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the American Farm School

THE **sower**



Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute

Honoring the past,
building the future



**AMERICAN
FARM SCHOOL**
Thessaloniki · Greece

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From the President

Welcome to the winter edition of the American Farm School's newsletter "The Sower". This past semester, another major project came to fruition on campus: the Pantelis Panteliadis High School was built thanks to a generous donation from the Panteliadis family in memory of Pantelis, AFS alumnus (class of '54), trustee, and longtime supporter. The new building is more than a structure for students from all over Greece wishing to study agriculture and other life sciences. More than anything, it is a testament of an incredible success story that started on campus decades ago; a bright example of the eagerness to give back to a community; and proof of the impact of a quality education. We are indebted to the Panteliadis family for this support of our educational programs.

Recognizing a transformative experience and giving back to the community became the theme of the Greek Summer 50th reunion celebrated recently in New York City. Greek Summer participants, counselors and parents shared their memories of this magnificent program, reminiscing about its influence on their personal development. We encourage you to enroll your kids/grandkids in Greek Summer 2023 here: www.afsgreeksummer.com.

The second annual men's golf tournament was held in Chicago in an effort led by Dr. Alexander Doolas. This has proven to be an important source of support for the Annual Fund and is slated to become a fixture in the Chicago area. We hope it could eventually serve as a template for other cities in the United States.

In this issue, you will read about the path to accreditation by Perrotis College through the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE), as well as its continuous collaboration with U.S. universities through the Study Abroad program. The international student body was strengthened this year by four African students, two of whom are supported by the Flour Mills of Nigeria (FMN) in collaboration with the George Coumantaros Foundation. The value of agricultural studies in general, and for Nigerian communities in particular, is becoming more critical, and we are committed to providing advanced knowledge to populations that are challenged today by population growth.

Our Middle School and High School students continue to excel. Whether at a national statistics competition or robotics, we take pride in their achievements. Youth leadership through sports is becoming an increasingly important component of our curriculum across departments. The recent visit of two members of the U.S. National Women's Soccer Team – organized by the U.S. Mission in Greece – promoted inclusion and empowered our students.

If you see your name in the donors' list in the following pages, please know that we are grateful for your support and generosity. We are able to further the School's mission because of you. If your name is not included, we encourage you to make a contribution in the future. We are thankful to all of you for your support over the years.

With warm wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2023.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lansdale, Ph.D.

President

American Farm School

Greek Summer 50th Reunion

After a two-year delay due to the pandemic, close to 200 Greek Summer alumni finally joined in the celebration of the program's 50th Reunion on October 22, 2022 at the New York Athletic Club in NYC! Greek Summer has influenced many lives over the years and this was evident from the personal Greek Summer testimonies shared; some nostalgic, some very funny, all truly representative of the program's value. Greek Summer started as a unique, adventurous, experiential learning and self-awareness program, and today, after more than 50 years, based on the testimonies of GS '22, it continues to be unique. Our GS Alumni represent this uniqueness, as donors, friends and devoted Trustees, in support of the Farm School's mission and future.

We hope the next generations of Greek Summer participants will feel the same way 50 years from now; grateful for a transformative, once in a lifetime experience.

*For photos from the event
scan the code:*



*Thank you to the organizing Committee: Frances Manthos (Chair) Patti Chamberlin, Vicki Kyriakos, David Lansdale, Michael Lansdale, Matina Marks, Christine Willis
Thank you, also, to our wonderful sponsors!*

Pantelis Panteliadis High School

Honoring the past, building the future



The new Pantelis Panteliadis High School opened its doors for the first time on September 11, 2022, welcoming new and returning students. Resident Trustees and donors joined the Panteliadis family at the blessing; an occasion to honor the memory of AFS Alumnus, Honorary Trustee and longtime supporter Pantelis Panteliadis (Class of 1954). The new building was made possible through a tremendously generous donation from the Panteliadis family (OPTIMA-EPIROS-METRO-MY MARKET Group) and the support of AFS Trustees Dan Morgan, Frances Manthos, Theodora Valentis, Petros Levis, Barbara Heming, AFS alumni Dimitris Vlachos and Konstantinos Kravvas, Giorgos Gavalas and the Lansdale family.

Representing the Panteliadis family, METRO's CEO, Aristotelis Panteliadis, urged the students to chase their dreams and never stop trying. "You have the power to make your story, a success story", he shared. American Farm School President Dr. Jeff Lansdale spoke about "an important donation by a beloved family, in memory of a very important person who loved the School", when referring to the Pantelis Panteliadis High School.

