

July 2017

## Perrotis College introduces the School of Graduate Studies

Beginning September 2017, the American Farm School and Perrotis College will open its doors to graduate students for the first time in its history.

Men and women seeking graduate-level education will be able to pursue Masters of Science degrees in New Food Product & Business Development and in Marketing for the Agro-Food Sector. Later, the school will broaden its reach and offer M.Sc. degrees in three additional areas: Sustainable Agro-Environmental Systems Management, Plant Seed & Propagation Material Production Management and Livestock Science & Production Management.



Renovated through a generous gift by Trustee Seth Frank, the “Seth Frank Hall of Graduate Studies” will host the new graduate division. A first-rate team of instructors and researchers have been employed to teach and guide the research of the College’s next generation of scholars. Classes will be conducted in English to prepare students to handle the international demands of today’s scientific, academic, and business world. The graduate school is offering financial assistance to deserving scholars in the form of endowed fellowships and research positions.

For more information visit [www.perrotiscollege.edu.gr/graduate-studies/](http://www.perrotiscollege.edu.gr/graduate-studies/)

## AFS Commencement marks farewell for graduating high school seniors

On June 23, friends, parents, faculty, and distinguished alumni filled the Moscachlaidis Plateia in front of Princeton Hall to watch the Class of 2017 bid a heartfelt farewell to AFS. As “Another Day of Sun” from the 2016 Oscar winner *La La Land* began to play in the background, seniors danced in pairs down the front steps of Princeton to take their seats for the ceremony in the Plateia.

This evening celebrated our students’ successful completion of three years of hard work, dedication, and tremendous commitment to the institution’s core values. As distinguished keynote speaker Mr. Ioannis Bellas (CEO of Belas-Greek Premium Dairy) took to the stage to address students,





Faculty, family and friends, audiences were visibly moved by the heartfelt words of praise and encouragement as well as the wishes for personal success and positive contribution to the community he offered graduates. The School also welcomed back distinguished AFS graduates Theodoros Kanakas and Christos Zafeirakis, each now CEOs of their own respective enterprises, who addressed the students offering their own nostalgic remembrances of school days and words filled with inspiration and hope for what's to come. Their presence served as an immediate reminder that an AFS alum is forever a part of the fabric of this school. Dean of Student Services Eva Kanellis, Director of the General High School Paris Petras, and Director of the Vocational High School Dimitris Slavoudis in turn took the stage to confer honors and awards upon our deserving young graduates.

We join them all in sincerely wishing our newest alumni the very best on their future paths!

## Perrotis College Commencement celebrates the Class of 2017



A full crowd gathered just before sunset on June 9 to watch Perrotis students walk proudly to receive their diplomas.

Connections with the University of California, Davis punctuated the night's proceedings as Dr. Linda Katehi, Chancellor Emerita and Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UC Davis took the stage to deliver the keynote address. The events also included the conferral of the Athinoula A. Martinos Endowed Professorship to Perrotis professor and University of California alumnus Dr. Christos Vasilikiotis, who came to us after earning a doctorate for his distinguished work in the field of agronomy.

In turn, graduates were addressed with words of advice, encouragement, and overwhelming pride from Perrotis College President Dr. Panos Kanellis, Perrotis College Academic Dean Dr. Athanasios Tsaftaris and Dean of the School for Professional Education Dr. Evangelos Vergos. The speakers expressed the College's hope and belief that the graduates will take with them the values learned and reinforced here: service, trust, commitment, and gratitude. After the ceremony, distinguished guests, alumni and faculty attended a reception at the Aliko Perroti Student Residence roof garden.

We join them in wishing our newest alumni all the best in their journeys to come!





# Eight Study USA seniors head for the States



The College Counseling Office reported exciting successes again this year as eight new alumni of the Farm School's Study USA program prepare to matriculate at U.S. universities.

After their extraordinary hard work and success at the Farm School, our seniors received offers from Brown University, Davidson College, Rhodes College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Viterbo University, and more, each accompanied by generous scholarship offers. Our students plan to pursue bachelor's degrees in fields ranging from Neuroscience to Politics to Economics, citing their experiences at the Farm School as instrumental in allowing them the freedom and intellectual independence to discover and develop their passions.

