

# The Sower

The American Farm School  
Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute  
Thessaloniki, Greece

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Issue 158



Third-year students Eleni Padula and Paschalitsa Manoloudi en route to campus farm for afternoon practical projects.



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Thessalonica Agricultural &  
Industrial Institute

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## The Sower

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contributors to the institution.

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## From the President

**A**mong the greatest privileges of a career in education is the chance to get to know extraordinary individuals dedicated to serving the younger generation through governance, philanthropy, teaching, or being a role model for youth to follow. The distinguished Trustees of the American Farm School have extended to me the warmest welcome. I am honored to know Mrs. Aliko Perroti, benefactor of our Dimitris Perrotis College of Agricultural Studies, and to meet scores of other individuals and representatives of corporations and foundations in Greece and the United States who generously support the work of the Farm School. Successful alumni have shown me how deeply they care about their alma mater, in particular through their Lansdale Leadership Fund initiative, a broad-based effort to honor the lifetime achievement of two friends and fellow educators I have known and admired throughout my life in Greece, Bruce and Tad Lansdale.



One of the strongest impressions the School has made upon me during my short incumbency is the dedication of its staff to the task of shaping values and behavior. It is a goal frequently cited by educators, but, in my experience, not often achieved.

## Rapid social and economic change in Greece and the larger region invite the Farm School to embrace new challenges and opportunities.

To cite a specific way in which the Farm School engages this task, every Wednesday at the 7:50 a.m. student assembly, a short documentary is shown in which a graduate narrates his or her experiences at the school and in later life. The videos are made in the graduate's current home and work settings, often a village scene. Invariably the students follow these documentaries with intense interest, because every one tells the story of someone of origins similar to their own, and what they are able to accomplish through their Farm School experience.

One example is Stefanos Mingas, an alumnus of 1981, from the village of Aeto, in the Florina region of Greece's province of Western Macedonia. Today he is an agricultural advisor serving 29 villages in that same district, is a leader in organizing athletic clubs in the region, and has held elective office. Stefanos spoke passionately about the Farm School's influence upon his personal development, stressing the values and discipline he acquired, and the lasting friendships he made. Following the video, Tasos Apostolides, Director of the Secondary School, elaborated upon the main messages to emerge from Stefanos's account. He stressed the graduate's decision not to migrate to Athens or Thessaloniki as so many rural youth do today, but to find a way to serve his rural community. He wove into his remarks the major values of hard work, personal initiative, and social responsibility that the Farm School seeks to pass on to its young charges.

Throughout the school day, during the morning lessons, the practical farm work of the afternoon, the three-hour evening study session, meals and dormitory hours, the Farm School staff reinforces those messages, each teacher or dorm counselor bringing to bear his or her particular gifts of persuasion.

Rapid social and economic change in Greece and the larger region invite the Farm School to embrace new challenges and opportunities. It is an invitation the institution accepts energetically, confident its achievements in shaping values would be the envy of the most illustrious schools anywhere.

*William McGrew*  
William McGrew  
President



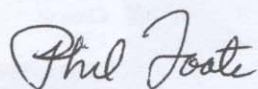
## From the Chairman

The Board of Trustees has the honor to welcome Dr. William McGrew as American Farm School President, effective September 1, 2005.

Dr. McGrew served as president of Anatolia College in Thessaloniki for 25 years. During his long and successful tenure, he is credited with leading the institution through a period of stability and development that transformed the College and redefined its relationship to the surrounding community. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. McGrew introduced post-secondary education to the institution. Today, the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) is a four year liberal arts and business college fully accredited in the U.S.

Prior to assuming the presidency of Anatolia College, Dr. McGrew served ten years in the U.S. Foreign Service with assignments in Washington, D.C., Athens, Thessaloniki, Izmir and Nicosia. He received his B.A. from Reed College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Modern European and Greek History from the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. McGrew is a scholar with a deep commitment to education, a proven and effective administrator with a thorough understanding of the issues facing education in Greece and southeastern Europe today, an eloquent spokesman for the role of American educational institutions in the region, and a recognized leader who will represent the School's core values with dedication.



