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The Anatolian

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Anatolia American University A New Chapter in Greek Higher Education

Building on the foundations of Anatolia's US-accredited tertiary division, the Anatolia American University marks a historic milestone in Anatolia's legacy. Set to begin operations in the 2025–2026 academic year as a non-profit, non-state institution, the university will offer degrees fully equivalent to those awarded by Greek public universities, fulfilling a long-standing vision of Anatolia's Trustees: to create a university that expands educational opportunities for Greek youth.

The founding of Anatolia American University aligns with Greece's strategic efforts to position itself as a global education hub. It aims to attract international students and reduce the outflow of Greek students seeking higher education abroad. Key goals include the repatriation of Greek academics and the stimulation of regional economic development through investment in human capital and expertise.

Anatolia's partnership with The Open University (OU)—Britain's largest public research university and a globally ranked institution—brings world-class academic standards to Greece.



Anatolia American University has officially received its operating license in Greece, marking a historic milestone in Anatolia's legacy. As a non-profit, non-state institution, the university will offer degrees fully equivalent to those awarded by Greek public universities.



Anatolia itself has a rich academic heritage, recognized as a degree-granting institution in the United States since 1894 and accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) since 1997.

In collaboration with the OU, Anatolia has developed programs that combine rigorous academic content with essential 21st-century skills. This approach has already made Anatolia a leading destination for American university students, with over 6,000 participants in exchange programs to date.

The new legislative framework not only equates degrees from non-state universities with those from public institutions but also ensures international students receive qualifications recognized in their home countries. This positions Anatolia to expand its reach both within Greece and across the broader region. The university's recruitment strategy focuses on three key student groups:

1. Greek students seeking an international academic experience enriched by cultural exchange.
2. International students pursuing globally recognized degrees in Greece.
3. Visiting students from partner universities, particularly in the U.S. and Europe.

"This is a transformative moment for Anatolia and for higher education in Greece," said Dr. Panos Vlachos, President of Anatolia College. "Anatolia American University represents our commitment to academic excellence, international collaboration, and inclusive access to education. We are proud to contribute to Greece's emergence as a global educational destination and to offer young people the opportunity to thrive in a dynamic, multicultural learning environment."

Professor Dave Phoenix, Vice-Chancellor of The Open University, added: *"The Open University is proud to partner with Anatolia in this pioneering initiative. Together, we are creating a new model of international education that reflects our shared values of access, innovation, and societal impact. By building on our global reputation and Anatolia's legacy, we aim to deliver a growth strategy that addresses the inequalities of the 21st century and opens doors for students across Greece and beyond."*

With its newly granted license, Anatolia American University will offer English-language, state-recognized degree programs across three academic schools:

School of Business Administration

Business Administration
with concentrations in Entrepreneurial Management, International Business & Finance, Marketing, and Hospitality & Tourism.

School of Humanities & Social Sciences

English, Political Science & International Relations and Psychology.

School of Science & Technology

Business Computing, Computer Science and Biological Sciences



Anatolia has finalized its Campus Master Plan, which includes the construction of four new buildings. The first is scheduled for completion by 2027.

Remaining true to its social mission, Anatolia continues to prioritize access to high-quality education for students with limited financial means. Currently, 30% of its student body receives scholarships or financial aid, with plans to increase this percentage in the coming years.

Two New Trustees Join the Anatolia Board



Brent Shay

Mr. Brent Shay is an industry veteran of the senior secured financing sector with 40 years of corporate banking experience. Most recently, he served as a Director in the Boston office of Wells Fargo, where he managed a national portfolio of 10 corporate retailers, overseeing \$1.2 billion in direct bank credit commitments. His volunteer leadership roles have focused on education and youth development. Recently, he completed a two-year term as President of the Society of Alumni of Williams College, the leader of its worldwide alumni body, and head of its 18-member alumni executive committee. Brent Shay has a long history of serving Williams College, including a five-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees. He holds a Master of Arts from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Williams College.



