

FALL 2025

# THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

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## THE SPACE BETWEEN

A student's look at how architecture, community, and daily rituals create a shared urban space.



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[Read  
The Space Between  
article on p. 6](#)

Dear friends,

A few weeks ago, while driving to Athens, I tuned into one of my favorite radio programs. The topic that day was the distinction between sorrow and anxiety; sorrow, they noted, relates to the past, while anxiety is about the future. It reminded me of a passage from Marcus Aurelius' Meditations:

*"No one can lose either the past or the future—how could anyone be deprived of what he does not possess?... It is only the present moment of which either stands to be deprived: and if this is all he has, he cannot lose what he does not have."*

It felt serendipitous. Not just because Stoic philosophy still offers tools to navigate uncertainty, but because this moment, this academic year, feels both reflective and forward-looking for CYA.

We have come a long way from the ambitious program that first offered students from U.S. colleges and universities the chance to explore Greek history, archaeology, and language in situ. Today, our curriculum spans a broad range of disciplines, but Classical Studies remains our intellectual bedrock. It is that foundation that the establishment of the Brian D. Joseph Endowed Chair in Classics acknowledges and extends.

The call for applications closed recently, generating an extraordinary

number of responses. This robust pool of applicants attests to the academic stature of CYA within the field. It also marks a historic moment in our 60+ year trajectory: for the first time, beginning in September 2026, we will welcome a Chairholder to teach, conduct original research in Greece, and contribute to the intellectual life of our community.

In a recent alumni survey, many of you shared that your time at CYA inspired you to study Classics; some of you even changed your majors because of it. Others spoke of the broader skills gained through a liberal education: adaptability, a tolerance for ambiguity, and a love of learning for its own sake.

And that, in a sense, is what the Classics offer us. To study them is to enter a dialogue with people who, across time, grappled with love, justice, power, mortality, and meaning—much as we do today. In this way, the Classics are more than remnants of a distant past. They form a framework for considering democracy, ethics, and the human condition. They do not simply teach us how to think; they guide us toward what is most worth thinking about.

As Italo Calvino wrote, a classic *"is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say."* These texts persist. They carry the traces



of past readers and reshape themselves with each new encounter. They require of us the kind of slow, critical attention that today's world rarely rewards, but which is more valuable than ever. In an age of increasing specialization, we need disciplines that teach synthesis. In a world of fleeting content, we need texts that endure.

The Brian D. Joseph Chair in Classics is a milestone for CYA. It honors where we began and offers a clear statement about what we value as an academic institution: intellectual curiosity, deep learning, and the kind of education that helps students not just make a living, but shape a meaningful life.

I hope this news sparks both memory and pride and reminds you that the dialogue you joined when you first came to study at CYA still goes on.

Cordially,  
Theoni

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## Theoni Scourta Joins the Board of Directors of The Forum on Education Abroad

We are delighted to share that CYA President **Theoni Scourta** has been appointed to the Board of Directors of [The Forum on Education Abroad](#), the U.S.-based organization promoting quality and best practices in education abroad. CYA has been one of its founding members since 2001. Theoni's 3-year term began in [July 2025](#).

With a background in art history and extensive experience in education, as well as European policy, Ms. Scourta has held key leadership roles at CYA, first

as Academic Director and later as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, before assuming the role of President. Her work has consistently centered on academic integrity and collaboration, and she brings to the Board a perspective grounded in a deep belief in culture and education as forces for connection and understanding—and in study abroad, in particular, as a catalyst for collective progress, whose impact extends far beyond the individual to enrich communities and societies as a whole.

Her appointment recognizes both her personal commitment to the field and CYA's close relationship with The Forum on Education Abroad. As a member of the Board, she will work alongside colleagues from across the globe to advance opportunities for students and institutions engaged in education abroad.



## Updates from the CYA Administration Team

*This year has brought several exciting changes to CYA's administration team. We said farewell to a long-standing colleague, welcomed new faces, and celebrated well-deserved promotions.*

### Eve Geroulis, Director of Development



*Eve Geroulis*

We are delighted to welcome **Eve Geroulis** to our administration team as Director of Development. In addition to this new role, Eve is teaching a

semester course. A familiar face at CYA, she has been part of our academic team for seven summers, and we are thrilled to see her bring her insight and energy to these new responsibilities.

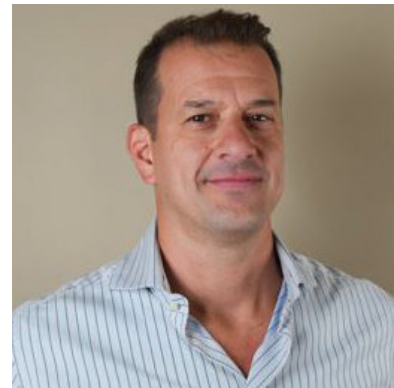
Eve is a marketing strategist and educator whose work explores the intersections of politics, technology, economics, and culture on a global stage. Following a 20+ year career with international advertising agencies, tech start-ups, and as co-founder of a VC-funded

lifestyle dot com, she joined the faculty of Loyola University Chicago's Quinlan School of Business in 2003, where she taught in the Department of Marketing. In May 2025, Eve and her husband of 40 years fulfilled a long-held dream by moving to Athens. A spirited believer in the power and possibility of the next generation, she takes great pride in her four adult children, who are making their way in the world from Denver, Los Angeles, and New York City.

## Vassilis (Billy) Simopoulos, Director of Administration

Starting in July, **Vassilis (Billy) Simopoulos**, formerly our Development Officer, stepped into the role of Director of Administration. A valued member of the CYA team for nearly a decade, Billy brings a fresh perspective, a strong work ethic, and the respect of both staff and faculty. Born and raised in Athens, Greece, Billy holds dual citizenship in Greece and the United States. He

earned a B.A. in Communication from the University of Southern California and a Master of Liberal Arts in Government from Harvard University. His career spans both the public and private sectors, with a focus on service and nonprofit organizations. Since joining CYA in 2018, Billy has demonstrated dedication and professionalism that will serve him well in his new role.



Vassilis (Billy) Simopoulos



Jennifer Holland

## Jennifer Holland, Director of Student Affairs

**Jennifer Holland (SP '99)**, who has been part of our team ever since her student days, has been promoted to Director of Student Affairs. This promotion recognizes her tireless dedication to supporting our students and the outstanding work she does every day. Whether they are having difficulties with roommates, adjustment problems, homesickness, or just want someone to share their excitement with, Jennifer is available to discuss personal or sensitive issues in private, and in general to give encouragement and help.

## Kallia Alexandridi, Housing & Catering Manager

**Kallia Alexandridi** has taken on the role of Housing & Catering Manager. Kallia has been part of the CYA team since 2011, bringing her background in interior design to enhance student housing and dining experiences.

Upgrading and redecorating apartments and shared spaces, Kallia works tirelessly to create a warm, home-like environment and to ensure our students' needs are met with care and efficiency.



Kallia Alexandridi

## Farewell to Peggy Myresiotou

After 22 years of dedicated service, **Peggy Myresiotou** retired from her role as Executive Vice President for Administration at the end of June. Throughout her tenure, Peggy was a steady and invaluable presence at CYA, admired for her patience, professionalism, and remarkable ability to remain calm under pressure.

We are deeply grateful for all that Peggy contributed over the years and wish her every happiness as she embarks on this exciting new chapter of her life.



Peggy receiving her special gift from CYA President Theoni Scurta

## CYA's Inaugural Field Study, 2025

Why just learn about it when you can live it? For decades, this question has been the quiet anthem of CYA's academic philosophy. In 2025, it took on deeper expression as fall semester students inaugurated CYA's first-ever EU Field Study—a kaleidoscopic journey through the political, cultural, historical, and intellectual heart of Europe. Geneva, Brussels, Bologna, Florence, Sicily, and Venice became extensions of the classroom, deepening student understanding of the European experiment.

During CYA's semester program, students traditionally partake in three field study trips within Greece's borders and an optional European trip. This year, the abroad component expanded into a full-fledged exploration of the institutions, complexities, and the enduring spirit of the European project. The itinerary was more than a travel plan; it was a narrative, bridging ancient lessons with contemporary realities.

CYA's EU field study, guided by expert faculty and meticulously planned to balance intellectual and cultural learning, exposed CYA students to the rich diversity of the pan-European family and Europe's vital role in the world of nations.

