



# The Anatolian

SPRING 2018

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## Anatolia College's Comprehensive Campaign: Building the Framework for Transformative Education

More than 130 years have passed since Anatolia College first opened its doors with a mission to provide a modern and complete education. The Anatolian tradition grew and flourished throughout decades of war and peace, prosperity and crisis alike. This year, a new chapter in that history has opened with a vision firmly set to meet the challenges and opportunities for a progressive education in the twenty-first century.

Modern education methods call for a holistic synthesis between pedagogy and environment, the two pillars that support our students' growth both as individuals and as members of a local and global community. Anatolia has unveiled a Comprehensive Campaign, intended to implement major improvements in both areas, fundraising across all levels of our institution to ensure transformative education for all.

Anatolia's Comprehensive Campaign recognizes that today's changing educational modes feature interactive learning, project-based curricula, and open access to technology and learning aids, which requires investments in both our infrastructure and personnel to sustain the standards of a premier academic experience. A key factor in this new approach to learning is the use of open and flexible working spaces, in which teachers can implement lessons different-



New Anatolia Elementary campus

ly and students can learn more effectively and creatively as individuals and in groups. Complementary to the creation of new learning environments is the investment in our faculty through more robust and targeted professional development programs. Finally we look to increase investment in our talented students by enriching the institution's endowment, which is dedicated to providing scholarships for deserving students from every part of Greece who lack the financial means to attend Anatolia College.

Anatolia College's planned new elementary school forms a cornerstone in this strategy. With its mix of open spaces and flexible classroom arrangements, the "little village" will reinforce creativity and communication, stimulating excellence in the children's thoughts and practices starting in their earliest school years.

At the High School, a newly proposed STEM Center will feature a full spectrum of state-of-the-art technology and teaching aids to support a vast expansion of Anatolia College's already flourishing STEM programs. Our collaborations with external organizations will enable Anatolia



ACT Student Center

College to provide yearlong programs to students of the wider community.

The campaign also includes a plan for the extension and upgrading of IB facilities, fostering creativity and reflection in an effort to meet the diverse needs of each student.

ACT will build a new multipurpose Student Center with an Assembly Hall, recreational areas for both students and faculty, student meeting rooms, administrative offices, a cafeteria and dining area, and an info center for student enrollment and career opportunities. The new Student Center will foster the dynamic and international

character of ACT, a place with ample space for reflection and communication, where students are inspired to share ideas and opinions and engage into creative thinking.

The Comprehensive Campaign is already fully underway, with fundraising efforts being led by the College's Campus' Institutional Development Office. The Anatolia Trustees have given their earnest support to the campaign and are actively involved in outreach and networking to public and private institutions, groups and individuals, both in Greece and in the United States.

The overall purpose and plan for the Capital Campaign have been examined at length for viability and transparency and follow the school's commitment to environmental stewardship and good governance. The architectural schemes feature innovative and sustainable building practices, including renewable energy systems. The long-term plans reflect knowledge of best practices in teaching, gleaned from Anatolia's long-term involvement with IB educational paradigms and the implementation of the Middle Years Program at Anatolia College High School. Together, as the many constituencies of the school contribute to the Comprehensive Campaign, we can lay the foundations for the next generation of transformative education at Anatolia College.



Expansion and Upgrade of IB Facilities



STEM Center

## The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Endowment for CTY Greece Scholarships



The scholarship program for the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Greece at Anatolia College has now been formally endowed into perpetuity with The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Endowment for CTY Greece after the successful completion of a matching challenge grant. This \$3 million endowment is the outcome of a challenge grant issued by

the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and matched by Anatolia Trustees' and concerned institutions in a ratio of 2:1.

Scholarships, combined with localized outreach and enrichment efforts, allow CTY Greece to target and include academically advanced students from Greece and Cyprus who lack the economic means to participate in these ground-

breaking programs. The CTY Greece program is supported by several other institutional and corporate partners, including the John Latsis Foundation, LIDL Greece and LIDL Cyprus, Eurobank, Intrisoft International, and Star Bulk Carriers Corporation; however, the Match Challenge marks a significant milestone in the long-term forecast for the program's development.

# Anatolia College Institutional News

## Official Opening of Anatolia College's Learning Spaces

Anatolia College's 2017 annual Trustees' meeting served as the backdrop for the official inauguration of the school's newest innovative learning spaces, made possible with funding from USAID/ASHA, the Trustees of Anatolia College, the Anatolia College Alumni Association, the Friends Association of Anatolia College, and individual donors from Greece and the United States.



Anatolia College Board Chair, **Albert H. "Chip" Elfner, III**, (left), US Consul General, **Rebecca Fong**, with Anatolia College's President **Dr. Panos Vlachos** (right).

## The City of Thessaloniki Honors George Bissell

Anatolia College's trustee and donor George S. Bissell was honored by the City of Thessaloniki at the opening of the 9th City Council Conference. Mayor Ioannis Boutaris bestowed the Silver Medallion on Mr. Bissell in recognition of his lifelong dedication to education and public service, in addition to his generous contributions to the people of Thessaloniki through his gifts and donations. Mayor Boutaris mentioned Anatolia College's historical leadership as an outstanding educational institution and guiding force in the region, citing its outreach to the community through programs and advanced facilities such as the Bissell Library. In his closing remarks, Mr. Bissell declared, "I accept this honor on behalf of all those who have worked to develop Anatolia College and strengthen the relationship between Greece and the United States. All of us at Anatolia College are

blessed to be located here in Thessaloniki, a wonderful city where students come from all over the world to study and live."



