

SPRING 2026

THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS



FROM RESTORATION TO REVELATION:

A Conversation with Tassos Tanoulas

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Read
"From Restoration
to Revelation"
article on [p. 8](#)

Dear friends,

The Museum of the Ancient Agora is my favorite in Athens. Among its objects are small oil lamps carried by Athenians as they walked through the dark into the city center to fulfill their civic duties. In all their simplicity, I find these lamps, and the quiet determination they suggest, deeply moving. The belief that participation in public life mattered enough to walk for miles at night with a small lamp lighting your way seems almost eccentric today, in the age of automation and convenience.

Creativity is another concept that AI, with all its slop and derivative imitations of an established artistic culture, unsettles. Once information becomes frictionless and endlessly reproducible, what remains distinctly human?

Maybe the answer has less to do with certainty than with the ability to remain intellectually alive inside uncertainty, resisting the temptation of easy synthesis, and staying curious long enough for thought to deepen into insight. The creative act, after all, has never been about assembling existing patterns more efficiently. Rather, it comes from the leap no dataset can quite predict; it comes from intuition, risk, accident, and from the strange and deeply human ability to move through a world that is unstable, unfinished, and difficult to explain.

This is one reason why study abroad matters so profoundly now.

In a *Fortune* article, the economist Carl Benedikt Frey argues that humans retain a decisive advantage over AI in areas such as creativity, complex social interaction, and the ability to navigate unpredictable environments. These skills are cultivated slowly, through brushes with realities that resist simplification. A chatbot can provide an answer within seconds, but struggles with the unstable nature of lived experience.

CYA's program places enormous importance on authentic encounters with Greece, whether that means standing before a fifth-century temple or attending a football match, surrounded almost entirely by locals. Experience is what our students primarily seek; for all their differences, students across generations remain willing to navigate unfamiliar environments and eager to participate rather than consume.

Our students come to Athens expecting history in its monumental form. What they discover instead is a dense city where antiquity exists beside graffiti, precarity beside beauty, and political argument beside everyday routine. They go for runs past ruins, wander through Byzantine churches, sit in museums to admire mortals who manage to grasp something from the fabric of existence itself. In cafés, they hear debates that echo questions first asked here thousands of years ago



about democracy, responsibility, justice, and citizenship. They begin to understand ideas not as abstractions, but as things emerging from collective experience and people trying to make sense of the world around them.

Far from simply preparing students for the future, education should preserve their capacity for imagination and the resilience that complex social interaction takes. These are profoundly human faculties that cannot be outsourced. And they are strengthened precisely through the kinds of experiences that study abroad offers: the engagement with complexity, free intellectual wandering, and the realization that the world still contains mystery that cannot be summarized into prompts; a world that opens up possibilities of genuine discovery.

Cordially,
Theoni

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Founder's Day: From Vision to Voice

On February 18, the community came together for Founder's Day celebration, paying tribute to CYA's founder, **Ismene Phylactopoulou**—affectionately known to generations of students as Mrs. Phyl—and her visionary leadership.

At this year's event, CYA proudly presented the Founder's Day Award to two beloved pillars of the Modern Greek Language department: **Mimika Dimitra** and **Marinetta Papahimona** (in memoriam). Co-authors of the *Greek Now* textbook series, Mimika and Marinetta inspired generations of students through dynamic teaching that blended language, theater, and culture, essentially transforming the classroom into a stage.



(From left): Stella Papayianni and Eleni Karvouni

The event featured a conversation between current faculty members **Eleni Karvouni** and **Stella Papayianni**, who reflected on the evolving relevance of teaching Modern Greek today and the importance of language as a vehicle for cultural understanding.

We are grateful to all alumni, faculty, students, and friends who joined us in person and online to celebrate our shared history and the educators who continue to bring Ismene Phylactopoulou's vision to life.



CYA President Theoni Scourta



Marinetta's granddaughter gave a heartfelt speech during the event.

28th International Hellenic Prize Ceremony in Athens



CYA Classics faculty member Nina Papathanasopoulou (left) with Edith Hall

On February 28, CYA and the [International Hellenic Prize](#) (IHP) co-hosted the 28th Annual IHP Award Ceremony in Athens. The 2024 prize was awarded to **Edith Hall**, Professor of Classics and Ancient History at Durham University and Fellow of the British Academy. The award recognized her seminal contributions to Ancient Greek history, literature, and culture, specifically her recent work,



Students, faculty, and staff at the CYA Auditorium

Facing Down the Furies: Suicide, the Ancient Greeks and Me (Yale University Press, 2024).

Poetry, University of Oxford) and **Ioanna Karamanou** (Professor of Classics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki).

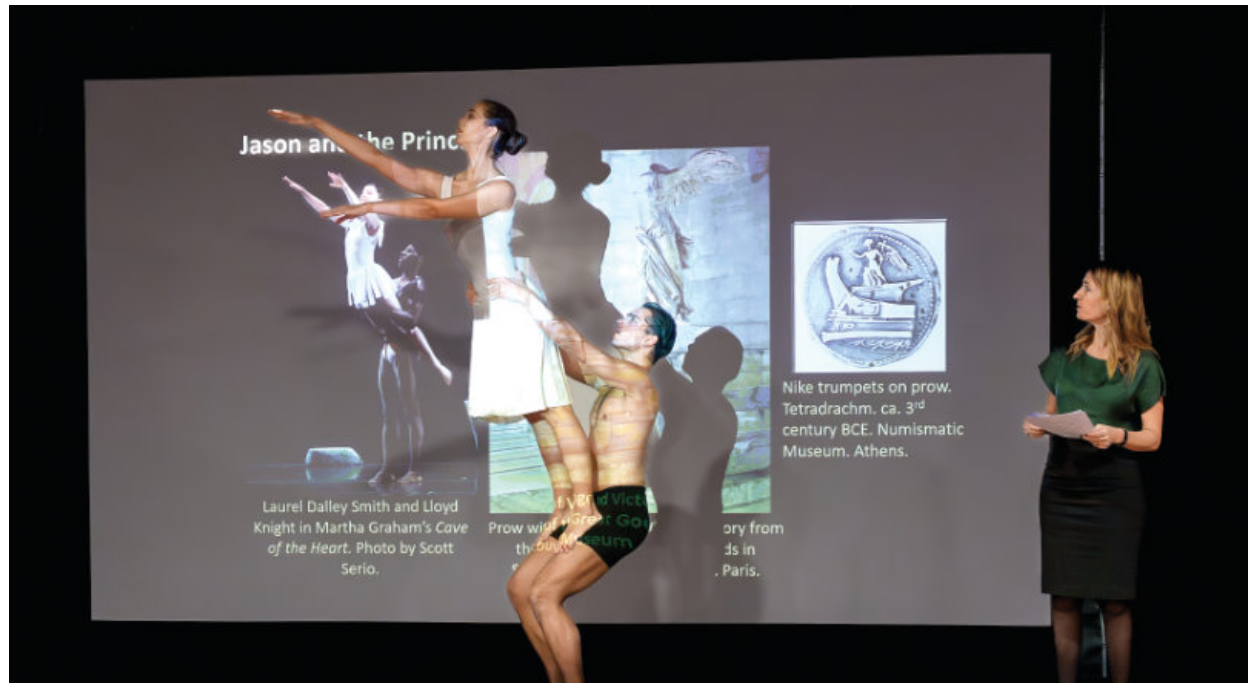
The ceremony took place at the [American School of Classical Studies at Athens \(ASCSA\)](#). The award was presented by **H.E. Matthew Lodge**, the British Ambassador to Greece. The laureate was introduced by **Alicia Stallings** (Professor of