Dr. Lansdale also expressed his confidence that the current and future students of the School will honor his memory and respect the opportunities the family so generously provided.



Remarks were made by the Chairman of the Board, Stefanos Panteliadis, AFS Alumnus and donor Konstantinos Krawvas, the principals of the General and the Vocational High School, Manolis Peditakis and Apostolos Vourkoudis respectively, and Christine Lansdale Willis.

The building has been designed to blend harmoniously with its surroundings and embody the environmentally-friendly practices that characterize the AFS campus. Designed by the firm “406 architects”, the new two-story, 1,200-square-meter facility accommodates eight classrooms, science labs, offices and communal spaces. The structure was built according to sustainable design principles, with materials selected to make optimum use of the natural environment while reducing the building’s energy footprint.



The official inauguration of the Pantelis Panteliadis High School will take place in June 2023.

Perrotis College: One Step Closer to NECHE Accreditation

A team of five members of the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) visited campus in early November to meet with Perrotis College administration, faculty, students and staff as the final stage of the College's accreditation process. NECHE is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as an authority on the quality of education for the institutions it accredits and promotes educational excellence and quality assurance to its members. The Commission's final decision for Perrotis College is expected in early Spring 2023.



FMN and George Coumantaros Foundation Award Scholarships for Nigerians to Study at Perrotis College

The Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc (FMN) in collaboration with George Coumantaros Foundation has awarded deserving candidates postgraduate education scholarships for studies at Perrotis College. The two successful candidates for the 2022 FMN – GCF postgraduate scholarship program are Edegbo Simon Ojonugwa, who holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, graduating from the top of his class, and Ezeonu Alfred Chukwubuikem, a graduate of Food Engineering from the University of Uyo.



Based on the awardees' courses of choice, Simon Edegbo is studying for a Master's in Sustainable Agriculture and Management, while Alfred Ezeonu is pursuing a Master's in New Food Product and Business Development. Both students admit that apart from mythology, the only thing they knew about Greece was...Giannis Antetokounmpo. One of the first things that impressed them when they set foot in Greece was the weather, the flora and...the food! "The Perrotis College campus is beautiful. The classrooms and laboratories are state-of-the-art. The professors are incredibly approachable and friendly. Always available to ask them anything you want," Alfred emphasized. "When we arrived at Perrotis College we had a very warm welcome by everyone! Faculty and staff are always there for us" added Simon.

The FMN-George Coumantaros Foundation Scholarship scheme is designed to afford worthy Nigerians an opportunity to broaden their horizon and acquire relevant skills and knowledge that can be further reinvested within the nation's economy. The FMN Director, Group Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, Mr Sadiq Usman stated, "When we feed the nation, every day, our impact goes beyond food processing and provision for Nigerians as we also feed possibilities and growth through our CSR and sustainability projects like the FMN-George Coumantaros Foundation Scholarship Program. Through this program, we are looking at creating an avenue where Nigerians will acquire knowledge and skills in line with socio-economic demands."

More so, to ensure that the scholarship program is afforded to the most deserving Nigerian students, we ensured that the selection process is transparent and seamless, from the computer-based tests to live interviews with subject matter experts from the American Farm School and Perrotis College, the process was handled with utmost professionalism. "Over 900 competitive applications were received but in the long run, the chosen two were able to meet most of the eligibility tests thus their qualification. As a Group, FMN will continue to invest in human capital development to ensure that we all can attain our envisaged future as a nation," he added.

Speaking on the expectations from the awardees and the foundation, the Program Director, George Coumantaros Foundation, Kyriakos Kyriakopoulos said, “With this scholarship program, we have set in motion a transformative process that will allow young Nigerians to adopt growth-driven strategies from various faculties of knowledge and be able to translate this knowledge into meaningful growth in Nigeria.”

George Coumantaros (July 23, 1922 – October 17, 2016) was a Greek businessman and sailor. He was the founder of Southern Star Shipping, a private international shipping company and Flour Mills of Nigeria, a public company listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. He competed in and won many yacht races, including the Bermuda Race. He was Grand Archon of the Greek Orthodox Church.



