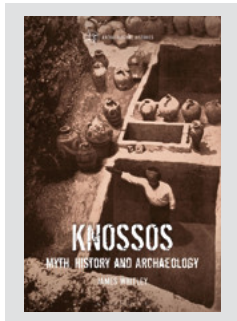
A LITERARY JOURNEY GUIDED BY THE DISCERNING EYE OF CYA
LIBRARIAN, GEORGIA KATSAROU.



Haas, H. D. *How migration really works: 22 things you need to know about the most divisive issue in politics.* Penguin, 2024.

Global migration is not at an all-time high. The climate emergency will not lead to mass migration. Border restrictions have actually produced more migration. These statements might sound counterintuitive, or just outright wrong - but the facts behind the headlines reveal a completely different story to the ones we're often told. In this ground-breaking book, based on over three decades of research, migration expert Professor Hein de Haas destroys 22 myths that politicians, interest groups and media regularly spread about immigration.

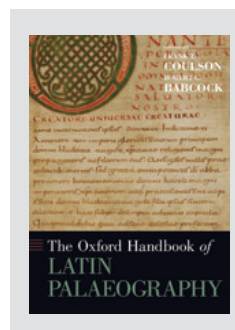
Whitley, James. *Knossos: Myth, History and Archaeology.* Bloomsbury Academic, 2024.



In this volume, James Whitley provides an up-to-date guide to the site and its function from the Neolithic until the present day. This study includes a re-appraisal of Bronze Age palatial society, as well as an exploration of the history of Knossos in the archaeological imagination. In doing so he takes a critical look at the guiding assumptions of Evans and others, reconstructing how and why the received view of this ancient settlement has evolved from the Iron Age up to the modern era.

Coulson, Frank T., and Robert Gary Babcock. *The Oxford Handbook of Latin palaeography.* Oxford University Press, 2020.

The Oxford Handbook of Latin Palaeography includes essays on major types of script (Uncial, Insular, Beneventan, Visigothic, Gothic, etc.), describing what defines these distinct script types, and outlining when and where they were used. It expands on previous handbooks of the subject by incorporating select essays on less well-studied periods and regions, in particular late mediaeval Eastern Europe. Essays treat of various important features, formats, styles, and genres of mediaeval books, and of representative mediaeval libraries as intellectual centers. Additional studies explore questions of orality and the written word, the book trade, glossing and glossaries, and manuscript cataloguing. The extensive plates and figures in the volume will provide readers with clear illustrations of the major points, and the succinct bibliographies in each essay will direct them to more detailed works in the field.



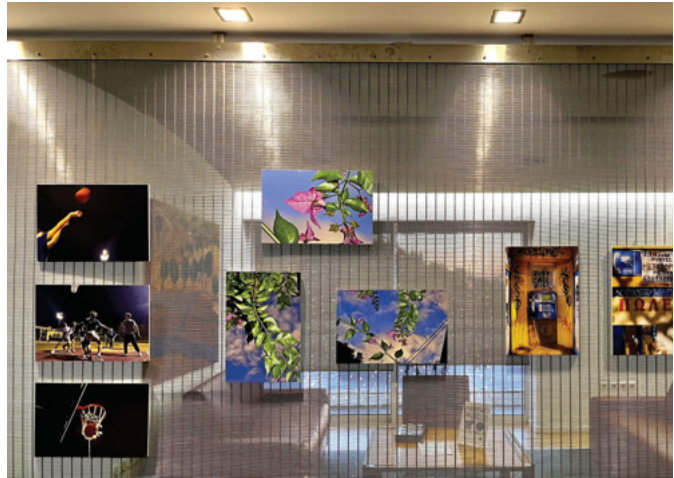
Hionidou, Violetta. *Abortion and contraception in Modern Greece, 1830-1967: medicine, sexuality and popular culture.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.



The book examines the history of abortion and contraception in Modern Greece from the time of its creation in the 1830s to 1967, soon after the Pill became available. It situates the history of abortion and contraception within the historiography of the fertility decline and the question of whether the decline was due to adjustment to changing social conditions or innovation of contraceptive methods.