Earlier that day, Prof. Hall joined CYA Classics faculty, Nina Papathanasopoulou, for a discussion on how ancient texts can help us address contemporary concerns, which also involved CYA students.



Edith Hall at ASCSA

Greek Classics in Motion

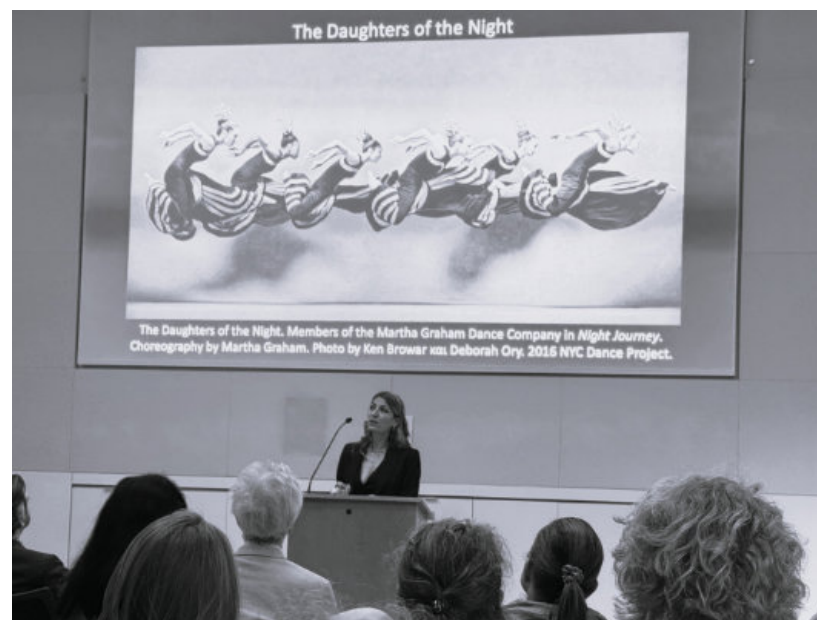


"Telling Bodies" Conference & Martha Graham & Greek Myth: Clytemnestra — University of Edinburgh (November 2025)

CYA Classics faculty member **Nina Papathanasopoulou** has had a dynamic international presence this year. In **November 2025**, she participated in the A. G. Leventis Conference *Telling Bodies: A Conference on Corporeal Classical Reception* at the University of Edinburgh, where she explored emotion in Martha Graham's Greek-themed choreography and presented a lecture-performance on *Clytemnestra* and Graham's reimagining of Aeschylus' *Oresteia* to an enthusiastic response. In **January 2026**, at the Joint Annual Meeting of the AIA and SCS in San Francisco, she co-organized *Odyssea*, a special performance based on Emily Wilson's landmark translation of the epic poem, by San Francisco's acclaimed site-specific theatre company *We Players*, drawing both scholars and the wider public

into a shared encounter with Homer. In **March 2026**, she delivered a lecture at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies on Graham's retellings of Greek myth, while

also undertaking archival research at the Library of Congress for her forthcoming book (currently under review at the University of Michigan Press).



Lecture at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies (March 2026)

CYA Annual Student Conference



Jaein Ku (Cornell University)

The 9th Annual Student Conference took place on April 28, where CYA students presented original research around the theme *Re-Imagining Greece: Images, Representation, and Meaning*.

The presentations explored diverse subjects such as ancient marriage and masculinity, Byzantine influences, retellings of Greek myths, and modern digital tourism.

Each session investigated how Greece has been depicted, exported, and reimagined across time through the lenses of reclaiming antiquity and reperforming "Greekness."

When asked to consider questions of authenticity, power, and cultural identity, we come to understand Greece not as a fixed historical subject, but as an ongoing conversation between past and present.

This year's Conference Committee consisted of:

Jeff Vanderpool, CYA Faculty Member, Heritage Documentation and Visual Culture

Angeliki Dimitriadi, Academic Director, CYA Faculty Member, Political Science

Kate Donnelly, Academic Writing Advisor, CYA

Moderators: **Athena Hadji**, CYA Faculty Member, Art History, and **Aimee Placas**, CYA Faculty Member, Anthropology

Participants at the conference were four post-bac students:

Braden Clifford Dwinell, **Tanner J. Brown**, **Anna Scott**, **Abigail Wolfe**, and six SP '26 students: **Ezra Alley** (Virginia Commonwealth University), **Madison Fava** (University of Pennsylvania), **Ellyse Johnson** (Hope College), **Charlotte Hagen** (University of Iowa), **Selma Becarevic** (Washington University in St. Louis), and **Jaein Ku** (Cornell University).



CYA Faculty Athena Hadji



All students participating in the Conference with Kate Donnelly and Jeff Vanderpool

A Shared Commitment to Archaeological Education



Students of the ARCH347 course on Bronze Age cultural interconnections back to CYA after Crete Field Study

Archaeology is an interdisciplinary scientific field requiring international collaborations, as well as exchange of ideas and methodologies that often lead to interpersonal relationships, where scholars work together in order to achieve their academic aims and objectives. Or, as in this case, to offer students unique opportunities to experience other fields of expertise. Such a relationship has been forged over the past 12 years between CYA and the [British School at Athens \(BSA\)](#).

As part of the semester course ARCH367 on Aegean Prehistory, CYA students were granted the privilege of accessing the Pottery Reference Collection at the School's main building in Athens. There, students have been able to handle authentic prehistoric pottery ranging from the Early Bronze Age Cyclades (3200-2000 BCE) to the Late Bronze Age mainland Greece (1650-1200 BCE) and to uncover the secrets of pottery

making. Similarly, the research staff of the School's Fitch Laboratory opens its gates every spring to the students of ARCH372, which explores ancient technologies and



Drawing of BSA's Fitch Laboratory © BSA

materials. During the visit, students have had the opportunity to tour one of the few archaeological laboratories in Greece. They explored

cutting-edge technologies and scientific techniques and examined aspects of trade, maritime networks and economy. During course ARCH347, which centered on the interconnections between the various peoples of the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean, students visited Villa Ariadne, the headquarters of the BSA in Crete, and occasionally got inside the Stratigraphic Museum and discussed matters of heritage management and excavation methodologies.