Phillip G. Foote  
*Chairman of the Board of Trustees*



## Remembering Betty Godley

A memorial service to long time friend of the Farm School, Betty Godley, who died in Athens in September, was conducted in the campus chapel, attended by students, faculty, and Trustees. Trustee Annie Levis and Secondary School Principal Tasos Apostolides delivered moving tributes to Mrs. Godley, emphasizing her independent thinking, demanding standards, and boundless devotion to the School. Tad Lansdale read a passage attributed to the chapel's patron saint, St. John Chrysostomos, ending with "For wherever a beautiful soul has been, There is a trail of beautiful memories."



Betty and her husband George McMurtrie ("Mac") Godley both served as Trustees of the Farm School, after Mr. Godley's retirement from the State Department, where he served as U.S. Ambassador to the Belgian Congo (Zaire) from 1962 to 1967, Laos from 1969 to 1973, and Lebanon from 1973-1976. During Betty's tenure as Trustee, she motivated Greek students to master English and other foreign languages as a key to their success as world citizens. Betty herself was fluent in Greek, Italian, French and German and had working knowledge of Spanish, Russian, and Farsi. The English department's teaching laboratory is named in her honor, and the assembly room of the Secondary School's main building is named for her husband. Mrs. Godley left a \$1 million bequest to the School's endowment.



## SAVE THE DATE GREENWICH CARNAVALI

Saturday, March 4, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Join us at The Millbrook Club in Greenwich, CT

To celebrate the American Farm School  
And the Season of "Carnavali"!

With an evening of Greek Food and Dance  
And a Silent Auction of Greek Folk Art

For more information, please call the U.S. Office at 212-463-8434



# Alumni Lead Launch of Lansdale Leadership Fund

"It was a dream come true" explained alumnus Dimitris Vlachos of Gilbert, Arizona, before two hundred alumni and their families gathered in the Labouisse Youth Center to honor Bruce and Tad Lansdale at a November 13th event launching the Bruce and Tad Lansdale Leadership Fund, a named fund within the School's endowment to ensure scholarships in perpetuity for outstanding students and future leaders in the mold of the fund's namesakes. "It is a dream come true to honor Bruce and Tad, leaders who create other leaders to span the world over. I hope this endowment will allow deserving students to reach their full potential from wherever they may originate, and for ages to come." Voicing the sentiments of countless fellow graduates, Mr. Vlachos thanked the Lansdales for "being an inspiration to me as a village boy and for providing the same opportunity to so many others."

Mr. Vlachos' classmate and Trustee, Pantelis Panteliades, served as master of ceremonies, and alumni Trustees John Borovilas and Konstantinos Kravvas spoke movingly of the Lansdale's positive influence on their lives. Other alumni from the audience offered their testimonials.

Significant gifts from alumni present at the event and from scores of friends of the School in the U.S. and in Greece, accompanied by written or emailed testimonials describing the Lansdales' work, have assured a strong beginning to the fund dedicated to paying homage to the lifetime achievements of this extraordinary couple.

Dear Friends,

Tad and I take the greatest joy to see the Farm School striding boldly into the 21st century, applying the principles of hard work, hands-on education, and commitment to spiritual values that we have always encouraged. As I say in my poem, the School is "A gem for what it is. A gem for what it does."

It is vital to have your loyal interest and support, and for you to take pride, as we do, in the great accomplishments the School is making for the future of Greece, the country we love so much. Thanks to you and other friends, the *metamorphosis* of young people continues, stronger than ever before, because the School continues to educate the **whole individual: the head, the hands and the heart.**

Tad and I warmly encourage you to participate in the **Bruce and Tad Lansdale Leadership Fund** by contacting staff in the School's office in New York to guide you in making your gift.

