

The Sower

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

Summer 2012

Issue 169



Class of 2013 Students construct the Snail Farm on the campus of the American Farm School.

The American Farm School
Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute

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The Sower

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From the President

I would like to thank the readers of *The Sower* for the attention you have given, and the assistance some of you have provided, to the President's Strategic Initiatives Campaign 2012-2015. Staff and students throughout the institution draw inspiration from knowing that so many people across the United States are supporting our efforts and believe strongly in our educational mission.

We are grateful to the Jaharis Family Foundation and to others in the U.S. and in Greece who have given generously to our initiative in Primary Education. We took the opportunity to thank these supporters at a special donor recognition event recently, where we also expressed our gratitude to the USAID Office of Schools and Hospitals abroad and others who supported the renovation of the new Campus Dining Facility.

We have taken great strides during 2012 on another strategic initiative: strengthening the American character of the institution. As you will read in these *Sower* pages, many of our high school students are going to the U.S. for undergraduate studies or summer academic programs, most with full scholarships; and many faculty-led groups from American universities are conducting academic and service learning sessions on our campus. During my own recent trips to the U.S. I have visited college and university campuses from Florida, North Carolina, New York and Iowa to California – not only to open doors for our students, but also to build momentum for a new and highly timely initiative we believe gives the American Farm School a compelling way to further serve the youth of Greece.

In light of Greece's deepening economic crisis, we have searched for a bold, specific action to address the country's growing problems of unemployment and diminishing production and development in the agricultural sector. We recognize that increasing numbers of young people are showing interest in agriculture and rural enterprises as alternative livelihoods in reaction to the country's economic uncertainty, lack of opportunity and the dispiriting quality of life in Greece's major urban communities.

In order to help prepare those seriously seeking to enter agriculture professionally, and with the goal of stimulating needed agro-entrepreneurship in the region, the School will establish a **Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship** based in Perrotis College. Using existing facilities, and the academic, professional and hands-on expertise of our faculty and staff, the Center aims to transfer multidisciplinary content to a nontraditional audience. It will be based on four guiding principles: theoretical instruction; practical training; consultation; and access to seed funding. An advisory team of experts from American land grant universities and other institutions will support this effort with the breadth of their experience and know-how. The aim is to train some 35-40 entrepreneurs each year during the initial phase, with the number of trainees expected to grow in future years as the Center builds its capacity and reach.



I look forward to updating you via the website and with regular print and electronic issues of *The Sower* about the progress of the Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship and all the President's Strategic Initiatives 2012-2015. I wish to thank you once again for being a friend and supporter of the American Farm School.

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

Festive Greenwich Taverna Benefit 2012

The Greenwich community and additional supporters from a wide surrounding area of Connecticut and the greater New York metropolitan area packed the house once again this year, supporting the educational programs of the American Farm School with their presence and their contributions, and enthusiastically bidding up beautiful silent auction items—many of which were generously contributed by Trustee Manita Scocimara. At auction were original paintings by celebrated local artist Agop Chalekian; an original ceramic sculpture donated by Farm School instructor Christine Lansdale Willis; silver decorative objects from the Mati boutique in Athens, and numerous other uniquely lovely ceramics, jewelry and other pieces.

Kefti was high, and the dance floor at the Milbrook Club will need a fresh coat of varnish thanks to the talented musicians, led by Spiros Exaras. Guests were also treated to a commemorative performance by members of the Greenwich High School Jazz Ensemble, in recognition of the band's two year anniversary of its memorable visit to the Farm School. Band member parents, and GHS band director John Yoon and his family joined the festivities, forging our special bond ever stronger. The culinary skills of committee member of thirty years, Soula Rizos, added fuel to the festive fire, and the wine flowed like water thanks to the generous donation by NY restaurateur of *Thalassa* and *Fantis Imports* fame, Steve Makris. School Vice President for Institutional Advancement Joann Ryding Beltes graced the evening by highlighting the positive impact in this day and age of the new Preschool on the campus of the American



Trustee Truda Jewett with longtime Greenwich Committee members Nafsika Chalekian and Soula Rizos



Greek Summer '08 Alumni Constantine Lycouris and Annie Willis

Farm School, which was also the visual theme of the event. Trustees and Greek Summer alumni came from far and wide attesting to their enduring devotion to this great institution!

