

The Sower

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

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Issue 170



Class of 2014 students harvest campus olive trees to produce olive oil for the Campus Store.

The American Farm School
Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute

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From the President

This new issue of *The Sower* brings you some of the latest achievements of our students and staff in the face of the continuing financial crisis in Greece. I am confident you will find a message of hope in these pages. Our efforts are making it clear that hard work and determination, combined with reaching out to the Greek population and responding to their educational needs, give us the way to perform effectively in difficult times. Across the age spectrum, from Preschool to

Perrotis College, we are serving an ever expanding student body that understands the quality and practical application of our educational programs to help individuals, and Greek society, regain momentum and forward direction.

You will read about the strong start up of the Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship with the enthusiastic endorsement of U.S. and Greek public officials as well as business and civic leaders. I think you will be inspired by two of our first students in the Center who are profiled in an excellent documentary called "The Odyssey" recently shot on our campus and at other locations in Greece: www.abc.net.au/foreign.

You will also see how high school and Perrotis College students and their instructors are excelling in agricultural activities and in cultural and exchange programs. Our students are forging the next steps in their academic or professional lives, whether pursuing higher studies aided by scholarships in the United States, or putting their acumen to work in campus enterprises and research projects and thinking about new paths for their family farms and businesses, or considering creating their own ventures.

And you will witness in our Donor Lists 2011-2012 the wide community of friends in the U.S. and in Greece who supported the American Farm School and Perrotis College during the previous fiscal year. To all of you we express our most profound thanks for your generosity in helping us to accomplish our vital work.

Panos Kanellis, Ph.D.
President

American Farm School and Perrotis College

Across the age spectrum, from Preschool to Perrotis College, we are serving an ever expanding student body that understands the quality and practical application of our educational programs to help individuals, and Greek society, regain momentum and forward direction.

Inauguration of the Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship

President Panos Kanellis led the inauguration of the new Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship at a September 28th ceremony held on the Thessaloniki campus. Dr. Kanellis stressed that his goal is for “young men and women to learn sound entrepreneurship and how to differentiate and promote their high quality agricultural products in the marketplace.”

Greece’s Minister of Development Kostis Hatzidakis told the guests gathered at the event, “The School’s Center for Entrepreneurship gives optimism to the people of Greece - it is a bold innovation for others to seek to emulate.” Also on hand for the inauguration was Greece’s Minister of Agricultural Development & Food Athanasios Tsaftaris, Alternate Minister of Energy, the Environment and Climate Change Stavros Kalafatis and several other ranking members of the Athens government; the U.S. Consul General in Thessaloniki Robert Sanders; President of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce Yanos Gramatidis, President of the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece Nikolas Pentzos and other leaders of the Athens and Thessaloniki business and civic communities; and a capacity audience of those affected by the economic crisis who are interested in preparing themselves at the Center before undertaking their own agrofood ventures.

The Center, which is based in Perrotis College, is an initiative focused on strengthening healthy and sustainable entrepreneurship in Greece. It aims at preparing urban and rural individuals with the technical knowledge and skills needed to succeed in their chosen field of agrofood business, mentoring them in the creation and testing of business plans, and providing guidance and access for young entrepreneurs in securing start up funding.

The U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Daniel Bennett Smith, lent the Embassy’s support to this event and to a second inaugural event to take place at the Ambassador’s Residence in Athens on January 24th, 2013. Other U.S. government agencies and affiliates working

in sustainable development and economic growth across Europe and Eurasia, such as the Sofia, Bulgaria-based Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI) are also partnering with Perrotis College’s Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship.



Inauguration held in Seth Frank Assembly Hall at the Aliki Perroti Student Residence

General Secretary of the Ministry of Development Stratos Simopoulos, Minister of Development Kostis Hatzidakis, President Panos Kanellis

U.S. Consul General Robert Sanders, Eva Kanellis, Business Development Manager of Macedonian-Thrace Brewery Dimitri Chriss, President of the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce Yanos Gramatidis

Guests at the inauguration

Classes at the Center began in October for the first entering group of 23 men and women. The majority are urban residents from Thessaloniki, but others commute from Central Greece and from other locations in Northern Greece. All students take the Start Up and Management of an Agrofood Business and the Entrepreneurial Thinking courses, plus one elective in a specialised business or agrofood topic. Most popular among the electives are Product Standardization and e-Marketing, followed by Olive Culture and the Uses of Aromatic Plants. In a significant step forward, the Center has received a generous gift from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to support operating costs and for the ongoing development of educational programs.



