

# THE SOWER



Spring-Summer, 1987

American Farm School

No. 122

## DIRECTOR LANSDALE AND FOUR FARM SCHOOL GRADUATES HONORED BY GREEK GOVERNMENT FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP



Farm School Director Bruce Lansdale receives Order of Honour citation from the Minister of Northern Greece, Mr. Yannis Pappadopoulos. Gold medal of the Order hangs around Mr. Lansdale's neck.

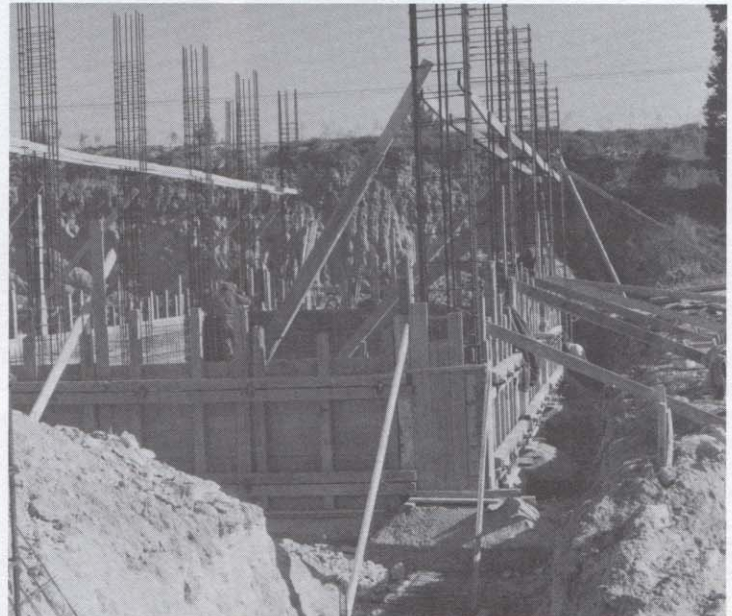
More than 750 excited guests recently attended the Farm School ceremony at which Director Bruce M. Lansdale was awarded the Commander of the Order of Honour by the Minister of Northern Greece, Mr. Yannis Papadopoulos. The award, the highest given by Greece to a private foreign citizen, was made in recognition of Mr. Lansdale's contributions to the development of Greek agriculture and agricultural education during the more than 35 years he has served as Director of the American Farm School.

Surveying the overflow crowd gathered in Rochester Hall, Minister Papadopoulos said it was a sign of the "love that is here for Bruce Lansdale that all his friends cannot fit into this assembly hall." Following his speech citing Mr. Lansdale's many accomplishments, the Minister hung the gold medal of the Order of Honour on its bright blue ribbon around Mr. Lansdale's neck.

In accepting the award, Bruce thanked Mr. Papadopoulos but claimed the honor was "really for the School, and even more for the graduates of the School." Recalling his arrival in Greece more than 40 years ago, he said he had come to be a teacher, but that "finally, I realized that it was I who was being taught. I came to help others, but it was I who was helped. I came to share my skills, but others taught

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## CONSTRUCTION OF HENRY R. LABOUISSÉ YOUTH RECREATION CENTER SURPRISES SOME AND PROMISES OTHERS YEARS OF HEALTHY PLEASURE



Construction moves surprisingly fast on the footings and walls of the Labouisse Center, named for long-time Trustee and Chairman of the Farm School's Board of Trustees who served also as the US Ambassador to Greece.

When Henry R. Labouisse, Chairman Emeritus of the American Farm School, and his wife Eve last visited there in April, they were surprised while attending the groundbreaking for the new recreation center to discover that it was being named for them. The staff had gone to great lengths to make everyone think it was being named for someone else, but when the cornerstone was unveiled, there it was: the Henry R. Labouisse Youth Recreation Center—the newest and one of the most promising buildings to be constructed at the Farm School with funds provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the recently completed Capital Campaign.

