



p.8

FALL 2022

The Anatolian

Andreas Schleicher of OECD Keynote Speaker of the
Kassandra Center of Educational Excellence Conference

➤ Page 4

Spotlight on Underserved
Communities

➤ Page 5

Donor Spotlight:
Nikolaos Papageorgiou

➤ Page 7

Successful Comprehensive Campaign Reinforces our Strategic Mission



The world of the 21st Century is transforming at an unprecedented pace, spurred by extraordinary scientific and technological innovation and opportunities, as well as social, political, environmental, and economic challenges. Education of the 21st Century must evolve to cope with these new developments and give students the tools they need to become confident and adaptable people, self-directed learners, concerned and empathetic citizens, and active contributors.

In this context, an educational institution must be committed to internal development and using its resources to serve the greater community. Anatolia's path to extroversion has been a carefully managed, calculated process. Spurred by the inauguration of CTY Greece in 2014 and the introduction of MYP a year later, our efforts to grow and extend access quickly blossomed, including the assumption of Pinewood International School, which enhances our global perspective. Other examples include the CTY Greece teacher training programs for public school educators, organized outreach and inclusion efforts to reach minority communities (Roma, Pomak, and Refugees), the launch of the Lifelong Learning Center, ACT's new undergraduate and graduate programs, and now the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence. Through these initiatives - and far more - Anatolia College has evolved our educational mission and approach into a New Learning Paradigm.

Seven years ago, we began a **Comprehensive Campaign** to raise funds required to expand and develop our academic and physical resources to a level that can ensure the success of this evolved educational approach.

These resources include dedicated **Endowed Funds for Faculty Development**, new programs such as those presenting Educational Excellence, STEAM, and Green Education, and further enhancement of our virtual learning environments. Additional support is now also guaranteed for our

Thank you to our Donors and Supporters! We Made it!

Anatolia College would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all our donors and supporters for participating in the successful completion of the Comprehensive Campaign. After seven years, over \$20 million has been raised for:

- Endowments
- Scholarships
- Buildings
- Programs

The overall amount of funds raised and invested in the last ten years- including the Comprehensive Campaign - exceeds \$35.6 million.

The funds raised by the Comprehensive Campaign have already borne fruit through many of the developments named below. However, the successful completion of our Cam-

paign would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our Trustees, Corporate entities, Organizations, Friends, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Students.

Their dedication to our educational mission and trust in our continuing vision is the inspiration that will drive Anatolia's progress for generations to come.

flagship Center for Talented Youth Greece program, for our community outreach efforts such as English on the Mountain, an English teaching program offered for free to students living in the Pomak villages of Thrace, and for our programs covering environmental and social responsibility, citizenship, and community building.

Scholarships form the bedrock of our commitment to equitable educational access, and the Campaign has significantly strengthened our already substantial efforts to aid deserving youth. In the last year, more than 27% of Anatolia's students received financial assistance, from partial tuition coverage to full support and room & board. In addition, thanks to the Comprehensive Campaign, Anatolia has increased the institutional endowment for scholarship a faculty development by over \$6 million, including a dedicated Endowment for the CTY Greece program.



pageorgiou STEM Center, a new AES Campus, the Kassandra Center of Educational Excellence/IBDP building and the scheduled expansion of our High School Dormitory by 2023.

These new and upgraded buildings, made possible by the Comprehensive Campaign, are sustainably designed and equipped with state-of-the-art scientific and learning technologies and equipment. This learning environment will provide the structural support required to execute our educational goal of disseminating knowledge and cultivating 21st-century learning skills: Critical thinking, Adaptability, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. These skills and values are built within an academic and physical environment that embraces a new learning paradigm characterized by an innovative learning environment.

The new educational environment will also support the development of lifelong learners - encouraging people to apply "a depth of knowledge to new situations and experiences, gain new skills, build new relationships and assume new roles in the process" of learning. (Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education & Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the OECD). And since a student is a lifelong learner in all aspects of life, Anatolia has committed to developing students' academic and emotional, social, and ethical needs in an integrated format.

We will ensure that all members of the Anatolia community have a healthy, productive relationship with education and the workplace by fostering an environment of emotional, social, intellectual, physical, psychological, societal, and professional well-being. The welcoming atmosphere at Anatolia will enhance the philosophy that students, faculty, and staff are known, recognized, and valued as an integral part of our community. Our main goal is to provide a supportive environment where everyone feels safe and accepted.

Positive social engagement is essential to Anatolia's efforts to instill a sense of community and responsibility in our students. Our curriculum and activities will nurture global citizens who embrace environmental, ethical, and philanthropic commitment. We expect all the members of our community to support and model these values, starting from individuals and extending to collaboration between individuals, groups, and the wider community.

Comprehensive Campaign Culminates with Historic Trustee Meeting in Thessaloniki

After nearly three years of pandemic-induced remote meetings, the Anatolia Board of Trustees was able to gather in person again. The June 2022 event was historic, marking the successful completion of our institution's seven-year Comprehensive Campaign. This initiative raised \$20 million in contributions from individuals - including Anatolia Trustees, alums, friends and supporters - and boosted our total fundraising to more than \$36 million in the decade since 2011. These funds have been earmarked for capital projects supporting all aspects of our new educational programs, further strengthening the College's pedagogical mission. Following are some highlights of the Trustee meeting.



Anatolia Elementary School's New Campus - **the Bissell Wing**

Trustees and distinguished guests toured Anatolia College's new Elementary School Campus sparkling new premises at the official opening during their annual meeting.



From left: Albert "Chip" Elfner, III, Caroline Bissell, Dr. Panos Vlachos, Kenyon Bissell Grogan, William Bissell

Designed to reflect the concept of a 'small village,' the campus incorporates open and flexible learning spaces emphasizing the surrounding natural world. Simple, friendly volumes and bright, flexible rooms provide an environment ideal for transformational education. The resources for this new campus were secured by

the generosity by our long-time Trustee and Benefactor George S. Bissell, in response to his matching Challenge. In addition, generous contributions were made by a cohort of donors, including Anatolia's graduates, parents, companies, organizations, and friends of the College. The Bissell Wing houses classrooms, the Annie Michaelides Art Room,

the Leonidas & Angelika Evangelidis Music Room, and the Irina Taka - Jerry Kalogiratos Future Learning Lab equipped for STEM and STEAM activities with VA and AR technology, video projectors, and a 3D printer.

George S. Bissell was represented by his daughter **Kenyon Bissell Grogan**, his daughter-in-law **Caroline Bissell** (both Trustees), and son **William Bissell** who remarked: "In the work that will happen in those gorgeous classrooms, in the sparking of students' imagination, in the sacrifice and care that faculty and staff here at Anatolia contribute day in and day out, you will be honoring our father. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."



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Official Opening of the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center



From left: Markos N. Papageorgiou, Zoe Psarra Papageorgiou, Anna Papageorgiou, Georgios N. Papageorgiou, Alexandra Mpoitsi Papageorgiou, Elizabeth K. Lee, Stavros Kalafatis, Gikas Hardouvelis, Ignatios Kaitezidis, Stathis Georgiadis, Albert "Chip" Elfner III, Dr. Panos Vlachos, Yanis Tsorbatzoglou

The official opening of the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center took place on Friday, June 3, 2022, in the presence of our Trustees, donors, supporters, and friends. The building was completed thanks to the generous contribution from major benefactors USAID/ASHA and the Papageorgiou Foundation, distinguished donors including members of the Papageorgiou family, and major donations from the Trustees of Anatolia College, companies, alums and parents, individuals, and organizations. The Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center hosts our High School laboratory courses in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology, as well as the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Greece programs. Concurrently, the facilities are used for educational activities organized by Anatolia's STE(A)M Education Center, benefiting students from Anatolia College and the wider student and academic community. The President of Anatolia College, **Dr. Panos Vlachos**, expressed his gratitude to all the donors and supporters of the project. "Children will have the opportunity to understand scientific knowledge in depth, to develop skills that are extremely critical for the development of our society, and to understand that we live in a world in which sustainable development is crucial," he said.

