

The Sower



**AMERICAN
FARM SCHOOL**
Thessaloniki · Greece

Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute

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The Aliki Perroti Educational Center was inaugurated on Saturday, November 11, 2017 by benefactress Mrs. Aliki Perroti.

The Sower

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From the President

As 2017 nears its close, I find myself looking back and reflecting on the lessons we have learned as an institution and the transformative things we were able to accomplish.

We are thrilled to be ushering in a new era at Perrotis College with the launch of the new Graduate School, welcoming fifteen students pursuing graduate degrees in New Food Product and Business Development and Food Marketing. This fall marked the twentieth anniversary of the American Farm School's production

of Omega 3 eggs and their introduction in the market, establishing the School as an innovator in the agri-food sector and a leader in the region. The past academic year saw the largest ever cohort of graduating high school seniors seek and land admission to American colleges and universities. Our high school students continue to develop the School's new Heliculture (snail farm) installation, evolving methods for growing the colony and researching and refining the snails' habitat to optimize production of high-quality escargot products and snail caviar – a rare and valuable gourmet food. Our students' entrepreneurial spirit is further cultivated through such programs, providing them with extensive training on the techniques and skills required to successfully bring high quality agri-food products from farm to fork.

It is difficult to focus exclusively on our nuclear American Farm School community without pausing to take into consideration the current reality in Greece. Since 2015, one of the world's largest humanitarian crises in history continues to rock Greece and Europe with the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing war and famine and seeking a better life. As many of you know, in Greece, thousands of these courageous people have ended up here, seeking a better future.

At the American Farm School, we have stayed true to our roots and the core values upon which this historical institution was founded – those of empathy, sensitivity and solidarity. We continue to seek out ways to assist those in need in the greater community through projects like PeaceJam - one of our high school clubs - and the "Camp to Campus" program, two initiatives we share with you in this edition of the Sower.

With the academic year in full swing, we are delighted to see our students of all ages enthusiastically embrace our unique educational programs, combining a STEM-centered approach with our traditional experiential learning philosophy. With eagerness and a positive spirit, they are working toward becoming the creative, confident, collaborative, and resourceful leaders of tomorrow. Our goal is to not only provide our students with the tools they will need to succeed but also provide the world with global, responsible citizens who will help all of us to overcome adversity and succeed together.

In this issue of the Sower you will also read about a few of our alumni and their reflections on their experiences at the American Farm School, the lessons they have carried with them upon leaving, and their academic, professional, and personal successes. We are terribly proud of every future leader who passes through this institution and it brings us great pleasure to see the impact they have on others while here on campus and following their graduation.

None of the accomplishments I shared with you and none of these individual successes would have been possible without your generous support and it is with humility and gratitude that I thank you again today. Thank you for sharing our vision to make the world a better place, for helping us provide educational opportunities to numerous promising, brilliant, and deserving young minds. We deeply appreciate and value your decision to invest in the future. You are making a difference.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of the American Farm School and Perrotis College, I wish each of you a happy and healthy holiday season and may your New Year be filled with joy and peace.

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

American Farm School & Perrotis College

Graduate School Welcomes First Class



The fall of 2017 was an exciting time at Perrotis College as the new School of Graduate Studies was launched. The School builds on the American Farm School's philosophy and foundation of quality education focused on research, practical training, and entrepreneurship, guided by the principles of social responsibility and sustainability.

Our first class of graduate students is pursuing M.Sc. degrees in New Food Product & Business Development and in Agri-Food Marketing. Additional graduate degrees will be introduced soon in Sustainable Agro-Environmental Systems Management, Plant Seed & Propagation Material Production Management, and Livestock Science & Production Management.

All graduate students will take courses in Entrepreneurship, Consumer Needs & Trends, and Bioinformatics, among others in a shared core curriculum. During their last semester of studies, students will conduct research on a topic of their choice. The program's coursework is designed with our historic "Learn by Doing" philosophy, embodied by Perrotis College since its founding and underpinned by the School's world-class research laboratories and educational farm.

In addition to the courses offered, the School of Graduate Studies will serve as a center for applied research and innovation in the agri-food sector in northern Greece and the larger Balkan area. The School is housed in the Seth Frank Hall of Graduate Studies, recently renovated through a generous gift made by one of our long-time trustees, Seth Frank.

