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The Anatolian

AUTUMN 2020

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Anatolia College Announces New “Center for Educational Excellence”

After securing a generous founding gift from a passionate and concerned benefactor who shares in the transformative vision, Anatolia College has announced an ambitious new plan to transform its educational landscape by creating a regional **“Center for Educational Excellence.”** The Center’s focus will be guided by our core mission to unite a diverse student body through innovative practices and commitment to academic excellence.

The new Center’s mission will be to establish a framework for developing and implementing new educational approaches, and become a regional leader for contemporary educational methodology and development.

An innovative educational model will augment Anatolia’s core progressive educational philosophy to provide the necessary focus, facilities, programs, and faculty to support our community. Anatolia’s new learning paradigm will amplify the current educational model toward learning that emphasizes skills and their practical applications. It will introduce a flexible delivery mode, providing personalized, student-centered learning that will encourage the curiosity and critical thinking skills necessary to become creative, flexible problem-solvers. Through an emphasis on communication, interdisciplinary work, and empathy, students will gain the perspective they need to become global citizens and productively confront 21st century challenges.



The Center for Educational Excellence will partner with leading institutions in the US and Europe. The partnerships will foster the professional development opportunities teachers need to best support students, both at Anatolia and throughout the wider region. The Center will also emphasize research as a means of expanding the scope of the Center’s impact. The Center of Educational Excellence will therefore disseminate best practices to the wider region and participate in an exchange of ideas and faculty within a global academic community.

In addition, Thessaloniki remains a critical regional hub for economic activity, an epicenter

that will grow in conjunction with economic development in this part of the world. As the city extends its role as an international educational destination, Anatolia will serve as a pivotal institution in this aspect of regional development, and the Center for Educational Excellence will provide the platform from which Anatolia will assume this role.

The Center for Educational Excellence will include four main components: Endowed Faculty Development and Scholarships funds, a new building for our International Baccalaureate program and expansion of our dormitory. The building projects will be designed, planned, and built within the next three years.



Anatolia Responds to the Coronavirus Crisis

Anatolia College reacted swiftly and decisively in response to the Coronavirus lockdown. Driven by our commitment to our students, faculty, staff and the extended community, we acted to assure their safety and well-being at all times. As borders began to close, we took immediate initiatives to help students from abroad return safely to their home countries, helping them make last-minute travel arrangements, and even providing bus transportation for students from Albania to return home. For the four students in the Boarding Department who were unable to repatriate to Italy and China, we ensured their accommodation on Campus - full room and board - could continue uninterrupted.

Continuous efforts from our faculty and academic staff to shift the curriculum to an online learning environment allowed lessons to continue and kept students connected to the school and the educational process. The extraordinary effort to incorporate new educational technology accelerated our transition to a new era of teaching and learning across all divisions. The summer was dedicated to preparing and refining plans and policies which will guide every division in facing the educational challenges that await this coming fall.



Building Towards the Future

Significant progress toward our Campaign goals was achieved this year as Anatolia moved forward with its planned developments and announced a new transformational initiative that will inspire and nurture students for many years to come.

The Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center was completed and is ready for the new school year! This 950 square-meter building is effectively energy self-sustaining with zero emissions and will showcase American green technology, including photovoltaic cells, and a geothermal heating and cooling system. Our STEM Center building is dedicated to the innovative teaching of the sciences, technology, engineering and math and will serve as a physical example of the curriculum’s content - a ‘living laboratory’ in which students not only learn, but experience the principles and methodologies they are studying.

This new building will feature dedicated laboratory facilities for Physics, Chemistry, and Biology classes as well as a multipurpose classroom fully equipped for students and teachers to explore the most modern developments in this rapidly changing world. As part of the broader outreach to the community, Anatolia College will host events and classes in this new facility that will be open to all students, making it an important resource for science education in the region of Northern Greece and beyond.

The Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center received major support from the USAID/ASHA (United States Agency for International Development/ American Schools and Hospitals Abroad), and from the Papageorgiou Foundation as well as commitments from Trustees of Anatolia College, Anatolia College alumni, parents, and a host of other private and corporate donors.

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Anatolia College Institutional News

In Memoriam: Stavros Constantinidis

Stavros Constantinidis, one of Anatolia College's longest-serving Trustees, passed away on December 14th, 2019, leaving an unfillable hole in the heart of the Anatolia community.

From his family's beginnings in Prousa (Asia Minor), Stavros Constantinidis graduated from Anatolia College in 1947. He earned an undergraduate degree from the School of Chemical Engineering of Geneva University and a PhD from Basel University. The son of a self-taught industrialist, Constantinidis built his family business into one of the most successful textile companies in northern Greece and the surrounding region, distinguishing himself and the company as a prototypical employer known for entrepreneurial vision and good practices.

His love for Anatolia College was reflected in his service and generosity. In 1976, Constantinidis became a member of the Anatolia Board of Trustees, where he served as Vice Chair of the Board, and as a member of the Executive, Facilities, Elementary School Governance, and High School Governance Committees.

His engineering background proved invaluable to the Board of Trustees in matters of Anatolia's physical environment and campus expansion projects, many of which he donated funds towards.

A firm believer in Anatolia's mission to educate students from all socio-economic backgrounds, Stavros Constantinidis was a strong advocate for scholarships. Following in his father's tradition as a donor, he funded ten full scholarships to Greek Cypriot students following the Turkish annex of northern Cyprus in 1974, and continued the tradition throughout his lifetime, ultimately becoming one of the most generous donors to the College's scholarship program, contributing to over 60 scholarships for High School and ACT students.

Known for his quiet humor, intelligence, and generosity of spirit, Stavros Constantinidis will be greatly missed, but his legacy continues through the many lives of those he has changed and influenced with his contributions to our school and community.



Stavros Constantinidis on the campus of Anatolia College
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"...One of Anatolia's greatest contributions to our society is the balanced, democratic environment the school offers. Teaching our students to open their minds and use the strength of their character to achieve their goals – this is how we can make positive change in society..."

- Stavros Constantinidis "The Anatolian" (2015)



ACT's New Building Renamed Stavros Constantinidis Hall

In June 2020, Anatolia College President Dr. Panos Vlachos and ACT Provost Dr. Stamos Karamouzis were joined by the family members of the late Stavros Constantinidis to unveil the name of ACT's New Building. The renaming of the building pays a homage to our longtime friend, Trustee and benefactor Stavros Constantinidis, whose generous support for our scholarship program over the years has made it possible for more than 60 students to pursue their education at Anatolia's gymnasio, lykeio, and ACT.

Building Towards the Future

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From left: July 2020. The U.S. General Consul in Thessaloniki Gregory Pflieger, Jr, the Anatolia College President Dr. Panos Vlachos, and the U.S. Ambassador in Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt.

Ambassador Pyatt and the New Consul in Thessaloniki Visit Anatolia

United States Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt took advantage of his time in Thessaloniki to visit Anatolia College in July, 2020. Accompanied by US General Consul Gregory Pflieger Jr., Ambassador Pyatt paid a visit to the Summer CTY Greece program before taking an extensive tour of the new Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center, where the Ambassador remarked on Anatolia College's important role in shaping the future of Greece:

"Anatolia College is one of the real treasures of the U.S.-Greece relationship over the years, and I am very excited about how this Center is helping to take that relationship into the high-technology future. American investors are making significant commitments to their technology footprint in Greece. One of the challenges for these American companies is to identify young talent, the human capital that they want to hire, and that's where Anatolia comes in. We will partner with Anatolia College to incentivizing young people to make the commitment to become proficient in science and technology so that Greece has the kind of workforce that it needs to compete in the 21st century."

Bissell Challenge is Successfully Completed

The longstanding effort to expand Anatolia's Elementary School took a great leap forward this year with the successful completion of the Bissell Challenge. This major fundraising initiative will provide the necessary support for the building project, which is critical to the adoption of our new learning paradigm at the AES.

It marks a great milestone in our ongoing Comprehensive Campaign, demonstrating once again the strong dedication and commitment felt towards our school by all members of the Anatolia community. When Trustee and major benefactor George Bissell announced his intention to match donations from alumni and parents, and to triple all monies received from students and young alumni, he challenged all those who cared about Anatolia's future to support the school's efforts by contributing to the **Campaign for the Next Century**. The Bissell Challenge, as the match-funding came to be known, raised a total of nearly 1.1 million Euros, a significant amount of the overall campaign goal.