Mayor **Ioannis Boutaris** with **George S. Bissell**

## New Member Joins Anatolia Board of Trustees



**Mr. Nikolaos Bakatselos** is the president and CEO of Pyramis Metallourgia A.E.. As of June 2010, he was elected vice president of AMCHAM and president of the Northern Greece Committee. He is a member of

the Executive Committee of SWVE and the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Belgium in Northern Greece. Mr. Nikolaos Bakatselos holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and an MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School. His wife is Anatolia alumna Elina Spiliopoulou, class of '93.

## CTY Greece celebrates Five Years of Excellence!



The Center for Talented Youth Greece continues to establish and develop its leading role as a reference point for Gifted Education in Greece and Cyprus, providing valuable support and resources to students, parents, and educators. With a variety of outreach events, research programs, parent seminars, and workshops for teachers, in addition to its academic programs, the CTY Greece has enhanced its presence in the community and

increased its efforts to support students with exceptional abilities and potential, as well as motivated and dedicated educators.

The past four years have seen more than 8,500 students in 17 cities take the CTY Greece eligibility exams, and more than 2,000 students participate in three-week summer, weekend, and online programs. Most importantly, the meritocratic ethos of the program was maintained by renewed and continued scholarship initiatives, allowing capable students to participate regardless of fam-

ily means. In 2017, a remarkable total of 197 students received a scholarship to attend the summer programs. This corresponds to over 50% of the participating students. In addition, as part of disseminating best teaching practices CTY Greece has offered a series of innovative interactive teacher training workshops on topics such as "Teaching Strategies for Engaging Students" and "Informal Assessment," to primary and secondary school teachers in Greece and Cyprus.

Through its membership and commitment to an EU-funded research program for gifted students, CTY Greece has formed strong collaborations with leading research departments such as the CTY Johns Hopkins University, CTY Ireland, the College of William & Mary (USA), and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Through its membership and commitment to an EU-funded program for educating gifted students, CTY Greece has partnered with experts in the field of gifted education from universities in Ireland, Germany, Scotland, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Hungary. CTY Greece continues to be a Talent Center for the European Talent Support Network and a member of the European Council for High Ability.

CTY Greece's founding donor is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; additional donors include LIDL Greece, LIDL Cyprus, the John S. Latsis Foundation, Eurobank, Intrasoft International, and Star Bulk.



## "Education and the Gifted", a Major Symposium in Athens

Anatolia College continues to develop its position as a respected community resource for Greek educators, sharing research, knowledge, and best practices in a variety of ways throughout the country. In March, CTY Greece organized a Symposium: "Education and the Gifted: Trend or Necessity?" at the Benaki Museum Cultural Center in Athens for more than 300 of educators, students and researchers. Keynote presenters included Dr. Tracy Cross, Professor of Psychology and Education of Gifted and Talented students at the College of William & Mary (USA) and Honorary President of the National Association of Gifted Children (USA); and Dr. Albert Ziegler, Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Erlangen, Nuremberg, Germany.



*"From the first day, I was so excited to see my dream turn into a reality! My literature instructor taught us in exactly the right way that teaching should be offered everywhere!"*

*Nefeli Chorianopoulou (CTY Greece student)*

The Anatolian

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# Anatolia College Institutional News

## STEM News

Anatolia College's STEM activities continue to grow, reaching out further to the wider community and including more of our students and faculty in new initiatives. This past year, new programs were offered to Anatolia students. Most notable among them was the robotics program, aimed toward participation in the Panhellenic WRO Competition, in which all Anatolia teams advanced to the Finals in Athens! In addition to workshops and events, other



notable STEM accomplishments included a series of Astronomy lectures open to the public, which featured noted Professor of Astronomy Nikolaos K. Spyrou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and a "Celebration of Physics" aimed at broadening knowledge and appreciation of the subjects, in which various distinguished presenters led Gymnasio and Lykeio students in extraordinary experiments. Additionally as is customary every year, two Anatolia College teams advanced to the Greek "F1 in Schools" Finals. Finally, groups of Anatolia STEM students visited the ESA (European Space Agency) in The Netherlands and to New York City where the students participated in STEM Activities at the Museum of City of New York, Stevens Institute of Technology, and other locations.

## Donor interview: Steve Aridgides, Class of '68

*The prominent Anatolia College alumnus and donor spoke with The Anatolian about his life experiences and what inspired his gift to the school.*

### You have led a very different life than what you expected. How did you transition from Greece to America?

Well, when I was a junior in high school Vice-President Musgrove asked if I wanted to go to college in the US, and he helped me apply. Of all the schools I applied to, Lafayette College gave me the best scholarship package; still, I worked each summer in a restaurant on the Jersey shore to help with expenses year round. I finished in four years, studying chemical engineering, and then started a long career, first with Procter & Gamble, then Glaxo-SmithKline, and finally with Johnson and Johnson. Incidentally, I never expected to remain in the US; as I told my future wife when we met in New Jersey, "Nine out of ten Greeks want to stay here. I'm the tenth one." However, one thing led to another, and here we are still.

