



# The Anatolian

JUNE 2024

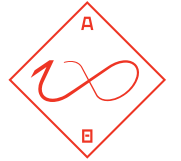
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## 1924-2024 Anatolia College Celebrating 100 Years in Thessaloniki!



### 1924: A New Beginning

After the forced exodus from Asia Minor of more than a million people (Greeks, Christians, and others) in the population exchange of 1923, many of the remaining survivors arrived in Greece and Thessaloniki. At the same time, Anatolia College was seeking a new place to settle. At the recommendation of Eleftherios Venizelos, Anatolia College reopened in January 1924. The new location? A former casino in the Harilaou neighborhood of Thessaloniki. The thirteen initial students (primarily refugees), rapidly grew more than tenfold, with enrollment soon reaching over 150. The school absorbed the Mission School for Girls in 1927, which was housed in a mansion in the Allatini area. By 1934, the Anatolia College "boy's school" had moved to its newly constructed campus on a hillside above the city near the village of Pylaia. This hopeful and dynamic period was marked by increasing enrollment and the formation of the Anatolia Alumni Association.



Following the Italian invasion of Greece in 1940, Anatolia closed its academic operations, and the site was repurposed as a military hospital. In April of 1941, German forces entered Thessaloniki and the campus was taken over as general headquarters for Hitler's forces in the Balkans. 1944-45, Anatolia College premises were used as barracks for the Allied forces.



### Post-war Reconstruction and Expansion

Anatolia reopened in 1945. At the same time, the Girls' school moved into temporary quarters at the Anatolia campus in Pylea. After the destruction of its building on Allatini Street by fire, plans were laid for new quarters to house the Girls' school, and by 1950 the new construction was completed. In 1981, the School of Business Administration and Liberal Arts (SBALA), later renamed the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT), was established. This tertiary program marked a return to our institutional roots and opened a new direction for English-language University-level education in Northern Greece.



One hundred years ago, in 1924, following its forced expulsion from Merzifon in Asia Minor (today: eastern Turkey), Anatolia College relocated to Thessaloniki. This year marks this historic date's centennial anniversary

with many events and initiatives designed to commemorate our institution's progress and its role as a leading light for transformative education in Greece and the surrounding region.

In 1998, the International Baccalaureate program was opened, providing an additional pathway for our high school students to attend universities outside of Greece. Beginning in 2014, the Center for Talented Youth Greece ushered in a new era of outreach and support for academically gifted students from all over Greece and Cyprus. In 2021, Anatolia College established the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence to transform the educational landscape by inspiring educators to innovate, research, teach, and learn.



### Adapting to the Needs of a Modern Workforce

Anatolia has consistently recognized education's role in preparing young people to get - and hold - productive jobs. Beyond a holistic elementary and secondary curriculum, the College



projects have ranged from new performance indoor spaces (Raphael Hall) to Football fields and a Gym. The successful Comprehensive Campaign has allowed us to complete a massive number of renovation and construction activities, culminating in the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center, the stunning new Anatolia Elementary School, and the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence in Education/IBDP building. Far more than buildings, these facilities are the keystone in our drive to provide transformative education to young people and build the leaders of tomorrow that our world so desperately needs.

### One Hundred Years of Innovation

Like a pebble tossed into a vast sea, Anatolia's one hundred years in Thessaloniki have created ripples of innovation that continue to roll outwards. Some of our accomplishments of the last century include:

- > The introduction of educational innovations and their widespread adoption in other public and private schools.
- > Serving as an educational and cultural bridge with America.
- > Pioneering English-language instruction and fostering familiarity with American culture.
- > Emphasis on the Natural Sciences, including climate and the environment.
- > Active contributions to the education and emancipation of women in the early and mid-twentieth century.
- > A vital contribution to Thessaloniki's economy.
- > The rich extracurricular activities and clubs.
- > An unrivaled Scholarship Program.
- > A Boarding School offering full accommodation to students in need.
- > Multifaceted, service-oriented activities to encourage and promote volunteerism.
- > A vast base of distinguished alumni.
- > A dynamic role in strengthening the international character of Thessaloniki.
- > The osmosis of tradition, botanical biodiversity, and technological and architectural innovation in our campus architecture and landscape.



has pursued a variety of initiatives to enhance the skills required by the evolving needs of society. These range from the "Anatolia Secretarial School" for management assistants (1964-2005) to the certificate programs and other training options offered by ACT's Entrepreneurship Hub and Anatolia's Lifelong Learning Center.

### The Twenty-first Century Campus

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, significant changes began, which have since remade the school into a paradigm of modernity and technological resources. Starting with the Bissell Library in 2002, our donor-funded expansion

## Four New Trustees Join the Anatolia Board



### Eva Douzinas

Eva Douzinas served as the Co-President and CFO for Veson Nautical Corporation, a commercial maritime software company based in Boston that she co-founded in 2003 and ran until the sale of the company in 2017. During this time, the company grew to have offices in three countries, and served over 100 people worldwide, and served over 200 of the world's premier shipping organizations. In 2018, she co-founded a non-profit cultural and educational center in Greece, Katheti AMKE (katheti.gr), serving the Troizina region with locations in Poros and Galatas. Eva earned her B.A. in economics from Wesleyan University and an MBA from New York University's Stern School of Business.



### Vasileios Efthymiadis ('90)

Vasileios Efthymiadis is the Vice President of Redestos – Efthymiadis Agrotechnology Group and Vice President of K&N Efthymiadis S.A. He has a BSc. in Business Economics from the London School of Economics, and an MSc. in Shipping Trade and Finance from the City University of London. He started his professional career in 1997 within the Efthymiadis Group of Companies, first as Production Manager, later as Head of the Administrative Operations Department, and then as Managing Director of K&N Efthymiadis S.A., Vector Agro S.A. and Hellenic Farming S.A., member companies of "Redestos - Efthymiadis Agrotechnology Group. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Redestos Group, Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Association of Greek Chemical Industries (SEXB), and Vice-President of the Board of Directors of ESIF (Greek Association for Plant Protection).



### Alexandros S. Manos ('89)

Alexandros S. Manos is Managing Director and Member of the Board of Directors of Netcompany Intrasoftware, one of the leading European IT Solutions and Services Groups. His previously held positions include: Board Member & CEO of Intracom Telecom, and CEO of Conklin Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia, a company offering broadband solutions and IPTV to the US market. He is a member of several scientific, engineering and economics societies and a young global leader of World Economic Forum (WEF). Alex is an executive with over 20 years of experience leading companies in developing, marketing, and selling internationally cutting-edge technologies. He holds a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering and a BA in Business Economics from Brown University, and an MSc in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



### Nikolaos K. Margaropoulos ('82)

Nikolaos K. Margaropoulos has been a valued member of the Pinewood Board of Directors for over a decade and served as President of the Board from 2012-2015. His influence in shaping the vision of the school is well known, and during his tenure on the Board, he was instrumental in facilitating the integration of Pinewood to Anatolia College in 2019. Margaropoulos graduated from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Law, in 1992. He is the Honorary Consul of the Philippines in Thessaloniki since 1996 and is very active in various professional and social associations, including the Greek-Turkish and the Hellenic-Filipino Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and AHEPA, as well as serving in the Anatolia College Alumni Association.

## Farewell to Trustee Serge Hadji-Mihaloglou ('60)

Serge Hadji-Mihaloglou, an Anatolia alumnus and one of Anatolia's longest-serving Trustees, passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 82.



The Board of Trustees expressed its gratitude to Serge Hadji-Mihaloglou in recognition of his work, "Institutional Governance and the Trustees of Anatolia College," June, 2013

In 1974, he became one of the first Anatolia alumni from Thessaloniki to be elected to the Anatolia Board of Trustees. In his five decades on the Board, Serge contributed immensely to the governance of Anatolia College. His groundbreaking book "Institutional Governance and the Trustees of Anatolia College" documented the Anatolia governance structure to model modern best practices for Greek non-profit institutions. With his wife, Yanna, he published the second, expanded edition of "The Morning Cometh" memoirs by President Carl Compton, supplemented with related materials. The memoirs showcase Carl and his wife Ruth Compton's commitment to community service and leadership, important lessons that have been emphasized and passed down among generations of Anatolia students and community members. Following the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974, Serge worked with the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) as part of the Panhellenic Committee to rally the Greek American community to cut off illegal U.S. arms aid to Turkey. With

Prof. Van Coufoudakis, Serge later chronicled the Greek diaspora's remarkable achievement in AHI's "The Rule of Law Lobby: Grassroots Mobilization and the U.S. Arms Embargo on Turkey 1974-1978." Serge also co-edited AHI's two-volume book, "Doing Business in Greece," with Gene Rossides and Jim Marketos, which was recognized at the time as the leading service facilitating foreign investment in Greece.

## Special Thanks to Centennial Donors and Supporters!

As we celebrate 100 years in Thessaloniki, Anatolia College would like to recognize the unwavering support provided by our vast community of Greek and American supporters and donors: alumni, companies, organizations, parents and friends, and charitable institutions.

We give special notice to the major donors **National Bank of Greece** (Ethniki Trapeza) and the **Papageorgiou Foundation** for their significant contributions to our Centennial activities, to the donor **Association of Friends of Anatolia College (AFAC)** and **AEGEAN Airlines** for supporting the events.

For one hundred years now, Anatolia has delivered on our vision and values, becoming a driving force for transformative education with one of the most extensive Scholarship programs in the country.

The Century Milestone is an occasion to look back on our story and share it with the whole city with a series of special activities, highlighted by a comprehensive exhibition to be hosted at

the Museum of Byzantine Culture from September to October 31, 2024. Starting in Merzifon (Asia Minor) in 1886, we bring to light rare moments in Anatolia's history through unique photographic and biographic material from our collections. The narrative will show unknown aspects of the College's journey, stories of important personalities, the timeless values of the organization, its wider educational, social, and cultural contribution, and its unbreakable relationship with Thessaloniki.

