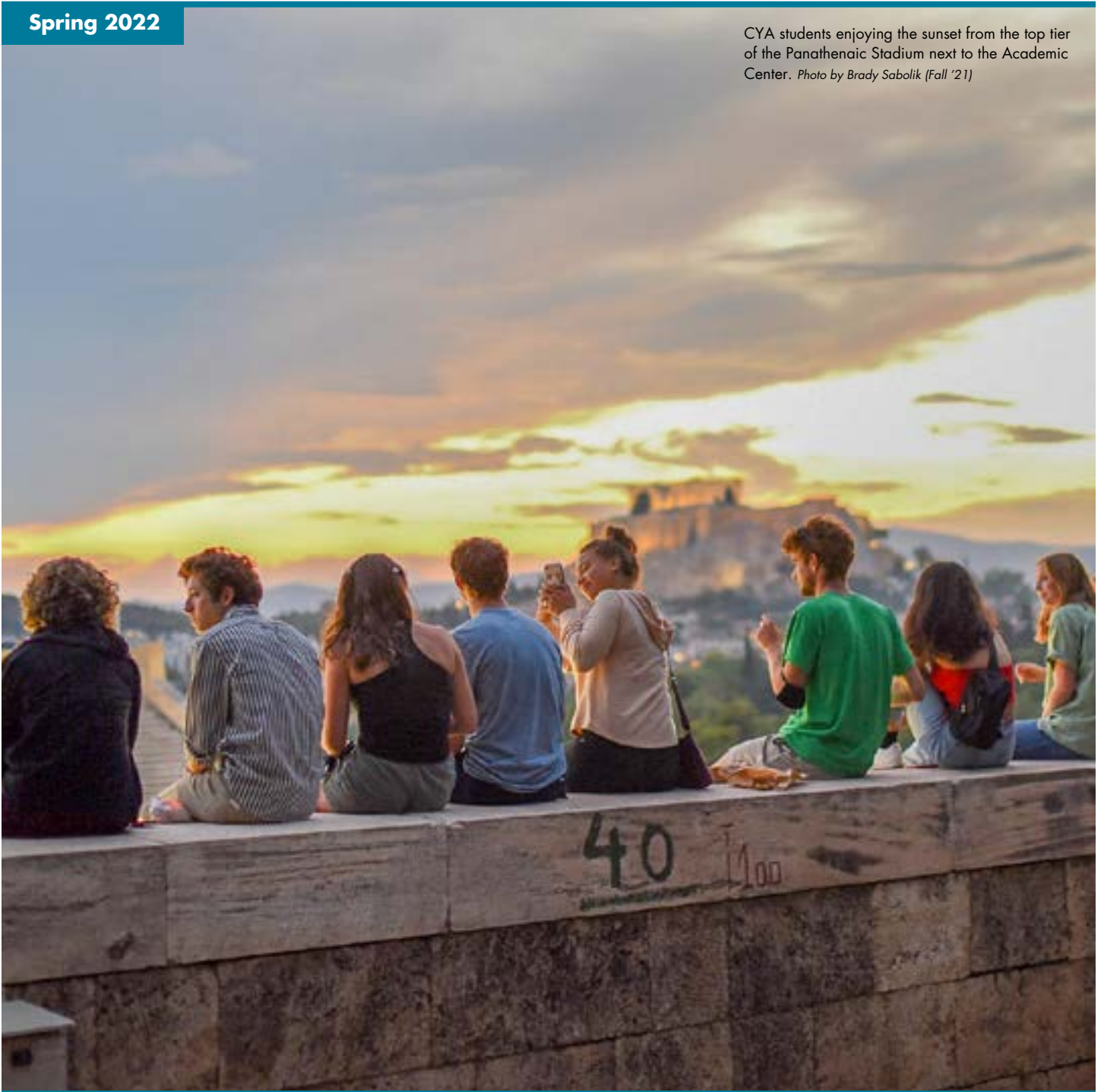


# THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

Spring 2022

CYA students enjoying the sunset from the top tier of the Panathenaic Stadium next to the Academic Center. Photo by Brady Sabolik (Fall '21)



5 PLATEIA STADIΟΥ, ATHENS, GREECE

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Spring 2022 was the first semester of the new normal. CYA is 85% back to its usual strength in enrollments and our summer school that starts in mid-May has over and above its usual numbers. As expected, students are coming back with zest to recapture the opportunities denied to them by the pandemic.

Faculty-led programs, the new widely practiced form of professor-assisted short duration educational experience, is showing numbers higher than the 2019 levels. The post pandemic student is eager to travel but is also unaccustomed to the demands of normal university work, where exams are not taken online, the student does not live at home, and learning disabilities have not been diagnosed clearly and documented. So while enrollments are back, the new normal is quite different from the old.

For Greece the new normal is that the economy is holding thanks to significant but perhaps overly generous stimulus support by the government. The energy crisis has not left Greece unaffected with inflation on the rise as elsewhere but the country is indeed taking its measures to improve storage capacity of LNG to counterbalance its 39% dependence on Russian gas. On the very positive side is a drop in unemployment, improved ratings by the credit agencies, and a huge increase of tourist income expected in 2022 with a record number of direct flights between Greece and the US. The strategic relationship between the two countries has never been stronger and a sign of this is the mid-May visit of the Greek PM to the US President and his appearance before a joint session of Congress.

The war in Ukraine, the first European war since CYA's creation 60 years ago, brings vividly to the forefront the realization that democracy and freedom are clearly connected to education. Our mission to educate young in tolerance, acceptance, and rule of law, implicit in democratic

government, are values that students understand and make their own by living and experiencing other cultures. The plight of the millions of Ukrainian refugees brings to mind the fact that CYA itself is indirectly a product of the refugee crisis connected with the Smyrna catastrophe of 1922.

CYA's founder, Ismene Phylactopoulou, a young girl of fifteen at that time, managed to survive and escape to Greece, find a scholarship to study in the US, and return to Greece as a teacher of Biology. Eventually the education that America offered her transformed her life in a way that led her to start CYA in 1962, forty years after her escape from burning Smyrna.

Our semester this time is also marked by the loss of three individuals, closely connected with CYA. We are deeply saddened by the passing at the age of 94 of **Edmund (Mike) Keeley** and equally distressed to lose **Odysseas Kyriacopoulos**. **Polyvios Vintiadis** was our third very significant loss.

Mike Keeley was a Professor of Comparative Literature at Princeton, a writer, a poet, a foremost translator of Greek poetry into English. His contribution to the appreciation of Greek poetry globally and the advancement of Greek studies was enormous. Mike was for many years a Trustee and finally a Trustee Emeritus, who lectured at CYA on Greek poetry and was a long-time friend.

Odysseas Kyriacopoulos, on the other hand, was a man of business, who had successfully managed a huge family mining enterprise and had guided it to its new phase as a company run by professionals. He was an innovator, and a shining leader in the Greek business world. Odysseas was a pillar of CYA governance, a Trustee for over a decade with keen interest in CYA affairs, and a significant benefactor.

Both Mike and Odysseas share some common traits: they were mentors and



role models to the young, and they were dedicated to the common good. Both were forever young, forever adolescents, full of love for life, enthusiastic of new ideas, ready to laugh, casting their youthful gaze on all of us.

Polyvios, an accomplished businessman, was a loyal member of the CYA community. He made a significant contribution to the governance of CYA as a Trustee for 21 years, Treasurer for 12 years, and Trustee Emeritus since 2010. Polyvios and his wife Regina were central in CYA's life as part of the Paros group where many Board meetings were held over the years; a sea lover, was the ultimate octopus catcher as many remember. Poly will be greatly missed for his energy, sound advice particularly in CYA's development plans, and his jovial and sociable spirit.