Anatolia Board of Trustees President **Albert "Chip" Elfner** commented, "We believe that using our labs, classrooms, and teaching staff will bring Anatolia College, our students, and the wider educational community to the forefront of STEM education in the years to come." On behalf of the Papageorgiou Foundation, **Markos N. Papageorgiou** thanked Anatolia College for being "a partner in the Foundation's ef-

fort and commitment to ensure equal opportunities in quality education for all Greek youth" and emphasized that the Papageorgiou Foundation will continue to support the school's initiatives.

Also present at the ceremony were **Stavros Kalafatis**, Deputy Minister of the Interior, the US Consul General in Thessaloniki, **Elizabeth K. Lee**, and the Mayor of Pilaia - Hortiatas **Ignatios Kaitezidis**.



Dr. Iro Koliakou, Coordinator of the STE(A)M Education Center, presented to guests the exciting actions and programs planned or implemented by the Center. Several students from Anatolia's Gymnasio, High School, and IBDP of Anatolia College also presented the projects they are preparing for international competitions and educational activities.

The Center's striking architectural design was done by "schema 4 architects" and constructed by General Contractor "TOMI," along with assistance from Anatolia's technical staff. Earlier this year, the Aluminum in Architecture Awards 2022 chose the STEM Center for the Silver Award in the Sustainability category, recognizing the innovative use of aluminum in the building's design.

Kassandra CEE and IBDP New Building Groundbreaking



"The establishment of the Kassandra Center for educational excellence is a major, historic step in Anatolia's development in our efforts to contribute to the transformation of the educational landscape while striving to become a regional leader for contemporary educational methodology and development."

— Dr. Panos Vlachos,
Anatolia College President

The Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence (CEE) will provide resources and support to faculty and students, fostering their holistic development as teachers and learners in the spirit of transformational education. The newly established Center will be housed in the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence - IBDP Building which was designed by Deda & Architects.

For educators, the Kassandra CEE aims to cultivate a culture of ongoing professional development and to disseminate innovative best practices to the broader educational community of Greece. The Center will provide a wide range of continuous learning experiences, opportunities, and incentives for teachers through flexible learning modes, alignment of individual needs, school priorities, current state-of-the-art educational research, and technological breakthroughs in education. The Center will also promote nurturing a well-being culture in schools and the professional fulfillment of educators.

For students, the Center recognizes the need to equip them with the skills and tools they need

to confront the stark reality of a changing world. Today's students will grow into adulthood amidst a complex web of social, political, economic, and environmental challenges. Facing and solving such problems requires individuals trained not only in the traditional disciplines of academic knowledge but also as creative and resilient thinkers, compassionate and curious in their approach to learning and doing.

The Center will develop strong partnerships with prominent European and American institutions that focus on learning innovation and excellence, cutting-edge initiatives, and education research. *"Education faces its challenges, and the past two years have highlighted further the need to accelerate the enhancement of our educational model. The Center for Educational Excellence can help us achieve that by inspiring educators to innovate, research, teach and learn to advance educational equity and excellence not only of our institutional academic community but also of the broader academic community and ultimately our society"* remarked Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa, Director of the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence.

Official unveiling: Stavros Constantinidis Hall

In November 2019, Anatolia's Trustees approved the renaming of ACT's New Building in honor of Stavros Constantinidis (Class of 1947). Stavros Constantinidis was one of the College's most dedicated supporters and donors. Known for his generosity, quiet leadership, and wise counsel, he served as a Trustee for 43 straight years. Committed to the transformative power

of Anatolia education, he provided **full scholarships to more than 70 students at the High School, and ACT.** Although the pandemic prevented the official rededication, Constantinidis (who passed away in December 2019) was visibly moved at the decision to name the building in his honor. It is a testament to his lifelong service and love for our institution.



From left: William Bissell, Caroline Bissell (Trustee), Kenyon Bissell Grogan (Trustee), Loretta Constantinidou, Aggeliki Constantinidou, Iakovos Golsousidis, Dimitra Kariofli Constantinidou, Constantinos Constantinidis (Trustee)



Interview with Board President Albert H. "Chip" Elfner, III

How significant was the timing of the Comprehensive Campaign?

We commenced that process eight years ago, and in June 2022, we officially closed the Comprehensive Campaign. We raised an amount that has never been raised in the institution's history. That shows that there is a tremendous force both in Greece and in the US. For the first time, more than half of the funds raised came from Greece. That means our donor base, which mainly consisted of Americans and Greek Americans, Trustees, families, and friends, was expanded with alum participation, as happens in many American independent schools.

We began a Comprehensive Campaign in the middle of the Greek crisis to raise sufficient funds to modernize and expand the school's facilities. There were many skeptics. But when you see the results. The facilities speak for themselves. I feel so optimistic about the new infrastructure, the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center, open to the community, the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence and IBDP building, and bringing Pinewood back to campus. As for the new Anatolia Elementary campus, the energy from the new facilities inspires the children, teachers, and parents.

Are there any precedents for this scale of development?

It is not dissimilar to what happened when the missionaries came up here, at Pylaia, Thessaloniki, in the 1920s and built the school from scratch. However, the extension now and for the next few years is remarkable and can be compared only with the initial building of the campus (when they fled Mersifon) back in the 1920s. Therefore, I am optimistic about the future of Anatolia College and its entire community.

What role did the school administration play in the process?

All money raised in the last eight years – including the Annual Fund and the

Comprehensive Campaign - ended at 36 million and enabled us to do things that only people dreamed about in the last 15 years. And it is all because the head division wants to move the school forward. This is what they mean when saying "institutional advancement." Anatolia is advancing primarily because of Panos Vlachos due to his leadership and vision.

How can Anatolia leverage its ties to America?

Anatolia College is an excellent example of what education can - and should - be in Greece. We want to be a leader, known not only as a bridge to America and American education but also as a leader in educational methodologies that we utilize to educate the Greek youth. And a beacon of academic excellence that others will want to follow. Anatolia has 27% of students receiving financial aid. In the next three- or five years, our strategic plan is to increase this number to 30%. This is our commitment to economic and social diversity.

If you ask many graduates about the essential aspects of their education in Anatolia, they will say the American orientation and the understanding of other parts of the world. I do too. The Trustees wish to continue to provide that as a two-way street between Greece and the US.

What is your outlook for the future?

I am very proud of what we have accomplished at all institutional levels over the last eight years in a challenging economic environment, the pandemic, and the war. These are extraordinary times. And because we have a visionary, dynamic, decisive leader who has the total support of the Board, the institution is in a period of growth and expansion unprecedented in the last 75 or 80 years. So I am incredibly optimistic, and I believe there is a national story about this small (at first) educational institution trying to rise and point the path forward. All Greeks can be proud of what's happening here. And there is a story that we must tell.



US Ambassador Visits Anatolia

New US Ambassador to Greece **George Tsunis**, accompanied by US Consul General **Elizabeth K. Lee**, toured the newly completed laboratories at the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center and the historical photography display in Macedonia Hall. "We are ardent supporters of the educational organization and look forward to returning soon and continuing our partner-

ship with this seminal institution," said the US Ambassador. Later, in a post on Twitter, Mr. Tsunis called Anatolia College "a true treasure of Greek-American relations, showcasing the close and ever-strengthening educational ties and democratic principles that have united the peoples of the two countries for more than 200 years."



Teacher Training for Anatolia Faculty

In early September 2022, just before the start of the school year, the Cassandra Center for Educational Excellence (CEE) supported the September Professional Development Program for Anatolia's entire teaching faculty through a series of interactive and hands-on workshops held over four days. Over **300 kindergarten, Elementary, High School, ACT, and Pinewood educators participated**, and most workshops were oversubscribed.

The workshops were led by trainers from **Canada, the USA, the UK, and Greece** and covered practical and theoretical topics, including "The process of science and tools for teaching science," "Social and Emotional Learning: Practices for educators and students," "Emotional teaching and learning (Mindfulness): Practices for teachers and students," "The use of digital technology in the classroom," "A new approach to teaching Ancient Greek," "Botany for Biologists," "Learning Skills (for the MYP)," and "Yoga for PhysEd."

For the interactive teaching seminar "The process of science and tools for teaching science," the Cassandra CEE had the opportunity to collaborate with the world-class and awarded **Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics** in Canada.