Vice President Joann Ryding Beltes, Event Chair and Trustee Joannie Danielides, President Panos Kanellis, Trustee Barbara Heming, Event Committee Member Chysoula Phytas



Guests in the Union League Club of New York Dining Room



Joannie Danieleles with guest speaker Donna Hanover



Greek Trade Commissioner in New York Apostolos Dighassanis, Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus in New York Koula Sophianou, Markos Marinakis



Kate Falchi, Juliet Falchi and Lauren Decaro



(fourth and fifth from left) Tim and Trustee Sophia Hartch and invited guests



Gifts from event partners Mastihashop and Costa Navarino Icons



Benefit Event Committee Members. Back row: Kate Falchi, Phillippe Danielides, Sophia Hartch, Barbara Heming, Joannie Danielides, John Lycouris, Chysoula Phytas. Front row: Sharon Vaino, Charlotte Armstrong and T. Jewett, with Trustee Daniel Morgan.

New and old friends of the American Farm School gathered at the Union League Club of New York on October 24th for the School’s festive **Fourth Annual Benefit Dinner**, in support of the new Primary School to be launched on the Thessaloniki campus in September 2013. President Panos Kanellis’s remarks focused not only on the importance of establishing a unique elementary school in Greece devoted to environmental education through experiential learning, but also on the new Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship designed to help adults succeed in new ventures in

sustainable agriculture. Special guest speaker was Donna Hanover, who recently debuted on Broadway in *The Best Man*, and whose career spans the stage, film, television, journalism, and community service. Significant major gifts have already been received from Trustees and others who attended the event, for the naming of classrooms and other facilities in the new Primary School. Event partners included Mastihashop, Costa Navarino Icons, and the jeweller Konstantino™. The School is especially grateful to an anonymous donor for underwriting expenses for this event.

California Education Experts Promote STEM and English Language Teaching

This fall the School hosted a group of four faculty members from the Kremen School of Education & Human Development at California State University, Fresno. The California professors who represent one of the United States' largest and most diverse educational systems were invited to visit and evaluate teaching and learning at the Preschool and in the high school programs. The Fresno team brought a world of expertise from their teaching and administration at the university, and their broad experience instructing and advising in California schools, at preschool through high school levels. Dr. Colleen Torgenson, who led the visit, is an expert in Special Education; Dr. Lisa Nyberg is a leader in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) teaching; Dr. Susan Macy specializes in Early Childhood education; and Dr. Theresa Huerta is an expert in Bi-literacy (English).

They commended the School for the "close, nurturing and meaningful relationship between students and faculty," and for the effective use of the campus farm in experiential learning for all students. They

praised the emphasis they saw on Study Abroad opportunities for students; and the educational philosophy they observed that "all kids belong" and "all kids can learn." The professors were impressed by the connectedness of American Farm School students to the land.

The team saw opportunities in the Preschool for more project based learning that integrates the teaching of basic skills with environmental education and with English language acquisition. They recommended enriching the role of volunteers in the classroom and in informal learning; and establishing STEM methodologies for teaching youngsters at this early age.

Their recommendations for the high school focus on further developing STEM teaching; increasing professional development for teachers of the Learning Differences program; and diversifying and intensifying the teaching of English throughout the curriculum.

Dr. Lisa Nyberg spoke for the whole group in singling out AFS as "a living model for the present and the future of education." She



Drs. Lisa Nyberg, Susan Macy, Colleen Torgenson and Theresa Huerta.

pointed to the pride she and her colleagues take in being asked to be "a part of a think tank to promote this living model."



Digital Stories told by high schools students in the Classes of 2013 and 2014 about their experiences in summer programs throughout the country – from Maine to New Jersey, to Kentucky, to Michigan, Missouri and Colorado – are rapidly spreading enthusiasm among fellow students for pursuing undergraduate studies in the United States. These online stories, written and recorded by students with the help of American Student Life Fellows Matt Rosenbaum and Austin Redman, both recent graduates of Grinnell College, also encourage more students to participate in the innumerable academic and other summer enrichment programs, many with scholarship support, available at U.S. colleges and universities from coast to coast. Studying in the United States is a key aspect of President Kanellis' Strategic Initiative to enhance the American character of the institution. Support is needed to cover administrative costs, provide travel grants to students where needed, and for developing new educational opportunities in the future. Interested friends of the School may assist with a donation restricted for this purpose, either to the President's Strategic Initiative Campaign 2012-2015, or as part of regular Annual Fund giving.