The campaign's success is surely due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the roughly 300 donors who heeded to the call and opened their hearts and wallets. In a time of economic uncertainty, it is heartening to know that Anatolians from all walks of life recognize the vital role our institution plays in society, and that they continue to support our mission and vision for the twenty-first century.



The newly arrived US General Consul in Thessaloniki Elizabeth K. Lee visited the Anatolia College campus, in September 2020, where she was informed about the fascinating history of the institution. Ms. Lee was toured by the President of Anatolia College Dr. Panos Vlachos to the buildings and the infrastructure funded by the USAID/ASHA such as the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center.



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"Educating Across Cultures: Anatolia College in Turkey and Greece" - Newly Published in Greek

Former Anatolia College President William McGrew's fascinating chronicle of the institution's history - a remarkable American educational undertaking that spanned two continents and survived three wars - is now available in Greek. The English language edition, first published in 2015 by Rowman & Littlefield, recounted the



challenges faced by Anatolia College's leaders and the solutions they found to achieve their goals within the often-turbulent social, religious, and political environments of their host countries. With the issuance of this new edition by Kapon Editions, the historical book is now accessible to a wide audience of Greek-speaking readers as well.

Anatolia College Institutional News



What are you made of?

What does it mean to be an Anatolian? What images and feelings does the College bring to your hearts and minds? This past year we challenged students and alumni to answer the question "What are you made of?" for a video produced by the Institutional Advancement Office. In front of the camera, Gymnasium and Lykeion students along with alumni from years and decades past, conjured a wide range of responses, ranging from poetic to pragmatic:

*"We're made of memories, open horizons, and hope."
"Dreams." "Worthiness." "Creativity." "Opportunities for the future." "Self-respect." "Decisiveness." "Journeys."
"Experiences and mistakes." "Continuous trying."
"Durability and persistence."*

Thoughts become words, and images unfold into a series of memories - a visual tapestry that illustrates the diversity and depth of the greater Anatolia family. Planned in the summer of 2019, by the winter our students were ready to start recording. Following in their footsteps, alumni from several generations - with the help of the Alumni Associations in Thessaloniki, Athens, and London - gathered to lend their support and the gift of their experiences resulting in a series of videos made of all the Anatolian core values.

Made in support of the school's "Campaign for the Next Century," the videos illustrate how the College is truly "building a brighter Greece - one student at a time."

Filling the Void: Passing on the Lessons of History to our New Generations



This international Academic Conference was co-organized by Anatolia College and the German Consulate of Thessaloniki and held at the Bissell Library in October 2019.

President Vlachos at the "Thessaloniki Summit 2019"

In a world with rapidly changing parameters, Anatolia College is uniquely positioned to educate Greek and international students to become future leaders. At the Thessaloniki Summit in November, 2019, Anatolia College President, Dr. Panos Vlachos, stressed how Anatolia College's mission and vision drive the organization's ability to adapt to new educational needs and invest in innovative approaches to teaching and learning, building upon historical ties with the United States. From instructional technology and teacher training to community outreach and volunteerism, Anatolia College provides access to resources and best practices, and continues to serve as a connector between the United States and Greece and southwestern Europe.

Particular examples are the more than 5,000 American college students who, since 2009, have spent a semester abroad at ACT, bringing more than 45 million euros into the local economy, the 900 non-Greek students who are currently enrolled at Pinewood and ACT, our cooperation with Johns Hopkins for the Center for Talented Youth Greece, the creation of, and support from, the Hellenic Initiative for Anatolia's Venture Garden,



the induction of entrepreneurship curricula from the University of Iowa, and the newly-opened Center for Lifelong Learning. More importantly, Dr. Vlachos also noted that Anatolia College's substantial investment in program development and on-campus infrastructure, during the decade 2015-2025, will exceed 40 million Euros. Many of these development projects have already begun, including upgrades to our IT infrastructure, faculty development programs, and the new STEM Center and Elementary School expansion. These impressive projects have and will continue to update our campus with more environmentally sound technologies and materials, ensuring a bright future for the College.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis Visited ACT's Entrepreneurship Hub Booth at the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair

For the second straight year, the ACT Entrepreneurship Hub manned a booth in TIF's Pavilion 12 - a concentration of startups from all over Greece. ACT's Hub provided information on its programs to assist young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas. The Prime Minister was intrigued with the concepts and spoke about the state of the Greek start-up community with startup founders. The Minister of Digital Governance, Mr. Kyriakos Pierrakakis, and the U.S. Ambassador in Greece, Mr. Geoffrey Pyatt, also paid a visit to ACT's Entrepreneurship Hub booth, expressing their support for the Hub's initiatives to mentor, guide and open the road for innovative entrepreneurs.



During their occupation of Greece in WWII (1941-1944), the German *Vermacht* took over Anatolia College for its headquarters. The campus, which at that time included the adjacent area of today's KEPEP «Agios Dimitrios» was the site where Greek General Tsolakoglou signed the agreement for the capitulation and surrender of the Greek army. And within the foundations of the historic Macedonia Hall building, the Germans built an underground shelter system, infamously known to all Anatolians as "the Bunkers". Over time, the heavy metal doors of these bunkers rusted and eroded, leaving only their traces as evidence. Yet these traces - and what they represent - have remained for 75 years, in the buildings and in our history reminding us of the 80 Anatolia students and graduates were killed in concentration camps during the war.

The management of collective memory and the use (or misuse) of history by younger generations who have distanced themselves - both temporally and emotionally - from major historical events, has in recent years concerned many academics in the scientific, arts, and cultural communities. For Anatolia College, as a place of memory and education, the initiative was the starting point for further research on collective memory management, arguing that the past is always linked to the anxiety of managing the present and

visioning for a better future. Today's society must look for ways to preserve the legacy of the past for future societies. During the Conference, a team of architects consisting of Anatolia College alumni, presented a proposal for an alternative function for the shelters which will combine memory, education and technology allowing visitors, and especially students, to participate in hands-on learning activities that take them on a historical journey.



Filios Stangos, Stratos Dordanas, Dr. Thomas Lutz, Dr. Evangelos Hekimoglou, George Antoniou.

CTY Greece: Education Inspired

CTY Greece Hosts a Conference in Cyprus

To continue establishing and developing its leading role as a reference point for gifted education in Greece and Cyprus, CTY Greece hosted its third conference on gifted education, at the University of Cyprus in Nicosia, in November 2019.

The topic of the conference, co-organized with the National Teacher Associations of Cyprus under the auspices of the Cypriot Ministry of Education, was "A practical guide to identifying and working with gifted students". Over 100 educators attended the open event, which was made possible with the generous support of Lidl Cyprus, a key benefactor of the CTY Greece program, and Aegean Airlines, the sponsor associated with funding all air travel for the event. Guests were welcomed by **Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa**, CTY Greece Director, and **Ioannis Tsobatzoglou**, Chief Operating Officer for Planning & Innovation & Vice President for Cross Divisional Programs at Anatolia College, who explained the innovative nature of the CTY Greece program, and the significance of scholarships. Keynote speakers were **Dr. Colm O'Reilly**, Director of the Center for Talented Youth at the Dublin City University and **Dr. Marold Reutlinger**, Researcher for Educational Psychology, Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany) and Chief Operating Officer of the World Giftedness Center in Dubai

CTY Greece - the Center for Talented Youth Greece - was created in 2013 with a founding donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. It operates under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education and the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports. CTY Greece is a member of the European Council of High Ability (ECHA). The Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University is the adviser to CTY Greece. Grand donors include Eurobank and Lidl Hellas, while its major donors are Intrasoft International, Star Bulk Carriers Corp., the John S. Latsis Beneficiary Foundation, Aegean Airlines, and Lidl Cyprus.



(UAE). **Dr. Despina Hadjigeorgiou-Samata**, Educational Psychologist for the Cyprus Ministry of Education, participated in the Q&A session moderated by **Dr. Haido Samara**, Academic Dean of CTY Greece.

