

The Sower

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

Winter 2011

Issue 166



Greek Summer 2010 participant Samantha Rathbun from Naples NY takes a break at the construction site in the village of Mikro Dasos, while William (Luke) Hamel works in the background.

The American Farm School
Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute

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From the President



Having completed my first year as President of the American Farm School and Perrotis College, I want to share with *Sower* readers my spirit of gratitude and optimism, based on personal experience of this most remarkable of educational institutions. I am humbled by the depth of commitment from individuals, corporations and foundations in the United States, in Greece and in Europe who are inspired by our mission and contribute with their generosity so that we may further our educational endeavors.

Among the strategic initiatives the Board of Trustees has recently approved, perhaps the most far-reaching is its endorsement of the start of a pre-k and kindergarten, leading in time to an elementary school. Our focus – and what will make us different from other institutions in Greece – is our commitment to environmental education and experiential learning. At an early age, children absorb immediate contact with the natural world – plants and animals – in the surroundings of the School's green campus and through its hallmark "learn by doing" approach. They are open to taking responsible roles, as they mature, in incorporating ecological principles and imperatives into their own lives and the lives of others. These early stages of education will be followed by the development of an elementary school and eventually to a junior high school, bridging to our long established and highly respected high school and Perrotis College programs.

Among the strategic initiatives the Board of Trustees has recently approved, perhaps the most far-reaching is its endorsement of the start of a pre-k and kindergarten, leading in time to an elementary school.

In the pages of this *Sower* issue, you will enjoy reading about the experience that many had at first hand, at the recent Celebrate 40 Years of Greek Summer events in New York City. Alumni and friends of Greek Summer had the opportunity to express their enthusiasm for the ongoing activities of an educational institution that has had a lasting affect on their lives or on the lives of their children or grandchildren.

Also in this *Sower* issue you will learn about our innovative efforts in applied scientific research, and how participating in such research equips our Perrotis College graduates to compete as professionals in the global economy.

Reading through the list of donors in the United States and in Greece for 2009-2010, you will recognize the importance of the commitment that you, and other members of the wide community of friends of the American Farm School, have made as supporters of the Annual Fund, and how much our work depends on you. On behalf of the students and staff of the School, please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Panos Kanellis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Panos Kanellis, Ph.D.
President



The new Aliko Perroti Student Residence was built by American Farm School graduate Dimitris Tsoufis' construction firm Provoli S.A., designed by Thessaloniki architects P. Makridis + Associates. The three-story, 4,000m² structure houses nearly 100 Perrotis College students with multipurpose space for social, cultural and recreational events. Linked to the main building is a modern dining room that serves the entire college student body and hosts larger groups for special events. The Seth Frank Assembly Hall is designed as a lecture and performance space with state of the art acoustics and sound equipment. Archaeological finds consisting of a late Roman Empire water system (two wells, delivery pipes, a cistern and storage tank) were discovered during construction and have been preserved both inside and outside the southeast walls of the building.

P. Makrides + Associates applied principles of bioclimatic architecture to the new building. Sections of sloping roofs serve as solar collectors connected to heat storage tanks, and also work as lighting and ventilation "chimneys", directing natural light down into the three floors of corridors, ensuring air circulation and moderate temperatures throughout the structure. All building materials were selected for their suitability to the local climate and low maintenance requirements, and emphasis was put on highly efficient, recyclable thermal and water insulation materials.



Seth Frank, Mrs. Aliko Perroti, President Panos Kanellis, General Secretary of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Georgos Kanellopoulos at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

U.S. and Greek government officials, civic and business leaders from Athens and Thessaloniki, Trustees, alumni, staff, students and friends joined President Panos Kanellis in honoring benefactress Mrs. Aliko Perroti at the inauguration of the Aliko Perroti Student Residence on the evening of October 7, 2010. This joyous occasion was the realization of a dream to provide the American model of private residential college facilities to the Greek and international student body of Perrotis College. At the ceremony Mrs. Perroti was thanked for her farsighted philanthropy by Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Kostas Skandalidis, by U.S. Consul General Catherine E. Kay, by former Deputy Minister of Finance and Trustee of the American Farm School Christos Foliás, and by a member of the Perrotis College senior class.



