

More photos, p. 7



FALL 2008

# The Anatolian



**A Whale  
of a Summer**  
➤ Page 3

**Profiles  
in Medicine**  
➤ Pages 4-5

**ACT First  
with Dual Recognition**  
➤ Page 6

## Major Renovations Roll

Two large-scale renovation projects have come to fruition this fall: in September the upper grades of the Anatolia Elementary School moved into refurbished and expanded quarters in buildings which formerly housed the Pinewood School on the high school campus, and two months later the Gymnasium building was the scene of a festive re-opening after an overhaul of its heavily used facilities, including installation of a beautiful new oak floor on the basketball court. Both projects were made possible by gifts to Anatolia's Third-Century Campaign, chief among them generous support from the Anatolia Alumni Association and its members as well as from the American government's USAID Program.

Both projects were carried out by alumni professionals: Petros Makrides '63 was the architect,

Akis Angelides '71, head of the TEKTA Corporation, was responsible for the construction work, and Anatolia Executive Vice-President and COO Panos Kanellis '67 oversaw all aspects of the renovations, with guidance from trustee Stavros Constantinidis '47, head of the Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Now in its fifth year, Anatolia Elementary has been growing steadily and now enrolls 447 students in grades K-6. Its growth was managed to coincide with the availability of the buildings which had been previously leased to Pinewood (which has moved elsewhere), and the move of the upper grades was made at the end of the summer. New landscaping, and a good deal of painting and fixing made the new facilities bright with welcome for the 164 students who now use them on a daily basis. Proximity to Anatolia's Alumni Field, renovated two years ago, is an added bonus.

The new field and track was phase one of an upgrading of Anatolia's athletic facilities; renovation of the Gymnasium, built in 1976, was phase two. Though still ongoing, the main work is done, and the gleaming new floor, with new locker rooms and showers below, was ready for opening ceremonies on November 19. This was no mere ribbon cutting but an evening celebration of Anatolia athletics past and present, co-sponsored by the



school and the Anatolia Alumni Association, whose teams are frequent after-hours users of the gym.

George Bebetos, Head of the Anatolia Athletic Department, welcomed the assembled crowd of dignitaries, guests, faculty, fans, and honorees and proclaimed the ceremonies underway. Basketball teams from ACT and Anatolia played a game, with the Anatolians prevailing. Not only

was the newly laid floor attractive to the eye, the first thump of the ball attested to its quality.

After a Tae-Kwon-Do demonstration by Anatolia Elementary students, it was time to honor Andreas Katsaros '05, winner of a silver medal in the 2008 Paralympic games in Beijing (see full story below). Dean of the 2nd Lyceum Christos

*continued on p. 2*

## Andreas Katsaros '05 Takes Silver in Beijing Paralympics

Very few of the athletes who participate in the Olympic and Paralympic Games come home with medals. Participation is what matters, especially for the disabled athletes who since 1960 have had their own Games following those of their able-bodied peers. That does not lessen the spirit of competition or the quest for medals. For Andreas Katsaros '05, being in Beijing with the 69 members of the Greek Paralympic team and more than 4,000 other disabled athletes from 148 countries was a great experience. But winning a silver medal for Greece in the 50-meter backstroke in the competition for those with Class One disabilities, which are the most severe, was still greater.

Andreas has had cerebral palsy since birth, making walking without support impossible and creating other motor difficulties. The condition is not progressive but makes life a challenge, especially in Greece, where few public facilities are wheelchair accessible and sidewalks frequently an obstacle course. But Andreas has a devoted, able-bodied fraternal twin, Nikos '05,



*"In the water I can walk," Andreas says, "and I can run." Here he is being welcomed back to Greece at the Thessaloniki airport by friends and family.*

and a highly supportive family. The twins came to Anatolia in 1999 and came down the steps of Macedonia Hall together at Commencement six years later. Andreas is now in law school at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, and Nikos is studying Economics.

Andreas took up swimming as a means of physical conditioning in 1996 when he was nine years old. He enjoyed it, and in 2004 he be-

gan to swim competitively. In June of 2005 he took the Panhellenic university entrance exams, and that same month he participated in the Greek Paralympic games in Athens, taking a 3rd place. He repeated in 3rd place in 2006 and got his first taste of international competition in the same year at the World Paralympic Games in South Africa, where he placed 5th in the backstroke. Then he set his sights on Beijing.

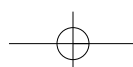
He trained hard, under the supervision of his dedicated coaches and with the help of his family. In the summer leading up to the Games he trained for ten hours a day at the Thessaloniki municipal pool and in the Aegean. On September 15 he and five other swimmers approached the pool for the 50-meter backstroke finals in the Water Cube, Andreas in a wheelchair, and slipped into the same

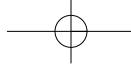
lanes where Michael Phelps had won his medals the month before. The event was carried live on Greek state television. Andreas' Greek teammate Christos Tampaxis took an early lead and maintained it to the end. The race for second and

*continued on p. 2*



*2nd Lyceum Dean Christos Plousios, Nikos Katsaros, Andreas Katsaros and Nomarch Panagiotis Psomidiadis at the Gym opening*





## Boston Welcomes Trustees in Style

Filling one of Boston's most historic homes, The Parkman House on Beacon Hill, one hundred alumni, friends, and Trustees of Anatolia College gathered on October 30th for a cocktail reception hosted by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. There was a historic feeling in the room, made palpable by the oil-painted portraits of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Bostonians that lined the walls, reminding guests of the visionary Bostonians who sent forth missionaries – and were sent forth – to found schools like Anatolia around the world in the 1800s.

