

The Anatolian

SPRING 2016

Learning Spaces
➤ Page 2

Chip Elfner, new Chairman of Anatolia's Board of Trustees
➤ Page 3

New Synergies at ACT for Tourism and Hospitality
➤ Page 7

Celebrating 130 years of Leadership: Anatolia's Worthy Legacy and Bright Future

From its inception, Anatolia's founders envisioned an institution that would serve as a pioneering force for positive change through education, a vision that has guided the school on its journey through the depths of tragedy and war, to the heights of its students' achievements and acclaim. From hardship to prosperity, Anatolia has served as a bright example of the power of education to change not only individual lives, but entire communities.

The rapid expansion of the school in its first years was a testament to the dedication and diligence of its administrators, who founded the school in 1886 in Merzifon, Turkey (then known as Asia Minor). In addition to providing education for both boys and girls (rare for that epoch), Anatolia College quickly grew to house a hospital, an orphanage, carpentry and printing facilities, a nursing school, and the only school for deaf children in the region. Cross-cultural understanding and appreciation was a way of life for faculty and students, many of whom received scholarships. The school's population comprised 12 nationalities, and the faculty hailed from American, Greek, Armenian, and other backgrounds. In 1924, Anatolia College was relocated to Thessaloniki, Greece, starting its new era.

The original Anatolia Board of Trustees established a precedent of good governance for the institution from the beginning. The principles of stewardship, transparency, prudence, and foresight have made the school a role model for the successful management of an independent organization.

True to the founders' dream, Anatolia College has indeed reached success at all levels. Academically, Anatolia's commitment to excellence stretches from kindergarten to graduate school. Innovative teaching methodologies are employed at all grades, and experiential learning is introduced and emphasized from the earliest years. Programs and initiatives such as the International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Program, the Young Business Creators, the Anatolia College Science and Technology Conference, the English Drama Club, and Service as Action highlight the spectrum of resources and opportunities available to students. Learning Spaces, an innovative approach to Open Classroom design, will be implemented at various sites on campus in order to enable teachers to introduce a new learning paradigm and encourage deeper collaboration among students. The campus's vast library collection – open to the entire Anatolia community – is renowned as a scholarly treasure throughout Southeastern Europe, and a full array of instructional technologies are used across all educa-



tional facilities.

Appreciation for diversity and social complexity is further built upon through the extensive volunteer efforts that students, faculty, staff, and alumni engage in every year. Environmental cleanup and protection actions, book-drives, school-improvement partnerships, and refugee relief efforts are some of the many causes to which the Anatolia community has provided time and effort in just the past year.

Socioeconomic development and commercial activity were also part of the school's original mission, and the entrepreneurial spirit, encouraged through decades of economic

boom and bust cycles, remains alive today through the Entrepreneurship Hub of the Anatolia School of Business at ACT–American College of Thessaloniki - funded by The Hellenic Initiative. Now in its 5th cycle, the Venture Garden has helped initiate more than 260 projects so far. Concurrently, the John and Mary Pappajohn Business Plan competition, organized by ACT, receives increasing numbers of entries

every year, which testifies to the re-awakening of Greece's business mentality.

Anatolia College's selection as a partner for the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Greece program is one of the best indications of the school's continuing fulfillment of the founders' legacy. Now in its 3rd year of implementation, the CTY Greece program targets academically gifted children from Greece and the Balkans. The program received its founding donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, whose long-time association with Anatolia College reached a new level in this joint activity.

The school's founders set out from American shores with a mission to build a bridge of understanding between two cultures. That bridge

Continued on page 3

Anatolia recognizes its Benefactors

Anatolia's benefactors play a crucial role in our organization's ability to survive and thrive. They are individuals, groups, and foundations who understand the value that Anatolia College offers to the community and the leading role it plays as an educational institution. This year Anatolia College honors with the Carl C. Compton Award the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation and (posthumously) Dimitris Zannas, whose contributions and generous support have made a significant difference to the College.

Interview with Dr. Peter Kalantzis, President of the Executive Board of the Latsis Foundation

How does the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation view Anatolia and its role in Greek society?

Anatolia College is one of the best primary and secondary education institutions in Greece, and it remains on the forefront of educational innovation with initiatives such as the Center for Talented Youth in Greece that was established two years ago in collaboration

with Johns Hopkins University. Additionally, the fact that out of all the private schools in Greece, Anatolia's scholarship program is the largest and most comprehensive solidifies its position as a beacon for equal opportunities and access to high quality education.



How does the Foundation view its support of Anatolia's educational mission in the context of a country in crisis mode for the last 8 years?

In a country in which brain drain, budget cuts, dropout rates, and at risk youth are becoming commonplace, institutions like Ana-

Continued on page 4

Anatolia College Institutional News

Boston Office News Honoring Nicholas Burns



(from left) President of Anatolia College, Dr. Panos Vlachos, philanthropist George Bechrakis, Former US Ambassador to Greece Hon. R. Nicholas Burns, Trustee George Bissell.

Center for Talented Youth Greece at Anatolia College



Now in its third year of operation, CTY Greece at Anatolia College has made great steps to expand the reach and breadth of its program.