## Geneva: Diplomacy at the Foot of the Alps

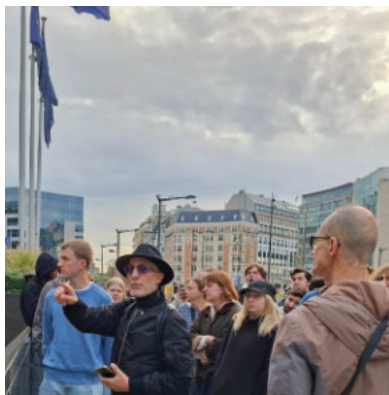
The trip to Geneva, began with a visit to The International Museum of the Reformation, a rich introduction to the Protestant movement influenced by John Calvin that underpins the origins of the city's famous neutrality and global acceptance. At the United Nations, students sat in the Chamber where global disputes are negotiated daily, conversed with UN staffers about the important work of pressing global challenges, such as migration, climate crisis, geopolitical

conflicts. The visit to CERN and the nuclear and particular physics lab with faculty from the National Centre of Scientific Research *Demokritos* punctuated the STEM component of the trip. The students also visited the Patek Philip Museum, took part in a chocolate-making workshop, and enjoyed some quiet time along Lac Léman, with the Alps towering in the distance. Over the course of the trip, internationalism shifted from an abstract idea to a tangible reality.



Where Europe's ideas meet the future: students at CERN

## Brussels: Inside the Machinery of the EU



CYA students with their professor at the crossroads of policy, science, and humanist ideals

From Geneva's neutrality to Brussels' importance as the EU capital, students gained a backstage pass to supranational politics. Among the destinations, students visited the European Parliament, EU Headquarters, and NATO Headquarters hearing directly about policy-making, negotiation, and compromise. At the Commission, they saw the bureaucratic gears of the Union turn slowly, meticulously, and

ambitiously. Brussels was a revelation: messy, multilingual, occasionally contradictory—yet united by a shared project. For many students, it transformed the EU from a chapter in a textbook into a living organism.

## Bologna & Florence: Intellectual Crossroads

Italy invited students into the long arc of European thought. In Bologna, home to the world's oldest university, discussions centered on academic freedom, legal traditions, and civic identity. Florence expanded that lens through the Renaissance: the revival of reason, art, and

humanist ideals. Standing before the Duomo, visiting the Uffizi Gallery, and the magic landscapes of San Gimignano, students could imagine and trace the origins of the Renaissance and witness Europe's intellectual DNA.



*In Florence, at the birthplace of European humanism*

## Sicily: Where Europe Meets the Mediterranean

No stop captured the theme of interconnectedness more vividly than Sicily. A crossroads of empires, languages, and cultures, the island challenges the idea of neat borders and singular identities. From the ancient Greek Temple of Athena, the Valley of the Temples, Syracuse, and Villa Romana del Casale, students traced the earliest threads that bind Greece to the West: trade routes, migrations, stories carried across ancient seas.



*Walking through Sicily, students followed the living crossroads of civilizations.*

## Naples & Pompeii: Southern Italy's Timeless Wonders

With the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, and Naples' San Gennaro Catacombs, the Field Study unfolded across sweeping coastal views, intact Roman ruins, and layers of underground history, giving students a vivid sense of Italy's beauty, culture, and soul.



*Exploring Italy's past and beauty*

## Venice: The Jewel of Italy

Venice, a city suspended between water and time. With its labyrinth of canals, students reflected on how a maritime republic once shaped European commerce, diplomacy, and culture. From the Doge's Palace, San Marco's Basilica, Museum, and Pala d'Oro, and yes, the Bryron Museum, students gathered on the confectionary sculpted bridges of the Grand Canal, watching the lagoon glow at dusk, to experience the magic that is Venice.

## A Classroom Without Walls

Europe as a learning, breathing organism exposed students to Greece not merely as a fellow European member state, but a vital part of Europe's history. As Valéry Giscard d'Estaing famously said: "*Europe without Greece is like a child without a birth certificate.*"

And that, ultimately, is the heart of CYA's pedagogy. Connecting Greece to the wider world of ideas. Their origin and relevancy. The EU Field Study of 2025 brought this ethos to life.

# The Space Between



Illustration: Efi Kevork

Observing the Threshold Between the Holy Church of Saint Spyridon and the Basil & Elise Goulandris Foundation Museum in Pangrati

*This essay was written by Fall 2025 student **Emi Blakely** (Bowdoin College) as the midterm assignment for Urban Architecture: Contemporary Stories in an Ancient City (instructor: Maria Vidali) at College Year in Athens (CYA).*

Half a minute's walk up the gently sloped Eratosthenous street that stretches parallel to the east side of Kallimarmaro, the Greek Orthodox Holy Church of Saint Spyridon looms over an opening of space. This opening seems to press against the surrounding alcove of buildings and cars that cluster together, shoulder-to-shoulder. It generates a sense of protection from the bustling street, a break from the urban chain rolling through Pangrati's gears. The fortifying stretch of buildings flanking the Church differ in color, shape, age, height, and style. The environmental situation within the bounds of this constructed urban bubble is, similarly, non-uniform. So are the people whom it attracts. In their interactions with each other and this space, where nature, religion, and art are cut from the same cloth, I see this neighborhood, with its layers of history, come alive.

A central marble staircase extends for six levels straight up to the double wooden doors set underneath the arches on the Church's Byzantine-style facade. The church is in great

condition for a structure that was initially designed by Ernst Ziller before being modified and formally founded as one of the first churches constructed in modern Athens in 1903, and renovated last in 1990.

To the left of this staircase, on street-level, is a bus stop with a lone bench underneath a thin metal awning. To its right is a half-closed arc area in front of a renovated neoclassical mansion that houses the Basil & Elise Goulandris Foundation Museum. This area is like a micro-plaza, with wooden benches lining the curve that faces both the street and the museum entrance. The benches are made of fat wooden slats, and the five of them cup the circular space as if in an open palm.

Another staircase, darker in color and more modern, stretches up the right side of the church past the modern extension to the B&E that stacks on top of the neoclassical building like a growth. Staggered levels of different flora climb from the level of this space upward, like terraces, from right behind the benches to where the Church sits on the crown of its hill. It adds a breath of green to the space. This becomes even more apparent



Emi Blakely

## COURSE HIGHLIGHT

upon sitting at the B&E benches, since the plants hang like an overhead boundary and obstruct one's view of the Church. It gives one the peculiar sense of being dwarfed by nature, as if a mouse in a field, despite the area's overwhelming urbanity. It is curiously intimate.

For me, this psychological bisecting, where the mind, eyes, and heart compete in defining perception, blends into more of a harmony in the early, grey morning when the city slumbers still. Eratosthenous is like a ghost street on this rainy

Sunday before 9:00 a.m.; almost no one is about. Parked cars line the dark road up and down with practically no room to breathe, but none drive by. The sky is so thick with clouds that it takes on a full, grey physicality, shadowing the exterior of the buildings into coolness. The rich smell of pavement lit up by the steeping of rain tells me no bench will be dry enough to sit on.

The rain sharpens the city's smells; the microenvironments where one notices where people have not picked up their dogs' waste, where a patch of flowers releases a crushingly sweet scent, where it almost smells like country rain. The Church used to be named "St Spyridon of Vatrachonisi (=Frog Island)," and I can tell why; for such an urban environment, the natural earth demands to be felt.

The few people out at this time rush up and down the sidewalk past the museum in puffers, jackets, and umbrellas. Most walk alone, heads down. The Church is clearly the most important space in

this area at this time; its wooden doors are open, and flickering warmth and faint music spill out onto the marble steps below. A few people trickle inside for service as I watch, coming from the right and left upper sides of the hill, bundled in rain gear. Others just walk past, making the sign of the cross as they continue about their days.

An older man sits at the bus stop across from me, plucking a tune on an instrument with a thin neck and a bottom that cups into the shape of a bowl. I don't recognize what he's playing, the notes spaced out and twanging loudly in the quiet streets. No one but he and I sits outside; I wonder if he, too, is watching the water streaming over the smooth plaza floor to the sidewalk squares. It's invisible, but for the small pieces of dirt it pulls away from grooves in the ground, revealing the streams sweeping past at different speeds. The debris moves together with this direction, this movement, this motor.