And so began the 2008 fall meeting of the Board of Trustees in Boston. Nineteen trustees gathered for the three days that included two days of meetings, with videoconference participation from Greece, and three evenings filled with events in celebration of Anatolia and its generous benefactors and friends. Morale was high throughout the weekend, and everyone left feeling inspired to continue their work in supporting Anatolia and its mission.

The tone was set at the opening dinner to honor former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, George Bissell, hosted by trustees Chip Elfner and Nestor Nicholas at the Union Club. Nicholas' remarks on Bissell's service to the school, read by his wife Anne, are printed below.

Another of the highlights of the weekend came on Hal-

loween night, when 55 Trustees, alumni, and friends gathered for a truly enchanted evening at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. They were in for a treat. The guests were welcomed by Maria Karagianis, Director of US Operations for Anatolia, and were given a private tour of the world-renowned Greek Gallery led by eminent scholar and antiquities expert Dr. Christine Kondoleon, the MFA's George D. and Margo Behrakis Senior Curator of Greek and Roman Art. Dr. Kondoleon provided valuable insights into the antiquities on display at the two levels of the Greek Gallery and had the group under her spell.

After the tour the evening continued at the MFA's Bravo Restaurant, where a reception was held. Trustee Jack Clymer lead the short speaking program followed by remarks from President Richard Jackson. Guests left late – close to midnight, come what may – with Dr. Kondoleon's MFA Highlights book, *Classical Art*, and "goodie bags" filled with Halloween cookies donated by Trisha Carter, CEO of Dancing Deer Baking Co.

A special thank you to Trustee Helen Lindsay for graciously hosting this spectacular event and bringing us all together, to Trustee Betty Georgaklis for all her support and involvement as the MFA liaison, and to Dr. Christine Kondoleon for her gift of communicating the genius of Hellenism to Greeks and Philhellenes alike.



Mr. Michael Contompasis, Director of Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs for the City of Boston, addressing the gathering at the Parkman House.



Dr. Christine Kondoleon at the MFA

### Remarks by Trustee Nestor Nicholas at the Dinner Honoring George Bissell

**A**fter I joined the Anatolia Board I noticed with some amazement that the highest performing trustee was this tall guy from Wellesley by way of Ohio – George Bissell.

He out-worked, he out-led, and out-gave all of the rest of us, by a lot. I found this amazing and strange. I had joined the Board to give back to the land of my forefathers. What was this guy doing? Bissell is not a Greek name and he does not look Greek. His charming wife Peggy looks possibly Greek, but she isn't Greek either. As the years

passed, George not only kept outperforming the rest of us – he increased his efforts. Why was George doing this?

Then one day in Greece a Greek trustee made an impassioned speech about why it was so important that Anatolia be known as an American school, founded on and governed by U.S. ideals and principles. Then it hit me. It wasn't about me – it was about the ideals of America and Greece!

What George has long realized is that one of the great achievements of America is our educational

system. This has been one of the engines that has driven our country. We are spreading the values of American education as far as we can – yes, from Ohio and Wellesley to Thessaloniki. Thank you, George, not only on behalf of Anatolia and Greece, but also myself. I now realize that as I work for Anatolia, I am not just helping the land of my forefathers, but doing a service to my country also. So, if anyone ever asks, "Why should I help a small school in Greece?" begin your answer with these two words: "George Bissell."

## Major Renovations Roll *Continued from Page 1*

Plousios '67 and Nomarch Panagiotis Psomiadis did the honors, but the emotional high point came when Andreas himself thanked his family and the school for their support over the years. There were more basketball games, with youth and veteran players competing against alumni teams, and there was also more emotion. The Alumni Association had decided to honor some of its own, namely its great 1962 team, most of whose members were in attendance, which played for the national title. The Gymnasium was hushed -- a tribute to its improved acoustics -- as captain Byron Alexiades '53, now retired from many years as Anatolia's Business Manager, spoke of the spirit and achievements of the team. Deputy Minister for Sports Yiannis Ioannides and Giorgos Vasilakopoulos, President of FIBA Europe, followed with remarks of their own, prior to the awarding of commemorative statuettes to team members.

Members of the Anatolia Elementary School Chorale had attended the ceremony, and the final moments belonged to them, their voices filling the new Gymnasium with the strains of "Morning Cometh" and sending all present off to a reception in Macedonia Hall with "Anatolia forever, Anatolia for aye" ringing in their ears.



### Andreas Katsaros '05 Takes Silver in Beijing Paralympics

*Continued from Page 1*

third place was tighter, with three swimmers all closing in. But Andreas was having the best race of his life: smooth, rhythmical strokes from his powerful upper body carried him home to the end of his lane. He touched the wall in 1:44:35, and at first he did not realize what he had done. Teammates rushed over; he looked up; he had won the silver medal. See for yourself: the end of the race and a brief interview with a smiling Andreas are available on YouTube.

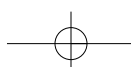
Before Anatolia was proud of Andreas the athlete, it had admired him as a student and a daily presence in the 2nd Gymnasium and 2nd Lyceum, often on his brother's arm between classes or assisted by classmates going up and down stairs. Despite his disability, Andreas never yielded to discouragement; on the contrary, his sunny disposition and love of learning sustained him, as Dean Christos Plousios remarked in presenting an Anatolia award to Andreas at the inauguration of the new gym. His Deans, teachers, registrars, classmates, and family helped him through his challenges - and share with all Anatolians in his latest triumph. Congratulations, Andreas!

