

# THE OWL

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

Fall 2021

Farewell dinner for Spring '21 students at the garden of CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos. The students presented him with a Greek flag bearing their signatures and personal messages.



5 PLATEIA STADIΟΥ, ATHENS, GREECE



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I want to open this letter with a heartfelt word of gratitude to all those alumni, Trustees, friends of CYA, who have expressed in one way or another their support to the school during this difficult period and thanks to the support of the Greek and US governments, which provided us with loans on very favorable terms, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

If anyone had doubts that CYA has resilience, the new phase it is entering now should dispel these doubts. We are happy to be hosting 140 students this fall semester, expecting more than 30 for the winter term in January, and another 140 or so in the spring. Additionally, a good number of bespoken faculty-led programs are planning to come to us in the spring and early summer. Our summer school will have 12 courses in two sessions and the number of students applying is rising. CYA is now holding all its courses in person and conducting its field study and optional trips according to plan.

As predicted, now that the Covid vaccine is available, the pent-up desire of college students to travel and learn about other cultures is reviving study abroad and CYA is getting its share of the student interest for travel. The pandemic is not over and it will probably continue to be with us for a rather long time. Societies are learning to live with what remains of Covid-19 and schools, as well as study abroad institutions, will have to do the same.

During the time of uncertainty and continuous change caused by Covid-19, the school remained robust and resourceful: new courses and programs are on the table: a Gap Year for students out of high school and before college, and a post-Bac program for classics students that are looking for a refinement of their skills after college and before graduate school. Our Virtual Internship Program is gaining ground and so is CYA's adult Executive Program on

Greek history that CYA is co-sponsoring with HALC (Hellenic American Leadership Council); a number of CYA alumni are attending this fascinating adventure into modern Greek history with Professor Alexander Kitroeff.

At the same time, CYA remained on top of many other challenges. First, the need to secure more student housing in our area, Pangrati, in order to meet higher student enrollment, at a time when Airbnb is sweeping up most of what exists; secondly, the increasing demand for mental health support to our students; thirdly, the pressing need to strengthen the diversity of our student body so that CYA can become more inclusive.

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) is one of the focal points of American education today. Pre-Covid US statistics show that about 70% of study abroad students are female and white and only 11% are Latino, 9% Pacific, 6% African-American, and 4% multi-racial.

We have appointed one of our professors, Aimee Placas, as CYA's Advisor on DEI Initiatives, and her first task was to run a survey of recent years' alumni and current students about their experiences at CYA and in Greece, with suggestions of what could be improved in terms of inclusion and diversity. On these issues, CYA is holding training sessions for staff and faculty.

It is in the same vein that we are offering a summer course in 2022 to study the connection of classics to black history. Anika Prather, a well-known professor of classics at Howard University, which as we know discontinued its department of classics, has accepted our invitation to offer this course and hopefully bring a group of Howard University students to CYA. We consider this to be not just a symbolic gesture but a serious initiative towards strengthening the threatened field of classics as well as the diversity of the CYA student body.



College Year in Athens always remains in tune with the society in which it operates. Greece of today is no longer the homogenous society of the 60's when CYA was born. It is now multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and racially diverse, an element that gives a new dynamism to Athens, in particular. One of Greece's present-day heroes and a worldwide figure in sports is Giannis Antetokounmpo, who along with his brother Thanasis, are products of this intercultural diversity. Giannis, a young man born in Greece to Nigerian immigrant parents, grew and learned how to play basketball in Sepolia, a racially colorful but underprivileged Athenian neighborhood, had the chance to mention this to President Biden when he was honored recently at the White House with other members of the Milwaukee Bucks.

It is in this environment that our students spend a college year or semester in Athens these days, living in a country that manages huge strides in the fourth industrial revolution, while no longer homogenous, but with an enviable degree of community cohesion.

ALEXIS PHYLACTOPOULOS, *President*

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



CYA is announcing the retirement of three of its longest-serving faculty members this year. As our alumni and friends know, exceptional faculty has been the foundation of CYA's success. Through their teaching, interaction with students, and contribution to the academic excellence, they have helped CYA flourish and succeed. These faculty particularly, have given decades to CYA. If you would like to send a note to any of these faculty members, please click [here](#). We will send the messages on to faculty at the end of December.

**STEVE DIAMANT**

**Steve Diamant**, who joined CYA the fall of 1976, has taught nearly 200 semester or summer courses and instructed over 3000 students in his 45 years at CYA, ranging from introductory Art and Archaeology to Aegean Archaeology and The City-State in Greek History, along with independent study in more advanced topics such as Settlement Patterns in the Brauron Valley. Steve also taught summer courses and led many student trips on the study travel portions of the CYA semester experience.



Steve Diamant

"When I met Steve, he was the first person I'd encountered as a young adult who shared with me a connection (for him by marriage) to a remote and beautiful part of Ireland in Strangford Lough, where my family comes from and where I spent much of my childhood. It was a little strange and wonderful to discover we had this in common in the first magical weeks of my year in Athens."

*Valentine Talland, '79-'80*

"You're one of John Fischer's boys!" said Professor Steve Diamant when I introduced myself to him on the first day of my first CYA class, Greek Art and Archaeology, in August, 1981. "Sh-t!" I thought. "He's gonna hold me to some high standard." And he did. To this day I thank him for doing so.

I thank him when I recall him remarking that I should put the camera away and really see, absorb, enjoy the sights and sounds. "It's those pictures in your head that you take with your eyes that will last forever," he said. He was right. So I left the camera in the apartment and soaked it all in like a sponge.

I say thanks to him when I wander the Plaka, Lycabettos, Santorini, Crete, the Peloponnese, Nafplion, Corinth, Thessaloniki, Aegina, without a plan, just to see and eat and speak Greek and absorb.

I thank him when I remember following him around the Acropolis, the Athenian Agora, Delphi, the temple at Sounion, the ancient Theatre of Asclepius at Epidaurus, the Lion Gate at Mycenae, the Temple of Aphaia at Aegina, Monastiraki. I thank him when, on all my visits back to Greece since, I toured my companions (or sometimes a few complete strangers) around those sites just as he toured me. I explain in detail, as he showed me, how the Parthenon actually has no straight lines, everything is not quite as it first appears, in order to make it appear as it does.

I thank him for spending hours leading me around the National Museum and the Benaki Museum and the old "shed" which was the original Acropolis Museum, and I say "thanks" when I spend more hours at new museums such as the Museum of Cycladic Art. When I stand on the glass floor of the new Acropolis Museum beneath some of the original marble sculptures (and the spaces where the missing ones will someday be placed) and gaze out the window at the Parthenon above, I thank him. I've provided random tours of the Pnyx, which was the subject of my final report for Professor Diamant's CYA class (and for which I got my first and only "A" from him!) during which I proudly shared details about how it was the center of Athenian democracy, just as I'd studied and learned from Professor Diamant.

As I circumnavigated the Parthenon dozens of times, I never failed to recount to people the happiest time of my life—when Professor Diamant took us INTO that beautiful temple, where only a special few could go, to show us the heart of what we study. I thanked him when I bought my daughter, Cassandra, to Greece to visit all the places Professor Diamant showed me and all the places I'd wandered because of him. And I thanked him when I made her promise to take my ashes and sprinkle bits of them all around these ancient sites after I'm gone (including a few INSIDE the Parthenon). So then I'll never have to leave.