Photography with Yioda

Hosted by the CYA Library, "*Photography with Yioda*" was a series of dynamic sessions designed for both beginners and experienced photographers to explore creativity, spatial concepts, and photographic techniques. Led by our Staff Assistant **Yiota Vouzna**, aka Yioda, students were encouraged to push artistic boundaries, experiment with new approaches, and rethink how space is used in photography. The sessions culminated in a student exhibition showcasing their evocative work. More than just a workshop, it provided a platform for growth, collaboration, and self-expression, inspiring participants to discover new perspectives and transform their approach to capturing the world.



CYA Book Club

In late January, the CYA Library launched a monthly book club in partnership with the bookshop [Lexikopoleio](#), where CYA students and local community members come together to share their love of reading. Each meeting offers an opportunity to exchange ideas, explore different perspectives, and connect through a shared appreciation for literature. It's also a wonderful way to introduce CYA to the local community and encourage meaningful engagement between CYA students and residents. So far, the group has read *So Long in the Day* by **Claire Keegan** (Jan. 29), *Orbital* by **Samantha Harvey** (Mar. 5), *Yellowface* by **R.F. Kuang** (Apr. 9), and *Hunchback* by **Saou Ichikawa** (May 7).

Alumni Book Club Enters Its 6th Year

The CYA Alumni Book Club, which started in 2020, continues meeting monthly. This spring the group read and discussed the following four books:

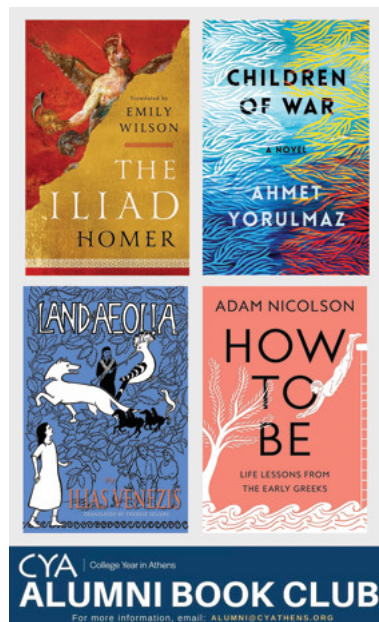
The Iliad, translated by **Emily Wilson**

Children of War, by **Ahmet Yorulmaz**

Land of Aeolia, by **Ilias Venezis**

How to Be, by **Adam Nicolson**

If you are interested in joining this group for informal discussions, please reach out to CYA's Director of Alumni Relations, **Erica Huffman (SP '93)**, at alumni@cyathens.org to be added to the mailing list to receive information. Meetings are typically on the fourth Monday of the month at 8:00 pm ET, and discussions are led by CYA alumna, **Elizabeth Sikkenga (FA '83)**, with everyone participating.



COOKING CLASSICS 101

Cretan Dakos



Need a no-fuss way to revisit the Mediterranean? Dakos is your ticket. Cretan barley rusks topped with juicy tomatoes, crumbled feta cheese, olive oil, and oregano. A Greek summer in every bite.

Ingredients:

1 round barley rusk, cut in half	1 tablespoon(s) olive oil
1 tomato	Dry oregano
1 teaspoon of white wine vinegar	Olives, preferably in round slices
1 pinch of salt	
Pepper	
1 tablespoon of basil, finely chopped	
100 g feta cheese, cut into pieces	

Instructions

- Place the 2 pieces of the dako onto 2 plates, outer side or crust facing down.
- Cut the tomato in half. Grate one half into a bowl. Cut the other half into little cubes. We are going to make a mixture with the grated tomato to soften the dako.
- In a bowl mix the grated tomato, the vinegar, salt, pepper, and finely chopped basil. Taste and adjust according to your preferences.
- Pour the mixture over the dako.
- Top with the tomato cubes, the feta cheese, and drizzle with the olive oil.
- Serve with olives, olive oil, some freshly ground pepper, and oregano.