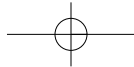
**The Anatolian**

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*Counterclockwise from top: President Richard Jackson; Anatolia Alumni Association President John Rentzeperis '77; Anatolia Elementary students demonstrating Tae-Kwon Do moves at the Gym opening; and a renovated classroom.*





# High School News

## Summer Abroad Experiences Hit Triple Figures

The goal was to break 100. Check: 103 Anatolians attended summer programs abroad last summer, lasting from one to eight weeks. Ninety-nine students went to the States and four to Spain, Denmark, and Hong Kong. In the U.S. students dispersed into 16 states and the District of Columbia. They experienced life in Michigan's Upper Peninsula at Michigan Technological University and in the Deep South at Ole Miss. Some went in groups with Anatolia teachers, some on their own. All had the support of Anatolia's Office of U.S. College Counseling, which discovers and publicizes opportunities, negotiates scholarships, and helps students make logistical arrangements. "It's a lot of work," comments Director Eva Kanellis, "but when you hear our students tell of their experiences, you know it's been worth it." So, in their own words...

"The environmental science offered in this program helps you gain a new perspective of the world of nature. If you are up for some adventure, love science, and don't mind getting a little muddy, Hotchkiss is a wonderful opportunity for you."

*Demetra Sklaviadis,  
Hotchkiss Summer Portals  
Lakeville, CT*

"Our class was filled with people who all came from different cultural, social and ideological backgrounds (the diverse group ranged from students coming from farms in Tennessee to Mexicans, Turks, Chinese, and Japanese). While we were debating over poverty in the U.S. and whether or not extra measures should be taken to limit it, we had people argue for and even against welfare benefits. What struck me in particular was a boy who was in favor of socialism and talked about his poor neighborhood in Mississippi where many course options in schools were a rare thing. During a debate on immigration we had a Mexican girl tell us the story of her parents who came to America in search of a better standard of living and of her grandma who died while trying to illegally cross the border to the States."

*Victor Mylonas,  
National Student Leadership Conference  
Washington, D.C.*

"The university itself is located in northern Michigan in an area full of trees and wildlife away from big city noise. The daily program consisted of breakfast from 8 to 9, morning classes till roughly 1, lunch, evening classes and group projects until 5, dinner (at 5 o'clock!) and recreation until 10 o'clock. However, field trips and special events often entered into the daily schedule too. The classes themselves were based on experimentation and interaction. Every day something exciting awaited us to discover."

*Theodosia Fambrikis,  
Michigan Technological University  
Houghton, MI*

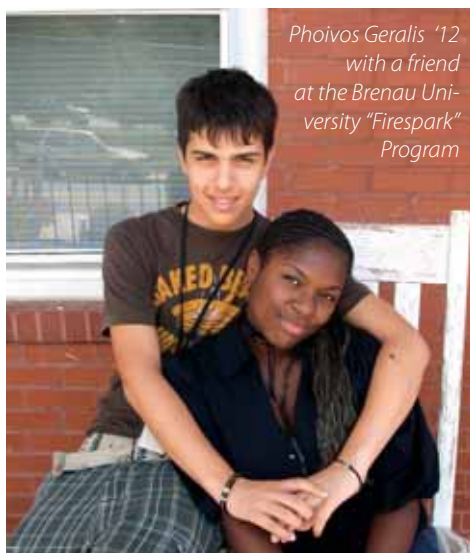
"We had lectures almost every day from professors of the department of agricultural engineering on various topics. We also had computer sessions to prepare us for our final presentations and English classes in which we studied mostly literature and grammar. Once or twice a week



At the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut, one of Anatolia's summer program partners. L. to r.: President Jackson, Teeny Drakos, Eia Jackson, trustee Bill Drakos '38, and in the background, Kera the whale.

we had field trips to visit large companies and have a discussion with the employees about different career options. On Saturdays and Sundays we were free. The campus is great and the facilities too. The place is full of parks and you will definitely see squirrels running around. The program demands a lot of work but the students get to have free time and also learn things that probably they are not very familiar with in the area of agricultural engineering."

*Orest Xherija,  
University of Illinois RAP 1-A  
Urbana - Champaign, IL*



*Phoivos Geralis '12  
with a friend  
at the Brenau University "Firespark"  
Program*

"A day at Ole Miss involves an early wake-up, three meals (be prepared for a lot of fried chicken) and recreation, usually an hour at the swimming pool, or the 100% American sports of ultimate Frisbee and kickball. But the greatest portion of the day we spend in class. Each student has to take two courses out of the six offered. Attention: each course lasts 3.5 hours. Don't panic, though. During the lesson we are given the chance to watch films, take short, pleasant walks around the very beautiful campus, etc. However, our daily program remains quite demanding. And this is exactly why we get a lot of leisure time on the weekends and we go bowling, go skating, or go to Memphis, the city of rock 'n' roll!"

*Domniki Georgopoulou,  
University of Mississippi Summer Academy  
Oxford, MS*

"Explo Summer Senior Program is the ultimate combination of academic opportunities, fun, creativity and socialization. It's a perfect marriage between Yale's campus/facilities and Explo's sense of organization and education.