Anna Lycouris, Co-chairman with Vicki Kyriakos, Greenwich Taverna Benefit 2012



Trustee and Greenwich Committee member Sophia Harch with artist Agop Chalekian and Tim Harch



The Association of Friends of the American Farm School, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Athens, presented Trustee David Acker in a June

13th public lecture titled "Sustainability of our Global Food and Agriculture System and the Role of the American Farm School." The event was preceded by a luncheon with food industry leaders at Ambassador Daniel B. Smith's residence. Dr. Acker is Associate Dean for Academic and Global Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. His presentation examined global trends affecting the sustainability of the planet and identifies strategies for improving the planet's viability. It concluded with a look at an example of an institution in Greece – the American Farm School – that is preparing graduates to tackle our main food and agriculture challenges. It was the third in the annual lecture series organized by Trustee Daisy Pappas and other volunteers in Athens that also included Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Tasos Apostolides speaking on the American Farm School as a role model for experiential learning; and AFS graduate and Professor at the Agricultural University of Athens Dr. Paschalis Harizanis who spoke about "Thirty Years of Greek Agriculture."



1. President Kanellis welcoming donors, parents and guests. 2. High school student helping preschooler in the garden. 3. Xanthi Christofidou of Kraft Foods receiving her basket of herbs. 4. Despina Passaris and Georgia Passa of Procter & Gamble Hellas in the greenhouse. 5. Preschool Director Irini Apostolidou (right) with guest. 6. Vice President Joann Ryding Beltes with guests.

A beautiful spring evening was the backdrop for a celebration to honor donors to the new Preschool, including the Jaharis Family Foundation, Trustee George Milonas, Procter & Gamble Hellas, Ideal Standard and other local suppliers of building materials as gifts in kind, and the Petros Petropoulos company for its gift of a beautiful new school bus. Donor plaques were unveiled in the Preschool, and in the adjacent Campus Dining Facility, where the USAID Office of Schools and Hospitals Abroad and P.A.P. Corp. were recognized for their major support of the reconstruction of the building, as was Kraft Foods for its gift.

The Preschool students played a delightful role in presenting each donor with fresh herbs, and in welcoming the guests to their greenhouse and "discovery garden," green with the herbs and summer vegetable crops they are cultivating.

The Farmer First in Europe-Wide Competition

Members of the Secondary School Cinema Club were awarded First Prize in a European School Competition on how to promote agriculture and bring young people to farming for their short film *The Farmer*. The competition titled “What Would Be Your Advertising Campaign to Encourage Young People to Become Farmers or to Work in the Agricultural Sector?” was organized by the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) in cooperation with the “Youth in Action” Program of the European Commission’s Directorate General Education and Culture. Some 40 schools throughout Europe entered the competition. The winning entry, a one-minute television spot created by Class of 2013 AFS students Anastasia Kouraki, Katerina Skourtopoulou and Stathis Spiliopoulos, assisted by their teacher Yiannis Gkogkos, presents two versions of the same young man’s life: how his life would be if he chose to live and work in an urban environment; and how it would be if he were a farmer.

The three jury members who evaluated the advertising campaigns hold high positions in the European Commission and in communications consultancies in Brussels. The AFS video was unanimously voted best of all entries, and drew special praise for its innovative approach, communication impact, and success in showing the power that farming has to attract the younger generation.

To view *The Farmer*, access the relevant news item on www.afs.edu.gr, or visit directly the American Farm School YouTube Channel.



U.S. Colleges and Universities Beckon AFS Students

Assisted by the School’s newly-established College Counseling Office, seven students from the Class of 2012 and one from the Class of 2011 will pursue their undergraduate studies in the U.S. at the institutions of their choice this September. Most have received full scholarships. The roster includes: Tryphon Boukouvides at McNeese State University; Dimitra Hina at Mount Holyoke College; Eirini Karaliota at Hobart and William Smith Colleges; Theodoros Saraglou at Skidmore College; Marianthi Tangili at Lawrence University; Anthony-Alexandros Tsikmakis at Warren Wilson College; and Olga Tsiochari at Quinnipiac University. Despoina Giapudzi, who graduated from the School last year, will go to Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

English teacher and College Counselor Georgia Proestopoulos also paved the way for twenty members of the Class of 2013 to attend summer academic programs in the U.S. focused on science, engineering, English language and new learning methods – all of them featuring experiential learning. As examples, four students will participate in the Open Source Ecology six-week session at the Factor e Farm in rural Missouri, where they will be fabricating prototype models of agricultural machinery; surveying for soil erosion; doing orchard maintenance; and creating digital documentation of all the activities. Another student will complete a five-week hands-on internship at the Kentucky State University Veterinary School, concentrating on nutrition and medical procedures for sheep, goats and dairy cattle. Another two students will be located on Mount Desert Island, ME, at the College of the Atlantic’s summer programs titled “Farm to Fork” and “Islands through Time.”