Thank you, Professor Diamant, for holding me to the standard that enabled me to have all this!"

*Scott Dreher, '80-'81*

"I had Professor Diamant for two courses, Art and Archaeology and The History of Ancient Greece, and learned more about Greece from him in a semester than I did in my other three and half years of university. Through the years we kept in intermittent touch—I'd occasionally email to wish him Merry Christmas or ask whether Athens truly was going to shutter most of its periptera—though over the past several years we've become much closer, and I consider him a friend. He has given me two of life's most precious gifts: knowledge and friendship."

*Adam Fletcher, S '03*

**MARINETTA PAPAHIMONA**

Thousands of CYA alumni have had the pleasure of taking Modern Greek with **Marinetta Papahimona**, who taught not only the language but also the culture of Greece. Students of hers were treated to dinners at her house and lots of animated class meetings. Marinetta joined CYA in 1981 and is retiring after 40 years at CYA.



Marinetta Papahimona

"Who better as an ambassador for Greece and the CYA experience than Marinetta? Her enthusiasm for teaching and the warmth she brought to her students in both their academic and social lives while in Greece were an indelible part of the experience for me. I'll never forget how clear she was about what really mattered and how she did her inimitable best to cultivate in me a regard for the joy of life, telling me once, for example, how perfectionism was a kind of illness that needed to be cured (or words to that effect). Or, to take another example, when, in the middle of Modern Greek class—which was being disturbed by some young cherub singing a discordant tune into the well of the building's atrium—she shouted for him to cease because we were trying to have class (and because he couldn't sing well anyway), and the boy responded "Όχι, τραγουδάω!" The plain and simple lesson: this is the Greek way: express yourself and your passion, and if someone doesn't like it, so what? Life goes on! Marinetta, thank you for everything you have done all these decades to bring the experience of Greece to life for generations of American college students. You are an international treasure."

*Dave Morehouse, '88-'89*

"I was lucky to have Marinetta for both semesters of Modern Greek in 89-90, but her class was so much more than just conversation and grammar. She constantly introduced us to culture, arts and food! I have the clearest memory of our class going to see a play at the Herod Atticus in September of '89, then wandering back through Plaka close to midnight and sitting down at a taverna with her afterwards. She seemed to know everyone who walked by, including neighbors, cats and eventually her daughter showed up to chat with us too. One of the best ways to experience Athens beyond what most tourists see. I still have my copy of Ellinika Tora."

*Steve Gratwick, '89-'90*

"Marinetta Papahimona was my Modern Greek professor in Spring 2003. Hers was my first modern language course (I had been a Latin and Ancient Greek student), and I recall enjoying those evenings we spent practicing Greek. She was always welcome, patient, and helpful whenever I asked how to say a certain word or phrase.

**A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT PHYLACTOPOULOS**

CYA's strength is its faculty, who are dedicated instructors, excellent scholars, and researchers. They are introducing our young college students to the world of Greece, ancient and modern, guiding them in their field study and ensuring that their study abroad at CYA is a unique academic experience.

In my 34 years at the helm of CYA, I have had the privilege to work with many such colleagues, some of whom have been with our school longer than I have. The three professors who have retired this year, **Steve Diamant, Marinetta Papahimona**, and **Anne Stewart**, stand out because they are leaving behind a

legacy of excellence and of many years of tireless contribution. All three are wonderful individuals and mentors to our younger instructors in archaeology, art, and modern Greek. They have taught thousands of CYA students during their long service at the school. To me personally they are close friends and associates to whom I have often turned for their wise input.

Steve's, Marinetta's, and Anne's retirement leaves CYA not poorer but academically stronger; its shining academic reputation owes a lot to these three great teachers.

*Alexis Phylactopoulos, CYA President*

I also recall how toward the end of my semester, I became really glum—I didn't want to leave Greece, after all. Marinetta, who must have sensed my unhappiness, gave me some wonderful advice the last time I ever saw her, on my way out of the building for the last time: "Always be happy."

*Adam Fletcher, S '03*

**ANNE STEWART**

**Anne Stewart** is retiring after 30 years at CYA. Anne has taught over 115 semester courses at CYA, ranging from introductory Art and Archaeology to Greek Sculpture and has also directed independent study projects on advanced topics in Greek Religion and Archaeology.



Anne Stewart

"Ancient Greek Sculpture was a highlight of my semester with CYA. Anne Stewart's deep knowledge and enthusiasm, shared during our many field trips to museums around the city, are still vibrant in my memories of Athens. When I've returned to those museums in years since, when I come across sculptures we studied in class, I feel a genuine excitement, connection, and gratitude. Anne Stewart made me feel at home in the halls of Greek sculpture, and I wish her all the best in her retirement."

*With a big hug from Indiana, Ariana Gunderson, S '13*

"We were at Delphi and following what was a most informative and compelling tour of the Museum—typical of Anne, Anne and I (and our respective student groups) made our way to the site. When we reached the temple of Apollo, we encountered a group of polytheists that were there, chanting and offering libations to Apollo; Needless to say, all the students and I were awestruck and slightly perplexed by the sight; when I glanced over at Anne, she just turned to me and said " You know, they are doing it all wrong", and then proceeded to tell and show the polytheists how to perform a proper libation to the ancient Gods; Quintessential Anne...."

*John Karavas, CYA Faculty*

*If you would like to honor one of these educators with a donation to CYA, please click [here](#).*



## CYA TURNS FOCUS ON DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION

CYA continues its significant effort to focus on issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Study abroad is challenging for everybody, but it can bring extra difficulties for students from underrepresented or structurally disadvantaged groups. Greece, like all countries, has its own history when it comes to ethnic/racial/national diversity, gender equality, LGBTQI+ inclusion, religious diversity, and disability awareness and accommodation. Additionally, study abroad may be different for students who have economic need, are ESL students, or who are first-generation college students.

How can we make sure that all students at CYA are supported and included? How can we bring the CYA experience to more students from underrepresented groups? How can CYA be better involved with the hard work on social justice that students in both the US and Greece are bringing to their educational institutions?

Through a multi-faceted plan of action, CYA aims to get better answers to those questions. This year the efforts included a research project on the experiences of our recent alums and students on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) concerns, conducted this spring by CYA Anthropology professor **Aimee Placas**. CYAers were incredibly generous with their insights and experiences and, thanks to their input, changes are already underway.

One of the first implementations of this valuable research took place on the 28th of June: a workshop for all members of the CYA staff and administration, conducted by Aimee Placas. The workshop explained and analyzed DEI issues, focusing on the viewpoint of CYA alumni and students, with an overview of the critical discussions currently happening in the US on these topics.

The workshop was an interactive opportunity to learn, deconstruct and analyze important concepts like structural racism and implicit bias. Members of the CYA staff shared experiences and agreed on ways to move forward that appropriately address the issues discussed.

As CYA's efforts continue, there is already a new orientation session taking place upon the first week of students' arrival in Athens, aimed to inform students on Greece's current situation regarding DEI issues and provide space for support and further conversation regarding those issues.

