



CTY Greece p. 3

The Anatolian

SPRING 2019

USAID/ASHA: A steadfast Anatolia College partner and supporter
▶Page 4

Interview
Alexandros Manos '89, CEO of Intrasoft
▶Page 5

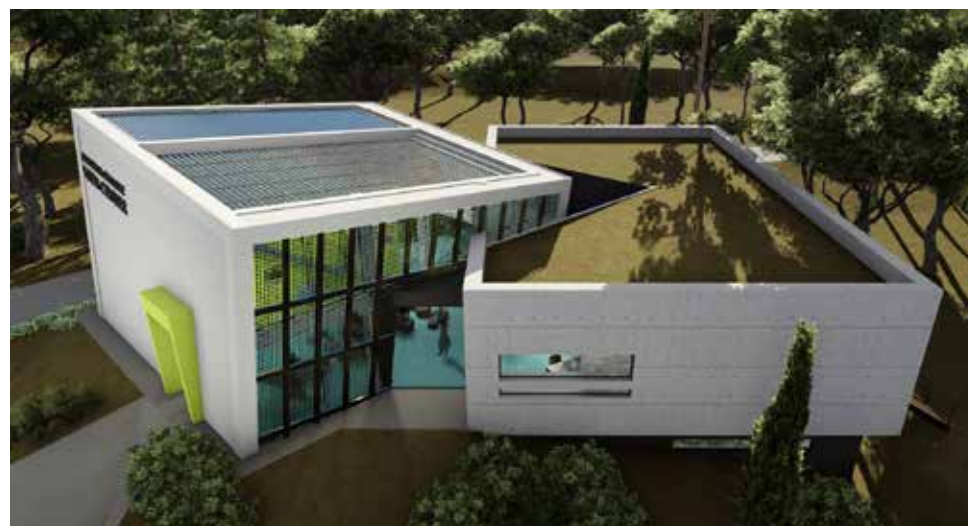
Life Long Learning Center launches at ACT
▶Page 10

The Comprehensive Campaign Enters a New Phase with the Support of Trustees and the Greater Community

From the moment Anatolia College opened its doors more than 130 years ago, our institution has remained steadfast in its belief that education transforms lives, and thus alters—in a positive way—the path of human history. Time and again, our school has embraced innovation in pedagogy to meet the ever changing needs of our students, which are driven by societal shifts and technological advancements.

Anatolia has maintained its premier position as a driving force in Greece's educational landscape by constantly investing in its people and infrastructure to serve its students. Today, as we take stock of our recent developments and plan for the future, we see the clear need to increase our investment in our facilities and our faculty. Last year's announcement of our **Comprehensive Campaign, "Building a brighter Greece—one student at a time"** set out a bold, visionary initiative that will provide the necessary financial resources for Anatolia to remain the premier educational institution in Greece well into the future. During this past year, several important milestones were reached, as a result of unprecedented support from our trustees, alumni, and parents. The sum of these successes demonstrates the enthusiasm of our community and its belief in Anatolia's mission to offer the highest quality of education for the youth of Greece.

Our longtime Anatolia College benefactor and trustee George S. Bissell, once again demonstrated his financial leadership by issuing the **"Bissell Challenge,"** a grant that promises to double



Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center

each euro raised from parents and alumni and triple every donation from young alumni. So far, these efforts are proceeding splendidly, with over 40% of the overall goal of €500,000 raised to date. One of the most creative engagement activities spawned by this challenge was the Art Auction held at the Anatolia Elementary School in March (see page 7), which raised over €9,000 through the sale of student-made works of art.

Another major milestone resulted from the **Papageorgiou Foundation's Challenge** that doubled every donation up to \$175,000 and surpassed the challenge, raising over \$600,000, an

amount that added to the substantial donation we had already secured from USAID/ASHA. The Papageorgiou Foundation Challenge targeted corporations, foundations, and Anatolia trustees. The challenge was completed with resounding success.

As a result of our above successes, 90% of the necessary funds for construction of the STEM Building have been raised. This ecologically-designed building will facilitate the employment of modern educational methods that create a holistic synthesis between pedagogy and the environment. It will host laboratories for both gymnasium and lyceum students, house the engineering and robot-



ics programs, and service the needs of our Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Greece program. Anatolia College will also benefit by vastly expanding its already flourishing STEM programs, as well as support collaboration with external organizations by introducing year-long programs to students of the wider community. The building itself, along with two of the three laboratories it will house, has already been sponsored by named donors. In anticipation of securing the remaining funds, the school has scheduled construction on the new building to begin in August 2019.

Finally, we received support from the Anatolia Alumni Association of Thessaloniki, which donated one of its real estate assets toward the Campaign's goals. The overwhelmingly positive response from the members is a measure of their continuing commitment to Anatolia's past, present, and future role as a groundbreaking educational institution.



Pinewood—the American International School Joins the Anatolia College Family!

Effective March 31st, Pinewood—the American International School of Thessaloniki has been welcomed into the Anatolia College organization. Pinewood School was founded as an American elementary/middle school for kindergarten through Grade 8 in 1950. For its first three years, the school operated on the campus of Anatolia College before moving to the American Farm School in 1953. In 1960 Pinewood moved back to the Anatolia College Campus until 2007, when it relocated to its new premises. In 1973, it was granted permission by the Greek government to accept students from any and all countries outside of Greece. The school has a comprehensive pre-K through Grade 12 aca-

ademic program and an international focus. Today, it enrolls a student body of around 365 boys and girls from approximately 49 different countries and provides a progressive American and international education. The 2009-10 school year marked the institution's 60th year of service to the international and local communities of Thessaloniki and the coming 2019-20 school year will mark their 70th year. Anatolia College President Dr. Panos Vlachos, in a recent internal announcement, emphasized the following benefits: "The integration of Pinewood allows Anatolia College to expand our social impact to a wider demographic base, to reinforce our American identity, and to enrich our campus multiculturalism, while strengthening and solidifying our status as

a premier educational institution in Greece." The presence of an international school now allows us to offer an entirely English-speaking education from pre-K through 12th grade. The combined resources of our two institutions will empower Anatolia College to offer strengthened academic options to Greek and international youth in the region and will enhance our ability to remain true to our mission by continuing to create and provide remarkable opportunities in the community. In addition, Pinewood will lend strength to our current efforts to recruit foreign faculty, as well as enable us to combine our resources in college counseling services, Service as Action initiatives, faculty development programs, fundraising, and organizational relations.

Anatolia College Institutional News

Anatolia's Board Welcomes Four New Members

Nicholas S. Elfner Board Member since 2018

Nicholas S. Elfner is currently Senior Vice President and Co-Head of Investment Research at Breckinridge Capital Advisors, Inc. in Boston. With over 23 years of investment industry experience, he sits on the firm's Investment Committee where he is jointly responsible for setting investment strategy, asset allocation, and sector weightings. He serves as chair of the Investment Committee of Anatolia College, as an Alumni Senator for the Fenn School, and as a volunteer coach in the Cohasset, MA youth sports program.



Glykeria Tsernou Board Member since 2018

Since 2013, Glykeria Tsernou '89 has overseen new projects and investments at her family's business Th.Vassilakis Group (Aegean Airlines, Hertz, SEAT, and Hyundai/KIA). Her professional experience includes investment banking in New York, management consulting in London, investment management and financial planning in Athens, and more. She has also served on the board of directors of various charitable organizations over the years.



Austin "Pete" Olney Board Member since 2018

Austin "Pete" Olney retired after 33 years as a partner of the law firm LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene, & MacRae. He established and led the firm's maritime practice, which is located at the Washington, D.C. and the Boston offices of the firm. He has regularly visited Greece in the course of his practice. He has also served in the public sector as Delaware's Secretary of Natural Resources and as counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Merchant Marine Committee. He served for 17 years on the Middlesex School Board.