Andreas Schleicher of OECD Keynote Speaker of the Cassandra CEE Conference

On the 22nd of October 2022, the Cassandra Center for Educational Excellence (CEE) hosted its first open conference for primary, secondary, and tertiary education educators, researchers, university students, and policy-makers across Northern Greece. More than 170 participants attended the **"21st Century Skills and Wellbeing in Education" Conference**. In her introductory address, the Director of the Cassandra Center for Educational Excellence, **Dr. Georgia**



Tsoufa, stated that the theme of the conference, "21st-century skills and personal well-being in education," was more relevant today than ever, as the recent pandemic has confirmed the need for knowledge, skills, and a positive emotional state to coexist, both for teachers and students, for success in education."

The conference's keynote speaker was **Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** in Paris. Mr. Schleicher has initiated and oversees the notable Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international instruments. The speaker delivered an enlightening, in-depth, and engaging presentation for a transformative education showcasing primary data, innovative approaches, and tools associated with best practices in education. In addition, he stressed the human interactive character of education, and he had a lively Q&A session with an enthusiastic audience.



The conference included a round table discussion moderated by **Thodoris Filaretos**, Vice President of Primary and Secondary Education, Anatolia College, **Dr. Sofia-Eleftheria Gonida**, Professor of Educational Psychology and Human Development, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, **Elsa Exintaveloni**, MYP Coordinator, Anatolia College, **Aliki Tsakmaka**, Senior Consultant, HR, Deloitte, and **Katerina Spitsa**, kindergarten teacher and Scientix Ambassador.

The attendees had the opportunity to participate in workshops and hands-on activities focusing on Social Emotional Learning, Virtual and Augmented Reality, Design Thinking, and Green Education.

More information about the conference can be found at <https://anatolia.edu.gr/el/21st-century-skills>



The Cassandra CEE Steering Committee

Social Responsibility Program

Anatolia's Social Responsibility Program has expanded our efforts to include partnerships with 29 organizations, municipalities, and other local entities. As a result, this past year, our institution has achieved the following impact on our beneficiaries:

Highlights of our efforts include:

- An Official Cooperation with Pilaia/Hortiatis Municipality**, which pledged to engage in joint environmental actions such as tree-planting and forest maintenance, volunteer social support for vulnerable people, and a beach cleanup netted over 600 kilograms of trash and waste.
- The "Just Say No to Plastic Bottles" campaign**, which banned them on campus and involved the purchase and installation of water dispensers around all areas of Anatolia. This initiative has reduced more than 115,000 plastic bottles in 12 months by encouraging students to use their own "Anatolia" branded water bottles instead of one-use plastic water bottles.
- Responding to the urgent needs created by the invasion and war in Ukraine**, the Anatolia community collected and distributed more than 80 boxes of aid supplies to NGOs working to alleviate the crisis conditions for Ukrainians affected by the war.

Activity	People / Divisions involved	Goal / Result / Impact
Volunteering	272 HS students	Offered their services at 26 events of 9 different organizations
Fundraising	900+ HS students	Donated ~3,300€ to 4 charity projects
Competitions	19 AES and HS students	Participated in 3 art competitions to raise awareness of social issues
Charity drives	AES and HS	Organized 4 drives to collect food, medicine, personal hygiene products, clothing, and books to support 10 different organizations (families, NGOs, associations, schools)
Beach Cleanups	~200 students and staff from AES, HS, IBDP, ACT, and Pinewood	Organized 2 beach cleanups at 2 different Municipalities and collected ~800 kilos of garbage



Spotlight on Underserved Communities: Pomak, Refugee, and Roma Students Benefit from Anatolian Programs and Scholarships

Anatolia reaches out to disadvantaged or minority children and communities through various initiatives. Here, we focus on three of our most successful programs and the impact they have produced.



“English on the Mountains”

“English on the Mountains,” a free summer English language program for elementary and high school children from the Pomak villages of Thrace. The program began in the summer of 2014 with 26 students. Now the annual participation has reached 200 students from six villages, taught by ten dedicated and experienced teachers from Anatolia’s noted Bridge to Bilingual program, Athens, and London. Overall, more than 700 youth have benefited from these language courses.

This summer, we had the great fortune of securing funds from Alumil, a prominent Greek corporate. The increased support has allowed us to expand our program offerings, including (this fall) the start of an all-year-round English Learning Center with classes taking place in person and online where necessary.

The experience has proven the deep thirst for learning that these families have and the tremendous impact on the lives of our students as they battle to assimilate into Greek society. This became increasingly obvious in the first years, and in 2016 a concerned alum donor offered a full boarding scholarship to a student from the Pomak area. Since then, we have welcomed five more students, two of which have begun this fall. Foundations and concerned alums enthusiastically embraced the effort to find scholarship funds. In 2022, the first scholarship recipient, Senol Deli, graduated and was accepted to the Aristotle University School of Medicine.

“Education Unites: From Camp to Campus”

“Education Unites: From Camp to Campus” targeted college - age young adult

refugees or displaced persons in Greece. The program began in October 2017, as part of an ambitious scholarship program organized by the US Embassy in Athens, in collaboration with the American College of Thessaloniki-Anatolia College, Deree-American College of Greece, and Perrotis College American Farm School. Sixteen program beneficiaries attended the American College of Thessaloniki for preparatory English classes alongside supplementary courses in various fields. Four of the participants received full scholarships to study at ACT. In 2022 two students completed their studies in Business Administration and Computer Science.



Thodoris Loukataris: From Hardship to IB Graduate

The Lighthouse of the World NGO operates in Dendropotamo - an impoverished neighborhood in the eastern part of Thessaloniki - and provides a shelter and support aimed at increasing the social integration of Roma children into mainstream Greek society. In 2018 after years of volunteer engagement with the NGO, Anatolia College offered a full boarding scholarship to one of the LoW beneficiaries.

Thodoris Loukataris began his tenure as an Anatolia boarding student with a full scholarship. Thodoris’ years at Anatolia were marked with deep friendships and total immersion in many of the college’s academic, extracurricular, and athletic activities, which allowed him to visit cities all over Europe, and in 2016, to the robotics championship in the United States, where his team won first place. His conviction to study in America remained strong, and this year he graduated from the Pinewood IBDP program. Thodoris is now studying International Business at Elmhurst University in Chicago with a full scholarship. Summing up his experience at Anatolia College, he praised the “many experiences and rich knowledge that opened my mind and thinking.”

Exponential Growth in International Students

International student recruitment numbers at Pinewood have grown exponentially in the last two years, demonstrating a high demand from Greek and International students for study abroad opportunities and the Primary Years Program, Middle Years Program, and IBDP curriculum. **With 505 students** in both Early Years/Elementary and Secondary Divisions, Pinewood has experienced a **growth of 25%** in the past year alone.

As the only American International School in Thessaloniki, Pinewood provides an essential service to the international community. The school’s growth continues in tandem with a new economic landscape as Thessaloniki increases its global business, community, and regional influence. International professionals working for multinational/European organizations in Thessaloniki are drawn to Pinewood’s high-quality education and global culture. The school remains true to its mission by providing remarkable opportunities in the community for economic growth as our school continues to expand in size and attract foreign faculty to Thessaloniki.



Pinewood EY/Elementary Moves to the Anatolia Campus

Pinewood’s Early Year and Elementary students officially have a new home! The 2022-2023 school year opened new premises on the Anatolia Campus - the perfect way to introduce our students to the Pinewood process of imagination, collaboration, and presentation.

The Early Years playground provides an environment that aligns with the youngest students, with natural materials and colors that convey a warm, comfortable surrounding. The Leaf element at the school’s entrance is open and airy, with a good view of the outside. This area works well as a tent for students’ group work, a tunnel for playing, or just a space for peace. It arches over the soft floor mat and is colorful, light, and adjustable.

This ‘tenting’ element appears in multiple areas within the school: wall nooks with desks, spaces with power connections, and benches outside the classrooms mean that students can use every corner of the campus.



New Dedicated Scholarships for Ukrainian Students

Pinewood, loyal to its mission to support vulnerable groups, is actively supporting families who have suffered from the political crisis and the war in Ukraine. With the generous support of our Board of Trustees members, **Kenyon Bissel Grogan and Marguerite Thethewey**, Pinewood secured three full scholarships for new incoming international students, two from Ukraine and one from Afghanistan.