We are saddened by the loss of Mike, Odysseas, and Polyvios, because they were all great friends and supporters of CYA but above all, they were superb human beings that enriched our lives.

ALEXIS PHYLACTOPOULOS, *President*

**Deadline for submissions for the next OWL: September 1, 2022**

## CYA WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Brian Martens



CYA is delighted to welcome **Brian Martens** (CYA '08) to his new position within the CYA Community; this time as a member of the Board of Trustees. Brian is an old acquaintance of CYA: apart from being an alumnus, he has always been a loyal supporter throughout his education at Creighton, Oxford University, and now at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

Brian, currently Getty-American Council of Learned Societies Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Art, at Agora Excavations of the ASCSA, will prove valuable with his wide knowledge of archaeology in Greece. Brian is an archaeologist with interests in the art and visual cultures of the ancient Mediterranean basin, especially in the region of the Greek East. His research focuses on the making, trading, and display of figural sculpture. Brian is completing the book manuscript on the corpus of marble statuettes from the Athenian Agora, a site where he has supervised excavations since 2013.

CYA hosted Brian in 2008, as a Creighton undergraduate of Classical Languages and Art History. Brian received his DPhil and MPhil from Lincoln College, Oxford, with the support of a Clarendon Scholarship. His research has been funded by the Archaeological Institute of America, the Kress Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, and the Onassis Foundation. In 2018-19, he was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. From 2019-21 he taught classics and art history at Creighton University and we are looking forward to his work on his book, *Sculptors at Work in Roman Athens: Production, Trade, and Economics*.

#### Please note

Due to budget constraints because of COVID-19, CYA will not print the alumni newsletter this spring. We have every intention to resume print copies as soon as we can.

### Lena Papalexopoulou



CYA is delighted to welcome **Lena Papalexopoulou** as a member of the Board of Trustees of College Year in Athens. Lena's experience and input will prove extremely valuable to College Year in Athens.

Lena is the Vice-President of Desmos Non-Profit Foundation, a pioneering hub for charitable giving. During the last decade, Lena has devoted herself to serving the common good, focusing on education and engagement. A passionate believer in education's pivotal role in forging a better future, she conceived and co-implemented "I Care and Act", a visionary educational program that has already empowered 5% of students in Greece to become civic-minded, and has recently been adopted by the national Greek schooling system. She is an active collaborator of the Ministry of Education in Greece. Lena is a Member of Tufts University's International Board of Advisors, where she will assume the role of Chair, on January 1st, 2022. She is a member of Columbia University's CAA board, and President of Columbia Alumni Association, Greece. She is also a Member of the Owners' Forum for large family businesses, based in Berlin, Germany. In October 2019, she was appointed to "Repositioning Greece", a team that advises the Prime Minister of Greece on the country's image and strategic planning.

In the past, she has held positions of increasing responsibilities at the European Union, Merrill Lynch, Johnson & Johnson as well as Concept SA, where she served as President and CEO. She has also served on boards of companies, the Spanish-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, and the Greek National Federation of Retail Businesses. She has been a guest speaker in several schools, fora, and conferences. Initiated in Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, Lena holds a B.A. with honors in Economics and Business from Lafayette College, a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, and an Advanced Executive Management degree from IMD. She is fluent in four languages.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Robert Pitt** joined the CYA team in 2014 following seven years as Assistant Director of the British School at Athens. His teaching closely follows his joint ancient interests of Athenian topography and Epigraphy, with courses on the monuments and sites of Athens—long taught at CYA—as well as a new class that aims to demystify the study of Greek inscriptions, introducing students to a wide range of subjects illuminated by epigraphy, from shepherds' graffiti cut into the marble bedrock of Attica's hills to the great edicts and decrees of states, emperors and kings.

He has worked closely with the Dipyron Society for the Study of Ancient Topography, producing a translation of Anna-Maria Theodoraki's book, *The Ancient Circuit Walls of Athens* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020), helping with the related mobile app 'Walk the Wall Athens', which offers an interactive guide to those wanting to follow the ancient course of Athens' great fortification walls, searching out the visible preserved remains, as well as aiding in the publication online (with Brady Kiesling) of the late **Judith Binder's** magnum opus, *The Monuments and Sites of Athens: A Sourcebook*, herself a former CYA professor and grande dame of Athenian Topography.

Robert used the long pandemic lockdowns in Greece to work on two projects close to his heart. The first is a volume of the inscribed Athenian funerary monuments held at the British Museum, a corpus of 80 gravestones from the Archaic to Late Roman periods that include beautifully sculpted memorials, marble vessels and funerary columns inscribed with Greek epitaphs (with one Phoenician bilingual) and poems to the dead. It is being published this year as part of the Attic Inscriptions in the United Kingdom project, which aims to publish all Athenian inscriptions held in UK collections along with the fascinating stories of their acquisition by travelers, traders, diplomats and sailors from the 17th century onwards. The second is a book about an epigraphic manuscript that he discovered unpublished in the British Library by the renowned surgeon and bibliomaniac, Dr. Anthony Askew, who copied some 200 inscriptions during a voyage to Greece in 1748. The book will explore the wealth of previously unknown epigraphic material but will also put Askew's sojourn in Athens into the context of 18th century travel to Greece and examine the topography and inhabitants of the city that Askew mentions in his valuable notebook.

## IN MEMORIAM



Athens College.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Professor **Kimon Giocarinis**, who died peacefully at his home in Pangrati on Saturday 8 January 2022 at the age of 96. Kimon served CYA loyally from 1977 to 2005 as Director of Studies and for some years as instructor of Greek history. He had received his PhD in History from the University of Wisconsin and had taught at Hiram College before coming to CYA at the invitation of Mrs. Phyl who had known him as a student of hers at

A deeply educated man, known for his gentle manners, his culture, and his humor, he worked closely both with **Louis Cajoleas** and **Alexis Phylactopoulos**. Kimon and Alexis were particularly fond of each other and worked together on all CYA affairs including the relocation of the school from Kolonaki to two other locations and finally to its present premises next to the Kallimarmaro. Kimon was responsible for the first large diversification of the curriculum by the adoption of other courses outside the classical core of the program. Immediately after his retirement, he accepted the onerous task of writing a book on the first 45 years of CYA, which remains the basic reference source on CYA's formative period. To honor him CYA established in 2012 a scholarship in his name.

#### CYA Faculty member Steve Diamant wrote:

*For some reason, I find it difficult to write about one of the most valued colleagues of my professional life...Kimon Giocarinis. My tenure at CYA covered Kimon's whole tenure so perhaps I knew him as well as anyone. But what can I say that is not already well known? That he came to embody CYA in all the best senses...his kindness, his patience, his erudition and most of all his humanity...is something known to all of us. So perhaps the only thing left for me to say is how much I honor and appreciate the fact that I was able to work with and to know him for so many years.*

The CYA community will miss Kimon greatly. He is survived by his three daughters, Alike, Helen, and Io.



## MAKE A DONATION

Donate now—Help CYA continue to provide a unique and extraordinary study abroad experience. Donate [here](#)

### Mail

Make a gift by check—mail a check or money order to: College Year in Athens  
PO BOX 390890, Cambridge, MA 02109

### Wire Transfer\*

Bank of America, ABA 026009593  
100 Federal Street Boston, MA 02109  
Acct. 0000501-69735 (College Year in Athens, Inc.)  
\*Please notify [development@cyathens.org](mailto:development@cyathens.org) when you have made the transfer.

## ADDITIONAL WAYS TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO CYA

### Gifts of Stock

By transferring appreciated stock to College Year in Athens, 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 your 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 special person and give the incredible experience of College Year in Athens to an academically qualified student who would not otherwise attend.

### Recurring, Monthly Giving

This 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. Please take a moment to consider this easy way to be a part of CYA's exciting new opportunities to maintain and improve its world-class educational program.