Sincerely,  
Bruce and Tad Lansdale



Pantelis  
Panteliades  
(Class of  
1954)



Dimitrios  
Vlachos  
(Class of  
1954)



Bruce  
Lansdale  
(Honorary  
Class of  
1990)



John Borovilas  
(Class of 1976)



Tad  
Lansdale  
(Honorary  
Class of  
1990)



Kostas  
Kravvas  
(Class of  
1991)



# Dairy, Horticulture Departments Benefit from Latest Generosity of Paul J. Condellis



The teaching of mechanized agriculture at the Farm School and the operation of its educational farms has been made possible in large part thanks to the many gifts, over several decades, of tractors and agricultural implements from the Paul J. Condellis S.A. company. This year the Horticulture and Dairy departments were able, with the generous support of Mr. Condellis, to update their equipment, acquiring a Case Model MXM 120 hsp 4WD tractor, and Case Model MXU 100 hsp 4WD tractor with front-end loader, respectively.



## Gift of Vineyard Tractor

Mr. Dimitris Panteleimonitis, head of the Agripan-Emiko S.A. agricultural equipment company, delighted students and horticulture staff with the gift of a Kubota L-4330 tractor, answering their needs for a tractor specialized for use in the School's vineyard. Mr. Panteleimonitis was also the very well received keynote speaker in this year's Dimitris Perrotis College of Agricultural Studies commencement ceremony.

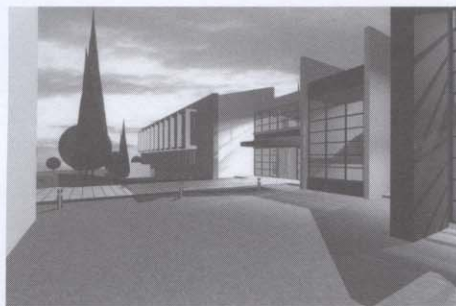
## Alumnus Support Helps Realize "Green" Football Dream



A grass playing field on which to pursue one of Greece's greatest passions – football! – has been the dream of Farm School students and staff for many years. The regulation size field, surrounded by the main campus buildings Princeton Hall, Rochester Hall, and the Labouisse Youth Center, lies at the heart of campus. Thanks to support from alumnus Stefanos Kassides (Class of 1990) and others, the gravel field was replaced with grass over the course of the summer, and the inaugural match played in October, with students versus staff teams. The staff team was the victor, 3-2.



# Views of the Stavros S. Niarchos Residence Hall



Thanks to the \$1.6 million gift from the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation, a major new building will complete the dormitory complex serving the Secondary School. The Stavros S. Niarchos Residence Hall is scheduled to be inaugurated in October 2006 during the foundation's board meeting in Thessaloniki. The architect for the new structure is Christos Kouloukouris, also responsible for the 1986 renovation of Princeton Hall.



## Applied Agricultural Research Update

The Farm School's close research and teaching ties to the University of Georgia continue, with the completion this summer of a research fellowship on the university's Tifton, GA, research campus by Perrotis College Professor of Agronomy, Dr. Athanasios Gertsis. The project outcome is a manual titled: *A Farmer & Student Guide to Simplified Precision Agriculture Techniques for Better Crop Management*. The work is based on Precision Agriculture technologies and methods originating at the University of Georgia, and applied, since 2001, to cultivations on the campus and Zannas farms of the American Farm School. Precision Agriculture is a leading-edge science that optimizes crop yields using balanced inputs that have a positive impact on the environment. Using a curriculum jointly developed with Dr. George Vellidis of the University of Georgia, Dr. Gertsis continues to teach Principles of Precision Agriculture, one of the most popular courses at Perrotis College, and the only university-level instruction in that subject available in Greece or elsewhere in southeastern Europe.

The commercial production of hybrid seed for corn and other essential crops is in its infancy in Greece, where most seed planted by farmers is imported. Applied research is needed to determine which varieties flourish under Greek climate and soil conditions that could be used to grow successful hybrid seed locally. Researchers from the Zouliamis Seed Production Company of Kozani in northern Greece, with their U.S. partner, American Genetics, Inc., have teamed up with horticulture department staff, teachers, and Perrotis College student interns, to begin trials this year on several different strains of hybrid corn for seed production. The experiments are being conducted in a central area of the School's campus farm.



Plant geneticist Pavlos Zouliamis, left, and Secondary School agriculture instructor Vasilis Garitsis with specimens from the hybrid corn seed production trials.