### Why do you feel that scholarships are important? What made you decide to become a donor?

As a scholarship student myself, I know how life changing financial aid can be. My family never could have afforded to send me to Anatolia, let alone the United States. My parents did not finish grade school—but they taught me to work hard and study. When I took the entrance exams and was accepted into Anatolia, it changed my life. As a boarding student, I was able to meet people from all over the place—I am still in contact with classmates from 1968. When I stopped working, I thought, "Someone paid for me to go to school, now it's time for me to do the same." I also found out that Johnson & Johnson has a matching program that would virtually double my donation, so I picked up the phone and said, "I'd like to help." I was very fortunate to have

had a successful career, and Johnson & Johnson gave me generous compensation over time, so I felt it was time to do my part for the younger generation. I have been doing this now for five years, and although I've had limited contact with the scholarship recipients, I do know that they've done very well academically. I never knew who funded me—that is not the important thing—I leave it up to the school to give the scholarship to the right person—whoever they think is appropriate.



should have acquired skills that can make you "employable." You should concentrate on learning what you need in order to succeed in your field. In high school, however, it is different. That is where students can really inquire into things (if they are motivated) and develop their character. Subjects like civics and,

in Greek culture at least, the history of civilizations and even religion can give you a tremendous base and help you understand who you want to be and where you want your place in the world to be.

### What prepared you to go the United States?

My English—when I landed in the United States—was very good. I had some amazing English teachers, so when I went through Freshmen English in Lafayette College, I had the highest grades in the class! The only vocabulary I did not have was swear words—so my dorm buddies had a good time trying to teach me those. It only took a week or so and I was "fluent." In addition, I had a Classics Teacher at Anatolia - Mr. Papachatzis - who helped me get work as a tutor teaching Classic Greek to foreigners who wanted to be able to read the inscriptions on the Greek monuments.

I was very well prepared academically to go to an American university—my first year in college, I did not have to study that hard because classes at Anatolia were so advanced. The first week of freshman year, I solved a calculus problem that surprised everyone in the class, but to me it was just normal math.

The teachers made all the difference—I did not realize it at the time of course. Their commitment and passion—both the Greek ones, the Americans, and other foreign teachers—gave us an amazing education. Also, sometimes when you hang out with people who are smarter than you, it makes a difference in how you deal with things. Their attitude rubs off on you, and you want to achieve more. So my classmates played a role there also.

### What are the most important things that schools can teach these days?

I believe that there is a difference between university and high school—in high school you can explore and "discover yourself" if you want, but when you go to the university you should learn a skill, a profession. By the time you finish college, you

### You feel very strongly about STEM—why is this such a necessary area in your opinion?

Well, not everyone is suited for STEM subjects—but many major contributions for the next decades will come from robotics, machine learning, AI, and block chain—all STEM-related subjects. These people start companies and lead innovation. Moreover, I think Greece badly needs this—young people who are creative and innovative thinkers and doers—to take us into the next industrial/knowledge revolution where there will be huge disruptions. Therefore, a country that is equipped with these minds will be in a position to move ahead.

### What do you wish for Anatolia College's future?

One thing that is so apparent is the transformation Anatolia has gone through over the years—when I was there it was only a high school, and now they have added an elementary school and of course ACT. I think that one of the greatest things Anatolia offers is the connection with the US. So if they can develop more joint programs with American or non-American universities, especially with STEM degrees, that would be a great benefit to the school. Also, at the high school level, having a way to leverage student's performance in the most difficult classes is a very important aspect of the education Anatolia offers because one "success metric" of American high schools is in how many honors-level or AP (advanced placement) courses are offered and taken by students, which also helps with college credits later on. Anatolia has the power to change lives by challenging students and sending them to colleges where they can excel. And of course, CTY is a fantastic initiative that I hope to see more of.

## New Chemistry Lab at ACT



The brand new Chemistry Laboratory of the ACT Division of Science and Technology welcomed its first cohort of students for the Fall 2017 semester. Situated in the new building of ACT, it constitutes an excellent learning space for students and is home to a host of resources to support advanced research. The state-of-the-art facility contains six square workstations equipped with large sinks, which can accommodate a total of 24 students per laboratory session. It also includes a real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) device to aid DNA research, a five-channel spectrophotometer, an autoclave, two chemical safety hoods, incubators, and ovens.

The teaching resources include two large boards and an integrated laptop with a projector, connected to a central audio system.

The new laboratory is fully equipped for conducting experiments in a variety of subjects related to chemistry/biochemistry and molecular biology/biotechnology. The lab is also set up to facilitate more advanced research on these topics, including DNA polymorphism analysis, gene mRNA expression analysis, copy number analysis, protein quantification and enzyme assays.

## Accessing Education through Institutional Scholarships

As a school with a longstanding and proven tradition of philanthropy, Anatolia College's own history guides the development of our scholarship programs that ensure the inclusion of students from diverse backgrounds in terms of geographical, cultural, and socio-economic status. The school places a special emphasis on those whose needs are greatest. Over the last 5 years, Anatolia has allocated \$11,135,000 on scholarships and financial aid thanks to the generosity of

trustees, foundations, corporations, and individuals. A total of 2,021 students have been awarded a scholarship or received financial aid.

