

Published for friends of  
the American Farm School

# THE **sower**

Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute



Moving Forward



**AMERICAN  
FARM SCHOOL**  
Thessaloniki · Greece

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## From the President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Winter edition of the American Farm School's newsletter "The Sower". In this issue, you will read about the ways the School is moving forward and the role our supporters play in this continuous progress.

Recent fundraising and networking events in the United States reaffirmed the relatability of our mission today, more than ever. A golf tournament in Chicago, a reception at the Consulate General of Greece in Boston and a Benefit Dinner in New York brought together old friends and new acquaintances, all eager to learn about recent developments and spread the word about the Institution's main characteristic: the ability to move forward through experiential learning, no matter the circumstances. These events also proved that individuals with a clear vision and great teams make a difference. You will read about these individuals in the following pages.

You will also read about the School's continued effort to instill American values and ideas to the youth of Greece and beyond. Whether it is an introduction to a new sport, highlighting the concept of exchange programs and their benefits or honoring the spirit of giving, the American Farm School continues to be a unique center of American culture intertwined with Greek *filoxenia*.

The Farm Revitalization initiative has received generous support from individuals in both Greece and the United States. We have moved forward with upgrading the Horticulture and Greenhouse Center and we look forward to further progress in the following months. Next areas of priority include the poultry unit and the winery as well as the development of two significant projects: a Goat Center and a Culinary and Nutrition Center.

In the School's 120-year history, moving forward has led to transformation of many kinds. If you are looking to transform a life of a teenager in your family or circle of friends, please consider enrolling them to the Greek Summer program running from June 24 to July 24, 2024. And if you are looking to transform a life of a deserving student, please consider contributing to our Scholarship Program for your end of year giving. In both cases, you would help someone move forward.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. Best wishes for a healthy and productive 2024.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lansdale, Ph.D.

President

American Farm School

## Perrotis Day 2023

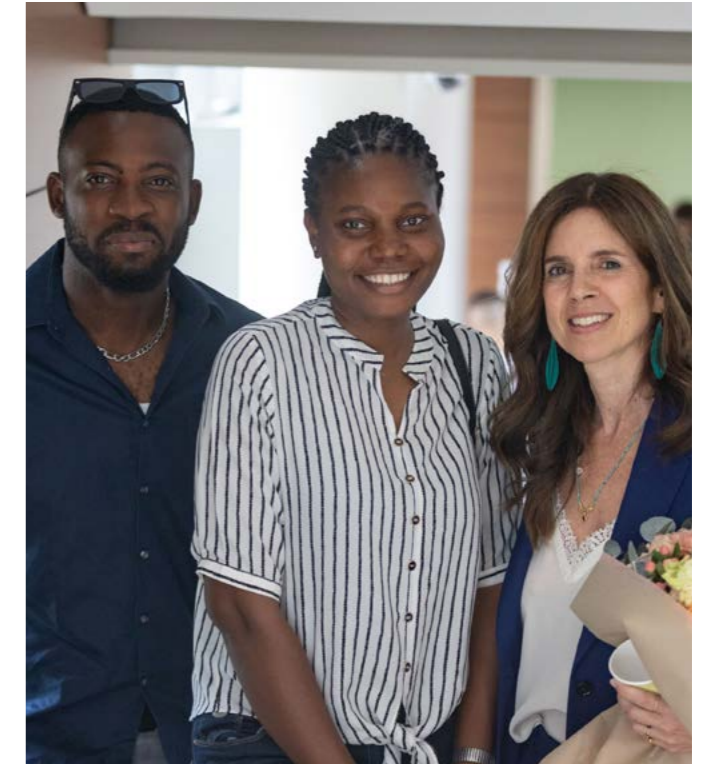
On October 6, students, faculty, administration, staff and honorary guests celebrated the Dimitris Perrotis Day, commemorating the 27th anniversary of the founding of the College. The event took place at the Aliko Perroti Educational Center following a service at the St. John Chrysostomos chapel in memory of Dimitris Perrotis. It was a very touching ceremony; students expressed their gratitude for Aliko Perroti and received awards for their academic performance from Theodora Valentis. The priest who presided over the church service is a graduate of the American Farm School.