CTY Greece Outreach: Open Days, Exams, and Teacher Training

Hundreds of students and their families participated in the CTY Greece Open Days in Kastoria and Cyprus, and had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the innovative teaching and learning methods that the center offers through its programs. The CTY Greece exams have been administered in 12 cities across Greece and Cyprus, and approximately 2,000 elementary and high school students participated. The Center's mission to disseminate good teaching practices and raise awareness of the program to the wider educational community continued, with 12

underachievers, gifted and disadvantaged, and twice exceptional. It provides teachers with specialized tools and methodologies to identify, approach, and support talented students in their regular classrooms. The EGift platform is an Erasmus+ funded project developed by European academic institutions, including CTY Greece, with expertise in educating gifted students.



More than 1,000 people - students and family members - attended the Award Ceremony for CTY Greece on Sunday, September 22, 2019, at the "Hellenic World" Cultural Center in Athens.

teacher training workshops for primary and secondary school teachers. The workshops were structured in three thematic sessions: "Instructional Strategies for Active Student Engagement", "Informal Assessment of Learning" and "Characteristics of Students with High Academic Abilities". These took place in Thessaloniki, Alexandroupoli, Komotini, Tripoli, Chios, Limassol, Nicosia, Kastoria and Athens. Over 300 educators participated in the workshops, which were offered with the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.



CTY Greece at the Vamvakou Lab



© Vamvakou Revival

In November 2019, CTY Greece supported the V.Lab, Vamvakou Technology Lab fully powered by Stavros Niarchos Foundation. This is a state-of-the-art STEAM Center located in the mountain village of Vamvakou in Laconia, the birthplace of Stavros Niarchos. As part of the Vamvakou Revival Project, the center offers students the opportunity to get acquainted with new technologies. High school students had the chance to experience the CTY Greece "Probabilities and Game Theory" course, while elementary school students participated in the "Welcome to the Jungle" and "Science and Engineering" courses.



© Etsi Architects / Ioannis Promponas

The Director of CTY Greece at the General Committee of the ECHA

In June 2020, the Director of CTY Greece, Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa, was elected as a member of the General Committee of the European Council for High Ability (ECHA). This is of particular importance, as CTY Greece and Anatolia College will be at the forefront of new teaching practices and approaches to education that could benefit the wider Greek education community.

EGift: An Online Education Platform

Dr. O'Reilly's presentation focused on the online platform for educators called "EGift" (www.highability.eu). The platform explains the concept of gifted education using the three pillars of gifted

Summer programs

Keeping up the Pace!

CTY Greece's annual summer programs were held in Thessaloniki at Anatolia College and in Athens at OTE Academy in July 2020, with the participation of 228 students from all over Greece and Cyprus. The students were able to select among 16 different courses from the Sciences and Humanities fields, each one tailored for the students' advanced academic abilities. Furthermore, a new Digital synchronous teaching program was introduced, which attracted 118 students and served the diverse learning needs of these gifted students.



Ambassador Pyatt at CTY Greece

During his visit to Anatolia College in July 2020, the US Ambassador to Greece Mr. Geoffrey R. Pyatt met the CTY Greece Director Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa and two of the scholarship students of the CTY Greece summer program. The Ambassador expressed a genuine interest in the students' experience attending such an innovative program and the benefits of it for the youth of Greece. Mr. Pyatt was accompanied by the US General Consul Mr. Gregory W. Pflieger, Jr.

Anatolia College Institutional News

Donor Interview: **Vassos Efthymiadis '90**

Managing Director of K&N Efthymiadis S.A.

Mr. Vassos Efthymiadis '90 is Managing Director of K&N Efthymiadis S.A. He has a BSc in Business Economics from the London School of Economics and an MSc in Shipping, Trade & Finance from the City University of London. Mr. Efthymiadis started his professional career in 1997 within the Efthymiadis Group of Companies, first as Logistics Manager, following as Head of the Administrative Operations Department and then as Managing Director of K&N Efthymiadis S.A., as well as Vice President on the Board of the Group. Mr. Efthymiadis has served as President of the Association of Greek Chemical Industries (SEXB) and is currently the President of the Hellenic Crop Protection Association (HCPA).



What led you to offer this new scholarship?

I firmly believe that quality education should not be confined to the financially able but has to also be made available to those members of society who, though not possessing the financial means to access it directly, demonstrate all the educational and ethical characteristics appropriate for academic excellence. Any educational institution, and especially one with the historical roots of Anatolia, should make sure that it amply provides such opportunities to the maximum number of students possible, in its lasting pursuit of a more socially balanced and multicultural school environment.

"...we (the alumni) must actively seek or offer the resources necessary to ensure that the school moves towards the direction we all envisage."

Why did you choose to benefit a student from the Pomakochoria region? Is there a special significance to the area for you or your family?

Pomaks form a very special ethnic group within Greek society. Islamized in the 16th and 17th century by the Ottomans, they constitute a solid community living in Western Thrace for centuries. In my opinion, the Modern Greek state made a grave mistake in systematically marginalizing them over the past many decades and creating a widespread sentiment of alienation among the Pomak population. I still distinctly remember my first visit to a Pomak village in the early 90's, where I was obliged to pass through a military checkpoint before I could access it. Though my family heritage originates from Eastern Thrace, I cannot help but find a strong analogy with stories my grandparents used to tell me as a child about the way Greek refugees, having been violently uprooted from their homelands in Ionia, Pontus and greater Anatolia, were treated after their arrival in Greece by the local population. It is a mistake we must never repeat, especially having in mind that Greece is not a country in the strict geographical sense but a Nation, historically basing its existence on its diaspora and on the cultural incorporation of people having a different ethnicity and religion.

What are your hopes for the scholarship student?

My main ambition is that she will take full advantage of the opportunity presented by achieving educational excellence and, more importantly, broadening her understanding of our world. I strongly feel academic progress alone is of little value if not accompanied by a development of character, better comprehension of social responsibility and a conviction that anything is possible for someone who is willing to make

all efforts and sacrifices necessary to achieve it. Furthermore, I would feel truly exhilarated if, in the end of this 6-year period, she could inspire other members of the Pomak community to follow her example, thus ensuring that they will be better equipped to integrate into the inevitably more liberal society of tomorrow.

How can an Anatolian education help our students become more engaged citizens?

Anatolia is all about advanced citizenship. Trying to provide equal opportunities, incorporating different ethnic groups and religions, provoking interest for the environment, underlining the significance of athletic excellence and sportsmanship, inspiring curiosity about science, encouraging avocation with art and instigating political and social debate are all part of the school's heritage. Good teachers or impressive school surroundings can also be found elsewhere, but the above core social values of the school, deeply embedded into its very existence, are what make it stand apart.

How did Anatolia influence your life in your high school years and beyond?

The influence derived from our school years is usually related to human interaction. I was privi-

leged to meet several remarkable people which, even today, I have the honor of calling close friends. At the same time, I was indelibly inspired by certain teachers, not so much for their classroom skills but more for their moral stature and the way they were able to transform the learning process into a truly integrated educational experience, rising above the bare facts of their lesson and provoking broader esoteric quests. However, I feel the most enduring legacy of the school was that it solidified in my psyche certain ethical values which I have tried to adhere to – not always successfully, I have to admit: always compare yourself to someone better than you, never sacrifice your dignity for whatever reason and always choose the hard road ahead.

Are there any particular memories that stand out from your time here at the College?

I have to confess that, while specific memories are slowly fading away with time, the barrage of emotions that strike me every time I have the chance to visit the school campus – something I do less often that I would like to – never ceases to amaze me. The emotional bond with the school manifests itself more as an amalgam of feelings, flashes, pictures, sounds and smells that are instantaneously unlocked from one's subconscious, rushing back into the heart with an almost violent frenzy. In the end, maybe these spontaneous sentiments are triggered by a primitive human urge to feel a child again, reminiscing about more innocent, careless times.

How can Anatolia's alumni play a greater role in strengthening our school's mission and values?

