Anatolia College/ American College of Thessaloniki
Announces Cabinet Appointments

July 1, 2010

Hans C. Giesecke, Ph.D., President

Hans Giesecke was appointed the 10th President of Anatolia College in August 2009. In this capacity, he serves as the lead administrator of Anatolia’s three educational divisions: Anatolia Elementary School, Anatolia High School (including the International Baccalaureate Program), and the American College of Thessaloniki (including the Master of Business Administration Program). These three divisions form an educational community of nearly 2,400 students from Kindergarten through M.B.A. along with 245 faculty and 130 administrative staff members situated on the beautiful hillside campus above the city of Thessaloniki, Greece’s second largest city.

Prior to his appointment as President of Anatolia, Giesecke served in a number of higher education leadership roles in both Europe and North America. He has a long-standing interest in the democratic reform movements that swept across Eastern and Central Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was this background that motivated him to write his Ph.D. dissertation at Vanderbilt University on the topic “The Rise of Private Higher Education in East Central Europe.” He has also served as a frequent guest speaker and consultant at conferences, symposia, and institutions in Europe and North America. Giesecke’s M.A. is from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his B.A. is from Williams College. He is married and has three children. His wife Susan serves as an adjunct faculty member at ACT teaching the “Organizational Behavior” course in the Business Division.

Georgios Lisaridis, Vice President for Secondary Education

Georgios Lisaridis is a native of Thessaloniki and has taught mathematics at Anatolia since 1985. He assumed his current position as Vice President for Secondary Education in September 2007. In addition to his teaching and administration at Anatolia College, he has been appointed to the positions of Secretary General of the Ministry of Macedonia and Thrace (October 1997-March 2004), President of the Mount Athos Heritage Preservation Center (1997-2004), President of the European Center for Communication, Information and Culture (1999-2004), Secretary General of Sports (a division of the Ministry of Culture) (1996), President of the Macedonia Association of Soccer Unions (1984-1993), Member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Soccer Federation (1994-1997, 2000-2004) and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Olympic Committee (1997-2004). He is married with two children, both of whom are graduates of Anatolia and the Faculty of Engineering of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
Panos Vlachos, Ph.D.  Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs/ACT

Panos Vlachos has served in a variety of administrative leadership positions at ACT over the last 15 years, such as Chair of the Division of Technology and Science, Director of the S. Niarchofs Technology Center, Assistant Dean of Faculty, and Dean of Faculty. He is responsible for the advancement of the mission of the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT), and the continuous improvement of the quality of the academic experience.

Vlachos oversees and coordinates all aspects of ACT's operations including academic and administrative departments. He also has responsibility for information technology-related activities across all three divisions, including technology infrastructure, administrative systems, academic and instructional technology. He works closely with academic and administrative units in all divisions to define and implement a vision for the role of information technology at Anatolia. His reporting structure also includes the operations of Anatolia Libraries (Bissell & Eleftheriades).

Vlachos has over 20 years of experience teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level. His teaching and research interests are in the areas of Applied Mathematics & Statistics and the application of instructional technologies in teaching. He has supervised a number of Information Technology projects and his academic research has been published in the Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society, the Journal of Applicable Analysis, the Journal of Dynamic Systems and Applications and other academic journals. He obtained a B.S. in Mathematics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an MSc in Mathematics and a Ph.D in Applied Mathematical Sciences from the University of Rhode Island in the USA. He is married and has two children – one at Anatolia High School and one at Anatolia Elementary School.

Yannis Tsorbatzoglou, Vice President for Administration

Yannis Tsorbatzoglou has been professionally active with Anatolia since 1995, first as an ACT Instructor while working for the Federation of Northern Greek Industries and since then in a variety of administrative positions, including Director of Global Education and Director of Institutional Advancement. In 2000, he undertook project management of a consortium led by ACT for the execution of the training component of the World Bank Trade and Transport Facilitation Program for the Southeast Europe region.

He has consulted for several international organizations, including the OSCE, World Bank, BSEC, Stability Pact, and has served since 2003 as SECIPRO Coordinator for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative. In 2009, he was a Fellow for the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars SEE Project. He holds a BA in Political Science from Knox College (US), an MA in International Relations from Tulane University (US), as well as an MA in European Political and Administrative Studies from the College of Europe (Belgium). He is a graduate of Anatolia High School, is married, and has a son and an infant daughter.
Pavlos Floros, Vice President for Finance (CFO)

Pavlos Floros has served Anatolia College since February 2008 as Acting Vice President for Finance and prior to that he worked as Director of Accounting Services. He is responsible for all financial management aspects of institutional operations, including the supervising of financial planning, accounting and budgeting efforts at all three divisional levels.

He also oversees the approval and processing of revenue, expenditure, departmental budgets, payroll and mass salary updates, ledger, and account maintenance and data entry. He is charged with interacting with the VP of Administration in negotiations with external vendors. He also oversees the financial management of Anatolia’s US operations in Boston. The CFO also coordinates the preparation of financial statements, financial reports, special analyses, and information reports. Develop and implement finance, accounting, billing, and auditing procedures. Establish and maintain appropriate internal control safeguards.