Later, this motor activates on a larger scale as the city wakes up and people start moving about their days. More people flow to the Church as service begins. Few linger outside; it is still wet and cold, and there is no shelter from the elements. The B&E opens at 10:00 a.m., providing a beautifully lit and warm space to escape the weather while enjoying the masterpieces inside. Finally opened in 2019, long after Basil and Elise passed away, the museum is the result of a long era of legal and practical struggles that reflect difficulties of construction in Athens, including conflicts with: archeological excavations, use of state land,





regulations imposed by the Ministry of Culture, and more.

In the early afternoon, after the rain stops, the area is much busier. People walking by on the sidewalk, many in pairs, turn to look at the Church as they pass. Tourists are distinguishable from the residents because they drop their heads back to stop and stare, taking photos and going up the stairs. While the Church was the central focus of this area earlier in the day, the B&E becomes much more so as the day progresses.

Many different people tilt their heads to look up at the museum as they pass. Its entrance doors are tall and thin, and its logo sits on top. Some swipe water from the wooden benches near me before sitting down by the museum doors. There is a mother and her grown daughter, a father and his toddler, and a small lady hunched with age and smoking. Later, the benches fill with young adults who chat, sitting and standing in the open space that this little atrium encourages, waiting for their friends to finish with their workdays and come outside. And so, this space becomes one of community—routine—a private collective carved on the fringes of the loud sidewalk.

Another niche that the peculiarities of this area encourage, I notice, is on the border of the other side of the sidewalk, between the gutter and the road. The gaps between the closely-knit fabric of parked cars along the road facilitate tiny corners of privacy for those in between. There is something sweet about these spaces, about the brushing of hands, clothes, and conversations that happen there. An older couple in long coats turns toward each other in the space between two cars, the rumbling of traffic obscuring their conversation before a grey car whisks them away; one husband helps his wife miraculously back their car out from a tiny parking space while people on a packed tram

watch with interest; a smaller car from the other side of the road swerves over and fills in the gap.

Watching these public, private, and communal interactions makes me think about the spaces we passively move through—the boundaries we stay within, the gaps we leave behind, and the ones we fill in without thinking. Construction dictates orientation in ways I am only now beginning to notice.

There is an event at the museum and the little plaza becomes more crowded as evening creeps forward, with young men in suits spilling outside to chatter and drink. The building shadows lengthen over the plaza, and mosquitoes come out in droves as the sounds of people dining in nearby restaurants kick up. It is 6:18 when the tall lamps and lighting built into the little plaza automatically switch, glistening off the water pooled on the floor and making the wooden bench slats look warm.

This nighttime energetic, professional environment is markedly different than what the space facilitated at earlier points in the day. And yet, there is an innate similarity in feelings between the diverse behaviors taking place here: the peace of coming together at a historic religious site, the quiet spirituality of visiting an art gallery on a rainy day, and the joy of resting with loved ones on a bench nestled underneath green space.

Despite the very different aesthetic character of the classic polykatoikia buildings, Byzantine Church, refurbished neoclassical museum with modern extension, gardened terraces, and cobbled Eratosthenous street (along with all the different activities and interactions that these spaces facilitate), this little pocket of open space in Pangrati generates an air of shared sanctity. It does so for all kinds of people throughout the day (old, young, couples, professionals, school children, lone adults, tourists, me). Even the sounds here are opposing, but slot together regardless; the cars, the walking, the doors, the dining, the chattering, the music from bars, the birds (if you listen closely).

The character of this space is built in the marginal: in the routines, the boundaries, the rain pooling on the sidewalk. Cast that aside, smooth it into something clean and uniform, and the place turns dulled, strange, alien. It is in these contradictions, this uneasy layering of the built environment and all it sustains, that I see the city come alive.

## FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Seeing the Parthenon scaffold-free for the first time in decades, Ancient Greek Mythology and Religion students dived into the myths and religious traditions of ancient Greece with CYA Faculty Nina Papathanasopoulou.



Molding hand-made rings in a traditional workshop in Sternitsa during the Peloponnese Field study



CYA students enjoying the Ceramics workshop during Wellness Week



Students took part in the historic Hippocratic Oath Ceremony at the Sanctuary of Asclepius on the island of Kos during this semester's three-day field study, led by CYA Faculty Demetris Kritsotakis.



Where nature meets culture in the heart of Athens. Students examined urban habitats in a field trip to Filopappou and Pnyka Hills, just steps from the Acropolis.



On November 27, CYA President Theoni Scourta invited all staff to a Thanksgiving lunch, joined by a few CYA students who remained in Athens during the break.

## CYA Board of Trustees Meets in Greece for Annual Summer Retreat



*(From left, clockwise): Deborah Wince-Smith (FY '71), Lena Papalexopoulou, Suzanne and Robert Kriscunas (FA '71), Eve Geroulis, Alexis Moissis, Nicho Hatsopoulos (SP '83), and Peter Zarifes (SP '83)*

This summer, CYA's Board of Trustees and administration convened in Greece for the annual summer board meeting, splitting time between the vibrant streets of Athens and the sacred landscapes of Delphi. The gathering focused on strategic discussions about the future of CYA, reaffirming the College's commitment to academic excellence and transformative student experiences.

In addition to their work sessions, Board members explored the historic Oracle of Delphi and the Archaeological Museum of Delphi, experiences that served as a powerful reminder of the cultural heritage that continues to inspire CYA's mission.



*CYA Trustees with CYA Faculty Demetris Kritsotakis at the Delphi Archaeological Museum*



*CYA Trustees attending the summer Board Meeting in Athens with President Theoni Scourta*

## HAWC Honors Deborah Wince-Smith with Aristeon Award



Deborah Wince-Smith

We are delighted to announce that **Deborah Wince-Smith (FY '71)** received the Aristeon Award at the [Hellenic American Women's Council \(HAWC\)](#) Annual

Conference in Washington, D.C., on November 1.

The Aristeon Award is presented annually by HAWC to a woman who *“has made an extraordinary contribution to the ideals of Hellenism in her professional and personal life.”*

True to her background in archaeology, Deborah's acceptance remarks drew on the symbolism of Hekate's crossroads, reflecting on the importance of choosing the future—rather than remaining in the present or past—as the path to growth both personally



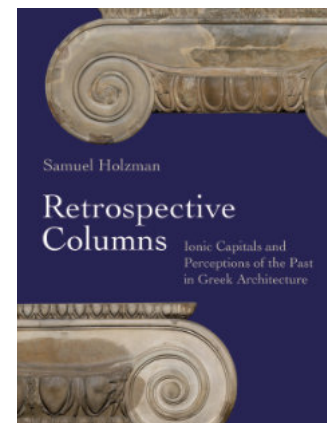
## Samuel Holzman (SP '10) Publishes His First Book



Samuel Holzman

Former CYA Alumnus Trustee **Samuel Holzman (SP '10)** has published his first book, *Retrospective Columns: Ionic Capitals and Perceptions of the Past in Greek Architecture* (Princeton University Press, 2025). In this

groundbreaking study, Holzman explores how ancient Greek architects engaged with their own architectural past through the design of Ionic capitals, revealing how style, memory, and identity intertwined in the built environment of antiquity.



Currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art & Archaeology and the Stanley J. Seeger '52 Center for Hellenic Studies at Princeton University, Holzman's research combines fieldwork, experimental archaeology, and architectural analysis to shed new light on the creativity and cultural awareness of ancient builders.

## Heritage Weekend & Classic 2025



Alexis Phylactopoulos in a panel discussion with Edward C. Wingenbach, President of the American College of Greece

At the Annual [National Hellenic Society Heritage](#) Weekend that took place in Scottsdale, FL, in October 9–12, CYA Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, presented the 2026 Heritage Greece Program at CYA, sharing the exciting destinations and program design for June 15–June 26, 2026: *Myth, Memory, and the Modern Mediterranean Discovering Greece from the Peloponnese to the Aegean*.

Mr. Phylactopoulos gave insights into CYA’s 60+ year legacy, its unique educational approach, and the vital role it plays in connecting ancient wisdom with today’s global challenges.

## CYA VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

### Discovering the Lost Temple of Artemis

CYA proudly opened its 2025–2026 Virtual Lecture Series on October 29, with a compelling presentation that brought together ancient mystery and modern scientific achievement. The inaugural lecture, *Discovering the Lost Temple of Artemis* was delivered by **Dr. Sylvian Fachard**, Director of the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece (ESAG) and Professor at the University of Lausanne.