Emilia Zouboulidou '88

Mrs. Emilia Zouboulidou '88 is a Senior Partner of K-Architects. K-Architects' projects include multiple entries in architectural competitions, master plans for universities in Greece and Cyprus, and a series of public and private buildings, mainly educational, research, cultural, and administrative. Most of them have been awarded prizes, have been presented in exhibitions in Greece, and abroad and have been published in architectural magazines. Emilia Zouboulidou is a member of the Greek Technical Chamber TEE and a member of the Hellenic Institute of Architecture. She is also a member of the Anatolia Alumni Association, where she served as board member and then as President 2017-2021. She studied architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki 1989-1995 and obtained her Master of Arts at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, U.K., in 1996.

Honoring the Memory of Marguerite "Peggy" Trethewey

In August 2025, our community mourned the loss of our esteemed Trustee and dear friend, Marguerite "Peggy" Trethewey.

Peggy Trethewey served on the Board of Trustees from 2017 with unwavering dedication, insight, and sensitivity. With wisdom, grace, and a deep sense of service, she actively contributed to the governance of the College in every endeavor.

Her heartfelt and tangible support—both for the Scholarship Program and for major fundraising campaigns to meet the College's needs—combined with her moral integrity and steadfast commitment to our mission, left an indelible legacy that will continue to inspire us.

Peggy Trethewey was born in 1945. She graduated from Sweet Briar College and completed the Wharton Business School's Executive Finance Course.



She began her career as a district sales manager for Transportation Consultants International in Boston, Massachusetts. After relocating to California, she held several managerial positions, including regional sales manager for Transportation Consultants International in San Francisco, director of marketing projects for the Pacific Area Travel Association, and business manager in the protocol department of the Olympic Organizing Committee in 1984. In addition, she has also served as the Board Director of Carson Products, Inc., in Savannah, Georgia.

Peggy Trethewey has also been actively involved as a board member of many of San Francisco's most illustrious institutions, including the San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco Fine Arts Museums, and San Francisco City College until 2013.

In recognition of her lifelong dedication to education, Anatolia has established the Marguerite "Peggy" Trethewey Scholarship Fund, ensuring that her spirit of generosity will support future generations of students. Donations may be sent to Anatolia College.



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Recognizing Former Presidents of Anatolia

William McGrew Sports Center



Dr. Panos Vlachos, Albert "Chip" Elfner III., Petros Apostolides, Constantinos Constantinidis

William McGrew was the ninth President of Anatolia College and its longest-serving leader, serving for 25 consecutive years (1974-1999).

Throughout his presidency, he guided the institution through significant political and economic challenges with determination and effectiveness. A hallmark of his leadership was the establishment of higher education at Anatolia through the founding of ACT (originally SBALA). The decision to name the Indoor Gym after him also reflects his lifelong passion for athletics and basketball. Students, alumni, and staff fondly remember seeing Bill McGrew play basketball alongside them on both the indoor and outdoor courts.

Richard Jackson Hall

Richard L. Jackson succeeded William McGrew as President in 1999.

During his tenure, Anatolia reached new milestones, including the founding of Anatolia Elementary School, the construction of the Bissell Library (2002), and the development of the Alumni Soccer and Track Field (2005). Under his leadership, ACT achieved accreditation in the United States and later in Europe. In recognition of his service and achievements, the Trustees named one of the High School's main assembly halls Richard Jackson Hall. Richard Jackson accepted this honor with deep gratitude.



Dr. Panos Vlachos, Richard L. Jackson, Albert "Chip" Elfner III.

Erietta Molho (Anatolia High School Class of 2018) was among the many young lives lost in the tragic Tempe accident of 2023.

Erietta was an exceptional person—responsible, active, and talented—who left an indelible mark on her friends, her school, and the wider academic community.