Perrotis College Welcomes Students from U.S. Universities

Promoting inter-university cooperation, the Perrotis College Study Abroad program welcomed six students from universities in the United States. They came from Iowa State University, University of Illinois, Berea College and TEXAS A&M. For 12 weeks, they studied along Perrotis College students and participated in activities related to Greek history, culture and language. They chose Perrotis College for their fall semester courses to broaden the scope of their education, gain direct exposure to the agri-food sector in Greece, and combine theory with practical training in an international environment. All students were impressed by the “learn by doing” method, the sense of community and the AFS and Perrotis College facilities. Perrotis College also welcomed Shannon Mc Amis, who holds a Master’s degree from the University of Florida and is carrying out part of her doctoral thesis in the Perrotis College laboratories and Ana Casas from TEXAS A&M, who volunteered at the Study Abroad Office.



In Gratitude

The American Farm School thanks the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations for their generous support during the previous fiscal year, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. In these extraordinary times, their commitment to the Institution and its ideals has been exemplary, allowing the School to successfully achieve its educational goals.

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Golf Tournament in Chicago Raises Significant Funds for Scholarships

Close to 50 people participated in the second annual men's golf tournament organized by Dr. Alex Doolas in Chicago raising significant funds in support of the Scholarship Program. The tournament was another successful event showcasing the dedication of the Chicago Committee – which was revived thanks to joint efforts by Dr. Doolas and Maria Gebhard – to promote the mission of the American Farm School.

Chicago has been an important part of the School's own ties to the U.S. and friends in the area spearhead volunteer actions and events to build awareness and help raise funds for the School. Their commitment is an inspiration to the students, staff and greater AFS community, and goes a long way in helping youth from across Greece to achieve their goals and pursue their dreams.

Dr. Alexander Doolas was born in Thessaloniki in 1935. His father, George Doolas, started working as a teacher at the American Farm School in 1929, moving the Doolas family to campus where Alex spent six years. "This is where I spent the first six years of my life; it was a place full of happiness, kindness and generosity. My family felt like an integral part of the community here, a community of students and educators." A respected member of the Medical community for many years, Doolas, now retired, has dedicated himself heart and soul into spreading the word about the American Farm School in the greater Chicago area, and generously supports the School's Scholarship Program.



Haseotes Middle School Students Awarded First Prize in Statistics Competition

Eight graders Polykarpos - Aris Kalaitzidis, Maria - Anastasia Trevla and Dimitris Paroutis won the first prize in the 5th Greek National Statistics Competition organized by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT). The competition was conducted in two phases: the first one included three tests on statistical and probability concepts, as well as the use of sources and infographics of official statistics, while the second phase consisted of a research paper on a specific topic defined by ELSTAT. With the help of the Haseotes Middle School Math teacher Olga Grigoriadou, the team triumphed over 406 teams from 41 Middle Schools and 51 High Schools from all over the country!



High School wins the "F1 in Schools" race!

The High School Robotics Club continues to cross the finish line first! This year, the DEOS racing team won the awards for "Best Project Management and Enterprise Portfolio" and "Fair Competition" in the national finals of the "F1 in Schools" competition. The team of 20 students designed and built a miniature racing car under the guidance of Physics teacher Nikos Pegiopoulos. Together, they worked on an orthographic projection and 3D Rendering of the F1 model as well as 3DCAD designs for the construction of the racing car. The final ranking of the teams, determining the qualifiers for the world final, will be announced later this year.



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 appraised 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.

David Acker, Peter Bien, Emily Carey, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Carson Jr., Hugh Cullman, Marvin Fisber, Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Doolas, Mr. and Mrs. George Draper, Phillip G. and Mary Foote, Barbara K. Heming, Elizabeth (Tad) Lansdale, Susan Mees Longfield, Daniel and Mayo Morgan, Nicholas Pizaris, Gail Schoppert, Nancy Worcester

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.