The strategic synergy with Johns Hopkins University that began in 2013 with a founding donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has produced real results in a short time, which were presented at this year's European Council for High Ability Conference in Vienna, Austria. This year, with the generous support of Lidl Cyprus, CTY has now expanded into Cyprus, where examinations were given for the first time in February. Announcing a €40,000

scholarship grant, Lidl Cyprus will make this life-changing experience possible for Cypriot students.

Since the program's inception in Greece, significant additional sponsorships and support have come from Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Lidl Hellas, Aegean Airlines, the Ioannis S. Latis Philanthropic Foundation, and the Hellenic Hope Foundation.

More than 3000 exceptionally talented elementary, junior high, and high school students from all over Greece have taken the CTY entrance examinations so far. 2015's two CTY Summer programs hosted 183 students, more than double the number of 2014 attendees. More than half of these youth received scholarships. The Summer Day program's basic curriculum offers innovative and engaging study and research in math, science, engineering, biology, and creative writing for 5th and 6th graders. This year, the program will run simultaneously in Athens.

The Residential Program offers advanced, university-level courses on topics such as cryptography, philosophy, biomedical science, microeconomics, engineering and genetics.

The Issue of Megacities Explored in Athens



(from left) The Hon. Yiannis Boutaris and Hon. Giorgos Kaminis discuss the challenges of Megacities in February.

Anatolia Benefactor and Trustee George Bissell hosted a warm gathering of Trustees and Friends of the college at the Harvard Club in November, with special guest Former US Ambassador to Greece Hon. R. Nicholas Burns. The evening's highlight came with the announcement of a Senior Scholarship Award, presented to the top ACT student in International Relations. Donated by George Bissell in Burn's honor as recognition of his great service to, and support of Greece, the award will cover the tuition costs for the student's final year of study. Burns, now a Professor of Diplomacy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, was so touched by the gesture that he has offered his experience as a mentor to the student.

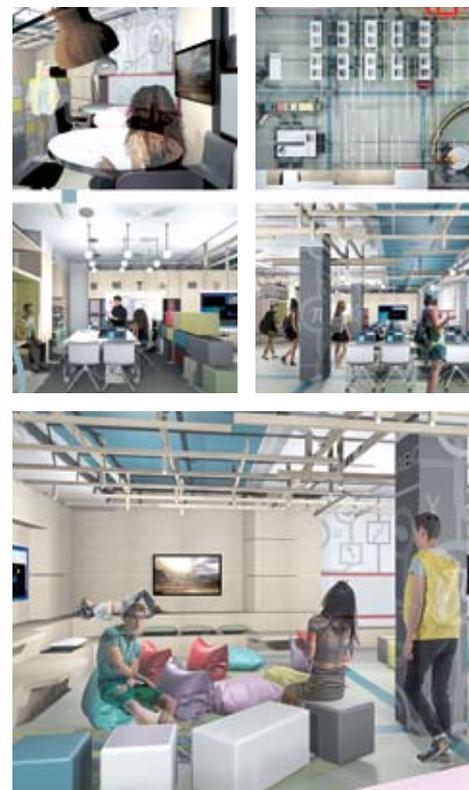
The challenges raised by increased urbanization and the rise of Megacities across the globe formed the central theme of February's major event in Athens. Organized by the Athens Anatolia Alumni Association, the evening featured a pointed and lengthy discussion by the mayors of Athens and Thessaloniki, Giorgos Kaminis and Yiannis Boutaris. With global urban populations expected to rise from 54% to 66% by the year 2050, cities face a multitude of social, political, economic, and environmental challenges. Stressing the need for cooperation, Mayor Kaminis said, "Megacities need structural forms to encourage networking and knowledge-sharing in order to maximize our problem-solving capabilities and become resilient in the face of crises". Thessaloniki's mayor, Yiannis Boutaris, echoed the sentiments and added, "the challenge for European cities and urban areas going forward is to find ways to cooperate rather than compete" for resources and solutions. The evening ended with a lively exchange of questions and answers from the standing-room only audience at the Benaki Museum.

Learning Spaces

Anatolia College's commitment to innovative learning paradigms will extend into the physical realm of the high school with the proposed addition of new learning spaces that promote creative thinking, cooperation, and collaborative learning among students and teachers:

- a multi-disciplinary, collaborative exchange zone, ideal for group work and discussion;
- a fabrication laboratory (Fab Lab), part of an MIT-sponsored global network of applied STEM learning environments; and
- a green chemistry lab, specially designed for environmental "problem solving."

Basic development funds have been secured from the US-AID program, as well as the Trustees of Anatolia College and other independent donors. Additional funds will be raised through this year's upcoming capital campaign.



New Scholarships for the 2016-17 Academic Year

Responding to the increased economic difficulty faced by many families today, Anatolia has increased its efforts to offer scholarships to deserving students starting from the 1st grade of Gymnasio.

Almost 20% of the current student body at Anatolia High School and IB receive some form of assistance through scholarships that cover from 25%-100% of the educational costs. The scholarship program has helped more than 1000 students attend the school, putting a high-quality education within reach of academically-superior youth whose circumstances prohibit them from paying the full tuition cost.

Scholarships are awarded based upon strict criteria, including a written examination and personal interview. Scholarship funds come from the donations, trusts, and bequests of private individuals and institutions that recognize the impact and value that an Anatolia education can have for both the student and the larger community.