Following her passing, her parents created a commemorative album in her memory, **Erietta 28.02.2023...** (published by Kapon Editions). This deeply moving tribute is filled with Erietta's personal drawings, photographs, messages from friends, and reflections on dreams that remained unfulfilled. More than a remembrance of a gifted young woman, the album stands as an

Erietta 28.02.2023...



enduring act of hope and generosity.

The Molho family announced that the proceeds from the book's sales would be used to establish the **"Erietta Molho Scholarship"**, funding a full six-year scholarship at Anatolia College.

This remarkable initiative inspired generous contributions from institutions and organizations such as the **National Bank of Greece, Eurobank, the**

Joseph Safra Foundation, and from many individuals who purchased the beautifully designed album. Thanks to their support, in September 2025 Anatolia was able to award the first Erietta Molho Scholarship to a deserving student. The book is available through the Anatolia Alumni Association.

Pinewood was founded in Thessaloniki in 1950 with 15 students becoming the first exclusively English-speaking school in Northern Greece. It served the children of American government officials, diplomats, and foreign business executives. In its first three years, the elementary school was hosted at Anatolia College and was initially named “Piney Woods School.” In 1953, it relocated to the American Farm School and, in 1958, returned to Anatolia, where the first classes of the Thessaloniki International High School (“Ti-Hi”) commenced.



In 1961, Pinewood was officially established as a non-profit educational organization under the laws of the State of Delaware. In 1973, it was granted permission by the Greek Government to accept students of all nationalities. In 2007, the school moved to new premises in Thermi. A new chapter opened in 2019, when Pinewood formally joined Anatolia College in an institutional partnership.



The gradual return of Pinewood to the Anatolia campus began in 2022 with the relocation of the Early Years and Elementary School and was completed in 2024 with the move of the Middle and High School into a brand-new, state-of-the-art school building. The integration enabled the two institutions to combine resources, enhancing Anatolia’s capacity to provide education to students from different countries and strengthening Thessaloniki’s role as a hub of talent development and educational innovation. In this framework, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) of the two institutions was unified in 2024 under the name Anatolia & Pinewood IBDP.



A Milestone Celebration Inauguration of Pinewood’s New Building

The permanent return of Pinewood American International School to the Anatolia College campus—where its story began 75 years ago—was marked by the official inauguration of its new school building on Friday, May 30, 2025. The ceremony coincided with the annual meeting of the Anatolia College Board of Trustees in Thessaloniki.

Strengthening Thessaloniki’s International Outlook

Today, Pinewood enrolls 600 students from 55 different nationalities, following the American curriculum. Its programs, offered exclusively in English, include Early Years, Elementary (Grades 1–5), Middle School (Grades 6–8), and High School (Grades 9–12). As a non-profit institution, Pinewood also runs a scholarship program.

The integration allowed Pinewood to grow, to serve Thessaloniki’s international community more effectively, and to strengthen Anatolia’s global profile, emphasized Albert “Chip” Elfner III, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Anatolia College, in his remarks. “In 2019, the day Anatolia welcomed Pinewood into its family, we began to envision a new school. Six years later, we are not just on a new campus but in the process of realizing that dream. Our students are grateful,” said Roxanne Giampapa, Head of School, Vice President for the International School.



Albert “Chip” Elfner III, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Anatolia College, Dr. Panos Vlachos, President of Anatolia College, Nikos Margaropoulos, former Chair of the Board of Trustees of Pinewood, Roxanne Giampapa, Head of School, Vice President for the International School.

“With significant investments over the past seven years, we have managed to provide Pinewood with facilities that are a model for our country and at the same time integrate it more fully into the life of the city,” said Dr. Panos Vlachos, President of Anatolia College. “Pinewood, Northern Greece’s only English-speaking school, offers high-quality education not only to the children of diplomats and international executives, but also to families who value international education—including Greeks returning from abroad whose children cannot easily join the Greek school system. This is a true contribution to the city.”