Steven Levy Board Member since 2018

Steven Levy is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pismo Investments, a closely held firm that targets investments in real estate, private equity and debt, and internally funded ventures. Prior to his current role, Mr. Levy has held a number of leadership positions in companies within the tech sector, serving as the CEO and Chairman of Verivo Software and as the CEO of Mears Technologies (now Atomera). He currently resides in the Boston area.



The Inauguration of the Merzifon Wing

Anatolia's wonderful Bissell Library is home to a vast collection of resources. This year, a new wing has been dedicated to house the treasure of books, photographs, and objects that document the college's history from its 19th century inception in Asia Minor to the current day. The Merzifon Wing was dedicated at a ceremony in June, supported by a gener-

ous donation from the Three Generations of Anatolians, a group of alumni who have the distinction of continuing the Anatolia tradition as their families have grown. The initiative for the new wing came out of last year's gathering of Three Generations initiative, spearheaded by Mrs. Fani Billi '65. Over the past three years, the Bissell Library professional staff, with the help of interested alumni, has made great strides in cataloguing and digitizing the documents—including yearbooks, oral histories, and publications—and now this collection will be accessible to all who wish to learn about the college's fascinating journey.



Architecture to Inspire Young Minds

How can a physical space promote freedom of thought and innovation? How can a historical building be modernized without losing its integrity? Anatolia College asked and answered these questions for the public by opening its doors to two unique spaces on our campus during this year's Open House Thessaloniki, an annual, city-wide architectural design showcase and tour. Two award-winning local firms have created truly innovative spaces on our campus: the renovated IB facilities in Compton Hall and the Innovation Isle, which includes the Fabrication Lab and the Center for Green Education. These were open to the public for the first time on Saturday, November 24, and visitors were rewarded with an up-close look at the latest in environmentally-friendly and student-centered architectural concepts, which are designed to nurture a love of learning and pursuit of excellence in students and teachers alike.



Anatolia College at the 83rd Thessaloniki International Fair

There was no better opportunity to showcase our initiatives to the public than participation in the 83rd annual Thessaloniki International Fair, at which the USA was chosen as this year's honored country. Anatolia was one of many organizations and companies hosted at the American Pavilion, where our institution was able to elucidate its vision for innovative educational practices. The College also participated at the booth of the Association of Amer-



ican Educational & Cultural Organizations in Greece. Additionally, within the "Digital Greece" pavilion, ACTs Entrepreneurship Hub had its own booth dedicated to startups and entrepreneurial innovation. Finally, Anatolia presented CTY Greece and ACT as two outstanding examples of Greek-American educational cooperation in an event organized by the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.



The Anatolian is published by the Office of the Board of Trustees of Anatolia College

18 Tremont Street Suite 704, Boston MA 02108

Designed and printed in Greece by ThessPrint S.A.

CTY Greece: Education Revisited

Conference “Gifted Education: Fostering Creativity”

To continue to establish and develop its leading role as a reference point for gifted education in Greece and Cyprus, CTY Greece hosted its second conference on gifted education on April 13, 2019 at the Byzantine Culture Museum of Thessaloniki. The title of the conference was Gifted Education: Fostering Creativity. The conference was aimed at the wider education community such as academics, elementary and high school teachers, university students in pedagogy and psychology departments, as well as policy makers in the education sector.

The conference included international experts on supporting gifted students and hosted more than 130 researchers and educators from all educational levels. The keynote speaker was Dr. Jonathan Plucker, the Julian C. Stanley Endowed Professor of Talent Development at Johns Hopkins University, a world-renowned expert in creativity. Professor Plucker delivered an enlightening workshop titled “Creativity: What it is, What it isn’t, and How to Help Children Have More of it.”



The Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Greece began operations in 2013 with a founding donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; it operates under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs and the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture. CTY Greece is a member of the European Council of High Ability (ECHA). The program advisor is the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. Major donors to CTY Greece include Eurobank and Lidl Hellas, additional donors are the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, Intrisoft International, and Star Bulk Carriers Corporation. The air carrier sponsor is Aegean Airlines. Lidl Cyprus supports the program in Cyprus.



A New Course on Nutrition Opens a Highway to Health

A new course for CTY Greece— “Nutrition: Highway to Health”— will be launched in the summer of 2019. This new course was presented to journalists and media channels in the Lidl Food Academy, in Nicosia, Cyprus, in January 2019. The content of the course focuses on food chemistry and a deeper awareness about nutritional values and their role in disease-prevention, the science and technology of food preparation and preservation, the various factors relating to dietary choices (social, cultural, psychological, and media-related), the role of nutrition-labeling for consumers in making healthy dietary choices, the problem



of food waste, and the development of more environmentally-sustainable farming and fishery practices in the food production process. This is an addition to the CTY Greece curriculum, which includes 14 courses in Sciences and Humanities fields. The new course is supported by Lidl Hellas and Lidl Cyprus, which have been grant donors of CTY Greece since 2015, providing scholarships for Greek and Cypriot students.

Vasiliki Adamidou

Head of Corporate Communications, CSR and Social Media, Lidl Hellas

“Lidl Hellas has decided to support the “Nutrition and Healthy Eating For Teens” course in order to help our kids—from a young age—to acquire a deeper understanding of the role that nutrition plays in building a healthy body and in lowering the risk of disease, as well as how to make the right food and recipe choices so as to have a long-term healthy diet. Lidl is committed to following the UN’s sustainable development goals, and the course fits very well with those goals, especially as they relate to healthy diet and responsible food consumption/production.”



CTY Greece in ECHA Conference

In August 2018, CTY Greece participated in the European Council for High Ability International Conference in Dublin, Ireland. The theme of the conference was Working with Gifted Students in the 21st Century, and CTY Greece had three oral presentations: “Recent Innovations in Creativity and Talent Development” by Yanis

Tsorbatzoglou, Anatolia College vice president for cross-divisional programs, “Examining the Academic and Social Experiences of Gifted Students in Greece” by Marialena Kostouli, CTY Greece’s psychologist, and “Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Enrichment Program on Gifted Students’ Knowledge and Reasoning” by Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa, CTY Greece’s director.

Summer programs



For three weeks during June and July, 2018, more than 400 students attended CTY Greece Summer Programs in Thessaloniki and Athens. Twenty-three different courses were especially designed for highly able students and covered a wide range of fascinating topics. In Thessaloniki, the largest cohort of the summer program featured college-level courses for students from grades 7-11, with more than 190 youth attending lessons in cryptology, CSI@CTY, computer science, biomedical science, genetics, game theory, engineering, film making, philosophy, poetry and fiction, psychology, and international relations. In Athens, 7-11 grade students immersed themselves in engineering design, mathematical modeling, and economics and entrepreneurship while attending a day program. Elementary grade students in both Athens and Thessaloniki participated in the day program, in which they explored courses according to their grade levels in robotics, math, engineering, The United Nations and Geography, The Author’s Workshop, and Be a Scientist. More than 50% of the students received some form of need-based financial assistance provided by CTY Greece’s scholarship program.

Teacher Training Workshop

Since March of 2018, more than 700 teachers from over 150 schools in Greece and Cyprus have attended free teacher training workshops offered by CTY Greece, which are supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. These have includ-

ed hands-on activities to raise awareness of and support of gifted students, as well as providing teaching tools for conveying challenging and appealing learning experiences to every child, regardless of that student’s academic advancement.



Anatolia College Institutional News

USAID/ASHA

A steadfast Anatolia College partner and supporter



Eleftheriades Library (1987, Anatolia archives)



ACT New Building (1991, Anatolia archives)



Compton Hall (1983, Anatolia archives)



Learning Spaces (June 2017). Anatolia College Board Chair, Albert H. "Chip" Elfner, III (left), US Consul General, Rebecca Fong, with Anatolia College's President Dr. Panos Vlachos.