In Explo you will find a huge family of people from hundreds of different places but with one purpose: education. The air of education is floating within the campus. And when I mention education I do not solely refer to academic issues, because at Yale you learn how



*Raphael Scholarship winner Evdoxia Tsafou '09 at Northfield Mt. Hermon*

to live with others, which is instrumental not only for college but for one's entire life."

*Christos Akkas,  
Yale Exploration Summer Program  
New Haven, CT*

"I had feared Iowa City would be boring. I could not have been more wrong. There were a million things to do. And never before have I been around so many interesting people at the same time. We spoke of books, of politics, of the American dream, of everything imaginable. Every book I had ever wanted to read, somebody there had already read and was ready to discuss.

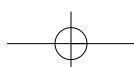
The three weeks I spent at the Iowa Young Writers' Studio were the best of my life. Sixty young writers from all over the country (and, in my case, world!) were brought together to read, think about, and thoroughly discuss each other's writing. We walked around the city, interviewing people and then trying to see the world through their eyes, to live the life they lived. We lay on the grass and pretended we had an ant's perspective. We decided that our teacher, named Nimo, not only had a cool name but was also the coolest man alive. We came, we saw, we wrote. And wrote."

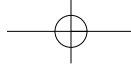
*Myrsini Manney-Kalogera,  
Iowa Young Writers' Studio  
Iowa City, IA*

### ...and After School hits 52



Chinese, anyone? That's one of six courses being offered in Anatolia's After School Program this year. The program was launched two years ago as a means of enabling students to pursue special subjects after regular school hours. Other choices on offer: Learning Made Easy, Eat Smart!, The Magic of Physics, Exploring Thessaloniki, and Robotix Lab. 52 students are participating.





# Profiles

## A Visit to Dr. Anna Greka '93 and Stathis Antoniadis '92

By Maria Karagianis

**A**nna Greka '93 and her husband Stathis Antoniadis '92 live with their two sons, Constantine, two, and Dimitris, four, on a bucolic road in the leafy Boston suburb of Milton. The couple, who hosted a barbecue last fall for Anatolia students studying in the United States as well as trustees and friends of Anatolia from Boston, live in an attractive, minimalist, 1950s-era home amid beautifully landscaped gardens seven miles from the skyscrapers of Boston's downtown. Although they have lived in the United States for fifteen years and although both now are highly successful young health care professionals (as well as parents), what really comes to mind after spending an afternoon with them is the phrase "global citizens."

Like many Anatolians born in Greece, they are sophisticated products of a great American-style education and move easily among their peers both in the United States and in Great Britain.

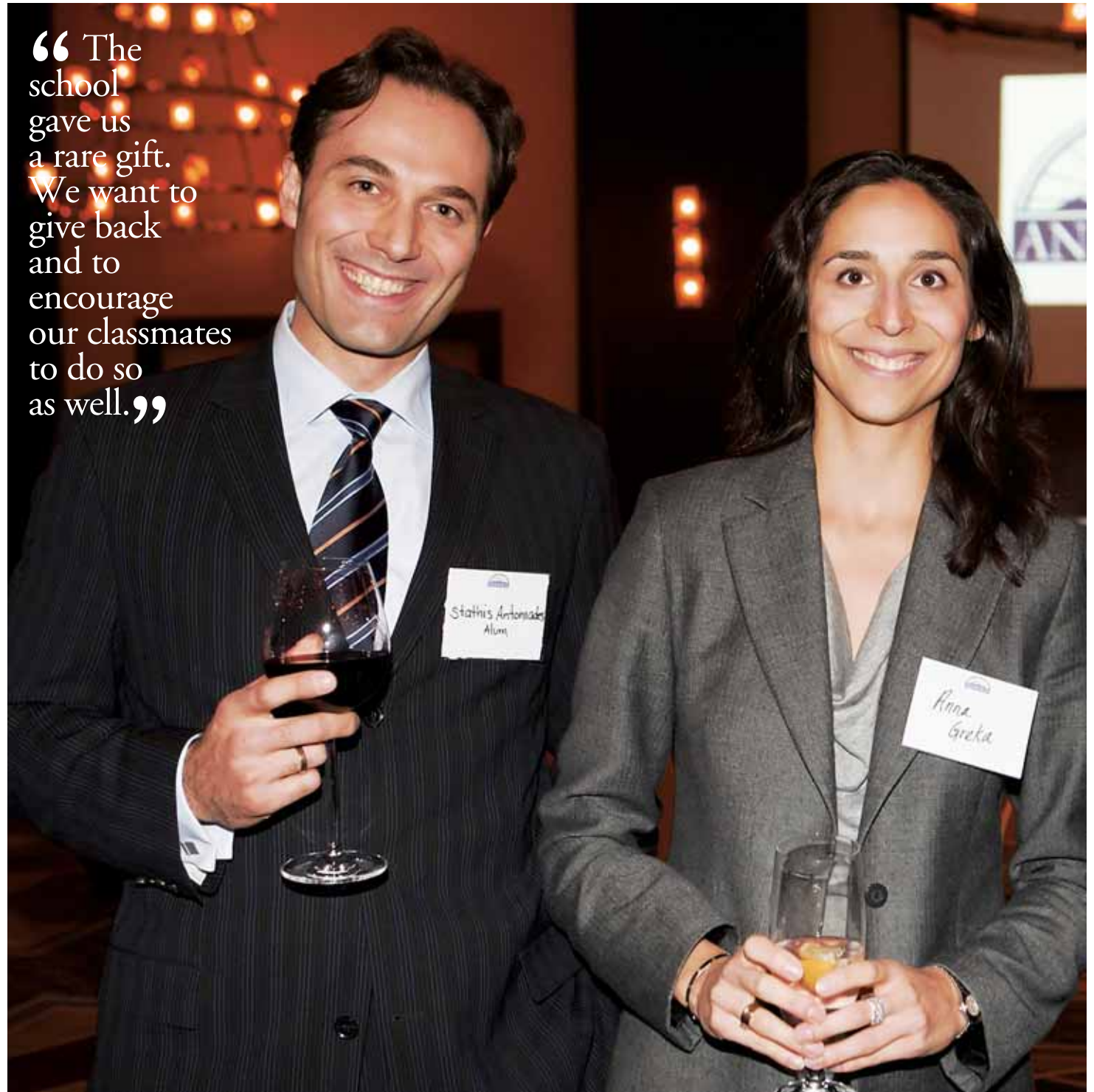
"When I was a child I lived in England and Stathis lived here in Boston," Anna Greka was saying. "Our parents, three of whom are doctors, were doing their post-graduate work abroad." The daughter of two well-known physicians from Thessaloniki, Dr. Greka is a young superstar in Boston's medical firmament, as is her husband.

