

# The Sower

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

Summer 2016

Issue 177



Nicolaos Soumpasis (1st Grade) learns about brain cells from High School student Katerina Petridou, in one of many such collaborative projects bringing together students from different educational divisions.

# The Sower

Published semi-annually for friends and contributors to the American Farm School.

## Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Robert W. Uek

## Vice Chairmen

David G. Acker  
Pantelis Panteliades  
William A. Tsacalis

## Secretary

Sharon W. Vaino

## Treasurer

Constantine N. Darras

## Trustees

Deborah Androus  
John H. Cleave  
John R. Crunkilton  
Joannie C. Danielides  
Christos S. Folias  
Seth E. Frank  
Constantinos Hadjiyannakis  
Sophia S. Hartch  
Barbara K. Heming  
Truda C. Jewett  
Vicki Kyriakos  
Annie Levis  
John C. Lycouris  
Frances Manthos  
Thanassis Martinos  
George Milonas  
Daniel M. Morgan  
Elaine K. Nelson  
Anastasia Pappas  
Nikolaos Pentzos  
Joel S. Post  
William L. Richter  
Manita S. Scocimara  
Susan L. Stupin  
Theodora Valentis  
Panayiotis Yatagantzidis

## Honorary Trustees

Antonis Anezinis  
Charlotte P. Armstrong  
Sheila Baird  
Peter Bien  
Stavros Constantinides  
Phillip G. Foote  
Dimitri Gondicas  
Edmund Keeley  
Mary R. Lowrey  
Everett Marder  
John Moschallidis  
Aliko Perroti  
George B. Post  
Gail D. Schoppert  
Judson R. Shaver  
Charles L. Thomas, Jr.

## President

Panos Kanellis

## Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Joann Ryding Beltes

## Sower Editor

Maria Petrakis

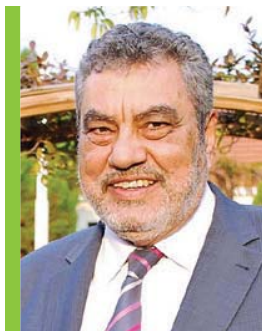
## Communications Manager

Athina Peristeropoulou

## Design & Printing

Alternative Graphic Solutions, Inc.

## From the President



Summer is here. If this were not evident from the changing colors throughout the Educational Farm and across campus, the point is driven home by the heightened sense of energy and anticipation visible in our students' faces.

Though this has been a difficult year for Greece, the American Farm School and Perrotis College continue to invest heavily in the development of new programs and facilities that will allow our students to gain the kinds of learning experiences that are becoming essential in order to thrive in today's challenging economic landscape.

As always we are guided in our efforts by an unwavering commitment to creating an atmosphere that enables young men and women to discover and to grow by assuming an active role in their studies. This hands-on approach, when paired with the benefits of the most contemporary practices in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) and experiential education, helps shape our students into critical and entrepreneurial thinkers, individuals capable of making a positive change in their local communities, in the country, and well beyond.

As an institution, we believe in embodying the dynamism and drive which we teach our students – a code of values which has formed the backbone of American culture, and contributed to the country's success.

The School's unique structure has allowed it to be at the cusp of two systems, two cultures and two worlds from which we draw lessons and inspiration.

In the pages to follow you will see that the School is making great strides on many fronts – from the Primary Division which continues to grow in size, offering the only environmental education program of its kind in Greece, to the historic High School, which is steadily reaching new levels of academic success and recognition while maintaining the highest standards in its noted technical training program. Finally, Perrotis College is preparing to expand its horizons; with the addition of the new Aliko Perrotis Educational Center and the Seth Frank Hall for Graduate Studies, another exciting chapter in the Institution's trajectory is being written.

The School's unique structure has allowed it to be at the cusp of two systems, two cultures and two worlds from which we draw lessons and inspiration. Through academic collaborations with a growing network of institutions of higher learning in the U.S., such as Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the University of California at Davis, Rutgers University and more, we do our utmost to foster and promote a framework of meaningful exchange. Exposing our students and faculty to these programs and facilitating interactions with peers from across the globe on joint projects, means prompting them to contemplate their fields from an alternative viewpoint. It means provoking them to set the bar of achievement higher than before. It means engaging them in new ways and forging connections for years to come.

As friends and supporters of the School, you play an important part in making all of this possible. Thank you wholeheartedly for helping us to ensure that these deserving men and women continue to benefit from the truly singular programs at the American Farm School and Perrotis College. Thank you, in short, for helping them to make an impact.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Panos Kanellis'.