The Anatolian

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Anatolia's Board of Trustees gets a new Chairman!

Interview with Chip Elfner

As an American, why did you originally choose to become involved with the Anatolia Board? What has kept you involved for so many years?

George Bissell originally recruited me to help Anatolia with investment and ministerial duties. He told me how rewarding it had been for him to work with the College, and suggested I get more involved on the trustee level. Over the years it has certainly lived up to my expectations, and now I share this with newer trustees to encourage them to come aboard.

Serving on several search committees has been a great learning experience and has taught me the importance of the oversight function that is the Board's mission. Each time we needed to replace a president we had to re-examine the institution and its needs. When the time came to appoint Dr. Panos Vlachos, it was very clear that he was the right choice for the school and its future needs, and his actions and decisions have certainly confirmed that conviction.

Are there any particular initiatives that the Board has implemented that you feel have had a lasting impact?

As a Board of Trustees we have spent considerable time developing a strong and comprehensive governance process, strengthened the committee systems, diversified the board to be younger and more engaged, and actively sought out newer members with specific

professional and leadership qualities that can serve the institution going forward. This governance process helps to clarify the board's role and limitations, as an oversight rather than a managerial body for the school. It is also one of the major factors that sets Anatolia apart as an institution and example for others to emulate. My colleague Serge Hadji-Mihaloglou's book used Anatolia as a case study in process.

You recently assumed the position of chairman - what are your goals for Anatolia going forward?

In addition to continuing the work with governance issues, I would put a priority on implementing the divisional goals we have set out in our strategic plan. This document is available to the public, and is a great mechanism to show our commitment to the school's mission and principles. Right now, Anatolia College is in the strongest shape in memory, an ironic contrast with the state of things in Greece. People have rallied to strengthen the school in the face of such challenging times, and this is an acknowledgement of the quality of education we provide. Our strategic plan emphasizes measures to achieve excellence at all levels of the school, and the board must do all it can to push these forward. We have a responsibility to help Anatolia College remain the premier educational institution in Greece, and initiatives like the CTY program enhance this "beacon of excellence" for the entire coun-



try. In order to execute these goals we need to reinforce all efforts toward improvement in the school: instructional innovation, more financial aid, support for co-curricular programs, and continued investment in the physical campus to name a few.

As chairman, one role I hope to play is to help Anatolia College develop and execute an ambitious capital campaign over the next 5-8 years, to attract major gifts in support of these strategic goals.

How can Anatolia capitalize upon its unique connection with the USA? What benefits has this "bridge" brought to both countries?

Cultural awareness between the two countries has definitely increased, and both have benefited from exchange in educational initiatives and innovation, professional development, and language and teaching methodologies. Anatolia presents a unique synthesis where the joint American & Greek values – freedom, independence, democracy – are taught and lived-out on a daily basis.

What do you feel are the greatest needs of Anatolia – institutionally and otherwise – and how can these be addressed?

One big challenge is to more fully engage our alumni body in both the US and Greece. The college's alumni - old and young - really are the stakeholders of Anatolia, and what becomes of the school is ultimately up to them. We need to reinforce the message that the quality of education which they received can only be passed on to future generations with active support.

Institutionally, one strategic goal is to continuously push for more innovative classroom techniques and methodologies that can support our ability to operate at international standards of excellence, along with reinforcing the programs – like Center for Talented Youth – that currently serve this standard.

**Celebrating 130 years of Leadership:
Anatolia's Worthy Legacy and Bright Future**
continued from page 1

remains today, and Anatolia serves as a conduit for countless Greek and American students and alumni to share the best that both countries have to offer. The continuing success of our students, who excel in academic expectations each year and receive scholarships and admission to some of the best colleges and universities in the United States, is proof of their motivation to achieve excellence. This trend is enhanced by the new 2+2 joint-degree programs with American Universities that allow qualified Greek and Balkan students from ACT to complete their studies in the U.S., or American students to finish here in Greece. The annual number of American study abroad students at ACT has more than doubled in the last three years, reaching over 500 students annually. Many of the American study abroad students choose to return to Anatolia after graduation to serve the college as Anatolia Fellows, further expanding their professional and cultural horizons.

Reflecting upon 130 years, it is clear that the combined pillars of leadership and stewardship are critical factors in Anatolia's continued success; the school serves as a true leader in the local, regional, and global communities, and the administration works to enhance and enrich the school's current status to continue building for the future. With a rich history and strong base, Anatolia is well positioned to steer a steady course through the current challenges of today's world.

Social Responsibility Initiatives Bring Aid to the Refugees



The unfolding crisis of migration into Europe has placed an enormous burden on Greece, where more than 1 million refugees and displaced persons have arrived by sea since late 2014. This year Anatolians lent their hands and feet to the relief efforts, with more than 400 people participating in a race across the campus that raised €3,000 for Doctors Without Borders to provide pharmaceutical supplies to the refugee camps.

The college also made a direct donation of two folding stretchers and medical supplies to the medical team operating at Kallonis Harbor on the Island of Lesbos.

Study Abroad students from ACT helped out with the organizing efforts for volunteer actions in the Idomeni border area, while elementary and high school students collected clothing and blankets for distribution there.