We must stay focused on our everlasting quest for creating good citizens and not just good students. In this modern era of professional specialization, it is easy to forget that the school's main mission is to empower students to find value in broader issues of social interest or wider academic knowledge not directly linked to their future business pursuits. Furthermore, we must stay engaged and actively support our school's leadership by providing novel ideas and pragmatic suggestions, even constructive criticism where necessary. In its struggle to achieve financial sustainability, it is all too easy for a non-profit educational institution to unconsciously drift away from its core values and social mission by gradually adapting to the desires of its perceived clientele. Finally, we must actively seek or offer the resources necessary to ensure that the school moves towards the direction we all envisage. Financial aid is definitely an indispensable form of support, as is our active participation in the school affairs in whichever aspect one can prove useful, securing that Anatolia's great legacy will live on, for the benefit of future generations.

Return of the Staff Scholarship

For three decades, Anatolia teachers and staff contributed funds towards a full scholarship – known as the "Staff Scholarship." Inaugurated in 1982, the scholarship commemorated a tragic event, the unexpected death of 20-year-old graduate Anastasia Alexandridou. Wanting to honor her memory, Anatolia teachers and other employees contributed funds to cover the cost of six years of high school at Anatolia College for an excellent student with limited financial means. In September 2019, an effort was launched to resume the fundraising, and restore the Staff Scholarship. Professors Tassos Gentzou, Kater-

ina Daki and Thanassis Papadimitriou spearheaded the effort, which was met with a great response from the teaching, administrative and technical staff.

The Staff Scholarship has been awarded to a student who, in addition to high academic potential, has also shown evidence of excellent ethics. Candidates have been evaluated by the Scholarship Committee of Anatolia College.

The contributing staff members recognize the impact an Anatolian education can have on students, according to Tassos Gentzou, who has been participating in the Scholarship Committee for the past six years.



Pinewood International School

A New Home for Pinewood's Middle & High School



After last fall's architectural design competition that include of eight prominent firms from Thessaloniki, Athens, and London, the Pinewood Board of Trustees approved the expertly modern design of Tombazis & Associates in collaboration with Micro Mega for the new Pinewood Secondary School facility. This purpose-built facility, whose layout creates an environment akin to a campus within the campus, is carefully designed to collaborate with the beauty of the existing campus and environment.



Things will not Return to Normal

Like so many schools around the world, Pinewood transitioned immediately to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goals were simple - for students to feel cared for and for all grade levels to be meaningfully engaged in learning throughout the days of lockdown. As we got deeper and deeper into remote learning, the recurring theme that emerged was clear. Things will not return to normal.

The crisis around the world has been a catalyst for a genuine tectonic shift in how we do things - in particular schooling. So, what does that mean for us as international educators? The evidence of the importance of the school experience, including the daily social interactions, critical nature of student-teacher connections, and



rich extra-curricular activities, was all made so evident by our deep dive into remote learning. At the same time, the fact that we can do remote learning also makes us think that we need to talk openly about what education is going through, but more importantly, we need to start imagining what comes next. This is our silver lining amidst the pandemic, and we look forward to exploring the architecture of what comes next at Pinewood.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

On January 27, Pinewood's IB History and Grade 10 World History students, under the direction of Dr. Apostolos Rofaelas, Social Studies Department faculty member, organized the annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day assembly. In it, they dared to compose authen-

tic music precisely for that event, wrote and recited original poems, and conducted precise historical research of such depth that it moved the audience to tears.

The aim of our ceremony each year is to prompt participants and audience members to reflect on the nightmares of the past, the challenges of the present, and the commitment for a future free of prejudice and discrimination. It fosters empathy with the victims and helps to preserve their memory, so that such an atrocity against humanity may not be repeated. It increases awareness about the dangers inherent in the xenophobic rhetoric that is gaining traction worldwide.

Most importantly, the events of the day encourage a sense of personal responsibility among us all, to defend and protect human rights all over the world, so that this crime may never happen again. We empower students to become active promoters of peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure, and sustainable societies.



Salute to the Class of 2020

Each year, Pinewood's graduating class is emblematic of the diversity that defines our school. The Class of 2020 is no exception. With 27 graduates, this year's senior class is made up of students from Albania, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. We salute our seniors as they prepare for their next steps and congratulate them on earning places at fine universities around the world.

Heading to the U.S. are students who received scholarships in a combined amount totaling \$870,000, including one "full-ride" tennis scholarship, five full tuition scholarships, and a notable number of near-full tuition scholarships. Universities to which our students are headed in the U.S. include DePauw University, Drake University, Fordham University, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Ithaca College, Knox College, Lawrence University, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John's University, St. Lawrence University, the University of Hawaii, and the University of Michigan (tennis scholarship). In other parts of the world, our students will attend Cardiff University, Queen Mary's University, the University of Southampton, Hult International Business School, Richmond American International University, the University of Roehampton, Erasmus University, Leiden University, St. Louis University Madrid, B.H.M.S. Lucerne, and Les Roches. We wish our graduates the best as they embark on building our world.

New Scholarship for Exceptional Writers

The Alexander Ammerman Memorial Scholarship, in its inaugural year, is dedicated to one young writer each year at Pinewood. The annual scholarship, in the memory of our dear colleague, Mr. Alexander Ammerman, whose life was cut tragically short in 2020, aims to recognize the value of the written word in poetry and literature. Mr. Ammerman was scholarly, compassionate, discerning, thoughtful, poetic, and kind-hearted, and it is these character qualities that we aspire to memorialize and promote through the recipients of this scholarship. The Alexander Ammerman Scholarship is available for new students entering Grade 10 each year. A very heartfelt thank you to the Ammerman family for sponsoring this valued scholarship amidst their profound loss.

Alumni Stories

Juan Nieves '13

Nobody can relate more poignantly to the COVID-19 pandemic than the doctors on the frontline of care. Juan Nieves, Pinewood class of '13, is no exception. A highly motivated student at Pinewood, he graduated from medical school in June 2019 and passed the Spanish national residency exams in February 2020. Today, however, although he finds himself in bureaucratic limbo due to the pandemic, he is fighting the severe coronavirus outbreak in Spain. In addition to raising awareness about the virus and teaching vulnerable groups how to wear protective gear correctly, Juan is involved in a consequential project in Spain. As he explains in a recent interview with Pinewood Director Dr. Giampapa, "What I'm most thrilled about, due to its global impact, is a project called 'Generations'. In it, we aim to create a debate among people from ages 14-25 with WHO and UNICEF officials. The idea is that the voices of today's youth should be heard about how we deal with COVID-19, particularly its aftermath." Congratulations, Juan, for making a positive impact on the world. #pinewoodproud

Galini Poimenidou '16

Galini Poimenidou (Pinewood class of '16) is headed to Dartmouth Medical School to pursue a Ph.D. in their exclusive PEMM (Program in Experimental & Molecular Medicine) this fall. Galini was shortlisted from amongst 300 candidates to the 30 finalists for the program, and after a two-day interview in February, she was one of the 10 students accepted into the program, complete with a full tuition scholarship and stipend. The program seeks to train the next generation of scientists and physician-scientists to engage in research in genomic, proteomic, cellular, and organ-based systems for the purpose of translating this knowledge into disease treatment and prevention. Congratulations, Galini, for pursuing your dreams and never giving up. #pinewoodproud

THANK YOU!



THE ANATOLIA
COLLEGE
COMMUNITY

**UNITED
AGAINST COVID-19**

It took only six days for the Anatolia community to raise a remarkable 56,000 euros - enough to dramatically fortify the Intensive Care Units of the AHEPA Hospital with much-needed equipment and materials.

Responding to the possibility of an impending healthcare crisis, students, parents, employees, alumni and friends of Anatolia College contributed to a weeklong fundraising campaign. From Sunday, March 29th until Friday, April 3rd, 2020, Anatolians heeded the call for donations, surpassing - on the very first day - the initial target of 15,000 euros.

Students contributed 5,000 euros from the proceeds raised at the school's Christmas Bazaar, and in the following days Anatolia College received more than 320 donations from around the world. Along with the money, the fundraising drive sent an important symbolic message of support to frontline healthcare workers, and people who fell ill with the dangerous disease.

"In these unprecedented times, the expression of solidarity inspires people

who are at the forefront. At the same time, it inspires optimism that together we can achieve a more balanced and just society," said Dr. Panos Vlachos, President of Anatolia College, warmly thanking those who contributed.

The initiative is in line with the College's historic mission of supporting the community and society in times of need, and reflects the Anatolia community's dedication to strengthening our society's vital institutions, beyond education.