For more than a century, Anatolia College has benefitted from grants and assistance provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through their American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program (ASHA). ASHA has provided vital funding, in whole or in part, for a wide range of capital improvement projects, including the construction and renovation of many of our campus's most-frequented areas: our buildings, our libraries, and our recreational facilities. Without the aid and support of ASHA, many of these projects would not have been possible.

Since 1962, the support from USAID/ASHA has allowed our school to grow and to improve its physical space, to retain and enhance historical assets, and to significantly reduce our environmental impact through updated systems and buildings. Furthermore, during the decade 1960–1970 USAID/ASHA was a major supporter of the Scholarship program, benefiting 160 students.

Our curriculum and teaching effectiveness have been strengthened by new classroom technology and science equipment, and our students and faculty have benefitted in count-

less ways from the infrastructure investments made as a result of ASHA funding: the renovation of historic buildings such as Macedonia Hall; the new construction of Anatolia's gymnasium, Eleftheriades Library, and the ACT new building; as well as the installation of energy efficiency systems and improvements in labs, office equipment, and the physical environment.

In 2015, Anatolia College introduced the New Learning Spaces and the Innovation Isle, which hosts the Fabrication Lab and the Center for Green Education. These are beauti-

fully appointed classrooms that are designed to merge the best of pedagogical theory and practice, and which serve as innovative ecosystems for teachers and students.

A recent project to receive funding is our STEM Center, which will be a magnet not only for Anatolians but for the wider community of students, educators, researchers and citizens. As we move through the twenty-first century, we are thankful for and proud of our relationship with an institutional partner whose support demonstrates its faith in our mission and vision.

Working for a Better World

At Anatolia College, social responsibility is more than just a phrase, it's a way of life! Our students, faculty, staff, and community devote countless hours of time and effort to making a difference—thinking globally, while acting locally. These actions are manifested in a variety of ways and foster volunteerism, philanthropy, education, and community-mindedness throughout the year.

Service as Action

Service as Action is included in the Middle Years Program, and for the last four years, it has helped students to build community spirit by involving them in a variety of themed activities that resonate with young people and that work in tandem with their classes. This year our MYP students took the 17 International Sus-



tainable Development Goals as their theme and built a series of actions around them, including visiting socially-sensitive groups—the elderly, the disabled, refugees and orphans—advocating for safer urban street conditions by publicizing the driving code, working with service animal trainers, cleaning up the beach, and training in first-aid.

Christmas Bazaar

Always a highlight of the Christmas Bazaar, Anatolia's Service as Action clubs once again combined their ingenuity and compassion to



create handmade products to sell at the Bazaar. This year, the Pottery, Makers', Welfare, Aroma, German, Arts and Crafts, STEM Explorers, and Cosmetics & Chemistry Clubs all participated, crafting products such as clay pomegranates, Christmas decorations, perfumes and beauty products, and a variety of foods. This year again, Anatolia raised €19,500 and, in collaboration with the Desmos organization, distributed those donations as in-kind gifts to seven local non-profits that are doing outstanding work in the field of community support.

For the Students in Need

Recognizing that a diversity of people often means a diversity of needs, our second-year gymnasium students organized a clothing drive to assist Thessaloniki's public Gymnasio #30, the majority of whose students come from vulnerable populations including refugees, immigrants, and Roma families.

3K run

Despite a wet and rainy start, Anatolia's 10th Annual 3K Charity Run was a big success! This year, 478 students, staff, and faculty participated in the run to help raise money for MERIMNA, a non-profit organization that supports families, particularly children, who are facing life-threatening diseases and loss of a loved one. Overall, the school raised 3,200 euros for MERIMNA.

Special Olympics

The 15th European Special Olympics Basketball week took place in November of 2018, and Anatolia was there in force! Donating the premises of our indoor basketball court was



just the starting point, as Anatolia College hosted the Thessaloniki tournament, and our students formed mixed teams along with the athletes. The gym was filled to capacity for the games as well as for the performances of the Special Olympics Cheerleaders, whose rousing routines stole the show more than once!

English on the Mountain Celebrates Five Years of Teaching!



Summer 2018 marked the fifth summer of Anatolia's pioneering English-language program, English on the Mountain. In the Pomak village of Kentavrosin Thrace—an area of stunning alpine flora and fauna, where the people till the land and eke out a living by planting herbs—a unique English program began in 2014 with 25 children. In just four years, the program has reached an enrollment of 120 students aged 5-18, who are divided into five classes, which are offered to the community at no charge. The program was initiated and is supported by Anatolia alumnus Demetri Chriss '89 and the company Tuvunu that is based in the region. To date, English on the Mountain has brought the gift of language learning to more than 350 students who have limited or no access to formal English training. This past year's session ended on an even higher note, as 20 students from the remote villages came to Anatolia College and ACT for a day to visit the "source" of their classes, explore the vast Bissell library, and get a taste of English in action.

Anatolia College Institutional News

Alumnus interview: **Alexandros Manos '89** CEO of INTRASOFT

Since January, 2015, Alexandros Manos '89 has been the CEO of INTRASOFT International Group of Companies, a Luxembourg-based leading European IT Solutions and Services Group, employing more than 2,000 highly-skilled professionals. Mr. Manos holds a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering and a BA in Business Economics from Brown University, and M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a member of several scientific, engineering, and economics societies and an alumnus of the Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



unique setting, both physically and mentally, was very high on the list of CSR opportunities for me.

STEM education is growing quickly in Greece right now. What impact do you think this will have on the country's future?

It is already having it I believe—and this will only become more prominent. Right now we are experiencing an ICT (Information and Communications Technology) sector that is flourishing in our country, at least at the level of new talent. We see multinational companies investing in our young developers, and we see a growing number of exciting opportunities for careers in the field of IT. Furthermore, STEM-educated young adults can apply their knowledge to solving persistent issues in our society, and we are already witnessing an IT-savvy generation “demanding” its own way. STEM education is not only about IT of course; understanding science and its interconnection to the world around us provides young students with a unique set of skills, which can be applied in almost every setting. Informed young adults are an asset for every nation and a common force for improvement at a global scale.

“...it is now our turn to shape the school's path through our ongoing support...”

Reflecting back, how did Anatolia College prepare you for studies at Brown University? Was the transition from Greek to American student life difficult?

Let me start by saying that Anatolia was an all-around exceptional and fulfilling experience for me, a period set aside in my memory as the “best years of my life.” As I try to identify the ways that the school prepared me for studying in the US, I realize that it was not just the outstanding teachers and lessons, but the overall atmosphere of openness, of being encouraged to think aloud about ideas, of staying close to the text or the experiment yet not blindly regurgitating given knowledge, of being competitive and working in teams. We spent many hours in challenging and thought provoking English classes—Art History, American writers—in which we were challenged to explore jointly the essence of great books and plays—*The Catcher in the Rye*, *A Streetcar named Desire*, among others—and express

playing baseball with the international students in the track field—indirectly becoming exposed to their habits and cultures. The library, full of English books, was a space to thrive in, alluring you to read. Moving around from classroom to classroom for each different subject, as I later also did at Brown. All of these experiences, over my six years at Anatolia, made the transition to studying at Brown among thousands of American and international students smooth and fun.

Is there a particular lesson or memory from Anatolia College that made the difference for your career choices?

I believe I always had an inclination toward science, something that was nurtured and inspired by the amazing physics and math teachers I had the pleasure of being a student of at Anatolia. The thoroughly equipped laboratories and hands on experimentation played their roles as

INTRASOFT International is a leading technology company. Why did it choose to support CTY Greece and the Scholarship Program of Anatolia College?