The Annual Christmas Charity Drive, along with



the Anatolia Alumni Association, collected non-perishable food and hygiene products, as well as art supplies, with a major donation coming from Lidl Hellas. An additional charity drive was held in March to meet the needs of babies and young children, who are among the hardest-hit members of this growing population. Under the auspices of our Service as Action program, Anatolia Gymnasio students produced and packaged healing skincare creams to help relieve the injuries caused by long term walking.

• Additional Efforts for Local Needs

The proceeds from this year's Christmas Bazaar – €10,000 – were divided between various local charities identified by the NGO Desmos and the Anatolia Scholarship Fund. Our college continued its support of young readers through the donation of books to libraries in rural areas of

Evros, in eastern Greece.

The Service as Action initiative, which takes place in the Middle Years Program, was a huge success this year. Our Gymnasio students paired up with special-needs youth from the ELEPAP organization to make art and objects with the pottery club. Later in the year, Anatolians visited the SOS Children's Home in Plagiari, Thessaloniki and mounted an informational campaign about their needs. They also held a fundraising sale of Easter crafts to raise money for the orphanage.

Anatolia Community supports the School

Anatolia was the beneficiary again this year of help from our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Our 8th-grade students raised funds for the purchase of a new incubator for the biology laboratory. In early April, Anatolians of all ages took part in the 11th Annual Alexander the Great Marathon and 5K run, donating proceeds from each runner toward the school's Scholarship Fund.



Anatolia College Institutional News

Anatolia recognizes its Benefactors

continued from page 1

tolia act like a force field against despondency, disillusionment, and dejection. On an annual basis, we support students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds to receive high quality educations, to acquire top prospects for entering a distinguished university, and to become the future decision-makers of Greece.

What goals do our institutions share and how do these motivate you to provide financial support to Anatolia College?

Our grant-making strategy in the education strand breaks down into two fundamental objectives: first, provision of access to education and, second, consistent improvement of the quality of education available. The foundation's support for the Anatolia College student scholarships fund addresses the first objective, allowing exceptionally gifted students who would not otherwise be able to afford tuition at Anatolia to do so. Concerning the second objective, our more recent grant has supported the newly established Center for Talented Youth at Anatolia, providing deserving students with creative

learning opportunities beyond the limits of the regular educational system.

How has the crisis impacted the Foundation and its goals?

When the social and economic effects of the recession started, the Foundation recalibrated its funding agenda so as to provide more support for the more vulnerable and marginalized individuals in Greece. However, we believe that real systemic change is best brought about when a broad range of issue areas are funded while civil society, state, and private institutions, work together. Therefore we seek to support both the most capable, inventive minds of the current generations and to offer assistance to the most marginalized. Today, we remain steadfastly committed to fostering change and diversity, as well as promoting innovation and collaboration – a mission that is only made possible by our inspiring grantees, whom we are extremely proud to call partners on this challenging journey.

Dimitris Zannas (1920 – 2013)

Dimitris Zannas – philanthropist, activist, visionary, and patriot – was born in 1920 in Thessaloniki, where he grew up and later graduated from law school. His lifetime of service to the community,



Dimitris Zannas from the Trustees Meeting on October 28, 1977 with Everett Stephens, Stavros Constantinides, and James Warren.

which was recognized by ACT in 1995 with the inaugural Humanitarian and Public Service Award, was demonstrated by his commitment to human rights and dignity, as well as by a deep love for his country and fellow citizens. Remembering their longtime friend and colleague, Anatolia's board members describe a man of impeccable character and humanism, who was devoted to his country and its ideals and determined to give back to the community he hailed from. His patriotism was expressed in many ways throughout the course of his life, and his visionary approach to philanthropy has had a lasting impact on the people and institutions of Northern Greece.

During the war years, the Zannas family was passionately involved with the movement for independence, and Mr. Zannas later was instrumental in founding the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle, serving as President of its board for years. He was active in leadership roles with the YMCA (XANΘ), the Red Cross, the School for the Blind, and the American Farm School, where he was also a trustee. One of his most notable and revealing acts occurred early in his life, when his quick thinking persuaded the young Marika Florentin (who later worked for years as the Anatolia Girls' Division Registrar) to leave a Nazi line-up in their neighborhood in central Thessaloniki, saving her from being taken to the concentration camps. Dimitri Zannas was later honored by the Israeli government and named by Yad Vashem (the World Holocaust Remembrance Center) as one of the Righteous Among Nations.

In 1955, his involvement with Anatolia's Advisory Committee began; he became an Anatolia Trustee in 1977 and served until the later years of his life. A successful lawyer who spoke four languages, he represented some of the largest foreign corporations in Thessaloniki, and he maintained professional and personal ties with the US.