Ms. Teona Damovska, Mrs. Theodora Valentis, Mr. Evangelos Tsaoulis

Teona Damovska, Food Science and Technology student from North Macedonia, spoke on behalf of the students: "Perrotis College is my home away from home. It represents a safe haven, a place of mutual understanding, compassion and cooperation. Here, we all live, study and work together. This college manages to create a thriving environment for the students, resulting in a tight-knit community".

The Dimitris Perrotis Day proved once again the significance of support and loyalty of benefactors Aliko Perroti, Seth Frank, Theodora Valentis and other contributors for the future and sustainability of the Institution.



Mr. Alfred Ezeonu, Ms. Peace Uboh, Mrs. Theodora Valentis



## Golf Tournament in Chicago in Support of the School

On September 9, longtime friend and major donor Dr. Alex Doolas organized another successful Golf Tournament in Chicago in support of the Scholarship Program. More than 50 golfers from the area responded enthusiastically to Dr. Doolas' invitation that led to generous contributions.

President Lansdale spoke of the significance of the tournament for the School and expressed his gratitude on behalf of students, faculty and staff. The Golf Tournament has proven to be an important source of support for the Annual Fund. Thanks to last year's contributions we were able to provide scholarships to deserving youth from all over Greece and fill the Vocational High School for the first time in 15 years. We are inspired by the vibrant AFS community in Chicago and indebted to Dr. Doolas for his unwavering support.

Another event is organized in Chicago in May 2024. For event updates please visit our website: [www.afs.edu.gr/en/](http://www.afs.edu.gr/en/)

*Dr. Alexander Doolas was born in Thessaloniki in 1935. His father, George Doolas, started working as a teacher at the American Farm School in 1929, moving the Doolas family to campus where Alex spent six years. "This is where I spent the first six years of my life; it was a place full of happiness, kindness and generosity. My family felt like an integral part of the community here, a community of students and educators." A respected member of the Medical community for many years, "Doc," now retired, has*

*dedicated himself heart and soul in spreading the word about the American Farm School in the greater Chicago area, and generously supports the School's Scholarship Program.*



*Dr. Alex Doolas, Mr. Dimitri Stathopoulos, Mr. Nico Stathopoulos, Dr. Jeff Lansdale*



*Dr. Jeff Lansdale, Dr. Alex Doolas*



## AFS Reception at the Consulate General of Greece in Boston

Donors, Trustees, academia and business representatives attended the American Farm School reception generously hosted by Consul General Mr. Simos Tegos at the Consulate of Greece in Boston on October 17. This was the first event in Boston in nearly 10 years; a great opportunity to reconnect with loyal supporters and introduce the School to new audiences.

President Lansdale spoke about recent developments at the School – including U.S. accreditation of Perrotis College opening the way to further collaboration with American universities – and highlighted the importance of educational offerings that promote sustainability. He referred to the School's supporters as an amalgam of its core foundation: a robust community of friends who express an interest in its mission and strengthen the impact of experiential education in Greece and neighboring countries.

Thank you Consul General Tegos for your hospitality and support!



*Dr. Jeff Lansdale, Mr. Simos Tegos, Mr. Demetri Chriss, Mrs. Marjorie Mayr-Lansdale*



*Mr. George Sakellaris, Dr. Jeff Lansdale*

## Annual Benefit Dinner in New York City

American Farm School friends and supporters joined the School's Annual Benefit Dinner held on October 19 at the Union League Club in New York City.

U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic George Tsunis was scheduled to speak as the honorary guest but due to recent developments in the Eastern Mediterranean he was unable to attend. In his written remarks read by President Lansdale, the Ambassador applauded the School's dedication to Greece and greater Balkan region and its commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. "The AFS approach reflects its devotion to the people of Greece and showcases the power of American ideals, values, and expertise. I cannot overstate my gratitude and support for the School, and I encourage others to support the Institution in any way they can", he wrote.