### Amazon Smile

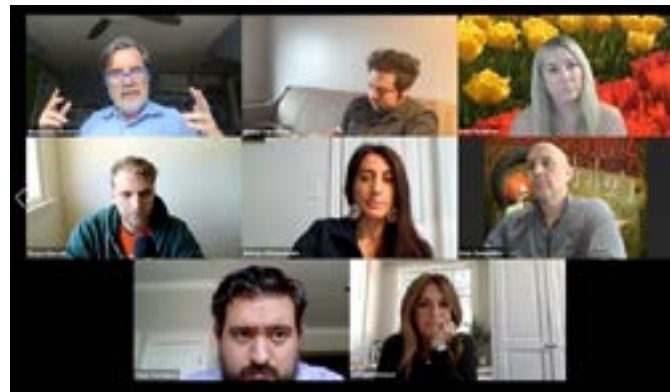
Thank you to our alumni and friends who used AMAZON SMILE for CYA donations. For those of you who want to know more, please visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

**CYA HELLENIC EXECUTIVE PROGRAM**

CYA recently completed its second educational seminar titled *Greece Enters the Twentieth Century*, taught by Professor **Alexander Kitroeff**. Offered November through December of 2021, the course focused on the political, cultural, and social changes that occurred from the 1860s to the 1920s describing, assessing, and explaining the transformation Greece experienced during this period. Fifteen executive students enrolled and participated in this six-session seminar, many of which were return students and alumni.

A third seminar on Modern Greek History is being offered in the spring since many of the participants requested that we continue this program. This third course, titled *Greece & the Challenges of Europeanization: 1936-2021*, serves as a continuation of the two first sessions offered in spring 2021, *The Emergence of the Modern Greek State*, and fall 2021, *Greece Enters the Twentieth Century*. This six-session virtual seminar examines Greece's history from the mid-twentieth century to the present, an era when world and European trends along with geopolitical developments in Eastern Mediterranean shaped Greek society's evolution domestically. Professor Kitroeff has turned out to be a perfect match for the executive program.

[Link to Video Preview](#)



**IN MEMORIAM**

CYA lost three individuals closely connected with CYA this spring. They were valued members of the CYA community. Read more in the Letter from the President on page 1.

**Edmund (Mike) Keeley** taught at CYA in the 60s, was a Trustee for 9 years, and remained as a Trustee Emeritus. Mike Keeley's contribution to Hellenic Studies in the US was enormous. You can read more [here](#)

**Odysseas Kyriacopoulos** was a Trustee for over a decade with keen interest in CYA affairs, and a significant benefactor. You can read more about Odysseas [here](#)

**Polyvios Vintiadis**, an accomplished businessman, was a loyal member of the CYA community. He made a significant contribution to the governance of CYA as a Trustee for 21 years, Treasurer for 12 years, and Trustee Emeritus since 2010. Learn more about Polyvios [here](#)

**NADIA MELINIOTIS RETIRES**

**Nadia Meliniotis**, Executive Director of Student Affairs, retired this January after 32 years with CYA. Nadia oversaw all aspects of Student Affairs at CYA and grew the role over the course of her tenure. She dedicated her time focusing on the interpersonal, social, cultural, emotional, spiritual, recreational, and health aspects of students' welfare. She also coordinated internships, volunteer work and homestays. Nadia established relationships with over 75 local organizations and thanks to her efforts, CYA students have been volunteering, working and participating in work and activities that have impacted their CYA experience in many ways.

Nadia attended the German High School in Athens and earned a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. She received her master's degree in Counseling Education/Education-Special Emphasis at La Verne University (Athens branch).

As CYA President, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, pointed out: "Even though they say that nobody is irreplaceable, Nadia is a difficult act to follow. She will be missed tremendously by students, faculty, and staff. We all wish Nadia good health and happiness as she moves forward in life."

**Several alumni, faculty, staff and colleagues had wonderful things to say about Nadia. Here are just a few:**

Thank you for your tremendous dedication to CYA! You were so welcoming and helpful to me during my time in Athens. You created a home away from home for all of the students while we were abroad. I am deeply grateful for your service and so fortunate to know you!

*Ciara Fernandez Faber, Fall '05*

We will all miss you tremendously! A mother figure for all students, with genuine love for all students!

*Despina Iosif, CYA faculty*

Congratulations on your retirement! You were an amazing part of my study abroad experience and I'll never forget all of the opportunities you provided us.

*Ian O'Shaughnessy, Fall '18*

It has been 30 years since I was in Athens, so I understand logically that it is time for your retirement but wow! You brought so much light and heart to each of us and were the embodiment of Greek hospitality. My time at CYA was life changing and I am grateful to you for all the love and energy that you put into your 32 years. Best wishes for many joyous and healthy years ahead.

*Kelly McCutcheon Adams, Spring '92*

Dear Nadia,

I only met you in person once, when I visited CYA but the work and support you gave to our students was evident even before I came to Greece to see it in person. The experiences outside the classroom that you oversaw and the friendly helpfulness you offered made for some of the best study abroad opportunities for our students. Union College is forever grateful to you for all you did during your career at CYA. Best of luck on the next adventure your life brings!

*Lara Atkins, Union College*

**CYA VOLUNTEER WORK: COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INTERNSHIPS**

**Nadia Meliniotis** has spent 32 years establishing connections with nonprofits and organizations in Athens. The result has been an amazing variety of volunteer/internship and community service options for CYA students.

As you read the list below, bear in mind that volunteerism allows students an entirely deeper experience of living and studying in Greece. And it is vital. CYA made it a priority, Nadia made it a reality.

Volunteering enhances the students' study abroad experience. It allows them to immerse themselves in Greek culture and to learn about local communities in Athens. Through volunteering the students are able to expand on the knowledge they receive in the classroom and gain valuable experience that they remember for the rest of their lives.

You can learn more about some of our opportunities [here](#)



**CYA has collaborations with over eighty not for profit organizations**

- A long history in volunteer work / community service.
- The volunteer network was established in 1990.

**Benefits of volunteering:**

- Builds bonds, creates friends, minimizes loneliness
- Helps maintain good mental health
- Improves self-esteem, confidence, feelings of self-worth
- Increases socializing
- Opens the volunteer up to better job prospects

**NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S)**

Praxis	Caritas Hellas
Amurtel	Social Value
Archipelagos 2nd Hand Shop	Embracing Social Responsibility
Arsis	Diogenis
To Petagma (The flight)	Shedia
DESMOS	Social Hackers Academy
Helping Hands	Color Youth
Welcommon	Rainbow School
Home Project	Friends of the Child
KHORA	Faros
Orange House	Action Aid
Doctors of the World (MdM)	Amnesty International
Doctors without Borders	Melissa Network for Women
Missionaries of Charity	Metadras
Greek Forum of Immigrants	One Child One World
Pampiraki	Solidarity Now
Salvation Army	The Greek Food Bank
The Steps	

## ANCIENT AND MODERN

CYA Trustee **Alex Moissis** honored the memory of his colleague, **Brian Baker '74**, who became a Philhellene thanks to a great Greek woman, **Ismene Phylactopoulou**, Founder of College Year in Athens, which has been cultivating Philhellenes for sixty years!

I remember when he died; it was in the Spring of 1998, around the time when the legendary modern Greek politician Constantine Karamanlis also passed away.

I also remember the time when we first met; my colleague and I had lunch together three years earlier at the brasserie Philosophe, near the Grand Arch of La Défense in Paris. He had just been hired at Business Objects, our business software start-up company which was headquartered nearby. Prompted by the restaurant's name, I was pleased to discover that my new work colleague was familiar with Greek philosophy, something relatively unusual for an American from the state of Indiana.