### Please note

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

## DELPHI ECONOMIC FORUM



On May 13, 2021, CYA President **Alexis Phylactopoulos** participated in the Delphi Economic Forum taking place at the Zappeion Megaron in a hybrid format. His session was entitled *Re-imagining education in the post-Covid era*, where he discussed issues such as the digital revolution; the synergy of humanities with technology; the changes that Covid had brought to education by introducing new methods and ways of teaching; and the importance of study abroad for Greece. The moderator of this session was journalist Makis Provatas.

## FALL FLIGHT AWARD!

Thanks to a generous donation by CYA Trustee, **Yiannis Monovoukas**, ten students attending Fall '21 at CYA were awarded flight scholarships to help offset the cost of their roundtrip travel to Greece. All CYA Fall semester '21 students were eligible to apply. The recipients were selected on various criteria, mainly on their financial need (family income), along with a review of their admission application.

The ten students came from the following schools and were each awarded \$1,000.

Brandeis University	Pepperdine University
Connecticut College	Rollins College
Furman University	The University of Notre Dame
Kenyon College	The University of Southern California
Macalester College	

CYA is grateful to Mr. Monovoukas for providing this vital assistance which was especially helpful during these challenging times.

## IN MEMORIAM | STEPHEN MILLER



CYA was saddened to hear of the passing of **Stephen G. Miller**, Professor of Classical Archaeology Emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley, former Director of Excavations at Ancient Nemea, and Advisor Emeritus of College Year in Athens.

Miller served as Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens 1982-1987. He became Director of excavations at Nemea in 1971, which brought to light the sanctuary of Zeus and the ancient stadium. In 1994 he founded the Society for the Revival of the Nemean Games where some former students and friends of CYA competed in years past.

Stephen was responsible for several scholarly books and articles. He was awarded honorary Greek citizenship in 2005. In the past Stephen taught a course in Ancient Sports at CYA and he has always been a friend and supporter of CYA in its mission. He is survived by his wife Effie.

*CYA Professor John Karavas had this to say:* What I recall is that he was always open, welcoming and generous to my group of students, willing to go the extra length in taking us around the site of Nemea and engage our students in meaningful discussions about ancient sports. I should say that his scholarly work remains at the very forefront of our discipline; however, what I should stress is that his major contribution was mostly towards augmenting public awareness on the subject: he always did a great job in engaging the local community and make it feel connected to the site, made the site experiential for the wider



Stephen Miller on site with CYA students at Nemea in 2016

public through the revival of the games he established, and as such found the way to make ancient sports alive and relevant for participants around the world. I think that he certainly deserves much credit in that respect.

## MICHAEL HERZFELD AWARDED HONORARY GREEK CITIZENSHIP

On July 8, 2021, the official Greek government gazette (no. 3014) announced that by Decree of the President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellariopoulou, signed on July 5, 2021, **Michael Herzfeld** (member of CYA's board of advisors and a former member of CYA's faculty; Ernest E. Monrad Research Professor of the Social Sciences in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University) was awarded honorary Greek citizenship. The citation describes Herzfeld as "among the internationally leading social scientists who have contributed to, but during the second half of the 20th century have also played a catalytic role in, the fulfillment of two high aims: (a) the incorporation of Greece as an object of systematic research in the field of Anthropology and more generally in the theoretical debates among the scholarly communities of the Social Sciences and (b) the development and consolidation of the field of Modern Greek Studies in the U.S.A., but also in Britain, Canada, and Australia during the past 40 years." Herzfeld officially became an honorary citizen of Greece at a ceremony in Athens on July 12, 2021.

A month later, on August 24, he was also made an honorary citizen of the village of Zoniana Milopotamou on Crete where he has been conducting research intermittently since 1974. Zoniana is one of the two main sites discussed in his latest book, *Subversive Archaeism: Troubling Traditionalists and the Politics of National Heritage*, to be published by Duke University Press in December.



Michael Herzfeld by the artist Tifina Chalmatzi

## MEDALS AWARDED

On the occasion of Philhellenism and International Solidarity Day, the President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellariopoulou on April 19 honored three distinguished American archaeologists for their contribution to the study and promotion of Greek culture and civilization.

She awarded the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix medals to CYA Advisor **Jack L. Davis** and CYA Trustee Emeritus **Charles K Williams**, the Director Emeritus of the excavation at Ancient Corinth run by American School of Classical Studies in Athens. Sharon R Stocker, another renowned archaeologist was also awarded a medal.



Photo from The American School of Classical Studies at Athens



## VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

After a series of fascinating virtual lectures last fall, CYA renewed its Virtual Lecture Series for the spring season.

### CYA Virtual Lecture Series | Session 13 Reflections on 1821



On Wednesday March 3, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence, the Consulate General of Greece in Boston and College Year in Athens co-hosted a celebratory lecture, under the auspices of the Embassy of Greece in Washington.

We had the pleasure of welcoming as our speaker, **Mark Mazower**, Ira D. Wallach Professor of History at Columbia, who had a fascinating conversation on *Reflections on 1821*, with discussant **Nicolas Prevelakis**, Assistant Director of Curricular Development at the Center for Hellenic Studies at Harvard University. The lecture opened with remarks by the Ambassador of Greece to the US, H.E. Alexandra Papadopoulou, who thanked CYA for this initiative and expressed her admiration for the guest speaker's exceptional work.

[Link to Article](#)  
[Watch this lecture on YouTube](#)

### CYA Virtual Lecture Series | Session 14 Greece's 1821 & America: A Message of Freedom



On Wednesday, March 17, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the Greek Revolution, CYA had the pleasure of co-hosting, together with the Consulate General of Greece in Boston, a celebratory lecture under the auspices of the Embassy of Greece in Washington.

**Dr. Alexander Kitroeff**, Professor of History at Haverford College and a Member of CYA's Academic Advisory Roundtable, was invited as a guest speaker to discuss the American philhellenic movement during the Greek Revolution.

Greece's Ambassador in the USA, H.E. Alexandra Papadopoulou, offered a greeting to open the event, thanking the hosts for the initiative and briefly spoke about the great historical relationship of Greece and the American people.

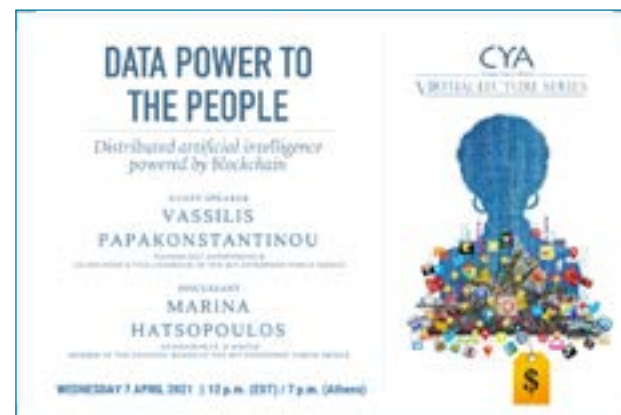
The lecture commenced with a fascinating overview and analysis of the early elements of Philhellenism in the US.

Kitroeff then went on to describe America's participation in the Greek Revolution. He spoke about why support was rallied up, with a main element being that the Greeks' cause was considered identical to that of the American Revolution in 1776. Kitroeff spoke about the diverse group of American volunteers who fought in Greece, the Greek committees set up in the US, and the American Press' high visibility of the Greek struggle for independence.