## AFS Partners with Muscular Dystrophy Association of Greece

From left, muscular dystrophy patients Danae Basavti, Panagiotis Dadoglou, Georgos Diamantopoulos, and Alkis Nerantzoulis, who enjoyed the week-long camp, "Kalokairi sto Agroklima" (Summer on the Farm) held at the Farm School. Last year, Paralympic Games winner and muscular dystrophy patient Manos Mortos made a memorable speech to Farm School students, and future joint activities are planned between the School and MDA Hellas (Muscular Dystrophy Association of Greece). The Athens-based organization was founded in 2000 by a group of private individuals in cooperation with members of the medical and academic world to promote research and raise public awareness about muscular dystrophy as well as other neuromuscular disorders.



## Outreach to Kosovo

Perrotis College graduate Nderim Rudi (far right, with baseball cap) and Farm School staff members escorted youngsters from Kosovo to the International Youth Summer Camp held at the YMCA seaside campgrounds in nearby Halkidiki. An outstanding student and leader at Perrotis College, Nderim, a native of Gjakova, Kosovo, continued his studies at the American College of Thessaloniki. He has applied to U.S. and European masters and doctoral programs in diplomacy, international relations, and agricultural economics.

## Greek Summer 2006

Greek Summer 2006 runs 26 June – 03 August. Participants are limited to 35, therefore it is advised to submit applications early, by February 15. Visit [www.greeksummer.org](http://www.greeksummer.org) to download the application and other required forms. For further information, please contact American Farm School Trustee Joannie Danielides at [joannie@danielides.net](mailto:joannie@danielides.net), or Thanos Kassapides, at the American Farm School, at [tkassa@afs.edu.gr](mailto:tkassa@afs.edu.gr)



# Greek Summer 2005:

## "An opportunity this amazing occurs only once in a lifetime"

*Greek Summer was my concrete in the building of worldwide bonds of friendship . . . built to last forever.*

— Sam M., Lexington, MA

*. . . Some things never stay golden. For me, my time in Greece will always shine.*

— Ashley A., Bronx, NY

*. . . When my mom went on this trip in '78, she said it changed her life. Now I can say that it has changed mine too.*

— Katie T., Cincinnati, OH

*. . . Greek Summer has perfected the blend of community service, travel and cultural appreciation.*

— Daniel K., Richmond, VA.,

*. . . "An opportunity this amazing occurs only once in a lifetime.*

— John M., Shrewsbury, MA

Villages throughout northern Greece bear witness to the hard work and community spirit of 35 years of Greek Summer programs, and this year, a quiet corner of the Farm School campus does as well. Greek Summer participants reciprocated the hospitality of their host families in the village of Exaplatanos, near Arideia in the mountains of northern Greece, with their landscaping of the village school and surrounding area; and repaid their warm reception by Farm School staff and their families by building a lovely pavilion on the highest point of campus, with a clear view west to Mount Olympus.



Welcomed by U.S. Ambassador Charles P. Ries (center).

the Ancient Nemea in the Peloponnese. Inspired and experienced leadership by Matina Karcazes (head counselor), Dean Marks, Amanda Weicker and Adam Siler, under the supervision of Greek Summer Coordinator Kyriakos Anthoulakis and the head of Student Life at the Farm School, Thanos Kassapides, ensured an exciting, smoothly run program. The hard work and communications skills of seven Farm School student volunteers, and the magic of being hosted by Bruce and Tad Lansdale at their home in Metamorphosis, Halkidiki, contributed to this "amazing experience that occurs only once in a lifetime."



Enjoying the mountain scenery of Exaplatanos.



Beautifying the village school.

U.S. Ambassador to Greece Charles P. Ries and Farm School Trustees added a rich dimension to the Greek Summer 2005 experience by organizing visits to the Ambassador's Residence and a private tour of the impressive excavation of



Made by hand! Garden pavilion on AFS campus.