After our lunch that sunny day, we walked to the Grand Arch and sat on its steps with a view to the center of Paris.

The surroundings there are impressive, but also depressing. Cement and glass everywhere, without a tree in sight. The ground buzzed as city busses passed in an underground tunnel under the stairs where we sat; lower still was the metro station. The place is reminiscent of a movie by Jacques Tati, the French director who satirized the modern, cement-covered, and automated world of the late 1950s. Glass skyscrapers rose around us with the offices of our young company's multinational clients.

We worked in a highly competitive field under great daily pressure, in a company with sales that had shot through the roof. Nevertheless, Brian and I would always find an occasion to talk about Greek myths and about the picturesque locations where these myths took place. Our daily lunch with other colleagues was full of jokes and laughter, a much-needed break from the office's high stress levels.



The Grand Arch of La Défense west of Paris and the view of cement and glass from its staircase.

### Mrs. Phyl

"You know," he said to me that first time while we sat on the stairs of the Grand Arch of La Défense, "I spent a semester studying in Greece in the Spring of 1974 as a student of Indiana's DePaw university. While I was there, I witnessed that year's historic events right before the fall of the Colonels' Dictatorship, the Junta."

"Where did you study?" I asked. "I attended a program called CYA, College Year in Athens", he replied.

I was already familiar with the program, which brings college students from the US to Greece each year. It had been created by **Ismene Phylactopoulou** (1907-1983), the grandmother of family friends Nicho and Marina Hatsopoulos. Ismene and her husband George were also legends as former teachers at my high school, Athens College. My brother and I had visited their house near Athens many times to play with their grandchildren when they came to visit from Boston. At the Phylactopoulos house, I also met some of the first CYA students; the school was founded in 1962.

"You knew Mrs. Phyl?" Brian asked. He was very surprised and almost teared up with emotion. That's how students called the school's founder, "Mrs. Phyl."

"I had an unforgettable time in Greece then," he added.

My new colleague and I would often find time to chat. I also met Myriam, his French wife, and their two young children, Nathanael and Meredith (both married now I am told).

In 1997, I returned to the States and to Silicon Valley to support our company's



Ismene Phylactopoulou, the founder of College Year in Athens.

expansion in the Americas. Our theme song when we started our American campaign was *The Conquest of Paradise* by Greek composer Vangelis (Papathanassiou), from the movie *1492* (about the voyage of Christopher Columbus). That's how we viewed our mission then, a mission that was successful thanks in part to Brian's contribution.

### A Philhellene in Life and in Death



I traveled often from California to Paris at the time and so would see Brian frequently. On one of those trips, he revealed to me that he had been struck by cancer. He

had started chemotherapy at the nearby American hospital in Neuilly, had lost his hair, but continued to come to the office, always with a smile. After all, he was familiar with the philosophy texts of the Stoics and fought his battle with patience and determination.

In early 1998 I heard that he had been hospitalized. "I spoke to him the other day," said one colleague on a call from Paris. "He was as friendly as always on the phone, but also tried to prepare me very gently for the possibility that he might die."

The tragic call arrived a few days later: Brian Baker had passed away at the age of 44. I cried. An urgent message from Paris followed. Before leaving us, dear Brian asked for the music of Mikis Theodorakis to be played at his memorial service. The internet was not as developed then as it is today, so I immediately dispatched a cassette tape with the great Greek composer's songs.

*Ancient and Modern, continues on page 14*

## FACULTY MEETING

The first faculty meeting of the 2021-22 academic year took place on 13 September outdoors due to the ongoing pandemic. CYA president Alexis Phylactopoulos welcomed the faculty and administration on the rooftop of the Academic Center, overlooking the Panathenaic Stadium and the Acropolis.



## PROMETHEUS BOUND

Thirty three CYA students studying Myth and Religion had an incredible experience last night attending a production of Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound* at the ancient theater of Herodes Atticus together with Classics professor **Nina Papathanasopoulou**. The students were also fortunate to briefly talk and take photos with Aris Biniaris, the play's innovative director, and Yannis Stankoglou, the actor who played Prometheus, after the show.



## CYA VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

CYA continues occasionally to invite speakers, experts in their fields and related to CYA to hold virtual lectures for the benefit of our alumni and friends.

Our latest lecture held on 10 November and given by former CYA Trustee and CYA alumnus of the class of 1971, **Jack Hermansen**, discussed personal names and the history of name recognition technology. The research has proven to be of great importance as it has ultimately made the world a safer place.



Jack Hermansen '71, an IBM Distinguished Engineer (ret.), one of 400 in the world, and a respected authority in the specialized area of name recognition, began a fascinating account of the field of Name Recognition and his professional relationship with it. His career started in 1984 when, while working on his doctorate at Georgetown University, he was asked to write a requirements analysis for improving the U.S. Department of State's automated capabilities for checking visa applicants' names against its list of personae non-gratae. The technologies developed by Hermansen's company quickly became attractive, and in 2006 they were acquired by IBM.

In his lecture, Hermansen continued to describe the rapid development of the field, which happened through fascinating problem-solving, regarding the complex variations in spelling and pronunciation of names. "Name recognition technology can be instrumental, of course, in discovering fraud and malfeasance, but it is also beneficial for improving marketing, customer relations, and privacy protection." Through informational slides with specific examples and diagrams, Hermansen provided an insight into the field and told the story of breakthroughs. Perhaps one of the most exciting moments was his Automated Name Reference library analysis, which gives quick information about an entered name by analyzing it against statistics from a repository of over 800 million names!

CYA has offered a total of 18 virtual lectures since we began offering them in June of 2020.



## VALENTINE TALLAND

**Valentine Talland** '80 Art Conservator; Professional Associate of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC); Co-Founder and President of Movement Arts Creation Studio Inc. (MACS); Chair of the Foundation Board of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design

"Like most CYA students, I was captivated by living in Athens and traveling around Greece. Both the organized group CYA trips and the opportunity to travel with friends on the weekends are, in many ways, the experiences I value most in preparing me for future work as a site conservator and for a life-long love of travel. I also had great professors at CYA. I remember the atmosphere was stimulating and supportive; that combination empowered me to grow in confidence as a scholar and a young adult." The professors that made the most impact on Talland's experience in Greece were **Mimika Dimitra** and **Tessa Dinsmoor**.

## On College Life, Business, and Career

## Where did you go to school?

I studied Classics at Colby College (81). While at CYA (1979-80), I took classes in classical language, art history, archaeology, and modern Greek. From Colby, I went to Indiana University to study classical languages and archaeology. I arrived on campus just as the new I. M. Pei Art Museum was opening, and its galleries were being installed. I worked there as a curatorial assistant in the Department of Ancient Art—the CYA classes and site visits were ideal preparation for that position. As a curatorial assistant, I met the museum's objects and paintings conservators, who worked in beautiful, state-of-the-art conservation labs. It didn't take me long to realize that I was very interested in the conservators' focus on methods and materials of manufacturing art and archaeological objects. As soon as I received my MA in classical languages and archaeology, I pivoted to completing coursework in chemistry, studio art, and art history to apply to graduate programs in art conservation. At the same time, I interned with the conservators at the Indiana University Art Museum. I studied Art Conservation at the Cooperstown Program (now the Buffalo State Garman Department of Art Conservation) and Harvard University.

## Did you know what you wanted to study and focus on academically?

No—as is pretty clear from the above description of my roving education. However, I think that for those of us who don't have a clear passion at an early age for a specific career, it is the constellation of experiences, mentors, and chance encounters that can conspire to reveal what we find interesting. It takes some patience, but the result can be extremely rewarding. I have really loved my career in art conservation, finding it consistently interesting and challenging and affording me countless opportunities to develop new skills and collaborate with fascinating people.

