The Sower

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

Summer 2014

Issue 173

Members of the high school Traditional Greek Dance Team Thanasis Tsimourtos and Evdokia Papadopoulou take part in the "Mera Maiou" Festival.

The American Farm School
Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute

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From the President

The summer of 2014 sees Greece remaining in the grips of an economic recession that continues to affect the lives of everyone, and certainly the lives of the youth it is the American Farm School's mission to serve. We observe that returning to work the land in a sustainable way is a trend that persists, as our growing enrollment figures in all levels of education confirms. You will see in the pages of this *Sower* examples of how the School is working to expand its facilities and teaching resources accordingly. Meanwhile, there are some major efforts underway at the national level to face the challenges of youth unemployment brought on by the crisis in the economy. In an important instance, the School has been tapped by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for a trilateral partnership with Rutgers University and the Agricultural University of Athens to develop sustainable agriculture-related careers in the foundation's $100 million "Recharging Greek Youth 2013-2015" initiative.

You will read in the interview with Food Science & Technology professor Dr. Kyriaki Zinoviadou how our emphasis on teaching science is bearing fruit, including the example of the Valedictorian of the Perrotis College Class of 2014, Natalija Kozarevska, who completed her senior research dissertation with Dr. Zinoviadou in the Aliki Perroti Research Laboratories. The new Perrotis College Olive Center, with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Athens, is moving forward in its partnership with the University of California at Davis Olive Center. The University of Florida continues its joint research work with Perrotis College in a new project aimed at reducing mosquitoes in urban areas. And the work of our Center for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship is being documented under a Fulbright Foundation graduate research grant in a forthcoming paper titled, "Urban to Rural Transplants: Can Agriculture Take Root for Economically Displaced Greeks?"

The largest graduating class in Perrotis College history was honored to hear entrepreneur and ship owner Valentios Valentis stress in his June 23rd commencement speech that their education "leads to careers with great potential." He noted further that the agrofood and tourism sectors – where Perrotis graduates are preparing to be leaders – together with the shipping sector, are the "three pillars upon which the rebirth and revitalization of the Greek economy will be built."

These and other current developments at the American Farm School and Perrotis College are made possible by loyal and generous supporters of the institution on both sides of the Atlantic. I would like to single out for special recognition and deep gratitude the organizers of two outstanding benefit events held this spring in the United States. They are: Marie and Trustee Bill Tsacalis, and Beth and Chalky Thomas, for the Cincinnati Taverna 2014 held in honor of former Chairman of the Board Tom Thomas and his wife, Joan; and Vicky Kyriakos, Anna Lycouris and Trustee Manita Scocimara, who led the Greenwich, CT Taverna 2014 Committee. I encourage those of you who live in New York, Florida and California to participate in events in those areas we are planning for the coming fall and spring of 2015.

To all of you who support our Annual Fund and the President's Strategic Initiatives Campaign, and encourage the finest efforts of our students and staff by your friendship and interest in the School, I sincerely thank you.

Panos Kanellis, Ph.D.
President
American Farm School & Perrotis College

Opa! Cincinnati Taverna 2014…

Bringing friends of the American Farm School together to celebrate their support of the institution they love is a proud tradition in the city of Cincinnati, going back to the post-World War II era. Event Co-Chairs Marie and Bill Tsacalis and Beth and Chalky Thomas renewed this tradition with elegance and panache at the Cincinnati Taverna 2014, held on May 4, 2014 at the Cincinnati Woman's Club. The beautiful venue and gracious food, live Greek band and spirited traditional Greek Dance Team from Holy Trinity - St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church ensured an unforgettable evening for guests at this benefit dinner, who further demonstrated their interest in AFS by making gifts to the event's Silent Auction, and by responding to the impressive "Giving Wall" illustrating the many items that need underwriting at a school and educational farm, from seeds to irrigation systems to databases, e-journals and global positioning devices.

Cincinnati Taverna 2014 Committee with Honorees and their family, l to r: Bill Tsacalis, Co-chair and AFS Trustee; Patricia Chamberlin, US Director of Development; Loy Jonson; Lena Traiforos; Rachel Robinson; Kiki Christfield; Marie Tsacalis, Co-chair; Marianthi Tangili, AFS Alumna; Barbara K. Heming, AFS Trustee; and the Thomas Family: Michael Thomas, Joan Thomas (Honoree), Tom Thomas (Honoree and AFS Honorary Trustee), Beth Thomas, Co-Chair; Chalky Thomas, Co-Chair; and Ann Schmidt.