CYA  
College Year in Athens  
VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

Discovering  
the Lost Temple of Artemis

Featuring  
**Dr. Sylvian Fachard**  
Director of the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece (ESAG)  
Professor at the University of Lausanne

**ARTEMIS**  
THE LOST TEMPLE

Wednesday, October 29  
7:00 pm Athens | 1:00 pm ET

For more than a century, the sanctuary of Artemis at Amarnthos remained one of the great unsolved archaeological puzzles of Ancient Greece. Although referenced in ancient texts, its precise location had eluded scholars and numerous scientific expeditions since the 19th century. Dr. Fachard’s lecture traced the remarkable journey that led to the identification of the long-lost site. Through a combination of innovative archaeological methods and careful analysis of historical sources, his team succeeded in uncovering what had long been considered an unattainable discovery.

## Exploring Athens' Contemporary Art Scene



Ruby Park with Dimitri Yin

**Ruby Park**, an Art History major from Pitzer College, spent her semester immersed in Athens' flourishing creative community through an internship at [Phoenix Athens](#), a contemporary art gallery in the Exarchia neighborhood. Working closely with gallery director and practicing artist **Dimitri Yin**, Ruby assisted with exhibition preparation, helped manage openings, and connected with local artists who regularly passed through the space. The internship offered her a front-row seat to the daily operations of an independent gallery, insight she found invaluable.



Beyond her administrative and curatorial responsibilities, Ruby received an unexpected opportunity: Dimitri invited her to develop her own painting series under his mentorship. Drawing on his dual expertise as a painter and sculptor, he guided her through both technical and conceptual aspects of the creative process.

*"It was really interesting to see the behind the scenes," Ruby reflected. "Because it was a relatively small space, he was able to teach me a lot and show me exactly what he was doing—all the little things you wouldn't think of to run a space like that."*



## In the Heart of Greek Healthcare

**Makayla Moultrie**, a CYA student from Princeton University studying Medical Anthropology, spent part of her semester shadowing physicians at one of Athens' leading dermatology and public health institutions, Syggros Andreas Hospital.

Rotating through departments from general dermatology to the operating room, she observed surgeries, patient consultations, and the collaborative approach that defines Greek healthcare.

This internship experience has helped clarify her career path: she wants to stay in the OR and now plans to pursue becoming a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist).

*"At the hospital, nothing is curated for tourists," she reflected. "Everything is raw and unfiltered—and that's what I love most about this experience."*



Makayla shadowing physicians at Syggros Andreas Hospital

## CYA Students Reach New Heights on Mt. Olympus

This fall, 34 CYA students set out to conquer the legendary Mt. Olympus, reaching the Skala summit at 2,882 meters above the Aegean Sea and truly walking in the footsteps of the gods. The experience proved both challenging and deeply rewarding for all involved. Students highlighted the stunning scenery, the strong sense of camaraderie within the group, and the professionalism and warmth of the guides,



CYA students at the Skala summit of Mt. Olympus

whose expertise and attention to safety earned exceptional praise. Overall, they described the Mt. Olympus hike as a memorable personal achievement, pairing physical challenge with Greece's natural beauty.

## CYA Students Take On the Athens Authentic Marathon

On November 9, four CYA students proudly participated in the Athens Authentic Marathon: **Amelia Sims** (Kenyon College), **Ryann Witter** (Carleton College), **Richard Farina** (Union College) and **Michael Caine** (Union College). Ryann conquered all 26.2 miles of the world's original marathon course. Her classmates, Amelia and Richard, also took on the full marathon, while Michael completed the 5K. We congratulate all four participants for their effort!



(From left): Richard, Amelia, and Ryann

## Media Lab Interns

This semester, the CYA MediaLab welcomed its largest intern group yet: **Lily Simolon** and **Joshua Hernandez** (University of Notre Dame), **Ruby Park** (Pitzer College), **Mary Norberg** (Boston College), **Gabriel Rodriguez** (Northeastern University), **Aspen Mittler** (DePaul University), **Ethan Eltgroth** (College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University) and **Sydney Padgett** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor). The internship provides students with a realistic and engaging exposure



This semester's Media Lab Interns

to creative media work. Organized into small production teams, interns brought energy and focus to creative work such as CYA's Field Study campaign, while building practical

skills in marketing, campaign development, video production, editing, and photography.

## Dreams Fulfilled: My Journey to Japan

At CYA, we often speak about the transformative power of study abroad; how stepping into another culture opens minds, hearts, and possibilities. In this issue, we are delighted to feature a deeply personal story from Popi Triantafyllidou, CYA's Director of Strategic Planning, whose recent journey to Japan beautifully echoes that same spirit of discovery we strive to instill in our students. A proud mother of three daughters, Popi is grateful every day for the chance to help students discover new worlds through study abroad, believing Greece has a special role in bringing people and cultures together.

As a teenager, I dreamt of studying in Kyoto. So, at 15, I started learning the language, as I imagined myself studying and even working there. Then life happened... studies, work, family, responsibilities.

This summer, 40 years later, I managed to roam throughout Japan. As the plane was leaving Athens, I couldn't believe I was in it, but by the time I landed at Narita, I was determined to embrace every adventure.

My immersion began at Hokkaido's northern air at Sapporo's open market with a cold ramen salad. I followed the festivals on my way towards the south. In Hakodate, I experienced the "Ika Odori" (Squid Dance) and marveled at the city lights spread across the bay after my onsen bath. In Aomori, my jaw dropped before the giant Nebuta floats glowing with color. At the Akita Kanto Matsuri festival, men were balancing twelve-meter bamboo poles covered with lanterns and my heart raced at the rhythm of the taiko drums. I was finally part of it.

Each place offered something different: golden shrines, beautiful gardens, castles echoing a turbulent past, deers bowing to guests, memorials at Hiroshima and Nagasaki that brought tears to my eyes and Miyajima's red torii gate floating above the sea, radiating hope. Tokyo was full of neon and noise, but there were also quiet shrines, hidden izakaya taverns, and everyday people simply living their lives. I thoroughly enjoyed museums and historic sites, scenic views, religious festivities, and a lot of matcha. Like Hokusai, who painted his iconic Wave in his seventies, it seems that patience and time can transform a dream into something extraordinary!

Throughout the 28 days, I felt deeply grateful for the chance to travel so far and for so long. For the moments of stillness in gardens and shrines. For



A Maiko, a Geisha, and one very happy Popi

participating in the joy of the summer festivals. For the *omotenashi*: the older generation guided me at their local castle or onsen, the younger generation provided context at the local matsuri, and I felt welcomed.

Living my own dream helped me feel what CYA's study abroad students feel. I watch students arrive in Athens with their own hopes and dreams, and gradually transform in small ways that stay with them long after they leave.

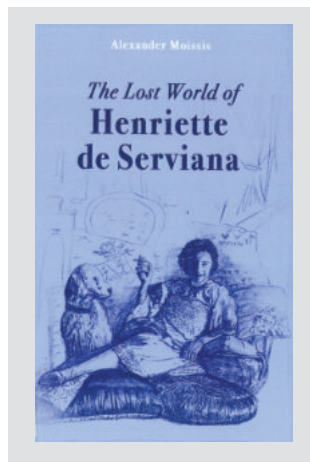
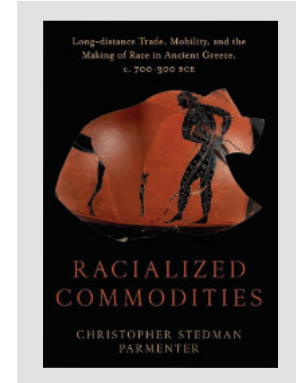
Well, it is never too late to do something you want. So, I am now a student at the University of Athens to further improve my Japanese skills, because I may find myself studying in Japan after all!



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

**Parmenter, Christopher Stedman. *Racialized Commodities: Long-Distance Trade, Mobility, and the Making of Race in Ancient Greece, c. 700–300 BCE.***

Between circa 700 and 300 BCE, the ancient Greeks developed a vivid imaginary of the world's peoples. Ranging from the light-skinned, "gray-eyed Thracians" of the distant north to the "dark-skinned Ethiopians" of the far south, as the poet Xenophanes described them around 540 BCE, Greeks envisioned a world populated by human groups with distinct physiognomies. *Racialized Commodities* traces how Greece's "racial imaginary"—a confluence of thinking about cultural geography, commodity production, and human physiognomy, emerged from cross-cultural trade between Greece and its Mediterranean neighbors during the Archaic and Classical Periods.