Harry, with practiced diplomatic aplomb, took it happily in stride and, applying the first trowel of concrete to the cornerstone and plaque, hugged Eve and smiled at Chairman Lowrey and Director Lansdale who had managed to perpetrate the ruse, keeping a large secret from one of the best informed members of the Board.

Now comes word of another surprise. The building is well underway, on schedule and still within budget. By the end of next year it should be in use by the students and staff, offering them the year-round athletic and recreational facilities which have been so long lacking at the School.

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me theirs." He described his relationship to Greece by paraphrasing the Nobel Prize-winning poet George Seferis: "You were coming into the dream as I was coming out of the dream and so our lives became one and it will be difficult for them to separate again."

**U.S.** Ambassador Robert V. Keeley flew up from Athens for the ceremonies, joining the Minister of Northern Greece, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the Commander in Chief of the 3rd Army Corps, Bishop Rothopoulos and several members of Parliament at the occasion. Dimitri Pitsioris, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, also honored four graduates of the Farm School and the School's Alumni Association for their contributions. Tasoula Gikoglou, an active leader in a cooperative exporting cereals and vegetables, Athanasios Simnopoulos, an owner of one of the largest poultry operations in Greece, Michael Christophoridis, an active agricultural representative to various European congresses, and Michael Spyropoulos, a vintner and innovative marketer of Greek wines received special awards for their agricultural leadership and the example they set for others. The Alumni Association was cited for "preserving the spirit of love and altruism among the graduates and for providing the villages with continuing technical and scientific education through the graduates of the School," more than 250 of whom returned for the awards ceremony, some from as far away as Sparta.

**I**n seeking to explain the uniqueness of the Farm School, Director Lansdale spoke of three contributing factors. "An important element was the founder's original dream a hundred years ago of training the whole individual—the head, the hands and the heart. Equally significant has been the quality of the students and the contributions of the graduates across Greece, giving the School its essential Greek character. Then there has always been a spiritual element to the School," he continued "which has played a vital role in its development, best expressed during the Easter service when each of the faithful carry a lighted candle home to maintain their faith throughout the year to come. Similarly the graduates carry the light of agriculture to their villages."

**E**very Trustee and friend of the American Farm School can take a measure of pride in the honors given Director Lansdale, graduates of the School, and the American Farm School itself. For, as Bruce has said so often, "you are the ones who made it possible."



**Four outstanding Farm School graduates are honored by Dimitri Pitsioris, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for their contributions to the rural life of Greece.**



**The first "shovel full" of earth is removed for the construction of the Henry R. Labouisse Youth Recreation Center.**

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**T**he Labouisse Center was known in the planning stages as the multi-purpose building, basically a field house to allow students to exercise during bad weather, on a portion of the Litsas Athletic Field adjacent to Princeton Hall. Since inception, a number of additional uses have been proposed to enable it to function in all seasons and hopefully the School will be able in time to implement the complete plans. Stage One involves an expenditure of just over \$400,000, of which \$375,000 has been received from the Agency for International Development. As is, it will provide excellent, though somewhat Spartan, facilities and can serve the School well in that condition for years to come.

**S**tage Two has been planned for sometime in the future, and will involve more sophisticated recreational facilities. It is the thought of the Trustees in Greece to raise an additional \$300,000 to complete Stage Two, and then to create a maintenance endowment for the Center so that it will not become a drain on the general operating budget.

**E**ither way the Henry R. Labouisse Youth Recreation Center will allow the students of tomorrow to challenge themselves to the utmost as Harry has challenged himself during his long public service career. To his fellow Trustees at the Farm School his life has been a challenge and inspiration which will be with them always. As this article was going to press, the Office of the Trustees received the sad news that Mr. Labouisse had died at the age of 83. A special feature about him is included with this issue and his death adds to the urgency and interest in completing the center as soon as possible.

## READING UNIVERSITY GROUP OF THIRD WORLD STUDENTS STUDY FARM SCHOOL'S HISTORY AND METHODS FOR USE BACK HOME

I hear—I forget.