The exhibition is being designed by the creative office **Post-Spectacular Office/P-SO** in collaboration with **Alkmini Paka**, Professor of Architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and herself a graduate of

Anatolia College. P-SO is responsible for the visual communication and identity of the exhibition, as well as the design of the exhibition space. The archival material will be selected with the support of the Director of Libraries and Archives of Anatolia College, Dr. Evi Tramtantza, and her team. We look forward to welcoming the entire Anatolia family to this historic and inspiring event!



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**THESSALONIKI FOUNDING DAY** - January 21, 2024, was declared the Official Founding Day in honor of the day in which classes first began with 13 refugee students. Special “fun” activities were organized at all levels of Anatolia College (Elementary, Middle-High School and IBDP, ACT – American College of Thessaloniki, Pinewood – The American International School).



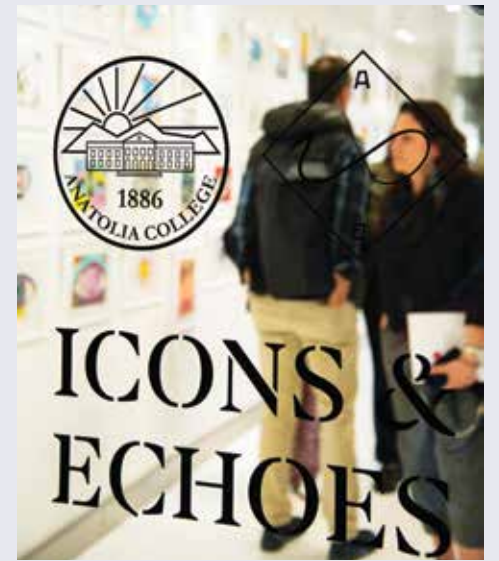
**SHORT FILM:** Our students participated in a short film directed by Jacqueline Lentzou, an Anatolia alumna ('07) and award-winning director, screenwriter, and producer.



## 2024: A Year to Celebrate

To honor Anatolia’s vast community’s past and present members, the College will celebrate our legacy on campus and in areas throughout Thessaloniki. While the bulk of our activities will roll out in the summer and fall, 2024 has so far hosted some exciting events:

**ALUMNI DRAMA CLUB** - Twenty years after its last performance, the Alumni Drama Club, the Theater Group of the Anatolia College Alumni Association (SAAK Anatolia), has staged a revival of their alternative musical theater performance “Rock Hamlet – The Musical.” Featuring a mashup of 29 amateur actors and many more contributors (most of whom are Anatolia graduates), the Alumni Drama Club grew out of the English-speaking and Greek theater student groups of Anatolia College.



**ART FOR GOOD EXHIBITION** - Anatolia students held a special art and music exhibition, “Icons & Echoes,” of their artworks at Thessaloniki’s Metamorfosis Gallery. Proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Anatolia Scholarship Program.

## Upcoming Centennial Events

### The ALUMNI 100 CAMPAIGN

A campaign was launched in three different phases (Trustees & President’s Club members / SAAK & SAKA active members; general alumni community), offering the first 100 contributors of €1,000 (alums, future alums, and graduating classes) the unique opportunity to become part of the Centennial Campaign. The funds will support the refurbishment of five Anatolia High School classrooms, and they will include their names and a message as a vital part of a historical period for Anatolia College.

### TIME CAPSULE

A time capsule will be buried on campus and opened on the bicentennial anniversary with messages to future generations.

### HOMECOMINGS

Anatolia and ACT will each open their campuses for long-awaited Homecoming events.

### THESSALONIKI CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

Anatolia College will present its rich history and the people who played a key role in its growth. In conjunction with that of the city of Thessaloniki, a historical exhibition will highlight the significant milestones of Anatolia in the city with rare and emblematic artifacts from the College’s archive. The exhibition is scheduled to be hosted at the Museum of Byzantine Art in the fall of 2024.

### CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION

During the exhibition, we will publish a luxurious centennial book with a comprehensive presentation of founding material.

### ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Anatolia Alumni Association of Thessaloniki will help us pay homage to our basketball legacy by organizing a “5-on-5” tournament during the Homecoming weekend.

### CENTENNIAL “COOKBOOK”

Anatolia College will revive its famous “Cookbook” with 24 recipes from the Home Economics classes delivered to High School students.

### CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT

Christos Galileas, '93, the Artistic Director of the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, is leading our efforts to bring together renowned classical musicians—all Anatolia alumni—in Thessaloniki’s imposing venue.

### WALKING TOURS

One of the city’s most renowned tour guides will create a walking tour around our campus, narrating our rich history and tying it with Thessaloniki’s turbulent trajectory throughout the past 100 years. The tour will be offered for free during the exhibition.

### CHRISTMAS GALA DINNER

The Association of Friends of Anatolia College (AFAC) will host a fabulous Christmas Gala, a fitting conclusion to this remarkable year for Anatolia College.

“As we celebrate Anatolia College’s centennial of educational excellence in Greece, we honor the strong ties and enduring friendship between our two countries. Anatolia has been a beacon of American educational excellence for 100 years in Thessaloniki. This milestone reflects the College’s defining contribution to education as well as its leadership role, which has contributed to our strong partnership. We look forward to further strengthening our relationship and cooperation in the coming years.”

**George Tsunis**  
US Ambassador to Greece

## 2014-2024: Delivering on Our Mission



Bennetts Associates has been appointed to reimagine the campus of Anatolia College. Completion and approval of the framework master-plan is targeted for Summer 2024.

Over the past decade, Anatolia College has taken unprecedented steps to expand its physical and pedagogical footprint, becoming an internationally minded institution with a mission to provide transformative education to young people from Greece and beyond.

Our innovative approach to teaching, learning, and living emphasizes the development and implementation of best practices - from our curricula and the adjunct programs we offer to our outreach to educators across the public and private scholastic spectrum. Anatolians of all ages - students of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, along with their parents and our faculty and staff - form the core of our community and share our vision of edu-

cation to foster curious, compassionate, and creative citizens.

We have ushered in a wealth of new programs across all levels of the organization, serving the needs of our matriculating students, visitors, and extra-curricular participants. Some initiatives, such as CTY Greece, the VentureGarden, English on the Mountains, and Lifelong Learning, have had a significant impact on the broader population of Greece through activities that provide tailored education for academically gifted children and their teachers, business training and mentoring for aspiring entrepreneurs, a fully-fledged support program for the community of Northern Thrace, and access to upskilling and reskilling coursework.

New academic programs capitalize on our strengths as an American-affiliated institution with deep roots in southern Europe; ACT has introduced several new Bachelor, Master, and Certificate programs in fields such as Tourism & Hospitality, Computer Science, Psychology, Biology, and Aviation. Our IB program has matured substantially through introducing the Middle Years activities in 2014; coupled with the absorption of Pinewood International School, we now have one of the most substantial IB footprints in the region. Continuous improvements in teacher training and the devotion to innovative pedagogy have helped our faculty embrace the best of modern methodologies and implement them from kindergarten to 12th grade. Finally, our new emphasis on wellness ensures that we can support all the members of our community in their journey toward a truly healthy life. Our focus on international mindedness rep-

### ACADEMIC MILESTONES

- > Inauguration of CTY Greece in partnership with Johns Hopkins University (CTY) with a founding donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation



- > Introduction of the IB Middle Years program and a new learning paradigm (AHS)

2013

- > Establishment of the ACT Entrepreneurship Hub & VentureGarden, in collaboration with the Hellenic Initiative and ALBA Business School (ACT)

- > Initiation of the English on the Mountains Program



2014

- > New graduate program in Tourism and Hospitality (ACT)

- > A Boarding scholarship offered to a student from the villages of Northern Thrace (AHS)

- > Masterclasses for public school educators (CTY Greece)

2016

- > New undergraduate program in Computer Science (ACT)

2017

- > Teacher Training Workshops for public school educators (CTY Greece)

- > Launch of the Lifelong Learning Center



2018

### INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONES

- > Kindergarten Annex (AES)



- > Renovation of Tracy Hall (AHS)



- > Renovation of four classrooms

- > Innovation Isle, Fab Lab and Green Chemistry Lab (AHS)



- > Learning space and common area in Eleftheriades Library (AHS)



- > Renovation of HS classrooms (AHS)

- > Chemistry Lab (ACT)



- > Refurbishment of Compton Hall (IBDP)



resents a collective effort to encourage its students to think globally as citizens of the world, understanding, respecting, and valuing different cultures, embracing diversity, and knowing that different perspectives have much to offer. Beyond world-class teaching, our institution serves as a magnet for young people and scholars from the United States and Europe, hosting them in various capacities, including Semesters Abroad, Model United Nations conferences, summer programs, and academic conferences and meetings. Visitors to these activities also generate significant revenue for the city of Thessaloniki through patronage of local businesses, hotels, and restaurants. Anatolia's architecturally diverse campus has grown in stature over the last ten years, with the addition of several impressive structures and the renovation

of much of our existing building stock. At the same time, new attention to our environmental footprint has resulted in reducing our use of precious resources, including water and electricity, and upgrading our physical plant to accommodate a changing climate. The vast changes in the Anatolia landscape include a purpose-built elementary school for AES, designed to resemble a village of interactive spaces, the soaring Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center, ACT's completely refurbished West Hall, and the combined facility housing the Cassandra Center for Educational Excellence and Anatolia's IB program. These have been accompanied by thorough renovations in classrooms, laboratories, and libraries to provide appropriate spaces for flexible learning and teaching, leveraging our physical space for maximum educational impact and value.

## LOOKING FORWARD: ANATOLIA'S NEW AREAS OF FOCUS CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Our long-term Master Plan will implement significant changes throughout the premises, including a car-free main campus and interventions to address traffic and parking issues, upgraded athletic facilities, and the introduction of energy-efficient technologies throughout all buildings. We will also install a comprehensive public announcement system and emphasize using open spaces as shared resources for community-building and socializing. Bennetts Associates' plan will aim to unify the site through a sensory and experiential journey. Completion and approval of the framework masterplan is targeted for Summer 2024.