U.S. Consul General Catherine E. Kay, Seth Frank, Mrs. Perroti, President Kanellis



Tad Lansdale, President Kanellis and Mrs. Perroti raising a toast to the new building



Mrs. Perroti presents third-year student Anisa Bello (left) with the Athina Carras Scholarship Award as other outstanding students Violeta Stefanovska and Dimitris Papadopoulos look on.



Students express their feelings.

Celebrating 40 Years of Greek Summer

It was a weekend of nonstop *kefi* for the Greek Summer alumni and friends representing all 40 GS classes as they gathered in New York City November 5-7 for three philanthropic events to benefit the American Farm School and its summer program for U.S. teenagers that has had such a profound impact on participants' lives.

There were nearly 60 individuals and families who generously sponsored the festivities, including Andrew S. and Blake W. Foote, and the Samourkas Foundation of New York, who were benefactors of the events. Event partners included New York's Kellari Taverna that provided the marvelous traditional Greek food, with gifts of beverages from D. Kourtakis S.A. Greek Wine Cellars and Vergina Lager Beer. Other partners included the St. Demetrios Cathedral Dance Troupe, ABC Carpet & Home/Coco-Mat, and ceramic artist Christine Lansdale Willis.

Greek Summer alumni from across the United States gathered for the Friday night reception held in furniture designer Tucker Robbins' beautiful showroom. At the Saturday night gala, the crowd gave Honorary Chairman Tad Lansdale a standing ovation, and were inspired by her words and by the remarks of alumni

Constantine N. Darras and Luke Hamel. The touching video produced by GS veteran Jen Lilly featured the voice of Honorary Trustee Edmund Keeley reading "Ithaka", the Cavafy poem that countless participants have identified with their own Greek Summer experience. President Kanellis welcomed alumni to return to campus and experience first hand the many developments at the School, noting it will always remain their home in Greece. The Sunday "Envision the Future" breakfast with remarks by Trustee David Acker and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Joann Ryding gave GS alumni another chance to reconnect with their classmates and friends and to hear about the American Farm School's exciting new initiatives in holistic education for all ages, new academic specializations, commitment to applied research in life sciences, and, of course, a strong future for the Greek Summer program.

Members of the Celebrate 40 Years of Greek Summer Committee, headed by Joel S. Post, deserve deepest thanks for organizing these events that were coordinated by Patricia Mulhern Chamberlin in New York and Rena Karypidou and Yannis Patras from Greece, with the support of volunteers Maria Madonna Constantinides, Annie Lansdale Willis, Christina Borovilas and others.



Emcee Peter Custer (GSC'74, '76-'81)



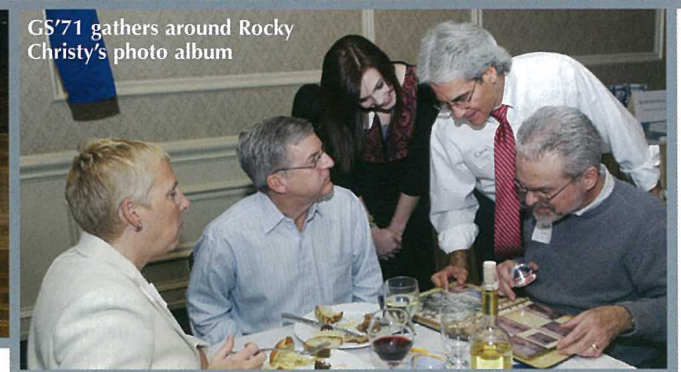
GS40 Honorary Chairman Tad Lansdale



GS40 Chairman Joel S. Post (GS'83), Vice President Joann Ryding, Trustee Constantine N. Darras (GS'87), President Panos Kanellis