I see—I remember.

I do—I understand.

With these words the twenty-three Reading University graduate students in agricultural extension and rural social development from India, Thailand, Bangladesh, and various countries in Africa begin to understand the Farm School's mission of practical, hands-on training for the "Sergeants of Agriculture" in Greece and increasingly, from third-world nations struggling to increase rural production and feed their populations adequately.

Since 1982 Reading University in the United Kingdom has been sending students to Thessaloniki to learn how Greece has been so successful in agricultural development. Over the past two generations, Greece has experienced many of the problems now faced by the Third World, offering the professors at Reading a living laboratory. The Farm School's ten-day program is organized in cooperation with the University of Thessaloniki and the Greek Ministry of Agriculture.

Instead of concentrating on agricultural skills, such as those taught the Farm School students, the program emphasizes the methods used to train the sergeants of agriculture, the development of the whole individual, a concept which has been at the heart of the Farm School's program since its founding in 1904.

Director Lansdale's recently published book, *Master Farmer: Teaching Small Farmers Management*, was written to show how the Greek experience can be transferred to developing countries, and during each visit by the Reading group he speaks on a variety of subjects, including "The Greek Miracle" of which the Farm School has been such a unique part. Great stress is put on the practical training offered at the Farm School, and time and again Third World visitors have commented on the need for similar programs in their own countries where agricultural education is almost entirely theoretical.

The value of the Short Course Training Center on campus is clearly demonstrated as the visitors learn how the Greek Ministry of Agriculture has developed its programs. Often through interpreters, discussions give them an insight into how the extraordinary changes in farming techniques now accepted by farmers and their wives have revolutionized Greek agriculture. They come to understand what steps they must take in their own lands to have similar success.

Like everyone who visits the Farm School, the students from Reading University enjoy some lighter moments, eating meals with the students, and challenging them to a game of soccer, often played barefooted in Africa and Asia. During their recreation evening, they learn Greek dances and songs while giving Farm School students and staff an exciting

glimpse into the culture and character of their own countries.

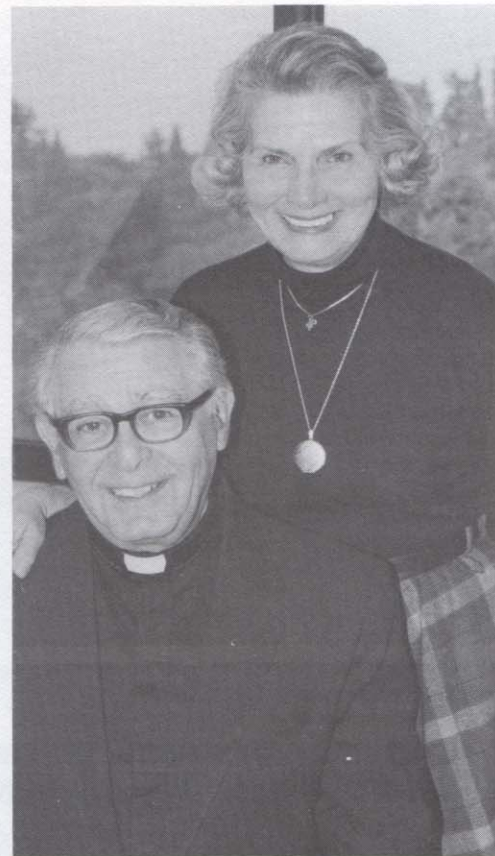
I did! I understood! With these thoughts in mind the mid-career professionals attending Reading University return to their scattered homes in Asia and Africa, some destined for high office after earning their Masters degrees, all to be teachers and leaders in agriculture in one capacity or another. Few forget their days at the Farm School, however, and all leave having been touched by it, its Director, students and staff.



Again this year representatives from 14 Asian and African countries are visiting the Farm School to study its methods of agricultural education, returning home with an understanding of the School's "hands on" approach to teaching.