A New Award-Winning School Building without a School Bell

The new Pinewood American International School building (architectural design: Alexandros N. Tombazis S.A. and Micromega Architecture & Strategies) is the latest addition to the Anatolia College campus. Covering 1,660 m² with 500 m² of open space, the building blends harmoniously with its surroundings. It includes flexible classrooms, modern science labs, a library, a gymnasium, and the “Harry Theodore Davidson Jr. Innovation Design Studio” for Art and Design.



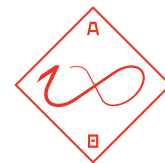
Its central atrium doubles as an Activities Hall and open event space, distinguished by tree-shaped columns that reference the school’s name.

In January 2025, the building received **First Prize** in the “Public Interest Buildings” category of the 2nd GRAIL Architecture Awards. Designed with an emphasis on experiential learning and sustainable architecture, the new facilities provide students with a dynamic environment for learning and growth.





Anatolia's 100 Years in Thessaloniki A Celebration of Transformative Education



This past year, Anatolia College marked its centennial anniversary in Thessaloniki, highlighting its enduring relationship with the city, and the significant role it has played in advancing primary, secondary, and tertiary education in Greece and the broader region. The Centennial was also an opportunity to reflect on this remarkable journey and to envision Anatolia's future, drawing lessons and inspiration from its past.

Over the decades, Anatolia College took root and flourished, growing into a respected educational institution with national prestige and international recognition. Its impact has extended far beyond academia, contributing socially, economically, and culturally to the community and nation, while maintaining a strong connection to the United States.

Anatolia's forward-thinking approach – driven by its emphasis on good governance and embodied by its dual American and Greek Board of Trustees – has positioned the College as a key resource for the growing numbers of expatriates arriving as the city and region transform into a vibrant hub for services and industry.

Throughout, Anatolia has preserved its American character, visible in its architecture and facilities, its emphasis on English language learning, its innovative academic programs, its vibrant extracurricular life, and a deep commitment to community service. This spirit also lives on in its robust Scholarship Program and its ongoing investment in educational infrastructure.

A Legacy of Inclusivity

Anatolia's success would not have been possible without the steadfast support of its extended community—Americans and Greeks, alumni, businesses, organizations, parents, friends, and philanthropic foundations in



Front row (from left): Albert "Chip" Elnor III, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Anatolia College; Dr. Panos Vlachos, President of Anatolia College; Jerry Ismail, U.S. Consul General in Thessaloniki; Nestor M. Nicholas, Trustee of Anatolia College. **Second row:** Loukia Saranti, Trustee of Anatolia College. **Third row (top, from left):** Stathis Georgiadis, Constantinos Constantinidis, Vassilis Kafatos, Lambros Anagnostopoulos, and Leonidas Evangelidis, Trustees of Anatolia College; Charalambos Bakirtzis, President of the Board of the Museum of Byzantine Culture; Vassos Efthymiadis, Trustee of Anatolia College.



both countries. United by a shared belief in the transformative power of education and trust in Anatolia's mission, these supporters have enabled the creation of the expansive Pylaia campus and the development of one of Greece's most extensive Scholarship Program. Since its founding, has stood at the forefront of pedagogy. Recognizing that progress is the key to establishing a solid educational foundation for the twenty-first century, Anatolia was among the first to adopt and integrate new technologies into the classroom.

A Stepping Stone for Women

Over the years, Anatolia has also been a pioneer in advancing educational equality. In Thessaloniki, at a time when women had limited access to professional occupations, women scientists with university degrees worked as teachers and administrators at the "Girls School" in the Allatini area (near Sofouli Street in Kalamaria). In 1937, it was converted into the Girls' High School of Anatolia College and moved to the Pylaia campus. Following this move, the school was able to offer many educational options for young women, including pathways to enter the university as high-achieving students. Later, with the establishment of the Secretarial School in 1964, women could develop career skills through a nine-month English language training program focused on marketing, office organization, and management.