Kitroeff also noted the critical role of women in the Philhellenic movement. For many, this was the first step into their involvement with contemporary politics, a rare activity for women of the time.

[Link to Article](#)  
[Watch this lecture on YouTube](#)

### CYA Virtual Lecture Series | Session 15 Data Power to the People



On Wednesday, April 7, CYA's Virtual Lecture Series enjoyed hosting a lecture by **Vassilis Papakonstantinou**, technology entrepreneur, Co-founder and Vice-Chairman of the MIT Enterprise Forum Greece. Papakonstantinou explained the technologies of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain and spoke about how they are expected to affect our societies.

Welcoming the audience, CYA President, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, offered some opening remarks on the subject and introduced the lecture's discussant, **Marina Hatsopoulos**. Marina Hatsopoulos is an entrepreneur and writer, Chairperson of the Board and investor in Levitronix Technologies, and member of the Advisory Board of the MIT Enterprise Forum Greece. She holds a close relationship with College Year in Athens, being the founder's granddaughter.

In his opening remarks, guest speaker Vassilis Papakonstantinou stated that he "still considers [himself] a student that wants to learn new things." An hour later, he had certainly managed to teach his audience a few things. Artificial Intelligence and machine learning were analyzed and explained, with Papakonstantinou offering useful side-by-side comparisons to human-brain learning and explaining their relationship with data. He proceeded to analyze the importance of data-sharing in the efficiency of AI. The audience learned how data are 'fed' into training algorithms and how the output of this process can be optimized. It was also fascinating to learn about problems of this system, like the heavy reliance on data leading to bias-driven errors.

Papakonstantinou analyzed another hot topic of our times, the economic value of data and Blockchain principles. How can we share our data selectively and to our benefit? Papakonstantinou introduced examples of Artificial Intelligence working with blockchain technology to reap the benefits of data sharing while respecting privacy and benefiting both data producers and consumers. A lively Q&A discussion followed the lecture.

[Link to Article](#)  
[Watch this lecture on YouTube](#)

### CYA Virtual Lecture Series | Session 16 Culture as a driver for growth



On April 21, CYA had the honor of hosting Greece's Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports, responsible for Contemporary Culture, **Nicholas Yatromanolakis**, as part of the CYA Virtual Lecture Series.

[Link to Article](#)  
[Watch this lecture on YouTube](#)

### CYA Virtual Lecture Series | Session 17 The Future of Classics



Mary Lefkowitz and Barbara Weiden Boyd in their Zoom screens.

On Wednesday, June 30, CYA hosted a virtual discussion between scholars **Mary Lefkowitz** and **Barbara Weiden Boyd** on *The Future of Classics*. It was a fitting time for the dialogue, as the field of classics has faced an eventful year. An estimated ten programs have closed at universities worldwide, and Princeton University's classics program recently attracted attention for its choice to make Greek and Latin requirements optional for majors.



After CYA President **Alexis Phylactopoulos** thanked attendees, he introduced the two discussants. Mary Lefkowitz is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, Emerita, at Wellesley College, a Trustee Emerita of College Year in Athens, and a Trustee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Barbara Weiden Boyd is Henry Winkley Professor of Latin and Greek at Bowdoin College and the President of the Vergilian Society. The two scholars have known each other for more than thirty-six years since meeting in a seminar.

[Link to Article](#)  
[Watch this lecture on YouTube](#)



## A BEAUTIFUL HIKE

On Sunday, June 6, the Hellenic Mountaineering Association led a hike in the area of Old Epidaurus. The CYA Student Affairs Department informed students and encouraged them to join. The route promised to be interesting, with beautiful views. CYA Summer Session 1 student, **Rachel Niemira**, confirms:

“It was exceptional. Most beautiful views I’ve ever seen, I highly recommend that anyone who likes a challenging hike try it out.”

The starting of the hike was ‘Vagonia’, following path 1 that moves along the coast at small altitudes and boasts lovely views, and ending up at the ruins of the Panagia Polemarcha monastery (15th century) with its beautiful pine tree beach just below. Afterwards, the path ascends to Mount Akros via a beautiful route (low vegetation, pines, beautiful view) and reaches the Katarachi hills above Old Epidaurus where one discovers the ruins of the temple of Artemis and some Mycenaean tombs! From that point, hikers descended until they reached the port.



Photos submitted by Rachel Nieman

## CYA OFFERS AN EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

In January of 2021, CYA created an executive education program tailored to all who desire a CYA public education program. The CYA Hellenic Executive Program brings CYA’s rigorous academic profile in an online format to all interested and who wish to further their knowledge on all topics associated with Greece, from ancient civilization to modern-day development.

Our inaugural seminar titled *The Emergence of the Modern Greek State* was taught by **Professor Alexander Kitroeff**, met once a week every Saturday for six weeks from May 22, 2021, to June 26, 2021, and followed the evolution of Greece from the eve of the revolution in 1821 through the consolidation of the modern state in 1862. It described and analyzed the significant domestic and international political developments and the cultural and social progress that transformed Greece from the Ottoman-ruled province into a modern European nation-state.

During the six-session seminar, the course provided an overall picture of the history of Greece during the period it covered; an understanding of the causes and effects of the main events; it familiarized participants with a sampling of the contemporary eye-witness accounts of American and British philhellenes; and it also outlined how modern historians have studied these events, how they have attempted to distinguish between facts and myths, and the debates they have engaged in while trying to interpret the evolution of Greece during the period the course covered.

Professor Kitroeff and participants in one of their zoom sessions



Professor Alexander Kitroeff

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE UPDATE

The role of the Development Office at CYA is to enhance the already established fundraising program, therefore, leading to an increase in revenue, raising awareness of CYA in the community, and building stronger relationships with alumni, trustees, and friends, which will help CYA continue and expand its program.

*“Philanthropy is not just giving money; philanthropy is about loving the cause.”*

Below is an overview of CYA Development and Fundraising initiatives.

**William C. Kontes Memorial Scholarship:** Thanks to former CYA Trustee and Alumna **Zoë Kontes** (CYA ’95), a scholarship fund has been established in her brother William C. Kontes’ (CYA’ 99) memory so that students can receive partial scholarships to attend CYA. A webpage with information about the scholarship and about Will has been created on our CYA website, including a slideshow video and a dedicated donation link. You can learn more about this scholarship by visiting CYA’s website (**William C. Kontes Memorial Scholarship**). The scholarship will reward ambitious, driven, goal-oriented admitted CYA students enrolled for a Full Academic Year.

**Planned Giving:** There has been strong interest by CYA community members—CYA Friends and CYA Alumni—vis-à-vis the area of planned giving. While current contributions are always welcome, CYA has recently received larger and more permanent gifts after the passing away of CYA friends and alumni. Planned Giving provides a unique opportunity for one to create a lasting legacy for CYA. **CYA’s Planned Giving booklet** introduces the many planned gift options available at College Year in Athens that will help you determine how you can leave your legacy to CYA. While these gifts may not involve an immediate, irrevocable transfer of cash or property, they do call for careful planning with the help of a qualified professional or financial advisor. We hope you find the brochure of interest. For more information about leaving a CYA Legacy gift and opportunities for permanence, please feel free to contact our Development Officer to explain the exciting new ways we have for someone to make a lasting gift to College Year in Athens [development@cyathens.org](mailto:development@cyathens.org).