As the instructor leading these courses, I should express my gratitude to all my colleagues at the BSA, present and past, and especially the Directors since 2012 and to this day. The relationship between CYA and the BSA will grow stronger, and students will benefit greatly from this stimulating connection.

Angelos Papadopoulos
CYA Faculty - Archaeology



CYA is pleased to announce the appointment of **Geoff Bakewell** as the inaugural **Brian D. Joseph Endowed Chair in Classics**, for a three-year term beginning on September 1, 2026.

Geoff Bakewell is Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Studies at Rhodes College in Memphis. His scholarship focuses on deeply contextualized readings of Athenian literature and philosophy; it includes a monograph on Aeschylus, a co-edited volume, translations of several plays, and over 25 articles and book chapters. He holds a Ph.D. from Brown and a B.A. from Yale and has received several awards, including a Fulbright and a teaching award from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South.

He is very familiar with Athens where he has served as Whitehead Professor at the American School of Classical Studies (ASCSA). During his tenure as Chairholder, Professor Bakewell will teach the course "*Plato in Place: Reading the Republic on the Ground in Athens.*"

Named in honor of **Brian D. Joseph (FY '72)**, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and The Kenneth E. Naylor Professor Emeritus of South Slavic Linguistics at The Ohio State University (OSU) and a CYA alumnus, and established through the generous support of a benefactor, the **Brian D. Joseph Endowed Chair in Classics** supports teaching, research, and curricular development in Classics and related fields.



Brian D. Joseph



From Restoration to Revelation: A Conversation with Tassos Tanoulas

Professor Tanoulas is teaching the course: "Ancient Greek Architecture from the Archaic to the Roman Times as Reflected in the Monuments of Athens."

The 2nd of January 1977 was my first day of work at the Acropolis—a bright day after a night of rain. The veins in the crafted, damp masses of Pentelic marble made the architecture look like living flesh. The consciousness of my future with these bodies filled me with wonder, if not with awe.

It was fortunate to work from the very beginning with John Travlos. From him, I learnt to respect the bodies of both monuments and humans, to respect curiosity and to share knowledge with colleagues and craftsmen.

Studying the structural history of the Propylaia, from the 5th century B.C. to the present, made me familiar with the pathology of the monument. In its adventurous past, it was converted for different functions or—after its ruination in 1643 due to gunpowder explosion—it was mutilated for various reasons. This knowledge equipped me with the competence to carry out the restoration with respect for the traces of each structural phase corresponding to the respective historical

era, aiming to leave the character of the building as a palimpsest practically intact.

One of the most important structural phases we addressed was the massive restoration of the Propylaia between 1909 and 1917 under Nikolaos Balanos and, in a smaller scale, certain interventions under Anastasios Orlandos.

Within the framework of the Committee for the Conservation of the Acropolis Monuments—established in the 1970s to align with the principles introduced originally by the 1964 Venice Charter—we developed specific methods to meet the unique challenges of each monument. These methods accounted for differences in original design, structure and individual history. The overview of the Propylaia's structural history provided a solid canvas, allowing me to identify newly discovered fragments that had been missing from the entire composition.

"The veins in the crafted, damp masses of Pentelic marble made the architecture look like living flesh."

To restore an architectural monument, one needs to know its body and soul. If this sounds poetic, it is, at least in the Greek sense of poetics, that is, the 'making' of an entity. A monument is the culmination of a complex process unfolding over time; it involves human intellect and emotion, organizing mathematics, technology, and labor, for breathing life into a solid architectural body. For a work of architecture, "life" is the appreciation and use by humans, members of the societies that first created it and those who followed. To restore a monument, one has to understand all this.

"In classroom, I teach forms, terms and basic structural elements."

Realizing from the start that competent scholarship is fundamental to the restoration process of a monument like the Propylaia, I began investigating the relevant literature while, simultaneously, documenting the current state of the monument itself, noting every change detectable on the original Mnesiklean body. While this initially seemed like a solitary research project conducted in books and archives, it quickly evolved into teamwork involving a field staff for work at the site.

The implementation of the restoration project necessarily involved a greater number of disciplines, ranging from scientists and experienced marble craftsmen to labourers.



An important challenge for any project leader is to elicit the best out of the team's collaboration. In our case, the ultimate beneficiary of this collaboration was the monument itself.

The initial lesson, since my early apprenticeship, taught me to always respect the intellectual, moral, and bodily integrity of my collaborators to achieve the best for the Propylaia's "body and soul." I will always be proud of the wonderful team spirit which was cultivated between the staff of the Propylaia Restoration Project, which inspired us all—architects, civil engineers, archaeologists, marble craftsmen, conservators and labourers—to work together with joy and dedication.

The scientific precision in the reproduction of architectural forms in detail and in the large scale, the high level of craftsmanship earned praise from experts and the public alike. This recognition culminated in the **Europa Nostra Award for Architectural Restoration** and the **Europa Nostra Public Choice Award** in 2013. The restoration was recognized as "an achievement of outstanding value, which relieved the monument from the harmful interventions of the past, by safeguarding the authentic remains and by having restored the original beauty of the building to a much greater extent than before."

Unfortunately, this time of prime was succeeded by decline in the national heritage policies, due largely to the financial crisis in this country and to the subsequent emergence of heavy tourism industry into a main source of national income – a justification that is often used by politicians as a smoke-screen for political profit.

"To restore an architectural monument, one needs to know its body and soul."

Teaching undergraduate students who have little background in Classical Studies since 1998, I soon realized that a classroom introduction was necessary before visiting the sites. In classroom, I teach forms, terms and basic structural elements to enable students to identify and name formal and structural characteristics in the ruins. I consider it essential to begin by drawing forms and writing terms on the board before moving to polished PowerPoint presentations.

Next step, at the site, students are asked to identify formal and structural elements on the monuments, naming them one by one, like in an anatomy class for a body, in this case, an architectural body. The fact that Ancient Greek architectural terms describe exactly what is physically there becomes clear only in the presence of the architectural body that is composed of architectural members articulated into an organic form according to an architectural order.



Ten classes on the Acropolis allow time to identify also the framework of historical periods in Athens and the Greek mainland, and define the character of the architecture in each period. Furthermore, the evolution of structural methods, forms and building types, to meet the evolution of society, economy, science and concepts over time, is accordingly discussed, reaching modern era and contemporary concepts and policies of management of architectural heritage. The restoration carried out on the Acropolis from 1975 to 2020 serves as an example of restoration policy on monuments of Classical Greek Architecture.