"In the last ten years, and amid difficult circumstances, we have raised more than \$37 million in donations to upgrade our infrastructure with five new buildings to meet the needs of our educational programs and our student body. We have doubled the scholarships we offer and increased accessibility overall. Anatolia is an outwardly focused institution with a positive social footprint and a merit-based, transparent system that stems from solid principles of respect and good governance."

**Dr. Panos Vlachos**  
Anatolia College President

- > New Undergraduate Program in Psychology (ACT)
- > Integration of Pinewood - The American International School (PWIS)



2019

- > Matriculation of the first class of the Graduate Program in Industrial and Organizational Psychology (ACT)

2020

- > Completion of the "Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center"



- > Establishment of the Cassandra Center for Educational Excellence



- > New Undergraduate Academic Program in Biological Sciences (ACT)

2021

- > West Hall Renovation Phase One (ACT)



- > Renaming of ACT's New Building to "Stavros Constantinidis Hall"



- > New Science Laboratories (ACT)



- > Introduction of the STEAMing the Future Program to students from the Xanthi region and online for all students in Greece supported by the Bodossakis Foundation



- > Introduction of a Student Wellbeing Program

2022

- > New Anatolia Elementary School Campus Opens



- > West Hall Renovation Phase Two (ACT)



- > Refurbishment of the former AES building to allow Pinewood Elementary to return to campus (PWIS)



- > New Undergraduate Academic Program in Aviation (ACT)



- > Significant donor support for STEAMing the Future allows expansion to Alexandroupolis (Bodossakis Foundation) and to Elementary students and the entire area of Thessaloniki (Latsis Foundation).

2023

- > Completion of the Cassandra Center for Educational Excellence/IBDP building



2024

- > Pinewood High School Building (PWIS)



## Tribute to George S. Bissell



**George S. Bissell - a pillar of the Anatolia Community for almost 60 years - passed away at his home in Massachusetts in October 2023. His generosity, leadership and insight played a critical role in our institution's growth and development in a period spanning six decades and provided the College with incomparable dedication and support throughout times of prosperity and challenge alike.**

**B**issell first joined the Board of Trustees in 1965. From the very beginning, he was committed to following sound fiduciary and governance protocols for Anatolia's modest endowment. He spirited the drive and efforts to grow the institution's financial resources to increase the quality and accessibility of education for Greek youth. In 1992, he was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees and served in this position until 2007. Following his retirement as Chair, he remained an active member of the Board until his death this past year. During his long tenure, he donated more than \$6 million for the construction of capital projects and countless scholarships to students without financial means, giving them the opportunity to study at Anatolia High School or ACT (American College of Thessaloniki).

George Bissell was instrumental in the founding of ACT in 1981. Thanks to his large donation, he ensured the construction and established an endowment to cover the annual operating expenses of the famous Bissell Library at ACT, which bears his name and is one of the largest academic libraries in Southeast Europe. In 2022, the new Anatolia Elementary Campus was completed, with a substantial contribution from George, resulting in the naming of the Bissell Wing.

### Early Years

George Seymour Bissell was born in 1929 in Ohio, USA, and inherited his family's principles of supporting society and education through philanthropic and volunteer activities. He received a BA from Dartmouth College in 1951 and his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1953. He also served in the US Army Signal Corps for two years. A dedicated and highly successful career in investment management began at Boston's Eaton and Howard, and he later moved to the Massachusetts Cos., (now known as Keystone), where he served as CEO from 1977 until his retirement in 1994. Among many of his US-based civic involvements, he was a trustee of Boston University Hospital and chair of the investment committee of the Boston Medical Center. As part of his professional activities, George was a member and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Investment Management and Research Association and the Chairman of the Investment Company Institute (an advocacy organization for the investment industry).

He served as a Trustee of Boston University Hospital for thirty-two years (1965-1997) and was Chairman of the hospital's Investment Committee (1976-2001). In 1994 he established the George S. Bissell Charitable Foundation to support educational endeavors.



### Introduction to Anatolia College

Although not originally from Greece, George Bissell offered unique services to the broader region and dedicated his life to advancing young people and their educational training. His initial involvement with Anatolia came by chance when two friends invited him to join them on the College's Board of Trustees. Inspired by his father's example (the elder Bissell chaired the Board of Trustees at Hiram College in Ohio for many years) and his passion for financial management, George accepted, bringing his keen sense of stewardship to a new challenge.



### Increasing Leadership & Appointment to Presidency

George Bissell assumed the presidency of the Board of Trustees in 1992 from experienced educator Dr. Julian Haynes. Under his leadership, the Board of Directors of Anatolia College became even more functional and representative. Bissell ensured continuity and consistency in management. He created a core of dedicated American Trustees, complemented by their Greek counterparts, who continue to serve with faith and vision. But beyond the allocation of resources and energy, his presidency bore the imprint of his exceptional personality. Bissell was a man with the qualities of a true leader: clear thinking, decisiveness in critical moments, understanding, and empathy. He balanced many different points of view while maintaining a strong focus on the bottom line.

"At Anatolia, where the Board is not compensated in any way, everyone on the Board is giving their time, their effort, and their money to make this mission successful. Dealing with that kind of person - someone who is not responsible to you financially (as an employee would be), who has great integrity,



*With his daughter and Trustee Kenyon "Kennie" Bissell Grogan, 2006*

experience, and a willingness to contribute - bringing these individuals to work as a team is a very, very big challenge. It is the most important role that a chairman can have."



*With his dear friend and Trustee, Stavros Constantinidis*

"Over my five decades, I have benefited greatly from my deep and lasting friendships with my Greek colleagues and the years of successful cooperation and achievements we have forged."

# Celebrating a Life & Legacy

## SBALA, ACT, and Bissell Library

As early as 1981, Anatolia's "School of Business and Liberal Arts"—or SBALA—offered a two-year comprehensive higher education program with all courses taught in English. By June 1993, SBALA began awarding undergraduate degrees. In 1996, it was renamed the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT), which started the process of acquiring US recognition for its degrees from the New England Commission of Higher Education, NECHE (then NEASC/ New England Association of Schools and Colleges).



When a first application was rejected on the grounds of the lack of a library, the Board of Trustees was not deterred. Under Bissell's leadership, the Board decided to proceed with the construction of a library, and Bissell himself pledged a donation of \$2.5 million (ultimately the sum reached \$3 million) to finance the project.

This major endowment ensured the continued development of ACT's new facilities and was critical to its ultimate recognition in the US. The three-story building would come to occupy an area of 4,845 m<sup>2</sup>. The new facility was equipped with the most modern technology available, including sophisticated multimedia devices - setting a precedent for academic library facilities throughout Central and Southern Europe. With a cost exceeding eight million dollars, it was the most grandiose construction ever undertaken at Anatolia College. By decision of the Trustees, this impressive addition was named in honor of George Bissell, whose monetary contribution was the largest the College had received from a single donor up to that time.

Today, the Bissell Library remains one of the most iconic and impressive constructions of Anatolia College. Housing one of the largest modern English language collections in Southeastern Europe, this impressive "ecosystem" of knowledge and research forms a dynamic and vibrant core that enhances the academic experience of ACT's Greek and international students. Over the years, it has emerged as an attractive center for scientific training, educational programs, activities, and cultural events, uniting the Anatolia community with visitors from all over Thessaloniki and beyond.

"I was thinking, how does one become a philanthropist? This comes from the heart and seeing the people around you who care for others. It's a great feature. I hope I fit into that category."

## Direct Support for Educational Access

Bissell's dedication to educational accessibility was a hallmark, and his contributions in the form of scholarships continued throughout his lifetime. George provided a significant number of scholarships for students to attend ACT and Anatolia High School to ensure that deserving youth could benefit from an Anatolian education.

His philanthropy also manifested itself close to home. He endowed a faculty chair at Hiram College in honor of his father, Howard Bissell, and one at Brimmer and May School in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, in honor of his daughter Kenyon "Kennie" Bissell Grogan.

## Anatolia Elementary School

Anatolia's Elementary School opened its doors to students in 2004, near the end of Bissell's tenure as Board President. First located in the lower area of Anatolia's campus, AES' facilities were sufficient to accommodate the needs of grades 1-6 for the first decade of operations, during which time a larger space - the site of the former Leonidia School - was acquired for future expansion. Situated adjacent to ACT, just below Anatolia High School, the property provided an ideal amount of space for Primary education following an initial facelift. Yet the Board recognized the need for a modern campus customized around Anatolia's new educational approach that encouraged creativity and problem-based learning. Bissell, who wholeheartedly supported the concept, became the driving force behind a campaign to raise funds for a complete renovation and reconstruction of the facility into a state-of-the-art campus that could meet the needs of young Anatolians well into the twenty-first century.



The great benefactor launched two "match challenges," inspiring hundreds of parents, alumni, and friends of Anatolia to donate. The first Bissell Challenge began in 2018, with George Bissell's pledge to double every euro donated by graduates of classes up to 2003 and parents of students and triple every euro donated by recent graduates. The

second, "New Bissell Challenge," again provided he would double every euro donated by a parent or alumnus. This approach - uniting many in a collective effort for good - was inspired by his grandmother's small charitable contributions during WWII, which taught him that even one person with a small amount can make a big difference.



With significant donor initiative and the response of parents, alumni, and Trustees, the required funds were secured, and the new campus was completed in 2022: a "small village" with simple, friendly volumes integrating modern learning technology in the midst of a beautiful natural environment. Grades 3-6 are housed in a two-story area named the "Bissell Wing" in honor of George's efforts. For the unveiling in June 2022, George Bissell was represented by his daughter, Kenyon Bissell Grogan (herself a Trustee), and his son, William Bissell.