Charles L. (Tom) Thomas, Jr. and his wife, Joan, were honored for their dedication to the School, including the twenty-two years Tom served as Trustee, and for Tom's chairmanship of the Board of Trustees 1995-2002, during which time he presided over the founding of Perrotis College of Agriculture, Environment and Life Sciences. Three generations of Thomases have been part of the greater American Farm School "family" as friends and as participants in the Greek Summer program, the latest of whom are Blake Thomas and Nell Thomas who were part of Greek Summer 2012 and Laura Gordon who was Greek Summer Counselor in 2013. Guests appreciated the moving remarks made by Tom Thomas, as well as memorable words addressed to them by AFS 2012 Alumna Marianthi Tangili, and by U.S. Director of Development Patti Chamberlin.

Honorees Tom and Joan Thomas

Son and grandson of Tom & Joan Thomas: Chalky Thomas, Co-chair, and Blake Thomas

Co-chair Marie Tsacalis with a band member

… And Bring on the *Kefi*! Greenwich Taverna 2014

The Greenwich Committee of dedicated and hardworking volunteers, led by Co-Chairs Vicki Kyriakos and Anna Lycouris, were responsible for another brilliant biennial fundraising event at the Milbrook Club in Greenwich, CT on April 26, 2014. Connecticut friends and supporters made sure that their contributions and bids in the evening's Silent Auction would give generous assistance to the President's Strategic Initiatives Campaign and to the Greek Summer program. AFS 2013 Alumnus Theodoros Dimitrasopoulos told guests about the benefits of his "hands-on" education at the American Farm School; and Greek Summer 2010 Alumnus William (Luke) Hamell spoke about the ability of Greek Summer to change young people's lives. Both are current students at Princeton University. Steve Makris of Fantis Foods, Inc. and Thalassa Restaurant generously contributed the hors d'oeuvres for the event as well as "Kanenas" wine from Tsantali Vineyards in Thessaloniki.

Greenwich Taverna 2014 Committee members Nafsica Chalekian; Diana Hamilton; Manita Scocimara; Soula Rizos; Anna Lycouris; Olga Karakadas; and Vaso Petsagourakis, with items from the evening's Silent Auction.

Trustee Manita Scocimara; Phoebe Hartch, daughter of Trustee Sophia Hartch; and Darcy Hadjipateras, who has served on the Greenwich Committee for 20 years, and whose daughter, Sophia, is a Greek Summer 2014 participant.

Save the Date

Please join us for the Annual New York Benefit Dinner

Award winning archaeologist and author **Joan Breton Connelly**

Speaking on: *The Parthenon Enigma: A New Understanding of the World's Most Iconic Building and the People Who Made It*

Thursday, October 23, 2014 • The Princeton Club of New York, 15 West 43rd Street, NYC

Please contact lsommers@amerfarm.org or tel. 212-463-8434

SNF Calls for Partnership of AFS with Rutgers and AUA to Benefit Greek Youth

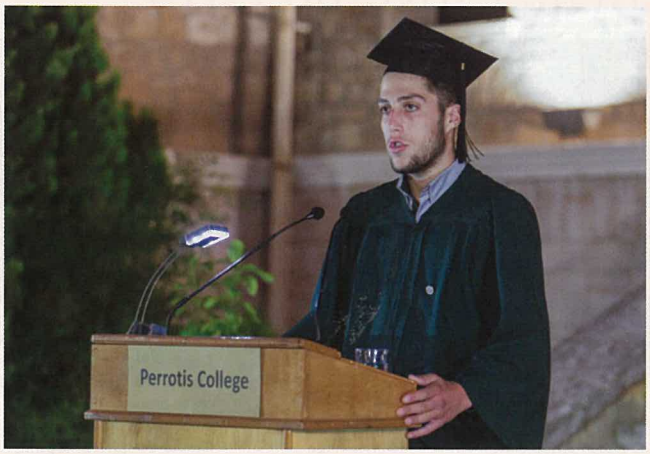
Prominent representatives from Rutgers University and the Agricultural University of Athens visited campus recently in the latest phase of a trilateral collaboration with the American Farm School. The three institutions are tapped as partners in the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's "Recharging Greek Youth 2013-2015" initiative. A joint proposal – which is set to highlight the American Farm School and Perrotis College's educational and administrative role in delivering training and entrepreneurship guidance to young Greeks – aims to secure funding from the €100 million SNF campaign to combat youth unemployment in Greece.