- 25% of regular students are currently receiving scholarships or financial aid.
- Through our scholarship program, we continue to attract high-caliber students from underprivileged regions, thus enhancing the diversity of the student body and promoting social access and equality.

# Anatolia College Institutional News

## Social Responsibility Initiatives

**Anatolia College engages in activities that promote social responsibility and good global citizenship across all levels of our institution, involving our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. Select activities from the past year include the following:**

### Service as Action

For three years running, the Anatolia Gymnasio's Service as Action program has promoted volunteerism and social responsibility through a structured curricular offering. 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students engage with NGOs and other community organizations and actions, offering their services and building their skills



to address real-world issues in the surrounding area. This year, our students raised funds and participated in seminars, meetings, and trainings for a wide variety of causes, including creativity, art and literature exercises with the blind, athletics for disabled people, outreach to orphanages, animal welfare, and school bullying, to name just a few. Students and teachers offered more than 20,000 hours of volunteer work and donated 8,000 euros in cash and in-kind contributions to organizations and people in need.



### Waterfront Revival

Efforts to support the upkeep and renewal of Thessaloniki's sweeping waterfront continued this year, as part of a wide-ranging project organized jointly with Anatolia's Elementary, IB, and Gymnasio, as well as ACT, supported by Alpha Bank, the YMCA, and the City of Thessaloniki. Last year, more than 1,400 hours on 30 different projects involved the participation of more than 700 volunteers, who inspired Thessaloniki's citizens and guests by their spirit.

### Tree planting

Anatolians braved difficult March weather and turned out for a day of tree planting to help reforest the hills outside of the Panorama Athletic Center. The volunteer effort, which was organized with Municipality of Pylaia-Hortiatis, was supported by the SKAI TV channel's CSR program "Together, We Can!" Our volunteers



planted over 300 trees and sent a strong message about the importance of environmental protection.

### A Big Thanks to Students!

Anatolia College's student council donated the proceeds from this year's annual Christmas Bazaar to several deserving NGOs, earning a well-deserved "Thanks!" from the Greek non-profit foundation DESMOS. "Actions like

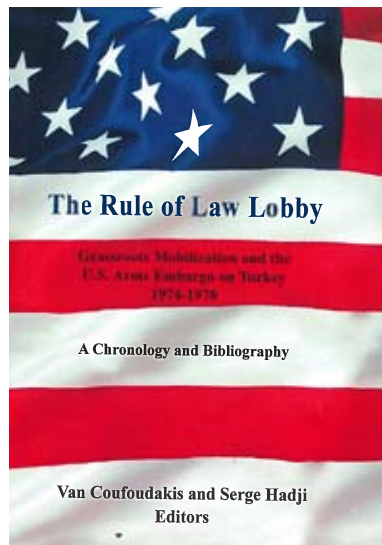


these give us pride in the young generation and hope for a better future, in which help and service for one's fellow man will become a part of our everyday lives." The students also offered part of the proceeds to the Anatolia College Scholarship Program.

### 1st Anatolia College Scholarship Run



Alumni, parents, students, and friends all joined together to run for a good cause on a beautiful Sunday in May. The Scholarship Run, organized for the first time, was a joint effort by the Alumni Association and Anatolia College that aimed at raising funds to fundraise for its long-standing scholarship program.



## New Book Examines Greek American Reaction to the Cyprus Crisis of 1974

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) announced its newest publication, *The Rule of Law Lobby: Grassroots Mobilization and the U.S. Arms Embargo on Turkey-1974-1978* by Van Coufoudakis, Ph.D. and Serge Hadji, Esq. an Anatolia College Trustee. The volume focuses on the grassroots mobilization in the Greek American community which followed Turkey's invasion and occupation of Cyprus on July 20, 1974 and lasted until the lifting of the U.S. Arms Embargo in 1978. The mobilization events highlighted in the annotated chronology recount how Greek Americans reacted to the invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974. In addition to protesting vociferously and providing humanitarian assistance, the Greek American community gradually coalesced into a lobby under the newly unfurled banner of the "Rule of Law." This led to the remarkable accomplishment of suspension of military aid to Turkey under an arms embargo imposed by the US Congress. Dr. Christos P. Ioannides, Director, Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies, Queen's College, CUNY said in his review "The Rule of Law Lobby is a timely book since the rule of law is as relevant as ever and remains the guiding principle in the Greek American Community's striving for the Cyprus and Greek causes."

## Lacrosse Debuts at Anatolia College



The 1st Annual Anatolia Lacrosse Cup-the first in Greece for that matter-organized by the American College of Thessaloniki was just the beginning.

Anatolia College has played a significant role in spreading the sport of lacrosse in Greece by creating an Anatolia High School club lacrosse team and organizing these historic games. Efforts to bring lacrosse to the school level of play began in 2017, when Anatolia College, in collaboration with the Greece Lacrosse Association and the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL), organized the first lacrosse clinic. The Anatolia HS lacrosse club, consisting of gymnasium student players, begun into motion in 2018 by ACT.