## What is something at CYA that you absolutely loved being a part of?

As a Classics student, I arrived at CYA (as I'm sure is true for many others) with a predisposition in favor of antiquity and a Greece that existed primarily in literature. I was immediately engaged by contemporary Greece and the historical and political events that shaped a country that balanced the interface of Asia and Europe for millennia. I loved learning a little about contemporary Greece and the Greeks.

Also, coming from a remote setting like Colby's, I loved being in cosmopolitan Athens. It was exciting to be surrounded by great museums and busy galleries representing international artists; there were also the occasional invitations to events at the American and British Embassies that always felt very sophisticated. CYA students lived in Kolonaki at that time, so there were also periodic celebrity sightings.

## Tell us about the success of your company.

Increasingly, working with living artists is a feature I treasure most about being an art conservator. I have consulted with artists interested in the preservability and compatibility of their materials and working practices. The challenge for me is to be informative but not interfere with the creative process. This work has led to collaborations that I value deeply.

I also serve(d) on the boards of several arts-focused non-profit organizations. Through these experiences, I've gained insight into the fragility of an arts ecosystem that relies substantially on private philanthropy, as is the case in the US. This fragility has been particularly dire for performing artists, whose earned revenue (through ticket sales, residencies, teaching, etc.) has been critically undermined by the COVID pandemic.



Valentine Talland with her husband, Nagesh Mahanthappa

In response, in 2020, I co-founded the Movement Arts Creation Studio (MACS), a non-profit (501c3) incubator committed to supporting and augmenting the creation of original work by dance, circus, and movement artists in the Boston area. Movement arts rely significantly on large studio spaces and peer/company artists to realize research, rehearsal, and performance. These requirements present financial and operational burdens, especially to emerging and mid-career movement artists to develop and advance their work. MACS seeks to lessen these burdens by providing accessible, affordable studio space and financial support through grants and consultancy expertise. Historically, funding for dance in Boston has been hierarchical, favoring large-company ballet over other genres. MACS is dedicated to advancing breadth among movement arts genres, engaging peer experts in the review process. I invite you to find more information about MACS at [www.movearts.org](http://www.movearts.org).

## On the CYA Experience

*You spent a full year with College Year in Athens in 1979-80. Did the CYA experience have any impact on your career development?*

The education and insight from studying at CYA were critical to my professional education and career development. Most of my career has been as a conservator in fine arts museums, serving twenty-seven years at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Conservation is a science-oriented

discipline practiced best by a combination of academic rigor and creative problem-solving. The CYA curricula certainly developed that combination of skills.

More specific to the topics studied at CYA, as a conservation student and young conservator, I continued to work with antiquities on-site at various excavations, including Olympia and Ashkelon; and I worked with a European team of conservators and scientists to study pollution-generated degradation products found on marble and limestone monuments in Italy. Having subject expertise in ancient art history and archaeology was extremely valuable for that work.

## Personal

## Who have been your strongest influences in life?

Danäe Thimme was my strongest professional influence. She was the first conservator who took a chance on me, and she was a brilliant mentor and became a beloved friend.

My family has provided me with valuable influence. My mother has remained for 93 years genuinely interested in (and very knowledgeable about) everything, and she finds joy in that curiosity. My sister has intentionally and inadvertently challenged me to do and be better at any endeavor. My husband and daughter teach me that the best mind is an open one, and they are never stingy to reward me when I get that lesson right.

## What are you most proud of accomplishing?

It should not be construed as my accomplishment, but I am proud to have worked with students, interns, fellows, and others who have become admirable art conservators.

## What's your favorite inspirational quote and why?

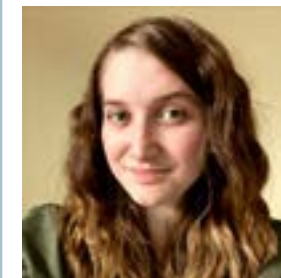
I write this at a time when we are all stunned and consumed by the news about the war in Ukraine, so this quote is not necessarily my favorite, but one that is on my mind.

"Nations reel and stagger on their way; they make hideous mistakes; they commit frightful wrongs; they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable."

*W. E. B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction in America (1935)*

## NEW TEAM MEMBERS AT CYA'S NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE

**Rachael Bittick**  
Student Advisor



**Rachael Bittick** (Fall '17) joined the NAO team in May 2021. Her study abroad experience with CYA was not only life-changing on a personal level, but also on a professional one! After graduating from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, she dove headfirst into exploring Student Affairs within the field of Higher Education. She loved working in International Education when she served as a CYA Campus Relations Rep in fall 2019 and is thrilled to be back in the CYA family. She works primarily with accepted students as they prepare to embark on their study abroad adventure with CYA! Rachael's favorite moments as a Student Advisor for CYA are when she gets to see or hear students' excitement and passion during the pre-departure process, and when those same students return with new perspectives and stories to share with her!

**Marisa Hopwood**  
Social Media Coordinator



**Marisa Hopwood**, who graduated from Smith College with a BA in English Language and Literature and a minor in Film and Media Studies, joined the NAO team in November 2021. Marisa spent the first few years of her career working in the entertainment industry before switching to academics. Studying abroad at Queen Mary University of London was one of Marisa's most transformative college experiences, and it created a passion for the union of travel and higher education. Marisa is thrilled to bring her social media talents to her role and to help spread the word about CYA!

A monthly online book club for CYA alumni!

JOIN US JUNE 20 @ 8PM EST AS WE DISCUSS:

**A Recipe for Daphne**  
by Nektaria Anastasiadou

CYA College Year in Athens  
**ALUMNI BOOK CLUB** For more information, email: [ALUMNI@CYATHENS.ORG](mailto:ALUMNI@CYATHENS.ORG)

Fall 2021 students enjoyed a variety of activities and events throughout the semester.

**October 3, 2021** This past week, students learned how to make *spanikopita* (spinach pie), *gigandes* (giant beans), and *tzatziki* at cooking class!



**October 7, 2021** Students in “Americans and the Greek Revolution” recently visited the National Gallery of Athens with instructor Alexander Kitroeff, getting up close to art influenced by the Greek War of Independence.



**October 25, 2021** A field trip to a museum by the sea sounds great to us! This weekend students in our *The Art and Craft of Curating: Making Sense of Art in the 21st Century* course visited *The Greek Gift* exhibition at the Deste Foundation Project Space where they received a detailed tour about the ins and outs of the exhibition’s curatorial processes.



**November 4, 2021** This week, CYA students are in the Peloponnese exploring ancient sites like Mycenae and the picturesque town of Nafplio as well as Epidauros, Sparta, and Olympia.



**November 15, 2021** Student life in Athens includes many exciting opportunities. This weekend, several CYAers took the chance to participate in the historic Athens Authentic Marathon or the accompanying 10k and 5k races.



**October 21, 2021** For many who visit Greece, Piraeus is just the port of Athens, but for students in Professor Tousi’s *Global Cities: The Case of the Port of Piraeus*, this part of the city becomes the textbook. Students spend class days dissecting the key roles of urban and regional planning and visiting sites throughout Piraeus including social housing, brownfields, and new developments.



**November 18, 2021** CYA students took a trip to a local football match with their *Sociology of Dissent* class recently with Professor Rosa Vasilaki! During the match, they observed the social and political aspects of football and, in particular, the way football fan clubs are vehicles for local and national politics and the way football fans form their own dissenting identities and image of the self.



**November 22, 2021** Students have many opportunities to volunteer while studying with CYA. Recently, a group of students spent their day volunteering at the Diomedes Botanical Gardens in Athens, helping tend to the gardens and keep the space looking great for the many visitors who come to learn and enjoy the peaceful green environment.