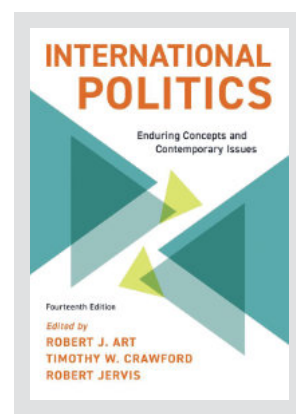
**Moissis, Alexander. *The Lost World of Henriette de Serviana. North Haven, [s.n.], 2025.***

Uncover a hidden family secret that reveals a vanished world. Alexander Moissis's captivating new book, *The Lost World of Henriette de Serviana*, invites you into the extraordinary history of his Romaniote Jewish grandmother and vibrant, cosmopolitan life she knew in Ioannina, Greece, from 1905 to 1945. At the heart of this journey is her princess-like bearing, a reflection of her prominent family's legacy, brought vividly to life through the stunning glass photos taken by her uncle, Dr. Nissim D. Levis. Witness Ioannina's dramatic history, including the Young Turk Revolution, the city's Liberation from Ottoman rule, the intricate world of foreign diplomats and their intrigues, and the disruptions of World War I, including the temporary Italian occupation.

**Art, Robert J., et al, eds. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues.* Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2023.**

*International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* has been helping students understand the dynamics of international relations for fifty years. Readings by leading scholars on essential topics illustrate fundamental debates and differing points of view for a comprehensive and

engaging overview of the discipline, while introducing readers to the major forces shaping the world today. The fourteenth edition continues the book's cornerstone approach of combining foundational theoretical works with recent perspectives on current problems, including a wealth of new material spread across each of the book's four parts. The library has acquired a series of modern Greek literary classics, adapted for learners of Greek as a foreign language, published by Anatolikos. The series features works such as *The Murderess* by Alexandros Papadiamantis, *My Mother's Sin* by Georgios Vyzinos, and *Honour and Money* by Konstantinos Theotokis. Each



adaptation preserves the essence of the original while making the language accessible, providing readers with an engaging way to explore Greek literature while learning the language.

## Lucky Charms Workshop

On November 19, students joined CYA Librarian **Georgia Katsarou** for a fun and hands-on workshop, where they crafted their own traditional Greek lucky charm for 2026. Using ribbons, threads, and metallic elements, participants created personalized keepsakes to bring luck into the new year! The workshop, co-organized by the Student Affairs department and the Library, was a wonderful mix of creativity and tradition, with everyone leaving with a unique charm to keep or gift to friends and family.



CYA Librarian Georgia Katsarou making lucky charms with the students



## CYA Book Club



The CYA Library's monthly Book Club, held in partnership with the [Lexikopoleio International Bookshop](#), continued this academic year, uniting CYA students and local community members through a shared love of reading.

Each meeting provided an inviting environment where participants could exchange ideas, explore different perspectives, connect through literature, and engage in lively, thoughtful dialogue.

**Fall semester selections were:**

- *Safekeep* by **Yael Van Der Wouden**
- *One Boat* by **Jonathan Buckley**
- *The Murderess* by **Alexandros Papadiamantis**

## Returning to CYA

Whether you are stopping by briefly or staying for an extended visit, your CYA family is always happy to welcome you back to Athens. As a returning alum, you can expect to be greeted by our Development Officer, the Student Affairs team, and other CYA staff, who will offer you a personalized tour of our facilities and library. Some traditions are worth repeating, so you are welcome to join us for lunch at the CYA cafeteria and stop by the Registrar's Office, where you can revisit your student file; old photos and grades are always good for a laugh and a moment of nostalgia... Finally, you can leave a note in our guestbook, adding your voice to the shared history of the CYA community.

### Debra Trusty (FA '03)

On June 17, we had the pleasure of welcoming **Debra (Deb) Trusty**, CYA alumna from Fall 2003, back to CYA.

Deb was accompanied by six students from the University of Iowa, as part of an educational tour of Greece that she leads for her students.

Deb and her students met with **Jennifer Holland** and **Angela Kouvara** at the Student Affairs Office for an engaging discussion about the wide range of extracurricular opportunities and internships available to CYA students. During this visit, Deb



Deb with the six students from the University of Iowa

also wrote a heartfelt note in the Alumni Scrapbook that Jennifer keeps in her office. The group had been in Greece for three weeks, primarily exploring Athens.

### Zoë Kontes (FY '95)

On June 12, we had the pleasure of welcoming **Zoë Kontes (FY '95)** (accompanied by her daughter, Popi) back to CYA, along with members of the Kontes family: Kim Kontes, Constantine Kontes, and Sophia Kontes (the widow and children of Will Kontes). This was the family's first time in Athens since Will's tragic passing on April 14, 2019, making the visit both emotional and deeply meaningful.

**Billy Simopoulos** guided Zoë, Kim, and the family through the CYA Academic Center, offering a thoughtful and heartfelt tour. The visit provided a moment of

reconnection with a place that held great significance for Will and continues to hold a special place in the hearts of Zoë and her family.

Following the visit, Billy wrote to Zoë to express our sincere gratitude for the family's continued support and their commitment to honoring Will's legacy through the scholarship established in his name. Their presence at CYA was a powerful reminder of the enduring impact Will had on our community. Zoë shared that, although returning was difficult, the visit was significant for Kim and the children.

Constantine, a freshman at Richmond this fall, hopes to attend CYA in 2028. Sophia, currently in junior high, and Popi, still in elementary school, will have their turn in the years ahead.



(From left): Sophia, Constantine, Kim, Zoë, and Popi

## David Starr (SP '80)



David with his fiancée

We were delighted to welcome **David Starr (SP '80)** back to CYA on October 22. David first arrived at CYA as part of a Pomona faculty-led program in Fall 1979 and chose to extend his stay through Spring 1980 after an unforgettable first semester.

David, who also joined CYA's 60-Year Alumni Reunion Trip in summer 2022 with his now-college-aged children,

returned this time with his fiancée to show her the school that played such a meaningful role in his life. He shared warm memories of his time in Athens and expressed deep appreciation for the lasting impact CYA has had on him over the years.

## Susan Sampliner (FY '76)



**Susan Sampliner (FY '76)** came back to CYA on October 24, her first visit to the school since 1975 and only her second time in Athens, the last being in 1991.

Susan enjoyed a wonderful conversation with **Billy**

**Simopoulos** about CYA's growth and evolution over the decades, and she was thrilled to rediscover her original student folder before touring the campus. During her visit, she also met with Eve Geroulis, our new Director of Development, and the two shared a touching moment when visibly moved, Susan reflected on how profoundly CYA had shaped her life.

After CYA, Susan went on to an accomplished Broadway career as a production stage manager on major shows, including *Wicked*. She shared that it was during her semester in Athens that she realized she wanted to pursue theater instead of classics, crediting CYA for giving her the confidence to follow that path. She described her time here as truly life-changing.

Eve has invited her to participate in an upcoming Virtual Lecture Series to speak about her career journey and the role CYA played in setting her course.

## Alumni Reunion

The class of **1974–75** invites classmates from that year to a reunion in Athens!

**March 17–19, 2026**

Join classmates for 3 days of seeing sites, catching up and reminiscing!

*To be put in touch with the organizers, contact **Erica Huffman** at [alumni@cyathens.org](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org).*

## Rediscovering Greece by Melissa Marcoux



*Melissa during her recent visit at CYA on November 11*

Earlier this summer, I had the incredible opportunity to return to Greece—twice—and reconnect with the country that touched my heart and shaped my life in so many ways. The last time I had been to Greece was the summer of 1996, when I attended the CYA summer language immersion program on Paros. Before that, I was a full-year student at CYA during the Fall of 1993 and Spring of 1994. Returning after so many years felt both surreal and deeply meaningful.

The first trip was with my husband, John. We started in Athens, where it was amazing to see the city and its monuments again. We loved exploring the Acropolis and wandering through the ever-vibrant Plaka. From there, we spent several days enjoying the timeless beauty of Santorini and then wrapped up our trip with a week on Crete. The last time I was there was on a CYA school trip, and I was struck by the

island's warmth-- both in scenery and hospitality. It was difficult to leave Greece after just two weeks because I felt so reconnected.