Panos Kanellis, Ph.D.  
President

American Farm School & Perrotis College



# Alumni Spotlight: Dimitra China

Customarily, Alumni spotlights feature graduates who have spent some years in the workforce – building careers and gathering accolades. Taking a bet that Dimitra China is one to watch, we have asked her to share her experience as a young AFS, and most recently, Mount Holyoke alumna.

Dimitra graduated in May of this year from Mount Holyoke College with a double major in Political Science and Economics. As a community-minded individual, Dimitra managed to combine her fascination with the world of business and economics, with her desire to help her peers by serving as the President of Women in Business and as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee – both noted student groups within the college.

With experience in the Institutional Advancement office of AFS, an impressive academic record, and extra-curriculars demonstrating her creative and dynamic personality, Dimitra was offered a position at Reebok as part of the Product Management team. As she looks towards this next step in her journey, she explains enthusiastically that this post will allow her to be a part of the product creation process, and that she is excited to learn more about the industry:

“I look forward to the opportunity to grow and take on new challenges. I have always been driven to be the best I can be in anything that I get involved in, and I am thrilled to work in a company like Reebok that will help me to develop my skills, while putting me in a position to contribute to interesting projects and work with people I can learn from.”

The fact that Dimitra has managed to make the U.S. a home away from home is very quickly made apparent, and a testament to her openness to learning and embracing new situations. Though she

continues to speak about Greece with an obvious tenderness and appreciation, she stresses the value of the career and life lessons she is learning in the US, lessons which she hopes to have the opportunity to pass on one day soon. Dimitra is all about building a solid foundation, gaining skills and experience that will allow her to move forward with more confidence and return to Greece better prepared to help promote positive change.

During these four years as a college student in the US, Dimitra has not forgotten her formative years at the American Farm School, an institution which she credits with having played an important role in making her the person she is today. It was here, she states, that she went beyond being “book-smart” to become a more well-rounded young woman. It was here that she got her first taste of being a leader within her community, here that she acquired a more independent mindset. “I learned how to be a sensitive and informed citizen - not only of Greece, but of the world”. The School exposed her to different cultures, taught her to understand the importance of global issues and how to effect change on a local scale – issues relating to environmental sustainability for instance – and much more. The skills she came away with played a crucial role in helping her to navigate college with grace, and to identify and capitalize on opportunities.

Dimitra’s AFS family wishes her all the best as she begins this next chapter...

*Congratulations to other AFS alumni who graduated from U.S. colleges this spring: Marianthi Tangili, Lawrence University; Olga Tsiouchari, Quinnipiac University; Theodoros Saroglou, Skidmore College; Tryfon Boukovidis, McNese State University; and Despoina Giapoudzi, Worcester Polytechnic Institute.*





# California Connections

Following the Spring round of Board meetings in New York, President Panos Kanellis headed to California where he spent time visiting the UC Davis campus as guest of the university's Chancellor, Dr. Linda Katehi. Within the context of a new partnership which has begun this academic term, Dr. Kanellis met with leading members of the faculty and administration with the aim of expanding cooperation between the two institutions. Thanks to the generous support of friend of the School, Mr. Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, Perrotis College's Dr. Christos Vasilikiotis is currently at UC

Davis, working alongside faculty in the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. In addition to observing lectures and a laboratory series similar to those he teaches at Perrotis, exchanging thoughts and ideas on best practices and methodologies, he is collaborating with Dr. Amélie Gaudin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences, on research funded by the Almond Board of California. The project, "Survey of almond root colonization by mycorrhizae", assesses the impact of a range of soil management practices and inputs on mycorrhizal associations. While this is

not the first time the schools have worked together, having previously collaborated on the creation of the Perrotis College Krinos Olive Center, Dr. Vasilikiotis' trip marks the first faculty exchange, which will soon involve similar opportunities for student groups. Both institutions are enthusiastic about the possibilities for more joint undertakings moving forward.

The President's trip was rounded off by individual meetings with friends of the School throughout California.