Study Abroad at Perrotis College

Every year, students from American universities spend one or more semesters at Perrotis College and then transfer their credits to their home universities. In addition to the challenging classes available in various subjects such as Agri-Business and Food Science, students learn about the Greek culture through activities in Thessaloniki, optional language courses and educational field trips. "What makes our study abroad program special is the Greek cultural experience and the service learning component," says Eleni Kantyltzoglou, Study Abroad Coordinator. "Our courses provide students with a unique, experiential approach that they are not likely to find elsewhere."

When we asked this semester's students, joining us from Rutgers, Cornell, Iowa State, and Warren Wilson College, why they chose Perrotis College, they highlighted the unique opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom in real life. Dakota Wagner, a student from Warren Wilson College, emphasizes the difficulties students majoring in science have in finding a program that will both offer substantive science courses and provide the right amount of credits. At Perrotis College, a fully accredited British institution, she can take classes related to her major and not fall behind her peers when she returns to her home institution.

The holistic approach to education has always been a priority at Perrotis College. "People here are very caring and always take the time to make sure we are adjusting and have everything we need...and help us make the most of the experience here." says Anne Dinges, another study abroad student from Iowa State University.

To learn more about Study Abroad, Internship and Project Research opportunities at Perrotis College, please visit <http://perrotiscollege.edu.gr/study-abroad/>.



Alumni of the American Farm School & Perrotis College Continue To Impress

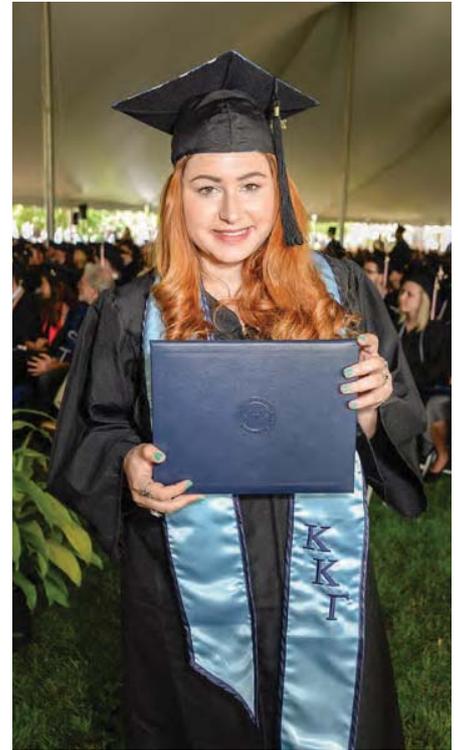
Marianthi Tangili

AFS '12 alumna Marianthi Tangili (BSc LU '16, MSc UG '19) is an inspiring example of the successes of our alumni. Marianthi completed her B.Sc. in biology at Lawrence University in June of 2016 and is currently pursuing a MSc degree in Evolutionary Biology at the University of Groningen, in the Netherlands. At Lawrence, Marianthi was able to meld her native curiosity and passion about the natural world into researching local ecological systems.

She recalls her time at the American Farm School with great fondness. "The American Farm School first and foremost deepened my interest, love, and respect for the environment," Marianthi said. "The innovative practicums made me appreciate the natural world and its contributions to humanity (in addition to) cultivating a sense of duty in me." Her global perspective and strong sense of responsibility towards the environment influenced her profoundly. As a result, she dedicated much of her time between classes to volunteering for several local causes including the Food Recovery Network, where she worked to eliminate food waste from school cafeterias while providing warm meals for the homeless.

We are heartened by both Marianthi's enthusiasm and passion for the world around her and her positive impact on all those whom she meets, both academically and professionally; instilling a sense of environmental responsibility and global citizenship has always been among the American Farm School's priorities and one Marianthi takes quite seriously.

With her exceptional academic record, extracurricular accomplishments, and history of community engagement, it should come as no surprise that Marianthi was recently accepted by the Top Master Program Evolutionary Biology at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, yet another step toward her goal of pursuing a PhD and remaining actively involved in environmental conservation efforts. We are certain her dreams will all come to fruition. Her diligence, strong work ethic and Farm School roots guarantee it.