## Welcome aboard to this year's new American Fellows!

A new group of bright and dynamic American Fellows joined Anatolia College campus this year, immersing themselves in the culture of Greece and connecting the school with its American origins. Established in 1995 with just two young Fellows, the pro-



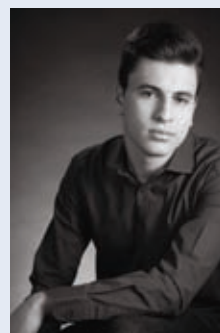
gram has grown to include eight positions for the 2017-18 academic years and will continue to grow. Administered by the US College Counseling Office, the Fellows Program aims to enhance the student life experience. In addition to their individual responsibilities across the school's academic divisions and student support offices, the Fellows take on the additional work of advising clubs, leading Service as Action classes, and serving as role models to Anatolia's students. Through the program, the Fellows gain invaluable new life experiences and take advantage of all that Thessaloniki has to offer outside the school grounds.

# High School News

## Our students enter top Greek, US, and European Universities

Every year Anatolia College students are placed among the highest performers in the Greek university PanHellenic entrance exams. Out of the 157 Anatolia College students who participated in Panhellenic exams in 2017, all of them entered universities and technical colleges in Greece. Among them, 128 gained admission to high-demand schools, 25 of whom were among the top 10 scorers in the schools of their choice. This year a record number of students received multiple offers from the “dream team” of schools in both the USA and Europe, making

the choice of which college to attend difficult, yet exciting process. More than 70 IB graduates from the Class of 2017 were accepted to some of the finest schools in the United States and Europe. For the class of 2018, results so far are set to pass previous years’ successes, with Anatolia IB students accepted to Princeton University, the University of Chicago, Northwestern, Smith College, Grinnell College, Vanderbilt University, Pomona College, Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Imperial, Bocconi University, Milan, Italy, and many more schools.



**Panagiotis Mistakidis ,  
2017 Graduate**

*First place at Aristotle University’s School of Mechanical Engineering, and acceptance to the University of Zurich, a world-class university for Math, Engineering, and the Physical Sciences.*

### **Elli Stogiannou, 2018 Graduate (Pomona College)**

“ I learned how to be more sensitive to the needs and opinions of others in the IB. It’s really important to be able to put oneself into someone else’s place and to see their viewpoint, especially in a multicultural world that unfortunately still has many prejudices. ”

## Summer “School” in the States

For over fifteen years, the Anatolia College US Counseling Office has offered our students the opportunity of a lifetime, and one that can often make a difference in their later career choices. Summer visits to the United States combine college-level courses with an up-close view of life in the USA at leading universities and colleges such as Yale, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, the University of Michigan, Lehigh University, the University of Illinois, Stevens Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Davidson University. Anatolia College students trade a portion of their summer vacation for a fascinating educational experience; additionally, some students take on further responsibility, serving as research assistants at Tufts, Harvard, and Missouri, St. Louis University and as interns at the Greek Consulate in Boston.

2017: 50 students went to 20 programs, including new partnerships with Brown and Columbia Universities. 2017 Summer Scholarships amounted to: \$113,128



## ACSTAC 2017 Annual College of Science & Technology

Anatolia College’s sixth annual ACSTAC conference drew more than 400 Gymnasio and Lykeio students from throughout Greece and the United States in November 2017. This year’s keynote speakers were **Dr. Nafsika Stavridou**, the Marie Sklodowska Curie Scholar at the University of Birmingham and Anatolia College alumna, who spoke about her research into renewable energy; and Anatolia alumnus **John Assael**, doctoral candidate at Oxford University and researcher at Google DeepMind. Assael’s work on artificial intelligence led to the development of LipNet.ai, a voice-recognition technology based on accurate and automatic lip-reading. ACSTAC is supported by the Ministry of Education, Aristotle University, CERN, the European Physics Society, and the City of Thessaloniki.

## TeAch 2018 Educating the Educators



Biannually, embodying its spirit of openness, community-mindedness, and outreach to the educational community of Northern Greece, Anatolia College organizes the teAch symposium in Thessaloniki. This year’s symposium was hosted in the heart of the city. An inspiring group of four experts from the secondary and tertiary fields were hosted by Vice-President Mr. Theodore Filaretos at the 7th teAch symposium entitled: “21st Century Teaching: The Next Steps.” More than 160 participants, teachers, and academicians from different schools and levels of Greek education listened as the four educators and researchers shared their expertise and views on the educational trends in the next decades. The speakers discussed ideas such as the impact of the World Wide Web social media on education; the timeless and vital role of the teacher; the role that technology and especially Artificial Intelligence will play on education; and the trends of STEM and STEAM education for elementary and secondary school students.

## ACMUN 2018



Over 540 delegates and advisors from 26 different schools from Greece, Poland, Cyprus, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America, represented 91 countries and 10 NGOs. Then, the delegates considered topics such as Protocol 1 of the Geneva Convention on the War on Terror, the Economic Consequences of a Universal Basic Income, an International Humanitarian Response to the Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar, the Venezuelan Crisis, and many more.



## Cry Baby A Musical Production of High Standards

There was a plethora of memorable scenes from “Cry Baby,” this year’s hit production from Anatolia’s renowned Drama Club. A seven-member ensemble band accompanied 26 student actors, and they brought the house down with their lively acting and the musicality of their performance. The riveting production caught the attention of national newspaper *Kathimerini*, which published a glowing review on the front page of its online site.