Leading the task force for AFS are President of the American Farm School and Perrotis College Dr. Panos Kanellis and Dean of Perrotis College Dr. Philip Papadopoulos. The Rutgers team is headed by Dr. Robert M. Goodman, who is Distinguished Professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources; Executive Dean of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences; and Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. George Papadakis, Vice Rector of Financial Affairs & Development at the Agricultural University of Athens, chairs that university's participation. Long term, the three educational institutions look forward to further collaborative actions including student and faculty exchanges as well as joint research initiatives.

ΙΣΝ/SNF ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

Collaboration with ACS in Athens adds Cultural Dimension

This year marks the third annual academic exchange between the American Farm School of Thessaloniki and the American Community Schools of Athens. Customarily, the collaborative learning effort focuses on the exploration of scientific principles and technological advances, especially in agricultural and life sciences. This time was no exception, with the two classes working side by side in a variety of hands-on lab experiments and fieldwork activities, on topics ranging from carbohydrate chemistry analysis to robotics. As is tradition, academic pursuits were interspersed with team building in the athletic arena, with informal basketball and soccer matches. A new interdisciplinary perspective was added this term, as students from both institutions participated in a four-week virtual learning course on Moodle prior to the exchange. The course, whose topic was the Holocaust, prepared students for an evening of presentations from three Thessaloniki WWII survivors. Together, ACS and AFS students explored an important chapter in local and world history, while learning about the role of primary and secondary sources analysis in the context of social science. A productive and enjoyable experience for those involved, this program serves as a model for similar exchanges in the future.



Valedictorian of the year-long certificate program in Contemporary Agricultural Practices, Ioannis Boutzios, addressed the audience at the Perrotis College Commencement Ceremony with a thoughtfulness and sincerity that moved and inspired. "I value my father's experience and what he has achieved with the family's farm" Ioannis commented. "But I am here to gain more than empirical knowledge. I do not want to repeat his mistakes. I hope to continue my education and eventually get a BSc degree from Perrotis College". His words go to the very core of the program's philosophy and *raison d'être*, which is to address the needs of high school graduates with an earnest interest in agriculture. This certificate sequence, which was established this past fall and is taught in Greek, shows great promise. Already, it is being met with such a positive response that the demand exceeds program space capacity.

A joint project undertaken by thirty high school students in the Young Entrepreneurs Club and the Robotics Club was given an Outstanding Environmental Awareness Award in the Pan-Hellenic Student Virtual Enterprises contest, administered by the Association for Entrepreneurship SEN (Junior Achievement Greece). The effort involved the formation of a startup company the students named "Ecotech," specializing in environmentally friendly fire logs, or briquettes, made of sawdust, wood shavings, and leaves from trees and shrubs, all by-products found in abundance on the AFS Educational Farm. To produce the fire logs, students fabricated a special metal press or mold, using the equipment and supplies available to them in the Hugh Keeley Welding Laboratory. To view a video-documentary of the project, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nitXpyeJ3L4&feature=youtu.be

Valentios Valentis, founder and CEO of Pyxis Maritime Corporation, was the Keynote Speaker at the June 23, 2014 Perrotis College Commencement Ceremony. Reminding the graduates that they had chosen an education that leads to "careers with great potential," he stressed that that the agrofood and tourism sectors – where Perrotis College graduates are preparing to be leaders – together with the shipping sector, are the three pillars upon which the "rebirth and revitalization of the Greek economy will be built." Following Mr. Valentis' inspiring address and remarks by the School Deans and distinguished graduates, President Panos Kanellis awarded the Athinoula A. Martinos Endowed Professorship to Mr. Nicholaos Chatzilias, while Mr. Valentis' wife, Theodora Valenti, granddaughter of benefactress Mrs. Aliki Perroti, presented the Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards. With candid grace she told the graduates how impressed she was with their achievements, and how proud her grandmother is of the growth of Perrotis College and the exciting new directions it is taking.

Q + A with Dr. Kyriaki Zinoviadou

Dr. Kyriaki Zinoviadou, assistant professor of Food Science and Technology at Perrotis College, is an enthusiastic ambassador for the spirit of scientific inquiry and applied research so fundamental in these formative years of the major. She received her PhD from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and MSc from the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands. Recently, her article on whey protein films as carriers of antimicrobial agents such as oregano oil and their effect on the shelf life of beef, which has amassed over 40 citations, was ranked as one of the top 15 most cited papers of the scientific journal Meat Science *in the last five years. She spoke to us about her work and shared her thoughts on the importance of cultivating a research-oriented mindset.*

Tell us about your work on this paper, and discuss the practical implications of your findings.