Giannis Mpekas



The phrase "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree" certainly applies to Giannis Mpekas (AFS '91); before his own career blossomed, his family had been involved in animal husbandry for five generations. Giannis is yet another shining example of an alum who applied the knowledge and skills he gained as a student at the American Farm School to create a successful farm-based enterprise.

In 1996, Giannis began his career as an animal farmer. He later delved into product processing and became the first to produce buffalo products in Greece, proving himself to be well ahead of the curve. When Greek pastry shops began seeking buffalo milk to produce the authentic *Kazan Ntipi* - a delicious dessert with origins in Asia Minor - Giannis had already researched the market possibilities of buffalo dairy products and independently identified what he believed would be a great business opportunity. He took the risk and has now built his small family business into a successful, innovative enterprise whose products are distributed across Greece and also penetrating the U.S., British, German, and Austrian markets, among others.

As a Greek entrepreneur, Giannis also recognizes the importance of supporting other Greek small businesses and he collaborates with several local buffalo farms in order to produce cheese, yogurt, ice cream, and butter from 100% Greek buffalo milk. His resilience, determination, and success in daunting economic times confirm the importance of investing in education and its power to provide young people with opportunities to thrive.

Not Your Childhood's Library Stacks

The campus library at the American Farm School & Perrotis College, like libraries across the world, has been undergoing a massive transformation from storing static stacks of periodicals and books into a vibrant, high technology space that celebrates collaboration, community, and connection between students, faculty and staff. Thanks to a generous grant from the Haseotes Family Foundation, the School has been able to create an extraordinary space to serve precisely these purposes - **Vasilios S. and Aphrodite B. Haseotes Learning Commons**. The Learning Commons was inaugurated in October at a dedication event attended by the School's staff, faculty, students, resident trustees, President Dr. Kanellis and, most importantly, three generations of Haseotes family members who traveled all the way from the United States. The heart-warming remarks by Haseotes Family Foundation Trustee Mrs. Anastasia Marty, who was accompanied by her niece Zacharie Vinios and Zacharie's two daughters, Bettina Georgoulis and Jean-Anne Vinios, left a lasting impression.



From left to right: American Farm School & Perrotis College President Dr. Panos Kanellis, Mrs. Bettina Georgoulis, Mrs. Anastasia Marty, Mrs. Zacharie Vinios and Ms. Jean-Anne Vinios.



Mrs. Aliki Perroti, Philanthropist and Benefactress of Perrotis College and the American Farm School



Mrs. Aliki Perroti's visionary philanthropy has transformed the American Farm School and positioned it for its second century of service and achievement.

Aliki's 1995 gift in memory of her late husband led to the founding of the Dimitris Perrotis College in his honor and was the catalyst for the institution's historic entry into higher education. It was also the first in a long line of extraordinary contributions in support of the College that carry the Perrotis family name and provide key campus facilities that foster inspired teaching, the creation of new knowledge through applied research, collaboration with leading educational and industry partners, and a sense of community through contemporary student residential living. These include the Dimitris & Aliki Perrotis Library (2001), the Aliki Perroti Student Residence (2009), and the Aliki Perroti Research Laboratories (2012). The Perrotis College Endowment, established through Aliki's thoughtful foresight and student-centered philanthropy, supports in perpetuity scholarships for promising and deserving students and provides needed funding for special programs.

The Aliki Perroti Educational Center, Aliki's latest contribution, significantly expands the College's capacity providing space to grow strategically while maintaining an environment that fosters project-based learning and close student-faculty interaction.

Combining unprecedented generosity with compassionate interest in our students and their progress, Aliki Perroti is both benefactress and beloved friend of the American Farm School and Perrotis College.

Inauguration of the Aliki Perroti Educational Center

Perrotis College continues to grow with the addition of the Aliki Perroti Educational Center, a new building complex designed to serve the needs of the College's thriving student body. This state-of-the-art academic facility and its classrooms, amphitheatres and world-class science and research laboratories will serve as a hub for collaborative learning and research for undergraduate and graduate students and their faculty.

One of the largest developments ever undertaken on campus, the new complex integrates the Seth Frank Hall of Graduate Studies and significantly increases the College's capacity for applied research and innovation while reinforcing the School's long term priorities of fostering scientific inquiry, creative discovery, and the implementation of new ideas.