Anatolia College and Pinewood Stand with Ukrainian Children

Anatolia College and Pinewood organized actions to support the children from Ukraine by helping to meet their immediate living needs or offering access to their educational structures and programs. Here are some highlights of our efforts at Pinewood:

- **In March 2022**, the Anatolia College & Pinewood community supported the “Smile of a Child” fundraiser, by collecting 85 large boxes of food and items for children. Furthermore, Pinewood parents collected 160 boxes of clothing and necessities and delivered them to the Ukrainian Consulate in Thessaloniki.
- **In March 2022**, Pinewood welcomed 12 students from Ukraine and offered financial assistance to pay their tuition fees for the remainder of the year. Six children were enrolled and attended the tuition-free program. Pinewood enables children from vulnerable families who meet certain conditions to study at a reduced cost.
- **From March to June 2022**, Pinewood offered free lifelong education programs in English to 30 students from Ukraine in cooperation with the Consulate of Ukraine in Thessaloniki.
- **Pinewood offered the summertime “Sun & Sea Camp” day-camp program.** The free program - made possible mainly thanks to the generous support of Anatolia alumna and Pinewood College **Trustee Helen Lindsay and Trustee Kenyon Bissel Grogan** - featured Pinewood and Anatolia student volunteers, and local corporate sponsorships from Biscotti Tsoungari, Kosmogewesi, HotPot, and MEVGAL.

Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center

An innovative space as a vehicle for stimulating learning and creative thinking

Since the first day of its operation in September 2020, our Center has inspired and motivated teachers and students to engage in STEM and STEAM activities. It has been providing not only the necessary knowledge and skills but is further imbued with values while also highlighting the importance of building global competencies. Some of the successful programs hosted in the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center include:



Green Education for a Sustainable Future, an Erasmus-funded program that empowers youth to create a sustainable future;

Mini OpenLabs, an Erasmus-funded project that brings together educators from different countries who set up a teaching methodology that promotes experiential learning through innovative STEM activities;

“Healthy Selfie”: this new free-of-charge course was offered to public schools with corporate support from Lidl Hellas and attracted the interest and participation of more than 700 public school students;



For the second year in a row, Anatolia's STEM Center, in collaboration with the educational initiative **STEMigrants.eu**, co-organized the “**STEAM for all**” contest under the auspices of the UNHCR refugee agency. The competition was open to primary school students in Greece and Greek schools abroad and refugee children ages 6-11. Activities aim to engage students in STEAM educational activities and develop creativity, collaboration, and communication skills while acquiring scientific knowledge through games and hands-on experience.

The 8th Anatolia College Science & Technology Annual Conference (ACSTAC) took place in March, focusing on green education, linking sustainability and social responsibility with STE(A)M. Two hundred and fifty students and teachers from 27 schools from all over Greece met in person at Anatolia College - after two years and 40 more participants connected online. Students presented inspired projects: potatoes that generated electricity, plastic waste turned into surface cleaners, and a socially



responsible robot programmed to clean up the waters of lakes, beaches, and swimming pools. ACSTAC was made possible thanks to the generous support of Helen Lindsay, alumna and Trustee of Anatolia College, and Dan Lindsay.



The European Union provides a massive amount of funding for research and development. Over the last decade, Anatolia has increasingly taken advantage of these opportunities to build partnerships, train our faculty, and exchange best practices around educational innovation. The STEM Center provides an ideal environment to host these types of programs. Anatolia is a partner in three winning consortia for programs in 2021-2022:

“SEGA” - Shaping Early STEM Education through Gaming (February 2022)

The SEGA project aims to support teachers, students, and parents in developing STEAM skills in early childhood education. The SEGA program will create a platform with STEAM educational material and a gamified e-book for children from 4 to 8 years old.

“WeAreEurope SD - A learning approach to education in Sustainable Development” (February 2022)

WeAreEurope SD aims to strengthen the link between children and the European Union, focusing on the values of sustainable development and supporting teachers across Europe to integrate the principles of green education into STEM activities. The platform and interactive game will include green-STEM activities approaching topics such as green cities, renewable energy, and monument restoration. The WeAreEurope SD program continues the successful WeareEurope program, which ran from September 2015 to August 2018. All activities are freely available to teachers on the project website <http://www.wreurope.eu/>

“CThink: Think, Learn and Play in a Computational Thinking Way.”

CThink aims to develop a new pedagogical approach to cultivate computational thinking through the STEM approach for students in the lower elementary grades. Educational materials will be created as permissive games for the classroom. A teacher training program will also facilitate the cultivation of computational thinking in the classroom. Universities and schools from Malta, Portugal, and Greece participate in the program.

Excelling in STEM and STEAM Competitions



Gold medal for Zephyros team in the imagination in Science by Art in Different Cultures (ISAC) Olympiad.

Anatolia High School's all-female “**Team Zephyros**” took 1st place in the international online STEAM Imagination in Science by Art in Different Cultures (ISAC) Olympiad. The ZEPHYROS team members are Zoi Konstantinidou, Polyxeni Panou, Ioanna Petridis, and Andrianna Solomonidou. Their project, which centers on a residence designed for the planet Mars, won the award in the face of stiff competition from more than 100 students worldwide.

IBDP students won a bronze medal in the prominent iGEM Competition

Anatolia IBDP, with the “**SKEPSIS**” team, won a bronze medal in the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition – iGEM 2022, the premiere synthetic biology competition for university and high school students, gathering every year more than 7,400 participants. The “**SKEPSIS**” team, the only school team from Europe, designed and created a water filtration system/biofilter for the Removal of Nitrates from Polluted Water, effectively offering a solution for the eutrophication of bodies of water, as in Thermaikos Gulf.



Anatolia team 5th in the world of F1 in School Competition

Anatolia's “**GRECO Racing Team**” took 5th place in the world and two top prizes at the “**F1 in Schools**” World Finals, which took place from July 7-14 at the legendary Silverstone circuit in Great Britain. Fifty-three teams from all over the world traveled to participate in one of the world's most popular and successful STEM competitions. The GRECO Racing Team, a collaboration team of Anatolia College and the 3rd General High School of Serres (Northern Greece), advanced to the final top five, winning both the “**HAAS Sponsorship and Marketing award**” and “**the McLaren Research and Development award.**”

In Memoriam Nikolaos Papageorgiou

Anatolia College lost a dear member of its community on July 16th, 2022. Nikolaos Papageorgiou - father of George Papageorgiou and our Trustee Markos Papageorgiou - and President of the Foundation Papageorgiou passed away at 92. Nikolaos was renowned nationally as a philanthropist and benefactor. He was a staunch supporter of our school for many decades.



The Foundation was also a significant benefactor of the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center. This donation will always symbolize Nikolaos Papageorgiou's selfless spirit and effort to ensure equal opportunities in quality education for all Greek youth.

Through the Papageorgiou Foundation, founded with his brother Leonidas, the Papageorgiou family consistently sponsored **scholarships** to students from their hometown of Siatista and all over Greece to study at **Anatolia High School and ACT**. The Foundation was also a significant benefactor of the **Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center**. This donation will always symbolize Nikolaos Papageorgiou's selfless spirit and effort to ensure equal opportunities in quality education for all Greek youth.

Nikolaos Papageorgiou was born in Siatista in 1930. His father, George, was killed by the German Occupation Forces, forcing Nikolaos and his two younger brothers, the late Leonidas and Apostolos, to fend for themselves. However, fortune shone on the brothers when they immediately decided to engage in the fur trade business upon Nikolaos' graduation from the historic Trabantzeio Gymnasium in Siatista.

Working tirelessly, with great effort and perseverance, he became one of the country's most successful entrepreneurs. At the same time, together with his brother Leonidas, they founded the **Papageorgiou Foundation**, which initiated and funded the **Papageorgiou Hospital**, a state-of-the-art hospital in Greece. Other social and philanthropic commitments include hundreds of grants for constructing and maintaining other schools, nursing homes, and churches.