At INTRASOFT we are committed to delivering excellence every time to every client. For us, exceptional talent must be supported and nurtured if we are to stay at the top of our game and have a long-lasting impact across the market and our society. CTY Greece gave us a rare opportunity to take a glimpse at how talent can be nurtured at such an early age, and we quickly knew that we needed to be a supporter of this initiative. CTY mirrors our own social responsibility pillars, and its unique perspective on talent and education makes CTY Greece a program like no other. The work that Anatolia carries out on a daily basis is an inspiration not only for an alumnus such as myself, but for society as whole. Therefore, supporting the Scholarship Program and providing one more student with the opportunity to experience this

What role can Anatolia College's alumni play in building/strengthening the school's presence?

In my view, even identifying as Anatolia College Alumni can prove beneficial to our alma mater. Our common roots have shaped how we view the world and the opportunities it presents. I believe this to be true for many of us, and it is now our turn to shape the school's path through our ongoing support. For me it is not only about donations, but it must be about hands-on involvement in school initiatives that can really make a difference. Let's keep in mind that we alumni are a truly diverse group, and that is part of our strength and Anatolia's legacy to our society. We bring a wealth of experience and a variety of skills that can assist the College and its students in many ways.

“Supporting the Scholarship Program and providing one more student with the opportunity to experience this unique setting was very high on the list of CSR opportunities for me.”

within essays the messages that we believed the author was trying to convey. American culture was all around us. My varsity basketball coach, who was also my English teacher, conveyed to me the drive and professionalism that high school students must have in order to make the team, introduced me to watching NCAA basketball, and made me aware of the college life around it. Even our proximity to Pinewood and the common activities we had—I can still recall

well of course. I recall how our teachers helped us dive deeply into the essence of mathematics and the laws of physics, continuously challenging us with questions to awaken our inquisitive instincts and hone our analytical skills, while allowing us to arrive at the result by following our own path, no matter how divergent or peculiar that might be. My interest in engineering and the way machines and circuits work started there and never stopped.

Accessing Education through Institutional Scholarships

As an institution with a longstanding tradition and dedication to empowering youth through rigorous education, Anatolia College continues to expand the Scholarship Program to include students from diverse backgrounds, placing an emphasis on those with greater needs. Over the ten last years, thanks to the generosity of trustees, foundations, corporations, and individ-

uals, the institution has allocated over 19 million dollars to scholarships and financial aid. Recently a new 6-year scholarship has been given for the 2019-2020 academic year. Honoring Anatolia's historic roots in Asia Minor, the scholarship will be awarded to a deserving student from the Pontian region in eastern Thrace who starts 1st Grade in the High School in the fall of 2019.



Anatolia College Institutional News

STEM Programs Surge Ahead

Our STEM programs continue to capture the imagination of young people, with a total of 280 participants in the weekend events. This year's new addition was a program on "Space and Astronomy" which took place during the European Space Week. Distinguished scientists from Greece and abroad addressed the students, who were separated into three age groups: elementary, 7th-8th grades, and 9th grade and Lyceum.

The primary focus of our STEM program this year was Robotics, and our new Center for Robotics—in association with the non-profit WRO Hellas—began its operations with a total enrollment of 40. Guided by the Center's instructors, teams from the elementary, middle, and high schools advanced to the finals of the



Panhellenic Competition of Educational Robotics—WRO Hellas 2019, at which all three elementary school teams, as well as the high school team placed highly.

Students also participated in two international STEM Competitions—EduArctic and Moon Camp—and all three F1 in Schools teams advanced to the Panhellenic Finals, retaining

Anatolia's high reputation in the most prestigious STEM Competition worldwide. Finally, in April, STEM Coordinator Dr. Elias Kalambokis was invited by MIT to participate in the J-WEL week, an international meeting of educators, administrators, and policy makers, which was held at MIT's Media Lab.



Prominent Speakers at Anatolia College

Jeffrey Eugenides on literature



Pulitzer-prize winning Greek-American author Jeffrey Eugenides paid a visit to campus and spoke to groups at the High School and ACT. At Anatolia High School, the author came face to face with the very group featured in many of his books—adolescents and young adults. When asked if he had any particular requirements in order to write, the creator of novels *Middlesex*, *The Virgin Suicides*, and *The Marriage Plot* declared, "The only thing I need is to be left alone with plenty of coffee!"

A "spacewalk" with Stamati Krimizi



As part of European Space Week, Anatolia College's STEM center hosted renowned academic Stamati Krimizi, who took his audience on a journey through space titled "Researching the Last Classic Planet: the New Horizons Mission to Pluto." Students and community members alike enjoyed a singular opportunity to hear firsthand about the NASA leader's research.

George Handjinicolaou on the Greek economy



The impact of the bad debts on economic development was the topic of the speech that George Handjinicolaou delivered during a dinner organized by ACT and Deloitte. His insightful remarks riveted the audience's attention. The distinguished speaker is the chairman, non-executive member, of the Board of Directors of the Athens Stock Exchange (ATHEX), and the chairman of the Board of Directors of Piraeus Bank.

Second Energy Union Future Leaders Academy

The Second Energy Union Future Leaders Academy, co-organized by the Greek Energy Forum (GEF) and ACT, took place at the ACT campus on April 12-14, 2019. The Academy was under the auspices of Maroš Šefčovič, vice president of the Energy Union, European Commission. Among the distinguished speakers at the opening ceremony were Maroš Šefčovič who opened the proceedings of the Academy through a video-recorded message; Geoffrey Pyatt, the U.S. Ambassador to Greece; and Eva Kaili, member of the European Parliament.



A round table discussion followed with speakers such as Liana Gouta, the group director of energy policy and international affairs of HELLENIC PETROLEUM; Gerasimos Avlonitis, advisor on regulatory Affairs to DESFA SA; Iván Pineda, director of market intelligence and membership at WindEurope; Alexandros Lagakos, COO, Blue Grid Gas & Power and founder of the Greek Energy Forum; and Michalis Mathioulakis, energy strategy analyst and academic director of the Greek Energy Forum.

Through the smooth and fruitful GEF-ACT cooperation, the Academy's objectives were achieved through targeted seminars on the implementation aspects of the Energy Union as well as workshops with successful professionals, academics, and decision makers on the full spectrum of energy topics that are currently critical to the region.

Athletic Training on the Campus

This past summer, the Anatolia College and ACT campuses welcomed both the National Men's and Women's Beach Handball teams for practice prior to their participation in their respective World Finals in Russia and Montenegro. Additionally, the Greece Youth



National Deaf Football team, which went on to win ninth place in the World Deaf Football Championship, also used the campus for practice sessions.

The Greek Handball Federation acknowledged and honored ACT for providing its facilities for workshops and training for the World Championships, at which the Women's Team won the gold medal.

Following an invitation from ACT, Anatolia College's top sports premises became the training ground, for four days, for the newly-founded Men's National Lacrosse Team of Greece prior to their participation in the most prominent international competition, the World Lacrosse Championship (Israel, July, 15- 21). This was the debut of the National Team, which consists of Greek-American athletes from the US and one from Thessaloniki, in an international competition. Among the 23 players of the team



is Anthony Katagas, a Greek American Oscar awarded producer who co-produced the film *12 Years as a Slave* with Brad Pitt. ACT has led the effort to introduce lacrosse to the student and sports community of Greece in collaboration with the Federation of International Lacrosse/ FIL. ACT has organized games and free seminars for coaches, athletes, and friends of the sport.

Anatolia Student Art Auction is a Rousing Success!



Four long months of creativity, inspiration, and hard work came to a spectacular close on Sunday, March 31, at the Anatolia Elementary School Art Auction: “We Create for Our School.” Organized by Anatolia’s Office of Institutional Advancement, this initiative involved students, teachers, alumni, and parents in a grand project that culminated in a significant contribution toward the Anatolia Capital Campaign.