Back in Chicago, I mentioned wanting to find a class or something fun that could bring me back to Greece again. After a bit of research, I discovered a cooking program on Poros at The Odyssey. Later in the summer, I returned on my own for a more personal adventure: a weeklong cooking class led by the talented (and now dear friend) Katerina Sakelliou. It was the perfect blend of learning and leisure: immersing myself in hands-on cooking, practicing my Greek, and swimming in the



*Melissa with Nadia Meliniotis*

sea. I met fellow Americans in the class who quickly became friends. When we weren't in the kitchen, we explored neighboring islands, wandered local villages, and even rented a boat for a group day trip along the coast—a definite highlight.

One of the most special moments of the summer was meeting with Nadia for lunch in



*Melissa at the Odyssey in Poros*

Athens. Reconnecting after so many years reminded me just how close I hold Greece in my heart and how deeply important the friendships I made during my time at CYA truly are. These two journeys deepened my appreciation for Greece, its people, and the experiences that continue to shape me. I'm especially grateful for the friendships I've held onto over the years and the new ones made along the way. I left already dreaming of my next visit and ready to start planning my next trip back.



*Melissa with her husband, John*

The **CYA Alumni Book Club** continues to gather each month for lively and engaging conversations. This semester, the group read the following titles:

*The Last of the Wine*, by **Mary Renault**, followed by an optional one-hour social gathering.

*The Greek Connection*, by **James Barron**, with the author in attendance.

*Poetry* by **Cavafy** — “Pick-a-Poem” Discussion. Each participant selected a poem to read to the group and shared why they chose it. A general discussion followed.

*My Family and Other Animals* by **Gerald Durrell** and *Prospero’s Cell* by **Lawrence Durrell**.

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](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org) to be added to the mailing list and 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

**PORTOKALOPITA (ORANGE CAKE)**



*There’s something unmistakably Greek about the way a simple orange can perfume an entire kitchen. Portokalopita, a dessert born from everyday ingredients, is a small taste of Greece, captured in one beautifully aromatic bite.*

**Ingredients:**

**For the syrup:**

- 375 ml / 1.5 cups water
- 300 g / 10.5 oz / 1.35 cups sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 orange peel
- 1.5 tbsp. / 22 ml Greek Honey

**For the batter:**

- 3 oranges
- Zest from 1 orange
- 3 large eggs at room temperature
- 200 g / 7 oz / almost 1 cup sugar
- 275 g / 9.75 oz / 2.2 cups self-rising flour (or fine semolina)
- 200 g / 7 oz / 0.85 cup Greek strained yoghurt 5% fat

**Instructions:**

- Wash, peel, and cube the oranges. Blend into a thick pulp and set aside.
- Beat the eggs and sugar on high until thick and fluffy.
- Add the zest and yogurt; mix to combine.
- Gradually add the flour or semolina, mixing until smooth.
- Stir in the orange pulp just until incorporated.
- Grease a 23x35 cm (9x14 in) baking dish, pour in the batter, and bake at
- 180°C / 350°F for about 45 minutes, until golden.
- Test with a knife—if it comes out clean, remove from the oven.

**Tip:** Pour room-temperature syrup over the pie while it’s still hot

## Celebrating the Generosity of Our Donors

As we reflect on the past year, we offer our deepest appreciation to our community of donors whose commitment continues to advance our core mission. Your support enables us to provide students with an educational experience defined by academic rigor, global understanding, and personal transformation. From **July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025**, your generosity has strengthened every dimension of our work. Each contribution serves as a direct reinforcement of that mission.

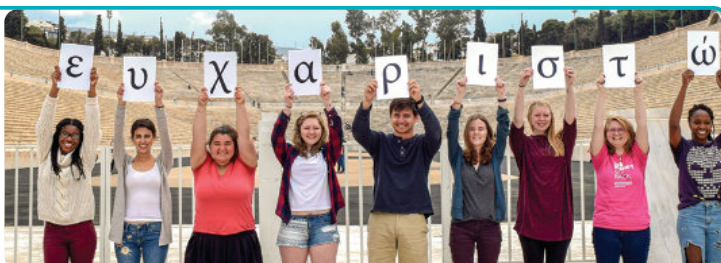
In the list below, we recognize the meaningful impact of your giving across several priority areas:

- **CYA's Annual Fund**, providing the essential foundation that sustains our academic excellence, faculty support, and student-centered programs.
- **Scholarships**, including the Memorial Scholarship, expanding educational access and ensuring that talented students—regardless of financial circumstance—can participate fully in our programs.
- **Special Projects**, enhancing the learning environment through improved facilities, resources, and program development.
- **Virtual Lecture Series**, bringing distinguished voices to our community and enriching the intellectual life of our campus.

To each donor, we extend our sincere gratitude. Through your support, we are able to educate and empower the next generation of leaders, innovators, and globally engaged citizens.

### DONORS 2024–2025

<b>Benefactor</b>	\$25,000 and above
<b>Patron</b>	\$10,000–\$24,999
<b>Sponsor</b>	\$5,000–\$9,999
<b>Supporter</b>	\$1,000–\$4,999
<b>Contributor</b>	All other gifts



Symbol "◆" represents contributions made towards the William C. Kontes '99 Memorial Scholarship. † deceased

#### BENEFACTOR

##### \$25,000+

Anonymous  
Robert (FA '71) and Suzanne Kriscunas  
Andrea Hannon Brown (FA '72)  
K. Chris Todd and Amelia Gomez (P '08, '09, '12)  
Daphne Hatsopoulos (P '83)  
Daniel Stanton ◆  
Karen "Kaddee" Vitelli (FY '65) †

#### PATRON

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Frederic E. Wittman and Christine Kondoleon  
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Peter (FY '65) and Susan Heuck Allen, in memory of Ismene Phylactopoulou  
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Christian Neshor jointly with JRW Reef Boyz  
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Ciannait Sweeney (FY '65) Tait  
The Samuel L Westerman Foundation (Kent LoPrete (FA '83))  
Peter Zarifes (SP '83)

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Amy (Thurston, FA '72) Berthouex  
Michail Bletsas  
Pamela Coravos  
Sheila (Nolan, FY '65) Fuller  
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Elizabeth (DeFriez, FY '70) Gibson  
Randall (FA '90) and Holly (Davis, FA '90) Haight  
Alison Hilton (SP '68)  
Yannis Ioannides and Anna Hardman (P '04)  
John Isley (SP '71)  
Peter Kaufman and Megan Jamison (FY '91)

Karen Kendall ♦  
 Zoe Kontes (FY '95) and Kalliope Kontes ♦  
 Michael Capasso and Cassandra Koulet (FY '65)  
 Sarah Larson (SP '17)  
 John Locke (FY '76)  
 Holly Lueders (FY '70, P '06) and Venetia Young (FA '06)  
 Bruce McGar (SP '72)  
 Alexander Nehamas and Susan Glimcher  
 Ellen Parker (FY '95)  
 Christopher (FA '71) and Diane Penn  
 Susan Sampliner (FY '76), in honor of Mimika Dimitra  
 Dave and Liz Sheehan ♦  
 Paul and Irene Vouros, in memory of Mrs. Phyl  
 Curtis Vreeland (SP '72)

**\$250–\$499**

Anonymous (2)  
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 Jonathan Clark (FY '89)  
 Sarah (Walton, FY '66) Clark  
 Christopher (SU '01) and Melissa Cordes  
 Adam Fuchs (FY '90)  
 Laura Gadbery (FY '76)  
 Peter Hatlie (FY '80)  
 Jessica (Shisler, SP '81) Holler  
 Kathleen (Dresley, FY '79) Khirallah  
 Peggy (Stiffler, FY '86) Madden  
 Hedra Packman (FY '69) jointly with my daughter Nora Peterman (SP '02), in honor of Ismene Phylactopoulou  
 Florence (Keiser, FY '67) Romanov  
 Nicholas A. and Barbara Vernicos  
 Christina West (SP '97)  
 Andrew Zaroulis (FY '00) and Lindsey Wyckoff (SP '00)

**\$100–\$249**

Anonymous (7)  
 Anonymous, for Phil Luhmann  
 Anonymous, in memory of Kiria Koumariannou  
 Margaret Beck (FY '79)  
 Mark Bevelhimer (FA '77)  
 Lynn (Hecker, FY '68) Beyerle  
 John Bouda (FY '76)  
 John and Irene Sedgwick (FY '65) Briedis  
 Ed Brzytwa III (SP '98)  
 A.C. Buehler III (FA '76)  
 Laurel Anne Butler (FY '79)  
 Lee (Hawthorne, FY '73) Carrigan  
 Kevin Cassidy (FA '84)