CYA Donor Appreciation

We sincerely thank our donors for their generous support of CYA. Donor contributions are vital in providing students with transformative experiences while studying abroad with CYA. For questions or more information on how to support CYA, please contact our Development Office at development@cyathens.org.

Consider Giving

CYA was established 63 years ago to introduce young Americans to Greek culture and establish Greece as an educational destination. Since 1962, over 11,500 students have studied at CYA and have experienced first-hand what it means to be global citizens. Through a challenging academic program paired with daily engagement with Greece's people, monuments, and landscapes, a country both rapidly changing and steeped in a uniquely diverse history, our students develop a profound connection to Greece and, more importantly, a deeper understanding of themselves. Thanks to the dedication and determination of our staff, the resourcefulness of our faculty, the trust of our governance, the support of our alumni, and the willingness of our students, CYA has managed to further its mission of offering American university students a transformative study abroad experience. CYA hopes that you will continue to aid and support our institution. Your generosity will help us fulfill our mission of offering our American university students a life-changing, trans-cultural competence that aims to make them world citizens.

Make a Donation

Online

Help CYA continue to provide a unique and extraordinary study abroad experience. Use the QR Code.



Mail

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

College Year in Athens
PO BOX 390890,
Cambridge, MA
02139-0010

Wire Transfer*

Bank of America, ABA 026009593
100 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02109
Acct. 0000501-69735 (College Year in Athens, Inc.)

**Please notify development@cyathens.org when you make the transfer.*

Additional Ways to Make a Tax-Deductible Contribution to CYA

Gifts of Stock: By transferring appreciated stock to CYA, you may be eligible for a tax deduction equal to the stock's full fair market value, avoiding the capital gains tax on its increased value. For your gift to be acknowledged, it is essential to notify CYA of the type and amount of stock you will be giving. You may do this either personally or through your agent or broker.

Matching Gifts: Your employer may match your charitable donations, multiplying the impact of your gift. To learn if your organization participates, please contact your Human Resources Office.

Named Scholarships: What better way to support a deserving CYA student than through a named scholarship! You can honor a particular person and give the incredible experience of CYA to an academically qualified student who would not otherwise attend. Recurring, Monthly Giving: Monthly Giving is an easy way to make your support for CYA go further, with less impact on your budget. Automatic

monthly contributions help CYA administration with its budgetary planning, while at the same time allowing your automatic contributions to be spaced out over 12 months. Implementing this kind of support is simple to set up online—and simple to terminate should the need arise.

Planned Giving: Many people choose to support organizations that mean the most to them with a gift through their will or trust or planned arrangement. These types of gifts are known as planned gifts and are usually fulfilled after one's passing. Planned gifts provide a unique opportunity for one to create a lasting legacy for CYA. It is also a way to make a gift that costs nothing today—or that helps you make a tax-wise investment in your future and CYA's.

For more information about leaving a CYA Legacy gift and opportunities for permanence, please contact CYA's Development Office at development@cyathens.org

2020s

Adam Goldwyn (SP '02) was recently elected to a second two-year term as Chair of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL, the state affiliate of the national Democratic Party. Goldwyn is responsible for setting the party's electoral strategy, fundraising, candidate recruitment, and coordinating with the national party. A particular highlight of his previous term was leading the North Dakota delegation to the Democratic National Convention, where he announced the state delegation's votes for the Harris/Walz ticket.



Adam Goldwyn (SP '02)

2000s

Timothy Simandl (SU '00) writes: *"Since early December 2019 I have lived and worked (part-time in semi-retirement) in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. I have held dual Canadian/U.S. citizenship since 2012, and I intend to leave the U.S. and move permanently to Ontario."*

1990s

Steve Dunkle (SP '99) was appointed in December of 2023 by California Governor Gavin Newsom to serve as a Judge in the Santa Barbara County Superior Court.

Zoe Segal-Reichlin (SP '99) visited Greece this summer with her family.