William McGrew's book for Anatolia College at the 50th Thessaloniki's Dimitria Festival

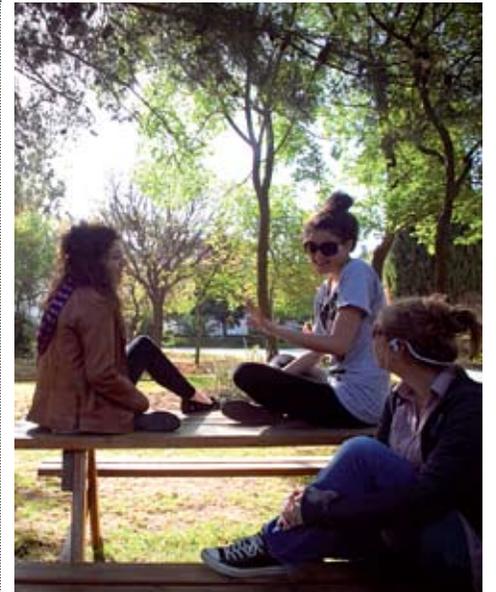


William McGrew

Anatolia's former President William McGrew presented his new book *Educating Across Cultures: Anatolia College in Turkey and Greece*, to a packed auditorium. McGrew's beautifully written book, which took almost a decade of research and writing, is a work of great scholarly and literary merit. Detailing the many changes, setbacks, and triumphs that took place at Anatolia over nearly 13

decades *Educating Across Cultures* is a fascinating inquiry into the development of an institution seen through the lenses of history, politics, and geography.

The event was co-organized by the Anatolia Alumni Association under the auspices of Thessaloniki's annual cultural festival Dimitria, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this past year.



2nd Summer Music Performance Program

World-famous talents from the classical music sphere served as instructors for the first Summer Music Performance program, organized by Anatolia College in cooperation with Georgia State University, U.S., and the Macedonian Music company.

Soloists of international renown came to Thessaloniki for two weeks in July to teach and work with students of classical music from countries ranging from Greece to the USA, Lithuania, Belgium, and more.

The highlight of the program was a solo from student Emilia Gasparian. The thirteen-year old violinist's performance won her a place in one of the concerts of the Thessaloniki Orchestra for the 2015-2016 season. The program will be repeated again this summer.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Green Savings @ Anatolia

Anatolia's concentrated environmental efforts across the campus have resulted in economic savings and a significant reduction in energy consumption. With the help of a USAID grant, physical changes (electrical and insulation) in three areas of our campus have reduced the use of heating oil by an amazing 70% and electricity by 52% over the last two years.

Informational campaigns and actions have educated our community about reusable alternatives to common packaging. Recycling bins, which collected more than 25 tons of paper, plastic, and aluminum are found all around the campus grounds and throughout the administrative offices.



STEM pushes science and technology education to new heights

For Anatolia's STEM program, the 2015-2016 school year began in the best way possible. Team RESET, national champions in the international F1 in Schools competition, had the honor of representing Greece in the international finals. Out of 48 teams from 31 countries, Anatolia College team took 11th place overall and 3rd place in the knock-out round, the best performance ever from Greece.

The Anatolian STEM program has been expanding quickly in size and breadth, with our students embracing challenges both locally and on the international level. At home, our students from the Go Green Club helped to research and test the program elements for the upcoming Center for Green Education, and the results were presented to great acclaim at the National Science Teacher Association meeting in Philadelphia in November. Anatolia students' video entry for the Kahn Academy's international competition Breakthrough Junior Challenge received excellent marks in a field of tough competition from more than 7,500 submissions.



Anatolia given the International School Award

The British Council has chosen Anatolia for the prestigious International School Award in recognition of the school's efforts to foster international awareness and involvement, and to prepare students for roles as truly global citizens. The Anatolia community – students, faculty, parents and alumni – take active interest in global affairs and cultures, which is demonstrated in classrooms, through extracurricular field trips, and in clubs, as well as in outreach to other schools and joint programs.

ACSTAC 2016 Math and Science for the 21st Century

The fifth Anatolia College Science and Technology Annual Conference brought outstanding speakers and students together for a glimpse into the latest innovative developments in technology, science, and math. More than 1,300 students from Greece, the United States, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Bahamas gathered for the annual weekend event. Turing Prize winner Prof. Josef Sifakis gave the keynote address, speaking about the revolutionary new developments foreseen with the Internet of Things. Additional speakers included Prof. Robert C. Johnson of St. Cloud University, Dr. Apostolos Papadopoulos of MIT, and a special appearance of InMoov, the 3-D printed, life-size humanoid robot created with open-source code by 15-year old Kavala student Dimitris Hatzis. Within the conference, ACSTAC also hosted the 5th annual National Math and Logic competition, held simultaneously at the NOESIS science center. ACSTAC is supported with the generous help of Anatolia benefactors Dan & Helen Lindsay, in memory of Hrisi Pappidou-Electris and Pavlos Electris.

(from left) Dr. Haido Samara, ACSTAC coordinator, Prof. Josef Sifakis, Dr. Panos Vlachos, President of Anatolia College.



Drama News

A Midsummer Night's Disco, Alice in Wonderland, and The Arsonists

Anatolia's 2015-2016 theatrical season was full of laughter, dance, and tragi-comic irony when our drama clubs took to the stage. In March, Anatolia's Rafael Hall rocked to the sounds of Abba and Donna Summer when the English Drama club staged a rousing remake of Shakespeare's famous *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Also in March, the Anatolia theater department staged Max Frisch's *The Arsonists* an exploration of the complicated conditions of life under fascism. Finally, *Alice in Wonderland* from the Junior Drama Club featured Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, the Mad Hatter, and an always-grinning Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's beloved story of Alice and her fantasy wonderland.