## Honored in the USA and Greece

The Association of Investment Management and Research awarded him a Distinguished Service Award. He was also honored with the Greek Heritage Award (1997) and the National Public Service Award (1997) from the Hellenic American Institute. He was bestowed with the Silver Cross of the Phoenix in Greece for his contribution to Greek education by the President of the Hellenic Republic, Konstantinos Stephanopoulos, in 2004. For his contribution to education, research, innovation, and the upgrading of educational structures in Thessaloniki, he received the Silver Medal of Thessaloniki from the Municipality of Thessaloniki in 2017.



In June 2015, G. Bissell received the Carl Compton Award. Here with Dr. Panos Vlachos and Mayor Yiannis Boutaris

"Through the years, it has immensely positively influenced me, my life, and my family; indeed, I consider the Anatolia family my family. My family is the Anatolia family."



With his family at the new AES campus, June 2023

## His Legacy

George Bissell's involvement with Anatolia College continued with energy and passion until the last moment of his life. This relationship that began almost by chance has grown into a lasting commitment and a means of carrying on a vital family tradition - on both sides of the Atlantic - by the youngest members of the family: Kenyon "Kennie" Grogan, Bissell's daughter, has been a Trustee of Anatolia College since 2014, his daughter-in-law Caroline Bissell, became a Trustee in 2022, while his son William Bissell serves on the Board of Trustees of Hiram College.

His vision and unflinching support were instrumental in making Anatolia the institution it is today. The relationships he forged with his fellow trustees, Greeks and Americans alike, provided a steady base upon which the college grew and evolved and remain a testament to the character of this great man. His longstanding friendship with fellow Trustee and benefactor Stavros Constantinidis was a prime example of how the Board built bridges and acted with its strengths.



With Albert "Chip" Elfer, III, Board President and Dr. Panos Vlachos, Anatolia College President, June 2023, new Anatolia Elementary Campus

Perhaps more than any other single person, George Bissell's generosity and dedication have enabled so many people from all over Greece - students, faculty, scholars, and community members - regardless of financial means, to have access to innovative educational programs, technology, and knowledge, strengthening Anatolia College's role as a bridge between the educational systems of the United States and Greece and a beacon of educational opportunity. His legacy lives on in our hearts, and we see traces of him in every facet of our institution.

## Anatolia Benefactors Telis & Sandra Mistakidis

Share their Vision for Education and Young People

**In their debut joint interview, esteemed benefactors Sandra Mistakidis and Telis Mistakidis reflect on the philanthropic vision behind their historic gift to Anatolia College, and the establishment of the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence (KCEE) and the KCEE/IBDP building.**

Created in 2021, the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence has already begun to transform the educational landscape in Greece and the wider region by inspiring educators to innovate, research, teach, and learn in order to promote educational excellence for the benefit of the wider academic community. The Center seeks to empower and support educators from Anatolia College as well as the wider academic community via teacher training, access to tools and methodologies, and matching with innovative, research-based teaching approaches and strategies.

Fully funded by the visionary generosity of the Mistakidis family, the Center's mission sets as its primary goal the creation of

“Greek education must improve by focusing on actually learning how to think critically and making informed value judgements.”



June 2023. Albert H. “Chip” Elnfer, III, President of the Board of Trustees, Telis Mistakidis, Sandra Mistakidis, Dr. Panos Vlachos, President of Anatolia College

a new school and academic environment that is open to the community and capable of supporting 21st-century education. Telis Mistakidis, a leading international businessman, understands the necessity of creating deep and broad connections with people and activities that are local and international to enhance economic growth and prosperity. At the same time, through this transformative donation, Thessaloniki itself is strengthened as a global educational destination and a center for developing talent, and by extension, it can attract similar investments.

The Mistakidis family's decision to support Anatolia College stems from their deep conviction that education is the best way to bring about a substantial change in a person's life. The couple, known for their philanthropic work, maintains strong ties, as Sandra Mistakidis and Telis Mistakidis' father are both alumni. In their comments, they emphasize that they feel “more beneficiaries than benefactors of the College.”

### How do you choose the charities or causes you support?

First, a person or an organization cannot change the world. Whoever you are, there are always limits. So, with that in mind, we want to help those in real need, even if they don't fit into the widely recognized groups. People in need deserve our help. All in all, we try to help young people since they are our future.

### By what criteria do you evaluate the effectiveness of a charity before deciding to support it financially?

We avoid bureaucratic organizations. We believe that aid should

go directly to those who really need it and not to those who go through the middle to distribute it. It is known that executives of many well-known and large organizations are paid very high salaries of hundreds of thousands of dollars. An organization with these characteristics or a political movement ‘disguised’ as a charity would not be our choice.

### Do you prefer to make one-time donations or commit to recurring support through regular contributions?

Both options have their role. It depends on the case. A one-time donation would be appropriate



for building construction. A scholarship, however, requires financial support with a specific duration.

### What advice would you give to those interested in becoming a donor or increasing their contribution?

Follow your heart and make sure that the middlemen are not the ones who will benefit from your donation but the ones who really need it.

### What role has philanthropy played in your life, and how has it impacted your values and priorities?

This is something that aligns with each person's personality. Once there is good faith, a willingness to give, and an ability to help, the result essentially extends who you are and how you want to live your life by helping your fellow man.

### How do you involve your family or friends in your charitable activities?

In the recent crisis of 2010-2017, they urged us to act, not the opposite.

### Are there any future projects or causes you would be excited to support?

Education is always a priority. It is one of the most defining elements in a person's life. Quality education is the most basic foundation in life. The same child will develop into a different adult, depending on the quality of his education.

### Did you have a specific experience that acted as a driving force for your philanthropic work?

The ‘lottery’ of birth: where you are born is truly random. When you see good and worthy people being born in places where life is a real struggle or people who can't reach their potential without being responsible, you understand that you must help in any way you can. Of course, you can't help them all. The right place to start, though, is a school.

### Knowing how other countries operate in the field of education and the situation in Greece, is there anything you suggest changing in Greece in the future?

We need to move away from rote memorization and parroting and focus on cultivating critical thinking and how to make informed decisions.



Groundbreaking of the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence/IBDP building, June 2022. Dr. Panos Vlachos, Sandra Mistakidis, Albert Elnfer, Stathis Georgiadis

“Education is always a priority. It is one of the most defining elements in a person's life.”



## The Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence



Since 2021, the KCEE has empowered educators to innovate and excel. Through workshops, conferences, training, and resource development, the Center provides a supportive ecosystem that enhances the educational landscape in Thessaloniki and beyond. Analytically, in the past **three years KCEE has organized three Conferences and over 50 teacher training workshops, serving more than 1,300 Primary, Secondary and Tertiary-level educators from public and private schools.** Thematic content includes Social-Emotional Learning, Educational Technology, Pedagogy and Teaching Methods, Creativity and Writing, Language Acquisition and Communication, and 21st-century Skills Development.



The most recent Conference, **AI in Education. The Present and Future of Learning, (March 2024)** was attended by more than 200 teachers of all levels and specialties from schools all over Greece, along with researchers and educational executives. Digital media is evolving rapidly, and teachers are faced with new challenges in the learning process almost daily. Seven different seminars were designed to introduce teachers to new tools and strategies to empower and improve their teaching and facilitate their work.



Former ACT Professor Vincent C. Mueller - considered one of the world's leading researchers in the ethical and philosophical problems arising from the development and use of AI - gave the keynote speech. Noting that the sector is trying to mature, and thus, procedures, principles, and regulations are required that will contribute to the best pos-



### More than a Building

The Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence/ IBDP building is a unique combination of old and new: the historic Compton Hall, fully renovated and joined to a new and modern educational building that together form a harmonious, environmentally sustainable, and architecturally stunning physical space.



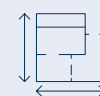
The KCEE has been designed to foster a sense of inquisitiveness for all our High School students, and the Center is arranged with two main criteria in mind. This means increased mobility and flexibility in the physical space, from orthopedic chairs and standing desks to a fully equipped canteen with healthy choices and abundant natural light and airflow throughout the building. Generous common-use areas provide opportunities for socializing and group study, and a learning hub with comfortable seating invites students to seek extra help from teachers when needed. Moveable walls allow rooms to enlarge or shrink, providing various options from large gatherings to more intimate discussion settings. All rooms feature dedicated cupboards where teachers can stock their learning materials.

The fully equipped science labs can support all levels of chemistry, biology, and physics lab instruction, and a future maker space already features a high-capacity 3D printer. Finally, the KCEE/IBDP building has a state-of-the-art auditorium with complete capabilities for all events to encourage our students to explore and engage with the performing arts.



sible application of artificial intelligence, teachers must properly appreciate the challenges and multiple benefits of artificial intelligence. Following his address, participants attended training seminars presented by renowned professionals covering a diverse range of topics:

- **Artificial Intelligence** Integration Workshop in Primary Education
- **Artificial Intelligence & Education:** The First Steps of a Prescribed Path
- **Chat GPT as a Tool** for the Teacher and the Student: a Critical Approach
- **The utilization of Artificial Intelligence** in the Teaching of Theoretical Courses
- **Use of Artificial Intelligence in the planning and implementation of STEM activities** in Elementary and Middle School
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools** for the Evolution of Education
- **Strategies, techniques, and examples** of Prompting in GPT Chatbots



**3,807.75 m<sup>2</sup>**  
Overall size

#### By the numbers

**5**   
Laboratories

**3**   
Soundproofed rooms

**1**   
Office space for administration, teachers, and group heads

**2**   
Dedicated art labs

**19**   
Classrooms

**1**   
Auditorium "Kassandra"

## STEAMing THE FUTURE

### Taking Off with Help from the Bodossakis and John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundations

Anatolia College's free innovative educational program "STEAMing the Future" has entered an expansion phase with support from two of Greece's most well-known philanthropic foundations, the Bodossaki Foundation and the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation.

Designed by Anatolia's Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center, the program uses STE(A)M educational methodologies (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) to build critical thinking and digital literacy in secondary-level (High School) students. This innovative program cultivates skills vital for future careers, including analytical approaches to learning, while encouraging curiosity and a holistic approach to problem-solving.