Recently, Dr. Greka, who is 33 with an M.D. and Ph.D. from Harvard Medical School, was appointed to the faculty there. And Stathis Antoniadis, whom she met at Anatolia, with a management degree in health care from Yale, is now senior director of Massachusetts General Hospital's cardiology unit, one of the biggest, oldest and most respected centers for the treatment of heart disease in the world. Antoniadis oversees a \$100 million budget, 500 employees and part of a 25-person management team at a cardiology unit which, he says, has "85,000 patient encounters" each year.

The Greka-Antoniadeses are charming, attractive, and obviously bright, but what strikes the visitor most about them is their approach to work, marriage and parenthood. They are a team and will tell you so in no uncertain terms. The day we talked, in fact, each took turns – one talking with a visitor while the other repaired to the basement playroom to read stories to their adorable and rambunctious young sons, both of whom have already started both Greek school and music lessons. Then they switched places.

Valedictorian of her class at Anatolia exactly twenty years after her own mother was valedictorian at an Anatolia Commencement, Dr. Greka went on to earn a bachelor's degree in biology at Harvard. Today, in addition to her teaching and patient care, she is also a nephrologist with her own lab in Boston's Charlestown district, doing cutting-edge research on kidney disease.

"Diabetes is a growing global public health problem, especially given the ongoing obe-



Stathis Antoniadis '93 and Anna Greka '92 at the October 7 Anatolia fundraising event for photographer Bill Brett at the Liberty Hotel in Boston.

“The school gave us a rare gift. We want to give back and to encourage our classmates to do so as well.”

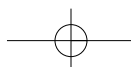
city epidemic," she says. "A significant portion of diabetes patients go on to develop kidney disease, which is manifest as progressively severe proteinuria – the spilling of protein into the urine – often leading to kidney failure. While the mechanisms of proteinuric kidney disease remain elusive, the most important insights have been derived from analyses of hereditary forms of the disease. . . . Interestingly, a genetic mutation in a specialized molecule called TRPC, a member of a group of proteins called ion channels, was shown to result in subsequent kidney failure. My laboratory, which specializes in studying these channels as they relate to kidney disease, in

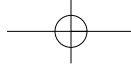
the hope of developing new treatments for patients with diabetic kidney disease."

"Anna would have done well anywhere. She was a star," her husband was saying. "But I was different. Without Anatolia, my life would have been very, very different and I would never have enjoyed the success I now have." A professional basketball player in Greece while still a teenager, Stathis said he was distracted at school and much more interested in socializing with his teammates, many of whom were in their mid to late twenties at the time. But he said there were teachers at Anatolia who, using both carrots and sticks, helped him focus on his studies and be accepted to college abroad, at Boston University. By the time both

he and Anna had graduated from college, they were already an item and dated while he did his Master's at Yale.

"Anatolia kept me on track," said Stathis. "It was really transformative in my life, and that is the value of an exceptional educational institution." Both husband and wife reported that their various colleges and graduate schools approach them for philanthropy, but they said that Anatolia took first place in their hearts, which is why they hosted last fall's event and which is why they eagerly offered to host another for Anatolians this coming fall. "The school gave us a rare gift," said Stathis. "We want to give back and to encourage our classmates to do so as well."





## George Vasmatis '80: "From Bench to Bedside" at the Mayo Clinic

"I loved that school," says George Vasmatis '80, Senior Associate Consultant in the Department of Molecular Medicine and a member of the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center. He is also Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the Mayo Medical School. The school he was referring to, of course, is Anatolia, where he held a six-year scholarship provided by Mobil Oil. "I felt hope for the future there," he recalls. A Thessaloniki native, he elected to attend college in the States, majoring in electrical engineering at Texas Tech. He chose Tech in part because it was affordable, he says, adding that he received an excellent education there. He got a laboratory job at the school and found himself working on a "tokamak" machine, a device that was designed to produce controlled fusion power. The advanced math and physics he had done at Anatolia stood him in good stead, and he gave evening classes to his fellow students on what they had been taught in the morning, all the while adapting to life in Lubbock, Texas.