Before joining Anatolia, Floros was an Audit Manager at KPMG Greece leading audit engagement teams, with specialization in IFRS and USGAAP engagements, and listed Companies. At KPMG, he served clients to address critical business issues and applied “best practices” in several industries including higher education, banking, insurance, industrial and consumer products. Prior to working at KPMG, Pavlos had been a Supervising Senior Auditor with Deloitte Greece working in the Firm’s Audit Department specializing in statutory and non statutory audits, internal control environment evaluations, due diligences and other consulting services.

Floros is a Certified Public Accountant and Auditor in Greece, and he is a registered member of the Hellenic Body of Certified Public Accountants (SOEL). He also holds a First Class licence for the accountancy profession and he is member of the Economic Chambers of Greece. He received his Masters in Science in International Economics Banking & Finance with Distinction from Cardiff Business School. He also earned a Postgraduate Diploma from the Hellenic Institute of Certified Public Accountants (IESOEL) and graduated from Aristotle University, School of Law & Economics, with a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics. He is married and is the father of a boy and a girl – both of whom are enrolled at Anatolia Elementary School.

Peter Chresanthakes, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Peter Chresanthakes has served as a business solutions consultant and a board member of a variety of financial start-up enterprises in the banking sector in both the USA and Greece. Simultaneously, he has served as an instructor in the ACT Business School teaching finance and entrepreneurship courses to both undergraduate and MBA students since 2001.

In his new role as Vice President for Institutional Advancement, he is responsible for the branding, marketing, and fundraising team whose aim is to maximize both engagement and support from the College’s many constituency groups and supporters. In conjunction with the President and the Board of Trustees’ Institutional Advancement Committee, he is responsible for steering the strategic direction of these integrated initiatives to carry Anatolia’s fundraising appeals to an ever wider circle of donors. Based on the campus in Thessaloniki, Greece, his role involves extensive travel, both in Europe and across North America.
Chresanthakes has an extensive background in financial analysis and middle market private equity having served as a direct equity investment advisor for a U.S. emerging markets fund. He has held various positions in the finance industry, as an analyst for a U.S. based hedge fund as well as Vice President in a U.S. money center bank in their real estate capital markets division. He has also served as an instrumental member of an investor group that successfully completed new start-up ventures as well as distressed asset buyouts.

As an adjunct faculty member at ACT, he has been active on a number of committees and has worked with the public relations and the career placement offices on a variety of projects. He achieved the distinction of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and holds an MBA degree from The Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of Illinois at Chicago (USA). He is married and has three children.

Rea Georgiadou-Samara – Public Relations Advisor to the Cabinet

Rea Samara has served as Executive Director of Anatolia’s public relations office since January 1992. In this capacity she is responsible for promoting positive communications and relations with all of Anatolia’s various constituency groups and conveying key aspects of Anatolia’s aspirations and operations to a variety of external audiences. She works closely as liaison with three different alumni associations (Thessaloniki, Athens, and ACT), the Anatolia College Friends Association and five Parents Associations. She also supervises Media Relations and website updating, in cooperation with marketing department, serves as the coordinator of the schoolwide photographic/DVD archive, and prepares articles requested by various publications.

In addition to the above, she also supervises the alumni data base and oversees the Church of Three Hierarchs’ operation. Samara has worked for all educational levels of the institution, the High School, ACT and SBALA/ACHS during its initial stages, and most recently for the Elementary School. During her first decade at Anatolia she was responsible for the scholarship program and the institution’s fundraising as well, until the creation of a separate Development office in 2005. She began her work for Anatolia in 1989 as Executive Secretary to the President from 1989 to 1992.

Prior to her employment with Anatolia she worked for the American Consulate General in Thessaloniki, holding the position of Expert on Immigrant and Non Immigrant Visas, from June 1976 to Feb 1989. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Deree College, Athens, is a Graduate of Anatolia College High School and holds a Certificat Pratique de la Langue Francaise, Sorbonne I, Diploma. She is married and has one daughter who is also an Anatolia alumna.

Elena Charalabides, Coordinator of the President’s Cabinet

Elena Charalabides assumed her current position in the Office of the President in January, 2010. In her new role, she serves as the Executive Assistant to the President of Anatolia who oversees Anatolia’s three educational divisions, the Anatolia Elementary School, the Anatolia High School and the American College of Thessaloniki.

Born in northern Greece, Charalabides grew up in Boston, Massachusetts where she received her formal education and worked until 1993. She then moved to Scottsdale,
Arizona where she resided until January, 1998, and provided managerial and consultational services in re-establishing her family’s business.

She first assumed a position at the American College of Thessaloniki in January, 1998 as Executive Assistant to the Academic Dean. Thereafter, Charalabides worked for 12 years at ACT in many capacities which included Business Liaison Career Services Officer, Adjunct Instructor, Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, Executive Assistant to the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs & International Programs and Executive Assistant to the Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs.

She holds a C.S.S. (Certificate of Special Studies in Administration and Management) Graduate Diploma from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Wellesley College with a Double Major in Psychology and French Literature. She studied for one year in Paris, France as a student at the Sorbonne, the Institut d’Etudes Sociales and the Institute of European Studies.

She is married and has one son who is currently enrolled as a student at the Anatolia Elementary School.