Today, Anatolia's advocacy for women and girls continues in a variety of ways. The BLOOMing the Future program promotes female participation and leadership in STEAM subjects,

providing resources and content that highlight career options. For the Pomak community in Thrace, the College offers workshops and space at its annual Christmas Bazaar. It supports women's entrepreneurship through programs and events, such as Venture Garden's "Alpha Females for Venture Garden" and Deloitte's "Her Way Forward: Upskilling & Reskilling," which are targeted at women already in the workforce.

A 360° Educational Ecosystem

Anatolia has always placed a high value on the sciences, and its award-winning STEAM program opens valuable career pathways for students who enter university with the foundational training necessary to excel. The Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center and the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence ensure that Anatolia students have access to an unparalleled infrastructure that serves as a springboard toward rewarding, productive futures.

The College's tradition of innovative methods and programs is rooted in its understanding that it is part of a larger community and has only grown stronger over the decades. Many of these initiatives are offered free of charge to students, staff, and faculty from schools across the country. These include the flagship program CTY Greece, the ACSTAC conference, Anatolia MUN, ACT's Entrepreneurship Hub and Dukakis Center, and the Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence/KCEE.

Its libraries – the envy of educational institutions throughout southern Europe – provide widespread access to knowledge and host a myriad of notable social and cultural events. Recent developments – including the integration of Pinewood International School in 2019 – have reinforced Anatolia's reputation as a 360-degree educational ecosystem. Looking forward, the College sees a campus that is blessed with a rich legacy of resources, community, and strong leadership. The Centennial celebration has provided an opportunity to reflect on and share the untold stories of the remarkable individuals who have brought Anatolia to where it is today, and to reaffirm its commitment to accessible, world-class education for generations to come.



The Centennial events were generously supported by major donors, the National Bank of Greece and the Papageorgiou Foundation, by donors, the Anatolia Alumni Association (SAAK) and the Association of Friends of Anatolia College (AFAC), with AEGEAN Airlines serving as the official air carrier sponsor.

Anatolia College is deeply grateful for their support.

Centennial Exhibition “Future Cometh: Anatolia College 100 Years in Thessaloniki”



Thessaloniki’s beautiful Museum of Byzantine Culture hosted the temporary exhibition that traced Anatolia College’s fascinating journey across three continents—America, Asia Minor, and Europe—and three centuries, from the 19th to the 21st. The narrative began in Merzifon, Asia Minor, in 1886, but primarily focused on the College’s presence in Thessaloniki, where, in 1924, it welcomed its first class on Greek soil.



Drawing upon rare photographic material and iconic objects—primarily from the Department of Archives and Libraries of Anatolia College, along with contributions from other sources, the exhibition illuminated the unique phenomenon of Anatolia College. It highlighted the school’s historical evolution, its identity as a non-profit educational institution, its academic contributions, and the lived experiences of its students and faculty.



Under the Patronage of Her Excellency
the President of the Hellenic Republic
Katerina Sakellaropoulou

The exhibition also shed light on defining aspects of Anatolia’s legacy: the early introduction of educational innovations and technological advancements, experiential learning, emphasis on natural sciences and English language instruction, the incorporation of American cultural influences, the development of renowned libraries, support for women’s empowerment, and a vibrant tradition of sports and extracurricular life.

To further enrich the experience, a special educational program for elementary school students was developed. This interactive museum experience invited children to explore knowledge through sensory engagement, creativity, and personal discovery, sparking curiosity and inspiration.

The title of the exhibition, “Future Cometh,” was inspired by the enduring optimism of the College’s founders. It echoed the spirit of Anatolia’s hymn, “Morning Cometh” (or “Dawn”), written in 1916, which affirmed that even in the darkest moments, one can look forward to a new beginning. “Future

Cometh” served as both a tribute to the past and a vision for the future, rooted in Anatolia’s four core values: Innovation, Excellence, Social Responsibility, and Inclusion. The exhibition opened on Friday, October 4, 2024,



with a remarkable evening event at the Museum of Byzantine Culture. The opening was attended by representatives of local authorities, consular missions, and organizations that contributed archival material, along with faculty, staff, journalists, and hundreds of alumni and parents of Anatolia College.