Zoe and her family

1980s

Margaret "Peggy" Bolster (FY '89) writes: *"In 2016, I traveled with my husband and three children to Greece. We visited with John Raish and Flora Firiou and their daughter Christina in Athens. From there we traveled to Lefkada, enjoying 10 days by the sea. It was lovely to be back in Greece and revive bits of my modern Greek. I sound good, but can only manage a few sentences! I live and work as a professor of nursing and a psychiatric mental health nurse in upstate New York."*

1970s

Dr. Katherine Schwab (FY '75) recently retired and resides in San Diego and continues to conduct research in her areas of focus. She is Professor Emerita of History of Art & Visual Culture at Fairfield University.

1960s

Pam (Jones) Clark (FY '65), shares: *"In 2023, at the ripe age of 78, I mostly retired from heading independent schools; I'm consulting to Boards and Heads of School, playing pickleball, reading and learning mah jongg - all good fun! Living in New York City with summers in Maine fly fishing and playing golf; getting old is more fun than I expected..."*

Please note...

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

Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: November 21, 2025



University of West Attica Honors Nitzia Logothetis

Former CYA Trustee and alumna **Nitzia (Embiricos) Logothetis (FY '02)**, psychotherapist and co-founder of the **Seleni Institute**, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education at the **University of West Attica**. The honor recognizes her significant contributions to women's mental health, her support of mothers and families, and her extensive philanthropic work. The ceremony took place on May 28, at the historic Society of the Athenians in Plaka. Among the attendees was President of the Hellenic Parliament Nikitas Kaklamanis, who joined other distinguished guests in recognizing Nitzia's leadership and lasting impact through the internationally acclaimed Seleni Institute.



Nitzia (Embiricos) Logothetis (FY '02) with the Rector of the University of West Attica, Prof. Panagiotis E. Kaldis and the President of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care of PADA, Prof. Konstantinos Petrogiannis

Administration

EXECUTIVE

Alexis Phylactopoulos, Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees
Theoni Scourta, President
Peggy Myresiotou, Executive V. P. for Administration
Elina Sinopoulou, Assistant to the Executive Chair
Sofia Krikela, Assistant to the President

ACADEMICS

Angeliki Dimitriadi, Academic Director
Maria Tsahas, Registrar
Georgia Katsarou, Librarian
Rosa Vasilaki, Academic Advisor

ADMINISTRATION

Maro Georgoutsou, Front Desk Coordinator
Katerina Kanellopoulou, Human Resources Coordinator
Alex Makropoulos, Logistics Coordinator
Anthi Papageorgiou, Assistant to the Registrar
Yiota Vouzna, Staff Assistant – Library

ALUMNI RELATIONS

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

DEVELOPMENT

Vassilis (Billy) Simopoulos, Development Officer

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL & SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

Vasso Matrakouka, Short-Term Programs Manager
Vassilis Karavassilis, Short-Term Programs Coordinator
Sophia Dede, Short-Term Programs Coordinator
Litsa Bekiaris, Short-Term Programs Coordinator

FINANCIAL

Maria Malliou, Financial Officer
Vana Bica, Accountant
Evgenia Ghizas, Accounting Assistant

HOUSING & CATERING

Olympia Kappatou, Housing & Catering Manager
Kallia Alexandridi, Housing Dept. Assistant
Christina Tsilika, Housing Dept. Assistant
Athanasia Vlachou, Housing Dept. Assistant
Makis Kypriotis, Maintenance

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Mary Lazarikos, Director of Marketing & Communications
Spiros Kourkoulos, Digital Designer
Sofia Stavropoulou, Social Media Coordinator

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Popi Triantafyllidou, Director of Strategic Planning

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Jennifer Holland (SP '99), Student Affairs Advisor
Angela Kouvara, Student Affairs Advisor
Niki-Vanesa Evbuomwan, Student Affairs & Community Engagement Assistant

NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE

Alexia Lingaas, Associate Director – North America
Maria Marakas, Bursar and Manager of the North American Office (NAO)
Rachael Bittick (FA '17), Program Manager
Annie Dawson, Student & University Relations Coordinator
Tessa Borchardt (FA '19), Program Coordinator

Students enjoying the peace and quiet of Kaiafas Lagoon during their field study in the Peloponnese