A group of foreign graduate students from Reading University pave the way for other agricultural specialists from third world countries in Africa planning to visit the School and learn from its 80-year experience of contributing to the economic development of Greece.

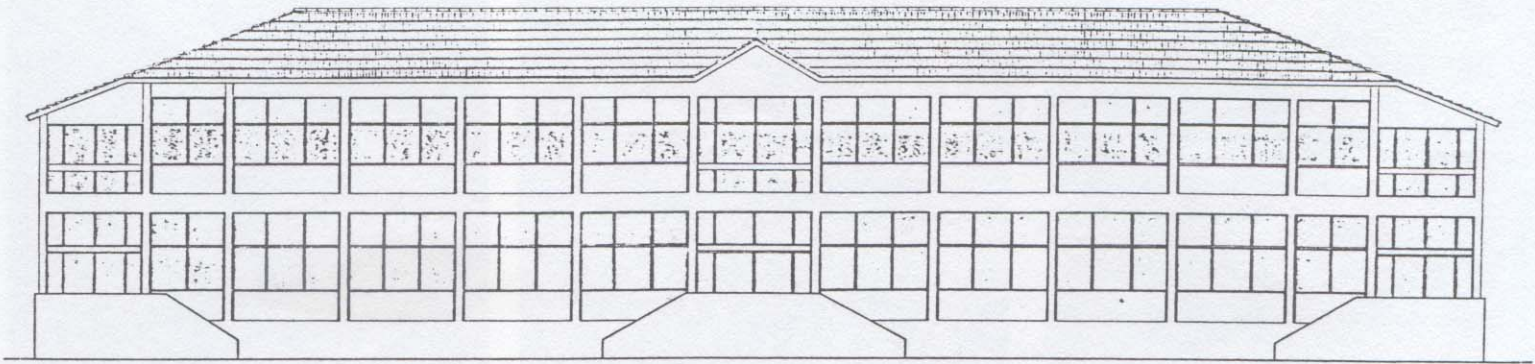


George and Anna Gallos establish residence and make their mark at the Farm School as Resident Chaplain, Presbytera and Music Teacher.

## FATHER GEORGE AND ANNA GALLOS ARRIVE TO ADD SPIRITUAL VALUES AND MUSIC TO THE LIVES OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND GREEK COMMUNITY

George and Anna Gallos' first attempt to establish themselves as resident chaplain and presbytera at the American Farm School ended in failure: a tragedy of passports lost at the airport moments before departure. Fortunately their second effort succeeded and their presence now makes subtle differences in campus life. It can be felt in the small Greek Orthodox chapel of St. John Chrysostomos, in the music room, the assembly hall and at virtually every gathering of the students and staff. It is equally visible in the increasingly lovely and livable Herb and

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If all goes according to plan, they will soon be raising the roof at Massachusetts Hall, expanding the venerable building and providing needed space for additional practical classes.

## MASSACHUSETTS HALL TO GROW UP AND OUT AFTER TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE. PRIVATE-PUBLIC \$250,000 RENOVATION PLANNED

While hardly as old as the original Massachusetts Hall in the Yard at Cambridge (that venerable, vine-covered administration building linked to the 17th Century origins of Harvard College), Massachusetts Hall in Thessaloniki is now completing its first twenty-five years as one of the most used and useful classroom buildings at the American Farm School. Way back then, in 1963 that is, few foresaw its eventual obsolescence. Fortunately, its designers and engineers did. Strong foundations were laid and bearing walls reinforced to anticipate the need for a second floor and additional classrooms to accommodate the burgeoning PP: the Practical Program which is such a distinguishing feature of the Farm School.

Plans have been drawn, permits secured, and contracts prepared to add five new classrooms specializing in plant and animal science to

Massachusetts Hall. Hopefully, the \$250,000 project will be funded by a combination of private and public sources, perhaps bringing together a large number of the Farm School's friends in Massachusetts to expand their namesake building and renew the commitment Bay Staters made to the School more than a quarter of a century ago.