St. Demetrios Cathedral Dance Troupe



GS/71 gathers around Rocky Christy's photo album

Lansdale family members to left and right of GS40 video producer Jen Lilly (GS'91, GSC'98-'01)



GS'08: Maria Nicora, Marian-Obando, Constantine Lycouris, Sofia Athanassiadis, Madeline Schmidt, Annalise Voss



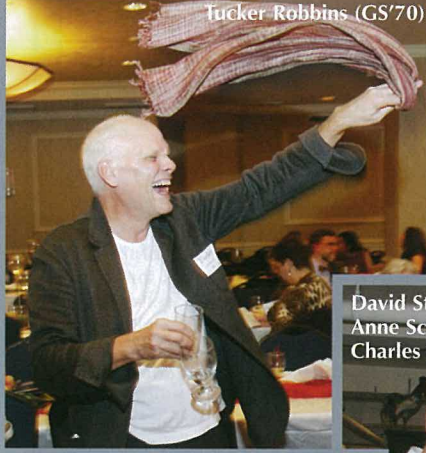
Annie Lansdale Willis (GS'08)



Joel S. Post (GS'83), Frances Manthos (GS'82, GSC'88), Gioia Frelinghuysen (GS'82), John Frelinghuysen (GS'82), Bill Bennington (GS'82, GSC'89), Jeffrey Montgomery (GS'82)



Tucker Robbins (GS'70)



David Straut (GS'73, GSC'80), David Lansdale (GSC'73-'77, '80, GSP'96,'98), Anne Schmidt (GS'74, GSC'80, GSP'06,'08), Peter Custer (GSC'74, '76-'81), Charles Lowrey (GS'74, GSC'80,'82)



Brad Sargent (GS'93), GS40 Event Coordinator Patricia Mulhern Chamberlin

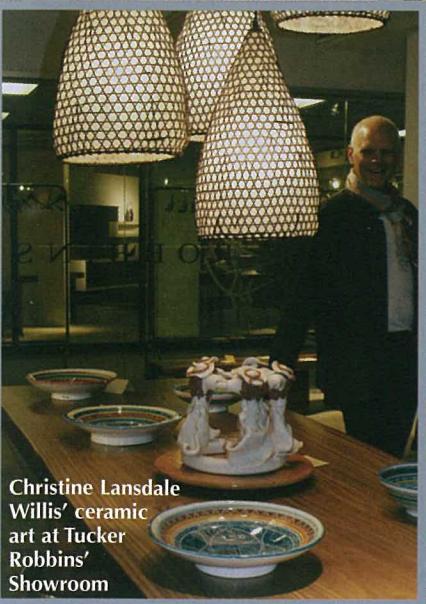
"Envision the Future" speaker Dr. David Acker (Trustee, GSC'75,'76)



Sandy Gmur Lansdale (GS'75, GSC'83, '89-'91, GSP'06-'07,'10), Tad Lansdale, "Envision the Future" speaker Joann Ryding



GS'10: Anthea Levi, Gracie Gardner, Ilana Silverman and Maggie Harris



Christine Lansdale Willis' ceramic art at Tucker Robbins' Showroom



GS'71 Alumni



Greek Summer Reunion New York City Nov 2010

Apply Now to Greek Summer 2011

Program Dates:

June 26 through August 1

Students who have completed grades 9 (and have had their 15th birthday by June 20th) through 12 are eligible to apply.