Though the initial work was undertaken in 2009 as part of my PhD, I have continued to develop this topic here at Perrotis. The paper looks at using biopolymer based edible films from whey protein, which is a by-product created during cheese production, as a carrier of natural preservative agents. The findings are promising – while whey protein will likely never replace plastic due to its water permeability properties, the incorporation of oregano oil into the whey protein films did manage to roughly double the shelf life of beef. And of course, it has the additional benefits of being bio-degradable and made from a waste product. Edible packaging is certainly the way of the future, but we are still in the early stages – it will take time to implement these changes, but this means there is plenty of room for exploration and discovery.

What kind of impact can work of this caliber have on the institution and the greater community?

However one chooses to cut it, research and similar types of collaboration attract positive attention – not only from the scientific community, but from businesses, other academic institutions, and prospective students. Projects such as the one we are discussing prove valuable in many ways, because they often have tangible, practical implications in agribusiness.

Are your students directly involved in your research?

Advancing our students' skills in academic research is an ever widening focus at Perrotis. We believe in experiential learning, and therefore professors try to work with students to produce papers for scientific journals. I currently have a BSc candidate working alongside me as part of her senior thesis. I hope to incorporate more student participation as the food science major continues to grow at Perrotis.

What are some new projects you have in the works?

At present I am focused on the topic of product shelf-life and food preservation. I'm in the process of looking into the use of herbs in the preservation of olive oil, and next year, I plan to be examining herb and spice essential oil marinades for similar use on muscle foods. I love working within the theme of product shelf-life because it combines pure science with technology, and it's of palpable interest for companies in the food industry.

Dr. Kyriaki Zinoviadou and Perrotis College Valedictorian Natalija Kozarevska in the Aliki Perroti Research Laboratories

Please comment on the opportunities available to young people interested in this field.

Everyone is well aware that Greece is experiencing acute economic difficulty. This is a fact. We are fortunate, however, to be at the center of a budding sector – food science, agribusiness and environmental studies are experiencing an unprecedented boom. I always encourage my students to look at and position themselves globally; we are all citizens of the world, and they are well versed in the one truly universal language – science.

U.S. Embassy Supports Debut Events for Perrotis College Olive Center

Olive Center
PERROTIS COLLEGE
AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

The partnership between the new Perrotis College Olive Center and the University of California at Davis Olive Center was advanced with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Athens in separate events held this spring in Thessaloniki and Athens for olive producers, marketers, policy makers and other stakeholders in the Greek olive and olive oil industry. Dr. Athanasios Gertsis, Director of the Perrotis College Olive Center, explored the theme of "New Methods of Olive Production: an Holistic Approach;" while Dan Flynn, Executive Director of the UC Davis Olive Center, spoke on "The UC Davis Olive Center: Lessons Learned and the Keys to Success." Both experts emphasized that worldwide olive production is rapidly changing; caused by climate change; emerging consumer markets and preferences; and new methods of olive production and by-product utilization.

George Frowick, Cultural Attaché in Athens, stewarded the U.S. State Department's sponsorship of Dan Flynn's visit to Greece and participation in the two events. The U.S. Embassy also continues to provide invaluable advice and support to the Center for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Perrotis College and the American Farm School, such as participation by Perrotis College Dean Dr. Philip Papadopoulos and Associate Dean Evangelos Vergos in the Global Entrepreneurship Program's Delegation to Athens in May, at which promising connections with U.S. food industry leaders were made.

Dr. Athanasios Gertsis; Dan Flynn and his wife, Karen; and Trustee Daisy Pappas at the April 3rd event held in Cotsen Hall of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, organized by the Association of Friends of the American Farm School.

U.S. Consul General Robert Sanders; Karen Flynn; Dan Flynn; Dr. Athanasios Gertsis; VP Joann Ryding; Perrotis College Dean Philip Papadopoulos at the March 31, 2014 event held in Seth Frank Assembly Hall of the Aliki Perroti Student Residence.

The "Mera Maiou" spring festival this year brought thousands of city families and returning AFS alumni for a day-long celebration of music, country & western and traditional Greek dancing, livestock displays and horseback riding, tractor show, meals with the Mediterranean diet cooked by children and their parents, wine tasting, and a dazzling array of fresh AFS farm produce for sale, in addition to new gourmet food products introduced by recent graduates of the Center for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Perrotis College.