In his lifetime, Nikolaos was declared a **great National Benefactor by the Greek State** and received many honors, distinctions, and titles, with the highest being the office of Lord Actuary award by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

As his brother Leonidas, Nikolaos Papageorgiou identified their own lives with their fellow man driving enormous charity throughout their lives. **Their example will forever remain alive in our collective memory.**



INTERVIEW

Zoe Psarra Papageorgiou Member of the Foundation Papageorgiou Board



At the official opening of Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center, in June 2022. From left: Georgios N. Papageorgiou, Chairman of the Foundation Papageorgiou, Anna Papageorgiou, Zoe Psarra Papageorgiou, Board Member, Alexandra Mpoitsi Papageorgiou, Board Member, Markos N. Papageorgiou, Secretary.

Nikolaos Papageorgiou and the Foundation Papageorgiou have been some of the most prominent and dedicated supporters of Anatolia College. What inspired this collaboration?

Nikolaos Papageorgiou was motivated because he went through great trials and difficulties from a young age and worked hard to succeed. He knew well what it meant to be alone and struggle without help from anyone. This was the main reason the Foundation was established, to share the fruits of his success with children who face challenging circumstances yet aspire to improve their lives. Experiencing great difficulties himself and having lost his father so early in his childhood, he knew how important role education plays in building a healthy society. The Foundation shares these values with Anatolia College, which is why it supports its efforts.

The Foundation Papageorgiou has been supporting the Anatolia College Scholarship program for several years, offering opportunities for students from the region of Western Macedonia as well as the children of Papageorgiou hospital employees. What are your reflections about this involvement?

The long-term collaboration with Anatolia College started because of the scholarships. It is one of the best educational institutions in the country, and it has changed the lives of many children who have taken advantage of the opportunities the school offers them. We have many examples of children whom we sponsored, who continued their studies in universities abroad and excelled.

Anatolia College changes students' approach to thinking and philosophy towards life, showing them the possibility of a different and fruitful path. The College, including ACT, is one of Greece's best schools and learning environments. The Foundation has had an excellent collaboration regarding the children's progress, principles, and growth. Anatolia stays close to the scholarship students we sponsor and keeps us informed of their academic and social progress. We feel very proud that "our" children are doing so well.

The Foundation and members of the Papageorgiou family acted as a driving force behind the creation of the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center. Why did you so fervently support this effort? Which are the Foundation's expectations for the operation of the Center?

One of the main strategic goals of the Foundation Papageorgiou is to ensure equal opportunities for youth to access quality education services, especially STEM education, and Anatolia College is one of our long-term strategic partners in achieving this goal. The timing of the creation of the Center coincided with the death of our beloved mother, so it seemed the right opportunity to honor her memory. In addition, science, technology, and mathematics are the main drivers of economic growth worldwide. We, therefore, hope that the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center will be a hub that will draw children of all ages - not only from Anatolia College but also from the wider area of northern Greece - and give them the resources and environment to develop a love of science and learning.



The Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Greece began operations in 2013 with a founding donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. CTY Greece is a European Council of High Ability (ECHA) member. The Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University is its program adviser. Grand donors include Eurobank and Lidl Hellas. Donors include John S. Latsis Beneficiary Foundation Netcompany Intrasoft, Star Bulk Carriers Corp., Deloitte, and Lidl Cyprus. The air carrier sponsor is Aegean Airlines.

CTY Greece through the eyes of an Educator from a Public School

Sofia Chaskou is a teacher at the 4th Primary School of Acharnon in Athens. She holds a Doctorate from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens ("High Intelligence and Creativity") as well as two master's degrees (Special Education and Educational Technologies and Human Resource Management). She first encountered CTY Greece at a conference organized in Athens, and since 2017, she has been working with CTY Greece in the Athens summer program. Today she serves as the academic dean and director of the program in Athens and a trainer in the teacher training programs. Also, she teaches the online program **"Traveling to the Stars."**



also developed and implemented a wide repertoire of strategies in her classroom, putting theoretical knowledge into practice. "I realized I could apply new hands-on, project-based, and problem-solving activities and approaches even in a typical classroom, that is, a classroom of a normal school and within the context of the mandated curriculum."

As a teacher, she discovered that using these approaches caused a change in the classroom. "The children flourish - they are encouraged, activated, cooperative, communicative, they participate - even those who until then did not show much interest in the lesson. I saw the children wanting more and the whole class's level rising." As an instructor in CTY Greece's teacher training program, she sees teachers from all over the country respond enthusiastically to the content and their deep desire to learn about and implement new methods of motivating students to achieve. Her experience suggests that the training provided by CTY Greece can be a valuable tool in the hands of any teacher as they seek to motivate children to develop their maximum potential and skills.

Chaskou notes that CTY Greece has offered her great opportunities for professional development as an educator and researcher, primarily via her participation in Erasmus+ research programs, summer training abroad, international seminars, and conferences. "Firstly, I was able to deepen my knowledge through personal study and the opportunity to attend lectures by respected scientists and academics of international standing, including some of the world's leading experts on giftedness." She

Highlights from CTY Greece 2021-2022 academic year

Scholarships:

120 new scholarships were awarded to students who succeeded in the exams

Outreach



Media event in Thessaloniki

CTY Greece invited journalists to attend an "experiment" in cognitive psychology - one of the topics covered in the "Fundamental Principles of Psychology" course offered by CTY Greece in the Summer Program in Thessaloniki. With the support of Lidl Greece, the "Mind Games" event took place on July 5, 2022, at Anatolia's Flexible Learning Space at Eleftheriadis Library. During the course, students are introduced to the science of Psychology and become familiar with essential findings from neurobiology, perception, learning, child development, memory, personality, psychological disorders, and their treatments, as well as social psychology.



Panayiotis Antoniou, Chairman of the Educational Service Commission, Cyprus, Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa, CTY Greece Director

A Media Day in Cyprus was held in Nicosia at the Lidl Food Academy with the support of Lidl Cyprus. The event - explicitly aimed at journalists and media members - placed participants into temporary roles as "Lord of the Games" to teach the importance of math in strategic problem solving, a fundamental tenet of Game Theory.

Teaser events were organized for 150 interested students in Nicosia and Paphos in Cyprus and Ptolemaida in Northern Greece.

Weekend programs took place in Thessaloniki and Athens. In Thessaloniki, students from Ioannina, Kozani, Trikala, Grevena, Xanthi, and Xios participated in courses such as "Cryptology", "Intro to Biomedical Sciences", and "Fundamental Principles of Psychology."

Teacher training for 300 educators included in-person training sessions in Kalamata, Nicosia, Paphos, and Ptolemaida and online sessions for educators from Greece and Cyprus.

CTY Greece to Host the 19th ECHA Conference

CTY Greece succeeded in its bid to organize the 19th European Council for High Ability (ECHA) Conference in Thessaloniki in August 2024. **The European Council for High Ability** aims to advance the study and development of potential excellence in people. The ECHA Conference is a meeting point for educators, researchers, psychologists, parents, and the highly able, an event where ideas, experiences, and knowledge are shared. CTY Greece is a member of ECHA, and CTY Greece's director, Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa, was elected as a member of the Board of the Council in 2020.

The conference title, "Expanding Horizons - The Odyssey of Talents and Gifts," and its corresponding logo are based on a concept inspired by Homer's Odyssey. It portrays the journey of talented and gifted students and the challenges they need to overcome until they reach their full potential and arrive at their "Ithaca." CTY Greece is where like-minded learners expand their academic horizons, and enthusiastic educators are trained to inspire and support them.



Summer Programs 2022

<p>294 students in total from Elementary, Gymnasio, and High Schools throughout Greece and Cyprus.</p>	<p>40% of the students attending the Thessaloniki program were from non-major cities and/or islands.</p>	<p>53% + of the participants who attended received a scholarship</p>
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<p>More than 15,000 children have taken the CTY qualification exams.</p>	<p>Nearly 7000 students from 6th to 11th grade have participated in CTY programs (Summer, Online, Weekend, and Daily) and activities.</p>	<p>More than 1,500 students have received need-based scholarships to the Summer Program.</p>	<p>Half of all participants attend public schools.</p> <p>Half of all participants come from Thessaloniki or Athens.</p>	<p>More than 2,678 teachers from 200 different schools (Greece & Cyprus) have attended CTY Greece's free workshops, sponsored by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.</p>
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Did you know?