Aaron Chait (FA '01)  
 Terry Crone (FA '72)  
 Elizabeth (Gilpin, FY '64) Darbro  
 Athanasios Davelis  
 Sally (Stanton, FY '73) de Vries, in memory of Mike Kelliher (class of '73)  
 Kathleen Fine (FA '72)-Dare  
 James Geiger (FY '83) in honor of Patricia Geiger  
 Suzanne (Vargo, FY '87) Gorhau  
 Conway (Clough, FY '76) Graft  
 Steve Gratwick (FY '90), in honor of Nanno Marinatos/Eve Geroulis Lecture  
 Gretchen Grozier (FY '91)  
 Nadia (Vecer, SP '98) Hartman  
 Susan (Ashbrook, FY '74) Harvey  
 Nicho Hatsopoulos (SP '83)  
 Guy Hedreen (SP '80)  
 Linda (Berkey, SP '74) Herrick  
 Laura Hull (FA '71)  
 Dottie Jeffries (FY '72)  
 Whit and Ruth (Chute, FY '63) Knapp, in honor of Mrs. Phyl  
 Nicholas Linardos (SP '85)  
 Robert Liscinsky (FY '86)  
 Bonnie MacLeod (FY '78)  
 Katherine (Matchett, FY '75) Mallalieu  
 Rebecca Nordstrom (FY '68)  
 Lynne (Dominick, FY '68) Novack  
 Douglas (FY '65) and Prof. Marianina Demetrakopoulos Olcott  
 Jordan "Bliss" Perry (SP '20)  
 Deanna Petrochilos (SP '95)  
 Christine Petto (FY '85)  
 Janet (Greenberg, FY '76) Razulis  
 Jim Rubenstein (FY '89)  
 Donna Sadler (FY '70, P '05)  
 Katherine Schwab (FY '75)  
 Robert Sedlack  
 Katherine (Thatcher, FA '95) Shields  
 Andrew Szegedy-Maszak  
 John J. Truex Chung (FY '99) ♦  
 Georgia Valaora  
 Abbey (Allen, FY '03) Watt, in honor of the CYA faculty and staff  
 Laura (Barnett, FY '81) Webb  
 Mitchell Wolin (SP '79)  
 Mathieu and Amy (Rugo, FA '99) Zahler

**\$1–\$99**

Anonymous (2)  
 Margaret Bolster (FY '81)  
 Patrick Conry (FA '10)  
 Kate (Gurfein, SP '05) Daniels

Jo-Ann (Miller, FY '05) Ecker  
 Jo-Dee (Grant, SP '05) Gentile  
 The Georgeady Family (P '91, P '99)  
 Michael Griffith (SP '85)  
 Jennifer Holland (SP '99)  
 Erica Huffman (SP '93)  
 Mary Kay Karzas (FY '74)  
 Eleanor Lindsay (FY '67)  
 Brian Martens (FY '08)  
 Kelly McMahon (FY '99), in memory of Pat McMahon ♦  
 Rebecca (Proakis, SP '93) Mitchell  
 Patrick Owens (SP '04), in honor of John Raish  
 John Duff and Christine Paterakis (FA '88)  
 Hibben Silvo (SP '07) Rothschild  
 Lee Schmertzler (SP '96)  
 Maro Sevastopoulos (FA '97)  
 Eliot Tear (FA '11)  
 Megan Telfair (SP '94)  
 Elizabeth Godfrey (SP '75) Terry  
 Christopher Trinacty (FA '94)  
 Francesca Tronchin (FY '94)  
 Danielle Weldy (SP '05) Valente ♦  
 Sarah (Tauer, FA '05) Zimmerman

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## In Gratitude and Memory

*This past year, College Year in Athens bid farewell to three truly remarkable members of our community. Each, in their own way, enriched the study of Greece through language, history, and archaeology, inspiring generations of students to see the world through the lens of Greek culture. Their warmth, generosity, and dedication will always be remembered and celebrated by all who had the privilege of knowing them.*

### Marinetta Papahimona



*Marinetta riding on her son's motorcycle*

**Marinetta Papahimona**, a key figure in CYA's history and a pioneer in the teaching of Modern Greek as a foreign language passed away this summer.

Marinetta taught at CYA for four decades, and her impact on generations of CYAers was both immediate and lasting. With her characteristic energy, she brought the language to life in the classroom, focusing on those aspects of Greek culture that are most vividly reflected in the language itself: clarity, directness, humor. Her uniquely inventive method of instruction involved the introduction of theatrical play; turning the classroom into a stage where play and everyday communication met, Marinetta managed to make her students, who had arrived with no prior knowledge of Greek at all, speak Greek from the very first day, inspired by her playfulness and guidance at gaining an intuitive understanding of how language works. The legendary dinners she hosted for her students at her home were the

most immediate way for them to experience Greek hospitality as a warm embrace. Beyond the classroom, Marinetta played a huge role in shaping the field of Modern Greek instruction more broadly. She co-authored widely used Modern Greek as a foreign language textbooks, which remain foundational for instructors and learners alike. She mentored many of our MGL faculty and brought her background in theater to bear in everything she did, whether writing, acting, directing and, above all, teaching.

All who knew her remember her radiant presence and her passion for Greek not just as a language, but as a living, breathing culture. She is survived by her children Yannis, Alexandros, Isavela, and her grandchildren. She will be deeply missed.

“

*“I was her student back in the Summer of 2001. She was an excellent teacher. May her memory be eternal.”*

**George Yfantidis (SU '01, FA '01)**

*“Marinetta was such an amazing professor and person! I enjoyed learning Greek from her in 1982.”*

**Julie Hunter (FY '83)**

*“She was such an awesome teacher.”*

**Hillary Warren (SP '05)**

*“I will never forget her saying: ‘My name is Marinetta Papahimona and the only thing cold about me is my name.’”*

**Christina Kolb (FY '99)**

”

## Penelope Mountjoy



We also mourn the passing of **Penelope Mountjoy**, the distinguished archaeologist whose groundbreaking work on Mycenaean pottery reshaped our understanding of Late Bronze Age Greece.

A graduate of the University of Bristol (Classics, 1969) and later awarded a PhD by her alma mater in 1987, Penelope devoted her career to recording and interpreting decorated Mycenaean ceramics. Her meticulous scholarship—embodied in major works such as *Mycenaean Decorated Pottery: A Guide to Identification* (1986) and *Regional Mycenaean Decorated Pottery* (1999)—redefined the field and provided essential tools for archaeologists across the Mediterranean.

Based for many years in Athens, Penelope taught at CYA from 1984 to 2023, a period of almost 40 years, sharing her deep knowledge of archaeological illustration where she taught archaeological illustration, a major tool that she used throughout her long career.

Her work and numerous publications inspired generations of students. Her class left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of learning from her, and her legacy lives on in the many CYA students she mentored and influenced.

Beyond her time at CYA, she was widely recognized for her contributions to the field of Bronze Age archaeology of Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean region. She was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquities, a member of the British School at Athens, and a corresponding member of the German Archaeological Institute. She is survived by two sisters.

## Aglaia “Lily” Macrakis

CYA Advisor Emerita and long-time supporter of College Year in Athens, **Dr. Aglaia “Lily” Macrakis** passed away this past September in Boston, surrounded by family and friends. She was 99 years old.

Lily was a distinguished historian, educator, and lifelong advocate for Greek studies. Born in Athens, she studied history at the University of Athens and later earned her Ph.D. from Harvard University, where her acclaimed biography *Eleftherios Venizelos (1864–1910): The Making of a National Leader* received the Prize of the Academy of Athens.

A beloved professor at Regis College from 1964 to 1998, Dr. Macrakis founded the Greek Studies Program and inspired generations through her teaching, mentorship, and leadership. She later served as Dean of Hellenic College (2002–2011) and was President of the Modern Greek Studies Association (1977–79).

Her contributions to academia and to the Greek community are immeasurable. She was not only a dear friend of CYA but also an inspiring presence in the lives of many. For decades, Lily’s support, wisdom, and unwavering belief in the mission of our school have been vital. Lily will be remembered by all who knew her. She is survived by her son Stavros, her daughter Michele, her granddaughters, and her great-grandson.