On Saturday, November 11, we celebrated the inauguration of the new Aliki Perroti Educational Center (APEC) with a ribbon-cutting by School benefactress, Aliki Perroti. We continue to be inspired by Aliki's generous spirit and encouragement of educational opportunities for young leaders. Without the transformative gift of long-time benefactress Aliki Perroti, the Center's construction would not have been possible. Her gracious support has propelled Perrotis College to the forefront of engaged learning and research in ways that will have a lasting impact on the institution, its students and faculty, and the greater community.

The Aliki Perroti Educational Center (APEC) was designed by the award-winning architectural firm of Kouloukouris & Associates. The 36,000 square foot facility is comprised of two parallel wings joined by a central atrium. Its classrooms, amphitheatres, laboratories, communal spaces, and study areas can accommodate up to 700 undergraduate and graduate-level students. Situated in the wooded area across from the college's residence hall, not only does it complement its surroundings but it also embodies the sustainable design principles and green practices that characterize the rest of campus. The materials and structural elements were specifically selected to make optimum use of the natural environment while reducing the building's carbon footprint. The landscaping surrounding the facility follows suit by incorporating native plants and innovative xeriscape technology designed to reduce water usage.

The **Aliki Perroti Educational Center** will play an integral role as Perrotis College strives to meet the growing need for a STEM-educated, innovation-ready workforce in Greece and beyond. Aliki Perroti's transformative gift will further transform Perrotis College into a center for engaged learning and research in ways that will have a lasting impact our students, faculty, and the greater community.



From left to right: Dr. Panos Kanellis, Mrs. Aliki Perroti and Trustee Mr. Seth Frank.



“The American Farm School cultivates the best of those values in which I believe: education, entrepreneurship, and a commitment to community.”
 — Mrs. Aliko Perroti

“The Aliko Perroti Educational Center is yet another milestone in the continuing growth and evolution of Perrotis College. It marks a major new beginning with the launch of the College’s Graduate School and adds world class applied research capabilities. These new capabilities will make possible collaborative research work with leading universities across the world, attract the highest caliber students and faculty, and bolster our ability to assist small and large companies in the agro-food sector in Greece. This is a major addition to the educational landscape in the region and clearly positions Perrotis College as a leader in the fields of Agriculture, the Environment and Life Sciences.”
 — Dr. Panos Kanellis
 President, American Farm School & Perrotis College



Innovative Product Alert: Snail Caviar!

The American Farm School has a long standing tradition of innovative food product developments. In recent years, our high school students have been *escar-going* wild! Their *snailblazing* exploration into new product possibilities involved researchers at Perrotis College and led them to the first successful production of white caviar from snails in Greece.

Under the guidance and support of high school teacher and AFS alumnus Mr. Petros Evangelou, thirty high school students started controlled snail breeding of the *Helix Aspersa Maxima* to obtain and pre-fatten young snails while simultaneously producing white snail caviar. Dr. Evangelos Vergos, Dean of our School of Professional Education, explained that the snails are housed in a wooden structure under controlled temperature, humidity and lighting which was “constructed by the students in slow and steady steps. So far, the results have been positive!”



Snail caviar is a unique, rare, and high value-added delicacy that can bring anywhere between \$80 and \$140 per ounce in market value. The snail eggs are packaged in brine, olive oil, and spices and the result is a unique (and might we say, delicious) caviar! To date, the project team has produced over twenty ounces of white caviar and is conducting research on its hygienic benefits and nutritional value in order to improve the production process.

Omega-3 Eggs Reach 20 Year Milestone

Two decades ago, the American Farm School produced and sold their first Omega-3 eggs, an event credited with changing the dietary habits of Greeks. Upon their debut in the fall of 1997, these were the first Omega-3 eggs to enter the Greek market. To date, over 58.8 million eggs have been sold and the School finds itself, yet again, at the forefront of agri-food product research.

It was in collaboration with the Aristotle University’s Zootechnics Laboratory that the American Farm School first researched the benefits of Omega-3 eggs and began producing them in 1997. Contrary to popular belief, Omega-3 eggs are not a biotech product; they result from a controlled, innovative feeding method that was developed and is still implemented in the American Farm School’s on-site educational poultry facility. The chickens are fed a special feed mixture rich in polyunsaturated Omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin E, and herbs, which are included to protect the Omega 3 acids from oxidation prior to and after their consumption.