Keep the Tradition: High School Scores Top in the Panhellenic Exams

Anatolia's High School Seniors scored well at this year's Panhellenic exam cycle, winning 125 places in top-rated departments in the nation's universities and technical schools. Two of our students took first place nationwide - Melvin Berkovitz, School of Philology & Philosophy (Aristotle University Thessaloniki), and Antonios Kiskinis, Department of Civil Engineering (Democritus University of Thrace).

In brief, the 2022 results were:

- 14 > Medicine
- 8 > Health
- 12 > Law
- 2 > Psychology
- 28 > Polytechnic
- 30 > Political Science & Economics
- 7 > Philosophy
- 15 > Mathematics & Physics
- 9 > Informatics

Dual success in Greece and Abroad

A number of Anatolia High School graduates managed to succeed in both Greek and universities abroad. Some of them were accepted in universities and colleges in the US, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

APOSTOLOS LYKOMITROS



The world bronze medalist in rowing in 2022, received a full scholarship to study at Harvard University Business Administration and Economics. Apostolos will be a member of the university's historic rowing team.

The 2022 graduate was one of the athletes who led the National Team to the highest levels of the U23 and U19 World Rowing Championships in Italy in July 2022. He competed in the Youth quadruple sculls, and the team finished in third place, winning the bronze medal in that category.

Apostolos is a National Junior Rowing Team member with international distinctions, such as the 6th place he won in the double scull at the World Junior Championships in the summer of 2021. Alongside his involvement in the championship, he had an excellent academic performance in all previous years, being in the top 10% of students in his class.

Scholarships 2021-22 Academic Year

Anatolia High School & IB Scholarships awarded

157 Merit need based scholarships	48 Honorary scholarships	22 Need based scholarships
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* including 16 Boarding scholarships

227 Scholarships awarded in total

Anatolia Elementary / 4 students received scholarships to AES

New Scholarships / 63 scholarship students are funded from pledges from new and existing donors / **43** new merit/need based scholarships

Anatolia College GivingTuesday 2021 Provides a Second Scholarship



Students, parents, alumni, and staff responded to Anatolia's Scholarship Challenge for Giving Tuesday for the second consecutive year. The Challenge, which had the twin aims of raising funds and mobilizing participants in the giving

process, aimed to record 500 donations, regardless of the amount. Each time 100 entries were completed, the Trustees of Anatolia College offered \$5,000 in personal contributions. The enthusiastic response resulted in €32,000 collected from pledges, thus unlocking the entire amount (\$25,000) that the Trustees offered.

The funds collected exceeded all expectations and were sufficient to provide a full Middle/High School scholarship to one student for the next six years (beginning with the 2022/23 school year). This is the second scholarship Anatolia College has secured through participating in Giving Tuesday, the global philanthropic movement.



EVELYN TSINTZA enrolled in Anatolia after attending CTY Greece. Raised in Agrinio, Evelyn received a full scholarship to the IBDP program, where she achieved a perfect GPA of 42/42. Her hard work earned her acceptance into **Oxford University School of Law**, one of only 238 students to receive a place (12% of 1,899 applicants). Reflecting on her experience, Evelyn said: *"In the beginning, Oxford seemed to be a tough and unlikely goal. During my IB studies, however, I started to believe it was possible!"*

IBDP STUDENTS Accepted into international Universities

Propelled by high grades - above the overall world average - our IB students received offers from international universities and colleges:

- **91%** got offers from their chosen schools
- **19** Students were accepted to schools in the USA
- Total of **\$3.25 million** in scholarships for studies at American schools
- **43** Students were accepted into schools in Great Britain
- **28** Students were accepted into European schools
- **22** Seniors earned GPAs of **38** or higher (maximum possible is 42)
- Evelyn Tsintza and Maria-Salome Petridi earned perfect scores of **42/42**, equaled only by **3%** of IB students worldwide.

USA-based universities and colleges include Harvard, Boston University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Davidson College, Elmhurst University, Franklin & Marshall College, George Washington University, Grinnell College, Kenyon College, Pomona College, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, St. Lawrence University,

University of Chicago, Union College.

Great Britain-based schools include the University of Bath, University of Bristol, Cardiff University, City, University of London, Durham University, University of Edinburgh, University of Exeter, University of Glasgow, Glasgow School of Art, Imperial College London, University of Kent, King's College, London, LSE: London School of Economics and Political Science, Manchester University, Newcastle University, Nottingham University, University of Oxford, University of Plymouth, Queen Mary University of London, Royal Holloway, University of London, St. Andrews University, Sussex University, Surrey University, UCL: University College London, University of Warwick, Westminster University and the University of York.

European Schools include (the Netherlands) TU Delft, University of Groningen, University of Amsterdam, Utrecht University, TU Eindhoven, Vu University Amsterdam, Maastricht University; (Italy) Bocconi University, San Raffaele; (France) Grenoble School of Management; (Czech Republic) Charles University, (Spain) TBS Barcelona.

Highlighting Student Successes

Bronze Medal at the 54th International Chemistry Olympiad



Orestis Loukas Anemoulis won Bronze Medal at the 54th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2022), on July 18, 2022, in Tianjin, China, in which more than 300 students from 75 countries participated. Orestis was part of the four-member Greek national delegation. As an 11th grader, he was only the second Junior-year student to participate on the Greek team and only the third Junior-year student to win a medal in the 54 years of the competition.

4th place in the Greek Economic Olympiad



Platonas Fakas, now a graduate of Anatolia's IBDP class of 2022, made it to the Final Round

of the 2nd Hellenic Economic Olympiad, in July 2022, in Athens. Plato finished in 4th place and qualified for the final of the International Economic Olympiad.



TaeKwonDo Star Rises to the Top of Europe

Eleni-Maria Kiakidou won two gold medals as a member of the Greek National Team at the Pan-European TaekWonDo ITF Championship in Porec, Croatia, at the beginning of April 2022.

Cheerleading Champions

Anatolia High School students Stella Gali and Dimitra Adronikidou were crowned European champions with their team "Hellenic Star" at the European Cheerleading Championship held in Athens, July 2022. This was the first European gold medal for Greece in a pan-European event. In the same competition, two more students, Rodi Skampa and Maya Stylla, won bronze medals.



ACT Hosts Northeastern University's Global Quest Research Program

ACT and Northeastern University have strengthened their ties and expanded their partnership through NUs Global Quest Program for second-semester students. More than 100 students participated in the Spring 2022 term, and ten dedicated individuals were selected to continue their studies at ACT for an additional period, extending their experience abroad. The Research Program provides opportunities to gain hands-on experience early by working in a research lab alongside dedicated ACT research scientists. The students chose between 16 STEM research topics in biology, psychology, chemistry, environmental sciences, and physics. The intensive program included more than 60 hours of guided research in the lab and 30 hours of independent study and sample gathering. ACT faculty members Dr. Mary Kalamaki, Dr. Andreas Anestis, and Dr. Konstantinos Kanakoglou led the program.



"DUKAKIS CENTER Live" Lectures



Independence Day

Dukakis Center Director Dr. David Wisner hosted two prominent American educators, Jenifer Neils, outgoing Director of the American School of Classical Studies in Rome, and Scott Sprenger, President of the American University of Rome, to celebrate Independence Day. Guests explored the challenges faced by Americans living and working abroad.

Mark Welsh

In an age of growing political polarization, the Dukakis Center briefly closed the gap between the two partisan poles in American political life. Host David Wisner welcomed General Mark Welsh, former Air Force Chief of Staff and current Dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, to discuss the state of public service at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Civil Society & Mini Summit for Democracy

The Dukakis Center's Fourth Civil Society event featured seven distinguished ACT alums working in civil society or the public sector. Keynote speakers of the event were Beth Noveck of Northeastern University, Efi Stefopoulou of the Hellenic Ministry of Public Administration and e-Government, Polly Mackenzie of Demos, a London-based cross-party think tank, and ACT alumna Ilda Zhulali (Class of 2001), currently Advisor on European Integration to the President of the Republic of Albania.