Greek Consul General in New York City Georgios Iliopoulos honored the Board of Trustees and their guests at a March 13, 2014 reception at his residence in the Consulate General building at 69 East 79th Street. Mr. Iliopoulos is pictured here with President Panos Kanellis, left, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Robert W. Uek, right.

Eleni Samaras; Eva Kanellis; VP Joann Ryding; Trustee Susan Stupin; Trustee VP John Crunkilton; Etta Samaras; President Panos Kanellis.

Jane Fortenberry Gonzalez; Ted Gamble; Anastasia Vournas; Bill Uhrig.

Trustee David Acker; Trustee Elaine Nelson; Trustee William Richter; Emma Richter; Trustee Barbara Heming.

Trustee Susan Stupin and husband Ted Gamble hosted a reception for the Board of Trustees and friends on March 14, 2014 at the University Club.

Diane Smith; Ambassador Daniel Bennett Smith; President Panos Kanellis; VP Joann Ryding; Ambassador Panagopoulos.

Ambassador Christos P. Panagopoulos

Trustee David Acker

Ambassador of Greece to the United States Christos P. Panagopoulos welcomed guests to the presentation "The American Farm School of Thessaloniki: *Promoting Entrepreneurship in Greece's Food & Agriculture Sectors*" at the Greek Embassy in Washington D.C. on March 17, 2014. Following the Ambassador's welcoming remarks, Trustee David Acker spoke on *"Sustainability in our Global Food and Agriculture System and the Role of the American Farm School"* and President Panos Kanellis spoke about current strategic initiatives at the School. Former U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Bennett Smith pointed to the unique, century-long contribution of the School to the benefit of Greece. Kir-Yiannis Estate sponsored the wine for the event.

The Culinary Landscapes of Greece

Perrotis College's Food, Taste & Society 2014 festival held May 30 – June 1 at the Aliki Perroti Student Residence was devoted to "The Culinary Landscapes of Greece: Tradition and Innovation." Participants included a lineup of international and regional food experts; Perrotis faculty and students specializing in Food Science and Technology and in Marketing Management for the Food Sector; and students and graduates of the Center for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CAIE) at Perrotis College. Highlights ranged from tastings of several Thessaloniki ethnic cuisines, such as Armenian, Bulgarian, Jewish and Pontic Greek cooking; to presentations on traditional foods from Greek species of water buffalo, black pigs, turkeys, quail, and snails; to food and other products developed and sold by enterprises recently established by CAIE graduates. A meal prepared by food historian Jerolyn Morrison and her team used Minoan utensils and cooking methods from ancient Crete to prepare a celebratory meal of foods from the Minoan and Byzantine eras in Greek history. The event was supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

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 positive financial difference for the donor and his or her family, while also contributing significantly to the School. Planned gifts leave a legacy that benefits not only the donor and the donor's family, but also future generations.

METAMORPHOSIS SOCIETY

The Metamorphosis Society recognizes and honors the generosity and foresight of those individuals who have made provisions in their estates to include the American Farm School, and who have apprised the School of their intentions. The name "Metamorphosis" is chosen for the resonance this word has in the School's tradition of education that brings about positive change, or metamorphosis, in the individual; and also by association with the titles of books by the late Bruce M. Lansdale (long-time AFS Director), *Metamorphosis: Why Do I Love Greece?* and by his wife Elizabeth Lansdale, *My Metamorphosis.*

David Acker
Charlotte P. Armstrong
Peter Bien
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Carson, Jr.
Hugh Cullman
Marvin Fisher
Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Doolas
Phillip G. and Mary Foote
Barbara K. Heming
Sarah Holland
Truda Jewett
Claire C. Katsanis
Edmund Keeley
Elizabeth (Tad) Lansdale
Susan Mees Longfield
Mary R. and Charles F. Lowrey
Nicholas Pisaris
Gail and Ruth Schoppert
Charles L. and Joan Thomas
Nancy Worcester

BEQUESTS

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

Theodora Abrames
Charles Storrs Barrows III
Esther Carhart
Maria Couvaras
Alexander Drapos
Angeline Ducas
Lula Ducas
Elizabeth M. Godley
Eve Curie Labouisse
Clara Nickolson
Eleanor McKay Norris
Barbara L. Wood
Winifred E. Weter

ESTATES AND TRUSTS

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

Esther Carhart
Ernest Thomas Chepou
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 Ms. Rena Karypidou, U.S. Annual Fund Coordinator, at rkaryp@afs.edu.gr.