A Midsummer Night's Disco

Panhellenic and Entrance exams in Greece and abroad

With a success rate that nearly hit 100%, Anatolia seniors had a record year for college acceptances both at home and abroad. Overall, our students performed extremely well on the nationwide Panhellenic exams, with a total of 151 gaining places in Greek universities (93%) and technical colleges (7%). More than 19% of them had scores of 18 or higher, in comparison with the national average of less than 6%.

For our seniors who look abroad to college, the application success rate hit 94%, and included such distinguished U.S. schools as UC Berkeley, Bard College, Bates College, Boston University, Brandeis, Brown University, Bryn Mawr, Northeastern University, Northwestern University, Pomona College, Oberlin, Mount Holyoke, Davidson College, Smith College, Skidmore, Stevens Institute of Technology, SUNY Plattsburg, Trinity College, U Mass Amherst, Wellesley College and Yale College. In the UK, top schools such as Imperial College, London, UCL, St. Andrews, Warwick University, Bath University, King's College London, Edinburgh University, and City University welcomed Anatolians into their ranks.

Elementary School News



Anatolia Elementary gets its own Library!

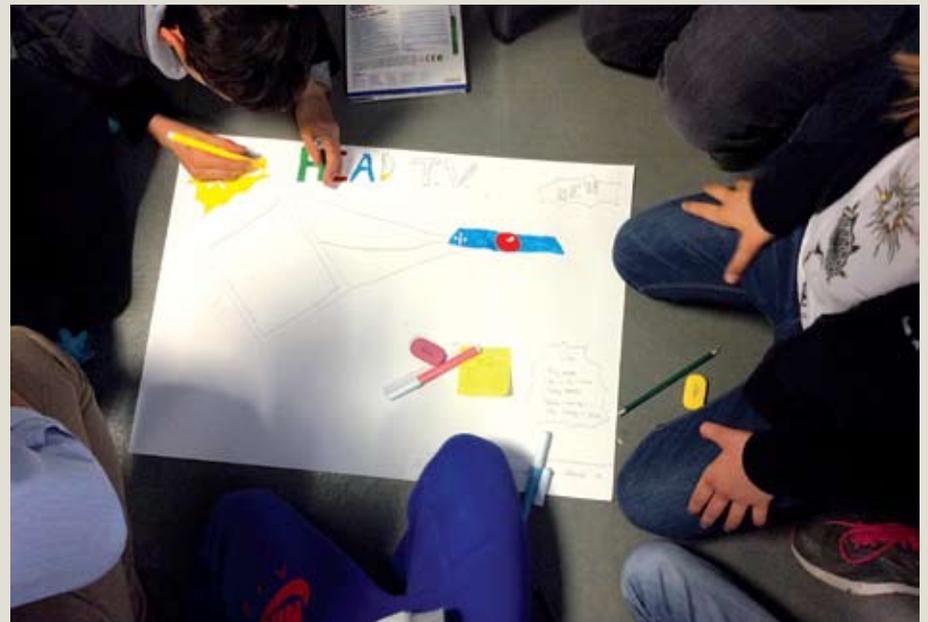
For years, our elementary students have looked forward to their monthly visits to the vast resources of the Eleftheriades Library on the high school campus. Now, they finally have their own place for books, as the new library at Anatolia Elementary School opened its doors in October. With a whole new world of books, media, and instructional aids in both English and Greek, the beautiful new space marks a special corner of the school, dedicated to inspiring a love of read-

ing and language from the very first years of the students' educational development. In addition to borrowing books, students will be able to enjoy presentations and events featuring local authors. Teachers can enrich their classroom activities with stories and reference books and by showing the students the basics of research using printed materials. The Library was funded in part by a generous donation from Nadia Saiti and Nikolas Tzimourtos.



Elementary Drama Club: Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

Anatolia Elementary English Drama Club presented *Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tinman and Cowardly Lion, as they searched – and found! – the Wizard of Oz*. Pappas Hall was filled with the Anatolia community to see our elementary thespians wind their way down the famous Yellow Brick Road, battling the wicked witch, and finally getting everything their hearts desired!



Young Business Creators: Making Business Fun

Combining creative thinking, problem-solving, and basic business principles, Anatolia Elementary 5th and 6th graders took part in the first pilot workshop of the Young Business Creators program. Organized by ACTs Entrepreneurship Hub, the program is an initiative from the Jacobson Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship at the University of Iowa. Through gamification, teamwork, and group exercises, the students learned to use a multi-faceted approach to understanding problems and needs and discovered novel and profitable solutions. The day ended with final team presentations, during which students were given thoughtful and encouraging feedback from the instructors. The full program will be repeated in a 2-day summer event in June.



Let the Light in - and the learning begin! Anatolia kindergartners celebrate their beautiful and spacious new premises with a rousing cheer of approval and smiles all around. The realization of Anatolia Kindergarten's expanded and renovated facilities was made possible through the generosity of the Major Benefactors: The Trustees of Anatolia College, Athanasios & Dimitra Berberidis, and Donors: Mabiz S.A., The Alex & Faye Spanos Family Trust, Dimitris Gortzis, Edward Castro '64, Themis Chatzigiannopoulos '02.