ACT: New Degree in Biological Sciences

ACT's four-year BS program in Biological Sciences is the culmination of 15 years of experience developing and delivering STEM curricula in collaboration with leading American educational institutions, such as Northeastern University and Washington University. The degree provides graduates with a solid foundation of scientific knowledge from the molecular to the ecosystemic level. In addition, it equips them with practical laboratory experience and research skills, which are essential and valuable in various advanced studies or employment options. The courses took place in the newly refurbished Science Labs of Constantinidis Hall.



Greek Heritage Program

ACT announced a new partnership with the National Hellenic Society, the Heritage Greece Program, a two-week cultural and educational immersion odyssey for accomplished Greek-American college students. The program launched the Thessaloniki option at ACT in July 2022, with 24 college-age Greek Heritage participants from the US and Canada. The students connected with their peers and their roots by exploring northern Greece's ancient, modern, and natural wonders through classes offered by ACT faculty members.

Study Abroad @ ACT: Welcoming US Students



In Spring 2022, more than 150 students from 19 colleges and universities across the United States joined the ACT Study Abroad Program and custom programs for first-year students. Thirty of them came from numerous schools - typically in their junior year of college - chose to spend a semester in Northern Greece with ACT's Study Abroad Program. Another 120

students from George Mason University and Northeastern University made up the Spring-time cohort of visiting first-year students at ACT. First-year study abroad programs allow students to engage globally early on in their studies, bring back international experience into the classroom, and build a strong portfolio of experiences for their future.

In September 2022, ACT welcomed a remarkable number of new students, both degree-seeking and visiting. This fall also marked the 14th anniversary of the NU.in Program at ACT with 300 students who have chosen to start their first college experience here in Thessaloniki. Furthermore, ACT welcomed 30 study-abroad students from 20 major partners in the United States. In addition to our visiting students, some ACT students have taken the opportunity to begin the academic year abroad. Five students are participating in the ACT Abroad Program and are currently studying at Suffolk University in Boston, USA, and Chonnam National University in South Korea.

Greek Naive Painters Exhibition at Bissell Library

Students and staff from all levels of Anatolia College enjoyed the artistic vision of Greek Naive painters at an exhibition from the **Panayotis & Effie Michelis Foundation** collection hosted at ACT's Bissell Library. The various paintings encompassed a whimsical and colorful depiction of Greek life - from landscapes and still-lives to portraits and mythological creatures. The Michelis Foundation was established in 1979 by Panagiotis Michelis, a well-known architect and academic, and his wife Effie, herself a Naive Painter. Visitors to the Library were impressed by the lively artwork, and ACT students often chose their study spots based on proximity to the paintings. The exhibition also served as a rich source of lesson content. For example, 270 fourth, fifth and sixth-



From left: Trustees Jack J. Florentin, Markos N. Papageorgiou, Lambros G. Anagnostopoulos, Dr. Marina Tsoulou, Director, Michelis Foundation, Dr. Evi Tramantza, Director of Libraries & Archives, Anatolia College, Dr. Panos Vlachos, Anatolia College President

grade classes from Anatolia Elementary School came to the Library on multiple occasions to learn about Naive painting, study the works and paint their versions! At the exhibit's closing, the Foundation donated a painting by Effie Michelis, which will be displayed permanently, a small reminder of art's power to bring the viewer reflection and joy.

ACT Faculty Spotlight

Professor Nikolaos Dimitriadis continues his religious studies work with a meeting with **His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew**; a speech under the theme of "Non-Violence" in Istanbul; a session in the historical Theological School of Halki for the Halki Summit V entitled "Sustaining the Future of the Planet Together"; a summer position as visiting faculty member for the Fletcher School's program "Faith-Based Leadership in a Turbulent World."





BASKI Organizes its First Public Event

On May 10, 2022, the Basketball for Life Skills (BASKI) multiplier event occurred at Anatolia College premises. BASKI is an EU-funded Erasmus+ sports project that promotes education in and through sports with a particular focus on skills development. ACT is one of seven consortium members. More than 30 basketball coaches, physical education students,



and sports decision-makers, including professors and students from the Sports Education Department of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, as well as two basketball athletes in dual-career, were introduced to the project's outputs. In the second part of the event, basketball coaches and PE teachers piloted the BASKI training program by actually testing the BASKI drills with more than 70 elementary students from four local schools and a group of children of the Roma community who came under the auspices of the NGO Lighthouse of the World.

InGame Enacting Youth Citizenry through Serious Gaming

The INGAME project entered its third year. ACT students have contributed to its development since Dr. Maria Kyriakidou, Chair of the ACT Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Maria Patsarika, a researcher for the project, proposed the creation of an advisory group of students to assist the development of the game. ACT students contributed to the project areas of interest and the action fields design along with the researchers from all partner countries for the creation of the game. Relevant to this, Drs. Kyriakidou and Patsarika presented a paper titled "In-game: Enacting Youth Citizenry through Serious Gaming" at the European Sociological Association conference last year. The latest face-to-face transnational partner meeting occurred on September 13-14 in Nicosia, Cyprus. The game is close to its full development, and the final steps include pilot testing and training educators and civil society stakeholders. The piloting of the game in Greece started in November 2022, with ACT students playing this educational game and providing feedback for the finalization process.

Can we Learn about Happiness? Open Event about Positive Psychology

On May 13, 2022, ACT's Psychology program (Division of Humanities and Social Sciences) organized a "Positive Psychology" event featuring Dr. Anastasios Stalikas, Professor at Panteion University and founder and President of the Hellenic Society for Positive Psychology. Dr. Stalikas explored the determinants of a happy and fulfilling life, including several misconceptions regarding happiness and the ways people can positively transform their lives.

Open Workshop Challenge of Disinformation

ACT's English Department hosted an open workshop titled "The Challenge of Disinformation," aimed to expose students to the risks and pitfalls involved in digital communication, including fake news, distorted information, and purposely false reports. Dr. Eleni Godi, Coordinator of the ACT BA in English, invited Nikos S. Panagiotou (Aristotle University, Head of Digital Communication Network Global) and ACT Journalism instructor Yannis Kotsifos. The two guests presented the Digital Communication Network, a multi-field coalition to combat disinformation, and the "Fake News Hunters," a volunteer research team from Greece and Romania.

Tourism of Tomorrow Conference Looks at the Pandemic's Positive Legacy

The 5th "Tourism of Tomorrow" Conference took place online in April 2022, organized by ACT's Tourism & Hospitality degree program. The online forum examined how the industry is vulnerable to significant events such as war and the pandemic. Featured guests included Sofia Zacharaki, Deputy Minister of Tourism; Alexandros Thanos, Deputy Regional Governor of Tourism of the Central Macedonia Region; Carlo Javakhia, General Manager of the Ritz-Carlton Doha Hotel; Grigorios Themistokleous, Group Information Security Officer, Sani/Ikos Group; Dr. Prodromos Monastiridis, Head of Marketing & Sponsorship Department, Thessaloniki Concert Hall and Vice President of the Thessaloniki Convention Bureau.

Exploring the New Anatolia Elementary School Campus



More than 1,000 elementary students and their parents had the opportunity to visit and discover the new Anatolia Elementary School campus before the first school bell officially rang. The tour started at the Lambroussis Auditorium, a multi-purpose hall named after donors Harry and Elizabeth Labroussis. The Bissell Wing, dedicated to Anatolia College benefactor and Trustee George S. Bissell, houses classrooms, the Irina Taka – Jerry Kalogiratos Future Learning Lab, the Annie Michaelides Art Room and the Leonidas & Angelika Evangelidis Music Room. The Irina Taka – Jerry Kalogiratos Future Learning Lab is equipped for STEM and STEAM activities with VA and AR technology, video projectors, and a

3D printer. The Modiano Library was realized thanks to a donation from Albert and Alike Modiano and offers young students access to more than 5,000 book titles and activities related to book reading and Information Literacy. The cooling and heating system is considered one of the least energy-intensive in Greece since it operates solely with electricity and geothermal energy. In addition, the new buildings use natural ventilation and underfloor heating systems. Green roofs have been created in parts of the Bissell Wing and on the gymnasium, serving as heat and sound insulators.