Classes in the downtown Athens' sites, allow for more elaboration on later periods (Hellenistic and

Roman), remains of which survive more abundantly there than on the Acropolis. The most holistic restoration of Ancient Greek architectural forms in modern times is represented in the neoclassical edifices of Athens' historic center, which we lastly visit and discuss.

“A monument...involves human intellect and emotion.”

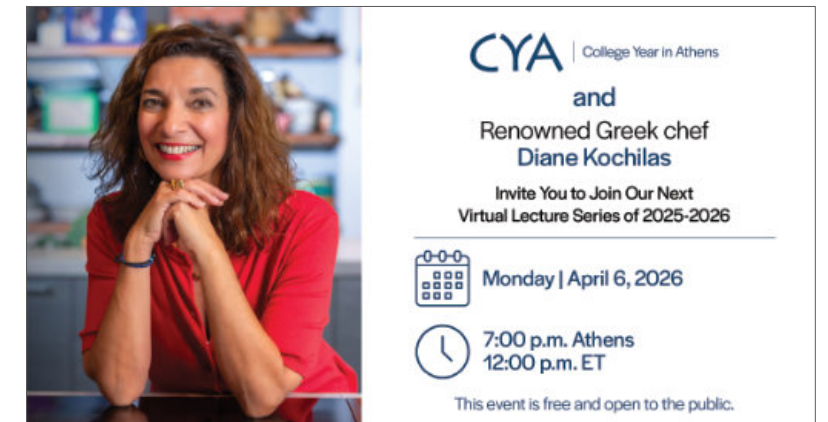
However, managing the architectural remains of Antiquity, one enters a tricky domain where theory and pragmatism frequently seem to clash. But this is not entirely true. While technocrats may dismiss ethical preservation as 'romantic, relegating it to the sphere of subjective whim, I define it as 'poetic': an architectural creation rooted in rigorous principles. If, as modern architectural theory suggests (following Heidegger after Hoelderlin), 'poetically man dwells,' then the ethical restoration of a monument is the supreme expression of this dwelling. The restorer must hold this line with conviction before negotiating any pragmatic retreats.

Tassos Tanoulas has been a member of the Acropolis restoration team since 1977. He was in charge of the Preservation of the Propylaea at the Athenian Acropolis from 1984 until his official retirement in 2010. He has published and lectured widely in Europe, Asia, America and Australia; topics of interest: archaeology, history, theory and management of Architecture from the Archaic period (7th century B.C.) to date.

He is the author of a number of articles published in scholarly periodicals. His two books *Study for the Restoration of the Propylaia*, vol. I, and vol. II were published in 1994 and 2002 respectively, and his *The Propylaea of the Athenian Acropolis During the Middle Ages (1267-1458)* was published in 1997.

CYA's **Virtual Lecture Series (VLS)** remains a valuable way to reconnect with our alumni and extended community. This spring, the series featured the renowned Greek chef, **Diane Kochilas**, in an engaging conversation about the food culture of Athens and the timeless culinary traditions that shape it.

Diane has spent decades bringing the rich traditions of Greece to an international audience, blending authenticity with innovation. Through her work as a chef, author, and educator, she has become a leading ambassador of Greek gastronomy, sharing not just recipes, but the stories,



landscapes, and people behind them.

During the lecture, Diane explored the remarkable longevity secrets of Ikaria, one of the world's famous Blue

Zones, revealing how its food, lifestyle, and culture contribute to long and healthy lives.

Remembering Penelope Mountjoy

A foremost specialist of Mycenaean ceramics, the late **Penelope Mountjoy** taught Archaeological Drawing at CYA from 1984 to 2023. In May 2026, her Athens-based colleagues and friends gathered at CYA for an evening dedicated to her and the place she held within the life of the school. Her nearly 300 former students were invited to participate virtually.

The evening featured remarks by **Georgios Mouratidis**, Assistant Director, British School at Athens; **Peter Pavúk**, Professor, Institute of Classical Archaeology, Charles University, Prague; **Elina Kardamaki**, Research Center of the Antiquity, Academy of Athens; **Samuel Holzman (CYA '10)**, Assistant Professor of Art & Archaeology, Princeton University; and **Angelos Papadopoulos**, CYA Faculty of Archaeology.



CYA President, Theoni Scourta, delivering her opening remarks at the event

Penelope's influential work and her dedication, precision, and passion for the archaeology of the Aegean world 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.

AI on Campus

On January 10, CYA Trustee **Daphne Hatsopoulos** hosted a reception in Boston, followed by a discussion on *AI on Campus*, marking a productive start to the new year. This public forum was held in conjunction with CYA's 133rd annual winter Board of Trustees meeting at the [Maliotis Cultural Center](#).

Featured speakers at this discussion were MIT scientists **Fotini Christia** and **Michail Bletsas** (CYA Trustee & Director of Computing, MIT Media Lab), who explored the challenges and opportunities AI presents for the future of learning. We were honored to be joined by the Consul General of Greece in Boston, **Symeon Tegos**, along with CYA Trustees, staff, alumni, and friends.



CYA Director of Development, Eve Geroulis, was moderating the discussion.

Honorary Doctorate for Jeannie Ranglas

Jeannie Ranglas, wife of CYA Trustee **Gerry Ranglas**, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree during the 84th Commencement of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, on May 16.

In the official citation accompanying the degree, HCHC leadership described Jeannie as *"the embodiment of a friend of those in need, a philanthropist, and a devoted servant of the Church."*

Jeannie has dedicated her life to serving the Greek Orthodox Church through visionary leadership, philanthropy, and ministry. She is currently the longest-serving President of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco [Philoptochos](#) and has served for 23 years on the National Philoptochos Board of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



(From left): HCHC Interim President Rev. Father Michael Lambakis, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Dr. Jeannie Ranglas, and Dr. Nicholas Ganson (Dean - Hellenic College)

Hands-On History in Athens



(From left): Katina and Madelyn at the Kotsanas Museum

Through their internships at the [Kotsanas Museum of Ancient Greek Technology](#), **Katina Ticoras** (Ohio University) and **Madelyn Boglioli** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) combined

their academic passions with hands-on cultural engagement, contributing to tours, educational projects, and museum outreach. Their experience allowed them to immerse themselves in Athens beyond the classroom while developing professional skills in an international, collaborative environment. Their majors are Studio Art & Classics and Biology, respectively, but they have found common ground in bringing history to life for visitors from around the globe! Beyond leading tours and managing the museum floor with confidence, the duo is now co-authoring a training

manual for future volunteers.