Pinewood students across all age groups donated a total of 1,000 euros to the community campaign initiated by Anatolia for the AHEPA hospital's Intensive Care Unit in Thessaloniki. In another show of care, an important tenet of Pinewood's core values, Mr. Christos Kosmidis, member of Pinewood's Science Department, 3D-printed particles for face shields in collaboration with Anatolia colleagues. Pinewood proudly contributed to the face shields project for our frontline healthcare workers.

Solidarity and Imagination as an "antidote" to Covid-19

Even during the pandemic, Anatolia College's Social Responsibility Program continued, adapting to the new reality by finding alternative ways to 'pay it forward.' More than 140 Gymnasio and Lykeio students volunteered on a weekly basis to serve healthcare-related organizations, emphasizing on assisting children and families, including those with debilitating and life-threatening diseases, pediatric cancer patients, the Hellenic Blood Transfusion Society, Friends of Papageorgiou Hospital ("Antirida"), and the Stray-animal Refuge ("Love"). Three IB students created a series of presentations on Astronomy and Space entitled "Star Talks". The presentations were addressed to high school students to maintain their interest in STEM activities. More than 20 students attended these online "courses" with material drawn from the repository of the European "Scientix" educational program.



Service as Action -MYP

Taking a page from the global WFH (Work From Home) philosophy, our Middle Years Program students (7th-9th grade) focused their volunteer actions during the lockdown period on issues like recycling, the UN Sustainable Development goals, creation and dissemination of "positivity messages", along with thank-you messages to healthcare and law enforcement workers.

Elementary School

Social Responsibility - Beginning with the Youngest Anatolians



Holiday Cheer:

Anatolia's Kindergarten and Elementary students took the spirit and meaning of Christmas out of the classroom and into the community with a series of visits and activities that spread love, charity, and good will to locations throughout the city. The second graders visited Papageorgiou Hospital, singing carols, and visiting the patients and medical and administrative staff with season's greetings. They were joined by some distinguished guests, including Papageorgiou Foundation's representative Mrs. Zoe Papageorgiou, Hospital President Mr. Vassilis Papas, and Mrs. Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotakis, wife of the Greek Prime Minister.

A few days later, our elementary school students went caroling in different groups, bringing a morning of festivity to the residents and staff at rehabilitation centers, elderly care units, and children's charity organization, bringing gifts, cards, clothes and sweets with them. During the annual Anatolia Charity Drive, additional monies were collected and donated to support the organization's operations.



Anatolia Charity Drive:

The elementary school's response to the Charity Drive's "Food Drive" was also a great success, collecting large amounts of non-perishable food and drinks that were distributed to organizations helping families in need.

Winter harvest:

AES students reaped the bounty of our beautiful winter garden, planted, and tended to by students. With the loving care of our young gardeners, the vegetable garden flourished and produced its first exceptionally good harvest. The produce was carefully collected and presented to the soup kitchen of the Church of Prophet Elias. The Anatolia Elementary School garden project combines experiential learning activities - including science, nutrition, and other studies, with the social engagement of Anatolia's various philanthropic activities.



Book Donation:

Anatolia Elementary School first graders decided to 'pass-on' some of their most beloved books - collecting and donating their favorite titles to other young readers in schools and associations with which the school collaborates, including the School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Thessaloniki, "Storgi" the Association of Friends of Children with Cancer, and the library of the 1st Elementary School of Asvestochori.

Art at the Rotunda monument



As part of the AES cultural activities, the students of the 4th, 5th and 6th grades attended the exhibition "The Art of Mosaic: Ravenna - Thessaloniki, parallel readings." The exhibit, hosted in Thessaloniki's Rotunda building, included copies of wall mosaics from the monuments of Ravenna (5th-6th century) paired in "conversation" with photographs of wall mosaics from monuments of Thessaloniki of the early Christian period, as well as with the original mosaics of the Rotunda. Combining examples of world-famous mosaics from the two cities gave the students a unique opportunity to experience and compare the cultural richness of Ravenna and Thessaloniki.

High School News



Despite the difficulties and upheavals of the past school year due to the COVID – 19 pandemic, the results of the Panhellenic Exams reaffirmed the historic tradition of excellence and high academic performance that characterize Anatolia College students. Anatolia High School students have been admitted to the tertiary educational institutions of Greece, and many of them in high demand schools. Among the top performing students were scholarship recipients, underlying the

Anatolia College Student Success on 2020 Panhellenic Exams and with Leading Universities Abroad

significance of the educational and social mission of our school. For the academic year 2020:

- 119 Anatolian College students entered Greek universities
- 20 placed among the top scorers in the college of their first choice.
- 82 students were admitted in top schools (Medicine, Law, Polytechnic, Politics & Finance, Philosophy, Physics & Mathematics)

Additionally, out of the 66 seniors and graduate students of the IB Diploma Program who applied to foreign universities, 59 were admitted to their first choice universities and colleges, and seven to their second choice, including:

US and Canada: New York University, Northwestern University, Bentley University, Case

Western Reserve University, University of Toronto, University of British Columbia in Canada. United Kingdom: Cambridge, Imperial College, King's College, LSE, Edinburgh. Europe: TUM in Germany (Munich Polytechnic School of Engineering), Erasmus, Eindhoven, Groningen in Holland.

Furthermore, nine Anatolia High School students were accepted to prominent US universities and colleges such as Rutgers University, Pomona College, Davidson College, Johns Hopkins, Grinnell College.

The students who applied to US universities and colleges earned scholarships totaling more than \$3.6 million, and in individual cases \$300,000 per student, for four years of study.

Anatolia's Students Awarded by the Minister of Education



The Greek Ministry of Education and Religions awarded Thessaloniki students who have distinguished themselves in the international student competitions. Minister Niki Kerameus, Deputy Minister Sofia Zacharaki and General Secretary Anastasia Gika warmly congratulated the students, who achieved important distinctions, while also acknowledging the efforts of their families and teachers. Among the winners from Anatolia College: Dimitris Pappas (silver medal) and Eleni Daskopoulou (bronze medal) at the 1st Balkan Physics Olympiad; Asimina Axarli and Giorgos Peios, (bronze medal) in the 7th International Young Naturalists' Tournament.

Anatolia College STEM Center and the Future of Green Education



The Anatolia College STEM Center participates in the "Green Education for a sustainable future-Green EDU" program. The program is co-financed by the European Union in the framework of the Erasmus + KA201 action and involves six academic and research institutions from five countries (Poland, Greece, Italy, Romania and Turkey).

"Green EDU" aims to support European teachers in integrating Green Education principles into the STEM pedagogical approach. An electronic platform will be developed that will act as a STEM resource for Green Education, focusing on the fields of Green Chemistry, Green Biotechnology, Engineering for Sustainable Development and Robotics.

The Anatolia College STEM team will organize educational activities for teachers from all over Europe and will present and implement innovative lesson plans for classroom teaching. The program will strengthen the educational work of Anatolia College and its academic collaborations abroad.



Walid Franco: Life under Quarantine at the Anatolia Boarding House

The Spring of 2020, the Anatolia campus was quiet, but not inactive. Although most students were gone, life within the school gates continued, but at a different pace. A few residents had remained, including a small number of teachers (permanently residents of the College), and four international students whose chance to return home was postponed by the general lockdown and the suspension of air flights in March.

One of these students was Walid Franco, an IB1 student at Anatolia College, from Italy. Along with three other Pinewood students, he kept his room at the College boarding department, supervised by Boarding Director Alexia Dara and members of the school staff who helped them with everything from food to psychological support, in addition to keeping them company.

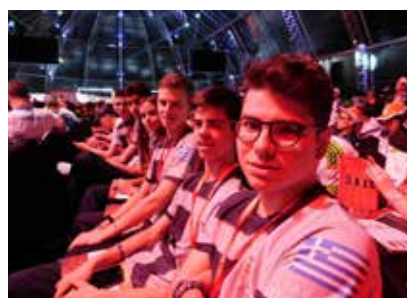
"My parents were relieved that I stayed in Thessaloniki during the quarantine and on the Anatolia College campus. My Italian friends said I was lucky. They were trapped in

their apartments, while I could move freely on the campus, in an environment of greenery, fresh air, and the stadiums at my disposal" said Walid.