Studying in the United States is a key aspect of President Kanellis’ Strategic Initiative to enhance the American character of the institution. Support is needed to cover administrative costs, provide travel grants to students where needed, and for developing new educational opportunities in the future. Interested friends of the School may assist with a donation restricted for this purpose, either to the President’s Strategic Initiative Campaign 2012-2015, or as part of regular Annual Fund giving.



Chelsea Gallup, a viticulture and oenology major at Cornell University, completed a Study Abroad Internship at Perrotis College during her winter break this year. She gained hands-on experience in the American Farm School vineyard, marveling that every aspect of the grape is used productively – from fresh vine shoots and leaves, to wine, to the remnants of seeds and stems that become fertilizer after the distilling process. Staff of the educational farm also made sure that she also learned by doing at two of the leading wineries of Greece, Domaine Gerovassiliou, and the Babatzim Winery and Distillery. She is pictured here in apron, gloves and boots, “loading the soup” and heating the still for the 5 hours need to complete production of the famous Babatzim tsipouro. She commented, “This was one of the most amazing experiences in my entire journey to Greece.”

The number of Study Abroad students and interns from the U.S. for the summer of 2012 doubled since 2011, with participants from universities and schools in Arizona, California, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina and Virginia. Faculty-led university and college groups that conducted courses and service learning on campus for summer 2012 include those from Arizona State University, Berea College, Louisiana State University, Montana State University, University of Florida, and University of Virginia.

Study Abroad at Perrotis College: an unforgettable way to experience Greece

Vibrant semester and summer residential Study Abroad programs on the American Farm School/Perrotis College campus and educational farm in Thessaloniki for U.S. and international college students.

Program Dates:

Fall 2012: Sep. 15 – Dec. 14

Spring 2013: Jan. 28 – May 18

Summer 2013: May 27 – July 12



Program features

Semester-credit courses (taught in English)
Research and Paid Work Internship positions
Service learning
Greek culture classes

And more...

Travel throughout Greece
Hiking Mt. Olympus
Homestays with Greek families
Four-Day sailing trip to an Aegean island

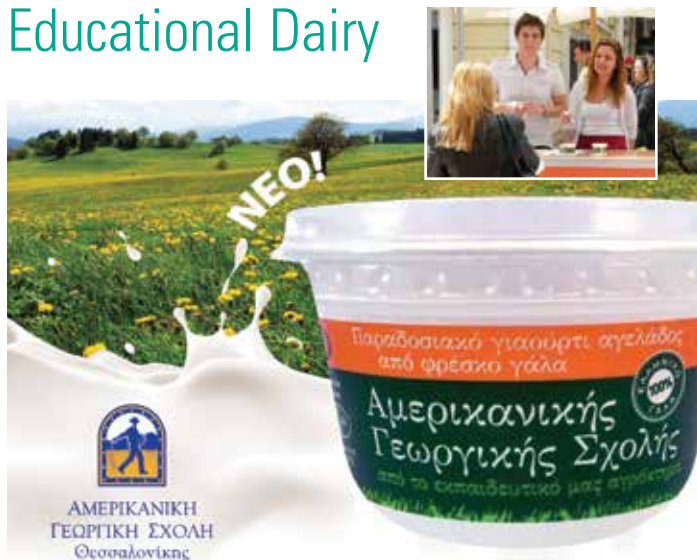
Apply now: www.perrotiscollege.edu.gr/studyabroad

2012 Ranking Web of World Universities

The Ranking Web of World Universities for January 2012 has placed Perrotis College-American Farm School second among all private colleges in Greece. The twice annual survey uses web and traditional academic indicators to measure institutional visibility, including the reach of faculty research publications.