The project began in December with prominent Anatolia alumni artists donating their time and expertise to teaching new techniques and materials to a group of elementary students. Ariadni Magga ’78, Alfredo Modiano ’71, Veta Reisi ’80, Xenis Sachinis ’72, Katerina Sischopoulou ’13, and art teacher Maria Chatzikefala supported the young creators with advice and questions that stimulated their creativity and aided them in the execution of their ideas. Together, the artists—young and old—labored every week to produce a collection of 38 dazzling artworks that were finally put up for auction. In a single morning, Tracy Hall was transformed into a gallery as the works were put on display. Radio and TV celebrity and comedian Giannis Servetas played the role of master of ceremonies and auctioneer, lending his unforgettable style to descriptions of each piece of student art. The event was truly one of the most enjoyable in recent school history, according to parents and students alike.

But the real stars of the show were the artworks and their creators, who impressed the community with their desire to help make

the planned Anatolia Elementary Learning Complex a reality. This ambitious project, part of the ongoing Capital Campaign, is a cornerstone of Anatolia’s vision for a holistic learning experience that begins with early childhood education at the kindergarten level. Although the student artists will have left their elementary campus behind by the time this new facility is built, our youngest Anatolians—and their parents—recognized the value of paying it forward through their efforts.

The auction was organized under the auspices of Trustee and Benefactor George Bissell’s matching challenge, which promises to



double every dollar contributed by alumni or parents. Thus the proceeds from these artworks—priceless in creativity and spirit—had a double impact in realizing our vision for the future.

◀ From left: Dr Panos Vlachos, Maria Chatzikefala, Xenis Sachinis ’72, Veta Reisi ’80, Giannis Servetas



First Response for Strokes AES students learn the signs to watch for

In Greece, where many elementary-aged children spend a great deal of time with their grandparents, the ability to recognize and respond to the symptoms of a stroke can be a critical factor in early treatment or even saving a life! AES’s kindergarten students are participating in a pilot program, designed to teach children how to be first-responders in the event of a stroke, with a research team from the University of Macedonia.

The 6-hour program uses a combination of instruction, games, demonstrations, and superheroes to help children spot the first signs or symptoms of a stroke and to know when to call Emergency Services (the pan-European #112). Once the program is completed, the children can help train their families, passing on their knowledge to siblings and parents alike. The three-year, pan-European program is funded by the Angels Initiative organization. Anatolia College was the kick-off point for the program in Thessaloniki, where the program will be expanded later in the year. The ultimate goal of the program is not simply to teach life-saving measures to children, but to help them become more observant of and responsive to the details of everyday life and health.



Students Teaching Students Means Learning at its Best!



Modern research shows that children often learn best when they are taught by older students. At Anatolia’s kindergarten, the students have weekly visits from volunteer “teachers”—students from our own IB program, as well as from American Study

Abroad students who are attending ACT for a semester. The volunteer hours, comprised of reading, playing, and supporting the pedagogical program, are an important part of the older students’ education, as well as a welcome break from their theoretical studies. Many of the Study Abroad students bring fresh perspectives from their own primary education or backgrounds, adding a depth of experience to their interactions with the younger children. For the kindergarteners, their presence provides a great chance to interact with new people in English. The children respond immediately to their volunteers, and by the end of the semester, all ages have bonded through their time together.

Healthy Diet Week

This year’s Healthy Diet Week stretched into three weeks at Anatolia Elementary School, with a series of actions and lessons that brought issues related to diet, health, and the environment into the classroom and out onto the playground. STEM subjects, Modern Greek language classes, foreign languages, art, and music all provided opportunities for learning and practicing new habits and recipes. With the support of Melathron Food Services’ Vanos Podiotis, members of the Boroume (“we can”) NGO came to the school for a lively presentation about food waste, impressing on our students how simple actions can make a difference for our health and our planet. Healthy Food Week was made possible with the support of the Parent’s Association of Anatolia Elementary School.



The AES Drama Club presents: The Hunchback of Notre Dame



15th century Paris, where the story of Quasimodo, the misshapen but gentle-souled bell ringer of Notre Dame, is told by the narrator and old Pierre. AES thespians gave wonderful performances of Victor Hugo’s famous tale of love. Quasimodo and his friends, along with Esmeralda, Phoebus, and the evil Frollo came to life for the weekend on the stage at Raphael Hall.

High School News

Student Success with Overseas Colleges and in the PanHellenic Exams

The IB Diploma Program is an internationally-accepted credential that allows our students to apply to colleges and universities all over the world. This year our students' success rate was excellent as usual, and 81 students were accepted to some of the most prestigious schools in the **United States, Great Britain, and Europe.** Additionally, 29 of our students also received scholarships worth more than 5.3 million dollars, which met their financial needs for study in the U.S. at the institutions of their choice. Of these 29 students, 25 are from the IB program and 4 are from Anatolia High School. Destination Schools: (U.S.) University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Vanderbilt University, Pomona College, Davidson College, Hamilton College, and Tufts University. (Great Britain) University of Oxford, Universi-

ty of Cambridge, University College London (UCL), King's College London, University of Edinburgh, University of Warwick, University of Exeter, and St. George's University. (Europe) Bocconi University in Italy, Ludwig Maximilian's University of Munich (LMU) in Germany, the Universities of Maastricht, Eindhoven, Amsterdam, and Groningen in Holland. Keeping the tradition going, Anatolia College students were placed among the highest performers in the **2018 Panhellenic exams.**

- 138 of them entered universities and technical schools in Greece
- among them, 111 gained admission to high-demand schools
- 9 were among the top scorers at their first choice schools.



Anastasia Tzima, 2018 Graduate

2nd place at the Aristotle University, School of Economics and CTY Greece "alumna."

“Anatolia College has a unique, competitive yet supportive learning environment which assisted my academic growth”

IB Students Win 3rd Place in “Best Company in Greece Competition”!



The IB's Company Program gives students a chance to put their Business & Management and Economics coursework into practice by forming a team and making a prototype and business plan for a new company or product which they present in a national competition. This year's team, CountIT, won third place in the annual Panhellenic Competition “Best Company of the Year,” organized by Junior Achievement Greece. The prize was awarded to our students by the U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt at the ceremony in Athens. CountIT addresses the issue of home-electricity monitoring by offering a metering application for consumers that allows them to view and control the usage and efficiency of their home appliances, access offers from different power suppliers, and benefit from coupons or sales on new appliances and devices.

20 Seniors Receive Early Acceptance Decisions!

Students in Anatolia's class of 2019 have already been accepted for study in the United States this coming autumn. The early decision process gives seniors the option to commit to attending a college immediately upon acceptance.

Their destinations? Brandeis University, Columbia College Chicago, Davidson College, Earlham College, Elmhurst College, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Fordham University, Franklin University (Switzerland), Gannon University, Grinnell College, Lehigh University, Macalester

College, Merrimack College, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Springfield College, Texas Christian University, Tufts University, University of Akron, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Richmond.

Anatolia College Shares its Innovative Methodology with the Wider Community



Faculty from the Middle Years Program at Anatolia College presented their innovative teaching paradigms to colleagues from throughout northern Greece at the first Central Macedonia Regional Educational Design Center. Anatolia College teachers discussed the theory of conceptual learning, experiential learning, and collaborative learning, as well as best practices and approaches toward students and the classroom.



Anatolian Racers to Represent Greece in the International “F1 in Schools” Competition!



A team of four gymnasium students were the gold medal winners in the finals of the F1 in Schools Panhellenic Competition held in May 2019 in Athens. As a result of hard work and a very well presented portfolio, the Anatolia College team impressed the selection committee and won a spot in the International F1 in Schools competition. The members of Anatolia Racers will be joining their forces with students from other winning teams in order to form the Greek national delegation.