Despite possibilities to work at Los Alamos and NASA after graduation, he decided to pursue another path, "leaving war and space aside and trying to apply my skills for the good of mankind." His chosen field: health, from an engineer's perspective, which led him to do a Master's in electrical engineering at Purdue, known for its work in bioengineering. A subsequent six-month stay at MIT doing research on focal magnetic stimulators of nerves took him to the Boston area and on to doctoral studies at B.U. There he came under the influence of Charles DeLisi, who is considered to be one of the founding fathers of the Human Genome Project. "The reaction from many scientists at the time was that it couldn't be done. In the end, though, it was just a

matter of technology catching up with biology." Needing to understand biology itself better, he did his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, then sought out a position where he



could acquire lab experience, finding it at the National Institutes of Health under the direction of Ira Pastan, "the second of my mentors." He stayed four and a half years at NIH and immersed himself in computational and molecular biology and the nascent field of bioinformatics.

"The problem is how to analyze huge amounts of information, literally millions or even billions of bits of information generated at the molecular level, which is what ge-

nomics technologies have made possible."

One application of bioinformatics: how to discover biomarkers, including genes in disease cells such as those associated with cancer. One of the leading places in the world to apply that knowledge: the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Min-

nesota, where Dr. Vasmatis has now spent almost nine years. "Bioinformatics, molecular biology, and clinical pathology all come together here," he explains. He is at present Director of the Biomarker Discovery and Translation Lab at the Mayo Clinic. "By 'translation' we mean bringing research results to bear on the treatment of patients," he notes, "or as we say, moving from bench to bedside." He emphasizes that the Mayo model is for scientists to work in teams. "The model of the independent scientist is giving way to that of the scientist working together with those in other disciplines."

Not surprisingly, he reports that he loves his work. The enthusiasm also extends to life in small-town America, although he recognizes that his town, "a clinic town the way some other towns are university towns," is an unusual one. And not many research scientists, he adds, are able to drive ten minutes to work from a farm where there are American Bison roaming on 80 more or less wild acres, with not another house in sight. He regularly visits family in Greece and plans to come to Anatolia in the spring to talk to students about careers in science. One thing he believes that connects Greece and the U.S. is science itself, begun by the Greeks and in his opinion one of America's most significant achievements.

"Science does not belong to any one nation or people," he adds, "it belongs to whoever grasps it." As for himself, he quotes an ancient Greek saying: "Γηράσκω αεί διδασκόμενος – As I grow older, I am always learning."

## With a Little Help from Her Friends...

When Valia Magra '08 heard back from the British medical schools to which she had applied, she was disappointed. Despite receiving strong grades in Anatolia's International Baccalaureate Program, she had been turned down in the admittedly intense competition for places at the top schools. It was July, and she called on Director of U.S. College Counseling Eva Kanellis, thinking that she might need to re-orient herself to study in the United States.

Ms. Kanellis went to work, picking up the phone and persuading Nina Papavasiliou '88, head of her own immunology lab at New York's Rockefeller University, and George Vasmatis '80 of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, to take Valia on as an intern in the fall, hoping to give her the kinds of experiences that might shape her future and enhance her chances for admission to U.S. colleges.

After two months on the job in both places, Valia reports herself thrilled by the opportunities she's been given and says that she's re-considering the direction of her studies, towards medical research in neurology in the U.S., a path that she hopes her pending application to Yale will put her on. "In Nina's lab, I'm working with a post-doc student on an enzyme that has the ability to bind to both DNA and RNA. I do mini-preps and PCRs – that's polymerase chain reactions – tissue cultures, and the like. It's the talking part I like the most – everyone is so willing to sit down and explain things to me. Yesterday we were working on competitive enzyme inhibition..." Asked to explain how a high school graduate can manage to work productively in a cutting-edge research lab, Valia credits the I.B. science curriculum. She modestly says that once you know the fundamentals in biology, you can



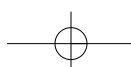
Valia Magra '08 (center) with lab colleagues at Rockefeller University

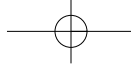
begin to understand almost anything.

After a week at the Mayo Clinic in October, she produced a report for Dr. Vasmatis, remarking on the wealth of things she had learned in seven days. The most important? The advantage of pursuing research in a clinical setting, for which the Mayo is famous, and

the way in which people worked in teams to combine different approaches to a research problem. And, above all, the importance of having a design in research. "That is the reason I found the micro-array analysis a really interesting and useful tool. I had never heard of it before, but I realize it is almost necessary for any kind of experiment because of its ability to narrow your focus to specific factors. The example that comes to mind is the way you (Dr. Vasmatis) isolated genes related to prostate cancer from a huge number of genes. The image I have for bioinformatics in research is that heat table you showed me..."

Valia plans to come back to Thessaloniki for the holidays, and with visa in hand, to return to both the Mayo Clinic (at their invitation) as well as work with Dr. Papavasiliou at Rockefeller University. Knock and – with Anatolians helping out – it shall be opened.





# ACT News

## ACT First in Greece with Both U.S. and European Accreditation

Following a decision on July 2 by the University of Wales to agree to validate B.A. and B.S. degrees granted by the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT), Anatolia's tertiary division has become the first private or public college or university in Greece to win both European and American recognition of its degrees. ACT was first accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in 1997, then renewed in 2002, with the next evaluation scheduled for the fall of 2012.

The University of Wales is the second largest university system in the U.K. after London and is a well-established provider of degree and program validation to universities in and beyond Great Britain. "The road to accreditation is not

easy, nor should it be," notes ACT President Richard Jackson. "Our approval by the University of Wales after two years of visits, reviews, and negotiations is further evidence of the caliber of education we are providing at ACT."