It also tracks the rise or fall in rankings position over the previous year, and gives the position of each educational institution within the total of public and private universities and colleges operating in 240 countries worldwide. Perrotis College-American Farm is scored in the top 30% of the 20,300 global institutions that were ranked during this period. For more details about the Ranking Web, visit <http://www.webometrics.info>

Perrotis College Students Promote Yogurt from the Educational Dairy



On the first Saturday of May, in the heart of the downtown retail district of Thessaloniki near the historic Byzantine church of Agia Sophia, a bright green and orange kiosk manned by Perrotis College students and staff of the educational farm did a brisk business in informing the public about the latest product from the American Farm School's Educational Dairy: traditional Greek yogurt.

People of all ages sampled the yogurt and gave the college students their reactions about the taste, texture and overall sensory experience of the product, shortly before its introduction to the supermarkets and shops of Athens and Thessaloniki, including the Campus Store run by Perrotis students. Anna Tintzoglidou, who will graduate this June with a BSc (Hons) degree in Marketing Management for the Food Industry, commented on consumers' positive response to the yoghurt during the all-day event, noting how valuable it was for the college students "to put our marketing and communications skills to work for the success of an important new product launch the American Farm School has undertaken."

Entrepreneurship a Major Theme in Perrotis College Research

This spring saw the recent research of Perrotis College senior students, graduates and faculty members presented at international academic conferences attended by universities throughout Europe and beyond. Two papers were given at the June conference on "European Entrepreneurship in the Globalizing Economy: Preparation of a New Generation of Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders" organized by the European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship and others in Sozopol, Bulgaria. The first paper presented the research of Ms. Rodica Arpasanu (Perrotis College Class of 2012), Ivanche Dimitrievski (Perrotis College Class of 2010, now an M.A student in Applied Cultural Analysis at Lund University in Sweden) and Dr. Philippos Papadopoulos (Acting Dean of Perrotis College) with the title, "Structure and Agency in Food Neophobia: Understanding the Thessalonian Consumer." The second was delivered by Mr. Marko Dubic (Perrotis College Class of 2012) and showed his joint research with Konstantinos Rotsios (Assistant Dean of Perrotis College) under the title "Factors that Affect Knowledge Acquisition and Absorptive Capacity of Enterprises Operating in an International Context".

At the 4th International Conference "The Economies of Balkan and Eastern European Countries in the Changed World" held in Sofia, Bulgaria in May, Mr. Rotsios and Ms. Anisa Bello (Perrotis College Class of 2011) presented their work. Mr. Rotsios and his colleagues from the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki have investigated "The Impact of Trust on Knowledge Transfer in International Business Systems," while Ms. Bello's research examines "Intrapreneurial Efforts to Rejuvenate a Commercial Brand Name: Motives and Limitations." An intrapreneur is an individual within an organization who takes responsibility for turning an idea into a profitable finished product. And Dr. Athanasios Gertsis, who directs the Environmental Systems Management major and Precision Agriculture specialization at Perrotis College, presented his study on the "Cultivation of the Goji Berry in Greece" at a recent scientific conference near Thessaloniki.



Perrotis College students from Romania, Albania and Greece were the only multinational delegation to the "Cooking Cultures" week-long event in Eceabat, Turkey, organized this spring under the European Union's Youth Exchange initiative. They were joined by other university students from the Czech Republic, Greece, Latvia, Poland Romania and Turkey. Each team prepared characteristic foods from their countries of origin, and presented cultural evenings that gave the participants a forum in which to share their culinary, educational and social traditions with one another. Through this experience, one Perrotis College student commented, "we realized the intrinsic value of what culture actually means to others, and to us. It defines who we are." Read more about this Perrotis College action in the News section of www.afs.edu.gr.

Local Lentils and Chickpeas Launched with the Help of AFS Graduate

A green carpet of lentil plants now leads up to the educational vineyard and beyond to the Aliki Perrotis Student Residence near the entrance to campus. Thanks to the know how and expert advice of Miltos Harenis, an AFS graduate from the Class of 1990, students and instructors are learning how to cultivate this important crop, as well as the chickpeas that have been planted in the field adjacent to the lentils. Specialized planting and other machinery tailored to the needs of these two crops are required. Mr. Harenis brought his own equipment to campus for students to use to carry out this year's sowing to establish these field crops and thereby increase the diversity and productivity of the educational farm.

Coincidentally, Miltos Harenis is president of the community of Nea Gonia, which is the farming village in nearby Halkidiki whose families hosted the U.S. teenagers in the Greek Summer 2011 program. Harenis will bring AFS students to his fields of lentils and chickpeas near Nea Gonia to learn further techniques of harvesting, drying and processing the two legumes.