**COVID-19:** We are deeply grateful and very touched by the immediate response of our CYA community during these unsettling times. Your expression of hope and encouragement through your generosity reassures us of how extraordinarily caring our CYA community is. CYA, for the first time in its almost 60-year history, had to fight for its survival. But we firmly believe that we will overcome COVID-19. We will continue to offer the best education and most valuable life-transforming experience to college students for many years to come.

## SUMMER COURSE SPOTLIGHT



This summer, CYA’s *When Egypt Meets the Aegean* course, taught by Professor **Angelos Papadopoulos**, visited the Stratigraphic Museum at Knossos. Led by Kostis Christakis, Knossos Curator at the British School at Athens, ARCH347 students had an amazing hands-on experience with authentic prehistoric pottery from Crete. We are grateful to Dr. Christakis for the opportunity to access the facilities and to handle some vessels from a brilliant collection during a very rewarding seminar.



## DONORS 2020-2021

In the list below we have combined all gifts, including matching gifts, received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

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## THE WILLIAM C. KONTES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The following contributors have supported CYA's William C. Kontes Memorial Scholarship between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. Thank you for your generosity. The William C. Kontes Memorial Scholarship Contributors (in alphabetical order)

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William L. Horner -- Horner & Horner L.L.C.  
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Alexandra Kontes (In memory of our mother, Laura Staehle Johnson)  
Kim Kontes (In loving memory of my husband, William C Kontes)  
Laura Kontes Ames  
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Zoë Sarbanes Pappas (So deserving is Will of any and all tributes)  
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Donate now—Help CYA continue to provide a unique and extraordinary study abroad experience. Donate [here](#)

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Make a gift by check—mail a check or money order to: College Year in Athens  
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## 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).

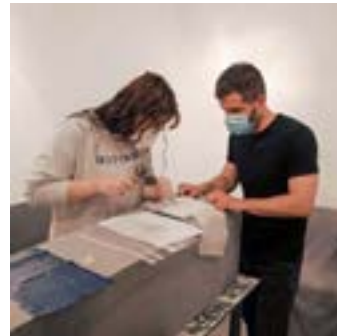


Spring 2021 students enjoyed a variety of activities and events throughout the semester.

**April 10, 2021** The sun sets on the week at the #Areopagus. Looks like these CYAers enjoyed the last few days—have you? (We hope so!)



credit: Molly Herring, UNC Chapel Hill Study Abroad



**May 8, 2021** First class of marble carving: learning the basics and starting on their designs! CYA collaborates with a local workshop with years of experience in ancient techniques as well as modern art. The final results will be exhibited closer to the end of the semester.



**May 20, 2021** Choose your fighter! Students in Professor Vassilaki's class re-enacted ancient sports, like boxing, at the remains of Olympia earlier this week.



Spring students arrived in Athens just after the announcement of a quarantine, but they haven't let that stop them from truly exploring the city and learning from its landscape. Here, conquering Filopappou Hill.



**May 15, 2021** A field study surprise! CYA students from Wellesley College, while traveling through the Peloponnese, ran into Geoffrey R. Pyatt, the U.S. Ambassador to Greece. Thank you, Ambassador Pyatt, for taking some time out of a lovely bike ride to be in this photo by the theater at Epidauros!



Easter in Greece

We "loaf" the Bread Museum in Varnavas. Students in "The Anthropology of Food in Greece" visited to learn about unique traditional bread-making practices, making their own bread creations by the end. These were baked and set by the museum and sent to the students to keep as memorabilia.



**Welcome CYA Spring 2021!**

Spring CYAer Teddy Mayle from University of Notre Dame holding his orientation kit, outside the CYA building. The first week, newly arrived CYA students quarantined in their new Athens apartment homes, and receive a variety of interesting and fun orientation sessions online, from CYA faculty and staff.



## CAMPUS RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

CYA is fortunate to have fantastic Reps recruiting this year

### Ariel Kline Campus Relations Representative

**Ariel Kline** graduated from Gettysburg College in May of 2021 with a major in Anthropology and dual minors in Classics and Public History. She studied abroad with CYA in the Fall of 2019, studying the religion, history and culture of Ancient Greece. Her love of mythology led her to the program and she is endlessly grateful for the opportunities the semester abroad gave her. From climbing Mount Olympus to tasting fresh honey at a monastery on Andros, each day with CYA brought a life changing experience. CYA also introduced her lifelong friends and the most amazing food in the world. She is excited to work as a Campus Relations Representative and share her passion for the CYA program with other students.

### Rose Hatem Campus Relations Representative

**Rose Hatem** graduated from Smith College in 2020, where she studied Greek, Psychology, and Museums. She attended CYA in Spring 2019, where she studied Ancient and Modern Greek, Religion, and Archaeology. She stayed in Pangrati for the summer and interned at the Museum of the City of Athens, taking the time to explore Athens and Greece more deeply with the help and support of CYA staff. Since then, she has served a year-long term as the Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for Equality Maine and now is excited to be back with CYA as a Campus Relations Representative.

## MICHALIS ALEXANDRIDIS RETIRES



**Michalis Alexandridis**, our tireless Custodian, who joined CYA in the summer of 2000 retired this year. For 21 years his hard work and efforts greatly contributed to the success of CYA. Many alumni would remember him as the person who drove them to their apartments when they arrived at CYA, or came to their help in the middle of the night or on a weekend, when there was a power shortage at their apartment. Michalis took care of anything and everything that needed fixing, greeting everyone with a good word and a smile. Always ready to jump in to help wherever needed, Michalis was a vital part of the team. We wish him a happy retirement and hope that he will now have the time to relax and enjoy his family, his grandchildren, and have time for sea fishing that he so likes.

## COOKING CORNER

### QUICK VEGETARIAN MOUSSAKA

*Provided by Nadia Meliniotis, Executive Director of Student Affairs and a Vegetarian*

#### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 8 eggplants sliced or two cups cubed eggplant
- 1 onion chopped
- 13oz (425 g) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups tomato-based pasta sauce
- 2 eggs beaten
- 1 cup natural yogurt (preferably strained)

#### Preparation:

Heat oil and fry eggplant until soft and browned, transfer with a slotted spoon to a shallow dish. Fry onion until soft, add to eggplant. Place beans on top and cover with pasta sauce. Mix eggs with yogurt and spread over the top of the sauce

Cook in the oven for 20 minutes  
Serve with multi-grain rice

## Volunteers

The first weekend of April 2021, a few of our Spring '21 students and staff volunteered at a local NGO! BOUROUME (Μπουρούμε) aims to reduce food waste and distribute food to those in need around Athens. In our times of crisis, we are especially proud of our students for volunteering their time to this cause.



Front, kneeling: (L-R) Rachel Gordon and Korina, volunteer coordinator. Second row (L-R) Greek University student volunteer, Molly Herring, Greek University volunteer, Greek University volunteer and Dima Rentel

## MEDIA LAB INTERN

**Caroline Shea** (Spring '21) from Skidmore College was the Spring semester Media Lab Intern. She is a junior studying sociology. "There's nothing I love more in this world than traveling, meeting new people, going on crazy adventures, and then reliving those experiences through writing and storytelling".