Visit www.afs.edu.gr/greeksummer or email Ms. Rena Karypidou, Greek Summer Admissions, at rkaryp@afs.edu.gr

Nate Butler's Souvenir Photo for GS'71

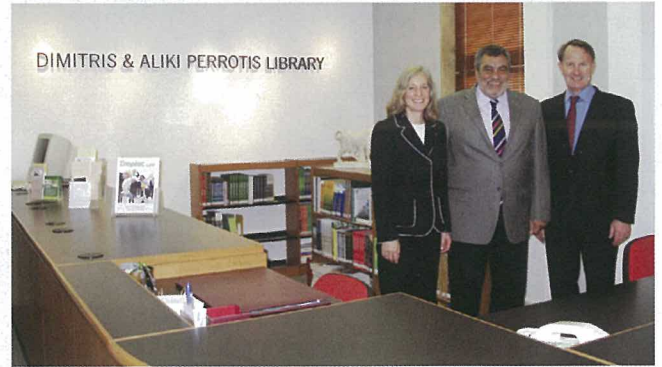
American Farm School “Comfort Food” Ready for the Market

Greek pasta products traditionally prepared by village families are beloved by the Greek consumer, urban and rural alike. Made from the durum wheat that is grown in most parts of Greece, and from the eggs and milk provided by the family hens and the family cow, two of the most popular forms of pasta are “trahanas” and “hilopites”. “Trahanas” consists of small nuggets of the lightly baked dough mixture, boiled and served in soups or as porridge. “Hilopites” are flat noodle strips resembling a cross between the Italian pasta shapes of fettucine and pappardelle.

The administration of the School, working with the Plant Production Department of the Educational Farm, saw an opportunity to offer the market exceptionally high quality versions of these two traditional pasta products, using the School’s own durum wheat crop combined with its premium quality milk and eggs. These two nourishing, affordable Greek “comfort foods” are popular with shoppers. As the School expands its presence in stores from the refrigerator case with its well established milk and eggs, to the special shelves that supermarkets and neighborhood shops reserve for traditional food products, the administration is certain that the American Farm School name on the new pasta products will readily win the consumer’s confidence – and loyalty – while providing students with another hands-on learning experience in food product development and marketing.



Two newly equipped science laboratories and a large classroom, located in the new Educational Dairy and Milk Processing Training Center building, are now serving American Farm School students. Chemistry, physics and biology lab instruction is conducted there, as is the specialized laboratory work in the new Milk Processing and Cheese Making Specialization for high school students. Responding to demand for training and qualification from entrepreneurs and employees in Greece’s diversified dairy industry, the School offers its first four-month intensive course in Cheese Making for adult learners during the spring 2011 semester. The laboratory and classroom spaces are named after former Iowa State University veterinary scientist Dr. J.W. Sexton and the late Senator William J. Fulbright.



Newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Bennett Smith and his wife Diane join President Kanellis in the Dimitris & Alik Perrotis Library. To celebrate the tenth anniversary of its opening, the School is observing 2010-2011 as the Year of the Library. Weekly events, including book presentations by well-known authors, poetry readings, cooking demonstrations and art exhibitions are scheduled throughout the academic year. Special emphasis is given to American culture, providing opportunities for students and other library users of all ages to discover the literature, music, art and dance worlds of the United States. Students are encouraged to learn about undergraduate and graduate studies in America, and to be familiar with the work of the Fulbright Foundation in Greece. The Library will present a special program on January 18 featuring Fulbright Fellow Athanasios Giamoustaris, Director of the Educational Farm; John Paspaspanos, a Greek American Fulbright grant recipient conducting research in Thessaloniki on EU energy policy, energy geopolitics, and green development in Greece; Kate Peterson, a Fulbright English Teaching Fellow from Bozeman, Montana, who is based at the School this year, and Director of the Fulbright Foundation in Greece, Artemis Zenetou. Two large panels illustrating the program founded by Senator William J. Fulbright will be on display before moving to their permanent home later this year in the classroom that bears his name in the Educational Dairy. The popular Dimitris & Alik Perrotis Library Facebook page documents these activities and many more of the Library’s ongoing projects.

Study Abroad Programs at Perrotis College

Spring 2011: February 26 – June 14

Summer 2011: June 19 – July 29

Fall 2011: September 25 – December 20

Earn semester or summer credits on the residential campus of Perrotis College in Thessalonki, one of Europe’s most beautiful and historic cities.