Running until January 31, 2025, the exhibition offered a free, engaging, and informative experience for educators, students, and the wider public, presenting a compelling narrative of Anatolia College’s past, present, and future.



A 100-Year Retrospective in a Landmark Publication

A landmark publication developed by Anatolia College was released in conjunction with the exhibitions marking the centennial celebration of the educational institution in Thessaloniki.

This 400-page edition showcases the entire exhibition material, highlighting the history of Anatolia College in Thessaloniki, and inviting readers to embark on a journey through time. The anniversary edition is enriched with written work by four members of our dynamic alumni community, each approaching Anatolia College’s “cosmology” through the lens of the four foundational principles: Innovation, Excellence, Social Responsibility, and Inclusion: Lia Zourgou ’79, who taught Greek philology at Anatolia High School from 1985 to 2020, Zizi Papacharissi ’91, Distinguished Professor of Communication and Political Science at the University of Illinois Chicago, Journalist Iliana Magra ’12, and Christos Plousios ’67, a retired secondary education teacher and former principal of Anatolia College.

National Recognition

Our Centennial exhibition earned national recognition at the GRAIL 2025 Architecture Awards, receiving a commendation in the “Exhibition Spaces” category. Curated by the Post-Spectacular Office creative agency, the exhibition masterfully wove together historical documents, photos, videos, artifacts, and school memorabilia to narrate Anatolia College’s 100-year journey in Thessaloniki—bridging both macrohistory and microhistory in a compelling and immersive experience.



Anatolia Walking Tour Discovering Anatolia's Hidden History

To mark its Centennial, Anatolia created a special walking tour of its campus for the wider community. The tour weaves together the College's rich history with that of Thessaloniki, revealing untold stories, hidden corners, and the remarkable individuals who have shaped its legacy.

Historian and archaeologist Tasos Papadopoulos guided participants through Anatolia's historic grounds, bringing to life the events, figures, and milestones that have defined the institution's century-long journey of educational excellence. Since its launch last year, the tour has welcomed more than 300 visitors. Beginning in September 2025, an adapted version of the tour for 11-grade and IB1 students will be offered throughout the 2025–2026 school year, with the generous support of the Anatolia Alumni Association.



Centennial Time Capsule

On Saturday, June 8, 2024, trustees, alumni, students, and parents gathered in front of Macedonia Hall to ceremonially "seal" the Time Capsule and bid it farewell as it embarked on its long journey through time. The capsule was filled with messages of hope, inspiration, and optimism, preserving the spirit of Anatolia for future generations. Contributors, including current students and alumni, made generous donations in support of two key initiatives:

- > The purchase of mobile equipment for five classrooms at Anatolia High School
- > The creation and installation of the historic Time Capsule, now placed on the Anatolia College campus, to be opened a century from now.



A Memorable Homecoming Reunion

After a brief hiatus during the pandemic, the famous Anatolia High School Homecoming returned in full force to celebrate the school's centennial in Thessaloniki. In September 2024, our campus hosted a large party, bringing together both old and new alumni who seized the opportunity to join the festivities. Attendees reconnected with dear friends, old classmates, and teachers, reminiscing about their cherished high school years.



AFAC and the Centennial Year

In 2024, the Association of Friends of Anatolia College (AFAC) continued its steady support of the Anatolia College Scholarship Program, marking the College's Centennial with two meaningful gatherings.

On June 8, 2024, members met for lunch at the Ippos Club, hosted by the Papageorgiou family.