One serving of Omega-3 eggs constitutes 20% of the daily fatty acid requirement and helps with the proper development and maintenance of brain cells, in addition to lowering bad cholesterol and the risk of heart disease.

New Product Alert: Semi-Hard Cheese

For over a decade, the American Farm School has been producing high-quality, farm-to-table products. Our new, premium quality semi-hard cheese is a recent addition; produced exclusively from the School’s fresh milk, salt, and rennet, Perrotis College students participated actively in each phase of its cultivation. The cheese is aged four months and then packaged in the School’s on-campus Educational Dairy and Milk Processing Training Center.



The cheese production process was an especially beneficial learning experience for Perrotis College students because of their involvement in every stage of its preparation - from testing the milk to ensuring its quality to conducting market research in order to evaluate the retail landscape and consumer preferences. Along with the guidance of their professors, the result of the students’ dedication is a uniquely Greek product and one of the few made with locally-sourced milk produced by the School’s very own herd of internationally-recognized Holstein cows.

The American Farm School in Albania

Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës and all Albania, visited the American Farm School last May, marking a growing collaboration between the school and the Archdiocese.

AFS and the Archdiocese have partnered to create, organize and implement a series of educational agricultural programs in Albania. These programs will begin with simple training seminars on various subjects ranging from horticulture to herb production, before expanding into post high school technical programs in the future. In parallel, the American Farm School’s School of Professional Education will also provide training courses to farmers in central and southern Albania. The collaboration is yet another example of the School’s dedication, since its early founding, to educating Balkan youth as a means of cultivating economic development and cross-border collaboration.



“We chose the American Farm School as a strategic partner for the two-year post-high-school technical program because we have a tendency to select...the best,” the Archbishop said. “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.”

Greek Summer 2017

Through the American Farm School's Greek Summer Program, high school students looking for a meaningful experience abroad can play a transformative role in a rural community in Greece and change the course of their own lives in the process. This summer was no exception as program participants experienced life in Greece firsthand through their village homestay and service-learning experience in the village of Stavroupoli, Xanthi.

Participants chronicled their journey in video testimonials, sharing their experiences and impressions in their own words (and images) and recounting the impact their service learning activity had on them personally. This year, in addition to building child-sized picnic tables for the school yard, the group organized and led an English language camp for local children. The experience in Stavroupoli, for both our



participants and for the local community, was truly transformative. "Every second of this adventure has been worth it and every moment taught me something valuable," Audrey Shannon shared in her video testimonial. "Working with the village kids is something I will never forget."

Greek Summer would not be complete without the highlight of the trip - climbing Mount Olympus. After a summer of travelling and working together, ascending Mount Olympus was, though challenging, exceptionally rewarding for our participants as they continued to learn about themselves in the process. "Through the hike...I also learned that I have bravery within myself. Throughout the trip I was able to push my limits... It was a true metamorphosis that I will remember for the rest of my life", said George Koutsaris.

You may view the video testimonials and learn more about the program by visiting www.afs.edu.gr/greek-summer-program/ our checking out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanFarmSchoolThessaloniki/>. For more information or to apply, please contact Greek Summer Admissions at greeksummer@afs.edu.gr.

Farewell to Joann Ryding Beltes

After more than 30 years of service, Ms. Joann Ryding Beltes has retired from the American Farm School as Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Working closely with six presidents and successive Boards of Trustees, she led the efforts throughout her tenure to secure the philanthropic resources needed to transform the campus and academic programs, and to make the School's unique opportunities accessible to generations of students. Here are some excerpts from our interview with Mrs. Ryding as she is asked to reflect on her years at the School.

What was the most rewarding aspect of your work?

If I had to single one out, it would be the privilege of coming to know the School's extraordinary donors. We often enter their lives when what is uppermost in their mind is acting on their values. Conversations about a gift to the American Farm School often lead to sharing heart-felt beliefs and concerns about what is most important to them -- whether that's holistic education, sustainability, or assisting young people to achieve their potential. For me, the greatest joy has been helping our supporters direct their philanthropy towards something truly meaningful to them, while meeting the needs of the institution. Our donors are real partners in this unique enterprise, and it's gratifying that so many take genuine pride in the School's progress.

According to you, what are AFS' greatest strengths?