Curriculum (all courses taught in English):

Required: The Greek Cultural Experience; Service Learning.

Choose 3 electives: Greek & Mediterranean Cuisine; Greek Mythology & the Early Christian Legacy; Introduction to the European Union; Marketing Management; Precision Agriculture & Environmental Sustainability; Agrotourism; Food Science; Agro-Environmental Business Management; Livestock Science.

Apply now: www.perrotiscollege.edu.gr/studyabroad

Perrotis College Faculty and Students Excel in Research

The predominantly U.S.-trained faculty at Perrotis College and qualified, highly motivated students from throughout Greece and neighboring countries interact in the classrooms and laboratories of the residential campus, and exploit the extensive dairy, poultry, and horticulture units of the Educational Farm for conducting applied scientific research. Three current examples highlight ongoing research activities that support education and also contribute to the competitiveness of Perrotis graduates in the regional labor market.

Newly appointed Acting Academic Dean Dr. Philippos Papadopoulos and the salutatorian of the Perrotis College Class of 2010 Ivance Dimitrievski presented research papers at the international conference on “European Entrepreneurship as an Engine for Post-Crisis Development” organized by the Bulgarian Association for Management Development and Entrepreneurship in Borovets, Bulgaria this September, including Mr. Dimitrievski’s senior dissertation analyzing trends in the regional meat industry of southeastern Europe.

At the 60th Jubilee Celebration of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria held in October, Perrotis College faculty gave four papers summarizing research projects in diverse fields. Professor Athanasios Gertsis presented the Digital Precision Agriculture (PA) software product resulting from a Region of Central Macedonia Poles of Innovation project. Agricultural producers, consultants, students and other end users exploit the software for valuable information on efficient and sustainable soil and crop management, and for minimizing adverse environmental effects caused by conventional management practices. Another paper demonstrated Perrotis College student and graduate research into using recycled residual paper pulp to increase soil organic carbon and thus improve crop yield of lettuce, cabbage and sweet corn. Positive results to date means that

the research will continue for another two years and will investigate recycled pulp when applied to additional plant species and soil types.

A team headed by Dr. Evangelos Vergos presented findings titled “The Impact of Education on the Competitiveness of the Agricultural Industry,” using two case studies; one from a biodiversity project in Hungary that combines preservation of a unique local cattle breed with the restoration of wetlands and income generation for the local population through fish farming. The other case study focused on the American Farm School itself, and the recent significant investment that has been made in a state of the art Educational Dairy and Milk Processing Training Center facility on its campus, paving the way for new dairy product development and increased sales.

The final paper demonstrated to the other academic institutions gathered in Plovdiv, the American Farm School’s example of viability and responsive innovation over the course of its 106-year old history.

International Agribusiness is a core research concentration for Perrotis College. In this context, Assistant Dean Konstantinos Rotsios coauthored a paper with the Rector of the University of Madeconia, Yiannis Hajidimitriou, for the 36th Annual Conference of the European International Business Academy in Oporto, Portugal in December. The focus of Mr. Rotsios’ investigation is the importance of international joint ventures (IJVs) as business arrangements for firms to expand their international activities. Rotsios writes, “One of the key assumptions is that learning and knowledge-based resources are attributes that lead to a competitive advantage...The extent to which companies will benefit from their new international relationships depends greatly on their ability to transfer knowledge.”