Beginning in 2022 with initial support from the Bodossaki Foundation, children aged 14-18 are eligible to receive up to three years of hybrid instruction - both in-person and virtual courses are offered - at no cost. STEAMING the Future was first rolled out to students in the Xanthi area.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, Anatolia has expanded its offerings to Alexandroupolis with the support of the Bodossakis Foundation, to a two-weekend workshop for educators, introducing them to novel-technology-related topics, and, with the support of the John S. Latsis Foundation, to Thessaloniki and Elementary students.

The seven-course program is held in Thessaloniki, in Anatolia's Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center, and



Peter Chresanthakes, Dr. Panos Vlachos, Eva Lianou, Sophocles Danassis, Dr. Iro Koliakou



Dr. Iro Koliakou, STEAM Programs Coordinator of Anatolia College

"With the assistance of our Foundation, this innovative educational program will expand geographically to promote equal opportunities in quality education and bridge the digital gender gap."

-

Eva Lianou, General Director of the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation

runs for two weekends. Topics are chosen specifically for elementary, middle, and high school students, including such dynamic topics as (for high school students) Introduction to Programming, Robotics and Automation, Internet of Things, 3D Design, Application Development, Big Data and Analytics, and Citizen Science. For primary grades, children can explore Computational Thinking - Having Fun with Puzzles, The World of Engineering, Sustainability & Environment - The Climate is Changing, I Care, Artificial Intelligence & Creativity. Anatolia College also provided transportation with school buses to facilitate easy access and attendance, as students came from throughout the Thessaloniki metropolitan area.

The program website, <https://steamingthefuture.gr/>, has a wealth of resources for teachers, including information about the courses, teaching materials, and approaches. It also features profiles of women who have excelled in science and can provide positive role models for girls seeking careers in STEAM subjects.

"We decided to create this program to give children of all ages, especially girls, the opportunity to come into contact with cutting-edge technologies and skills," said Anatolia College President Dr. Panos Vlachos. "It is important that it is offered from this year to children in Thessaloniki, particularly those in the western area, who usually have fewer opportunities to participate in similar programs."



"Middle and high school students engage with digital skills and technologies applied in Smart Agriculture, such as remote-control systems of agricultural activity. This specific field was chosen because many children came from rural families in Xanthi. We want children to learn experientially about technology and cultivate skills that will help them adapt and develop in the real world," noted Dr. Iro Koliakou, the STEAM Programs Coordinator of Anatolia College.

STEAMING the Future is designed to reduce inequalities in STEAM education and especially to boost the participation of young women in these subjects. These goals also coincide with the strategic priorities of the two charitable foundations, explicitly increasing access to innovative education, building digital literacy, and upskilling/reskilling both students and teachers.

## Scholarship Spotlight

Today, at least 28% of the total student body of Anatolia College receives financial aid in the form of a full or partial scholarship. These scholarships come from bequests and donations from individuals and institutions that recognize the value of quality education at a non-profit private school.

### Tuition Scholarships

This year, Anatolia will allocate at least 31 full and partial scholarships to incoming High School students for the 2024-2025 school year.

### Boarding Scholarships

We also offer assistance for students who attend Anatolia as boarding students, including Tuition Scholarships (covering 15 - 100% of the fees) and Accommodation Scholarships (covering the total cost of room & board) for students originating from outside the Thessaloniki municipal area. Four additional scholarships are available for students from Thessaly (two scholarships) and Messinia (two scholarships) prefectures, each covering a full six-year tuition, room, and board costs. One scholarship is offered by the endowment established in memory of Konstantina Alevizopoulos and Nicole Van Fulpen Alevizopoulos, and the Anatolia College Endowment will cover another.

### Bissell - Constantinidis Endowed Scholarship

In memory of two of our greatest benefactors and their life-long friendship, the Anatolia College Board of Trustees has begun an initiative to establish the Bissell Constantinidis Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

### Costis Vezerides Scholarship

This heartfelt initiative to honor the memory of our beloved ACT mathematics professor, Costis Vezerides, who passed away in 2021, is spurred by a former student who came forward with an inaugural gift to establish an endowed half scholarship fund at ACT. A passionate and humble educator, Costis dedicated 27 years of his professional life to teaching and mentoring students at ACT. Anatolia College will match the donor funds; efforts are underway to raise an additional sum to cover the total amount necessary to fully fund this initiative in perpetuity. Future generations of students will come to know and appreciate the great legacy of our good friend.



## Anatolia's Social Responsibility: Focus on Thrace

Anatolia College's core values have always emphasized inclusiveness and diversity, and our institution makes great efforts to engage with underserved communities throughout the country. In the Thracian region of northeastern Greece, we have spent the past decade building a robust and effective program to provide resources and access to high-quality education to primary and secondary school students under the rubric of "English on the Mountains." From humble beginnings, Anatolia's initiatives in Thrace have matured into a truly transformative program that targets the entire population of students and their families throughout the villages of Northern Thrace. Thanks to the growing support of Trustees, alumni, foundations, companies, and institutions, and the tenacity, empathy, and hard work of the Program staff, we can offer a host of services:

### The English Language Summer School

The English Language Summer School started with 35 students in 2014; by the summer of 2023, it had grown to 270 students from seven villages in the area.



### English Learning Center for Elementary School children

The demand for quality, year-round English education led us to offer winter classes, starting in September 2022 in the village of Kentavros, and in 2023, we opened a second center in Myki. As a result, in 2023-24, we have offered 90 children the opportunity to retain their contact with the English language throughout the year.

### Scholarship Program

The strong ties that we have built with the community were, to a great extent, a result of our decision to offer boarding scholarships to students of the area. Since 2016, eight students from the region have attended Anatolia College as boarding students, and thanks to the generosity of our community, we are committed to offering at least one student from the area a full boarding scholarship each year.

### STEAM and Business - Related Activities

Anatolia also enriches the educational experience of students living in the villages of Northern Thrace with organized visits to the campus, where they can participate in STEAM-related activities. We supplement this with visits to local companies (in Thrace) to connect them with leading businesses in the region and begin their familiarization with concepts of entrepreneurship.



### Support for Women

Since 2022, we have organized cultural trips for women (primarily mothers of students) to nearby cities such as Kavala. At our annual Christmas Bazaar, we provide space for a Women's Group from the area to sell their handmade artisan products to the public. In 2023, we launched a series of 18 workshops in six different villages; 430 women had the opportunity to attend workshops covering issues such as bullying, self-care, handling challenging behavior, and women's health & nutrition.

## Christmas Bazaar

Anatolia's annual Christmas Bazaar was a resounding success again, as the December 2023 event raised more than



€12,000 euros were collected, which was allocated to support the General Scholarship Fund of Anatolia College, the Irida Women's Center, Pleteno - Women's Cooperative of Northern Thrace in Centaurus Xanthi, the Greek Children's Village in Filiros, the Solidarity Now organization, and the Lighthouse of World, each of whom received gifts of between €1,000 - €4,000.

## Kavala Summer School

A consortium of partners led by ACT (the American College of Thessaloniki) and the Jena Centre for Reconciliation Studies (JCRS) at Friedrich Schiller University, along with the Foreign Affairs Institute (www.fainst.eu), the MOHA Research Center (www.moha.center) and the Balkan Strategies International Synergies (BSIS) has been running the Kavala International Summer School since 2022. This exciting and rigorous program combines academic theory with the praxis of diplomacy to analyze policies and behaviors enabling reconciliation, tolerance, social cohesion, and good neighborliness at local, national, and international levels, including a UN simulation. Under the guidance of well-known professors, scholars, diplomats, and businessmen, the participants/students can improve their professional skills by working on real cases with politicians, leaders, and senior diplomats. As part of the inclusion and outreach efforts, Anatolia offers 10-15 scholarships each year to Muslim minority students who are undergraduates at Greek universities.



## 1st RUN4FUNd: Running for a Good Cause



On April 22, 2024, Anatolia College's Alumni Field filled with students and their supporters for the 1st RUN4FUNd, a home-grown race organized by a group of our scholarship students. Organized with help from the Office of Social Responsibility Programs and the Scholarship Office, the 2km race was held to raise money to strengthen the general Scholarship Fund, and more specifically to fund the educational trips and programs for Anatolia High School scholarship students. The event raised €1,180 from ticket sales, purchased by the students along with faculty and staff members and the High School Parents' Associations. Snacks, water and paper cups were provided as in-kind donations from Vamvalis Food SA, and Melathron Food Services (MSF).

## Reducing our Plastic and Water footprint



Did you know?

Since installing our filtered water dispensers at locations around campus in 2020, Anatolians have avoided using **513,846 single-use plastic water bottles**. According to the Footprint organization, producing just one disposable plastic bottle takes **1.4 gallons / 5.3 liters of water**. Our conclusion? In four short years, the use of refillable bottles from water coolers at Anatolia Elementary School, Anatolia High School, Pinewood Elementary, and ACT, combined with suspending the sale of plastic water bottles at our cafeterias and vending machines throughout campus, has led to a staggering **2,723,384 liters** of water removed from our environmental footprint.



# Donor Interview



## Dimitris Alevizopoulos Class of 1973

**After graduating, he moved to the United States, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Physics and Computational Mathematics from DePauw University in Indiana on another full scholarship.** He went on to receive his MSc in Computer Science and MBA from Ohio State University. In his interview, Alevizopoulos recalled his childhood in the village of Prodrornos Trifylias in Messinia and his time at Anatolia College, where "it all began." He also reflects on his drive to help deserving students through the endowed scholarship he established in memory of his mother, Konstantina Alevizopoulos, and Nicole Van Fulpen Alevizopoulos.



### What are your most vivid memories from your childhood and elementary school years?

I was born in a tiny village—Prodrornos Trifyllias in Messinia—with 30 homes and a one-room schoolhouse. Only 16 children attended school, and I was the single child in my grade! I often joke that I was the first in my class! I had no way to compare my performance, but the teacher apparently believed in my potential and insisted that I participate in the scholarship exams held in nearby Filiatra.