With the valuable help of this graduate, students, instructors and the staff of the educational farm will be adding two new food items to the

expanding American Farm School product line of the Campus Store and other retail outlets. At the same time, the School will be demonstrating to students of all educational levels, as well as to the thousands of visitors to campus each year, how two traditional and nutritious crops so popular and essential to the Greek diet can be grown locally instead of relying on imports.



AFS Hosts NBA & WNBA Sports Envoys

The American Farm School had the honor of hosting an exclusive coaching clinic for Thessaloniki area students with NBA and WNBA champions this spring. The School was selected because its student body represents a cross section of the rural population of Greece as well as from the urban ranks of Thessaloniki. The U.S. State Department, partnering with the NBA and WNBA, sent three star American athletes to Greece as "Sports Envoys" to work with grade school through high school age students in coaching clinics aimed at teaching values and life skills such as teamwork, respect, discipline and self confidence – and how those skills translate from the basketball court to the classroom.

Ashley Robinson, who plays center for the Washington Mystics, and **Tracy Murray**, the coach of the Tulsa Shock and former Houston Rockets star, were joined by former NBA champion **Peja Stojakovic** in the clinic held on April 2nd at the Henry R. Labouisse Youth Center in the heart of the AFS campus. The three champions

thrilled students of the secondary school and Perrotis College, as well as youngsters from several local public schools, with their athletic prowess and personal charisma. They also heard the main message of the Sports Envoys' mission in Greece: to promote the campaign by the U.S. and other governments to combat human trafficking in the region of southeastern Europe. U.S. Consul General, Ms. Catherine E. Kay, and Cultural Attache of the U.S. Embassy in Athens, Mr. George Frowick, were on hand with President Panos Kanellis to welcome the champions.



NBA and WNBA Champions Tracy Murray, Ashley Robinson, and Peja Stojakovic at American Farm School.



A Fast Start for Snail Farming

Thanks to the enthusiasm and volunteer work of a group of students from the Class of 2013 and their instructor, Petros Evangelou, the high school has taken the lead in snail farming at the American Farm School. An Adult Education class devoted to snail cultivation is popular, and Perrotis College students are also involved, but it is five students in the professional lyceum section of secondary education who are primarily responsible.

A production unit measuring 70 square meters and costing less than 200 € in materials to construct was built by the student team, with additional help from students representing all classes in the secondary school. The team planted sunflowers, leafy vegetables in the *brassica* family and other plants the mollusks favor, and this June they transferred the first snail mothers to the site where they live on the ground, on a surface of gravel. Baby snails will feed all summer, hibernate during the winter, and be fully grown by the late spring. In May 2013 the first crop of two species, Maxima and Muller, will be ready for sale in one-kilo net bags in the Campus Store.

Meanwhile, more land will be devoted to constructing housing for the “curtain” method of snail cultivation where the snails live and grow vertically, attached to curtains of net material. Other growing methods are also being considered, such as taking the new-born snails from another producer in early spring and feeding them until November so that the snails are ready for the table in only six months.



(from left) Class of 2013 students Thanos Malakos from Galatitsa, Thessaloniki; Yannis Daktylos from Larissa; Dimitris Stamatelis from Kerkyra (Corfu); and Nikos Kiriatzopoulos from Veroia, with their instructor, Petros Evangelou.



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 are often thought of as leaving 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, *Metamorphosis: Why Do I Love Greece?* and by his wife Elizabeth Lansdale, *My Metamorphosis*.

David Acker	Edmund and Mary Keeley
Charlotte Armstrong	Lois Kerimis
Peter Bien	Elizabeth (Tad) Lansdale
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Carson Jr.	Mary R. and Charles F. Lowrey
Marvin Fisher	Nicholas Pisis
Phillip G. and Mary Foote	Gail and Ruth Schoppert
Barbara K. Heming	Charles L. and Joan Thomas
Truda Jewett	Barbara Wood

BEQUESTS

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

Theodora Abrames	Elizabeth M. Godley
Esther Carhart	Eve Curie Labouisse
Maria Couvaras	Clara Nickolson
Alexander Drapos	Eleanor McKay Norris
Angeline Ducas	Winifred E. Weter
Lula Ducas	

ESTATES AND TRUSTS

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

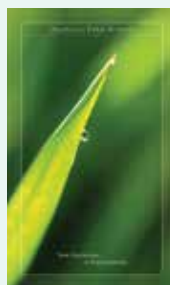
Esther Carhart	Mary P. Gill
Ernest Thomas Chepou	Henry T. Maijgren
Philip and Hazel Constantinides	Dean C. Zutes
Fred W. Kolb	

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.