Adapted from “The Road to Competitiveness: Education, Research” by Panos Kanellis, Ph.D. in the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce’s bi-monthly magazine *Business Partners*



Secondary School students Marianthi Tagili and Dimitra Hina with Trustee Seth Frank, who sponsored their participation in Camp Rising Sun, in Rhinebeck, NY this year. The first girls from the American Farm School to attend this summer camp, both were inspired by the challenge to undertake leadership roles, to serve as the “sachem” (the Algonquin Native American tribal word for “chief”) for fellow campers from around the world. Marianthi and Dimitra plan to apply for college study in the United States, following in the footsteps of Vasileios Prassas, who also attended Camp Rising Sun and is now on a full scholarship at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. Olga Tsiohari, Tryfon Boukouvidis, Vivian Sotiriou and Panagiotis Topalidis spent their summer on the campus of the University of Mississippi, with scholarships provided by the university to study English. Together with other students from Afghanistan, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Georgia, Japan, Korea and Venezuela, they took intensive English language classes and discovered the cultural richness of the college town of Oxford, MI as well as nearby Memphis, TN, where they were delighted to visit Elvis Presley’s home, Graceland.



Kathy Li Yue, a master’s degree student in digital art at Peking University and Nazli Gurkas, a graduate of the English Teaching Faculty of Uludag University in Bursa, Turkey, are enriching the lives of secondary school and Perrotis College students with their stay on campus this year. Both are International Interns under the auspices of AIESEC, a worldwide membership organization of university students from 107 countries that places up to 5,000 student members in internship positions around the globe each year. Nazli has three groups of American Farm School students who meet twice a week with her to learn Turkish; while Kathy meets twice a week with five groups of students who learn Chinese. Both Nazli and Kathy have extensive volunteer and travel experience, and they bring to their classes many new ideas and perspectives in addition to teaching the language and culture of their native countries. Housed in the Perrotis College dormitories, the two young women participate extensively in extracurricular and social activities and thus bring a world of new experience, good will and understanding to those Greek and international college students.



AMERICAN
FARM SCHOOL
Thessaloniki Greece

To Plant a Tree is to Plant a Hope



A tree is a living symbol of hope and renewal that can commemorate a birth, baptism, wedding, or other milestone in the life of a family member or friend, or memorialize the spirit of a loved one who has passed away.

In keeping with our century-old tradition, students will plant a tree on the School's campus and the commemoration or memorial will be recorded in the "Book of Remembrance" kept in the campus chapel of St. John Chrysostomos. At your request, we will also notify family members or other friends of your gesture. Your gift of \$100 covers the cost of planting and maintaining a tree, and also helps to support our institution's environmental education programs for the rural youth of Greece and the Balkans.

*To plant a commemorative or memorial tree, please visit the website to make a secure online donation at www.afs.edu.gr/memorialgifts or contact the American Farm School's U.S. Office at:
Tel: 212-463-8434, email: usoffice@amerfarm.org*



The American Farm School of Thessaloniki, Greece, is a private, nonprofit educational institution founded in 1904 to serve the rural population of Greece and the Balkans. Major divisions include the Secondary School, the Dimitris Perrotis College of Agricultural Studies, the department of Lifelong Learning, and a cultural exchange program for U.S. and international high school students known as Greek Summer. With its ethos of service, innovative approaches to agriculture and impressive graduates, the School remains dedicated to improving the lives of underserved rural youth throughout Greece and the surrounding region.

Commemorative Trees and Benches at the American Farm School in Thessaloniki, Greece

Commemorative Benches

The residential campus of the American Farm School is widely considered to be the most beautiful in Greece. Wooded areas of cypresses and pine trees, olive groves, and xeriscaped gardens of Mediterranean plants contribute to the quiet, pastoral environment.

Within this green space and complementing the landscaping of campus buildings and pedestrian paths, there are handsome park benches for students, faculty and visitors to relax and appreciate the beauty surrounding them. These six-foot oak benches are hand made in classic proportions by a local craftsman, and are an important and permanent element of the campus design.

A limited number of these benches are available to donors who wish to honor a family member or friend, with a tax-deductible gift to the American Farm School of \$3,000. The bench will bear a bronze plaque with the relevant commemorative or memorial text.

Please contact the School's U.S. Office for more information and to discuss making your gift:

Tel: 212-463-8434, email: usoffice@amerfarm.org