*Dr. Jeff Lansdale, Mr. Demetris Vlachos, Mr. Stefanos Panteliadis*



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*Ms. Barbara Heming, Mr. Robert Gordon*



*Dr. Stelios Papadopoulos*

Keynote speaker and friend of Ambassador Tsunis' Dr. Stelios Papadopoulos referred to his own ties to the School throughout his life and praised the Institution for its role in the history of Thessaloniki and the development of agriculture in Greece. Dr. Papadopoulos is frequently referred to as the "Godfather of Biotechnology", owing to the fact that he has served as Chairman of several corporations at the forefront of medical research and the pharmaceuticals industry.

The event, organized by Chair of the Development Committee in the U.S. Joannie Danielides and underwritten by Trustee Barbara Heming, raised significant funds for the School. All proceeds will support the Scholarship Program, as well as innovative educational programs in agriculture, the environment and other life sciences related to our sustainable future.

## Moving forward: the Educational Farm

The revitalization of the Educational Farm, an initiative symbolizing the School's commitment to tradition, innovation, experiential learning and research discovery, is steadily, yet ambitiously, moving forward.

Following the upgrade of the Beekeeping Center, the School is now in the process of developing a state-of-the-art Horticulture and Greenhouse Center. Thanks to the generosity of major donors Dr. George Gavalas and Bill Bennington, 6 new greenhouses have been added to our farm facilities. The Center will be equipped with modern technology – including sensors donated by CISCO Hellas – enhancing our educational offerings and providing learning opportunities to promote sustainability in food systems. The irrigation systems for the greenhouses are being constructed by the high school students in our Robotics Club.

High School, Junior College and Perrotis College students will be introduced to the various types and functions of green-

houses, plant responses to greenhouse environment, environmental control systems, construction materials, heating-cooling-irrigation-fertilization systems, and special management practices required to operate them under soil and soil-less conditions. They will also be exposed to various levels of technologies used for automation processes, production and maintenance of crops.

Once complete, the Center will provide education and training to farmers, producers and greenhouse professionals across Greece, and will serve as a demonstration site for new technologies as well as a research center for carbon footprint monitoring and sustainable greenhouse management.

The goal of the Farm Revitalization initiative is to enhance the American Farm School's credibility and leadership as a regional hub of innovation, research, and education for sustainable growth, production, processing and marketing in Greece and the region.



### The Centers will cover cross-cutting areas such as:

#### SUSTAINABILITY

- Climate Change
- Water quality and quantity
- Waste Management
- Precision Agriculture
- Animal Welfare
- Aggressive Reforestation

#### HOLISTIC EDUCATION: HEAD, HEART, HANDS

- Vocational training
- Character building
- Leadership
- Teamwork

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- High value production/processing
- IoT, Technology and Innovation

#### RESEARCH

#### REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

#### OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

*If you would like to support this initiative, please visit: [www.afs.edu.gr/how-to-give/](http://www.afs.edu.gr/how-to-give/).*

# In Gratitude

The American Farm School thanks the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations for their generous support during the previous fiscal year, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. In these extraordinary times, their commitment to the Institution and its ideals has been exemplary, allowing the School to successfully achieve its educational goals.