## IB Business Team Wins Second Place in National Competition

Anatolia’s IB students won the second prize for ‘Best Business’ in the Panhellenic Competition “Junior Achievement Greece” held in Athens in June 2018. The IB team competed against 133 schools from all over Greece and won one of the top distinctions for xBand, an innovative wearable device for skiers and snowboarders which keeps track of the vital signs of the person wearing it and detects abnormal signals that indicate danger. Previously, in April, the xBand team’s project had won first prize in the Company Program’s Trade Fair of Northern Greece, beating 40 teams.

The 25 IB students credited their success to the guidance from their teachers, their participation in the “Company Program” club at the IB, and mentors from ACT’s Entrepreneurship Hub.

Anatolia’s “Company Program” participated in MIT’s prestigious Launch Program, in which young entrepreneurs are connected with expert mentors from the MIT community, learning how to create their own innovative companies and products.



# Elementary School News

## Anatolia Elementary School gets some new playground additions!

The Playground for the younger classes of the Elementary school has been equipped with two new play structures designed and approved for children between 5 and 12 years of age. These additions consist of a "Supernova" and a pyramid shaped climbing web, with a special shock-absorbing base. They facilitate play and creativity via physical exploration by including a wide variety of options for our kids to push

themselves to new levels within a safe yet challenging environment. The two wooden towers are designed and manufactured by one of the leading producers of recreational equipment in the world and are part of a long-term plan to upgrade the outdoor experience of our youngest pupils. The purchase and installation of the new structures was made possible by a generous gift from school parents.



## AES Drama, Music and Choreography Club presented "Mary Poppins"

It was a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious performance as Anatolia's very own Mary Poppins took us on a magical journey over the rooftops of London! For the sixth year in a row, the drama, music and choreography clubs have done it again—and as Mary Poppins herself would say, the show was "practically perfect in every way." Performing in English, our budding thespians amazed the audience and reminded us to add an element of fun in everything we do in our lives!



## Composting workshop

Anatolia's Kindergarten and Elementary students got a 'dirty lesson' about the hidden value of household waste. The composting workshop showed our youngest students how recycled organic matter (food, plant-trimmings, etc.) can break down into simple non-toxic fertilizer for stronger and healthier plants. The presentation was organized in conjunction with the Municipality of Pylaia-Hortiatis, which has begun a pilot program that provides compost bins to citizens for home use. Anatolia Elementary students also got in on the act, with a bin placed on the school grounds and instructions on how to use it.

## 6th Annual Kindergarten STEM Family Day



Kids, parents, and teachers gathered for a full day of STEM-based fun at the Eleftheriadis Library in March. Experiments and teamwork helped our young researchers understand the basic forces of math and science at work in the real world. Participants were encouraged to continue their STEM engagement with the "after school STEM program" at Anatolia College's Center for STEM Education, which offers a series of weekly classes—which are specially tailored to K-2nd graders—to engage young learners' curiosity and creativity.



## Art Week 2018

Color, light, sound, rhythm, texture, and movement. For a full week in March, Anatolia Elementary Students learned to appreciate, and apply, the major components of creative expression. Our students visited the Museum of Modern Art, conducted research with contemporary artists, and analyzed Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and other major works of art before responding with their own creations. The week's activities were designed to encourage and reinforce our children's natural desire for self-expression by placing creative works into a context that demonstrates both the cultural and historical value of the arts.



## Earth Week AES 2018

Sunday, April 22 has been officially declared International! Earth Day by the UN. At Anatolia Elementary School, however, we've made Earth Day last a whole week. For the five days following Earth Day, our AES students engaged in various activities inside and outside the classroom, all focused on building environmental awareness and sensitivity. Projects such as recycling, environmental art projects, farm visits, beach-cleaning, animal care, campus cleaning and landscaping, inter-class dialogues and student-led lessons, and outdoor classes filled the week with a dynamic and exciting manner of learning and caring about the earth. The STEM lab especially emphasized the problem of plastic pollution, and students examined alternatives to plastic including Reduce-Reuse-Recycle along with analyzing the differences between paper and plastic.

Anatolia's kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders collected over 150 kilograms of plastic bottle caps, donating them to Thessaloniki's School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children to help purchase a wheelchair for one of their students.



## Record numbers for the Study Abroad program



ACT opened its doors in 2017 to a record number of Study Abroad Students with over 500 students from 24 different colleges and universities around the United States. 400 American students attended ACT during the Fall Semester, followed by the Spring Semester cohort, which consisted of students from 17 different American educational institutions. We also continued to celebrate the 10th year of the Northeastern University in Program at ACT with the arrival of the first spring N.U.in cohort at ACT. During their studies, our visiting students became involved in local events and cultural activities; offered thousands of volunteer hours to community projects, NGOs, and people in need; and contributed significantly to the local economy. Most important, they will act as ambassadors of Thessaloniki and Greece when they return to US and share their positive experiences.