Walid joined the Anatolia boarding school in September 2019 when he began the Anatolia IB program; "Searching the internet, I found Anatolia College. As I love Greece very much and wanted to experience life here, the choice was not difficult. I may be far from my biological family, but in the boarding school - I found another family."



F-1 in Schools: Anatolia's Anemos Racing Team in 13th place worldwide!



Anatolia's Anemos Racing team competed in the F1 in Schools World Finals held from November 24 to 27 2019 in Abu Dhabi, placing 13 overall and earning distinction with the 2nd fastest wheelchair among the 55 of the competition. The team consisted of Anatolia College students Aris Koutsopoulos, Asimina Lazaridou and Panagiotis Papanastasiou, as well as university students Panos Gotsis, Andreas Kalyvas and Konstantinos Karabinos. The members of Anemos Racing Team spent months preparing for the competition before leaving for Abu Dhabi. Anatolia College has been instrumental in the team's efforts from the outset, helping materially and with moral support; Anatolia's F1 in Schools teams have had a string of successes in recent years, qualifying for the World Finals three times in the past five years, and winning the Panhellenic championship in 2015.



The 15th Anatolia College Model United Nations

On February 14th, over 450 students and 47 advisors convened on campus for the 15th Anatolia College Model United Nations. Participating schools traveled from Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Poland, and Turkey and represented 83 countries and three NGOs across 11 committees.

After Dr. Vlachos' welcoming message, at the opening ceremony, delegates had the privilege of being addressed by Mr. Gregory W. Pflieger, Jr, US Consul General in Thessaloniki, and Ms. Evi Avlogiari, Honorary Consul of Estonia, who gave inspiring speeches. For three days, students discussed current topics such as the 2019 Amazon Rainforest Wildfires, genetic engineering, global oil prices, rights for Stateless people, exploitation in the Arctic, international access to National DNA Databases, universal jurisdiction related to sexual offenses, and appropriate state behavior in cyberspace. The French Revolution made an appearance at the conference as the Historical Committee relived the social and political disruption in France, ultimately led to the removal of Louis XVI.



The 2020 "Covid-19" Commencement: A Different Perspective

The highlight of each academic year comes when our graduating student walks down the steps of illustrious Macedonia Hall to receive their diploma. This annual Commencement ceremony is a long-held tradition at Anatolia for which graduating students, parents and their families wait with great anticipation each June. This year's Commencement was almost canceled due to the Government's directives to battle the pandemic. Many schools replaced their ceremonies with online adaptations. But true to our spirit of innovation, Anatolia found a way to not only host this year's Commencement in person but to allow the traditional walk down Macedonia Hall to remain the heart of the ceremony.



This year's Commencement turned out to be a wonderful, impressive and spectacular event that saw the students walk down Macedonia Hall to their waiting parents – who were sitting according to social distancing policies - on the Anatolia Alumni Soccer Field. The

immense size of the field and the feeling of openness it provided augmented with professional lighting and two large-screen monitors that followed the students throughout the ceremony, transformed the area into a majestic sanctuary fitting for the purpose of this important evening.

The annual Commencement ceremony marks the apex of our seniors' years at Anatolia. Despite the fewer guests and the social distancing, the Commencement remained a moving event thanks to the inspiring words of our speaker, Dr. Yannis Assael '08, allowing the School to bid farewell to the seniors that managed to overcome successfully the turbulent foregoing academic period.

Anatolia Continues its Club Program despite Covid-19

Anatolia's extra-curricular program did not let the pandemic get in the way of Club meetings. During the lockdown period, faculty advisors took the opportunity to meet with their club members online, and some even prepared them for online competitions. Many of our students jumped at the opportunity offered to them to engage in their favorite clubs, a welcome chance to engage in non-academic enrichment. Some of the club initiatives were the following:



Eleven Anatolia students attended the **3rd Annual Session of Zygmunt MUN**, hosted online by the American School of Warsaw. The conference theme "Good Health and Well-Being" has never been more relevant. Representing various countries in different committees, our students spent two full days debating issues, such as ensuring food security to promote sustained economic development, the situation in Mali and in Libya, and many more.



IB Company Program Presented Its Enterprise "GRID" at the 15th Panhellenic Competition, May 2020. Throughout the quarantine, club members continued to work hard on their GRID virtual enterprise, which was selected to participate in the finals of the 15th Panhellenic Competition "Best Virtual Student Enterprise 2020" on May 8th.



CanSat Prepares Its Space Missions and Satellites. Our school's two CanSat teams, Project Outreach and the all-girls team Aurora, continued to work on their space missions and satellites. The two Anatolian teams were selected with eight other Greek teams to participate in the national competition CanSat in Greece. The members of the all-girls Aurora team are: Sofia Amanatidou, Christina Gkini, Maria Daoukopoulou, Anna Daskopoulou, Eleni Daskopoulou, Maria Eleni Kapetanaki, and Ariadni Kalliopi Papamichou.)



After a series of STAR talks, offered by three IB students under the guidance of Scientix Ambassador Dr. Iro Koliakou, and Virginia Arvaniti, 34 Anatolia students met for a workshop on Roller Coaster Physics, as part of the STEM Discovery Week under the auspices of the European Network and Scientix. The group met every week until the end of the quarantine to engage in various STEM activities and themes, such as Citizen Science, using online virtual labs and simulations.

IB ART Exhibition



Perhaps no other academic discipline is as challenged by quarantine measures as the visual arts. Yet our IB students managed to complete their work and arrange individual art exhibitions at home, effectively experiencing the multiple responsibilities of gallery manager, curator, and critic along with being the Creator. While the personal feedback and contact with viewers that the exhibition provides under 'normal' circumstances is often the most rewarding part of the two-year course, our young artists managed to completely demonstrate the themes and concepts they have been developing during their studies, and provide an intimate window into their personal outlook on the world around them.



Theater news

Greek Theater Club: Blood Enemies and Biological Migrant



With a cast of 15 talented students who exchanged roles during the performances, the Greek Theater Club performed *Arkas' Emergencies: Blood Enemies and Biological Migrant*. This political and social allegory had the audience roaring with laughter at its dark humor, but also sent a strong message of the importance of unity in a world of conflicts for survival, conspiracy theories, and racism towards immigrants.

Bullets over Broadway from the Anatolia Drama Club

Swing music and flying bullets filled Raphael Hall in February, when the Anatolia Drama Club filled the auditorium to capacity for six days in a row with their spirited adaptation of Woody Allen's classic work *Bullets over Broadway*.



The Manhattan Theater Club: A Rousing Success!

The Manhattan Theater Club (MTC) at Anatolia College is a distance-learning, Internet-based playwriting and production program that unites students from geographically isolated areas to learn about theatre. The program teaches students the principles of playwriting and enhances their understanding of the rehearsal and production process. Anatolia High School is the only Greek School that has participated in the international program since its beginning in 2006.

The English Department has included the project as a basic component of the English lessons for Lykeio students. The Manhattan Theatre Club in New York provides training and support through the writing and production phases as Anatolia students coordinate with two other schools in a three-way exchange of plays based on a single prompt.

This year Anatolia College exchanged with Poinciana High School in Florida and our 20 students performed "Count to three," a play written by Poinciana High School in a Zoom conference with MTC education offices in NYC.

The coronavirus lockdown posed a risk to the project's completion; however, thanks to several Zoom conferences, the students managed not to lose touch.



ACT Signs Agreements With Serbian Institutions



ACT - The American College of Thessaloniki has signed cooperative agreements in September 2019 with the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Belgrade and the Institute of International Politics and Economics (IPE) in Belgrade. The agreements establish a connection between ACT and the two Serbian institutions by enabling faculty and student exchanges, joint research activities, special short-term academic programs, professional development programs, and collaborations in other areas of mutual interest.

"We are delighted with those two new collaborations since they underline our institution's long historical ties with the people and the institutions of Serbia," stated Dr. Stamos Karamouzis, ACT Provost. The Faculty of Political Sciences in the University of Belgrade was established in 1968, and since then it has been a leading institution of higher education. The Institute of International Politics and Economics in Belgrade is one of the oldest research institutes in Southeastern Europe in the field of research on international relations. Founded in 1947, the Institute has gradually turned into a leading research organization of its kind.