Learning by doing has been one of the key elements in the education of Farm School students, and one of the reasons why its graduates are in such demand throughout the country. Since Greece's entry into the Common Market in 1981 the School has been strengthening its horticultural departments to take full advantage of Greece's location, which makes it possible to market many fruits and vegetables a month or more sooner than its northern neighbors.

Almost an acre of greenhouses has been added in the past four years, both glass and plastic, to demonstrate different methods of greenhouse cultivation. A mist propagation unit has been installed, controlling moisture and insuring a steady supply of young plants for Europe's market basket. Three new horticultural laboratories have been installed in Rochester Hall, and other new facilities help teach the students to clean and package their produce for market. Horticulture has become the primary area for specialization by the students and now it is time to complete the facilities they need: the enlarged and rejuvenated Massachusetts Hall. It may be a century or two before ivy covers the walls and the Thessaloniki Mass Hall matches the present age of the Cambridge cousin, but now is the time to start.

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Jessie Lansdale apartment atop Princeton Hall, a staff residence contributed by many friends from Rochester, NY.

The Gallos's connection to the Farm School is long-standing. Both are first-generation Greek-Americans raised in the Orthodox faith: Anna, the daughter of a priest serving in Rochester, where she first encountered members of the Lansdale family; George, a priest with more than forty years' service to his Church in Rochester, New Britain, Connecticut, Baltimore, and most recently Annapolis, Maryland.

When the call came from Bruce Lansdale to come over into Macedonia and reside at the Farm School, Father George recalls "We were excited at the idea. We'd vacationed in Greece, but the idea of actually living there and serving a community in Greece was some-

thing we could look forward to. We knew the Lansdales, of course, but had also heard so many good things about the School from Arthur Dukakis, a former parishioner and now a member of the Board of Trustees."

As chaplain, Father George conducts services each Sunday and on special feast days. He is keenly interested in helping the students understand the liturgy of the service and having them participate rather than merely observe. His "sermonettes" seek to make church teachings both personal and meaningful to students and members of the community at large. He has begun a series of informal lectures on the meaning of the Orthodox faith.

Music is "Kyria Anna" Gallos's driving force and inspiration. She holds a Master's degree in Church Music and enthusiastically conducts

her classes with brisk professionalism. The Farm School choir she organized gave its first public performances at Christmas and is fully-booked for Easter and beyond. Even the staff children are joining a special young-people's choir, including a 4-year old soprano and a 12-year old alto.

Busy schedules have not kept the Galloses from pursuing some personal aspirations in Greece. Father George has enrolled in lectures at the University of Thessaloniki's School of Theology, continuing to learn about liturgy, theology and church history. Anna is studying Byzantine chant to gather material for her future compositions and is continuing her life-long association with the Lansdale family by learning pottery-making from the resident expert, Christine Lansdale, Bruce's daughter now teaching again at the School.



Following in the tradition of John Henry House, Farm School students measure and record rainfall daily, helping them to know when and what to plant and how to manage their farmland better.



In addition to rainfall, the Farm School's "weather station"—a practical extension of the students' physics class—monitors radiation, sunshine and soil temperatures: valuable information for any future farmer.

## FARM SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN TO FORECAST THE WEATHER AND ALSO LEARN HOW THEY CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

It's a big leap from scanning the sky for rain-clouds, or holding a wet forefinger to the wind, but the use of up-to-the-minute meteorological equipment can help farmers to produce better crops and raise healthier animals. Training young future farmers to be weather wise and to use their equipment to advantage is another one of the pioneering programs recently started at the American Farm School.

AFS students have begun to take readings, record observations and then calculate the best seeding time for various crops, determine the most suitable planting areas and plan against unseasonable shifts in probable weather patterns. These statistics are then entered into the records of the meteorological division of the University of Thessaloniki and become part of a national network of weather stations, providing data for meteorologists, residents, developers, students and farmers alike.