**ALUM SPOTLIGHT**

Destiny Reyes, Spring '16 | Andrew Weiner, Fall '17 | Prof. Zoe Kontes, Fall '05

**CLICK BELOW TO WATCH OUR ALUM FEATURES.**

**DESTINY REYES**  
**ANDREW WEINER**  
**PROFESSOR ZOE KONTES**

**CYA 60 years**  
College Year in Athens

*Save the date:*  
**ALUMNI TRIP 2022**

As part of its 60th anniversary celebrations, CYA will be hosting an alumni reunion trip July 23-31, 2022.

Join us in Greece, where participants will stay in CYA apartments (Pangrati) or hotels, interact with CYA faculty and staff, and participate in a variety of events, including a reception with CYA faculty and staff, site visits in Athens, a reception at the Phylactopoulos home and two nights in Nafplion with visits to Mycenae and Epidaurus.

This trip is open to CYA alumni and their families. Trip specifics and details about registration and fees will be available December 1st. If you have questions, please email Erica Huffman, Director of Alumni Relations, at [alumni@cyathens.org](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org). We will continue to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19 and update if necessary.



## FOURTH CYA ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

The fourth CYA Annual Student Conference *People on the Move—Migration, Refugees, and Human Mobility in the Past and Present* took place on April 26-27, 2021.

The conference stimulated a broad-based and multi-disciplinary discussion on issues pertaining to migration and human mobility, issues that have come to the fore in the social sciences during the past years.

The participation was large and enthusiastic. Seven young CYA scholars and a CYA alumna presented their original research pertaining to different aspects of migration studies. Even during restrictive measures for the prevention of Covid-19, the conference continued its recent tradition of successfully providing a stimulating opportunity for students to present their academic research.

## Day One

On the first day of the conference, three CYA students and a CYA alumna came together to present their research and exchange ideas on Migration and Human Mobility. After CYA President, **Alexis Phylactopoulos**, offered his opening remarks, the session's chair, CYA Archaeology Professor, **Hüseyin Çınar Öztürk**, introduced the day's subject: *Cultural Interaction, Diaspora Communities, and Human Mobility*.

**Caroline J. Tyler** (College of the Holy Cross) opened the session with her presentation on the *Migration of Icons*, which closely examined Byzantine and Greek icons and compared them to Russian icons.

**Steven Dierkes** (College of the Holy Cross) followed, with a presentation titled *Rebetiko: Music of the Arrivals*. In his research, Dierkes spoke with Greek musicians about their experiences in order to gain a first-hand understanding of the evolution of Rebetiko music, and the role migration played in its shaping. In his presentation, exploring the question of whether the current revivals of the genre in Greece are still linked to the migrations that took place a century ago.

The session's third presentation was given by **Jennifer Rubin** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and was titled *Modern Diasporas: The Case of Bukharan Jews*. Rubin's presentation examined how Western narratives about Bukharan culture explain the way Bukharan Judaism has transcended the need for a



physical religious center and addressed the question of how this civilization remains a relevant and dynamic part of contemporary global Jewish culture.

The last student paper was presented by CYA alumna of 2020, **Jenny Cheung**. Titled *Jewish Resistance against Deportations and Persecution during WWII in Greece*, the paper examined the ways in which Greek Jews responded to and resisted deportations of Greek Jews in Thessaloniki, forced by the Nazis during the Axis invasion.

## Day Two

The second day of the conference examined questions of modern-day migration, under the subject *Migration and Refugees in Greece and Beyond*.

**Mackenzie Baldner** (DePaul University) opened the session with her paper *Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Is Unconditional Hospitality the Solution?*, which critically evaluated how different countries receive refugees and asylum seekers. Mackenzie offered an attempt to come closer to understanding how we can effectively and justly incorporate refugees and asylum seekers into the political and social settings of the countries in which they reside.

Following, **Anna Gibbons** (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) presented her paper *The Journeys of Environmental Migration*. One of the paper's goals was to 'humanise migration', in the midst of today's political climate. Gibbons examined issues plaguing Southeast Asia through data analysis and research that supports future predictions about migration in the area.

The session's third presentation was given by **Grace-Anna Glenn** (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), on her paper titled *The Vulnerability and Resiliency of Refugee Women in Greece*. Hoping to bring light to the injustices refugee women experience, while also shedding light on their dedication to making a better life for themselves, Glenn's paper analyzed previous case studies and examined both why women are more vulnerable, and what some case studies have done to make the best out of their hardships.

**Samantha Kestler** (Illinois Wesleyan University) gave the conference's last presentation, titled *Afghan Refugee Women in Greece: The Art of Starting Over*, in which she discussed programs that help refugee women, and she used primary sources and literature in order to provide an understanding of refugee women, understand the Greek job market, comprehend how those women can be helped by tuition, and ways they can live cohesively in unity with the local population.

The session ended with closing remarks by Conference Chair **Angeliki Dimitriadi**, CYA Political Science Professor.

The conference concluded with a gathering at the CYA rooftop where the speakers enjoyed the beautiful view of the Panathenaic Stadium and the Acropolis of Athens, while conversing with CYA President and members of the Conference Committee.

More photos [here](#)

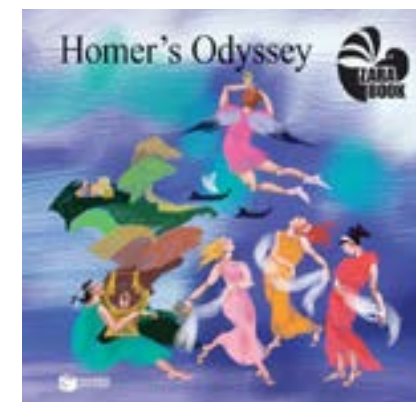
## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS | GREEK CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN ENGLISH

In this issue CYA Librarian **Georgia Katsarou** recommends some Greek children's books that have been translated into English. They are mainly for children of 4-8 years old but they can be pleasantly read by children of other ages too.

## Homer's Odyssey

by Sofia Zarampouka  
Athens: Patakis, 2016.

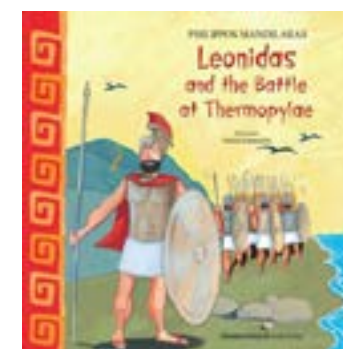
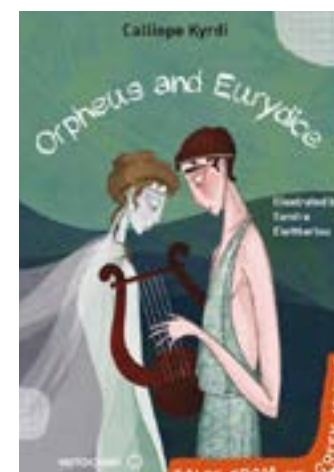
"An odyssey is a journey full of countless adventures, fantastic places, battles with monsters and magical encounters, which can lead you astray and make you forget your goal. All this and more is described by Homer, who lived in Greece in the eighth century BCE in the first European work of literature."