## Sold-out Greenwich Taverna Benefits Scholarships

The beautiful Millbrook Club was filled to capacity for the 2016 biennial Greenwich Taverna to benefit the American Farm School's Scholarship Program. Co-chaired by Vicki Kyriakos and Anna Lycouris, the March 12th event drew hundreds of AFS friends and supporters, as well as alumni of the School's Greek Summer program from throughout the region and beyond. AFS Vice President Joann Ryding Beltes shared news of the School's latest academic and outreach initiatives, followed by recent Greek Summer alumni Vayle Povinelli (GS 2015), and brothers Will (GS 2015) and Peter Gerrish (GS 2014) who spoke of their life-changing experiences on this AFS summer program for U.S. teens. Guests danced throughout the evening to the Greek music of Spiros Exaras and his band, and bid on stunning items from Greece carefully selected by the event's Honorary Chair Manita Scocimara during the Silent Auction. Special thanks to the evening's sponsors, including Famous Greek Kitchen of Greenwich, donors of the delicious dinner; Steve Makris of Fantis Foods and Thalassa Restaurant of NYC, contributor of wine and appetizers; and committee member Soula Rizos who made and offered the desserts.



Co-chair and AFS Trustee Vicki Kyriakos, Cameron Devitt (GS 2016), and AFS alumnus Dimitris Vlachos (Class of 1954) who travelled from his home in Arizona to be at the event.



The Greenwich Taverna Committee preparing the event the morning before. Co-chair Anna Lycouris, far left; Honorary Chair and AFS Trustee Manita Scocimara, far right.

# Strides in STEM for the Elementary Division

Now in its third year of operation, the Elementary School continues to grow, consistently building on its sound reputation and becoming a household name synonymous with academic excellence and pedagogical innovation.

Dedicated to remaining at the cusp of new developments in the areas of experiential and STEM learning (Science Technology Engineering and Math) as well as environmental education, Mr. Tasos Barmpas, Elementary School Principal and Coordinator of Early Childhood and Primary Education, travelled to the U.S. this spring thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, where he visited schools specializing in these types of academic programs. Mr. Barmpas spent time observing classes and consulting with peer educators. Upon his return, he shares with us some thoughts on the unique strengths of AFS, and how American best practices in experiential learning continue to shape the AFS experience.

**Briefly describe the fundamental pillars of the School's Primary Education program and comment on how students benefit from experiential education.**

Two mainstays of the AFS program are Environmental education and STEM. The first allows us to practice the concepts of holistic learning – in other words to highlight each student's unbreakable link to the community, the natural world and humanitarian values through which each person finds identity, meaning and purpose in life; and the second, to offer a means to understand and explain these interrelations through scientific, methodical and critical thought.

Both environmental education and STEM are taught in the most effective way here – by enabling these concepts to shape each other, and at the same time be shaped by the incredible campus which surrounds us. These methods imbue our students with the ability to analyze and solve problems of all kinds, through observation, hypothesis-building, experimentation and careful reasoning. Experiential Education means that discovery occurs on a daily basis, and each student is encouraged to explore and take an active role in the learning process. By being engaged learners today, they become engaged citizens - invested in helping to shape the world that surrounds them.



**What similarities and/or differences did you note in our program when comparing it to those you saw on your visit to the US?**

Comparing our practices to those I encountered in leading US institutions, I would say there are noticeably more similarities than there are differences. We owe this dynamic to the fact that since its inception, the American Farm School embodies, adopts, and adapts core American values. Solidarity in all its forms, the emphasis on the individual and the group, meritocracy, respect of difference, support of others – especially those less fortunate – the constant quest for new knowledge and innovative thinking are some of its timeless and enduring characteristics. These qualities which are markedly present in our academic programs, paired with the focus on providing meaningful experiential learning opportunities, inevitably echo the educational models I had the privilege of seeing on this trip.

**What, of all that you had the chance to observe, struck you most? What was the most important lesson learned?**

I would have to say that what struck me most, in a broad but also symbolic sense, were the people. The open exchange of ideas is something intrinsically American; the notion that there is value in the transfer of knowledge to others, and that sharing information is less a threat than it is an opportunity for growth, is unique. One of the most important lessons to come out of this experience for me was that the common belief in values and ideals, the investment in a common cause, makes almost any goal realizable.

What we do at AFS is so unique in Greece, that it can sometimes be difficult to evaluate our work – to take a step back, compare, re-think. Having seen other programs in practice, I feel more confident than ever before that we have a winning sitemap, and I look forward to working together to bring our plans to fruition.

*Schools visited by Mr. Barmpas include: Bancroft School, Shady Hill School, Mary Hooker Magnet School, Sidwell Friends School, KIPP Grow School, Northfield Mount Hermon, and Milton Academy*

Giving our students a positive outlook on the process of seeking knowledge is, in my opinion, the greatest gift we as educators could hope to give.