The distance is only 25 km from the village, but there was not even a road in the village at that time, so it was an adventure. I went alone, without my parents. It's hard to understand now - back then, we lived in harsh conditions without electricity, running water, or roads. We lived of what the land produced. I was dizzy from the bus - although I knew about it, I had never been on one before. I didn't even have a pencil. Mr. Paparalis, who was the Committee's philologist, gave me a pencil. I remember the exams clearly - they were difficult.

### How did your family react to your acceptance?

My father was disabled, so he didn't have much involvement in a lot of it. My mother didn't hesitate, but my grandfather had a more conservative spirit - he could not believe there could be anything better away from the village. But my mother said I would go, and that was that.

It was not easy either because the school

provided a list of things I had to bring. At that time, we had only one set of clothing! I remember that Mr. Hinopoulos from Kyparissia gave me all the necessary clothing from his own store in town. I never thanked him—I didn't realize it at the time. My mother told me afterward how the events unfolded. Those who help shouldn't dwell on the help they give, but those who are helped should never forget it.

### How did the teachers at Anatolia support you during your time there?

The biggest challenge was my difficulty with English. Fortunately, my teachers and the administrators understood; Mrs. Theano (the Librarian) tutored me twice a week. I struggled in the first semester, but from then on, everything was easy. We put much pressure on ourselves; it was a very competitive environment, and we needed

good grades. I still have the classic nightmare of taking a test at Anatolia and not being prepared for it! The other dream I still have is that it's graduation time, and I don't want to leave. None of us wanted to give up our friendships and familiarity with such great times.

I could tell that I was in a special school, in a special place. We had very good facilities, but most of all, we had good staff. As President Vlachos said to me a while ago, the most important thing is the staff. From the President to the cleaner, everyone has their role here.

One of the biggest things I took away from Anatolia was that I demystified the rich and the poor. When I went to America, I didn't envy wealthy and successful people. There I realized that many people could rise from nothing to be quite successful - and it made me wonder, if they can, why can't I? It sounds simple, but it is essential, especially when young and inexperienced, because it gives you the confidence to achieve your goals.



### Tom Pappas, one of Greece's most renowned business figures at that time, provided your scholarship. Did you have the chance to meet with him?

Yes, I met him the first year I was here in 1966. I remember how embarrassed I felt because of my clothing. We all lined up in front of the school, and a limousine came; Pappas got out, and I went up and greeted him. Before he left, he took me inside and told me he had left money to get what I needed. Later, Pappas would write me letters, showing he was paying attention to what I was doing, my class performance, and various things only someone who cared would know.

In the boarding school, everyone had nicknames, and I was nicknamed "Tom" - it followed me after school! Many people called me that because Tom Pappas sponsored me. I met his sister during my first year in DePauw. She took me aside and told me they were watching for me - indeed, they always made it clear that if I ever needed anything, they were there for me.

### What inspired your decision to pursue higher education in America? How has the school supported you throughout this process?

When I graduated, I felt well-prepared, privileged, and not at all afraid of the future. My only concern was that I could not attend a Greek university since they did not provide any scholarships or stipends.

I got help from the school staff and some young visiting professors, and I got accepted to Depauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Anatolia's President Kennedy found a family to host me for three months and secured me a job in the university dining room so I could cover the board expenses and have a little pocket money.

### Your endowed scholarship, established for a student from your homeland, embraces a truly inclusive spirit by welcoming applicants of any gender and nationality. What are your hopes for how this scholarship will benefit its recipients, and what philosophy guides its open eligibility criteria?

Why put restrictions? My only limitation is for them to be able and needy.

First, I am very blessed, not only regarding my years at Anatolia College but also from my childhood. Many people have helped me, so many that I can't list them.

I have not thanked them enough or at all.

But I find solace in the fact that they would feel very proud if they saw that I am also participating in this relay that they started, the solidarity relay, passing onwards the gift they have given me to more young people.

### This scholarship honors the memory of your mother and your wife. What was their impact on your life?

I owe my mother everything I am, and I will be. She told me before she died at 94, "My child, in the end, you only have what you give." She was very wise and capable and let me grow freely; that's priceless. As for my wife, she was an amazing person. I told my son the qualities to look for in his bride - empathy, intelligence, and kindness. My blessed wife was all these, and above all, she was kind. She died young, but she has given me the most precious thing I have: my two children.

### Anatolia College is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. What are your hopes for its present and future?

It is very encouraging that the school continues to serve as a center of excellence. That will be achieved by having the right staff and the right mix of children.

### Can you describe what Anatolia means to you?

Where it all began.



The announcement of the Tom Pappas scholarship



With classmates, 1970's

## Anatolia Elementary School: Twenty Years of Primary Education

The establishment of Anatolia Elementary School in 2004 was a natural extension of Anatolia College's mission of transformative education. The elementary school was envisioned as a nurturing ground where young minds could be introduced to the values and educational standards that have long been the hallmark of Anatolia College.



The connection between Anatolia Elementary School and Anatolia College is more than just historical; it is foundational. "Our mission is to develop well-rounded individuals prepared to excel in a rapidly changing world. It offers a seamless educational journey from early childhood to high school and beyond. Anatolia College's commitment to innovation, cultural understanding, and community service per-

meates our elementary school's philosophy. Our students benefit from shared resources, collaborative projects, and a curriculum emphasizing critical thinking, global awareness, and social responsibility. This synergy enriches the educational experiences and prepares our students to transition smoothly to higher levels of education within the Anatolia system," states **Maria Proestopoulou, AES Principal.**

### Looking towards the future

The following decades promise to be as dynamic and transformative as the past. The school aims to continue evolving teaching methodologies, integrating the latest educational technologies, and fostering a love for lifelong learning. Anatolia Elementary School is a place where:

**Innovation Thrives:** We will continually adopt innovative teaching practices and technologies that enhance learning experiences and outcomes.

**Sustainable Practices:** Environmental education and sustainability will be integral parts of our curriculum, preparing students to be conscientious stewards of the planet.



**Community and Global Engagement:** Our students will be encouraged to engage with their local and global communities, developing empathy, cultural awareness, and a commitment to making a positive impact.



**Holistic Development:** We will focus not only on academic excellence but also on the physical, emotional, and social development of our students, ensuring they grow into well-rounded individuals.

## Spotlight on Pinewood: A Truly International School

Pinewood American International School has always been a beacon of possibilities for young people and an integral part of Thessaloniki's growth. It serves as a vital resource for both the international community and local companies hosting overseas personnel. Over the past 15 years, the school has seen a consistent rise in enrollment, underscoring its pivotal role in supporting the city's international dynamics.

The diversity of the student body at Pinewood is genuinely remarkable. With students representing over 45 nationalities, the school mirrors the cosmopolitan makeup of Thessaloniki. Students come from almost every consulate in the city and from more than 20 different multinational companies. Pinewood serves as a bridge between cultures, fostering an environment where young minds

from diverse backgrounds can learn from each other, share widely different perspectives, and become global citizens.

The commitment to inclusivity and support is exemplified by long-standing support for NATO families and families relocating due to geopolitical circumstances in their home countries. This support is crucial in providing a stable educational environment for children and ensuring a smooth transition for families integrating into the community.



A good example is that in 2020, there was one Ukrainian student and no Israelis; today, in 2024, the school hosts 34 Ukrainians and 39 Israelis.

Pinewood's ability to attract a global student body also significantly contributes to the city's economic and cultural vitality. By catering to the educational needs of international students, the school makes our city a more attractive destination for global businesses considering relocation or expansion. This, in turn, fuels further economic development and cultural enrichment, creating a cycle of growth and diversity that benefits all residents.

Pinewood American International School is more than just a school; it is a cornerstone of our city's international community and a key player in the global growth of our urban landscape. As we look to the future, Pinewood's continued success will undoubtedly remain interlinked with the prosperity and attractiveness of our city as a global hub.

## Ten Years of CTY GREECE!

The Center for Talented Youth: CTY Greece at Anatolia College is the outcome of a partnership between three institutions with a long tradition of contributions to education and society: Johns Hopkins University (JHU), the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), and Anatolia College. The program provides highly tailored support to academically talented youth in Greece and Cyprus and serves as a reference point for educators and parents of gifted students.

Since its inception in 2014, the program has served vast numbers of students and teachers with hands-on, life-changing experiences and innovative programming designed to nourish the talents of these students. Specifically,



### 2014-2024:

Total # Served: **32,322**

Students taking exams (Talent Search): **19,307**

Students in Summer Programs: **3394**

Students in Online Programs: **845**

Students in Weekend: **2387**

Students in 1-day "Teaser" Programs: **2509**

Scholarships: **1818**

Teachers Trained in Workshops: **3578**

### Talent Search

The talent search process is the gateway to CTY Greece's programs and utilizes material developed by Johns Hopkins University. Students are assessed on their reasoning abilities in language, math, and spatial concepts, with scores determining their eligibility for CTY Greece's programs. The aim is to increase the eligibility percentage of students and prevent students from falling through the cracks.

### Program Growth

Several key initiatives will drive CTY's expansion, including efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion within the program, attract international students through partnerships with global institutions while addressing global educational challenges, enhance course offerings, and improve program visibility. These strategic endeavors, coupled with ongoing curriculum updates, faculty development, program assessments, and online resource creation, aim to fortify CTY Greece's position as a leading provider of gifted education.



### Accessibility & Scholarships

CTY Greece provides scholarship support for more than 50% of participating students in its summer programs, a figure determined by the available funds in recent years. The aim for the next five years is to increase this percentage by seeking further funding sources to ensure accessibility for a broader range of gifted students through outreach initiatives in rural areas nationwide.



### Teacher Training

CTY Greece is committed to disseminating best practices and equipping educators with the necessary tools to nurture the potential of gifted and talented students through comprehensive teacher training initiatives. The aim is to expand the teacher training program, eventually reaching educators in most areas of Greece and Cyprus and forming a more extensive support network for gifted and talented students.