ACMUN 2019

At the 14th annual Anatolia College Model United Nations from February 15-17, over 520 delegates and advisors from 26 schools gathered at Anatolia College to hone their diplomatic skills, enhance their global awareness, and develop solutions to some of the most pressing global issues. Delegations representing 95 countries and 6 NGOs across 11 committees debated and passed resolutions on pertinent topics such as economic growth and income inequality, female genital mutilation, proxy wars, and the future of Syria after ISIS. On the final day of the conference, the General Assembly met to discuss economically and environmentally compatible legislation for the elimination of plastic. The opening speech was delivered by Kostas Chrysogonos '79, professor of Constitutional Law and member of the European Parliament



IB's Educator Antigoni Pyrovetsi Gets Outstanding Educator Award!

The ritual of college application writing often includes references to teachers who have made a difference in students' lives by inspiring them to do their best, to study a particular subject, or to pursue a passion. Antigoni Pyrovetsi, IB educator and CTY Greece academic dean, is clearly one of these teachers. When Anatolia graduate and University of Chicago student George Tzortzis heard about the University of Chicago's “Outstanding Educator Award,” he nominated his teacher for recognition. The awards committee was impressed, and Mrs. Pyrovetsi received a certificate of recognition and a personal letter from the dean of admissions and financial aid.

Club News - Anatolia Students Seek International Experiences



Our high school students are fortunate to have access to a wide range of resources that allow them to experience the world's cultures and countries while developing a greater sense of themselves as global citizens. This past year, Anatolia's clubs provided a wealth of such opportunities, and our students traveled throughout Europe for a variety of programs and events. One significant experience for our students was attending the ZYGMUN at the American School of Warsaw, Poland, which allowed them to participate in the Model United Nations conference and also to commemorate the sacrifices of Anatolia alumni who perished in the Holocaust. Before the conference, the group visited Krakow, one of the oldest cities in Poland, from which they visited the concentration camp of Auschwitz, where they honored the memory of the 90 Anatolia alumni murdered during the Holocaust. Other highlights of the year included visits to Italy, Germany—with a side trip to Luxembourg—and Denmark. The Eight Stories Club went to Trieste to participate in International Friendship Week, which is observed in order to emphasize the growing importance of creating empathetic relationships with people from different cultural backgrounds. After improving their language skills in the French Club, 26 students and their teachers traveled to Strasbourg in order to get a taste of French culture and to hone their language skills by interacting with native speakers. Following several years of class time dedicated to learning the German language, 46 3rd-form students traveled to Germany for a 5-day cultural visit. Finally, 28 members of the Science and Technology Club and their teachers traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark. This educational trip agenda included visits to the International School of Copenhagen, the UN City, and the European Environment Agency.



A Special IB Art Exhibition

The annual art exhibition by graduating IB2 students is always an outstanding event, but this year things took a new twist. Anatolia art students worked throughout the school year with the En Dynami (Our Potential) art team, a group whose members have a range of physical and mental disabilities. For two years, students and team members collaborated artistically and socially, ultimately forming a tightly-bonded community based on exchange of ideas, techniques, and experiences. The final exhibit was rich with the results of their shared effort, and our IB students declared that the cooperation was far more than the simply "class-time," rather it was a series of lessons for life. The cooperation will continue again this academic year with students starting the art program in IB1. The graduating students donated all proceeds from sales of their exhibits to En Dynami, for help with the organization's expenses.



Summer "School" in the States

Summer visits to the United States combine college-level courses with an up-close view of life in the USA at leading universities, colleges, and preparatory schools (Yale, Brown, The University of Chicago, Columbia University, University of Michigan, McNeese State University, Saint Cloud State University, University of New Hampshire, Smith College, Lehigh University, University of Illinois, Stevens Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Davidson University, Camp Rising Sun, University of Virginia, Northfield Mount Hermon). Anatolia College students traded a portion of their summer vacations for fascinating educational experiences.

In brief:

- 76 students attended
- 29 summer programs
- \$122,645 summer scholarships received by 39 students

Climbing to Mount Olympus



Students kicked off the fall semester by commencing their final year at Anatolia College with a beloved tradition, the annual Mount Olympus hike. Over the course of two weekends, 103 High School and IB2 seniors—as well as 20 faculty and staff—faced steep ascents, rough terrain, and high altitudes in their quest to conquer the fabled mountain of the gods.

New Hot-spot for Outdoor Workouts!

A new outdoor gym opened this spring on the Lykeio side of Anatolia's campus and is already a great hit for the students, faculty, and staff who use it daily. The well-equipped facility was made possible by the generous donation from the Associations of Friends of Anatolia College.



Drama Club

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

On the weekends of February 22-24 and March 1-3, the Drama Club transported audiences to the tangled, counter-cultural world of 1980s Madrid with their performance of the *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, which is based on the famous movie by Spanish director Pedro Almodovar. This production provided a multitude of acting and scenic challenges, from Spanish accents to a moving taxi cab, but our performers were up to the task! The outstanding cast, band, and crew showcased their excellent vocal skills, intricate choreography, rhythmic musical interludes, and complicated scene changes, and sold out all performances on the second weekend.



Romeo and Juliet Together (and Alive!) at Last...

Eighth-graders Pete Saltz and Anabelle Stackpoole are in love with each other, but terribly shy, so shy that they can't even look at each other, let alone speak. They are cast opposite each other in the school play, and rehearsals only make things more complicated for them. When the big performance day finally arrives, things can't get worse! Yet, in spite of everything—or maybe because of it—true love triumphs in the end! The play was staged by Junior Drama Club, which offered wonderful performances by our talented young students.

ACT Collaboration with South Korea



ACT has signed a cooperative agreement with the Chonnam National University (CNU) in South Korea that will enable student exchanges for academic study and research. “We are delighted with this new collaboration since this underlines our institution’s international character, defined by a multitude of academic partnerships around the globe,” stated Dr. Stamos Karamouzis, ACT’s provost. Chonnam National University is located in the metropolitan city of Gwangju, and comprises 59 academic departments in 19 colleges and 11 graduate programs. As a flagship institution, it is leader in teaching and research among the institutes of higher education in South Korea.

300 new American students at ACT!

Last September, ACT kicked off the 2018-2019 school year, welcoming over 300 incoming freshman and study abroad students from around the world. Students participated in a multi-day orientation program, getting to know the ACT community, fellow classmates and, for those new to the area, Thessaloniki.

ACT also welcomed the 11th NUin Program students and staff. The NUin Program is an innovative initiative in which students study abroad during the first semester of university. The program provides students with the opportunity to engage in experiential learning, such as Service Learning, while completing core academic requirements to earn credit toward graduation. During the first week of classes, ACT hosted a Clubs and Activities Fair, and students learned about the many ways to get involved at ACT. Whether at ACT for one semester or for a full degree, ACT students are involved members of the ACT community.



Lifelong Learning Center Launches at ACT

In a crowded hall, on October 8th, the launch event of ACT’s Lifelong Learning Center (LLC), Digitizing Creativity: The art and science of digital marketing, brought together distinguished professionals from the U.S. and Greece to share their experience and insights about digital marketing developments.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Panos Vlachos, the president of Anatolia College, highlighted the Lifelong Learning Center’s goal to monitor developments and become the hub for knowledge acquisition and skills upgrading. In keeping with Anatolia’s mission and ACT’s central motto “Embrace Change,” LLC will become the point of reference for those who wish to advance professionally or seek an opportunity for self-improvement, noted Dr. Sevasti Kessapidou, ACT’s associate dean of academic affairs and the Lifelong Learning Center’s director.