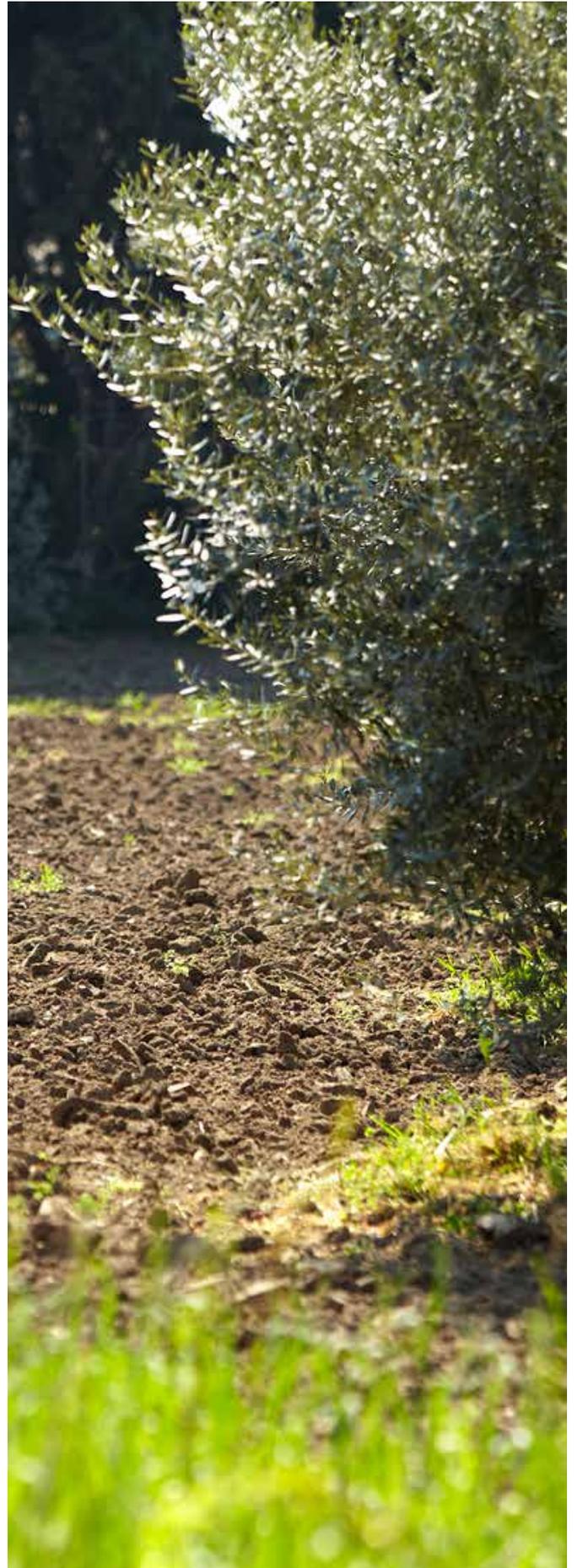
Theodora Abrames, Charlotte Armstrong, Charles Storrs Barrows III, James Michael Broomas, Gregor L. Calender, Estber Carbart, Jean S. Crosby, Maria Couvaras, Alexander Drapos, Angeline Ducas, Lula Ducas, Marvin Fisber, Elizabeth M. Godley, Alice L. Hansen, Sarah Holland, Truda Jewett, Claire C. Katsanis, Darlene Keeley, Edmund (Mike) Keeley, Eve Curie Labouisse, Clara Nickolson, Eleanor McKay Norris, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Paterson, Sr., Andrew Ponnaras, Ruth Schoppert, Aristides Sideropoulos, Mary R. and Charles F. Lowrey, Mary Elizabeth Stewart, Barbara L. Wood, Charles L. and Joan Thomas, Winifred E. Weter

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.

Estber Carbart, Ernest Thomas Chepou, Philip and Hazel Constantinides, Lois Kerimis, Fred W. Kolb, Mary P. Gill, Henry T. Maijgren, Demosthenis Raptelis, Dean C. Zutes

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



Greek Summer 2022

This past July, the School's signature summer program welcomed its 52nd class to campus. Young men and women from the ages of 15 to 17 join the program every year and spend a month learning and gaining one of a kind experiences – from working on the campus farm, leading a community service project while staying with families in a nearby village, learning about the local history and culture, and exploring the natural wonder of the area, to a visit to the Parthenon, and a hike to the top of Mt. Olympus. Participants come away with a sense of maturity and fulfillment, but most importantly a changed perspective, and, for many, friendships that last a lifetime. The villages, too, are changed by the presence of our students, and the communities they work with are transformed in a lasting way.

This year, the students completed a homestay with a Greek family at Velvento – a beautiful village nestled at the foot of the Pieria mountains, home of AFS Alumnus and donor Dimitris Vlachos (Class of 1954) – and planned and implemented an English Summer Camp for all ages. We were so proud of them for their ability to push outside of their comfort zone, make genuine connections despite language barriers, and be teachers and role models for the village youth. Special thanks to Dimitris Vlachos who hosted numerous celebrations for our Greek Summer participants.

For more information about Greek Summer, please visit: www.afsgreeksummer.com



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NOTE: If you are not receiving our invitations/save the dates via email, please contact us at info@afs.edu.gr

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