### National and International Recognition and Presence

CTY Greece aims to elevate and expand the program's impact and reach. In pursuit of this goal, the program is committed to strengthening its national and international reputation. Enhanced efforts will enrich the research component and raise the academic profile of the program in collaboration with institutions with expertise in gifted education. There will be increased presence in relevant conferences, committees, and networks associated with Gifted Education through our continuous collaborations with organizations such as the European Council for High Ability (ECHA), the European Talent Support Network, and the Global Talent Mentoring Program.

"After ten years of successful operation, CTY Greece continues to be a place where high-ability learners expand their academic horizons and enthusiastic educators are trained to inspire and support them."

**Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa**  
Director of CTY Greece

## 2023

### Pan-Hellenics Exams

129 Successful Candidates in High-demand Schools

For another year, the candidates of Anatolia College distinguished themselves in the Pan-Hellenic Examinations 2023, scoring very high indeed. Several applicants were ranked in the top 10 of their schools, including scholarship students from Anatolia College.

- 29 > Political & Economic Sciences
- 25 > Polytechnic
- 24 > Physics
- 12 > Medicine
- 12 > Health Sciences
- 12 > Law
- 10 > IT
- 4 > Philosophy
- 1 > Journalism & Media

## Impressive results for the IBDP Class of 2023

The IBDP Class of 2023 at Anatolia College has attained exceptional results in their university applications, securing 68 acceptances to a diverse array of esteemed international institutions and scholarships totaling \$3.9 million for undergraduate studies in the United States.

A remarkable 94% of students who submitted applications have garnered acceptances to their preferred universities in one or more countries, demonstrating the program's rigorous preparation for global higher education.



Within the United States, 20 Anatolia College graduates are set to commence their academic journeys at esteemed universities and colleges, with 17 recipients receiving collectively \$3,905,290 in scholarships to support their four-year studies.

The program's international recognition is further underscored by the 40 acceptances to prestigious universities in the United Kingdom and the 28 successful applications to leading European institutions.

These outstanding results are a testament to the dedication of Anatolia College's IBDP students, faculty, and staff and to the programme's commitment to fostering academic excellence and opening doors to a world of opportunities.

## IBDP Class of 2024

Achieves Outstanding University Acceptances and Scholarships

Seventy-two (72) seniors in Anatolia High School's International Baccalaureate Program were accepted by 66 US universities and colleges and received conditional offers from 101 UK and 44 European universities—a total of 211 acceptances/offers.

Most applicants were accepted to more than one top-tier academic institution. In particular, the 31 students who chose to study in the USA secured the highest number of scholarships in recent years, a staggering \$8,579,112 for four years of study.

In the United States, IBDP students have been accepted to American University, Amherst Col-

lege, Boston University, Dartmouth College, Davidson College, Harvey Mudd College, New York University Abu Dhabi, Northwestern University, Oberlin College, Pomona College, Princeton University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, and Williams College. In Great Britain, the list includes Imperial College London, King's College London, University of London, London School of Economics, Queen Mary University of London, University College London, the Universities of Bath, Essex, Leeds, Manchester, Reading, Sheffield, Surrey, Sussex, and Warwick. Finally, European schools welcoming our IB graduates include Bocconi University, EHL, Eindhoven University, Groningen University, IE University, Les Roches International School, Maastricht University, Rotterdam University, Tilburg University, TU Eindhoven, and the University of Twente.

## Anatolia College Organizes the International University Expo 2023

More than 70 universities and colleges from across the USA, Europe, and Great Britain were on hand to talk with prospective applicants and describe their unique programs to 11th and 12th-grade students from all over Greece at the 2023 International College Expo, co-organized by Anatolia College and Pierce/the American College of Greece. The event, which took place in Thessaloniki and Athens at the two schools' premises, was open to the public and attracted more than 900 students and their parents to explore their college options at schools outside of Greece.



## 19th ACMUN

The Biggest in Anatolia History



Between February 16th and 18th, 2024, Anatolia's campus hosted almost 600 participants and advisors, convening to address critical global challenges, particularly the role of technology in our ever-evolving world. This year's ACMUN was the largest conference Anatolia College has ever had the pleasure of hosting, with 32 schools from all over the world, including schools from Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Jordan, Poland, and Turkey. Delegates represented over 100 countries and NGOs across 12 committees, including the brand-new C40 Cities.

## Record Attendance for the 10th ACSTAC 2024



More than 180 Anatolia High School students participated in the 10th ACSTAC, taking the opportunity to present their work as real researchers and giving substance to ideas that combine scientific knowledge and social benefit. In total, the conference hosted 550 students from 40 public and private high schools in Greece, who presented their projects in 90 oral presentations or as one of the 73 exhibitions/constructions in the various fields of STEAM.

The Keynote was delivered by Dr. George Giannopoulos, Head of the Technologies for Space, Security, and Connectivity Unit of the European Space Program, who works on security-related topics, such as critical infrastructure risk and resilience, Galileo, 5G applications and implementation of the EU Space Program, on the topic "The European Union and space exploration: charting the path to innovation and prosperity for future generations."

After the keynote speech, they watched the seven standout projects identified as frontrunners in the first Social Entrepreneurship Hackathon.

## Excelling in Competitions

### F1 in Schools: the Anatolian Racers 2nd in Greece and with a "ticket" for the next World Finals

For yet another year, Anatolia College was at the top of the national ranking of the F1 in Schools Competition. The Anatolian Racers team of Anatolia High School won 2nd place in Greece at the 12th Panhellenic F1 in Schools Competition, the prize for the fastest car in the Northern Greece Finals, and the best use of social media. The Anatolian Racers team qualified for the 2024 World Finals, where they will cooperate with the PiForce team of the 1st Experimental School of Samos.



### 3rd Place at the Panhellenic Forensics Tournament

Forty-two (42) talented and enthusiastic Anatolia High School students, who have been preparing rigorously since October 2023, took part in the highly competitive Panhellenic Forensics Tournament 2024, hosted by Mandoulidis Schools this year, on April 4-7. Because of their exceptional presence at the tournament and their hard work, Anatolia College ranked 3rd overall in the tournament among 20 schools.

### Anatolia's IBDP Team "Arbori" Awarded at the Social Innovation Relay 2024

Our IBDP students' business idea, "Arbori," came in 3rd place in the pan-Hellenic Social Innovation Relay competition organized by Junior Achievement Greece. Arbori, the product of 20 IBDP students, is an innovative plant cultivation system with a fully automated supply of light, water, and nutrients. The idea was developed under the framework of the IB's Company Club. Aimed at students aged 15-18, the Social Innovation Relay encourages the development of innovative ideas and solutions that address contemporary social problems, allowing children to cultivate skills and become socially responsible professionals.



## ACT Takes Off with a New Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Studies

ACT launched its newest BA degree in Aviation Studies with a fascinating event: "Transforming the Future of Aviation: Educating Tomorrow's Executives" on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. This new degree program - to be run in cooperation with noted professional flight school Egnatia Aviation - has been started in response to the explosive growth seen in air transport and services in recent years and the immediate need to staff it with trained and specialized personnel. Speakers at the event focused on the new career development prospects for professional commercial pilots with the appropriate academic background and soft skills to move up the airline hierarchy

or in the broader aviation industry. The speakers included Yannis Rasoglou, Director of Network Planning & Airline Partnerships of Aegean Airlines, Panagiotis Spyrtos, COO of Fraport-Greece, and Dimitris Lymperakis, Managing Director of Egnatia Aviation Group.



The importance of a modern degree in Aviation Studies is evident. In Greece, the demand for pilots is also steadily increasing. Pilots with an academic background, such as in business administration and finance, are expected to have excellent career prospects, and the combination of technical and academic knowledge contributes to the development of companies and the industry.



## ACT hosted the 2023 Mediterranean Machine Learning (M2L) Summer School

The perspectives of the Mediterranean and the abundance of opportunities that can be offered to the global ecosystem of technological innovation were explored in an open discussion organized on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at Anatolia College in the context of the 2023 Mediterranean Machine Learning (M2L) summer school. After two consecutive and successful years in Italy, Thessaloniki hosted the summer school for the first time. It was organized by the AI Education Foundation and supported by Google DeepMind, ACT (American College of Thessaloniki), Aegean Airlines, Deloitte (Deloitte Competence Center), the Pfizer Center for Digital Innovation (CDI), AISERA, and Reply.



The lectures and courses took place from August 28 to September 2, 2023, at the ACT premises, highlighting Thessaloniki as a meeting point for leading scientists and researchers worldwide. More than 800 people applied to attend, resulting in a selection of 180 participants based on the high academic criteria - primarily advanced Master students, Doctoral students, academics, and practitioners - representing Germany, Greece, the USA, the United Kingdom, India, Iran, Spain, Italy, Canada, China, Morocco, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Holland, and Tunisia, among others. The open discussion panelists were Konstantinos Kyranakis, Deputy Minister of Digital Governance; Dimitris Gerogiannis, CEO, AEGEAN Airlines; Vassilios Vassalos, Director of AI, AISERA; Federico Neri, AI Director, Deloitte Italy; Katerina Tzouvara, Gen AI Ambassador & Customer Engineer Public Sector, Google Greece, and Thanos Stavropoulos, Technology & Innovation Senior Manager, Pfizer CDI. The panel was moderated by Anatolia alumnus and Trustee Yannis Assael Distinguished Researcher at Google DeepMind, who stated: "I always felt that as scientists, we must contribute back to where we come from. The aim of the M2L Summer School is not only to transfer and explore our scientific fields but to empower the local and Mediterranean ecosystems with AI expertise. Greece's enthusiastic reception is a profound inspiration for what lies ahead."

## Tourism & Artificial Intelligence: Redesigning the Future of the Industry



Artificial Intelligence is reshaping every facet of life, work, and leisure. ACT's Academic Program in Tourism and Hospitality held its 7th Tourism of Tomorrow Symposium on Friday, April 5, 2024. The conference "Tourism & Artificial Intelligence: Redesigning the future of the industry" focused on AI-based services. Using questions formulated by a ChatGPT dialog assistant, Program Coordinator Anestis Anastasiou led a panel discussion that covered the current effects and probable outcomes of AI use in the industry.