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Lemonis Lemonis (AFS '07)  
Lena Levidi  
A. Mallini and SIA E.E.  
Ioanna Manousou  
Mantzavelas Nutrition IKE  
Olybia Markellou  
Avgi Markopoulou  
Konstantina Martiadou  
Karen Mihailidou  
Anastasia Mihailidou  
Kyriaki Moshou  
Mytis Transport IKE  
Konstantinos Mytzithras  
Despoina Nasika-Korakaki  
Panagiotis Ninios  
Theodora Pahta  
Stelios Papadakis  
Eftyxia Papagiota  
Polychronis Papaioannou  
Afroditi Papisimakopoulou  
Aristovoulos Papathanasiou  
Pelopac  
Spyros Pengas  
Betty Perahia  
Alexandros Petrogonas  
Alkiviadis Platidis  
Christina Pounartzi  
Elissavet Prapopoulou  
Olga Rafaelidou  
Mary Samouel  
Aliki Sarzetaki  
Charlotte Skarpidis  
Iosif Soltanis  
Ioli Stathi Dedaki  
Eleni Strataki  
Stelios Symeonidis  
Tasia Theodoridou  
Stefanos Troupakis  
Rodoula Tsalouchidou  
Maria Tsiopa  
Rona Tsiotra  
Dimitris Tzioufas  
Marianna Valetopoulou  
Tita Varadini  
Marianthi Vourexaki  
Christine Willis  
Parking YMCA  
Diogenis Zahariadis  
Lygia Zahariadou  
Aristotelis Zournatsidis

## U.S. Consul General visit to campus

The newly appointed U.S. Consul General in Thessaloniki Mr. Jerry Ismail visited the American Farm School in mid-October. He met with President Lansdale and Trustee Thymis Efthymiadis and discussed the history, the unique educational programs, and the role that the School has played in Greece over the years.

“I am truly impressed by the School. It’s an honor for me to be here and explore further collaboration between the Embassy and the Institution. What you do here is admirable. Thank you for advancing Greek-American relations since 1904”, he said.



Mr. Thymis Efthymiadis, Mr. Jerry Ismail, Dr. Jeff Lansdale

## AFS Representatives meet with Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul

Dr. Lansdale and Dr. Konstantinos Rotsios visited Istanbul on July 26th and 27th, following an invitation from His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, reciprocating the Patriarch’s presence at the AFS Commencement Ceremony in June.

Following the Holy Mass at the Holy Church of St. Paraskevi in the community of Pikridio (Haşköy), Dr. Lansdale and Dr. Rotsios met with the Patriarch and discussed the need to adjust educational programs to better address climate crisis. They also discussed that collective efforts should be enhanced by synergies with the private and public sectors.

His All-Holiness recognized the School’s contribution to the development of the agro-food sector in Greece and committed to introducing Perrotis College to high school graduates from Imvros and the wider Greek community in Istanbul.



Dr. Konstantinos Rotsios, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Dr. Jeff Lansdale

## AFS Hosts First International Lacrosse Tournament

The first ever international lacrosse tournament was recently hosted and organized by the American Farm School in collaboration with the Lacrosse Association of Greece. The participating countries were Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, The Netherlands, Israel and Turkey.

A popular sport in the U.S. but relatively unknown in Greece, lacrosse will be included in the Olympic Games as of 2028. The Lacrosse Association of Greece, presided by Greek-American and Oscar winning producer Mr. Anthony Katagas, aims to promote the sport within the country, focusing on the Olympic values it represents: collaboration, tolerance and healthy competition.



Mr. Anthony Katagas

On the occasion of the tournament, Mr. Katagas visited the School and introduced the sport to Haseotes Middle School and High School students. Apart from film production, Mr. Katagas is also an avid fan of lacrosse and used to compete with the Greek national team. “I am grateful to the American Farm School for successfully hosting the tournament. I believe there is potential for this sport in Greece and such kind of initiatives contribute to its advancement among younger generations”, he shared.

American Farm School students had the opportunity to discover a sport closely related to the American culture through their volunteer participation in the tournament as part of the Youth Leadership project implemented across educational levels.



## Exchange Program in the region of Arcadia Revives Interest in Agriculture

AFS donors Lena Abadzi and Thodoros Vakrinos saw an opportunity to rekindle interest in agriculture among rural youth and called on the School to lead an initiative mutually benefiting AFS students and students from Megalopolis in Arcadia. For the past two summers, students and teachers from Arcadia have been spending two weeks on campus, participating in experiential learning activities, engaging in practical training at the Educational Farm and becoming active members of the AFS community. Similarly, our Vocational High School students spend a week in Peloponnese, getting familiar with agricultural activities, experiencing local culture and volunteering in community projects. Besides financially supporting the exchange program, Ms. Abadzi and Mr. Vakrinos have also created a scholarship fund for Arcadian students who wish to study at the School.