"I loved the idea of doing something that made me feel more part of the city," reflected Katina. Madelyn added, *"Giving these tours has been amazing practice. I've realized I really enjoy a people-facing role."*



Katina and Madely in action

A Place to Belong



Isabella DiAngelo, a Politics and Humanitarian Action student from Fairfield University, spent part of her semester volunteering at [Velos Youth](#), a community center, where she supported refugee and migrant youth by building trust, fostering community, and helping create safe spaces for vulnerable young people on the move. Her experience has deepened her

commitment to humanitarian work and strengthened her passion for protecting displaced children and refugees. Her role? Being a friend. She played chess and UNO, helped boys shop for shoes or warm clothes, and built the trust that makes them feel safe. Under mentor Gina's guidance, she learned that real impact shows up in unexpected ways: when

the boys started calling her "little sister," she realized friendship itself was the work.

"Seeing how these young people stay hopeful and lift each other up, that's what's really shaped me," she reflected.



From Neuroscience to Digital Storytelling



Tina Cheng in the lab

Between classes and exploring Athens, **Tina Cheng** (Colby College) spent time each week of her spring semester in the Lab of Experimental Neurophysiology at the University of Athens. Through her internship in Dr. [Cornelia Pouloupoulou's lab](#), Tina gained hands-on experience in advanced microbiology and neuroscience research techniques, including white blood cell isolation and patch-clamp methodology. This opportunity provided

her with valuable laboratory skills while immersing her in the practical realities of scientific research in Athens.

"I've always wanted to work in a lab in a foreign country," she reflected. "This has shown me what research looks like when collaborating with people from such diverse backgrounds."

To round out her experience, Tina also interned at the CYA MediaLab, using photography and poetry to document her travels during the semester. For a liberal arts student who values both STEM and the humanities, this was the perfect balance of scientific rigor and creative expression.

Digging, Documenting, Discovering

Since 1996, the [Agora Excavations](#) of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and CYA have been giving students hands-on experience in archaeology and museum studies. Over 100 students have been introduced to the recording system of the Agora Excavations and have trained in multiple archival tasks: inventorying small collections, reorganizing storage facilities, adding bibliographical references in the database, and assisting with post-excavation projects, skills essential for preserving the Agora's rich archival legacy.

This spring, four interns, **Braden (Cliff) Dwinell** (Saint Michael's College), **Charlotte Hagen** (University of



Braden Dwinell

Iowa), **Tanner Brown** (Hanover College), and **Morissa Donahue** (Willamette University) have brought energy and enthusiasm to the program, helping digitize architectural plans and profile drawings of objects, manage

metadata, and record new finds. Their dedication reflects the extent to which this new generation of scholars contributes to the careful study and preservation of the archival treasures of the Athenian Agora.



Morissa Donahue

Exploring Physiotherapy Abroad



Mia Raymond from Gettysburg College

In addition to her coursework, **Mia Raymond** (Gettysburg College) interned at **Evangelismos Hospital**, where she observed physiotherapists to see how care adapts to every unique patient and situation. Under Dr. Papadopoulos' mentorship,

she built her PT school resume while experiencing healthcare in a new cultural context. During her internship, Mia gained invaluable hands-on exposure to physiotherapy across multiple departments, from general patient care to the intensive care unit, broadening

her perspective. This opportunity not only strengthened her preparation for physiotherapy school but also allowed her to fully immerse herself in a dynamic healthcare environment while learning from an interdisciplinary medical team.



Mia with Dr. Papadopoulos

We Need Books



Sydney King at We Need Books

Sydney King (St. Olaf College) spent her afternoons and weekends interning at [We Need Books](#), a multilingual library and community hub!

From cataloging books on quiet mornings to hosting events and workshops on busy weekends, Sydney learned what it takes to sustain a thriving third space

while gaining new perspectives on social connection and belonging.

"Since interning here and living in Greece, I've learned that communal culture is so much better," she reflected. "In ancient literature like the Odyssey, they talk about 'stranger love,' which is being kind to strangers



regardless of who they are. That concept pops into my head while I'm working here. You're just existing in community, and that's important to foster."

AIA/SCS Joint Annual Meeting



Spencer Goods (SP '23), Abby Poncia, Marie Gruver (SP '23) and Sara Dove

The 2026 AIA/SCS Joint Annual Meeting was held in San Francisco, California, from January 7–10. The joint conference featured an extensive program of academic presentations, panel discussions, and affiliate gatherings. This year's theme, *Exploring Heritage in the Mediterranean and Beyond*, provided a perfect backdrop for our delegation to share research and reconnect with our community.

We were honored to have two faculty members contribute to the official program:

CYA Art History Faculty **Athena Hadji** presented a session on Amedeo Maiuri and the beginnings

of archaeology in the Dodecanese in the early 20th century, with a focus on the island of Rhodes.

CYA Classics Faculty **Nina Papathanasopoulou** provided the opening remarks for a participatory performance of the *Odyssey*, bringing the Homeric epic to life for the AIA/SCS audience.

One of our favorite moments was hosting a reception for our alumni and friends. It was wonderful to see local Bay Area alums sharing memories and conversation with administrators and conference attendees.



(From left): Samuel Holzman (SP '10), Theoni Scourta, and Nina Papathanasopoulou



(From left): Athena Hadji, Tessa Borchardt (FA '19, SU '21), Nina Papathanasopoulou, Erica Huffman (SP '93), and Theoni Scourta

Delphi Economic Forum XI

On April 22–25, a group of Political Science students went to Delphi for the Annual Meeting of the **Delphi Economic Forum**, where they engaged with world leaders on some of the most pressing challenges of our time. From the future of democracy to the impact of emerging technologies, it was a unique opportunity to witness high-level diplomacy in action in the very place the ancient Greeks considered to be the center of the world. By participating in these vital dialogues, our students gained firsthand experience in international relations.



(From left): Alexis Phylactopoulos with the four panelists



Alexis Phylactopoulos and Ritsa Panagiotou with the group of CYA students attending the Forum

At the Delphi Economic Forum, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, Executive Chair of CYA's Board of Trustees, chaired a thought-provoking discussion titled *What is Education in an AI World?* during a private working dinner at the Amalia Hotel Delphi.

The discussion highlighted urgent matters around academic integrity, lifelong learning, equity, and how institutions can thoughtfully integrate AI while preserving human judgment and rigor.