# Perrotis College Breaks New Ground



Benefactress Alik Perroti set the cornerstone this spring for a new building complex at Perrotis College to serve the needs of a thriving student body. Thanks to her generous gift, the new Alik Perroti Educational Center will be a hub of collaborative learning for students and faculty across disciplines related to agriculture, the environment and other life sciences.

The ceremony, which drew members of the wider community, was a moving tribute to project donors Mrs. Perroti and trustee Seth Frank, without whom these exciting developments would not be possible. Noted guests included members of the Board of Trustees, and the mayor of Thessaloniki John Boutaris, among others. News coverage of the event is available to view on the School's youtube channel, as it aired on national television.

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. This integrated academic cluster will extend the College's capacity for applied research and innovation, while fostering scientific inquiry, creative discovery, and the enterprising execution of ideas. The Alik Perroti Educational Center will also be home to new academic programs – a BSc. in alternative tourism is the first such addition to make its debut this coming fall.

Located in a pine wood near the entrance to campus, the new building is designed to harmonize with its surroundings and embodies the ethical and sustainable practices that characterize our institution. The three-story, 36,000-square-foot facility is comprised of two parallel wings joined by an entrance atrium. It will accommodate classrooms, amphitheaters, labs, communal spaces and study areas for 600 undergraduate and 100 graduate students.

Sustainable design principles are applied throughout, with materials and structural elements selected to make optimum use of the natural environment while reducing the building's energy footprint.







The physical structure follows green practices to conserve natural resources, and the landscaping will follow suit by incorporating native plants and xeriscape technology to reduce water use. The new building and renovation was designed by the award winning Thessaloniki firm of Kouloukouris & Associates.





# WPI President at Perrotis College

*Laurie A. Leshin is the 16th President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the first woman to hold this position in the university's 150-year history. Now in her third year at the helm of WPI, she is already building an impressive legacy.*

*President Leshin's April visit to the American Farm School and Perrotis College coincided with the presence on campus of 24 WPI students, working on a series of collaborative, hands-on projects in the areas of sustainable agriculture and business practices, agro-tourism, and more. On this trip, Leshin had a chance to see the School in person and learn about the students' experience here first hand. In a personal interview, she shared some thoughts about the institutions, the program, and insight from her years of academic and professional experience.*

**You have had a very successful career as a scientist, an academic, a leader – which role do you believe fits you best?**

Let me start off by saying I LOVE being President of WPI. It is truly the best and most rewarding job, and it's a thrill to be able to help young people find their path to personal success while simultaneously helping to promote economic development. STEM education is of course critical to achieving these goals – to improving quality of life, fostering innovation and finding viable solutions to the world's challenges. Being a scientist is great – being a part of discoveries and space missions was and is exciting, but through my new role I am committed to something so much more impactful.

**As a woman in science, what are some of the obstacles you have had to overcome?**

I consider myself lucky in that I had wonderful mentors and advisors who helped guide me early on in my career. A significant moment for me was when I took a position as an intern at NASA at 19. I knew on the spot that this was what I wanted to do – from that point on, all obstacles seemed small. When your motivation is great, and your goals are clear, it becomes easier to navigate your way through the difficulties and challenges that arise. Yes it's true, as a woman in my field I was part of the minority and had to work harder to make my voice heard. One could say there was an implicit mandate to continuously prove myself, but this also drove me to be more diligent, to consistently improve and grow. My advice – not just to women, but all young people – would be to figure out what you're good at and focus on your strengths rather than on your weaknesses, which can be limiting. This may seem like a simple concept, but if followed, it can be truly liberating.

**In your time as President of WPI, one of the initiatives which you have done a lot to build and promote has been the "Project Centers" around the world – such exchanges traditionally have a humanities focus. What are the benefits of these programs when applied to science and engineering majors?**

About 45 years ago, the faculty at WPI essentially did away with the curriculum and created an entirely new academic program, in what became known as the "WPI Plan". This new system used projects as the backbone of our 'learn-by-doing' philosophy. At this point, we have made important strides towards implementing and enhancing these Global Project Centers. This concerted effort results from the observation of a statistical difference in the impact of these global experiences on students and their future careers. Those who benefitted from an opportunity to work abroad in one of our Global Project Centers recorded a changed perception of the world and their role in it. This is not like other Study Abroad programs – our

students spend time at these Centers, observe the local needs and learn to work within the local framework to address these issues in a viable and sustainable way. There is certainly a humanist aspect to this program, but its strength is that the projects lie at the intersection of science, technology and society.