Thank You to Our Donors to the Elementary School

Elementary school teachers, students and parents joined members of the Board and Trustees and their guests at a June 19, 2014 ceremony to recognize those who contributed so generously to the beautiful new American Farm School Elementary School building and surrounding garden areas. Classrooms and other teaching facilities bear the names of many of these individuals and organizations:

Benefactors: Anonymous; the Estate of Charles Storrs Barrows III; the General Mills Foundation through United Way Worldwide; Trustee Barbara K. Heming; the Jaharis Family Foundation; and the Samourkas Foundation. **Donors:** Alumil S.A., Honorary Trustee Charlotte P. Armstrong; the Association of Friends of AFS • Greece; Honorary Trustee Peter & Chrysanthi Bien; Committee of AFS Friends • Cincinnati OH; Committee of AFS Friends • Greenwich CT; Committee of AFS Friends • New York City; Honorary Trustee Dr. Stavros & Loretta Constantinides; Trustee Treasurer Constantine & Katherine Darras; Friends of Father John Sarantos; Trustee Sophia & Tim Hartch; Ideal Standard A.B.E.E.; AFS President Dr. Panos & Eva Kanellis; Trustee Dan & Mayo Morgan; Morgan-Worcester Inc.; and Trustee Manita Scocimara & Family. **Supporters:** Trustee Vice Chairman John & Sherry Crunkilton; Trustee Secretary Sharon & Jaan Vaino; and Marios Philippou.

Trustee Barbara K. Heming with students and teachers

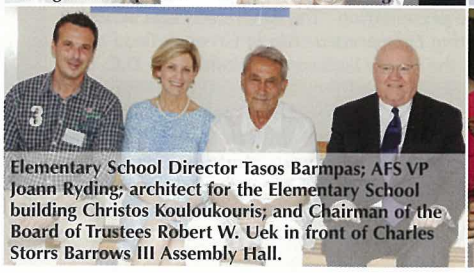
Regional Committees of AFS Friends Co-Chairs Manita Scocimara (Greenwich, CT); Joannie Danielides (New York City); and Bill Tsacalis (Cincinnati)

Trustee Manita Scocimara with AFS VP Tasos Apostolides

General Mills representative George Xanthopoulos

Trustee Dan Morgan

Trustee Treasurer Constantine N. Darras

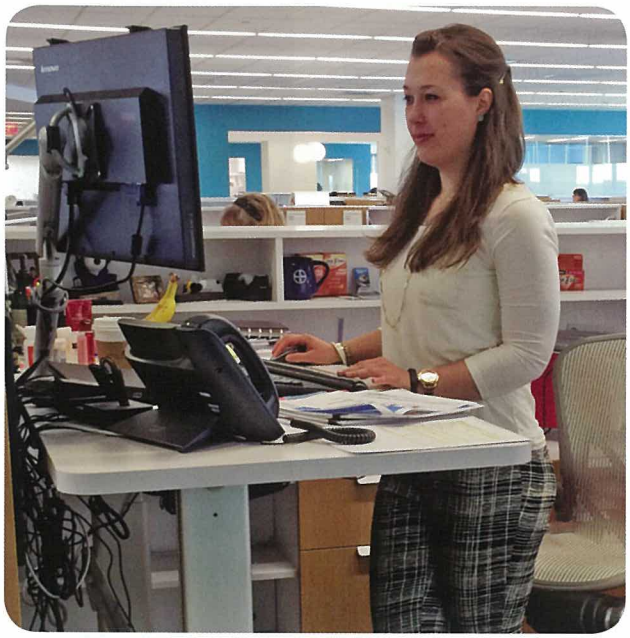

Elementary School Director Tasos Barmpas; AFS VP Joann Ryding; architect for the Elementary School building Christos Kouloukouris; and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Robert W. Uek in front of Charles Storrs Barrows III Assembly Hall.

Trustee Sophia Hartch

"Get Outside Your Comfort Zone"

It hardly comes as a surprise that Sandra Popova, valedictorian of the Perrotis College graduating class of 2006, achieves what she puts her mind to. And judging from the outcome, she must have dreamt big. With an Associate Degree in Marketing for the Food Industry from Perrotis College in hand, Sandra continued her studies at the University of Arkansas's Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences. In 2008 she was awarded her BSc in Agribusiness Management *summa cum laude*, and in 2010 her MSc in Agricultural Economics from the same institution. She was integral to her school team winning the National Graduate Student Case Study competition organized by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and was singled out as the Dale Bumpers College "Outstanding Masters' Student." Now a member of the Consumer Care Division at Bayer HealthCare U.S. headquarters in Whippany, NJ, Sandra provides analytical perspective and recommendations on the four P's of marketing—Promotion, Placement, Product and Pricing—for key brands such as Aleve, Bayer Aspirin and Midol.