Supporting Primary Education



The School has taken an historic step forward by introducing primary education on its campus. With the first milestone achieved this year – the opening of the Preschool – the institution is poised to start its grades 1-6 elementary school in September 2013. Renderings by architects Kouloukouris & Associates such as this one show the transformation of Sherrill Quadrangle into the integrated complex of classrooms, science lab, Media and Resource Center, gardens and greenhouse that will serve environmental education through experiential learning curriculum at this age level. Through the President's Strategic Initiatives Campaign 2012-2015, there are naming opportunities for many of these facilities, as well as for named faculty, curriculum and professional development funds. Donors may also restrict their regular or additional Annual Fund gifts for Primary Education. For more information, please download www.afs.edu.gr/giftoportunities



For assistance in making your gift to the President's Strategic Initiatives Campaign 2012-2015, please contact Vice President for Institutional Advancement Joann Ryding Beltes, at +30-2310-492-734, or jryding@afs.edu.gr.

Correction

In the "In Gratitude, Donors in Greece 2010-2011" list that appeared in the Winter 2012 issue of *The Sower*, the generous gift of the A.G. Leventis Foundation in the category of Benefactor was omitted in error.

We apologize to the President and Directors of the Foundation whose longstanding scholarship and other assistance to the American Farm School, and to Perrotis College since its inception in 1996, have been instrumental to our institution's carrying out its mission of educational service to Greece and the greater region. The School deeply thanks the A.G. Leventis Foundation for its faith in our work and the exemplary role it plays in supporting our endeavors.

City Folk and Alumni Celebrate Spring Festival



Nearly 8,000 visitors from the city of Thessaloniki and farther afield flocked to the campus of the American Farm School and Perrotis College to enjoy a nonstop day of exhibitions, demonstrations, concerts, theater and dance performances, as well as children's activities promoting environmental awareness in celebration of Mother's Day, which coincided with the School's festival event called "Mera Maiou". All the activities were designed to inform news friends and old about the educational programs at all levels, from preschool to high school and Perrotis College, through

the extensive offerings for those thinking of returning to the land offered by the division of Adult Education and Research.

The Campus Store, operated by Perrotis College students, was officially opened in its new location adjacent to the Central Dining Facility in time to welcome the "Mera Maiou" crowds with its array of products from the educational farm and from AFS graduates. Alternative forms of transportation – hybrid and other ecological automobiles; bicycles, and horses were all available for the public to test drive – while

the display of the latest tractors for field crop, orchard and vineyard cultivation drew the attention of urban visitors seeking to know more about agriculture.

Parallel with the festival activities, all-day Alumni Reunions for the American Farm School classes of 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, and 2002 and their families were held in the receptions areas of the Alike Perroti Student Residence. National and local businesses enthusiastically supported the event with their sponsorships, gifts in kind, and coverage in Greece's print and electronic media.



Athens Fasolada (Bean Soup) Competition first prize winner, Maria Kallinteraki of Tsakos Energy Navigation Ltd. (center) with Vice President for Institutional Advancement Joann Ryding Beltes. For more than twenty years, celebrities and friends from the media, shipping, banking, and education worlds have vied with their family recipes to create the best version of Greece's favorite comfort food at benefit events organized in Athens and, more recently, Thessaloniki, to benefit the Annual Fund. The white beans, grown in Greece, and uniform cooking pots are delivered to all cooks a few days before the contest to ensure a level playing field. Trustee Lydia Legakis, pictured with President Panos Kanellis, and her husband and former Trustee George Legakis, are the originators of the Bean Soup Contest.



AFS Awarded for Education and Innovation

The American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in Athens gave special recognition to the American Farm School and three other international educational organizations at its annual New Year's reception in Athens. The celebration marking the Chamber's 80th year anniversary was attended by over a thousand guests, including Chamber members, leading government officials, members of parliament, ambassadors, organization presidents, media and other prominent executives of the business community. Welcome remarks were made by U.S. Ambassador Daniel Bennett Smith and by Greek officials. In a ceremony conducted at the event, the American Farm School, the American School of Classical Studies, the Fulbright Foundation in Greece and the Corallia Hellenic Technology Clusters Initiative were awarded for their excellence in education and innovation. President Panos Kanellis accepted the award.