Its *distinctive education*. Not only the *learn by doing* pedagogy, but the focus on teaching responsible stewardship in agriculture, food systems, the environment and other life sciences related to a sustainable future. Its *students*. AFS' Scholarship Program is the most



expansive of any private educational institution in Greece and allows us to draw bright, motivated students from throughout Greece and beyond who are seeking an education apart from the usual. Its *strong institutional leadership*. President Kanellis has articulated a clear vision for the institution and, with the support of the board and senior management, is energetically implementing the strategy to achieve it. Even during this challenging time in Greece, the School is expanding its academic programs, research opportunities and partnerships.

What have been your most significant achievements?

Leading a dedicated, professional development team to help implement the School's vision by raising needed resources. The most obvious manifestation of this work is the campus itself. When I walk around this beautiful space, I see everywhere the faces of our supporters who have made it possible -- from those whose names are permanently remembered on buildings, halls, plateias and walkways, to those who made a gift to plant a tree, a garden or an orchard. They've created not just the framework for academic learning, but the special sense of place that has become the collective identity of the School for generations of students, faculty, and friends.

Ms. Ryding's contributions have been recognized on the occasion of her retirement through the generosity of School benefactors Mrs. Alike Perroti and Mr. Seth Frank who endowed the "Joann Ryding Prize" to be awarded annually at the Perrotis College Commencement. The prize is earmarked for graduating students "who have best demonstrated the ability, integrity and dedication to Perrotis College and the American Farm School which are traits that have been exemplified by Joann Ryding Beltes."

In June 2017, Mr Hercules Mousiades was named the new Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Head of Development. Please join us in sending our warmest wishes to Mrs. Ryding for her new journey and in welcoming Mr. Mousiades to the American Farm School community!

AFS High School Seniors Take U.S. Colleges by Storm!



We are happy to report yet another year of excitement and success as the largest-ever number of high school seniors – all members of our Study USA program - applied and were accepted at U.S. colleges and universities.

Rewarded for their extraordinarily hard work and academic success at the American Farm School, these students have accepted generous scholarship offers to pursue degrees ranging from neuroscience to political science to economics at Brown University, Davidson College, Rhodes College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), among others. Our students cite their experiences at the Farm School as instrumental in allowing them the freedom and intellectual independence to discover and develop their passions. “The number one thing I learned at AFS was to take risks and not be afraid,” Athina Katsoula said as she prepares for a change in scenery, and weather, at WPI in New England.

It makes us very proud to see these young men and women embark on their respective academic journeys. We are confident that they will carry on the values of the AFS community and continue working hard to achieve their goals. We wish the class of 2017 the best as they join their fellow alumni on the path to personal discovery.

The College Counseling Office aims to strengthen the School's ties with the U.S. and help AFS students gain access to quality educational experiences in the U.S. by providing guidance throughout their high school careers and facilitating their transition to an educational environment in which they will be dependent on their second language.



A Fresh Breath of Air for Greek Youth

The American Farm School & Perrotis College, in collaboration with Rutgers University and through support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, is implementing a training program on alternative tourism for young people in Thessaloniki, Ioannina and Volos. The program provides participants with the necessary skills and experience to succeed in a niche area within the agri-business sector. Under the umbrella

of the Niarchos Foundation's “Recharging Greek Youth: New Farming for a New Generation” initiative, this program is one of many aimed to not only address the critically high youth unemployment rate in Greece, but also to provide a space where the issue can be discussed more broadly.

This unique training program spans two semesters, consists of six theoretical and

four hands-on courses and is delivered in collaboration with local industry partners. The highest-performing participants also have the opportunity to complete a paid, 2-month internship at selected agri-tourism businesses.

This is only one of many programs/initiatives the AMFS will be implementing under the Recharging Greek Youth umbrella.

Helping Greek youth reclaim their voice!

Dr. Henry House, founder of the American Farm School, was known for being a practical idealist dedicated to educating the whole individual: the head, the heart, and the hands. Through their classroom curriculum and experiential learning sessions, our students focus on their heads and their hands. Clubs, extracurricular activities, and community outreach initiatives contribute to the education of the heart, providing students with a more holistic learning experience.

PeaceJam Club, a division of the international organization by the same name, is one such initiative. Although the AFS chapter started just two years ago, PeaceJam was launched in 1996 to “create young leaders committed to positive change in themselves,



their communities, and the world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Laureates.” PeaceJam quickly became one of the most popular clubs on campus. Last spring, participating students prepared over 600 backpacks and filled with supplies for refugee children before distributing them to refugee camps in northern Greece.