In their keynote address, echoing the conference’s main message, Fred Senn, founding partner of the award winning international advertising agency Fallon, and Rocky Novak, Fallon’s managing director, spoke of “big ideas and small budgets” and encouraged the audience “to outthink rather than outspend the competition.” Fallon, as Fred Senn announced, is endorsing the format of the Diploma in Digital and Social Marketing that is offered by the Lifelong Learning Center.



The Lifelong Learning Center at ACT received its official operating license in the fall of 2017, with a mission to provide advanced training and professional skill-upgrading to members of the community. The LLC’s focus is two-pronged: 1) to offer professionally-oriented training programs, ensuring depth of study leading to professional diplomas/certificates, and 2) to offer a portfolio of workshops that address the needs of specific target groups, enhancing the breath of its offerings. Designed with a strong emphasis on real-world application, the Lifelong Learning Center draws heavily on the expertise of leading professionals, as well as ACT’s faculty and alumni network.

Intercollegiate Democratic Convention European Parliament Elections Yes we care!

On Sunday, March 17, 2019, the Intercollegiate Democratic Convention—“European Parliament Elections 2019: Why care?”—was organized



by the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences with the support of ACT’s Dukakis Center and the European Parliament Office in Greece. This was the 2nd annual Intercollegiate Democratic Convention organized by ACT. Sixty participants from seven academic institutions and five high schools attended the event. Young professionals who work for local and international NGOs in the region also participated in the convention.

New BS in Psychology

Set to begin in the fall of 2019, ACT’s BS in Psychology is designed to be a novel and contemporary program that is up to date on the academic and professional trends. It will be based on prevalent US and UK standards like all other ACT undergraduate programs. It will be characterized by a firm grounding in the disciplinary foundations of the psychology degree, such as theory, main concepts, methods, debates, and applications in psychology. Further requirements will familiarize students with clinical, developmental, educational, experimental, social, and forensic psychology, as well as counseling and neuroscience. The degree will also include the practical experience of designing and carrying out psychological research, as well as evaluating and reporting its results. Students will learn to work with data, synthesize hypotheses, and use information technology.

Conference Presents Encouraging Research for Greek Tourism Sector

Top executives from multinational companies as well as representatives of hotel chains and consulting companies presented current trends in the tourism industry, both from a global and national perspective at the Workshop “Tourism of Tomorrow,” organized for the second year by ACT—in the framework of its graduate and postgraduate academic programs in Tourism and Hospitality. The workshop was held in January 2019 under the sponsorship of the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises (SETE) and the Thessaloniki Hotels Association. The workshop also presented the results of the large ongoing research that ACT is conducting for the tourist destinations of Rhodes and Halkidiki.

This year’s keynote speaker was Sarah Duignan, director of client relationships for the multinational STR Company. She presented data that points to a recovery trend in the Greek tourism sector, via a rise of Rev/PAR index (Revenue per Available Room) in the last five years.



Summer Camp at ACT for High School

Last year, ACT’s summer camp “Introduction to Biotechnology” led by Dr. Mary Kalamaki, introduced high school students to essential concepts of biology, molecular biology, biotechnology, biochemistry, and medical sciences. This new course offered two weeks of hands-on training in essential and current laboratory techniques used in microbiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology. The program took place in the new state-of-the-art ACT chemistry lab, where students completed

several projects using equipment found in research laboratories and gained hands-on experience in laboratory techniques and practices such as spectroscopy, enzyme assays, and the basic techniques of recombinant DNA technology. Dr. Kalamaki, assistant professor of chemistry in ACT’s Division of Technology and Science, is currently working on a collaborative project with colleagues from the School of Dentistry of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. ACT’s focus on high



level teaching and student development also incorporates faculty research to further advance student learning and create new knowledge. A team of scientists from the ACT Science and Technology Department started a new project in the fall, which is aimed at investigating food safety practices in community meals (soup kitchens) in Thessaloniki. This is an innovative project, as not much information on the food handling practices of volunteers is available on a worldwide level.

Dukakis Center celebrates its twentieth-anniversary season

The Dukakis Center kicked off its twentieth-anniversary season, hosting a variety of public events that explored topics related to its mission of Humanitarian and Public Service

When Pavlos Tsimas met Michael Dukakis

Pavlos Tsimas, perhaps the foremost political journalist of his generation, offered a delightful speech to a marvelously diverse audience at ACT's Bissell Library. The occasion was a double anniversary celebration: thirty years since Michael Dukakis' ill-fated run for the American Presidency and twenty years after Dukakis first visited Thessaloniki to launch what has become the Dukakis Center. Tsimas analyzed the Dukakis phenomenon and shared his personal experiences with the audience of his in-person meeting with the "Duke" when the Greek American politician was running for the US Presidency. The capacity audience was also treated to an excerpt from the forthcoming documentary on the Dukakis Center, "Now More Than Ever," produced by the Thessaloniki-based non-profit AddArt.



Renowned historian

Thanos Veremis at ACT

On December 4, renowned historian Thanos Veremis visited ACT for a guest lecture and meetings with senior ACT and Anatolia staff. Dr. Veremis, professor emeritus at the University of Athens and founding member of ELIAMEP, discussed recent interpretations of the Greek Revolution of 1821 with study abroad students at ACT's Bissell Library.

Blockchain: Grassroots initiatives for democracy

Prof. Victoria Alsina of GovLab (NYU) and the Ash Center (Harvard), delivered a keynote lecture co-sponsored by the U.S. Consulate General. Dr. Alsina shared insights and examples of how blockchain technology is impacting participation, deliberation, and voting at the municipal and national levels worldwide.

Blowing the whistle on corruption:

Debate about transparency and free speech

ACT's Bissell Library was the site for a panel discussion dedicated to various aspects of corruption, transparency, and whistle-blowing, co-sponsored by Transparency International Greece and Blueprint for Free Speech. Co-hosts Anna Damaskou and Sulette Dreyfus began the debate by placing the broader issues of

corruption and transparency in national and international context. Professor Vassilis Barkoukis, sports faculty, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, described current efforts to create educational platforms addressing corruption in sport. Finally, investigative journalist Tasos Telloglou and CIA whistle-blower John Kyriakou recounted their personal experiences of dealing with whistle-blowing. The event was moderated by ACT Professor Lambrini Nassis.

Dukakis Center hosts renowned area studies expert

Former US government official and Middle East specialist Alan Makovsky spoke at the Dukakis Center on April 4, about the recent local elections in Turkey. Mr. Makovsky spoke to students and faculty in a full amphitheater at the University of Macedonia (UoM) on such topics as the impact of the election results on the ruling party of President Erdogan and the likelihood that the mayoral contest in Istanbul will be recontested.

The event was co-hosted by the Institute of Defense and European Analysis, whose director, former University of Macedonia Provost Ilias Kouskouvelis, served as co-moderator with David Wisner, executive director of the Dukakis Center.

The Entrepreneurship Hub Expands

In the past year, the Entrepreneurship Hub at ACT added two more "GreenHouse" startup workshops that were held in Trikala and in the region of Epirus to its track record. GreenHouse, a training program of VentureGarden, is supported by the Hellenic Initiative and conducted in northern Greece by ACT's Entrepreneurship Hub and in southern Greece by the Alba Graduate Business School, the American College of Greece. The workshop in Trikala was held in collaboration with the Municipality of the City and was sponsored by the Cooperative Bank of Thessaly and Fagron Hellas. The Epirus GreenHouse was held in the cities of Ioannina and Arta and was co-organized with the Municipality of Ioannina, the University of Ioannina, and The Science and Technology Park of Epirus (STEP of Epirus). The startup mindset was presented, focusing on the way that it involves innovation, entrepreneurship, and fast scaling. As for the **VentureGarden** program, the 10th round offered 37 participants the opportunity to learn from successful entrepreneurs, business executives, and professors who shared their valuable insights and experiences in business. The level of the teams, as well as their business ideas, was very high, while several teams like SUI Generis and WChess (Online Teaching Platform for Chess) particularly stood out.