## 1970s

In early June, a small group of alumni from the 1974–75 class reunited in San Francisco for a heartwarming mini-reunion. Amid the city's iconic sights, they shared cherished memories, rekindled old friendships, and discovered new connections with one another as adults.



(From left): Charles Shumaker, Kathy (Matchett) Mallalieu, Katherine Schwab, John Roth, Laetitia La Follette, and Fred Knapp; all full-year students from 1974–75.

**J. Mara DelliPriscoli (FY '70)** is the President, founder and architect of the Educational Travel Consortium. Mara lectures, writes, photographs and works with cultural, community and conservation tourism development projects in the US and abroad. She consults in the field of educational and special interest tourism development for a variety of US and international organizations authoring country specific reports. Mara has always had a passion for exploration, blue water sailing, languages, folk dance, photography and equestrian pursuits. For the past decade she has pursued advanced technical training and field work in Photojournalism. Mara has been based in St. Ignatius, Montana for 25+ years. She still travels extensively globally and has visited 88+ countries.

**Brian Joseph (FY '72)** has a new book out, decades in the making. *The Balkan Languages* by **Victor A. Friedman** and **Brian D. Joseph**, published as open access by Cambridge University Press, explores how Greek, Albanian, Turkish, Romani, and other languages have influenced each other over centuries.



## 1990s

**Ryan Tipps (SP '99)** writes: “Very excited that my piece on Wyoming pro snowboarder/rancher Mark Carter (@cartercountry) received first place nationally in the Personality Profile category at this year's Ag Media Summit. This was one of my favorite articles I've ever written, and Mark was so genuine and down to earth that it made writing about him feel like I was talking about an old friend”. Here's the full piece:

<https://www.agdaily.com/features/outside-lines-ranching-roots-pro-snowboarder-mark-carter/>

## 2000s

**Emily Jusino (SU '00)** and her husband Cam Hawkins have a new podcast, *Have Toga, Will Travel*. The podcast explores the Mediterranean, ancient and modern, through the eyes of two former classics professors. Check it out here: <https://havetogawilltravel.com/>.

## 2010s

**Allie Davis (FY '18)** is a PhD student of Classical Archaeology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For the 2025–26 academic year, she is the Heinrich Schliemann Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

**Jessica Lynn Tilley (SP '16)** has accepted a 2-year appointment on the Centre College faculty as Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics.

## 2020s

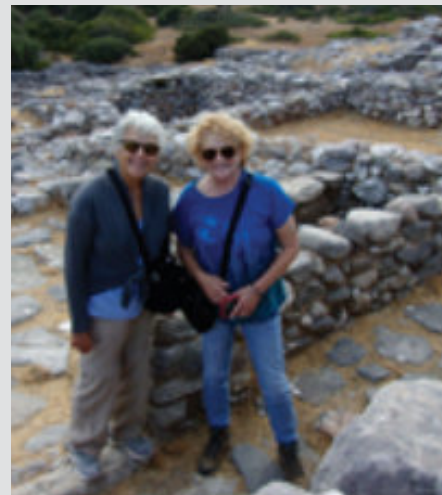
**Mia Iannios (FA '23)** graduated from The George Washington University in June 2025 with a degree in International Relations. Mia is staying in DC and working full-time at a public affairs firm.



## A Fond Farewell to Sharon (Miller, FY '71) Bishop

The class of 1970–71 was saddened by the news of the death of Sharon Miller Bishop, one of our "California Girls." Sharon died on December 31, 2024 at her beloved prune orchard and newly renovated home, and was followed by her devoted husband Bob approximately two weeks later. She leaves behind her three Leonburger (German dogs), approximately 400 pounds of love. She adored her fur babies and took them everywhere. She had fought off two bouts of cancer but succumbed to congestive heart failure.

Sharon was fearless, intelligent, delightful, fun and very hard working. She was born in Baltimore in 1949 but then the family moved back to Australia where her brother Bob was born, then the whole family resettled in the Sacramento area. Because she was 14 years older than her siblings she became a true financial supporter of her family. After retiring from the State of California, she continued on in accounting as a consultant. I am so glad she joined us (Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge, myself and two other lady travelers ) on our trip to Crete.



Sharon (right) with a travel buddy at Gournia, Crete

We took the ferry to Crete (quite a difference from our first ferry ride to Crete in 1970...chickens on board!) and stayed in homes in Chania, Agios Nikolaos and Heraklion. Sharon also traveled on her own constantly and managed to learn and speak 5 languages fluently, the latest being Italian. We all shall miss her, and luckily she left us lots of wonderful memories!

**Mo Carpenter (FY '71)**

## 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 22, 2026**



## CYA Campus Relations Representatives

### Thandiwe Knox (SP '24)



*Thandiwe Knox*

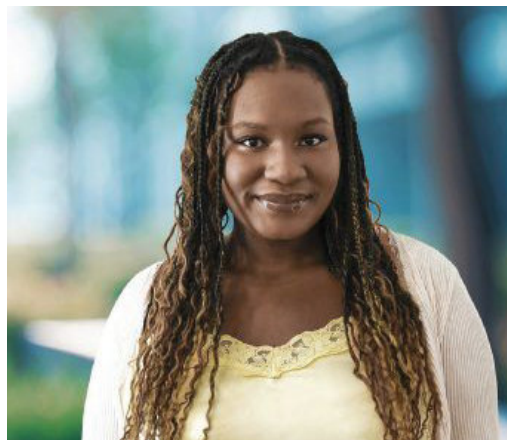
Thandiwe graduated from Barnard College in May 2025 with a major in Ancient Studies and a minor in Art History. As a classicist focused on the Hellenistic world, she knew that studying abroad with CYA during her junior spring '24 would be the perfect opportunity to expand her knowledge and gain hands-on experience with ancient sites. During her time there, she enriched her studies of antiquity while interning at art galleries to support her Art History minor. CYA allowed her to broaden her academic interests, experience life in a new country, and make friends for life. She hopes to share these experiences with other prospective students through her role as a Campus Relations Representative.

### Camryn Shevlin (SP '24)

Camryn graduated from the University of Southern California in May 2025 with a double major in Psychology and Cinema and Media Studies. After researching study abroad, she fell in love with CYA's courses and field study options. In Spring 2024, studying with CYA gave her the opportunity to dive into a new culture through hands-on learning and inspiring connections. She left CYA with lifelong friendships and a newfound passion for cultural exchange. As a Campus Relations Representative, Camryn is thrilled to have the opportunity to introduce students to the wonderful program that CYA is.



*Camryn Shevlin*



*Jaylah Wilson*

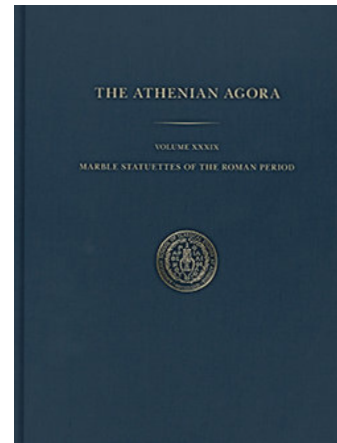
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### Jaylah Wilson (SP '24)

Jaylah graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.A. in Political Science and an M.S. in Social Entrepreneurship. Her passion for international human rights and politics led her to study abroad with CYA in spring of 2024. During her time in Athens, Jaylah grew professionally and academically, while also forming lifelong friendships and memories. This experience sparked a lasting interest in international education and travel, and she is excited to introduce prospective students to everything that CYA has to offer.

## Brian Martens (SP '08) on the Agora's Statuettes

[The American School of Classical Studies at Athens](#) is pleased to announce the publication of *Marble Statuettes of the Roman Period (Agora XXXIX)*, by CYA former Alumnus Trustee, **Brian Martens (SP '08)**. Brian has worked at the Athenian Agora for nearly two decades and is a Lecturer in the School of Classics at the University of St Andrews. This volume presents, for the first time, the marble statuettes and statuette fragments, carved between the 1st century BCE and the 4th century CE, that have been excavated from the Agora since 1931. Comprising one in six figural sculptures found at the site, these works are a testament to a thriving demand for small divine images in Roman-period Greece that has been insufficiently recognized until now.



*New Agora Volume by Brian Martens*

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*A night view of Eratosthenous Street in Pangrati*