### ATHENS BECAME OUR STAGE

*Exploring the City through Theater and Performance.*

When I was looking at classes to register for before coming to Athens, I was trying to think a little more about my intentions this semester. I really wanted to try things out and take classes that would, first, be different from what I had taken before at my home institution, and second, would allow me to learn, hands-on, about Athens and its culture. I have always held performing arts close to my heart. Coming from a very artistic background, it was heartbreaking to figure out at an early age that I would never be a musical genius like my father, but it was amazing to find my place on the stage through other mediums. Theater, then, became my secret best friend that I would confide in when I needed an escape. I never pursued theater academically beyond an introductory course. Taking a class about something I love and am so intrigued by sounded idyllic, especially in this city that I was certain I would grow to love and was extremely curious about.

From the first day I walked into the classroom for *Performing (in) Athens: Exploring the City through Theatre and Performance*, I knew I would be getting the experience I needed from the class. Professor **Athena Stourna's** cheerful disposition and creative spirit were aligned perfectly with the content of the class, and I knew she would encourage us to think outside the box. Athena Stourna is scenographer, theater maker, and researcher whose practice spans across multiple themes. As artistic director of the multinational Olympus Theater Company, she has created many national and international productions. With her guidance, Athens became our stage. From street performances to video assignments, during this semester we have used our voices and our bodies to learn about this city and I've loved it.

Learning outside of the classroom has been a priority since day one. On the very first day of class, we explored our neighborhood and adjacent areas and were encouraged to take it all in, imagine ourselves as part of the city because we now were. During the earlier months of this semester, we had most of our classes outside, and because of this, we were able to take sunny Athens in for as long as we could. But one of the most amazing things about this class was



At Hadrian's Arch



*Orestes at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus*

how many opportunities we had to actually enjoy the vibrant Athens theater scene. From ancient theater plays on ancient stages to performances about contemporary topics on urban and refurbished industrial spaces, we have been lucky enough to see it all.

We were extremely happy to watch live performances and explore Athens through its rich cultural life. Our class watched an array of shows in different types of venues around town: *Paisajes para no colorear*, a documentary play, in which nine adolescent girls from Chile spoke out about the violence against women, at the Peiraios 260 Theatre, the Ancient Greek tragedy *Orestes* by Euripides at the Roman open-air Herodion Theatre, the concert *Axion Esti* at the Greek National Opera and the dance-theatre performance *Van Gogh – Chalepas*, at the old Hotel Bageion, at Omonoia Square. We also had the chance to meet, walk and talk with performance artists Mariana Kúttulas-Vrsalovi, Alexandros Mistriotis, and Alexandros Vamvoukos, who shared their experience of living and working in the arts sector in Greece.

One of the most memorable was *Orestes*, at one of the last showings of the Odeon of Herodes Atticus before it closed for the season. Being there felt magical, first because of the imponent nature of the space. I could not really wrap my head around the reality of where I was. I mean, there I was, sitting in a theater initially built approximately 1,860 years ago, watching a play written approximately 2000 years ago. Even writing these words down gives me chills, how certain pieces and spaces change and transform but are successful in surviving the test of time. I remember thinking, sitting there trying to make out the words of this play (which was in Greek), that this was the closest we had been to immortality. I also recall getting home and being impressed by how much this performance transcended cultures and language barriers thanks to the beauty of the space and the versatility of movements from the actors.

This class has been culturally enriching, has pushed me to think creatively, has shown me Athens from all its corners, has introduced me to incredibly artistic minds, and last, but definitely not least, has been so much fun!

*Daniella Castillo Vasquez, Fall 2021 student & MediaLab Intern*

### UNDERSTANDING GREEK CULTURE THROUGH CYA RELIGION COURSES

When arriving in Greece, CYA students come in contact with an unknown social and cultural landscape. Throughout their studies here, they take classes and partake in cultural activities that help them unravel the fabric of Greek culture and learn to recognize different identities and their origins.

One of the subject areas that play an important role in this process is Religion. CYA offers the class *The Religions of the Middle East: A Comparative Approach* every Fall Semester and *The Orthodox Church* every Spring Semester. Both, taught by CYA Professor **Despina Iosif**, are a catalyst in understanding the context, beliefs, and dynamics that contributed so much to the formation of Greek Identity.

"Something I didn't know is how high a percentage of the country has been Greek Orthodox, and the big part it plays in the national identity, and I think it's been really great coming from America to learn about that different culture" *Fall 2021 Student*

*The Religions of the Middle East: A Comparative Approach* focuses on the three monotheistic religions of the Middle East: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Monotheism is the shared theological orientation of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam that often embraces almost every aspect of the private and the public life of their followers. Students of this class examine main teachings and simultaneously explore how these teachings manage to affect the everyday lives of their followers. Additionally, students learn about the ways in which Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have constructed their distinctive meanings, compare them, and note the similarities and the debts to each other.

The Orthodox Church offers students a journey into the Orthodox Church, the largest of the Eastern Christian Churches. Students explore its history, faith, liturgy, and spirituality, based on lectures, readings, audio-visual presentations, discussion, and personal experience. Special emphasis is given to primary sources since tradition is greatly valued by the Orthodox Church. Students are invited to explore how Orthodoxy is lived and practiced in Greece and are expected to submit their own observations and reflections throughout the course.

*Understanding Greek Culture, continues on page 19*



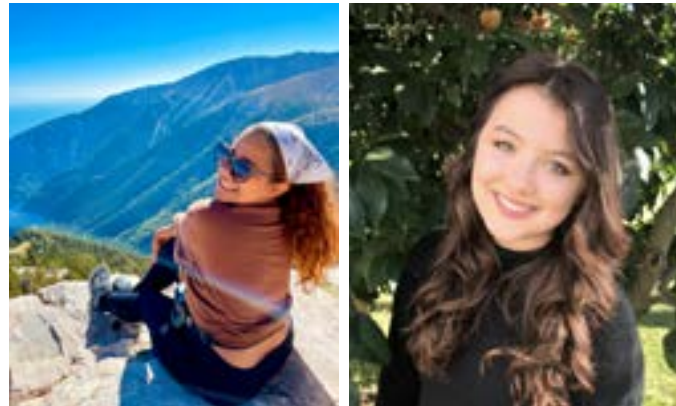


## INTRODUCING: CYA MEDIA LAB INTERNS OF FALL 2021!

Every semester, the Media Lab is happy to gain two new collaborators! This past fall, our interns were **Daniella Castillo Vasquez** and **Annabeth Briley!**

Γεια σας! My name is **Daniella Castillo Vasquez** and I am a Senior at Brandeis University double majoring in Psychology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Aside from my academic interests, I am very passionate about creativity and the arts, especially photography and writing. In my free time, I write about my life and my adventures in my personal blog, focusing on what I do and learn in new environments and with new people. Because of this, I am very thankful and excited to be a part of the CYA Media Lab Team this semester. I look forward to exploring this wonderful city and country, getting to know amazing people, continuing to live new experiences, and especially sharing it all with you!

Hi! My name is **Annabeth Briley**, and I am a junior at the University of Notre Dame majoring in History and Classics. I am a writer for my university's magazine and am currently working on a blog about my time here abroad in Athens as well as volunteering with a local magazine here in Greece. I am so excited to be participating in this media lab internship and to learn more about social media theory and practices as well as capture my and other students' experiences here for the CYA social media sites!



Daniella Castillo Vasquez

Annabeth Briley

*Ancient and Modern, continued from page 6*

I will never forget that experience. Not only because of the memory of the colleague and his untimely death, but also because it showed me how philhellenes are made in our days. Brian had grown up in the States and was a resident of France. He had been sensitized from a young age to the American-English culture and then to the French culture, both of which he appreciated. Nevertheless, to accompany him to his resting place, he chose the music of the great Greek composer whom we mourned recently.