Bridging Cultural Divides

The 69th International session of the European Youth Parliament entitled “Bridging the Cultural Divides of Europe” brought together 300 young people from 36 countries in Istanbul this March. The first such event ever held in Turkey by the European Youth Parliament, the session made it possible for high school-aged spokespersons to express their opinions and debate topics that are on the European agenda, ranging from Europe’s responsibility in Syria to financial discipline in Europe.

The event started with teambuilding activities among the committee members and discussions leading to the formation of resolutions for each issue before moving to Istanbul’s European side for the General Assembly on March 30th-31st at the Provincial Administration Building of the city. The event became even more interesting after the visits of several politicians and public figures of European governments, who gave their insights on the topics discussed, and contributed to the debate with their vast erudition on the current state of Europe.

Throughout our stay in Istanbul, we visited numerous monuments in the old part of the city and ate all kinds of delicacies in restaurants with a perfect view of the idyllic setting of the Bosphorus coastline. A highlight for delegates after days of hard work was the Theme Party, where everyone came dressed in the costume or uniform of his or her dream job. The celebration was held aboard a two-story boat, fully equipped with buffets that served treats from the international cuisine which were prepared by us.

A truly memorable experience through which I matured and saw Europe from a different viewpoint, participation in the European Youth Parliament is something that every student should consider

pursuing during his or her scholastic career. It offers a unique opportunity to engage in European matters as an international citizen and to meet talented and bright students from all four corners of the continent. All it takes is a distinction in a national selection conference, and the world of the European Youth Parliament is there for one to master.



— Written by Theodosios Dimitrasopoulos
(pictured second from the left)
American Farm School Class of 2013

In summer 2012 Theodosios will attend the iGEM in Synthetic Biology Competitions in Indianapolis, participate in a 6-week Open Source Ecology session at the Factor e Farm in rural Missouri, and attend the International Astronomy Youth Camp in Eichendorf, Austria.



Growing bacteria cultures in the Food Science and Technology laboratory

Eighteen ninth-graders from the American Community Schools (ACS) in Athens spent four days on campus carrying out biology experiments on insect populations and bacteria cultures under the supervision of Perrotis College scientists and getting to know the operations of the educational farm. Future field trips of this kind are planned for ACS students to participate with AFS high school students in the livestock, garden, greenhouse, vineyard and other practical agricultural projects that characterize the School’s experiential approach to learning.



It’s tempting to compare the success of the secondary school Drama Club’s production of Neil Simon’s whodunit comedy *Murder by Death* with that of the all-star movie original back in 1970s. That cast included David Niven, Alex Guinness, Truman Capote, Peter Sellers, Maggie Smith, Peter Falk and others. The AFS cast this year included talented students from the Classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014, under the direction of Drama Club supervisor Maria Rapti, who also oversaw the students responsible for scenery, props, lighting, sound, costumes and makeup, with the additional support of instructors and other school staff.

Partners in Cheesemaking

The American Farm School and the Education Center "AOC Friesland" in Leeuwarden, Holland, formed an educational partnership for exchange visits between students in the respective schools who specialize in cheesemaking. An introductory visit of AFS teachers to the Dutch school was a first step, and in March, nine AFS students traveled to this "green" vocational school in the north of Holland to learn about the making of Edam and Gouda and other well-known Dutch cheeses on family cheesemaking farms and in commercial scale units. They were accompanied by instructor Sotiris Yalamas and Apostolos Vourkoudis, as well as Dr. Efstratios Souglis, AFS veterinarian and director of the Educational Dairy. In May, the Dutch students and their teachers came to campus in Thessaloniki to make feta, kaseri, telemes, and other important Greek cheeses alongside their counterpart American Farm School students.

The partnership with AOC Friesland was formed through the Europea Network of European agricultural schools for which the School is Greece's official representative. Organizational costs of the exchange visits were underwritten by the Greek General Confederation of Labor.



Four students from the Kvinnerstaskolan - Virginska skolan in Örebro, Sweden, a sister school of the American Farm School for nearly two decades, continued the international student exchange tradition in their two-week visit to campus with their teachers this spring. During their stay the four women, who are hearing-impaired, worked together with AFS students in the practical agricultural training projects and learned about Greek culture in trips to the museums and archaeological sites of Thessaloniki and the surrounding area.