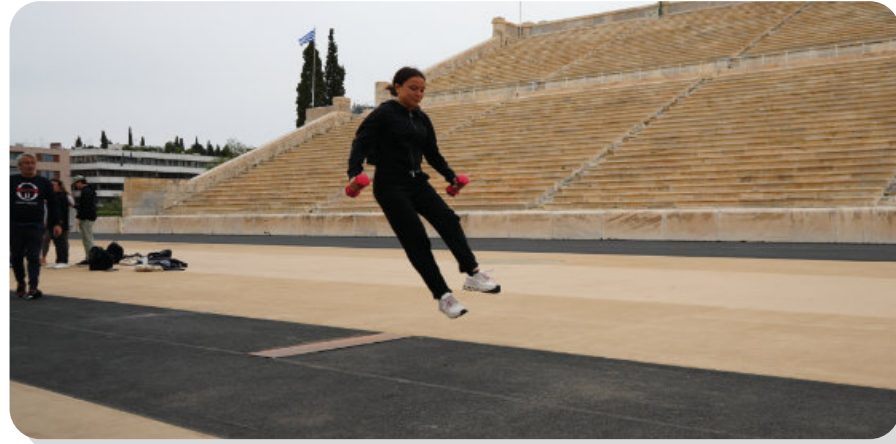
An exceptional group of global academic leaders explored how AI is reshaping teaching, learning, and the very purpose of higher education:

- **Larry Kramer**, President & Vice Chancellor, The London School of Economics and Political Science - LSE
- **Kyriakos Anastasiadis**, Rector, Αριστοτέλειο Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλονίκης
- **Reyhan Huseynova**, Founder, Azerbaijan Future Studies Society
- **Ed Wingenbach**, President, The American College of Greece



Alexis Phylactopoulos in a warm conversation with the students

From immersive courses to field studies and experiential learning opportunities, the spring semester offered students countless ways to engage with the world around them.



Defying gravity in John Karavas' course, "Sports, Games and Spectacles in the Graeco-Roman World"



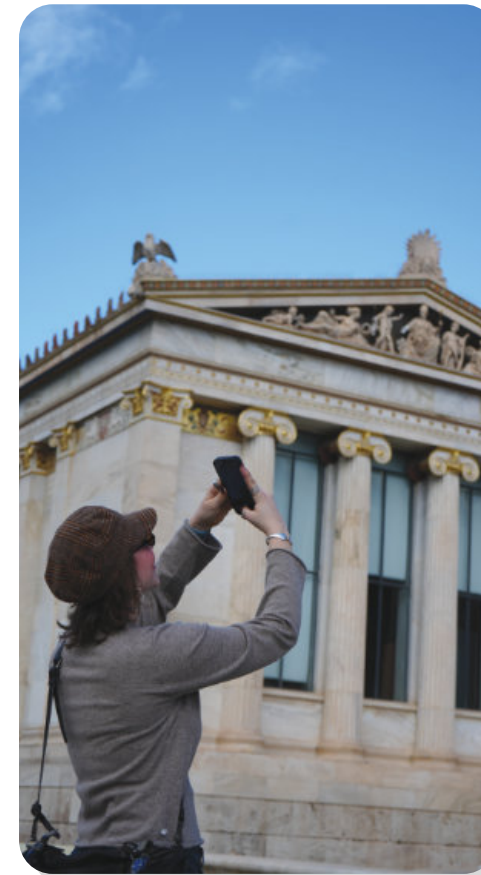
"From Skeleton to Story: The Science of Human Osteology" course, where students learn to read between the bones



During their visit to the Hellenic Museum of Meteorites, students held cosmic fragments that traveled billions of kilometers to Earth.



Students of the "Greek Beats: The Hidden Rhythm of Ancient Theatre" class during their final performance at the Odeon Conservatoire



Students in Rosa Vasilaki's "Under Western Eyes: A Decolonial History of Modern Greece" course explored central Athens' neoclassical heritage on foot.



Supporting both body and mind during Wellness Week, CYA offered ceramic classes to all students.



Students in "Photography and Archaeology: The Art of Documentation" with Jeff Vanderpool learned to operate a large-format view camera.



The best Greek lessons happen over coffee, where students practice their Greek in real time!

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.

Christina Vouthounes (Anagnostopoulos) (FA '98)

Christina Vouthounes (Anagnostopoulos), CYA class of 1997–1998, stopped by CYA with a friend of hers, Laura, on March 5. Although Christina visits Greece often, this was her first time back at CYA since her time as a student. She currently resides in New York. During her visit, she met a few staff members and spent some time reminiscing about her experience at CYA and discussing how the program has grown over the years. Christina and her friend were very happy to have stopped by and appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with CYA.



Christina (left) looking at her files at the Registrar's Office

Karl Baker (FY '00) & Annakathryn Baker (SP '00)



The Baker family

Karl and Annakathryn visited CYA on July 1, 2025. They met during their time at CYA and have been together ever since. This was their first time back in 25 years.

Hao Wei (FY '19 & FA '19)



Hao with our Director of Administration, Billy Simopoulos

Hao, who was a three-semester student, visited CYA on June 23, 2025. Hao visits Athens often but this was his first visit to CYA since Fall 2019. He shared that CYA changed his life.

Liesl Downy (FA '99)



Liesl with her family at the CYA Academic Center

Liesl visited Athens on July 2, 2025 with her family, including her husband, with whom she has been with since her CYA days, maintaining a long-distance relationship during that time. She is currently the VP of

Institutional Advancement at Northeastern Illinois University. She fondly remembered **Nanno Marinatos** and **Steve Diamant**. This was Liesl's first time back in Greece.



Liesl enjoying her first time back in Greece.

Natalia (Natasha) Chumakova (SP '14)



Natalia (Natasha) Chumakova

On January 28, we had the pleasure of welcoming an alumna from Spring 2014, **Natalia (Natasha) Chumakova**, originally from Los Angeles and a USC graduate. Natasha is currently a digital nomad based in Athens, working remotely as a research assistant in neuropsychology for a hospital in Italy. This was Natasha's first visit back to CYA since her student days, despite having lived in Athens for the past year. She fondly remembered Professors **John Karavas** and **Aimee Placas**, along with her Greek teacher **Lida Triantafillidou**. Notably, Natasha shared that she changed her major from International Relations to Philosophy while studying here.

Nicole Parish (FY '06)



Nicole with her husband and their two daughters

Nicole visited CYA on July 7 with her husband, Mike, and their two daughters, Penelope and Phoebe. They were vacationing in Greece and also have family on the island of Chios.

Class of '75 - Reunion

This mini reunion, held in March 2026, was organized by members of the class of '75. The group of attendees met up in Athens for three days of touring, reminiscing, and connecting. The alumni who participated in the trip are: Mark Howland (FY '75), Laetitia LaFollette (FY '75), Kathy (Matchett) Mallalieu (FY '75), Marian Rogers (SP '75), Katherine Schwab (FY '75), and Leslie Simon (FY '75). Several family members joined these alumni.