Project Based Learning: Latest Step in AFS-Stevens Partnership

In a new phase of the American Farm School's collaboration with Stevens Institute of Technology and its Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE), AFS Agronomy and Information Technology instructor Dimitris Slavoudis traveled to the Stevens campus in Hoboken, NJ earlier this year for two weeks of advanced training in Project Based Learning. The first one-week course, "Curriculum Topic Study to Enhance Achievement in Mathematics and Science (C-TEAMS)," was geared for science and math teachers in 1st through 12th grades. The second, funded by the National Science Foundation, was a graduate level course for elementary and middle school teachers titled "Partnership to Improve Student Achievement in Physical Science: Integrating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Approaches."

Thanks to the ongoing interaction with educators from the Stevens Institute of Technology, AFS high school teachers have introduced Project Based Learning (PBL) methodologies - new to Greece - into their classrooms. PBL is an instructional approach that provides students with complex tasks based on challenging questions that encourage students to problem solve, investigate and reflect. It includes teacher facilitation, but not direction. The School's hallmark "Learn by Doing" approach to education supports this methodology, as does the School's Practical Program of hands-on projects on the campus farm.

A Teaching Learning Community of AFS high school instructors was formed last year to encourage project based learning and support teachers' adaptation of this method. Teachers in the Teaching Learning Community join forces to unify the teaching of core concepts and work together to ensure continuity of these concepts from one subject area to another, and to support one another in the design and evaluation of projects. The group maintains a lively blog, and meets formally on a bimonthly basis.

News from the Campus Store

In the brief time since 2011 when Perrotis College students took over management of the Campus Store, much progress has been made. Moving to its new location in a freestanding retail space in the center of campus with immediate road and parking access for residents, visitors, and students and parents in all the educational programs, the store is selling an ever expanding volume of products from the educational farm and from graduates. It is building and diversifying the product lines found on its shelves. Store hours have been added and now include Saturdays to better convenience loyal customers.

As milk processing in the Educational Dairy increases, new dairy products are being developed for the market. In the last six months, fresh unsalted butter and the renowned Greek feta cheese made from sheep and goat milk, as well as a similar white cheese made from the School's dairy cows, have been added to the refrigerator cases. AFS and Perrotis College alumni whose products are already represented in the Campus Store, such as those of AFS graduate Yiannis Bekas who processes traditional Greek water buffalo

milk, are diversifying their production and bringing their latest products to the store.

Avid cooks welcome the new line of fresh herbs available in the store from Perrotis College graduate Avraam Liaretides under the "Chilanthos" brand. Grown locally in the nearby village of Vasilika, tarragon, chives, sage, spearmint, and peppermint, in addition to traditional Greek thyme, broad-leaved basil, and sage, are now on sale.

Perrotis College students majoring in Food Science and Technology are using AFS dairy products and Omega 3 eggs to prepare very special food products that quickly bought by customers, such as a spread made from butter, yogurt and garlic, homemade fudge, and biscuits "a la Toscana."

AFS and Perrotis College are grateful to three donors from Greece's retail food industry for their gifts of refrigerator and freezer cases and store shelving: Mr. and Mrs. Pantelis



Panteliadis, Polychronis Polychroniadias, and Tolis Display Hellas A.E.

Behind this progress in the Perrotis College retail operation an exceptional student stands out. Yiannis Pourikas (pictured here), from Larissa in Central Greece, was part of the original team of volunteer students who began work at the store in 2011, under the guidance of Perrotis College faculty member Gerasimos Moshonas. Yiannis' energy, devotion and aptness for successful store management have inspired both fellow students and faithful customers. An affectionate video tribute (in Greek) to him and to the entire team of volunteer students at Perrotis College who staff the Campus Store can be found at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=QrlU1WtocDY

AFS Exchange Program with Dynamic School in France

American Farm School students, including those who are specializing in cheese making, had the pleasure of welcoming to campus their peers from La Cazotte (www.la-cazotte.educagri.fr), a dynamic school in the southern region of France best known internationally for its Roquefort cheese production.



Continuing the success of last year's exchange of students and teachers with AOC Friesland, a "green" professional school in the north of Holland, the School has linked with La Cazotte, which is a professional school for high school and adult students that is devoted to sheep, horses, and other livestock; as well as to innovative paths in organic farming and animal husbandry.