Appreciating the significance of weather patterns and their effect on agriculture also encourages long-term planning. As a part of their training in farm management, the students come to understand the natural conditions which will aid them in their future agricultural careers. The data they gather, for example, will immediately be put to use by the School's greenhouses to control irrigation and temperature. They will help to plan the design of

new greenhouses for next year.

The Farm School students themselves provided the enthusiasm which spurred chemistry and physics teacher Pelagia Voutsas into creating the on-campus station. "Let's face it," she smiled, "Physics is not *always* a popular subject for high school students. I try to make it real and applicable to their daily lives. Often I introduce scientific discoveries with a brief biographical account of the scientist to show the students that these were real life men and women who overcame many obstacles in the course of their scientific work. I want my students to realize that *anything* is possible for them, too," she added, "despite the limitations in their lives."

Mrs. Voutsas introduced her students to the meteorological work of the British scientist John Dalton and mentioned that the weather records at the Farm School date back to the early 20th Century. In fact for many years these were the only weather records kept in northern Greece. (Dr. John Henry House kept daily temperature readings and recorded the monthly rainfall for many years.) The students' reaction to her lesson was "Let's set up a new meteorological station and manage it ourselves." The administration agreed, the University of Thessaloniki offered its assistance in obtaining new equipment and providing training. Almost instantly, a new valuable project was launched.

The station itself is a small, fenced-in area situated to one side of the campus flower garden, facing the students' practical garden plots. Equipment includes a metrobox which houses a thermohydrograph and a "dry-wet" thermometer. Outside there is a bimetallic actinograph measuring daily radiation in the earth, a heliograph recording the daily hours of sunshine, several soil thermometers recording temperatures at various depths, a rainmeter and a barometer. The School is now seeking contributions of \$500 a year for the purchase of new equipment and to maintain the station.

"You see, the weather station fulfills three vital purposes," explained the dynamic young Mrs. Voutsas. "It provides strong learning motivation for the students. They see the effect the weather is having on their crops and they realize the implications that it can have. Secondly the station will provide important and valuable information for our own horticulture and land planning departments. Finally, it will generate data which can be used by local residents and farmers as well as the wider community of Greece."

Who says you can't do something about the weather? The Farm School thinks you can. Thanks to the early efforts of Dr. House, the creativity of teacher Pelagia Voutsas and the enthusiasm of the Farm School students, dreams have become reality at the School.



Antonios Stambolides, Associate Director for Education, has served in many capacities at the School during his 25 year career there.

## **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR STAMBOLIDES MAINTAINS BUSY SCHEDULE APPROACHING FIRST QUARTER CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL**

Now in his 24th year at the American Farm School, Associate Director for Education Antonios Stambolides continues to find new challenges in his daily work. His sphere of responsibility includes supervision of the entire educational program for the 227 boarding students as well as the adult education programs, recruitment, and the Greek Summer skills training sessions. His busy days include negotiating with the staff and faculty, counselling a troubled student, speaking to local donors and visitors, and much more.

Mr. Stambolides began his career at the School as a teacher of Modern Greek, having graduated from the University of Thessaloniki with a degree in Theology. He felt an affinity for agriculture, however, having been born into a farming family from the village of Ladi, five miles from the Bulgarian border. His strong administrative skills led him first to become Head of Recruitment, then Director of the Gymnasium program, then Director of Education, and finally Associate Director for Education.

Though departing from his original intention to become a teacher of theology or history, Mr. Stambolides has continued his education, taking post-graduate work at the U of T in economics and accounting. He spent one intensive summer at Virginia Polytechnic Institute studying Agricultural Education and Administration. On a three-month tour of the United States he was able to observe agricultural education departments in various American universities and study their practical instruction methods. He met with 4-H representatives and the Young Farmers organization in Washington to learn about their approaches to experiential training. Most recently, he had an opportunity to explore developments in agricultural education with other educators at a seminar in Sweden.