## Friends in Lone Star State Open U.S. Doors for AFS Students

The student exchange visit to the Houston Rodeo and Livestock Show has become legendary for the peerless hospitality and richness of educational experience offered by a remarkable group of friends and supporters from the Pan Macedonian Association of Greater Houston, the International Committee of the Houston Rodeo, and educators at Texas A & M University. This year, five students, accompanied by Lyceum Principal Pelagia Voutsas, participated in ten days of nonstop visits to school and university agricultural laboratories, commercial agricultural enterprises, and of course, the one-and-only Houston Rodeo itself. The students are indebted to local AHEPA head, Anthony Kouzounis, to Peter and Nina Peropoulos and other members of the Pan Macedonian Association; to Bill Scott of the Houston Rodeo; to Dan James, Diego Garcia and others responsible for visits to the Spring Branch Independent School District vocational laboratories and Texas A & M agricultural laboratories; and to General and Mrs. Ed Solymosy for receiving them so graciously in their home. "We saw wonderful opportunities for strengthening our ties to Houston even more," comments Pelagia Voutsas. "The Spring Branch agricultural and other vocational laboratories have much to teach us, and we would like to show those students and teachers what we do here at the Farm School. And we are eager to explore possibilities of Farm School students who wish to pursue university studies in the U.S., to attend a school as outstanding as Texas A & M."



First row: Ioannis Stroulios. Second row: Ioanna Daganaki, Sophia Karga, Pantelis Hantzaras, Dimitris Valasiadis, with Lyceum Principal Pelagia Voutsas.



# American Interns Animate Student Life

Since its inception five years ago, the American intern program has contributed greatly to student life at the Farm School. Serving as this year's Secondary School interns, Margaret Williams, Jon Breece and Amber Randolph bring with them keen desire to interact with students in the classroom through innovative instruction, on the sports field, and in dorm life. The interns are involved in exciting projects that test and expand students' use of English, such as assisting the Farm School's first Model United Nations delegation, and continuing the bilingual student newspaper. In addition to double majoring in French and International Relations while at Bucknell University, Margaret was a collegiate tennis player and a cappella singer. Honors students Amber, a History major, and Jon, an English major, graduated from Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Va. and the University of Virginia, respectively. In college, Jon was extensively involved in the student newspaper, and Amber contributed to student life through student government and grant research projects. Jon and Margaret say they have found a real joy in the cross-cultural interchange they have with students whether on the tennis court or the computer lab. Amber's exuberance for all things Greek grows daily as she finds new ways to entwine herself in the lives of the students.

Hailing from San Francisco, Calif., the Perrotis College intern Gami Gutman holds a bachelor's in Italian and Psychology from the University of Virginia and a master's in Italian literature from Middlebury College, VT. Gami says the College's diverse population and location provide ample opportunities to expose students to different cultures, which she encourages through organizing social gatherings and excursions to cultural sights.

Adrienne Bergenfeld, a 4-H volunteer who graduated from the University of Northern Colorado, spent the fall helping students with practical agricultural and culinary projects. 4-H is a worldwide program to foster leadership and life skills in young adults.



From left, Margaret Williams, Amber Randolph, Jon Breece, Gami Gutman, Adrienne Bergenfeld.



Amber . . .

. . . and Margaret

Full-fledged members of the Student Dance Troupe.



## First MUN for Farm School Students

Five Farm School students, under the guidance of staff member George Stambolides and American intern Jon Breece, represented the Farm School for the first time in a Model United Nations conference, as the delegation from Portugal in the 4th Thessaloniki Model United Nations. Like every MUN, the Thessaloniki event offered students the opportunity to debate current issues of international importance and to gain deeper insight into the workings of international diplomacy. Second-year lyceum student Ino Sirou was delegate to the social humanitarian and cultural committee; third-year vocational school (TEE) student Ioanna Draganaki was Ambassador and delegate to the political committee; second-year lyceum student Niki Nota was delegate to the economics and finance committee; third-year lyceum student Pantelis Hantzaras was delegate to the environmental committee; and second-year lyceum student George Akridas was delegate to the committee on disarmament and international security. Participation in MUN enables students to develop study and communication skills; fosters the capacity to draw conclusions from research and investigation; and demonstrates how to think critically and argue a point convincingly. The MUN conference was in English, the official language of the United Nations.



First row: Ino Sirou, Ioanna Draganaki, Niki Nota  
Second row: Pantelis Hantzaras and Georgos Akridas with George Stambolides in center.