Sustainable Tourism in Greece: Issues and Challenges

The 3rd annual conference "Tourism of Tomorrow" took place on Friday, January 17th, 2020, organized by the American College of Thessaloniki. This year's successful event was part of a wide range of activities organized by the Tourism and Hospitality Program and was dedicated to Sustainability and Development in Tourism. The keynote speaker, **Hisham Zaazou**, former Minister of Tourism of Egypt, presented a case study on the communication strategy applied after a major crisis. In particular, the case involved the crash of the Russian aircraft in 2015, at Sharm el Sheikh.



ACT Goes Online During the Quarantine

During the interim, ACT faculty worked hard to complete their faculty development program and accelerated the transition of course materials to an online environment for both the undergraduate and graduate programs at the school.

In addition, ACT offered a variety of free webinars to various sectors of the community: 12 online "Think" events, seminars in Greek for high school and college students in Xanthi in cooperation with the Xanthi Tech Lab; managing the economic crisis and negotiation; psychological counseling and support for college students. Locked-down-but-not-out - the Dukakis Center remained active, and even productive, during the weeks in which staff worked from home, participating in a host of webinars regarding the role of Think Tanks. Since April 2018, the Dukakis Center has been instrumental in helping forge a national network of think tanks, research institutes, and civil society organizations around the world.

From College to... Kindergarten!



For the third consecutive year, the Anatolia Kindergarten collaborated with ACT's "NUin Thessaloniki" program to place American college freshmen in youngest students' classrooms. Under the program, first-year students from Boston's Northeastern University spent their first semester of college abroad, studying at Anatolia's ACT where, in addition to their academic duties, they take part in volunteer and social programs. The American students visited our Kindergarten on a weekly basis, helping with organized and spontaneous activities in English. Together, they read books, played games and music from other countries, and did arts and crafts to encourage creativity. The children got valuable exposure to the functional use of the English language and were really inspired by their interaction with the older students, whose enthusiasm and spirit was contagious.

Two new Erasmus+ programs at ACT



ACT is a partner in two new European Union-funded projects, "**Basketball for Life Skills**" (BASKI), and "**InGame - Gaming for Social Inclusion**."

The BASK project envisions developing a training program for basketball coaches, sports educators, sports and education decision-makers on how to promote basketball among primary school students as a medium of life skills development, with emphasis on civic participation. The partners include six different European countries, with the Cyprus Basketball Federation as the leader of the consortium.

The InGame project involves the development of an educational online game, associated services, maintenance, in addition to reporting

results of pedagogical practices that worked for young adult learners. The network consists of nine partners from eight different countries (Spain, Greece, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Lithuania, and Romania). The overall value of the game will be to enhance critical reflection on social and political circumstances, build skills and stimulate interest in common values - all things that can eventually lead to social inclusion. The program will run from January 2020 to January 2023 and will certainly enhance the College's research record and partnership opportunities with EU universities and agencies, as well as with faculty and students who will participate in various stages of the project.

The Lifelong Learning Center Enters its Second Year

In its second year of operation, the Lifelong Learning Center (LLC) at the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) totals nine programs, 185 participants and 345 hours of instruction. In addition to its repeat programs including Management Mindset, Business Strategy: Competition Demystified and Diploma in Digital and Social Media Marketing, LLC launched three new programs, Hospitality and Human Resource Management, Sea Tourism: The Yachting Business and Conflict Resolution & Negotiation. In the period October 2019 through early March 2020 when

the COVID-19 related lockdown measures came into effect, acknowledging the quality training programs and services offered by the Lifelong Learning Center, 35 companies funded their employees for their professional skill upgrading. As LLC positions itself as the learning hub for all professionals who wish to advance or seek an opportunity for self-improvement, the Center will enhance the breadth of its offerings, build on its synergies with the market and adapt the delivery of its programs, including live online programs.

A Cutting Edge MSc in Industrial Organizational Psychology

Starting in fall 2020, the ACT's MSc in Industrial Organizational Psychology explores one of the fastest growing careers in industries worldwide in all areas of business, industry, consulting, government, health and education. The new graduate program focuses on organizational leadership and change, conflict resolution and management, as well as positive psychology and well-being in the workplaces. The interdisciplinary program is one of its kind in Greece, and invites eager learners and professionals from various walks of life. The cutting-edge courses focus on the cultivation of a new mindset and offer important management and life skills in regard to self-reliance and effective communication.



Dukakis Center Focus on Accountability - Transparency - Advocacy

The Importance of Accountability: Whistleblowers reveal corruption

With a focus on the importance of whistle-blowers, ACT's Dukakis Center and Transparency International Greece invited anti-corruption expert and UN whistleblower **James Wasserstrom** to share his experience in 2007, when he revealed corruption at the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Wasserstrom was retaliated against for his actions, but ultimately prevailed when the UN's own tribunal ruled in his favor. His case was a prominent instance of a public servant who uncovered and reported corruption at the highest levels of international diplomacy. Wasserstrom, who continues his anti-corruption work today, joined a debate with Nelson Graves, founder of News-Decoder, on the prevalence of whistleblowing in contemporary democratic societies.

Session on US - Greek Relations

Two visiting American diplomats spoke with ACT and study abroad students in an interactive session dedicated to the current state of US-Greek relations. **Michele Siders**, Political Counselor at the US Embassy in Athens, and **Ross Johnston**, Greece Desk Officer at the US



Department of State in Washington, DC, related why American diplomats continue to dub Greece a "pillar of stability" in regional affairs. Siders and Johnston were accompanied by U.S. Consul General Gregory Pflieger, Jr.

Why Think Tanks Matter Forum

Thessaloniki joined more than 140 cities worldwide to hold a "Why Think Tanks and

Civil Society Matter Forum." The Dukakis Center and **Transparency International Greece**, in collaboration with the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania (TTCSP), hosted local think tanks, research institutes, and NGOs with research and advocacy capacity. The objective was to draw public attention to the breadth and depth of scientific and social-scientific

talent in Thessaloniki and link our city with a global network of think tanks and research institutes.

Webinars on the Future of Festivals and Conferences

The Dukakis Center organized a series of Zoom web events with leading cultural and scientific organizations in May 2020. The first, convened under the gavel of **Prodromos Monastiridis** of the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, featured **Maria Tsantsanoglou** of MOMUS, **Dimitris Savvaidis** of AddArt, host of the annual Thessaloniki Animation Film Festival, and **Tasos Tzikas**, President of the Thessaloniki International Fair. The three panelists discussed the future of festivals in the era of COVID - 19.

The second webinar took place on May 27, 2020, with **Epaminondas Christofilopoulos** from the Millennium Project, **Dr. Anna Damaskou** from Transparency International Greece, **Anestis Anastasiou** from ACT, and **Angelos Kaskanis** from Navarino Network. The discussion revolved around event cancellations, on-line variations of previously scheduled events, and expectations for the second half of 2020 and beyond.

Entrepreneurship Hub



GreenHouse workshops Expand Eastward!

Alexandroupolis was a new addition in the line of cities to host a GreenHouse startup workshop. Organized by the Entrepreneurship Hub and the Hellenic Initiative (THI) the Green House was held in the premises of the Evros Chamber of Commerce (November 22 - 25), and in the Municipality of the city of Didymoteicho (November, 26). The well-attended event was organized with the collaboration of the Chamber of Evros, the Department of Molecular Biology & Genetics of the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH), and the Municipality of Didymoteicho.

Additional GreenHouse workshops were held in Ioannina and Arta, Epirus. The program was co-organized with the collaboration of the Municipality of Ioannina, the University of Ioannina, and the Science and Technology Park of Epirus (STEP of Epirus).

VentureGarden

The Venture Garden, a joint initiative of ACT and the Hellenic Initiative along with the ALBA Business School, continues to support the community. Since the start of the

program in February 2014, more than 3,100 applications have been submitted - of which 1,191 applicants have been selected to attend previous rounds of the program in Athens and Thessaloniki. During the cycles, participants attended a total of 1,145 hours of lessons. Over 331 professors and mentors provided participants with counseling and substantial support, enabling them to turn their business creativity into tangible results. To date, more than 1,400 hours of supportive guidance have been offered to VentureGarden participants.