Looking back on her years at Perrotis, Sandra stresses it was these early experiences that instilled in her excitement for creative problem solving. She credits especially the classes in Marketing Management and Consumer Behavior taught by the now Associate Dean of Perrotis College, Konstantinos Rotsios, for igniting her love for consumer behavior analytics. Sandra considers herself among the fortunate few for whom a career's challenges make up its greatest rewards. Working for a global operation, Sandra displays astute business and organizational knowledge in her collaboration with colleagues from countries as disparate as Japan, Russia, Switzerland, France and Germany. For some this would present a barrier, but for Sandra, undertaking projects alongside fellow professionals from different backgrounds is one of the things she enjoys most about her work; it reminds her of the diversity she encountered while at Perrotis.



To those hoping to follow Sandra's example down this gratifying but challenging path, she offers a few fervent words of advice: "Make the most of the opportunities available to you. Take that extra class you are interested in, participate in an activity that excites you, and get outside your comfort zone. Persistence and patience are the keys to succeeding. Finally, it's important to remember your roots – once you've succeeded, give back to the community you grew up in." These words are axioms Sandra lives by. Currently far from her hometown of Skopje, FYROM, she volunteers in Bayer's Making Science Make Sense program and donates to other similar causes. Such initiatives attest to the bold spirit and thoughtful demeanor that continue to guide Sandra's personal and professional accomplishments.

Fulbright Graduate Research Grant 2013-2014 Tied to AFS

Sophie Daudon, Carleton College alumna and Fulbright graduate research grant recipient assigned to the Center for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Perrotis College and the American Farm School for 2013-14, is wrapping up her work here on campus and in many locations throughout northern Greece. Over the past year, Sophie has interviewed over 40 active and aspiring farmers, as well as a dozen experts in the field of Agricultural Science. She credits her research advisor, Dr. Evangelos Vergos, for having provided her with key contacts in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and guiding her throughout the research process. She presents her findings in a paper entitled "Urban to Rural Transplants: Can Agriculture Take Root for Economically Displaced Greeks?" Sophie represents the most recent collaboration in a longstanding partnership between the Fulbright Foundation and the American Farm School; one which began in 1948, when former AFS President Bruce Lansdale and Honorary Trustee Edmund (Mike) Keeley were among the first U.S. teachers to arrive under the newly established United States Educational Foundation in Greece (Fulbright Foundation).

Study Abroad Leads to Personal Growth

Kylee, Nikki, Rachel and Erica are busy young women. But a unique program of study such as the Semester/Summer Internship Program at Perrotis College tends to attract exceptional and driven individuals. **Kylee Short**, an Agricultural Science major at Truman State University in Missouri, works at an equestrian center in the nearby village of Thermi where she learns the ins and outs of managing an equine facility. **Rachel Craig**, also an AS major at Truman, spends her time assisting the teachers of *Asylo tou Paidiou*, a philanthropic organization which attends to the material, emotional and academic needs of young children from working families. **Nikki Szlamnik**, a Human Development major from Eckerd College in Florida, joins Rachel in this worthwhile endeavor, which is made possible through the support of the Perroti/Frank Young People's Food Project.

Erica Varner, who majors in Dairy Science at Iowa State University, is taking advantage of the program to intern at a leading European dairy farm and milk processing plant, the Educational Center of Science and Technology for Milk and Milk Products at AFS. As different as their experiences have been, each individual has come away with technical skills and practical knowledge on how to manage a business or service in their respective areas of interest; but more importantly perhaps, with the sense of gratification and personal growth which can only be achieved by living in and actively contributing to a community so different from one's own.

Rachel Craig enjoying recess at *Asylo* with two young charges.