## Orpheus and Eurydice

by Calliopi Kyrdi  
Translated by Leo Kalovyrnas. Athens: Metaichmio, 2018.

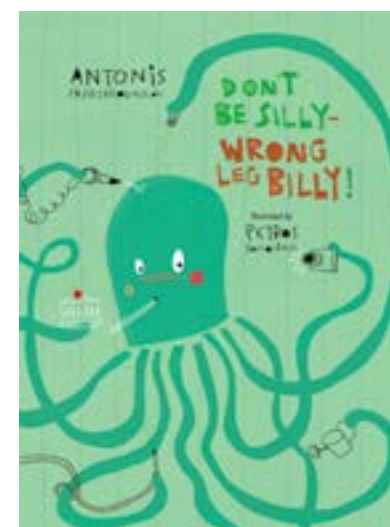
"The world was born out of love, and it was out of love that it almost perished. Not just once. At the dawn of time, the love that gods and mortals felt for each other was so strong and powerful that it could defy the laws of nature. Such was the love Orpheus felt for his sweetheart Eurydice, who died an untimely death. So he ventured to the world of the dead to bring her back, his only weapons being his music and his deep yearning for her."



## Leonidas and the Battle at Thermopylae

by Philippos Mandilaras  
Athens: Papadopoulos, 2017.

"The history of Leonidas, King of Ancient Sparta, and his famous battle at Thermopylae."



## Don't be Silly - Wrong Leg Billy!

by Antonis Papatheodoulou  
Athens: Papadopoulos, 2016.

"A book about Billy the Octopus, about his eight feet, his eight jobs, his eight funny mistakes, lots of rhymes and hard work!"



## The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig

by Evgenios Trivizas  
New York: Aladdin, 1997.

"A comically inverted version of the classic Three Little Pigs, a traditional fable published in the 19th century."



### THE SEA-Y-A EXPERIENCE!

Article By Spring '21 CYA Student  
Teddy Mayle, University of Notre Dame

If it's any testament to both the quality of the snorkeling in Athens and our class's thirst for adventure, the number of snorkels owned by our group increased tenfold in the time between our first and last swim (from one, to ten).

Throughout this past spring semester, I had the opportunity to explore breathtaking reefs and wrecks around Athens with several of my classmates. While we had all-around outstanding experiences, we had to earn each of our adventures.

When I was considering various study abroad opportunities, proximity to the ocean was a significant influencing factor (honestly, probably more so than academic fit). Of course, the famous beaches of both the Greek islands and Athens were a major draw. I knew that their crystal clear waters and vibrant marine life would be ideal for snorkeling and diving trips. After we all arrived, it was evident that the travel restrictions (including closed dive shops) weren't going anywhere, and our dreams of exploring the Greek islands' beautiful beaches would have to wait. As we knew we couldn't travel outside of the region, we decided to make the most of what the Athenian coastline has to offer. Luckily, and against my Dad's advice, I had squeezed my fins, snorkel, and mask into my luggage.

Often, when we asked locals about the best locations in Athens for snorkeling, we received a version of the same answer:

"Just wait for the islands!"



Being the stubborn students we are, we pinged local dive shops and consulted dive websites for the hidden snorkeling gems of Athens.

As mentioned, we had to work a bit to earn our adventures, and I think that's best exemplified by our search for an underwater airplane wreck. After querying several Athenian dive shops for local snorkeling tips, we got a friendly response from a shop in the Porto Rafti area. They recommended a few sites that they typically visit during the tourism season, and later mentioned—almost as an afterthought—that there is a plane wreck accessible in Anavyssos Bay. They provided us with the geographic coordinates, advised us to enter from a nearby concrete pier, and suggested we use a "circular search pattern" to find the wreck.

On a fairly overcast April day, a group of students and I woke up at 06:30 and took a three hour bus to Lavrio, a taxi to Cape Sounion, and another taxi to Anavyssos, where we found the supposed concrete

pier for our departure. On the pier, we approached a few fisherman to inquire about the airplane. It could have been a result of the language barrier, but they kept pointing towards sky when we asked about the plane. No one we asked in the area seemed to know anything about the wreck.

After punching in the GPS coordinates on our phones, we set out swimming more-or-less in the direction of our target. Around ten minutes and a couple hundred meters later, we discovered a few scattered mechanical parts, which led us on a path to an upside down Beechcraft RU-21A at a depth of around ten meters.

Something about the novel process and uncertainty about finding the wreck made it that much more exhilarating to actually find it. In fact, we were so excited to take pictures and swim around the wreck, that we slightly overestimated our bodies' abilities to retain heat in the colder April ocean. When I exited the water, it took a good couple of minutes for my body to stop shivering and lose the blue tint it had acquired.



### GREECE: THE GREAT ACCIDENT

Article by Spring '21 CYA Student Dima  
Rentel, Careleton College  
April 29, 2021

I am sure coronavirus taught us all a good many things, but the primary lesson I learned was that I do not like online classes. I cannot stand them. So when my home institution announced it would have mostly online classes in the fall of 2020, I knew I needed to get creative with my studies. I had originally planned on studying in Jordan in the fall of 2020, but that program had been moved online. I looked around for a study abroad program, but, as one can imagine, there were not many options last fall! I was even considering studying in Rwanda—not because the program there was interesting to me, but simply because I knew it was operating—when my father reminded me of a program I had looked into my freshman year, a program I had forgotten about. CYA. It taught Classics, I studied Classics. It was set in Athens, I liked Athens. It was a running study abroad program, I needed a running study abroad program. I applied in August, I was accepted, and in September I was off.

CYA fall 2020 was, perhaps, some of the most memorable months of my life. By all accounts, an onlooker might have assumed it was memorable for all the wrong reasons. I was sick with Covid in October, lockdowns made it very hard to interact with the local populace, and Greece made it impossible to travel outside Athens with a strict lockdown in November. And, there is no doubt, I did have challenging

From fourteen-hour outings and three-hour bus trips to hitching a ride with a friendly ex-pat, our love of snorkeling took us out of the classroom and into the best of what the Athenian coastline has to offer. It wasn't just the underwater excursions that made my time in Greece special, it was also the process of learning about the potential sites and actually getting there that brought us closer to Athenian life. The fact that we were even able to learn about these sites speaks to the warm Greek hospitality we enjoyed. Though scuba and snorkeling shops were closed, employees were delighted to respond to our Facebook message requests.

While the airplane wreck was certainly my favorite location, we were able to explore a variety of sites. By the conclusion of the semester, we saw the U.S. Army plane wreck, a fishing vessel wreck (complemented by an underwater toilet), an infamous blue hole, a car graveyard, 5+ octopuses, a Moray eel, and hundreds of colorful fish. We ended the semester with unforgettable memories and some amazing pictures. I was fortunate enough to finish my PADI Open Water Scuba Certification in Crete. While one neglected snorkel survived a few highway miles on the hood of our car, we were also unfortunate enough to find out what an imploded GoPro looks like.