STEM in Elementary

This year, a STEM pilot program began for our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students. Fully outfitted with lab coats and equipment, Anatolia Elementary students signed the scientific code of conduct and began to investigate. Using a hands-on approach, they were introduced to the basic mechanisms of scientific method and research principles, including observation, analysis, and evaluation of evidence gained from the world around them. These same methods

(simplified for age-appropriateness) have been applied with our kindergartners for the past four years, with great results. Anatolia's STEM approach fosters creative and analytical thinking in our youngest students about the natural sciences – ecology, biology, chemistry and physics. By encouraging their native curiosity and pushing them toward new ways of problem-solving, teachers help these students gain skills that can help their education for years to come.



Study Abroad students are right - ACT is the place to be!

This year again, more than 400 American study abroad students came to ACT. Despite the press reports of crisis in Greece, ACT has earned a reputation as one of the most attractive study abroad programs in Southeastern Europe.

The students came from all over the United States, including Brown University, Rutgers University, the University of Illinois, the University of Mississippi, and more. Since 1997, when

ACT began accepting study abroad students, the campus has hosted more than 3,000, with numbers more than doubling over the last seven years.

In addition to classwork and a rich social life, visiting students are exposed to the beauty and challenge of modern Greek life. Many of them are touched by the experience in unexpected ways, and it is not uncommon for them to return later in life to revisit their temporary home in Europe. Many of them also leave behind a lasting impact, as it is estimated that they bring more than \$7 million to the local economy. More importantly, these study abroad students also perform thousands of hours of community service work at more than 42 locations around Thessaloniki. Volunteering at soup kitchens, hospitals, care facilities, and schools gives them a richer and more valuable experience than what they may have imagined from the start!

Dukakis Center News



(From left) Dr. David Wisner, Executive Director of the Dukakis Center, Jean Quatremer, Filios Stangos.

The Dukakis Center has opened new doors and forged new partnerships over the last year, extending its outreach throughout Europe to strengthen the identity that was mapped out for the Center in 2014.

In addition to attending conferences at leading institutions in Paris and Brussels, the Dukakis Center participated in and organized a multitude of events here in Thessaloniki. The Center has brought International Relations into the spotlight consistently over the past year, from moderating panel discussions on the lasting impact of the Armenian Genocide, to an inter-

national conference on "Civic Engagement and the Practices of Democracy," to another Dukakis lecture on Greek-Turkish relations with Kostas Ifantis of Panteion and Kadir Has Universities.

One of the year's highlights was the appearance of well-known French journalist Jean Quatremer. Expressing his concern about the curtailment of human rights, Quatremer addressed the recent events throughout Europe and the Middle East that have given rise to a seemingly unsolvable crisis of refugees and displaced persons. Filios Stangos, former commentator for Greek ERT broadcasting in Brussels, joined Quatremer in the discussion, and both fielded extensive questions and comments from the audience following the talk. The event was co-organized with the French Institute, the French Consul General, and the Journalists Union of Macedonia-Thrace.

Looking at 2015-2016, we can see clearly that the Center continues in its mission to inspire young people to take an active role in the public life of their country, through innovative learning platforms, the use of social media, internships, and events that foster substantive dialogue and participatory response to current issues.

Entrepreneurship Hub gives people a head start in business



Vassilis Papakonstantinou, Chairman of MITEF Greece, Yiannis Boutaris, Mayor of Thessaloniki, Marina Xatso-poulos, Angel Investor & Entrepreneur, and Dr. Dimitris Kontarinis, Director of Entrepreneurship Hub at ACT.

The last year has seen real growth in the activities coming from the Entrepreneurship Hub at the Anatolia School of Business. Increased participation in the existing programs including the Venture Garden and the John and Mary Pappajohn Business Plan Competition, as well as parallel events such as seminars, speeches, and visitors, points to continuing success. The Venture Garden completed its 3rd and 4th rounds of business training seminars, and is well into the 5th round. Three of the gradu-

ate teams were selected as finalists in the MITEF Greece startup competition and have qualified for mentoring from MITEF experts. The John and Mary Pappajohn Business Plan Competition has even more entries this year, bringing the total number of ideas submitted so far to 269. In addition to these two core programs, the Entrepreneurship Hub has introduced two new initiatives that will strengthen its activities and extend its scope further into the community. The Greenhouse, an idea-development and business-tutorial workshop that provided encouragement and instruction on entrepreneurial ventures, held its first workshop in Kavala, with 52 applicants and 23 attendees taking part.

Proving that people of any age can have a "mind for business" the new Young Business Creators program initiates elementary-age children into the world of entrepreneurship with a combination of teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking skills. ACT and Venture Garden Business faculty guided the children through the steps of a business model canvas and encouraged their full participation throughout the day-long workshop. Perhaps the next "Unicorn" will come from a 6th-grader!

New Synergies at ACT for Tourism and Hospitality



Tourism has long been a staple of the Greek economy. ACT has instigated new initiatives with the Hotel Institute of Montreux, Switzerland, Cesar Ritz Colleges in Switzerland (members of Swiss Education Group) and St. Thomas University in Miami, opening a new door to professional tourism education in cooperation with international academic institutions and industry professionals.

Students now have the option to begin

their studies at ACT and then finalize their degrees at some of the top institutions in the field of hospitality. All these programs are fully accredited and include lengthy internships at prestigious hotels or professional sites in Greece and abroad. In addition, the Anatolia School of Business at ACT will now offer an MS in Hospitality and Tourism for students who wish to pursue postgraduate studies in the field.