One of the most critical lessons students of science can learn is that it's important not to lose sight of the actual *need*. This is how you can have real impact – the outcome, the solution to any problem, be it engineering or otherwise must be people-centric.

**We all talk about the challenges facing Greece – particularly its younger population. From what you may have seen on this trip, do you see any pockets of opportunity, especially for young men and women with a background in the sciences?**

The only way to brave the challenges facing this incredible country, is to equip people, especially young people, with practical skills that can translate to economic growth – this is exactly what is being done here at the American Farm School – and there need to be more such programs or systems of education created along these lines. I wish it was easier for your model to become more widespread in Greece – hands-on learning is incredibly important for many reasons – it gives students real, usable skills in the short term, but teaches them *how to learn*, and how to *continue* to learn new things indefinitely. This combination is what allows people to develop the resilience and flexibility to adapt to the times and situations as they arise.

**The WPI students on campus are working on projects that range from aquaponics and waste management to urban agriculture and more. Have you heard any feedback from the students about their experience?**

I had a chance to speak with our students here, and the one pervading feeling is that they are having a spectacular time and amassing life-changing experiences. I was particularly happy to hear that the Perrotis College students in the dormitories were helping the WPI students navigate life here.

That's one of the most beautiful derivatives of our efforts – you can't artificially create this kind of a collaborative dynamic, it's something that can only happen organically.

This first group of students will do a lot to help shape the Project Center – and they are only beginning to realize the enormity of the challenge they have taken on. This struggle, along with the struggle to identify and define the parameters of an issue with local groups provides an invaluable lesson.

**What has struck you most about the AFS and Perrotis College? What do you believe is the strongest point in the WPI/Perrotis relationship, and how do you see it evolving in the future?**

I was really struck by the alignment of values at our two institutions; the convergence around hands-on experiential learning as key to academic and professional success, and project-based learning as an important tool...all these things we have in common. Moving forward we have the opportunity to deepen this relationship; the goal is to continue to collaborate on many levels, and for many, many years to come.





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

## 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	Eve Curie Labouisse
Charles Storrs Barrows III	Clara Nickolson
James Michael Broomas	Eleanor McKay Norris
Esther Carhart	Mr. and Mrs. James G. Paterson, Sr.
Maria Couvaras	Andrew Ponaras
Alexander Drapos	Mary Elizabeth Stewart
Angeline Ducas	Barbara L. Wood
Lula Ducas	Winifred E. Weter
Elizabeth M. Godley	

## 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	Demosthenis Raptelis
Lois Kerimis	Dean C. Zutes
Fred W. Kolb	

For more information about joining the Metamorphosis Society and other Planned Giving opportunities, please contact Laura Sommers at [lsommers@amerfarm.org](mailto:lsommers@amerfarm.org).

# Famed author Gregory Maguire visits campus



American writer and educator Gregory Maguire came to campus this spring and talked with AFS High School students about reading, writing, family and art while signing copies of his best known novel, *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* that inspired the blockbuster Broadway musical.

An AFS supporter for a number of years, Maguire came away with strong impressions from his first visit. "There's a vivacity and openness of expression in these kids' faces that's very rare," he mused. "Something's going on here that nurtures that." He spoke of the School's special "sense of place" and how environment and ambience combine to foster learning.

Maguire also visited the new Writing Center in the School's Dimitris & Aliko Perrotis Library that will actively encourage students to develop ideas, craft and support a thesis, and hone language. Thanks to Maguire's latest gift, the Center will be staffed this Fall by the first Gregory Maguire Writing Fellow, a competitive position awarded to a recent U.S. College graduate who will live and work on campus for a year of service. "Gregory's important contribution allows the School to kick start our Writing Center," noted Dean of Student Services Eva Kanellis. "It will be instrumental in helping students find their voice and develop their expressive abilities in English."

# mezze\*

\* Small, savory dishes served as appetizers or accompaniments to wine, ouzo, etc. in Greek cuisine.