## Entrepreneurship Hub News

### Record numbers for the 8th round of the Venture Garden

This year saw another record number of applicants—149 in total—for the Venture Garden’s entrepreneurship training program. Individuals and teams who are accepted participate in a series of lectures and seminars, along with events, and mentoring activities. Beginning with the 8th cycle, Gardeners will also have a chance to enroll in a business incubator, participate in pitching competitions, and learn about sources of funding, including venture capital, microfinance, and ESPA (public financing). VentureGarden is The Hellenistic Initiative’s entrepreneurship education program co-created with ALBA Graduate Business School, The American College of Greece in Athens, and the Entrepreneurship Hub of the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT). In addition, the Venture Garden organized a free, intensive, three-day entrepreneurship “GreenHouse” workshop in Xanthi in collaboration with Democritus University of Thrace and the Xanthi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The purpose of the Greenhouse is to familiarize participants with entrepreneurial thinking and action, encourage the development of their ideas, and offer them useful tools in their first business steps.

### 4th Annual John & Mary Pappajohn Business Plan Awards

The winners of the 4th Annual ‘John and Mary Pappajohn Business Plan Competition’ were announced, with each team receiving an award of 4,000 euros to help further develop their business concepts. The winning teams were: *Overview*: the digital pre-interviewing platform, *Gagoo*: a peer-to-peer betting platform, *Loceye*: web camera-based eye tracking software, *Avaris*: optimized RFID technology for retail stores and *Luminoid Lighting*: mobile app and wireless lighting fixtures

## Education Unites: From Camp to Campus



The First Semester of “Education Unites: From Camp to Campus” began in October 2017, as part of an ambitious scholarship program organized by the U.S. Embassy in Athens, in collaboration with the American College of Thessaloniki–Anatolia College, Deree–American College of Greece, and Perrotis College-

American Farm School. Thirty two beneficiaries of the program attended the American College of Thessaloniki to attend preparatory English classes, alongside courses in various fields based on their previous knowledge and academic training. Fundamentally, they will have the opportunity to continue their education and acquire skills and credits for use either in Greece or in any other country they might move to in the future. As a young Syrian wrote in his application: “... the thought that I will have the opportunity to study, and do what I do best, has already put a smile on my face.” Five of the participants will be receiving full scholarships to study at ACT.

## Dukakis Center Celebrates Twenty Years!

The Dukakis Center at ACT launched its twentieth anniversary season of public events on March 13-14 with two round tables dedicated to elections and voting in America. The main event was co-hosted by the Dukakis Center and the Hellenic Institute for Foreign and European Policy (Eliamep) in Athens. A large audience including senior diplomats, political leaders, academics, representatives of the national media, and Americans living in Greece attended and interacted with the speakers. According to the participants, it was the best election panel he had ever attended. The round table inaugurated what is hoped to be an annual Dukakis Center event, to take place at a venue in Athens. **Thanos Dokos** and **David Wisner**, Directors of Eliamep and the Dukakis Center, respectively, also shared their visions of the value of their collaboration to kick off the debate. In March, ACT students participated in an Intercollegiate Democratic Convention that featured a workshop on the future of the European Union with a keynote address by **William Valasis**, Director of Communications of the Court



of Justice of the European Union. The workshop challenged students to consider specific dilemmas faced by today’s EU. In a unique exercise in track-two diplomacy, the Dukakis Center and the Center for International and European Studies at Kadir Has University in Istanbul (CIES) co-hosted a round table on geopolitics in the Aegean with a particular focus on the triangular Greek-Turkish-US relationship. An all-star panel of scholars from Kadir Has and select Greek universities set the stage for an understanding of bilateral Greek-Turkish and Turkish-Greek relations.

## ACT Introduces the New Greek Poetry



Greek poet Elsa Korneti

The English and New Media Program introduced the new generation of Greek Poets whose works were included in the award-winning bilingual anthology “Austerity Measures” edited by Professor Karen Van Dyck. The event was part of a series established by ACT’s English Department, which aims to bring academic discussions beyond a classroom setting. Moderators engaged the audience in a lively and thought provoking discussion about the definition of poetry and the issues raised by publishing written works in the age of the internet.

## Business Strategy: Competition Demystified

The critical issue of competition was discussed by leading speakers from Greece and abroad during the event “Business Strategy: Competition Demystified.” More than 300 people attended the event, organized by the ACT School of Business and the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece (SBBE) with the support of the Greek International Business Association (SEVE) and the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI). The audience was welcomed by Anatolia College President **Dr. Panos Vlachos** and the President of SBBE **Mr. Athanasios Savvakis**. It was moderated by **Jack Florentin**, president, and CEO of Sarah Lawrence SA and Anatolia College Trustee.



## ACT’s Tourism Degree Expands Horizons

ACT has taken a leading role in the overall drive to improve the quality and quantity of the Greek tourism sector by sponsoring and taking part in several significant events. ACT has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Thessaloniki Convention Bureau that outlines various common events and activities in order to promote Thessaloniki as an international destination. The Memorandum was signed during the conference “The Tourism of Tomorrow” which was organized by ACT in January 2018, in Thessaloniki, with the participation of distinguished guests and prominent professionals from US, Europe and Greece. Two important projects that took students “out of the classroom and into the islands” demonstrate the impact that ACT’s tourism program has already had in two short years. The first, a communications strategy for the island of Lesbos, follows an earlier project that produced preliminary work on branding, positioning, and vertical markets for the island. Sponsored by Dan and Helen Lindsay, who were also the major sponsors of the work done in 2012, the Molyvos/Lesvos II project manifests experiential learning at its best in ACT’s graduate programs. Findings were presented at a crowded town hall meeting, organized by the Tourism Association of Molyvos. The second project involved surveying more than 3,000 stakeholders about visitors’ preferences and behavior on the island of Rhodes. The survey was carried out by ACT School of Business in cooperation with Rhodes Hotel Clubs Association, aiming to identify the key points of tourist satisfaction.