Digital DIY on the edge of new frontiers

The coming revolution in Do-It-Yourself made possible by advancing digital technologies forms the subject of a new European H2020 project. "Digital DIY" (www.didiy.eu) brings together 7 European institutions, from design to business to research for 30 months with an overall budget of 2,1mil€. ACT's own Dr. Vincent Mueller, who spearheaded the project, and Dr. Alexandre Erlar will contribute their research concerning some of the ethical issues resulting from this technologically-powered advancement, such as gun control (handguns & drones), human organ printing, synthetic biology and bio-hacking, employment and customization, as well as education.

Alumni Spotlight

Interview with Alex Vratskides '89

Alumnus Alex Vratskidis '89 is one of Greece's most respected entrepreneurs. He was a founder and CEO for the marketing technology company *Upstream* for more than twelve years. In 2012 he left to found his current company, *Persado*, which is emerging as a leader in *Marketing Persuasion Technology*. He lives in New York, USA.



How did Anatolia prepare you for studies at Columbia University? Was the transition from Greek to American student life difficult?

I didn't have much trouble adjusting to life in the US. My father encouraged me from the beginning to aim for a top school, so when I was accepted at Columbia, I felt that I could go the distance. Anatolia gave me access to information about many colleges and how college life might be. And of course having a peer group that was also going to the States for college made a big difference. The strong

mathematics curriculum gave me an edge in my studies, but ironically I had to re-learn some of the basic terminology, using the English words rather than Greek!

Is there a particular lesson or memory from Anatolia that remains strong?

The years at Anatolia were some of the best years of my life, and my best friends today are those from our group in high school. The teachers were demanding and difficult sometimes, but for a good cause! Also the physical environment, and the athletics, stand out as great memories as I look back.

Entrepreneurship is growing quickly in Greece right now, with many young people considering the option of starting their own company. What advice do you have for them?

As tech entrepreneurs there are two paths, one starting in Greece, and the other one that probably begins elsewhere. To start a consumer or gaming tech business (for instance), Greece (or another small country) can be a fine place to launch, provided you have the right team and the right product. But for someone who wishes to make an Enterprise product, that is a tool or system that is targeted at large businesses, you need exposure and experience in modern business methods, project management, and sales in order to succeed. Greece, unfortunately,

doesn't have the environment to support this type of business. There are so few resources for entrepreneurs to call upon that it puts you at a disadvantage from the beginning.

What would you say to Anatolia's students regarding their study and career options?

I would say the most important thing that young Greeks can do today is to take advantage of whatever opportunities they find, to get out of their comfort zone, and explore those things or subjects that inspire them. Do what you love, or excel at, not what is expected of you. Studying in the States (or any foreign country) will open not only your horizons but also your chances to gain valuable experience in the working world. This is an unfortunate time for Greece; hopefully within the next decade things will improve, but in the meantime young people have to grab at opportunities wherever they can. You can study Fine Art, for instance, and still get a job as a programmer – it's all about building skills and rising to challenges. One you have some years of experience and knowledge about how the professional world works, you can build anything.

College Counseling Office: Summer activities are one key to future success

The past academic year has been a busy one for the U.S. College Counseling Office. Between 2000 - 2015, up to 31% of the IB graduates and a small number of Lyceum graduates chose to attend some of the finest colleges and universities in the U.S. Most



Narek Alexanian '15

“Anatolia pushed me to understand and use my strengths in dynamic ways. The teachers, the counselors, and the extra activities all help us to explore and develop our personalities to their fullest potential. It's an experience you won't find at any other school”



Markos Markakis

“Leaving the excellent quality of academics aside, Anatolia's treatment of extra-curricular activities was crucial to my success. (That) helped me define my interests and goals and hone skills such as teamwork and perseverance”

to, well before high school graduation. During the summer of 2015, over 90 students from our school were accepted to programs ranging from 2-6 weeks long, 36 of them on scholarships.

Research-based and hands-on activities, which range from taking blood samples from

experience – internships and college-level coursework – to determine financial aid awards.

A U.S. college summer experience is something that an Anatolia student can aspire

crocodiles to building robots and tracking the stars through power microscopes, are the kind of experiences our students – and prospective colleges – are looking for.

Anatolia aspires to help all our students grow through accomplishment and experience, to build their resumes and to gain pre-professional skills, by offering mentorships and service learning projects. Last summer, 18 students volunteered at a private clinic, shadowing doctors and becoming familiar with the daily routine of the patients. Another



Ioanna Mantzouridou

“At Oberlin College's Summer program, I learned how to cooperate with people from all around the world for a common goal. But most importantly the whole journey made me a more independent and self-aware person”



Georgia Koutsoura

“The Summer Programs helped me a lot with public speaking skills and strengthened my verbal ability. These programs are an amazing opportunity that Anatolia students should definitely take! There is no more productive and exciting way to spend your summer”

er 14 students volunteered at the City-run tourist information booths, using their foreign-language skills and knowledge of their town to answer questions and help visitors. Many students chose to continue their volunteer work throughout the year at one of the two dozen NGO's which partner on a steady basis with Anatolia College, benefiting both our students and our community.