Mr. Stambolides' dedication to the School is evidenced in his enthusiastic involvement in campus life—his work on the School's church committee, his personal attention to individual students, his concerned and realistic approach to personnel matters. He lives on the Farm School campus with his wife Roula, also an educator, who works at a local public school. Their 22 year-old son, George, is studying at San Angelo State University in Texas and is already emulating his father's deep involvement with the Farm School. Last year, he was a summer intern in the New York Office of the Trustees, helping to handle its many and diverse responsibilities. Then he returned to Greece as Assistant Director for Greek Sum-

mer '86, a unique and exciting opportunity for anyone who wants to appreciate the full range of the Farm School's involvement with the youth of both Greece and America.

A solid, thoroughly-trained professional educator, Mr. Stambolides has also been captured by the spirit of the American Farm School. Reporting recently to its Board of Trustees he said, "Morale is very high. Many of our staff spend voluntary hours on counselling or working on extracurricular projects with the students. Our students are happy and creative. They are always willing to pitch in—from a performance by the dance troupe, to moving hundreds of chairs, to organizing an entertainment program for the entire school, to service projects in old peoples' homes and institutions for children with special problems."

Commenting on the reborn Princeton Hall, renovated at a cost of \$1.5 million with funds from the recently completed Capital Campaign, he added, "Princeton Hall now offers a great deal for the students in terms of extracurricular activities. It is a beautiful, warm building which houses a variety of activities. The students may watch a video, play a table game, read the various periodicals and books at the Nicholson Library, work with the computers in the Ford Computer Lab, weave and make pottery in the Canaday Craft Center, listen to music in the Nuveen lounge. It's a wonderful place." And Mr. Stambolides is indeed one of those who makes it such a wonderful place.



Mr. & Mrs. John Lankenau take a moment to discuss Greek Summer plans with Henry Crawford, GS '79, now back as a Counsellor for their daughter, Amy, GS '87, at the Farm School's reception for parents of this and last year's student group.

## **MAKING YOUR GREEK SUMMER PLANS EARLY INSURES LATER SUCCESS**

Greek Summer '87 actually began in the fall and winter of '86, when hopeful participants labored over their applications, cross-country interviews were arranged, commitments made, and scores of planning details considered and decided, long before June 19th when this year's contingent of 50 students and counsellors will board their flight for Thessaloniki. For Ingrid Wassmann, GS Coordinator since September 1, it has been both a period of learn-

ing, and one of great satisfaction as she sees the group materializing from an assortment of largely unconnected individuals to an extended family sharing one overriding interest: their Summer of '87 in Greece.

Greek Summer parents also got an earlier start this year, with a Trustee-sponsored reception for the parents of GS '86 and the parents of those accepted for GS '87, hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Camillos, GS parents '85, at their attractive Kouros Gallery in Manhattan. It was planned to provide an opportunity to meet and share lessons and concerns. From the reports of the parents of both years, it became a wel-

come occasion to learn more about the experiences their children were sharing and loving so much.

*The Sower* plans to report further on the adventures of this year's hardy band of concrete mixers and mountain climbers in a subsequent issue. In the meantime, we wish Kalo Taxidhi to the participants in Greek Summer '87 who this year hail from California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas and Vermont.



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## MOVING DAY IS HERE. NEW ADDRESS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES

Moving Day is May 1, 1987. After searching for almost two years, the New York Office of the Trustees, the School's corporate headquarters and center for most of its stateside activities, is relocating to 1133 Broadway @ 26th Street just off historic Madison Square. Our building, a turn-of-the-century beaux arts classic undergoing extensive renovation, is easily reachable by many modes of transportation, including the 5th and 7th Avenue and Broadway buses, the IRT Lexington Avenue, 6th IND Avenue and BMT subways. There won't be any good excuse for not coming to visit. The move is prompted by the high-cost of mid-town Manhattan rents and the need for additional space for the staff, Trustees, Greek Summer counsellors, volunteers, and visitors who frequently make use of the Office of the Trustees.

### NEW ADDRESS

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