The John & Mary Pappajohn Business Plan Competition

More than 110 teams from all over Greece applied to the John & Mary Pappajohn Business Plan Competition, which was organized by the Entrepreneurship Hub at ACT. Five winning teams each received €4,000 for the development of their business ideas. Apart from the award—generously donated by Greek-American entrepreneur John Pappajohn—the winning teams will have access to a variety of events organized by ACT. The Pappajohn Business Plan Competition is one of the major projects led by ACT's Entrepreneurship Hub, which serves as a start-up accelerator that disseminates valuable know-how and innovative entrepreneurial spirit to the wider community.



Young Business Creators: Unlocking Children's Ideas

The opportunity to experience five days of creativity, co-operation, and familiarization with the business mindset was given to 28 students, from 10 to 12 years old, who attended Young Business Creators, an innovative program of Anatolia College, organized for the third consecutive year. Young Business Creators is implemented by the Entrepreneurship Hub of ACT in collaboration with Anatolia Elementary School and is based on the methodology of the Jacobson Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship of the University of Iowa.

Art Exhibitions in Bissell Library

The Bissell Library hosts exhibitions throughout the year, showcasing local and international artists who work in various media. This year an American painter presented his exhibition Greek Landscape: Paintings by **Barry Feldman** in the Bissell Library, a retrospective that demonstrated his devotion to the landscape of his adopted country, Greece. Bissell Library also hosted the exhibition in the memory of the acclaimed photographer and Anatolia College alumna **Chryssa Nikoleri '82**.





PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.7
ASHLAND MA

Alumni Spotlight

Jana Arsovska ACT '03: A Premier Professor of Criminal Justice in the US

*Jana Arsovska ACT '03, Ph.D., is associate professor of Sociology and, as of Fall 2019, co-director of the International Criminal Justice BA Program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York. She teaches International Criminology, Crime & Justice in the Balkans, Transnational Crime, Qualitative Research Methods, and other courses. Her most recent award-winning book *Decoding Albanian Organized Crime: Culture, Politics, and Globalization* (University of California Press, 2015) examines some of the most widespread myths about the so-called Albanian Mafia (Recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Book Award, DIC, ASC; 2015 Best Publication Award, IASOC; 2016 Outstanding Book Award, IS, ACJS). In 2014 Jana Arsovska was named one of the Top 25 criminal justice professors in the US by the leading forensic sciences website *ForensicsColleges.com* noting that "the professors on this list have gone above and beyond in terms of leadership and professional contributions."*



You have achieved an acclaimed academic career in International Criminal Justice. Which factors played a key role in developing your interest in this field?

Two main factors: the socio-political context in which I grew up, and my studies in International Relations at ACT.

I come from a country in which crime is a topic that dominates news headlines on a daily basis. I was eleven years old when the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was drawn into a destructive conflict. By March of 1998, the situation in Kosovo became highly unstable. At that time, the international press labeled North Macedonia, my native country, the Balkan "oasis of peace." Once the conflict spread to Kosovo, however, it became clear that regional conflict would have serious consequences for North Macedonia as well. In July of 1998, against the backdrop of a rising fear among the population in North Macedonia, my parents sent me to Tennessee as an exchange student. The TV news regularly reported on incidents of kidnappings and torture in parts of my country.

"Being a teacher myself now, I try to replicate some of those teaching styles I appreciated so much while being a student at ACT...teaching is about enabling someone to be a critical thinker rather than a passive information processor."

In 1999, I came back, and I remember the government advising residents not to leave our cities and to avoid traveling on specific roads.

I studied international relations at ACT, and my studies contributed significantly to my desire to better understand how countries, as well as international organizations, cooperate in order to fight injustices around the world, and how countries learn from each other's experiences in order to improve domestic and international policies and laws. My studies enabled me to become a global citizen of this world and to gain knowledge about global politics, public policy, international relations, and global security. Years later, I still tell my students that it is not enough to only look at what is happening in your own backyard.

To know if something will work in your country, you need to know what works, or doesn't work, in other countries. Also, when studying transnational or international crimes, it is impossible to talk about effective policies without talking about politics, corruption, cooperation between countries (or lack thereof), bilateral agreements, and

diplomatic relations. Finally, it goes without saying that studying abroad (in Greece, the U.S., and later in Belgium) gave me the confidence to embark on new challenges, throw myself outside of my comfort zone, and think through problems in a critical manner.

How would you describe your overall experience at ACT and in Thessaloniki and/or Greece? What do you remember fondly of those days?

One of the best times of my life. I have great memories from my days at ACT. There was such a great sense of community. I remember having so many friends from so many different countries with whom I socialized in the school cafeteria on a daily basis. Some lifelong friendships were made there! I also remember working on various projects together with classmates while having so much fun. I remember Dr. Wisner's classes and the engaging (often funny!) videos/documentaries he shared with us. The teaching styles of the professors, their open-mindedness and critical thinking skills, their encouragement and support, their ability to connect (and stay connected) with the students... those are some things I will never forget. Some of the best classes happened at ACT because the professors listened to what we, the students, had to say and encouraged an atmosphere where we all learned from each other. I believe that doing so sparks tolerance for different points of view.

Being a teacher myself now, I try to replicate some of those teaching styles I appreciated so much while being a student at ACT. Teaching should

be about learning right alongside the students in your classroom while having fun. If you have passion and are having fun, then your students will catch your passion and share the fun. And most importantly, teaching is about enabling someone to be a critical thinker rather than a passive information processor.

Prior to becoming an educator, you worked as a consultant on Albanian/Balkan organized crime for several organizations, including the World Bank, the UN, the DCAF, and the European Forum for Restorative Justice. How did your professional experiences shape your approach to the classroom?

I bring my practical experience to all of my classes and to all of my research projects. I tell students stories from my field work in the Balkan region, my interviews with victims and offenders, and my training at Interpol, as well as from my work done at various international organizations. Students always tend to remember my practical examples.

I always tell students that they must take as many internships as they can while they are studying. It is essential to bridge the gap between theory and practice. If you have practical experiences and are able to make connections between the materials that you study and real-life, then you are truly learning. In life, we must rely on a combination of both practical (metis) and technical (techne) knowledge.

As this year's Commencement Speaker at ACT, what would you advise your young audience?

Some lessons in life I learned the hard way, through trial and error followed by the humility that comes from overcoming those mistakes. Other lessons I learned through observing those whom I consider great role models. So, this is my modest advice:

- Know your values and the rules you will abide by, regardless of the circumstances you face. Communicate your values openly to others in an effort to create an atmosphere of certainty and trust. Basically, know who you are and what you stand for.
- Have integrity and live by example. Be able to say "do as I do" rather than just "do as I say."
- Listen without being condescending. Always be willing to hear what others have to say without rushing to judgment.
- Don't say "no" to opportunities because they often open doors.
- Try to be as independent as possible. When you depend on other people your choices will be limited.
- Find your strengths and passions.
- Use your time wisely. That doesn't mean don't have fun, it simply means do your best not to waste the time you have. Stay focused on your goal and pick your fights wisely.
- Learn from your mistakes and improve your game each time. Sometimes there is no "blueprint" to follow, and there is also no time to wait for the perfect plan to be dropped at your feet.
- Delay gratification. The longer you wait for something, the more you will appreciate it when you get it. What we know for sure is that constantly getting things instantaneously makes people less patient. And patience is necessary for one of the most important aspects of our lives: social interaction and relationships.
- Limit the use of smartphones and social media. Go out and socialize in the real world. Make real friends. Have a cup of coffee. There is no doubt that the mobile phone is a very useful tool, and today mobile phones are a major part of society. But every technology that provides benefits comes with a consequent price. Think about the irony of how social media actually makes us anti-social.