Architectural Study: SPARCH Sakellaridou / Papanikolaou & Associated Architects
Project Manager: Morpho Papanikolaou

Anatolia Elementary Gets New Leadership

Anatolia Elementary's new Principal, Maria Proestopoulou, opened the 2022-2023 school year with a bright and bold vision for the entire AES community. The focus for this coming period centers on three elements: STEM education with an emphasis on project-based and inquiry learning, student health and well-being, and building strong relationships among students, faculty, staff, and the community. Maria is committed to Anatolia's philosophy of transformational education that can foster creativity and inspire students toward personal excellence.



"Thanks to this work, our teachers will now have the resources to innovate, collaborate, and encourage the mindful citizens of Thessaloniki. With this new space, we have the opportunity to all work together and explore partnerships among different grades, disciplines, and teachers. Together, we can work towards strengthening this home and establishing the Anatolia Elementary School as the premier institution for young learners in Northern Greece."

SDG Inclusion Workshop for 5th & 6th Graders

Seven of the UN's Sustainable Development Global indicators ("SDGs"), environment, well-being, security, civil society, modern technology, and entrepreneurship, have been introduced into the country's school curriculum as Skills Workshops. One of these, held at AES for the 5th and 6th grades,



covered the module "I am interested and active - Social Awareness & Responsibility" and was implemented by Art teacher Maria Chatzikefala. Designed to examine the SDG "Inclusion: mutual respect/diversity/gender equality," the workshop presented students with the question "Gender representations and assumptions in art, popular culture and pop culture: am I or am I becoming my gender?" Worksheets and exercises guided the class through the discussion.



Alumnus and donor Mark Sekas '54

in His Own Words

Mark Sekas was a dedicated and caring alumnus. A generous donor for many years. He was born in Thessaloniki in 1936 and passed away on August 5, 2022. His comments and reflections below were prepared in response to our request for an interview.



My years as an Anatolian student

My father was an admirer of America. He felt it was the most beautiful place on earth, where people worked hard and enjoyed living. When he heard that Anatolia College was an American school, he thought I should attend. He enrolled me as a boarding student in the Preparatory class. He believed that I would learn to do my chores and secure some discipline by residing on the Anatolia College campus.

What I learned at Anatolia

My life as a live-in student was an unexpected experience. I learned how to fix my bed, hang my clothes up every day, go to study hall at pre-set times, and go to my meals at a preset time. I also learned to eat everything! In a word, I would say I learned some form of "discipline." I was about 16 when I developed a love for the sea. I began to dream that someday I could own a Sailboat that I could sail from America to Greece! My study habits also changed considerably, and I approached my academic work with - discipline and independence!

Why I decided to go to the US

When I graduated from Anatolia College late in the summer of 1954, I was urged by my father to go to the US. He thought I should be an Electrical Engineer. However, I was looking for a school close to the water to pursue my latest love - sailing. For financial reasons, I chose the University of Alabama and enrolled in the fall of 1954.

Starting a business

In 1960 I decided to get married and start a family. My parents helped me some, but my financial obligations were too high. So I ended up dropping out of school. I had three jobs. On weekdays, I was a drafter for a large company in Tuscaloosa. Fridays and Saturdays, I worked in the meat packing department of a large grocery store. On Sundays, I threw newspapers - all to make ends meet. In 1962 my parents visited us in Tuscaloosa to meet my wife and my two children - Maria and John. They offered to bring me back to Thessaloniki when they saw my hard work. I considered my

parents' offer, but in the end, I rejected it. Instead, I decided to go back to school. When I returned in 1962, I made all "A's" and "B's" in the next three years" and still had three jobs!

Upon graduation, I interviewed for several companies, all with plants close to the water. I chose Scott Paper Co. - a major paper producer in Mobile, Alabama. Our home was in a place like Epanomi, right on the water. The sailboat images started to become more apparent.

Scott Paper Co. employed me for approximately five and a half years. They offered me a "Distinct Sales Position" for the entire Southern Gulf Coast - Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. From 1971 to 1975, I increased sales from \$350,000 yearly to \$2,700,000 million yearly.

In 1976 I started "Sekas Process Inc." and built it into a very successful company.

The only thing left on my plan was to buy a large Sailboat and sail to Greece.

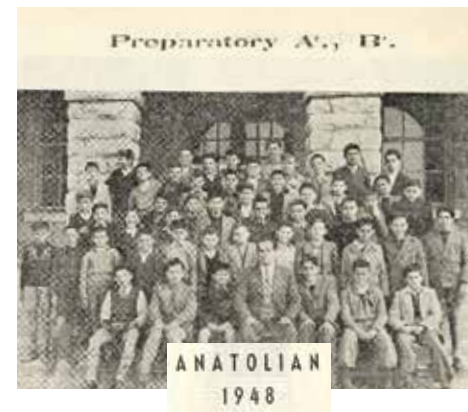
We attempted the trip twice. In 1989, we were hit by a hurricane - with winds up to 200 kilometers/hour. We survived it and returned to the US. Five years later, we re-equipped the boat and tried it again. We made it safely to Greece in August of 1994. The Blue Aegean is a 42-foot sailing yacht.

Why I supported the Scholarship Program

I felt that there are many intelligent children in Greece who, for various reasons, do not know the "life opportunities" education from a great school can change their future life. A scholarship can give them access to those opportunities.

The positive change I want to bring to Anatolia students

The only positive suggestion I can make to present and future students at Anatolia College is: Be creative, be daring, and do not plan your life on your parents' success. Work hard, work smart. We are a nation of brilliant people. Pray to God for his guidance and help. I learned that nothing comes easy. I knew that luck was a simple word with a profound meaning.



Mark Sekas (top row, first from left) and classmates, mid-way through their years at Anatolia High School in 1948. (© Trustees of Anatolia College. Photo from the Anatolia College Archives & Special Collections)

When "preparation and opportunity meet," we call it luck. Every one of us is exposed to the same opportunities. However, only some of us want to take the time to prepare. We want things to happen without putting an effort or facing the chance of failure.

What are your hopes and expectations for the scholarship student?

My hope is that she will grow up into a well-rounded individual and that she will be able to fulfill her dreams. And as corny as this may sound, that a guiding principle in her life will be to "pay it forward."

How can Anatolia College alumni play a more active role in strengthening our school's missions and values?

The scholarship program is clearly very dear to my heart. I think focused alumni support could help it grow even more, giving more opportunities to kids from a variety of backgrounds and means. Separately, as the alumni community is spread all over the world, an outreach program trying to match students with alumni to act as mentors can be an amplifier of their accumulated experience.

"I learned that nothing comes easy.

I learned that luck is a simple word with a deep meaning.

When "preparation and opportunity meet," we call it luck."

Alums and Friends Contribute to the Anatolia College Community

Our Alumni and Friends support continues to grow each year as many see the value of participating in the community initiatives and the educational foundation of our school.

The Anatolia College Alumni Association (SAAK) provided funds for purchasing new desks, new Tae Kwon Do athletic equipment, and two scholarships, along with a donation in memory of Lia Manidou, Principal of the 2nd Gymnasio.

The Anatolia College Alumni Association in Athens (SAKA) is providing the funds for a full scholarship to a worthy High School student.

The Association of Friends of Anatolia College (AFAC) organized a speech with former Education Minister Anna Diamantopoulou and a major summer concert in the courtyard of Macedonia Hall featuring singing star Alkistis Protopsaltis. In addition, the organization secured reserved seating for all its members at a concert of legendary Greek singers Marinella and Marios Frangoulis. The proceeds from all three events were donated to support the College's Scholarship Program and to name one of the new Anatolia Elementary Campus classrooms.

Alumni Office Highlights & Events

The Anatolia College Alumni Relations Office (a division of the school's administrative services) serves the entire alum community, from High school to ACT. The overall community consists of over 13,000 alums residing in 50 countries. Our goal is to unite the members of this rich community by reconnecting with old classmates, offering lifelong learning seminars, creating networking opportunities, and organizing volunteer initiatives. This past year the Alumni Relations Office offered:

- **Online events: #learn, #think, # coffee with an alum**
- **Online meetings with class Ambassadors**
- **Monthly Online Anatolia HS Alumni Newsletter**
- **Quarterly Online ACT Alumni Newsletter**
- **Participation in Career Day**