Pappajohn Business Plan Competition Awards

One hundred thirty eight teams from all over Greece applied to the 7th John and Mary Pappajohn Business Plan Award which is organized by the Entrepreneurship Hub at ACT. This year the competition was focused on innovation ideas from the fields of Medicine and Biotechnology which address issues re-



garding the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, transmission, management, logistics of pandemics and epidemics. This year's winners will receive 4,000 euros each - a generous donation by the philanthropist Greek American entrepreneur **John Pappajohn**. The winners were: *Igmorino*, *Knifepint*, *Realchain*, *Terra Robotics*, *BioPix-T*. **BioPix-T** has developed a portable molecular diagnostic device IRIS - COV and has received significant funding from angels investors.



The BioPix-T team.

Phenomenal increase in Anatolia Library Users During the Covid - 19 Lockdown



Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, the Anatolia College Libraries have remained active and open online for the institution's faculty and students who could access the libraries' collections remotely. To support our faculty and teachers across the institution the Anatolia College Libraries built and made available curated content on online teaching and learning, a comprehensive guide that was popular and well used according to the website statistics during this period. Also, in order to help families entertain themselves a "stay@home" guide was put together with plenty of ideas for reading, online activities, and cultural happenings.

This activity recorded a 270% increase in visits to the Libraries website during the period of March and April 2020.

Within a two month span:

- The Elementary School Library website visits increased by an astounding 551%;
- Eleftheriades Library website visits increased by 258%;
- Bissell Library had a 33% increase in website views.



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Alumni Spotlight

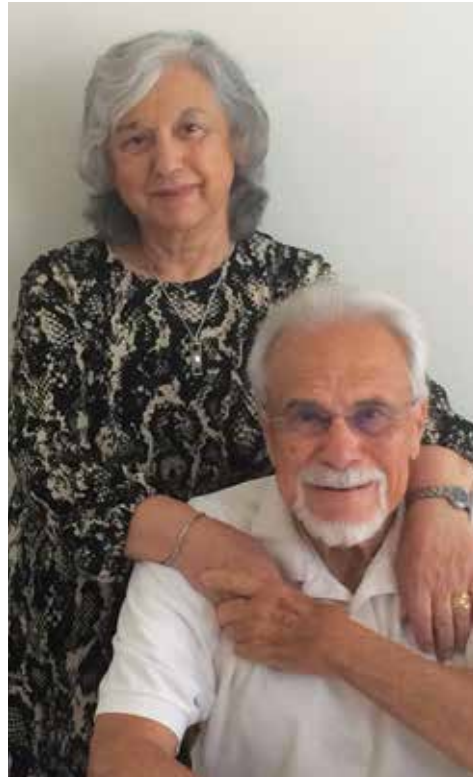
Kiki Adamidou Wiersteiner '60

Kyriaki Adamidou Wiersteiner '60 shares fond memories of her years as a scholarship student at the Boarding School of Anatolia College and explains why she and her husband Samuel decided to make a legacy gift to provide academically gifted students with limited financial means the opportunity to experience a first-rate education at Anatolia College. The donors became members of the Morning Cometh Society, established by Anatolia College in recognition of those individuals who have graciously established a planned giving program for the benefit of the institution.

The Donors:

Kyriaki Adamidou Wiersteiner was born in Vironia – Serres, Greece. Her parents were Pontians who came to Greece in 1922. She graduated from Anatolia College in 1960. She received a scholarship to study at Eastern Mennonite College where she received her B.S. degree in Home Economics Education in 1963. She earned a Master's Degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1965 in Home Management and Family Development. She married Dr. Samuel R. Wiersteiner in 1965. She worked with the Head Start Program, also taught Kindergarten and Home Economics. She spent most of her career teaching English. At present time, she serves as Hellenic Culture – Ministry chair at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox church in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Samuel R. Wiersteiner earned a B.S. degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1965 and his M.S. in 1966. He earned his Ph.D. from Penn State University in 1970. He was Dean of Applied Arts and Sciences at Williamsport Community College, PA in 1970. Dr. Wiersteiner served as Director of General and Technical Studies at Indiana University at South Bend, Indiana, from 1978-1980. Dr. Wiersteiner came to Indiana State University in 1979 as the Executive Director of the Center of the Vocational Technical Services. In 1994 he held the title of Director of Independent Study and Workforce Development until his retirement in 1997.



How would you describe your school years at Anatolia College? What did the school years offer young girls in the 50's and 60's?

I cherish many fond memories of Anatolia College - including lasting friends, fine faculty, excellent education, and a lot of hard work. The school challenged us to think seriously about our future, and how we wanted to evolve in a career, as professionals. For me, Anatolia College offered the best education in Greece.

What do you remember fondly from that period?

I remember how dedicated our teachers were, who put extra time helping us with classes. My favorite teacher - Mrs. Dorothy Attaliades - was always helping me with my English courses. I loved the yearly Christmas Bazaar, the various clubs to which I belonged and our class trips during Easter. I also enjoyed the chapel programs with so many interesting speakers, as well as the celebrations of the national holidays.

You were a boarding student. How was the transition from your hometown to the campus?

My parents died when I was very young, during World War II. I spent seven years in an orphanage, so the transition to being a boarding student was easier for me in terms of group living. What was more difficult was the immersion into a life characterized by luxury and privilege. I moved into the Boarding department in 1953, just after the building opened. I remember how clean things were - and how well they took care of things; our clothes were even washed and ironed for us!

What do you recall from your first years in the US?

I had earned a scholarship to Eastern Mennonite College in Virginia. Anatolia College prepared me very well academically, but I was shocked with the cultural differences. I am very thankful because my classmates were always ready to help me adjust to the American way of living.

In which ways did the scholarship transform your life and future?

It completely changed my life and my future. Without the scholarship I would not have gone to College or succeeded professionally later on.

What motivated you and your husband to make a legacy gift to Anatolia College at this particular time?

We decided that we wanted to help those girls who have academic potential, but lack the financial means to access an education at Anatolia College. After many years of careful savings, we have been able to generate significant funds that will allow us to aid those less fortunate, but capable, girls by providing them with an opportunity for a better education.

Do you believe that young women still need more empowerment and educational opportunities? And if yes, why?

Empowerment is facilitated by education. Education is achieved through hard work and the opportunity to access that education. High quality education is, unfortunately, most often available to those who can afford it.

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Legacy Gifts - Planned Giving is the Answer!

Generosity comes in many forms and making a planned gift is a wonderful way to show your support to Anatolia College and its mission, while accommodating your own personal, financial needs and philanthropic goals. Planned gifts provide tremendous opportunities for Anatolia College, significantly strengthening our service and teaching, and greatly improving the learning experience for our students. At the same time, depending on how you structure your planned gift, you may benefit from tax deductions and income for you and your family. Individuals who plan their gift are welcomed into the "Morning Cometh Society."

Alumni Office

The overall alumni community consists of approximately 15,000 alumni of both the High school and ACT all over the world. The Alumni Relations Office undertakes various actions to build a strong bond of affiliation through systematic and relevant engagement initiatives by re-connecting old classmates, offering lifelong learning seminars, creating networking opportunities, and organizing volunteer initiatives. The Office also serves as a bridge between the School and the High School Alumni Associations in Thessaloniki and Athens (SAAK, SAKA re-

spectively) and ACT Alumni Association, which are privately run. The Anatolia College Alumni Office has initiated the foundation of a separate alumni chapter in the UK, while the Boston Office engages the vast community of alumni who live in the US.

Alumni Business Directory: The Alumni Office designed a platform for Alumni to register their professional contact details. Since April 2020 more than 440 Anatolians have signed up to the platform and the number keeps increasing.

Delivery Services During the Lockdown: Anatolia's alumni and their businesses offered delivery services during the COVID-19 lockdown via the Alumni Business Directory and Anatolia High school Alumni Facebook Group.

London Event: Over 120 Anatolia alumni enthusiastically attended an event at the Hellenic Center in London in January 2020. It is this lifelong enthusiasm demonstrated by our alumni that makes the broader Anatolia community so special and intrinsic to our school's identity.



- London event

Highlights & Events