### A 60-year Crop of Philhellenes

Such was the influence of **Ismene**, "Mrs. Phyl," and of **George Phylactopoulos** in Brian's life. Their contribution to the creation of modern philhellenes is invaluable. It is a mission that their successors at the program continue today under the guidance of their son Alexis.

## ALUMNI BOOK CLUB

The Alumni Book Club has continued meeting this year. **Elizabeth Skingga '84** leads the discussions and this year's books are an assortment of very interesting reads.

Jan 2022: *Twice a Stranger*, by Bruce Clark

Feb 2022: *The Thread*, by Victoria Hislop

March 2022: *Rebetiko*, by David Prudhomme and *Road to Rembetika*, by Gail Holst

April 2022: *Something Will Happen, You'll See*, by Christos Ikonomou (transl. by Karen Emmerich) and *Facing Athens*, by George Sarrinikolaou.

If you are interested in participating, please email Erica Huffman '93, CYA's Director of Alumni Relations, at [alumni@cyathens.org](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org).



As **Alexis Phylactopoulos** said recently in a newspaper interview: "Our job is to show them how a deeper knowledge of history, of philosophy, of language, and of humanities in general, coupled with the understanding of the culture of other peoples will make them adaptable to different conditions and ways of life. This will help them to successfully face adversities: from pandemics to job changes in their careers, decisions related to their personal life and to the selection of the politicians who will govern them. More than anything else, it will help them to envision and to create their own future."

Each time I see photographs with CYA students, I recognize the philhellenes of tomorrow.

In 2022, the College Year in Athens program will celebrate its 60 years with an alumni reunion in Athens. Brian Baker will be with them there in spirit.

## COOKING CORNER

### GREEK BRIAM, A VERSATILE VEGAN DISH

By *Angela Kouvara, Student Affairs Advisor*

#### Ingredients:

3 medium potatoes, sliced in rounds about 1/8 inch thick

2-3 medium-size zucchini, sliced in rounds about 1/4 inch thick

2 medium eggplants, diced in chunks

2 carrots, sliced in rounds about 1/8 inch thick

1 large or 2 smaller red onions, sliced thin

2-3 cloves of garlic – minced or sliced thin

1/2 tsp dried oregano

1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

1 can (15 oz) crushed tomatoes

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil

3/4 cup water

Salt and pepper to taste

Feta cheese to be served on the side or for sprinkling once cooked (optional)

#### Preparation:

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Put all ingredients except the water into a large baking tray and mix thoroughly until vegetables are covered well. Add the water to the tray carefully so that it does not wash out the sauce from the veggies.

Cover tray loosely with aluminum foil so that it does not touch the vegetables and bake for 45 minutes or until potatoes are cooked and all vegetables are softened.

Uncover and cook for additional 30-40 minutes to develop color and allow the edges of the topmost vegetables to get browned.

Once ready, drizzle extra olive oil over the top, and serve as a main dish with a sprinkling or a side of feta cheese and plenty of fresh crusty bread. Briam can also be served as a side dish for roasted meat or baked fish.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FEBRUARY 2022

In this issue the librarian recommends electronic books and archives about Greece and the Greek civilization that are freely available on the Internet.

### The Museum Cycle by John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation

An electronic library with high quality publications about a variety of Greek archaeological sites and museums. Among them one can find eBooks about Mycenae, Kerameikos, The Archaeological Museum of Olympia, The National Archaeological Museum and others.

<https://www.latsis-foundation.org/eng/e-library>

### The Digital Collection of the Cavafy Archive

C.P. Cavafy collected and archived his work on a systematic basis, hence creating a unique literary and personal archive. The Cavafy Archive consists of manuscripts of poems, hand-complied printed editions, prose literary works, articles, studies and notes by the poet. The digital collection invites you to discover all of the above, along with C.P. Cavafy's personal archive, rich in correspondence, texts and photographs.

<https://cavafy.onassis.org/>

### Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation P.C. Laskaridis Digital Library

The P.C. Laskaridis Digital Library is one of the most important and complete collections of travel and historical literature of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Greek world in general. It counts in total over 3,000 items and treasures publications from the late 15th century to the early 20th century.

The Digital Library currently includes 31 books which are unique samples of the period and are being digitized for the first time.

<http://www.laskaridisfoundation.org/en/psifiaki-vivliothiki-p-c-laskaridis/>

## CYA ALUMNAE RETURN TO GREECE

By Mo Carpenter, '71

Four CYA alumnae returned to Greece this past September and October to joyfully relive some adventures and visit places they all love. **Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge** (from Indiana), **Sharon Miller Bishop** and **Maureen McCloud Carpenter** (from California) with a short dinner with **Steven Schultz** (California) and **Christina Brenhouse Seremetis** enjoyed what could be called "reunion of sorts" this past covid year.

In early September, Maureen and another Hellenophile from California, **Karen Weston** flew to Athens where they met with Connie Nordhielm and Sandy Leggit (California friend) to stay in a delightful top floor apartment in Kolonaki. They started their round with: Benaki Museum, Lycabettus, Cycladic Museum, with dinner at a fabulous place called Restaurant 49, which sat in the same spot as our beloved Je Reviens. We revisited the Acropolis with a fantastic guide (who had worked on the excavations for the new Acropolis Museum) who added SO MUCH to our tour. Something we had never done...we visited the Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum.... what a hoot. Some of their exhibits were incredible, and while we bought NOTHING, we all had a fabulous time.

Connie had never visited the rooftop bar at the Grand Bretagne, so we all dolled up and went up for drinks, and stayed for dinner....another delightful evening. We then sadly left our apartment and boarded a flight to Kefalonia, where we rented a car and eventually made it to our 1890 family home in Fiscardo....an adorable village right on the water, and the house came with its own yaya....the original owner of the house....we all fell in love with her. Kelfalonia is a mountainous wooded island with lovely beaches, delightful villages and "cenote-like" lakes....plus great tavernas and incredible food. The water and swimming were lovely and we had a ball driving all over the island with great views and fantastic drops off the edges of the roads. We then drove to Sami and took the ferry to Ithaki staying in Vathy in a two-story house overlooking the fantastic historical port and town. We drove on every single road the island had checking beaches and tavernas and shopping. Christina Brenhouse lovingly known as Tootsie has a house on the island, but sadly had just left for the season....but we think we found it anyway in our walks around town.

We had to fly back to Athens to meet Steven Schultz and Christina for dinner in a lovely restaurant in Piraeus. We all gathered and of course talked the evening away til it was time to board our ferry to Crete. OMG did I say ferry? DO NOT

THINK this is the ferry we all remember.... no it's like the "love boat", the Princess Cruise...it's so upscale and fancy I couldn't believe it. There was NO deck class, where in 1970 we all hung out and talked for hours, including talking to Mr. Herzfeld about our classes and our grades and what did he think of us, and what did we think of him...ha. Nope...there is no deck class, but a fabulous bar inside where we did imbibe a drink or three. We then left for our room...no bunk beds...but two lovely twins with an amazing bathroom. Men helped get your luggage into the rooms, and then in the morning helped you again. We arrived at the same old time in Heraklion and found our rent a car right at the port.

Meanwhile Steven Schultz proceeded to follow the original reunion plans he had developed and stayed at Skopelos (loved the island and his rental!!) and returned to the mainland to visit some villages in the Peloponnese.