Twenty students and three teachers from France were treated to a week of traditional Greek hospitality, cheese making in the AFS Educational Dairy, and study visits to innovative, successful sheep and dairy cow units operated by the families of current high school students. The La Cazotte group also visited Angelina Kyriakopoulou, a breeder of the prized Chios breed of sheep who is enrolled in the School's new Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship, and who has valuable experience to share. Visits to Mt. Olympus and archaeological sites and museums rounded out the visitors' exposure to Greece. In early 2013, American Farm School students will travel to La Cazotte to learn from their achievements in livestock activities and educational methods.



奚雪程

Yi, Sihen took the cover photograph and others of the

campus olive harvest. Shizen is a recent graduate of Beijing International Studies University and is an enthusiast of the arts, literature and philosophy. A native of Soochow, China, he teaches Chinese and Italian languages to American Farm School

students as an AIESEC International Intern for 2012-2013. AIESEC is the world's largest youth-run organization, with 86,000 members in more than 113 different countries.

A short film produced by American Farm School students that satirizes the differences between Spartan and Athenian life in Ancient Greece entitled



"Exchanging Spouses" was part of the award-winning project "History from Another Perspective" in a recent competition organized by the Greek Ministry of Education to recognize excellence and innovation in primary and secondary school teaching. The project, designed and implemented by history teacher Ms. Anna Kalincheva, was singled out for its use of theater and information technologies in everyday teaching - and for adapting the teaching plan to the needs of students with learning challenges. The video (in Greek) is available on the American Farm School YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhocESEniY&feature=plcp>.

Olive Culture

Nearly 1000 olive trees are planted on the American Farm School campus, constituting a powerful teaching and demonstration tool for students and visitors of all ages to learn about one of Greece's most beloved and highly valued crops. The campus olive groves encompass the diverse varieties that characterize Greek olive production and are named after their locations throughout the country: Halkidiki, Thasos, Amphissa, Megara, Koroni and Kalamata.

Cultivation of the olive trees – pruning, watering, biological control of insect pests, and harvesting – is done largely by high school students in all classes of the General and Professional Lyceums, under the guidance of instructor Yiannis Gatzolis and his colleague Christos Bakalis. This year more than 80 students participated in the fall harvest expected to yield approximately 700 liters of extra virgin olive oil, plus a quantity of table olives, that is destined for sale in the Campus Store.

Mr. Gatzolis, who also heads crop production at the School, and Kiki Zinoviadou, who teaches in the Food Science and Technology major at Perrotis College, recently participated in an international congress devoted to olive oil at Kalamata in the southern Peloponnese, an area famous for its olive production. Experts from Greece, Italy, France

and Spain, as well as from the University of California at Davis, conducted ten days of workshops and plenary sessions on every aspect of olive oil production and its sensory and nutritional evaluation.

The two instructors were also the special guests for a tour of nearby Costa Navarino, the world class luxury resort that is also a leading producer of highest quality olive oil, and was a sponsor of the international congress.

A new experimental olive grove that was established in 2010 by Perrotis College students under the direction of Dr. Athanasios Gertsis, comes into its first production for harvesting this December. The trees are dwarf clones of popular Greek and Spanish olive tree varieties, planted in high density and super high density rows to facilitate economically advantageous mechanical harvesting. An update on an earlier *Sower* report about Dr. Gertsis's olive tree research is available at: <http://www.afs.edu.gr/files/PerrotisCollege/ESNA%202012-olives-Gertsis2.pdf>



Fifteen Perrotis College students together with four of their professors were invited by the Greek Orthodox monks of one of the oldest monasteries on the peninsula of Mount Athos to assist with the harvesting of this year's bumper crop from their olive trees. Using the traditional method of "combing" the olives onto large tarpaulins underneath each tree, the young men also followed the processing of the olives in the monastery's massive state-of-the-art olive press. Olive trees flourish on the mountain slopes surrounding the more than 20 monasteries located on the holy peninsula, and olives from the other monasteries are also brought in for pressing into highest quality olive oil. The all-male college student group stayed in the monastery and observed the monks' 20-hour per day ritual of prayer and work, eating their simple meals of bread, vegetables and mushrooms with the monks in the large refectory that is part of the monastery complex created in the 10th Century, on the site of the original sacred structure that was built in the 5th Century.



Planned Giving

Planned giving allows supporters of the American Farm School to integrate gifts into their overall financial, tax, and estate planning. A planned gift enables a donor to make a positive financial difference for the donor and his or her family, while also contributing significantly to the School. Planned gifts are often thought of as leaving a legacy that benefits not only the donor and the donor's family, but also future generations.