"What this means is that our graduates will have guaranteed professional rights in the European Union and be able to pursue post-graduate studies in Europe more easily than before," comments Panos Vlachos, ACT Dean of Faculty.

"Moreover, we have been able to win this recognition without giving up the American character of our programs. We have kept all of our general education requirements, for example. We were required to add a course in research methods and a senior thesis, which

NEASC actually welcomed. A single course of study will lead simultaneously to dual recognition of degrees. We will be subject to external monitoring of our programs by visiting teams from the University of Wales, but we believe that will only strengthen our programs."



There is a catch, and that is Greek compliance, or lack thereof, with European law. In Greece, the state has a constitutional monopoly on tertiary education and has been resisting the E.U.'s requirement that degrees granted by one E.U. country be recognized by all others. Greece does not recognize American accreditation either, putting students at private colleges at a severe disadvan-

tage in terms of professional rights, exemption from military service, and visa requirements.

On October 23, and again on December 4, the European Court of Justice condemned Greece's non-compliance with E.U. law. The matter has been a political hot potato for some time in Greece, and a resolution of the problem seems imminent. Should full Greek compliance come, ACT is ready with an APL program (Alumni Prior Learning) that would grant past ACT graduates recognition of degrees after some supplementary academic work to fulfill University of Wales requirements. It is safe to say that the matter is to be continued.

"External validation is very encouraging," notes Panos Vlachos, "but the recognition we value most comes from our own students."



L. to r., Panos Kanellis, Executive V.P. and COO of Anatolia, Michael Kapellas, Chairman and CEO of First Data Corporation, and Dimitris Daskalopoulos, President of the SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, at the MBA Conference on Corporate Entrepreneurship. Addressing the current climate of global recession, Kapellas and Daskalopoulos advised worried business leaders to stay true to their long-term vision.



## Nor'easter Sweeps into ACT

If you have been reading these pages carefully, you would have been ready: 50 Northeastern University freshmen arrived at ACT in September for their first semester of college. The program is a new development in what has been a growing presence of U.S. study-abroad students at ACT. The 50 freshmen are joining 57 other students from 27 other U.S. colleges, including 8 from Northeastern itself, at ACT this term.

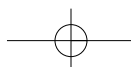
How are they getting on? "Very well," says Arian Kotsi, ACT Director of International Programs. "The freshmen have brought new blood to campus. They're very enthusiastic. They attend and initiate activities, they go on the trips we've organized for them (to Athens, Halkidiki, Meteora, Istanbul) and they've been faithful participants in the volunteer program

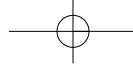
that is a required part of their study-abroad experience. Most work on campus, speaking English with students at the Elementary School, for example, but some have had off-campus experiences as well. We're expecting 60 underprivileged kids on campus this week from the sites in Thessaloniki where some of our freshmen have been working."

They'll fly home (against the wind) after the one semester, but another, even larger group from Northeastern is expected next fall. There is also strong interest from other universities in expanding or initiating study abroad programs with ACT. A large delegation from Georgia State University came to ACT this fall, and representatives from Harvard, Columbia, Southern Connecticut State University, Eastern Illinois State University, and Tel Aviv University have also come calling.

## Anatolia Wins GRNET Approval

On October 1st Anatolia received word of the approval by the Board of GRNET S.A. to become a member of the National Network of Research & Technology. GRNET is the corporation in charge of the high-speed Internet backbone that has been serving the Greek academic and research community since 1995. Through this membership Anatolia will be able to significantly upgrade the Internet services offered to faculty, students and staff in all divisions of the school. The IT department is currently in the process of developing the necessary infrastructure for connecting to the high-speed network, and upgraded services are expected to become available by the end of January, 2009.





# Commencements 2008



The ACT Class of 2008

The ceremonies don't change much; that is part of their beauty. If the Commencement pictures in the Anatolian look somewhat the same each year, remember that the faces of the graduates are altogether different and that each face represents a future shaped by the distinctive character of an Anatolia or ACT education.



The view from the terrace atop Macedonia Hall down on assembled parents and guests as the ceremonies at the High School begin, with the city of Thessaloniki in the distance.

At the High School, Dimitris Keridis '87, Associate Professor of International Relations in the Department of Balkan, Slavic, and Eastern Studies of the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki and Associate Director of the Constantine G. Karamanlis Foundation in Athens, addressed the 249 graduates, including 47 from the I.B, at ceremonies on June 27. Prizes were given for academic, extracurricular, and athletic achievement, and for progress in English.

John and Mary Pappajohn Entrepreneurship Awards went to Lambrini Korobeinikova and Eirini Papadopoulou for their innovative business plans, and the Outstanding Service Award went to class president Albana Fejzo, who received it from the hands of Dr. Peter Bien of Dartmouth College, who had co-sponsored her MBA studies at ACT.

MBA Director Nikos Kourkoumelis with Class President Albana Fejzo



At ACT, Dr. Roy A. Church, President of Lorain County Community College in Ohio, delivered the Commencement address to 55 graduates on June 25. Prizes were awarded for outstanding work in the Humanities, Business Administration, History and International Relations, Greek Studies, Computer Science, and Athletics, and to the Borjan Tanevski Scholars. A Doctorate in Humane Letters was bestowed on Professor Christos Zerefos of the University of Athens, who shared in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, for his work on the Earth's atmosphere. Lastly, this year the Philip and Marjorie Ireland Humanitarian and Public Service Award went to Artemis Zanna '63, President of the Society of Friends of the Agios Dimitrios Children's Hospital, which serves children with mental and physical disabilities.