We proceeded to drive to Chania, and found our delightful home on the main street in old town....no cars, just lovely homes and shops gently moving up a hill in the historic section of Chania. Everything in Chania was wonderful....the food, the shops and museums, so much so we did not want to leave, and our house was incredible with bathrooms out of House

Beautiful. Just walking the streets was entertaining and we never got tired walking fifty feet to the best *bougatsas* in town. Connie had enjoyed her three weeks traveling and it was time for her to return home, in the meantime Sharon Miller was flying in from Germany and we managed to all get together for a dinner in Heraklion.... we then left Connie at her hotel next to the airport, and whisked Sharon back to Chania where we tried to visit the most beautiful beach on Crete....we only saw it from a distance since the road itself was so congested and seeing what was ahead.... hundreds of cars, buses etc. we quickly turned around and found ourself a lovely deserted beach that we really enjoyed. We did manage a visit to Souda Bay War cemetery to the World War II veterans....I was looking for J.D.S. Pendlebury, and thanks to a simple book of letters and numbers, we did manage to find it, and sadly see all those young men buried in a truly lovely spot. We then moved on to Sitia where we rested nightly at the pool. I desperately tried to drive into Agios Nikolaos (once my favorite spot....no more) but got madly lost...incredible...even with the GPS I was helpless and MAD!!!! What had become of one of the most lovely, prettiest villages in Crete....gone. I could barely recognize

Kritsa where we once had a dinner right down the main street....again lost.... couldn't even find the street. But luckily we went to see Kato Zakros and lovely Gournia, and Mochlos and Malia....all looking better than ever.

At Knossos we again got a guide who was truly in tune with us and managed to keep us ahead of the crowds that were arriving. Onward to Phaistos, Agia Triada, so after about two weeks on Crete it was time for us to break up. Sharon returned home as did Sandy, and Karen and I continued with the ferry to Amorgos. There we rented a Cycladic house and toured the main city at Chora....but the main reason for the visit is the outrageous monastery Panaghia Hozoriotissa....eight stories high, five meters wide, clinging onto the steepest hillside ever....there we talked with a "wanna be" monk...what a character....he liked women way too much to be a monk. But the monastery took your breath away. We then took the ferry to Astypalea where Nick Bromell had rented his very Greek house with a fabulous view of the harbor and town below. We were up high where a series of windmills were refurbished along a small road filled with excellent places to eat. Off the edge of town, we discovered

an "infant cemetery" the only one know in the world. You can still see the excavations of some 3,700 burials, mostly in pithoi of tiny infants and small children, mostly all under one year old. These children came from across the Mediterranean, as far away as Lebanon and truly a unique and unusual site....so many questions, with the excavations continuing this coming summer.

We then flew back to Athens, spent two days in a favorite...Hotel Mariana in Naplion to relax and have the best gelato in Greece. From there back to Athens, and the flight home. While we all worried about covid ....we ALL were totally impressed how the Greeks were handling the situation, and how careful and determined they were to keep everyone safe. No one was allowed to enter any shop restaurant, museum etc. without a mask, and with sites and museums you needed to show your vaccination forms. We spent a total of six weeks and could have easily stayed longer. Covid testing for your return flight was everywhere, simple, and free. The Greeks have everything under control, and according to some shop owners they were having the best summer season in years. Greece is still WONDERFUL and we can't wait to get back.



L-R: Christina, Connie, Mo and Steven at a restaurant in Piraeus; Mo, Sandy and Connie visiting the theater at the Minoan site Aptera; Mo and Sharon at Gournia



Left: The Monastery in Amorgos (Panaghia Hozoriotissa)  
Above: Sharon and Connie up front with Karen and Sandy in the back at a restaurant in Heraklion.

**Jessica Lynn Tilley** (Spring '16) has been accepted to the American School of Classical Studies with a fellowship for the 2022-23 year program.

**Jenna Weatherwax** ('19) has published a book: *The Promise of Lightning*.

"Finding your soulmate should be easy. At least, when the Goddess Aphrodite is involved—but Vanessa Reyes' life seems more Greek Tragedy than Happily Ever After. When a supposed clerical error turns the moment Vanessa has spent all her life waiting for into a nightmare instead of a dream-come-true, she finds herself in an unprecedented situation. With two soulmates instead of one; Alexander, Vanessa and Theo are forced to question everything they ever wanted and where they truly belong. After all, can you really be whole with only half of your soul?"

**Endy Zemenides** ('95)

A lawyer with a BA from DePaul University, an MA from the University of Essex in the UK and a JD from the Georgetown University Law Center Endy practiced in Chicago for more than a decade and is now the Executive Director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC). He was awarded the "Commander of the Order of the Phoenix", by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. [More information here](#)

**Katherine Fleming** (Spring '88) has taken over as president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Belief, which consists of the J. Paul Getty Museum (the umbrella group for the Getty Heart in Brentwood and the Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades) in addition to the grant-issuing Getty Basis, the Getty Analysis Institute and the Getty Conservation Institute. Fleming is a scholar of Mediterranean history, religion and culture and has served as NYU's chief academic officer since 2016.

[Read more here.](#) Additionally, Dr. Fleming was awarded the Commander of the Order of Beneficence Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis for her work as an accomplished academic leader and an internationally recognized scholar with a passion for Greece. [Learn more here.](#)



**Steven Schultz** ('71) returned to Greece for a long visit during the fall of 2021; we were lucky enough to host him for an afternoon. We got to show him around CYA's facilities, enjoy lunch in the Dining Hall and spend some time reminiscing. Here Steve is pictured with CYA Student Affairs Advisor, **Jennifer Holland** '99, and CYA's Development Officer, **Vassilis Simopoulos**.

The CYA class of 1970-71 is greatly saddened by the death of our dear classmate **Hilary Roe Metternich**. She passed away on February 5, 2022. Our heartbreak was repeated with the death of her husband Cornelius Metternich two weeks later. After spending the 1970-71 year at CYA, Hilary returned to Scripps College in Claremont, California to graduate. Following graduation, she traveled to Cairo, Egypt to study Islamic Art and Architecture at the American University completing her MA degree. She continued her studies at the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning at Columbia University resulting in a position as East Africa Director for an Egyptian consulting firm.

It was at a dinner party in Cairo that she met German diplomat Cornelius Metternich. They were married in the cathedral in Mogadishu, Somalia where he had been posted. Hilary spent the next twenty years accompanying Cornelius to various diplomatic postings. While in Mongolia, Hilary researched and published her book *Mongolian Folktales*. She invested many hours working on her father Richard Paul Roe's book *The Shakespeare Guide to Italy: Retracing the Bard's Unknown Travels*. Her father amazingly used the Italian plays as his only "compass" to determine the exact locations of every scene set in Italy. Both Shakespearean actors, Sir Derek Jacobi and Michael York have highly recommended it for its unique journey into Shakespeare. In later years, Hilary and her husband divided their time between a farm house in the south of France and city life in Pasadena, California. Marvelously witty, with a wonderful sense of humor, Hilary was adored by so many members of our class.



Hilary Roe Metternich (center)



*Understanding Greek Culture, continued from page 13*

"Something that's really interesting is how applicable religion was throughout history. Understanding Greek Orthodox Christianity not only gave us a better idea about modern Greek society, but historically too, we got to understand why these major shifts in Greek culture happened." *Fall 2021 student*

When we asked Fall 2021 students about their favorite aspects of this class, their first answer was 'The Professor!' **Despina Iosif** is a historian of the Graeco-Roman world with a special interest in the history of religion. She received a BA in History and Archaeology and an MA in Ancient History from the University of Crete and a PhD in

Early Christianity from University College London. She conducted her post-doc on Late Antiquity at the University of Thessaly and research on Monotheism at the Fondation Hardt in Geneva. Iosif is always remembered by students for her energetic style and her interactive teaching methods.

"She teaches in a very passionate way, it's very easy for us to stay focused, she is very knowledgeable. We also have a lot of debates in the class and she stays neutral and lets us bounce ideas off of each other" *Fall 2021 students*

Dr. Iosif courses at CYA are *The Orthodox Church* and *The Religions of the Middle East: A Comparative Approach*.



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

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