METAMORPHOSIS SOCIETY

The Metamorphosis Society recognizes and honors the generosity and foresight of those individuals who have made provisions in their estates to include the American Farm School, and who have apprised the School of their intentions. The name "Metamorphosis" is chosen for the resonance this word has in the School's tradition of education that brings about positive change, or metamorphosis, in the individual; and also by association with the titles of books by the late Bruce M. Lansdale, *Metamorphosis: Why Do I Love Greece?* and by his wife Elizabeth Lansdale, *My Metamorphosis*.

David Acker	Edmund and Mary Keeley
Charlotte Armstrong	Lois Kerimis
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Phillip G. and Mary Foote	Gail and Ruth Schoppert
Barbara K. Heming	Charles L. and Joan Thomas
Sarah L. Holland	Barbara Wood
Truda Jewett	

BEQUESTS

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

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

ESTATES AND TRUSTS

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

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

For more information about joining the Metamorphosis Society and other Planned Giving opportunities, please contact Ms. Rena Karypidou, U.S. Annual Fund Coordinator, at rkaryp@afs.edu.gr.



Primary School on Track for 2013

Response from donors throughout the U.S. and Greece to the President's Strategic Initiatives Campaign, and specifically to the initiative to establish a Primary School focused on environmental education through experiential learning, is contributing strongly to the goal of a September 2013 completion date for the new educational facility, and the welcoming of the beginning cohort of first grade students.

Recently received leadership gifts and pledges are building upon the initial support received during the previous fiscal year when the initiative for primary education was first announced. Chairman of the Board Charlotte P. Armstrong has made a pledge for the naming of the Primary School Quadrangle Courtyard and Garden; Trustees Peter Bien, Constantine N. Darras, Sophia S. Hartch, Barbara Heming and Daniel Morgan have made gifts or pledges for the naming of classrooms, as has President Panos Kanellis, as well as the Association of Friends of the American Farm School. The Samourkas Foundation has pledged its gift to name the Media and Resource Center. All proceeds from the well-attended October 24th Benefit Dinner at the Union League Club of New York benefit the completion of the Primary School complex in time for the start of the next school year.



The Primary School has been designed as a green facility where students "live what they learn" about environmental concepts and natural resource conservation. Sherrill Industrial Arts Quadrangle, an historic campus structure that was built in the 1930s and modernized several times in the intervening years, is being repurposed to serve young learners with classrooms, science laboratories and a Media and Resource Center. It will be surrounded by both edible and habitat gardens, with a nearby greenhouse dedicated to grades 1-6 students. The transformation of the building complex is targeted for completion in June 2013 and the furnishings installed for the September opening.

Curriculum for environmental education through experiential learning, supported by innovative and pervasive English language learning, is being developed with the expert input of the School's partners at Fresno State University's Kremen School of Education, Stevens Institute of Technology's Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education, and U.S. primary schools that are models in environmental education.

The enthusiastic response from Thessaloniki families that has led to the rapid full enrollment of the Preschool (both Pre-K and Kindergarten) is a strong indicator that demand for enrollment in the Primary School will be similarly high. For more information about the Primary Education initiative, please see the 3-minute video at www.afs.edu.gr/transforming. Click on [video](#) at the bottom of the screen.

APPLY NOW

Greek Summer 2013

A Community Service and Travel Odyssey

Program Dates: June 24 through July 30

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

Contact: Ms. Rena Karypidou, Greek Summer Admissions, rkaryp@afs.edu.gr and download application forms for participants and for counselors at www.afs.edu.gr/greeksummer.



The Greek Summer experience in the words of 2012 participants:

“I made so many great friends on Greek Summer that I will keep in touch with forever. Greek Summer has been the best summer of my life and I’ll never forget it.”

— *Maria, London, UK*

“It was not only educational, but it also created the opportunity for me to step out of my comfort zone and make friends in a whole new environment.”

— *Abigail, Washington, D.C.*

“I enjoyed how the participants were involved in each activity. We got to touch the cheese, taste the wine and touch the bees. We didn’t just see it done. We experienced it first hand.”

— *Iliana, Quebec, Canada*

“My Greek homestay family was outstanding, hospitable, interesting, loving, caring, the *BEST!*”

— *Lucien, Seattle, WA*

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

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URbg7X9p9do>

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