The College Counseling Office operates in the interest of strengthening the school's ties with the United States and providing our students with access to quality educational experiences beyond the country's borders. Students receive guidance from the Office throughout their high school careers, not only during the competitive college admissions process, but in adapting to an unfamiliar educational environment in a second language. This assistance includes matching students with academic summer programs, including the summer academy at McNeese State University in which 11 of our students in the Vocational High School will participate this summer.

To read the students' success stories, check our [facebook](#).



# Archbishop Anastasios comes to the Farm School



In May of this year, Archbishop Anastasios, the Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania visited the Farm School as part of the growing collaboration between the School and the Archdiocese.

AFS and the Archdiocese have entered into this partnership to create, organize and implement a series of educational agricultural programs in Albania. These will start with simple training seminars on a variety of subjects and will expand in the future to include two-year postgraduate programs. The first students are expected to begin lessons in September 2017.

During his stay, Anastasios had the opportunity to tour the campus, meet with administrative and educational staff, and to chat with students in the high school and Perrotis College. He walked through the Tsatsos Olive Grove, explored the winery and the snail farm, and observed projects in the student greenhouses.

"We chose the American Farm School as a strategic partner for the two-year post-graduate program because we have a tendency to select ... the best. We know that the School is at the forefront of the agri-food sector. So it was a dream for us to have this relationship with the School," said the Archbishop.



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# Entrepreneurship Center in Kalamata celebrates its first year

Thanks to a productive partnership between the American Farm School and the Captain Vassilis & Carmen Konstantakopoulos Foundation, the Center for Agri-food Entrepreneurship of Messinia (CAEM) opened last October to high demand.

The purpose of this dynamic new entrepreneurship center in the city of Kalamata is to strengthen innovative entrepreneurial activity in the agri-food sector of Messinia. AFS was invited by the Foundation to provide its expertise in adult education and extension services by designing and implementing experiential programs for adults in the region. It also welcomed graduates of AFS' Professional Education training seminars to continue their education through the Center.

CAEM offers its students hands-on seminars in critical aspects of the agri-food sector, and provides participants with advice on establishing or strengthening new and existing businesses. The Center currently offers six courses: Cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, Utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants, Olive oil production and standards, Processing and preserving food, Rural business management, and Online marketing of agricultural products. The Center plans to expand its reach in the coming years.



ΚΕΝΤΡΟ  
ΑΓΡΟΔΙΑΤΡΟΦΙΚΗΣ  
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΜΑΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑΣ  
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## Farm School introduces new cheese product to the market

AFS introduced its latest food product to the general public this spring. The tasty, semi-hard yellow cheese -- sold under the in-demand AFS brand—is now available for purchase at MyMarket locations in Athens and Thessaloniki, a supermarket chain headed by AFS alumnus and honorary trustee Pantelis Panteliadis.

The cheese is produced in the Cheese Laboratory located within the campus' Educational Dairy and Milk Processing Training Center. Support for equipment in the new Cheese Laboratory came from USAID and private U.S. supporters.



Perrotis College students were involved at every stage in readying this new product for market -- from testing the milk to ensure its high quality, to conducting sensory and research panels to assess market preferences. These test panels provided feedback on every detail: taste, size, even the most appealing shape. The result is a uniquely Greek product, one of the few domestic cheeses produced from locally sourced cow's milk; the fresh milk for our cheese comes straight from the nationally recognized Holstein herd of the American Farm School.



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# Inauguration of the new Alik Perroti Educational Center set for November 11, 2017

After much excited anticipation, the ribbon on the new Alik Perroti Educational Center is set to be cut on November 11. Through her transformative gift to fund this project, long-time friend and patron Mrs. Alik Perroti has paved the way for Perrotis College students and faculty to reach exciting new levels of engaged learning and research that will have a lasting effect on the school.

One of the largest developments to be undertaken on campus, the project includes major new construction, along with the renovation of an existing building to be named the Seth Frank Hall of Graduate Studies. Located near the entrance to campus in an area wooded with pine, the new building is designed to blend harmoniously with its surroundings and embody the ethical and sustainable practices that characterize our campus.

Designed by the award-winning Thessaloniki firm of Kouloukouris & Associates, the three-story, 36,000-square-foot facility will accommodate classrooms, amphitheaters, labs, communal spaces and study areas for 600 undergraduate and 100 graduate level students. The building is conceived according to sustainable design principles, with materials and structural elements selected to make optimum use of the natural environment while reducing the building's energy footprint.



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