Nikki Szlamnik as teacher's assistant in an *Asylo tou Paidiou* classroom

The high school graduating class of 2014 advances the AFS record of successful placements in U.S. colleges and universities. Sotiris Filippou received positive responses accompanied by generous financial aid packages from six leading institutions, from which he selected Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Kalliroi Prassa singled out St. Lawrence University from among five impressive offers, and Martha Tsaliki will enroll in her first choice, McNeese State University in Louisiana. Stergiani (Stella) Lentzou and Anna-Maria Chrysovergi have respectively chosen to attend Middlebury College and Bates College in the fall, both via early decision and with full scholarships. Pictured at the Study USA information stand at this year's Mera Magiou festival, l to r, are: science teacher Dimitris Slavoudis; Sotiris Filippou; Stella Lentzou; College Counselor Georgia Proestopoulos; College Counseling Fellow Imani Ladson for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 who is also Head Counselor for Greek Summer 2014.

Fork to Farm : International Journal of Innovative Research and Practice

Perrotis College faculty and students have teamed up with staff of the Dimitris & Aliki Perrotis Library (a facility serving all educational levels at American Farm School as well as the greater community) to initiate Fork to Farm: International Journal of Innovative Research and Practice. The journal is an open access, online publication by the American Farm School, covering original research, case studies and interviews in fields related to agriculture and food science. The periodical takes a unique approach to scientific publication, by placing emphasis on the practical application of scientific innovation, and highlighting the upstream implications of developments in the field. A complete list of topics and information on article submission are available on www.afs.edu.gr or directly via http://journalf2f.afs.edu.gr.

In an initiative spearheaded by Plant Production Department Head Yiannis Gatzolis and Educational Farm Director Dr. Athanasios Giamoustaris, an array of botanicals, or aromatic plants, that are native to Greek soil have been planted on 1.24 acres of AFS grounds. Fifteen varieties are being cultivated to date – among them popular plants such as lavender, rosemary and thyme, but also less commonly known species such as lemon verbena, lemon balm, marjoram and valerian – each one selected for its medicinal or therapeutic qualities, its commercial potential, and for being found in the Greek landscape. Additional plantings will follow: green tea, Greek mountain tea, summer savory, basil and purple basil, stevia, anise and the medicinal plant native to Crete called *dictimos*, or dittany. Crop management is conducted in accordance with the Agro 2.1 – 2.2 standards of quality assurance – meaning that weather station data is used to moderate fungal growth, traps keep pests at bay, and weeds are suppressed with the help of heat-retaining plastic covers. All procedures follow principles of sustainable and environmentally-friendly farming, using both mechanical and manual methods. The cultivations have been established to instruct students in all educational levels, but especially to serve Perrotis College's year-long certification program in Modern Agricultural Practices. In a pilot phase, some of these aromatic plants are already available for purchase in the campus store, with a view towards increased production beginning in September.

Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki, the five-star luxury hotel and conference center serving international visitors to northern Greece and the Balkans, recently began a partnership with the Continuing Education and Extension Services division of AFS and Perrotis College, directed by Dr. Evangelos Vergos. Perrotis College students planted an "aesthetic garden" that mixes colorful Mediterranean vegetable crops with many local aromatic plants, and ties the hotel's 1,200 square meter swimming pool with Oceana, its popular outdoor restaurant. Harvest from the garden will be served in the hotel's three restaurants, and a range of AFS farm products are being planned for use by the hotel's Chief Executive Chef, K. Arampatzis. The AFS campus is also considered an attractive agrotourism destination in local tours arranged for hotel guests.

Teaming with University of Florida to Reduce Mosquitoes in Urban Areas

In the ongoing partnership of the American Farm School and Perrotis College with University of Florida's Department of Entomology and Nematology, master's degree student Casey Parker conducted four months of research on the AFS campus in Thessaloniki this spring and summer, under the supervision of Dr. Alexandra Chaskopoulou, who earned her doctorate in the same department in 2010 with a thesis titled "Efficacy and Non-target Effects of Aerial Ultra Low Volume Mosquito Adulticiding with Water Based Unsynergized Pyrethroids." Dr. Chaskopoulou is a United States Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Research Service) – European Biological Control Laboratory research scientist and serves as Adjunct Professor at Perrotis College.

Casey Parker

Dr. Alexandra Chaskopoulou

Centers of Disease Control & Prevention mosquito trap

Ms. Parker's research focuses on mosquitoes and their control in or near urban areas. She is looking at the distribution of different mosquito species and their breeding sites on the AFS campus and Educational Farm by utilizing various trapping methods and surveillance techniques for mosquito eggs and adult mosquitoes, such as the Centers of Disease Control & Prevention trap pictured here. The next phase of Ms. Parker's research is to optimize a novel mosquito trap that can reduce mosquito populations within an urban setting. The AFS campus is located only six miles from the Thessaloniki city center.

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