Leighanne Penna, Director of Student Life and founder of the AFS chapter of PeaceJam, said that her goal is “to teach Greek youth that they have a voice and that they are capable of changing things.” The club also serves to empower Greek youth to reclaim the voice that many feel has been stifled by the ongoing economic crisis. “Young people need to realize that they can always make a difference in their communities,” Leighanne said.

Community Outreach Beyond Borders

The American Farm School was built on the principle of service to the community. As such, we are truly honored to partner with the U.S. Embassy in Athens in its “Education Unites: From Camp to Campus” initiative. The main program objective is to provide college-aged refugees across Greece the opportunity to continue their studies. Refugees will be able to study not only English but also Mathematics and Agricultural Economics.

“While we talked with folks at the camp, we realized that one of the biggest needs and interests was in agriculture,” shared Leighanne Penna, AFS Director of Student Life and Camp to Campus Project Coordinator. “As a result, we proposed offering on-site training courses for adults to learn marketable agri-business skills”.



“All of these people have demonstrated incredible resilience and courage in getting themselves this far and the Camp to Campus project is part of our effort to help empower these people,” Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt, U.S. Ambassador to Greece stated. “This is one of the most distinctive bilateral programs I’ve ever been a part of, with the potential to help so many people.”

With its history of outreach and social responsibility, we are proud to be partnering on an initiative that actively aligns with the morals, values and principles of the American Farm School. We remain hopeful that our impact will extend beyond the confines of campus to the greater community as we strive to make positive contributions to the socioeconomic development of Greece and the greater region.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyAthens/videos/>

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 lasting impact by contributing significantly to the School and making a difference by helping many future generations of students.

METAMORPHOSIS SOCIETY

The Metamorphosis Society recognizes and honors the generosity and foresight of those individuals who have made provisions in their estate that include the American Farm School and who have apprised the School of their intentions. The name "Metamorphosis" is chosen for its deeper connection to the School's tradition of providing education that brings about positive change, or "metamorphosis," in the individual.

Dr. David Acker	Truda Jewett
Charlotte Armstrong	Claire C. Katsanis
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Emily Carey	Elizabeth (Tad) Lansdale
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Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Doolas	Gail & Ruth Schoppert
Phillip G. & Mary Foote	Charles L. & 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 that will strengthen the School's endowment or support other educational needs.

Theodora Abrames	Eve Curie Labouisse
Charles Storrs Barrows III	Clara Nickolson
James Michael Broomas	Eleanor McKay Norris
Esther Carhart	Mr. & 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 that will last past their lifetimes.

Esther Carhart	Mary P. Gill
Ernest Thomas Chepou	Henry T. Maijgren
Philip & 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.

Barbara K. Heming has served as a trustee of the School for over a decade. She is a proud member of the Metamorphosis Society and speaks highly of the institution and the transformations she has witnessed on campus. In her eyes, the institution stands out because every contribution is used in a positive way; all gifts received go towards specific projects and only a very small fraction goes to administrative support.

Barbara is also a firm believer in the holistic educational approach of the American Farm School and the intensive English-language programs it provides. Its provision of a strong foundation of the English language coupled with the access it provides to quality education are some of the reasons that Ms. Heming is proud to support the School during her lifetime and beyond. She values seeing the tangible impact of her contribution to the School and remains confident that her funds are used responsibly and diligently.

In Loving Memory of Long-Time Trustee Truda Cleeves Jewett

Truda Cleeves Jewett passed away peacefully at home on October 18, 2017. She proudly served as a member of the American Farm School's Board of Trustees since 1983 and has previously held the position of Chairman of the Development Committee as well. She lived an extraordinary life and she will be remembered fondly by everyone lucky enough to have met her, especially those of us here at the American Farm School. We will lovingly recall her heart of gold and passion for developing leadership in young people. Mrs. Jewett undeniably had a true gift when it came to interacting with others. She took countless people under her wing, mentoring them with patience and helping them to begin fruitful educational and professional journeys in their areas of interest. We will miss Mrs. Jewett's loving and enthusiastic spirit and know she will live on in our hearts and minds and as an integral part of our institution's rich history.



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