On the steps of the Gennadius Library

The participants enjoyed visiting their old neighborhood of Kolonaki followed by some special visits thanks to connections within the group. These included touring the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) and visiting the Archives led by **Dr. Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan**, Doreen Canaday Spitzer Director of the Archives; visiting the new museum installation below the Acropolis Museum led by **Constantine Vasiliades**, Head of Conservation and Casts; exploring the Acropolis Museum (including getting to see scans of Katherine Schwab's drawings of Parthenon metopes

sculptures which are on permanent display); visiting the Agora excavations and a meeting with the Registrar **Aspa Efstathiou**.

One alumna had the following to say:

"Returning to Athens after 50 years almost defies description. We found our apartments on Xenokratous and Deinokratous, shared memories and discovered how differently some things are remembered and how some of us remembered things that no one else could. It was real and surreal, and reminded me of how wonderful, almost magical, and impactful my year in Greece was."



At the traditional taverna "Psarras" in Plaka



Dinner at "To Mavro Provato" taverna with Alexis Phylactopoulos, Billy Simopoulos, and Theoni Scourta



Laetitia La Follette with the CYA cake



Visiting the Archives at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens



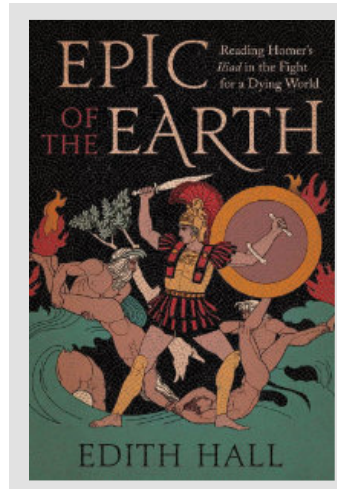
The six alumni in Kolonaki, where they used to live as students

Photos courtesy of Kathy Mallalieu and Katherine Schwab

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

Hall, Edith. *Epic of the Earth: Reading Homer's Iliad in the Fight for a Dying World*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2025.

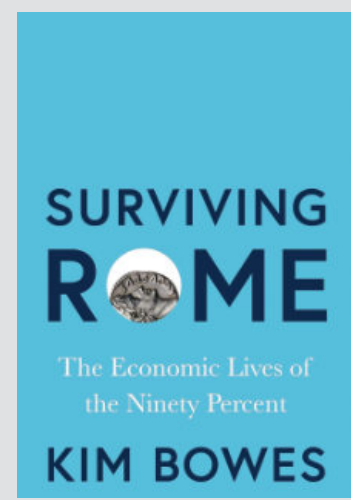
An urgent study of Homer's *Iliad*, exposing the beginnings of the ecological disaster we now face and facilitating our understanding of its history. The roots of today's environmental catastrophe run deep into humanity's past. Through this unprecedented reading of Homer's *Iliad*, the award-winning classicist Edith Hall examines how this foundational text both documents the environmental practices of the ancient Greeks and betrays an awareness of the dangers posed by the destruction of the natural landscape.



Bowes, Kim. *Surviving Rome: The Economic Lives of the Ninety Percent*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2025.

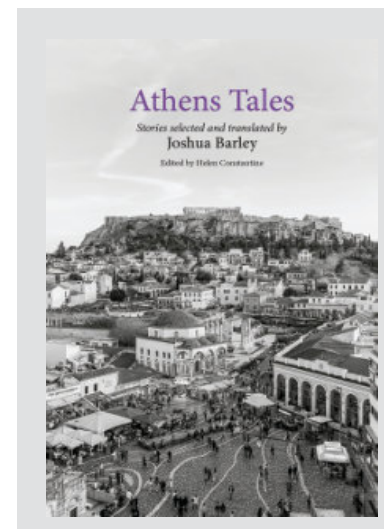
The story of ancient Rome is predominantly one of great men with great fortunes. *Surviving Rome* unearths another history, one of ordinary Romans, who worked with their hands and survived through a combination of grit and grinding labor.

Drawing on new archaeological and textual evidence, *Surviving Rome* presents a radical new perspective on the economy of ancient Rome while speaking to the challenges of today's laborers and gig workers surviving in an unforgiving global world.



Constantine, Helen, and Joshua Barley, eds. *Athens Tales*. Oxford: Oxford University Press,

Athens Tales is a portrait of Greece's capital through the city's own writers. Joshua Barley presents 18 short stories in English translation by various Greek authors from the 1890s to the present day. Through these stories, follow the history of Athens through its multiple transformations, from a small town in the nineteenth century to a sprawling modern metropolis. Observe the major events of Athens's recent history - from the effects of the 1923 Population Exchange with Turkey, to Nazi Occupation in World War Two, to post-war boom, to Economic Crisis - through a literary lens. *Athens Tales* explores a sample of different eras of Greek writing, from nineteenth-century realism to postmodern fiction to detective fiction, complete with a scholarly introduction, notes, and further reading.



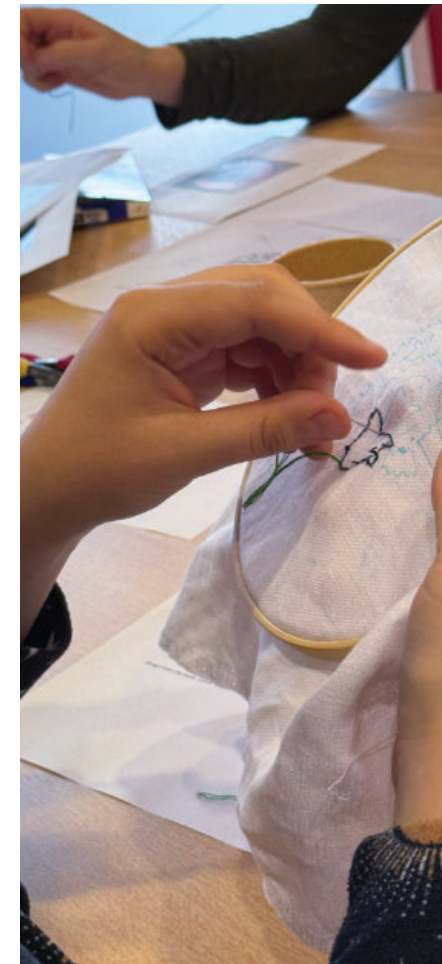
A Farewell to Lexikopoleio



Last February, we received news we had hoped never to hear: **Lexikopoleio**, our local bookstore that was a second home to so many readers, and close partner of the CYA Library, would be closing its doors. Lexikopoleio provided us with books, collaborated with us in running a successful English book club, and occasionally co-organized events with us. For the entire CYA community, it was a welcoming space for conversation and book discussions. Its people—**Odile, Diamantis, Yorgos, Pelagia,**

Evanthia, and Yannis—have become our friends and will be greatly missed as the team behind Lexikopoleio. Following this news, book club members reached out to the library to continue the club, now named "**Lexi**" to honor our beloved bookshop and keep its spirit alive. We meet once a month at the CYA Library to discuss a selected book, and since February, we have read *The Great Chimera* by M. Karagatsis, *Outline* by Rachel Cusk, and *I Who Have Never Known Men* by Jacqueline Harpman.