## Arcadia Program Professionals Visit Schools in the U.S.

Developing a program to help students with learning differences has been a labor of love for Trustee Deborah Androus. Through the Androus Family Foundation and with private funds, she has made it possible for the School to establish and maintain the Arcadia Program, which provides specialized services and academic assistance to young people that face these learning differences (from Pre-K to Perrotis College).

As part of the Arcadia Program professional development, Special Education Teacher Katerina Stamatika and Career and Student Services Counselor Theodosios Tasios travelled to the U.S. to meet with teachers specializing in students with learning difficulties following an invitation by Ms. Androus who funded the trip. They visited secondary and higher education institutions in Washington D.C., New York and Connecticut and had the opportunity to exchange views with psychologists and other professionals on teaching and integration methods.



Ms. Deborah Androus, Mr. Theodosios Tasios, Ms. Katerina Stamatika

## Planned Giving

Planned Giving allows supporters of the American Farm School to integrate gifts into their overall financial, tax, and estate planning. A planned gift enables a donor to make a lasting impact by contributing significantly to the School and making a difference by helping future generations of students.

### METAMORPHOSIS SOCIETY

The Metamorphosis Society recognizes and honors the generosity and foresight of those individuals who have made provisions in their estate that include the American Farm School and who have apprised the School of their intentions. The name “Metamorphosis” is chosen for its deeper connection to the School’s tradition of providing education that brings about positive change, or “metamorphosis,” in the individual.

*David Acker, Peter Bien, Emily Carey, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Carson Jr., Marvin Fisber, Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Doolas, Mr. and Mrs. George Draper, Phillip G. and Mary Foote, Barbara K. Heming, Sarah Holland, Elizabeth (Tad) Lansdale, Jeffrey D. and Marjorie Lansdale, Susan Mees Longfield, Daniel and Mayo Morgan, Nicholas Pizaris, Gail Schoppert, Nancy Worcester*

### BEQUESTS

By including the American Farm School in their wills, the following individuals provided a final gift that will strengthen the School’s endowment or support other educational needs.

*Theodora Abrames, Charlotte Armstrong, Charles Storrs Barrows III, James Michael Broomas, Gregor L. Calender, Estber Carbart, Jean S. Crosby, Maria Couvaras, Hugh Cullman, Alexander Drapos, Angeline Ducas, Lula Ducas, Marvin Fisber, Claire C. Katsanis, Elizabeth M. Godley, Alice L. Hansen, Truda Jewett, Darlene Keeley, Edmund Keeley, Eve Curie Labouisse, Clara Nickolson, Eleanor McKay Norris, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Paterson, Sr., Andrew Ponas, Ruth Schoppert, Aristides Sideropoulos, Mary R. and Charles F. Lowrey, Mary Elizabeth Stewart, Barbara L. Wood, Charles L. and Joan Thomas, Winifred E. Weter*

### ESTATES AND TRUSTS

By creating an estate or trust, the following individuals provide annual support to the American Farm School that will last past their lifetimes.

*Estber Carbart, Ernest Thomas Cbepou, Philip and Hazel Constantinides, Lois Kerimis, Fred W. Kolb, Mary P. Gill, Henry T. Maijgren, Demosthenis Raptelis, Dean C. Zutes*

For more information about joining the Metamorphosis Society and other Planned Giving opportunities, please contact Laura Sommers at [lsommers@amerfarm.org](mailto:lsommers@amerfarm.org)





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If you want to receive news about the American Farm School & Perrotis College send us an email at [sower@afs.edu.gr](mailto:sower@afs.edu.gr) and we will add you to our electronic newsletter contact list.

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