Mezzes & Greek-inspired libations to benefit the  
**American Farm School**

Saturday, October 22, 2016 • 6:30 pm

**NERAI Restaurant**  
55 East 54th Street, New York, NY

For reservations and ticket information, please contact:  
Laura Sommers at [lsommers@amerfarm.org](mailto:lsommers@amerfarm.org)  
or tel. 212-463-8434



**save the date**



# High School Competitions

## Victories in the classroom...

While our High School students excel in the classroom, displaying an array of unique abilities in a range of subjects, it is particularly rewarding when they are given the chance to exhibit these academic talents in a public forum. This semester, several of our students put their skills to the test, competing in regional and national competitions and reaping awards to make any institution proud. Students received distinctions in the internationally recognized Kangaroo math competition, as well as the EUSO biology competition (this year marked the 14th European Science Olympiad), the ACSTAC (a Math and Logic competition organized

by Anatolia College), and more. The AFS High School was also selected this year to host a CERN International Masterclass, in which high-ranking students from Greece were selected to participate in a program focusing on particle physics.

## ... and on the Field

Proving that prowess on the turf and tarmac are assuming a more prominent role in the lives of our students, several members of the student body competed in athletic events donning AFS colors this spring. Performances of note were recorded in the AEGEAN tournament, which featured 18 schools from across Greece, competing in

team sports - notably soccer, basketball, volleyball, as well as track and field events. Impressive results were posted by the Boys' Soccer team (3rd place), as well as the Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams (each attaining the 3rd place as well). On June 3rd, in the final sporting event of the spring season, the city-wide Track and Field Championships, our team efforts culminated in a 2nd place finish for the mixed 4 x 200 m relay, and a 5th place for in the mixed 4 x 100 m relay event. Leaving a strong basis on which to build on in the Fall, the student body also voted on a new school mascot, who will make her debut in the coming academic year...stay tuned to see her in action!





# New departments on campus

As the needs of our student body and the agro-food sector continue to grow, so, too, do the services made available through the institution. In order to better serve the increasingly specialized demand for programs relating to practical training and related services, as well as a rising nation-wide demand for integrated professional education in this area, AFS has created the School of Professional Education (SPE). Lead by Dr. Vaggelis Vergos, the division is comprised of four units: the technical High School (EPAL), a one year post-secondary program in Contemporary Agricultural Practices, continuing education seminars, and consultation services focusing on production in the primary sector.

The overarching aim of SPE is to offer targeted experiential

education to the students of the Technical High School, as well as to participants in Perrotis College's continuing education programs, enabling learners to acquire contemporary skills and competencies. In this way, SPE prepares students to use innovative production methods to manage natural resources, preserve the environment, and build sustainable, competitive enterprises in the agro-food sector.

The new division goes hand in hand with the formation of Perrotis College's new Strategic Project Management Office (SPO), headed by Dr. Philippos Papadopoulos, which focuses primarily on identifying, developing and managing projects receiving U.S. State or EU funding, or otherwise related to business development and entrepreneurship in Greece.



The June Perrotis College Commencement and American Farm School Graduation ceremonies took place, as is tradition, on the John Moscahlaidis Plateia in front of the historic Princeton Hall. A moving keynote speech for the Perrotis College graduating class was delivered by Dr. Joseph I. Castro, President of California State University, Fresno, while the High School graduates were addressed by Ms. Sofia Rok-Mela, AFS alumna and Founder of the Hellenic Childrens' Museum. Congratulations to the Classes of 2016!



# UNEARTH YOUR POTENTIAL



## Study Abroad at Perrotis College

Thessaloniki, Greece

Semester • Year long • Winter • Summer Programs



 **Perrotis  
College**

Agriculture • Environment • Life Sciences

American Farm School

[www.afs.edu.gr](http://www.afs.edu.gr)

# Greek Summer

*The real Greece • The better you*

**SUMMER 2017**  
Students aged 15–18



**Community Service,  
Home Stay & Travel Odyssey**



**APPLY NOW**



**AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL**  
Thessaloniki • Greece

[www.afs.edu.gr/greeksummer](http://www.afs.edu.gr/greeksummer)

*Offering extraordinary international living  
& learning experiences since 1970*

The American Farm School • Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute

Primary & Secondary Schools • Perrotis College of Agriculture, Environment & Life Sciences

Marinou Antipa 54, Post Office Box 23, GR-55102 Thessaloniki, Greece • Tel +30-2310-492-700 • Fax +30-2310-492-710 • [info@afs.edu.gr](mailto:info@afs.edu.gr) • [www.afs.edu.gr](http://www.afs.edu.gr)

U.S. Office • 1133 Broadway, Suite 1226, New York, NY 10010 • Tel +1-212-463-8434 • Fax +1-212-463-8208 • [usoffice@amerfarm.org](mailto:usoffice@amerfarm.org)