Prominent speakers included Dimitris Dimitriadis, CIO of digital marketing agency The Future Cats; Dimitrios Georgiou, Senior Consultant at Deloitte; Roman Sarbash, Head of Innovation & Technology of Domes Resorts; Markos Giannispoulos, Area Manager, EMEA Lodging Team of Expedia Group; Thodoris Papanestoros, Executive Director of Institutional Marketing & PK-12 Enrollment, Anatolia College; and Pantelis I. Kaplanoglou, Adjunct Professor in Computer Science at ACT (American College of Thessaloniki) and Chief AI Officer at the company Arx.Net.

## Dukakis Center Celebrates 25 Years at ACT

The 2023-24 academic year marks a quarter century of public service initiatives provided by the Michael & Kitty Dukakis Center for Public and Humanitarian Service. This year's celebration theme, "Back to Fundamentals," has been conceived to draw renewed attention to the Center's principal mission, encouraging young people in Greece and beyond to engage meaningfully in public affairs.

To set the stage, the Center commissioned Harry Lalatsis, founder of Ierax Analytix, Anatolia High School, and ACT MBA alumnus, to explore the contours of the youth vote in Greece in light of parliamentary, local, and European elections scheduled to take place in 2023 and 2024. What drives voters aged 18-29, notorious for their higher-than-average abstention rates, to cast their ballots come election day?



The data gathered by Mr. Lalatsis offered a picture that tends to mirror political sentiment in Britain and the United States but is mainly at odds with a narrative emanating from Brussels, according to which elections in Europe since 2019 were entering a new dimension. A panel considered findings from recent Eurobarometer polls on the European youth vote to explore this apparent disconnect further. Gonzalo Velasco Monasterio, data and public opinion analyst at the European Parliament, presented the EU data. Dukakis Center Director David Wisner provided additional insight from instruments like the annual Harvard Youth Poll and discussed common approaches to promoting youth participation in the United States



In December 2023, ACT was honored with a prestigious plaque, formally recognizing its exceptional decade-long collaboration with Open University. This esteemed award acknowledges the transformative partnership between the two institutions. Catherine Bland, Head of Validation Partnerships & Operations (OUVP) presented the distinction to Dr. Stamos Karamouzis, ACT Provost

## Exploring the Monroe Doctrine and Greek-American Relations

with Professor Aristotle Tziampiris

On Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, ACT students and faculty attended an intellectually stimulating experience as Dr. Aristotle Tziampiris, Professor of International Relations and Chair of the Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus and Anatolia College alumnus, took center stage to deliver a thought-provoking public lecture, titled "The Monroe Doctrine and Greek-American Relations."



Dr. Tziampiris effortlessly navigated complex concepts, making them accessible to attendees at all levels of familiarity with the subject. An interactive Q&A discussion followed, with students engaging in conversation and reflecting on the insights gained by the lecture.



## Dr. Julia Kallipolitou Terzis '61

*It is rare to feel genuinely overwhelmed by a person, but Dr. Julia Terzis is a brilliant and ingenious practitioner of Plastic Reconstructive Microsurgery, a field of medicine still largely underrepresented by women. Dr Terzis is as strong and intelligent as they come. Polite, modest, confident, and a tireless worker, she seems content with her incredible life and the accolades she has rightfully received.*

A Professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, at Eastern Virginia Medical School, as well as Director of the International Institute of Reconstructive Microsurgery in Norfolk, Virginia, author of four textbooks and numerous articles, Dr. Terzis is recognized worldwide for her contributions in the field of restorative microsurgery (she introduced more than 60 new techniques) and the treatment of peripheral nerve paralysis. Her persistence, ingenuity, hard work, painstaking and innovative research, and bold surgical skills have resulted in numerous awards over the years.

A series of firsts in her professional career is a testament to an extraordinary professional journey: the first female resident in neurosurgery, the first international student in Jefferson Medical School, the first and only woman to hold the position of President in the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, and the first woman to receive twice the James Barrett Brown Award from the American Association of Plastic Surgeons - one in 1977 and one in 2000.

Among the many of her clinical contributions, she was the first to introduce the sciatic functional index to the Plastic Surgery Research Council in 1984. She was also part of a small group of doctors - and the only woman - who laid the foundations for the specialization of Reconstructive Microsurgery, which was unknown at the beginning of the 70s.

While talking about her decision to become a plastic surgeon, entering a field dominated by men in the 70s, the thrill of always being at the

forefront of surgical innovation, and the sacrifices she had to make along the way, Dr. Terzis never forgets to pay tribute to her mentors for having taught her so much along the way. Her admiration, though, is firmly set on the three women in her life: her mother, her sister and her daughter, all of whom supported her at every point of her journey.

Well-educated but never having had the opportunity to work, Dr. Terzis's mother instilled in her the importance of receiving a good education. As her mother and aunt had to work to sustain the family, the two girls - Julia and her sister - were mainly raised by their grandmother, Elpida, to whom Dr. Terzis confided everything.

Growing up in Charilaou, both girls attended Anatolia College. Dr. Terzis made sure to take full advantage of everything the school could offer. She had the good fortune to be accepted to Anatolia because she had learned English in elementary school.

***"I graduated in 1961, and my class was very unique because we were all very connected."***

When asked whether she thinks there is a common thread running through the Anatolia community, Dr. Terzis replies: *"I think these were the most formative years of our life, and despite the fact that I went to College and Medical School in the U.S., I never formed the personal relationships that I had with my classmates in Greece. I think that each one of us has different reasons for loving Anatolia. I think that Anatolia is where we grew from children into teenagers and then more mature teenagers, and then adults. All our development years were there. Anatolia has a very dear place in my heart."*

*"As I was finishing Anatolia College, my mother wanted me to sit the entry exams for the Greek system. I, however, wasn't at all interested in staying in Greece. Because I was a very good student, my teachers prepared me to go to the U.S., so I applied for a scholarship but never told my mother. Up to the last minute, the person I confided in was my grandmother. I remember that summer when I got my acceptance letter, I confided to my grand-*

*mother that I didn't know how to tell my mother I was leaving. I am very determined and headstrong, so when I got the scholarship, I got a little suitcase and put whatever I thought I would need in it. I finally told my mother the news. That is when she decided to take me to the Port of Piraeus. She was really upset that her daughter was going to the other end of the world, but in the end, she understood I was going!"*

Upon her arrival in the U.S. and her first years at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, a journey of professional discovery and scientific breakthroughs began. She made the most out of being exposed to the biological sciences. To offset part of her tuition, she assisted in the Comparative Anatomy Lab, while on weekends, she worked on an Honor's Research project. Due to her night and weekend work, she developed a very deep understanding of human anatomy. As a result, she won the Gold Medal in Anatomy at Jefferson Medical School out of a class of 200 students.

She got married to Aristidis Terzis, her high school sweetheart who was also studying in the U.S. while at Jefferson Medical College, and subsequently transferred to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, because of her husband's visa issues. She was easily accepted at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal as a straight surgical intern, while, at the same time, helping with the care of Greek patients in the Emergency Department.

While on her Neurosurgery rotation, where she worked with the brilliant professor Gilles Bertrand, Dr Terzis realized that the awards she had won in High School for her drawings were a testament to her ability to work extremely well with her hands. During her first year as an intern in Montreal, she got pregnant and managed not to miss a single day. When her water broke, they had to transfer her straight from the operating room, where she was performing a procedure, to the delivery room.

*"It was a fascinating time to be a woman in microsurgery," she remembers. The group that recruited her from McGill University in Montreal was one of the most powerful plastic surgery groups in the Americas then. As she flips through the pages of the History of Microsurgery, the book she edited, one could easily notice the excitement and professional dedication in every one of Dr. Terzis' photos. The only woman at every round table, in every conference, operating and meeting with famous professors from all over the world, she looks completely confident. When asked about a photograph of herself in India, she refers to the many missions she took part in in Venezuela, Peru, Africa, India, and Chile.*

Dr. Terzis traveled all over the world as a volunteer, donating her time and expertise to treat impoverished children, spread the "art" of reconstructive

*"...despite the fact that I went to College and Medical School in the U.S., I never formed the personal relationships that I had with my classmates in Greece.*

***I think that each one of us has different reasons for loving Anatolia"***

microsurgery, and help train young surgeons. She speaks proudly of the world-class research center where she created an unbelievable teaching program for microsurgery. *"I had a big fellowship program in Virginia, and I trained over 400 fellows from around the world, a huge amount from Greece, many from China, Australia, Japan, Pakistan, India, France, and around the world. This was one of the most gratifying experiences of my life."*

When asked how she overcame all the hurdles that life threw at her in such a male-dominated field, she replies without hesitation: *"For some reason, I am the type of person who is never jealous of someone else's success. I am the type of professor that elevates young people. I never allowed the negative pressure from male colleagues to get to me."*

When asked about the necessary skills for someone to become a surgeon, Dr. Terzis answers firmly, *"It is a very serious commitment, because if you are not committed and only do it just for the money, then you will be employed and have the financial aspects of it but you will never promote the frontiers of this specialty. There has to be a thirst to achieve."*

When asked whether there is any value in the argument that it would be good to have more women surgeons, she replies without hesitation: *"I do believe that women are the stronger gender; there is no question in my mind. There are some brilliant men, but I totally believe in women."*

Because of Dr. Terzis's life commitment to such a worthy cause, her high intelligence, her boldness in surgery, and her commitment to her patients, she is considered a role model for all women and men pursuing careers in reconstructive microsurgery. From her childhood neighborhood in Charilaou to her home and workplace in downtown New York, she has paved an extraordinary path through which she has inspired and supported many aspiring surgeons and helped improve the lives of hundreds of patients around the world.

**From her childhood neighborhood in Charilaou to her home and workplace in downtown New York, she has paved an extraordinary path through which she has inspired and supported many aspiring surgeons and helped improve the lives of hundreds of patients around the world.**