# Alumni Spotlight

## Interview with Anna Greka '93



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*Anatolia College alumna Anna Greka, Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, is a physician-scientist leading the translation of scientific discoveries from the laboratory to clinical trials. She is an institute member at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard where she serves as director of the Broad Kidney Disease Initiative; an associate physician in the Renal Division in the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), and the founding director of Kidney-NExT, a Center for Glomerular Kidney Disease and Novel Experimental Therapeutics at BWH. Greka holds an A.B. in biology from Harvard College and an M.D. and Ph.D. in neurobiology from Harvard Medical School.*



**Why did you choose to study medicine and science, and why did you choose to study in the US? How did Harvard define and shape your goals and vision as a researcher and professor?**

My parents, Demetrios and Haroula Greka, and my teachers at Anatolia got me interested in medicine and science. For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a physician-scientist. When I was a teenager, it must have been in my third or fourth year at Anatolia, I read a novel about a young physician who had studied at Harvard. I knew when I read it that I wanted to be like her, and studying in the US became my dream.

Arriving at Harvard was like "living the dream." I was surrounded by exceptionally smart people, faculty and students alike, and I had incredible opportunities to learn not only in the classroom, but also hands on, in a research lab. In fact, I joined a lab as a research assistant in my second week on campus and, well, you can say I have never left the lab since!

While the opportunity to be in a real-life research lab was not available to me in Greece, Anatolia prepared me well for my scientific pursuits at Harvard, in terms of my knowledge base and skills in chemistry, physics, math, and biology. I distinctly remember a time as a freshman, when a senior scientist in the research lab was going through some calculations with me, and I did them quickly in my head, so he said, "Wow, you can really do that, you don't need a calculator?" I answered, "My math teacher at Anatolia was old school, he didn't allow us to

use calculators, so there... I can do quick math in my head!"

**You have received important awards in US several times for your academic and scientific achievements. Which one holds a prominent place in your heart?**

I consider myself incredibly lucky to have excellent mentors who have supported me and continue to support my career. By far the most meaningful recognition came recently in my receipt of the Donald Seldin-Holly Smith Award for Pioneering Research from the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), given annually in recognition of "exceptionally creative physician-scientists." In my acceptance speech, I thanked my mentors and supporters for their unwavering faith in me. I also read a few lines from a lovely handwritten note I received from a patient. She said, "I can't thank you enough; you are so special to me for doing such good work." I find these notes from patients, which I receive regularly and to which I always respond, incredibly motivating and inspiring. And they serve, as I told my ASCI audience, as a valuable reminder that our patients are indeed the ultimate stakeholders for everything we physician-scientists do.

**Is there progress in women assuming leadership positions in top universities and research institutions and pursuing a career in medicine and the sciences?**

While significant progress has been made, there are often still barriers in front of young women working in science and medicine, not necessarily intentionally, but because people still hold unconscious biases which are hard to change, mostly related to traditional male/female roles and balancing the demands of work and family. This creates challenges for physician-scientists like me. I have learned, and I am continuing to learn, that persistence is the single most important trait for success.

**As the High School Commencement speaker 2018, you are going to address young people who begin their adult life with dreams. What would be your words of wisdom for them? What would you advise a young girl who wishes to study Medicine?**

It is a tremendous honor and a great pleasure to give the Anatolia commencement speech this year. It comes exactly 25 years after I stood in front of Macedonia Hall as a graduating senior to deliver my valedictorian speech. How much has the world changed since then? And how much have I changed? These are some of the questions I have been thinking about recently. And remarkably, I have come to see that, while much has changed in the world, the values that guided my 18-year-old self and my generation are equally essential today: idealism, passion, pioneering spirit, willingness to lead, collaborating and problem-solving with others, and above all, integrity in all that you do.



Members of Greka Lab. Third from right: Anna Greka.

## Celebrating 3 Generations Anatolians

Anatolia College has a strong legacy tradition, and nowhere is this more apparent than in observing the many families with graduates of our school that are multigenerational. This year, Anatolia hosted an event honoring the families who have sent a third generation to the College. More than 60 families and 300 people convened in the gardens of Morley House on campus, to reconnect with each other and to celebrate their shared history and continuous ties to the school. The school spirit and pride of students, parents, and grandparents was obvious in the photos. On-site video interviews recorded a vast trove of memories, which began with the first-generation narratives and followed down the family tree, building an archive of priceless anecdotal history about the school experience, detailing how an initially personal journey became, and will remain, a family tradition.



Anatolia College's President Dr. Panos Vlachos (left) with the Angelos Billis family

My greatest hero of all time, since my early days at Anatolia, is Marie Curie. She's still, to date, the only person, man or woman, with two Nobel prizes in two distinct scientific fields—and of course she received this recognition at a time when science was a far from welcoming field for women. Marie Curie said: "You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for his own improvement and, at the same time, share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful." You can say that these are words I continue to live by. It is by doing what we do with integrity that we can bring about meaningful and positive change in the world. I will invite my fellow young Anatolians to go out there and change the world with passion and integrity.