Without a doubt, snorkeling and diving in Greece was a series of adventures I will never forget. My time at CYA just wouldn't have felt complete without it. I hope that future CYA'ers will take advantage of the amazing underwater playgrounds found in the snorkeling guide we provided, and set out to find even more.

moments. But it was the good and great moments of the fall that far outweighed any harder moments. The other eight students who braved the Atlantic and the virus were all so wonderful, each in their own unique way. The professors at CYA were determined to give us all a fantastic education, both inside and outside of the classroom, in true CYA fashion. The administration worked tirelessly to make sure we were still active, still engaging with our local community. And it is not like I did not get to travel around Greece—our class managed to get in all our traveling before the lockdown, thanks to the proactive planning of the CYA staff.

My home institution is opening up more now, as more and more people are getting vaccinated. But, last December, I knew I was not done with Greece. I wanted to continue Modern Greek, I wanted to travel more, I wanted to engage more with the local populace (I also wanted to continue to drink the cheap and ever-delicious cappuccinos offered here). I knew I had to stay longer. And CYA continues to out-do itself in every way, always doing the absolute most with the little that Covid provides. Therefore, I opted to stay for a third semester, over this coming summer. I have designed my own program with a classmate, and we will intensively study Modern Greek (and hopefully do some island hopping on the weekends!). Greece continues to offer me so much, and CYA continues to help make it all available to me. While my first semester here at CYA may have been an accident, a chance of fate, brought about by an off-hand comment from my father, my second semester and third semesters certainly are not.



Dima poses for a photo during a CYA Field Study Trip to Delphi and Meteora.



1979

**Anne Erickson** ('78-'79) writes: "Can't believe I'm retired after ten years in health care and twenty in IT. Living happily in Cincinnati and looking forward to travel once the madness ends. Any classmates coming through Cincy have a place to stay anytime. Would love to hear from '79 alums."

1981

**Paul Sutton** ('80-'81) is a Professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment. His research is in the area of Population Geography, Ecological Economics, and Sustainability Science. He is looking forward to attending the UN Climate Summit (COP26) in Glasgow as a delegate for the Association of American Geographers.

Paul Sutton's Story Map on the Value of Coastal Wetlands for Storm Protection [article here](#)

1989

**Brendan Burke** (Spring '89) has been appointed to a three-year term as the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Classical Studies at The American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He is also Professor of Greek and Roman Studies at the University of Victoria. Since 2007, he has co-directed the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project, excavating at the ancient Eleon site with Bryan Burns of Wellesley College. His areas of specialization are the Aegean Bronze Age, the archaeology and economy of cloth production, and Anatolian archaeology.

1992

**Delton Henderson** (Spring '92) was recently appointed First General Counsel for The American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers (ASMAC). Here is a partial reprint of the press release from ASMAC:



LOS ANGELES, California - The American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers (ASMAC) proudly announces Delton Henderson as the organization's first General Counsel. In a career spanning over two decades and five continents, Delton Henderson has found a niche within the ASMAC family from the West Coast to the East Coast. In the role as General Counsel, Delton will focus on legal matters related to corporate formation and governance; contract drafting and negotiations; establishing internal policies and practices; as well as consulting on matters relating to intellectual property and licensing.

Prior to setting up a freelance mediation practice in Los Angeles, Delton's connection to the music industry provided him the opportunity to travel in a range of capacities—from tour manager of a traveling opera in Greece and Japan, to friend of the Chicago Symphony in Austria. As a recipient of the Heyman Center on Corporate Governance scholarship, Delton studied international corporate governance at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford University. In 2016, Delton was honored with a certificate from The Recording Academy in recognition of his ten years as a voting member. In addition to serving as General Counsel for ASMAC, Delton will continue to operate a solo law practice in California and New York. He also plans to reignite his passion for playing the clarinet. Visit [www.asmac.org](http://www.asmac.org) to learn more about ASMAC.

1995

**Efstathia Hantzopoulos** (Fall '95) "My debut novel came out in August under my pen name E.X. Alexander. It is called *The Soul of Love* and it is a paranormal romance based in Ancient Greece and it is a retelling of the myth of Eros and Psyche. It is the first in my *Primordialomarchy* series. I'm now the department chair of the History department in my school. I love teaching—even after this crazy year. I'm currently in the process of getting my dual citizenship with Greece and I can't wait to come back and see all my old haunts from when I was at CYA. I would love to hear from my fellow CYA alumni." [efstathia@verizon.net](mailto:efstathia@verizon.net)

2012

**Linnea Goebel** (Spring '12) writes "After eight years working for corporate America, I am moving back to Athens to pursue a master's degree! I'll be attending the University of Athens and studying politics and economics in Southeast Europe."

2018

**Allie Davis** ('17-'18) graduated from Tulane University with a Master's in Classical Studies and has accepted an offer to pursue her PhD in Classical Archaeology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2019

**Abigail (Abby) Chernila** ('18-'19) has returned to Greece on a Fulbright Research Grant under the direction of CYA Professor **Evgenia Tousi**. She looks forward to researching regeneration of abandoned industrial sites in Piraeus and is very excited to be back in Greece for another year!

PROJECT FOR CYA'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY



If you (or your family) have letters you wrote while at CYA, please consider reading through them and contributing to the project. We are especially interested in letters detailing field trips or specific classes, daily life and adapting to life in Greece, and of course major historical and political events.

Please email **Erica Huffman** '93 at [alumni@cyathens.org](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org) with questions or to participate. Deadline to participate is December 1, 2021. You may submit letters by emailing [alumni@cyathens.org](mailto:alumni@cyathens.org) or if you prefer to send a hard copy, mail it to:

Erica Huffman  
CYA  
PO BOX 390890  
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**Elina Sinopoulou**, Assistant to the President

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**Theoni Scourta**, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
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**Erica Huffman**, (CYA '93)  
Director of Alumni Relations

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**Vassilis Simopoulos**, Development Officer

Educational Travel & Short-Term Programs

**Vasso Matrakouka**, Short-Term Programs Manager  
**Vassilis Karavassilis**, Short-Term Programs Coordinator  
**Evgenia Ghizas**, Short-Term Project Administrator

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**Maria Malliou**, Financial Officer  
**Vana Bica**, Accountant

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**Popi Baloglu**, Director of Housing & Catering  
**Kallia Alexandridi**, Housing & Catering Assistant  
**Makis Kypriotis**, Maintenance

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**Spiros Kourkoulos**, Digital Designer  
**Sofia Stavropoulou**, Social Media Coordinator

Strategic Planning

**Popi Triantafyllidi**, Director of Strategic Planning

Student Affairs/Services

**Nadia Meliniotis**, Executive Director of Student Affairs  
**Jennifer Holland**, (CYA '99) Student Affairs Advisor  
**Angela Kouvara**, Student Affairs Advisor

US Administration

**Maria Marakas**, Bursar and Manager of the North American Office  
**Alexia Lingaas**, Campus Relations Manager  
**Cheyenne Paulson**, (CYA Summer '15) Digital Researcher  
**Rachael Bittick**, CYA Fall '17, Student Advisor



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COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS ALUMNI/AE NEWS AND INFORMATION

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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.

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE and MAJOR(s)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

CURRENT OCCUPATION

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I WOULD LIKE CYA TO CONTACT ME ABOUT A POSSIBLE MAJOR GIFT.

COLLEGE YEAR IN ATHENS

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