A Traditional Greek Embroidery Workshop



CYA library participated in the Spring semester's Wellness Week by offering a workshop titled *Relax and Stitch: Traditional Greek Embroidery*. During the workshop, students learned how to stitch a traditional pattern from the Dodecanese using a stitch that originates from the

same region. CYA Librarian, **Georgia Katsarou**, also showcased a selection of related books from the library, providing insights into the rich history and artistry of Greek embroidery. The workshop was followed by two additional sessions in which students learned two different stitches from Attica.



Library Fund



Historical archives and rare collections

The **Library Fund**, inaugurated a few months ago, has already made a meaningful impact. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have been able to purchase materials that will support the safe storage and long-term preservation of our historical archives and rare collections. These resources are an important investment in protecting and sustaining the rich history and unique materials entrusted to our care. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed to the fund and helped make this possible. We hope you'll help keep this important preservation work

going. Your support helps make sure these stories, places, and pieces of our history are protected for future generations.

For more information, please email **Eve Geroulis**, Director of Development at eve.geroulis@cyathens.org.



COOKING CLASSICS 101

RIZOGALO (RICE PUDDING)



Rizogalo is a traditional Greek rice pudding whose name means "rice milk." It is a creamy, mildly sweet dessert made by simmering short-grain rice with milk and sugar, often finished with cinnamon or citrus zest. A staple of Greek home cooking, it evokes childhood nostalgia and remains one of the most comforting sweets in Greek and Cypriot cuisine.

Ingredients:

1 liter water	180 gr granulated sugar
100 gr round grain rice	1/2 teaspoon(s) vanilla powder
Orange peels of 1 orange	60 gr corn starch
1 stick(s) cinnamon	1 pinch salt
1 liter whole milk	

Instructions

- In a pot, add the water, rice, orange peels, and cinnamon, and transfer to medium heat. Simmer for 20-25 minutes.
- Drain and set aside.
- Place the same pot over medium heat and add 700 gr of the milk, the sugar, and bring to a boil.
- In a bowl, add the rest of the milk, the vanilla powder, and the corn starch, and stir to dissolve the corn starch.
- Add the rice, the corn starch mixture, and the salt into the pot, and stir with a silicone spatula for 3-4 minutes until the mixture thickens.
- Remove the orange peels and the cinnamon, and divide the rice pudding into bowls. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate them to cool.
- It is consumed cold from the refrigerator with cinnamon or hot with fresh berries, orange zest, honey, and mint.

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 64 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. cyathens.org/giving/

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

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*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

Inscribed in Time

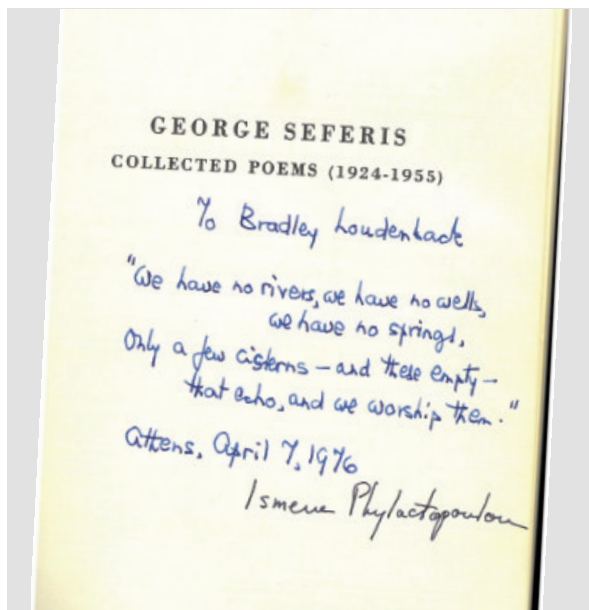
This spring, the library received a remarkable gift that offers a glimpse into the CYA's early years and the enduring impact of its founders.

In March, we were contacted by Mr. **Isaac Mankel**, who, despite having no direct connection to CYA, wished to donate a 1971 edition of *Collected Poems (1924-1955)* by **George Seferis** that he had in his possession. The volume contained a personal inscription signed by CYA founder **Ismene Phylactopoulou** and dated April 7, 1976. Dedicated to **Bradley Loudenback**, a student of the CYA Class of 1976, the inscription includes a handwritten excerpt from Seferis' poem *Mythistorema*.

Bradley Loudenback later became a professor of art and director of the Drawing and Illustration programs at Webster University. He passed away in 2018.

The book serves as a reminder of a distinctive aspect of CYA's early years. Through personal gestures, intellectual engagement, and exposure to Greek literature and culture, students were introduced to Hellenism in ways that were often subtle yet profound.

This book's significance extends beyond the inscription itself. According to **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, Executive Chair of the Board of



Trustees, while the signature belongs to **Ismene Phylactopoulou**, the handwriting is that of **George Phylactopoulos**, offering another small but telling example of how closely they worked together in shaping the CYA vision.

Now preserved in the CYA Library collection, the volume will be carefully safeguarded and showcased as part of our archival holdings, allowing current and future generations of students to engage with the early history of CYA.

From Student to Scholar

We were honored to welcome Dr. **Laetitia La Follette (FY '75)**, Professor of Ancient Greek and Roman Art at UMass Amherst, former President of the Archaeological Institute of America, and former CYA Trustee, to campus. Laetitia sat down for an inspiring conversation with the current students to share her incredible career journey.

Her path has taken her from discovering ancient Roman bath complexes to chairing an Art History department and investigating the nineteenth-century theft of marble portraits from a noble family. Laetitia also participated in the reunion of the class of '75.



Dr. Laetitia La Follette

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 20, 2026



MGSA Announces Michael Herzfeld as 2026 Keynote Speaker

The Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA) announced recently that **Michael Herzfeld** will deliver the keynote address at the 29th MGSA Symposium, to be held at the University of Illinois Chicago on October 17, 2026. An internationally renowned anthropologist and leading scholar of modern Greece, CYA Advisor Michael Herzfeld is Ernest E. Monrad Professor of the Social Sciences Emeritus in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University. A former president of the MGSA and editor of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, his distinguished career has shaped the fields of anthropology, heritage studies, and modern Greek studies for more than five decades. In 2021, he was named an honorary citizen of Greece in recognition of his contributions to the promotion of social science research on the country.



Michael Herzfeld

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