Members of the high school's Cinema Club were awarded Second Prize in Northern Greece at the recent 5th annual "Let's Go to the Movies" Student Film Festival, for their short film titled *Fatal Fall*. Some 75 from Thessaloniki and the greater region of northern Greece entered the competition. *Fatal Fall* follows the life of three young people dealing with everyday challenges. An unexpected incident changes everything. Was it fate? Was it divine intervention? Or did it happen at all? The Student Film Festival is a high profile annual competition organized by the Greek Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Municipalities of Athens and Thessaloniki and radio stations in the two cities.

Milk Games



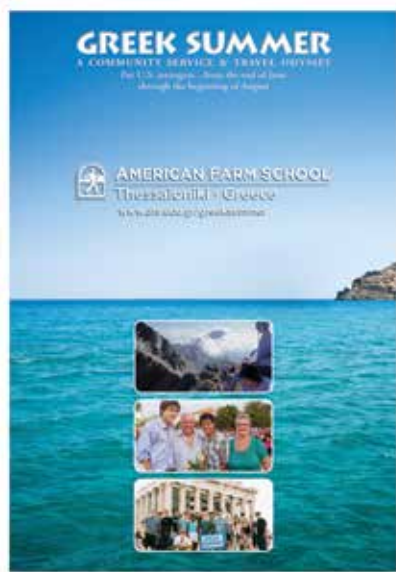
Milk Games is the title of a new school visits program for the youngsters of Thessaloniki and the wider area of northern Greece that was introduced by the American Farm School this spring. In the first three-month period more than 2,300 students visited the School's Educational Dairy. They see at first hand the world class dairy herd that is the source of the famous American Farm School milk and other dairy products; try their hand at simulated milking; watch the pasteurization and bottling processes; and learn about dairy nutritional facts and food values during their two-hour tour. The visiting primary school aged students also learn about packaging by sketching and constructing their own labels for the products; and visit the Campus Store that stocks all Educational Dairy products and have the chance to observe consumer behavior as customers do their shopping.

A total of 9,300 schoolchildren from throughout the prefecture of Central Macedonia in northern Greece participated in educational tours on campus throughout the 2011-2012 school year.

The Village of Agios Antonios: Successful, Hospitable Host for Greek Summer 2012

When you enter the village of Agios Antonios in a hilly part of the prefecture of Halkidiki that is a thirty-minute drive east of the American Farm School campus, an attractive – and busy – eating place with large verandah, children's playground and beautiful landscaping, attracts your attention. It is the Café and Sweet Shop of the Women's Agricultural Coop of Agios Antonios, founded in 1999 by the women and led by Presvytera Despina Ioannidou, wife of the village priest. Agios Antonios is a small farming community settled by refugees from Asia Minor during the 1920s.

The American Farm School was helpful in encouraging the women to organize and to qualify for supporting funds from the European Union to make their initial investments. Some ten years



The time is right to apply to Greek Summer 2013

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

Contact Ms. Rena Karypidou, Greek Summer Admissions, rkaryp@afs.edu.gr, and download application forms at www.afs.edu/greeksummer, where full information about the program is available, and where regular updates by the counseling staff of this year's Greek Summer may also be followed.

later the School, together with other European partners, carried out a study showing the success of the brand name established for the coop's line of *perek* and other traditional pies made from local hard wheat and baked in an open fireplace. Amid competition from other producers of traditional food in various parts of Greece, the co-op's combination of quality control and quality certification, effective distribution channels and a sound pricing policy enables them to run a visibly successful rural enterprise. In addition to the handmade *perek* and other wheat products baked in the fireplace, the women also produce traditional pasta also made by hand; cheese, spinach, leek and squash pies; and spoon sweets and jams made without preservatives from local seasonal fruits and vegetables.



Agios Antonios was also the host village for Greek Summer in 1975, and the same year Christine Lansdale Willis led another group of U.S. high school seniors who lived in Agios Antonios for six weeks on a program called Greek Village Springtime, studying local Greek culture. This year the villagers, some of whom were children or teenagers themselves during the earlier programs, are waiting to show their hospitality to the teenagers of Greek Summer 2012 who hail from nine different states across America, as well as Washington D.C., Canada, the UK and Greece.