The Anatolia Elementary School graduated 33 students in June, and their strong performance on the competitive English-language Anatolia Entrance exam in May resulted in all 27 who applied being admitted to Anatolia, a record. The graduation ceremonies centered on the theme of "My Whole Life."

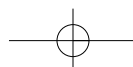
The ACT MBA graduation took place on October 11. Writer Yanis Kakoulidis, Chairman and Managing Director of Upset! Communication Group, addressed the 22 graduates. The

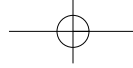


Anatolia Elementary 2008



MBA grad Aulona Driza and friend





# IB Turns Ten, Stock Doubles

Anatolia's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program will be graduating its 10th class this year, and the Program is flourishing: enrollment has more than doubled in the past four years, with a current total of 135 students split evenly between juniors and seniors...

Moreover, IB graduates continue to be admitted to the most prestigious universities and colleges in the U.S. and Great Britain, and it is fair to say that what began as an experiment in 1998 has become an integral part of Anatolia's international educational presence.

For those not in the know, a little background. The IB was begun in 1965 by a group of teachers at schools in Geneva, Switzerland, who wanted to facilitate the in-

and elementary school levels. While particularly popular at international schools, even some American high schools have adopted the program. In 1995 the Greek government decreed the IB diploma equivalent to the Greek *apolytirion*, the standard high school diploma, paving the way for its adoption by Greek schools. Anatolia was the first school in Northern Greece to offer the program, following the lead of several schools in Athens. What is the attraction of the Anatolia IB?

plus. The university acceptances we've enjoyed in recent years have given the program a certain credibility and status. The truth is, it's a challenge even for our best students, but that's also part of its worth."

The IB draws somewhat more than half of its students from Anatolia itself, but it also attracts applicants from other schools and even other countries. Students from Denmark, Russia, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Norway, China, Finland, Sweden, and the U.S. have

enrolled, though most are Greek. With the exception of Greek language and history for Greeks, required by the state, courses are taught in English. One other exception: all students must study their mother tongue as part of their programs, and the IB has arranged tutors as needed. "The IB is a global passport, but it's concerned not to sacrifice national identity – hence the native language requirement," says Filaretos.

In addition to courses drawn from all sectors of the IB hexagon (see above), all IB students must take a course in "Theory of Knowledge," which looks at the episte-



we have great respect for the IB," comments Director of U.S. College Counseling Eva Kanelis. "Acceptance rates for IB graduates at top U.S. colleges are often twice those for non-IB students. Last year alone, Anatolia IB candidates were accepted at Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Williams, Wellesley, Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Bowdoin, Haverford, Wesleyan, Brandeis, Reed, Swarthmore, Bard, Clark, NYU, BU, and Northeastern – among others."

The 22 IB faculty members, several of whom also teach in the Greek side of the school, are undoubtedly one of the program's strengths. All receive special training at IB seminars held periodically in cities in Europe or other nearby countries. This year IB History teacher Lesley Orrell received the Yale Teaching Award, on the basis of nominations made by former students now at Yale, following Economics teacher Anna Petmeza's award last year. IB classes tend toward seminar format, and in science courses the design of lab experiments looms large. Smartboards (Internet-connected electronic white-boards) are also popular with IB teachers, and some teachers have created interactive on-line extensions of their courses.

"It took a while for the IB to establish itself at Anatolia," remarks Filaretos, "but the school was patient while we were developing the program. Now we have grown to the point where we have to expand our facilities. We need new classrooms, offices, and labs. That is one of the goals of the Capital Campaign, if I'm not mistaken." The Director is right: renovations to adjacent Ladas Hall are planned once funding is in place – giving Anatolia donors with global vision another good reason to support the school.



*The IB is a lot of fun...*

international mobility of students by providing schools in different countries with a standardized curriculum and a diploma that would be recognized by universities around the world. But they went further than that, conceiving a course of study for the last two years of high school that would prepare students for engagement in the then-emerging global village. As a recent guide to the IB puts it, "Life in the 21st century, in an interconnected, globalized world, requires critical thinking skills and a sense of international-mindedness, something that IB Diploma Program students learn to know and understand." The founders also designed a program that would be intellectually rigorous, with high standards guaranteed by a system of external exams graded in Geneva.

The IB caught on: 73,000 students are currently studying in the IB Diploma Program worldwide, and several hundred thousand more take an IB curriculum aimed at middle

"First of all it is an alternative to the state-mandated Greek curriculum, which is heavily oriented toward preparation for Greek university entrance exams, with all the memorization and cram-school preparation that implies," begins Theodore Filaretos, who has directed Anatolia's IB since the year 2000 after previously teaching History at Anatolia and serving as Dean of the 1st Gymnasium. "I wish I could say that the draw of the IB was just better education – which I do believe it offers – but a variety of factors are in play. The perception that Greek universities are not top-tier brings us high-caliber students who choose to go abroad, but we also get students who can't make it in the Greek system, for whatever reason. The flexibility and personal attention offered in the IB is another



*...and a lot of hard work.*

mological foundations of knowledge across disciplines, and all do a certain number of hours of CAS work. CAS stands for Creativity, Action, and Service, and comprises everything from involvement in athletics to artistic expression and volunteer work.

Two-thirds of Anatolia IB graduates elect to pursue their educations in Great Britain, but the remaining third go to the States, and the IB has become an important bridge connecting the two countries. "U.S. colleges



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