Later in the year, on December 7, 2024, AFAC organized the Centennial Christmas Gala at the Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki. The event brought together friends and supporters of Anatolia to celebrate the season and contribute to the Scholarship Program, continuing AFAC's long tradition of helping young people pursue their education.



Anatolia Holiday Bazaar

The Anatolia College Christmas Bazaar began in Thessaloniki in the 1930s to support refugee populations following the Asia Minor Catastrophe, so this year's edition was especially festive, featuring collectible memorabilia celebrating our Centennial. All proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar were donated to charitable institutions and non-profit organizations, a fitting tribute to the origins of this event.



TV Documentary "The Skin of the City"

Thessaloniki's TV100 highlighted the history of Anatolia College and its iconic Macedonia Hall in its documentary program "The Skin of the City" which aired on January 23 and 25, 2025. Journalist Chris Katsikogiorgos, cameraman Spyros Kopanos, and editor Alexandra Nikoloudi masterfully crafted a compelling presentation of Anatolia College, its campus, and

its historic buildings. Through in-depth interviews with Anatolia College's President, Dr. Panos Vlachos, and alumnae Emmy Zoumpoulidou, Tasos Georgantzis, and Lia Zourgou, the program illuminated the remarkable legacy of Anatolia College and the fascinating yet lesser-known architectural history of Macedonia Hall, which has stood proudly on our campus since 1934.

"Music Cometh"

On November 14, 2024, the Thessaloniki Concert Hall honored the 100th anniversary of Anatolia College in Thessaloniki with a special production, under the title "Music Cometh: Anatolia College. 100 Years in Thessaloniki" featuring the Thessaloniki Concert Hall Youth Symphony Orchestra (MOYSA), the Youth Choir of the Friends of Music Society, and the Choir of the Anatolia College Alumni Association (S.A.A.K. Anatolia). The renowned lyrical performers and Anatolia High School alumni, Siranus Tsalikian and Sofia Kyanidou, along with talented violin soloist and current Anatolia High School student, Odysseas Tsakalidis, joined them.



Dr. Panos Vlachos, President, Anatolia College, soloist Odysseas Tsakalidis, Dr. Christos Galilias, Artistic Director, Thessaloniki Concert Hall, Sofia Gioldasi, Chorus Conductor, Youth Choir of Thessaloniki Friends of Music Society.

The choirs presented works by the world-famous, award-winning choral music composer of Greek descent, Jim Papoulis, who traveled from the United States to honor the event with his presence.

Following the stupendous performance, the evening's festivities continued into the night with performances from the bands "Souled Out" and "Ta Toy Boy" (both formed by Anatolia High School alumni), who rocked the cavernous Music Hall foyer with a joyous blend of contemporary sounds for the Afterparty.

The special evening would not have been possible without the support of the President of the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, Eugenia Alexandropoulou-Egyptiadou; Artistic Director, renowned soloist and alumnus Dr. Christos Galilias '93; Musicologist and Head of Educational and Social Programs Dr. Mariana Bozapalidou '98; and Marketing Director of the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, Prodromos Monastiridis. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of them.



In Memoriam: Robert Hayden

1921 - 2025

Seventh President of Anatolia College



Robert Hayden, the seventh President of Anatolia College (1964–1972), passed away on February 22, 2025, at the age of 104. A graduate of Northwestern University

with a master's degree in education from Stanford, Hayden was a visionary leader whose presidency reshaped the College's future. He strengthened the Scholarship Program, introduced innovative curricula under his vision of Anatolia as an "experimental school," and led with integrity and care for faculty, staff, and students. His tenure spanned a turbulent era in Greece, during which he demonstrated courage by supporting faculty members persecuted by the dictatorship. His legacy remains a cornerstone of Anatolia's history.

Shortly before his passing, the Anatolian spoke with Hayden at his home in California, on the....



The Hayden family on the Anatolia campus, with Peter Chresanthakes, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, April 2024.

When you first arrived at Anatolia as President, what were the biggest challenges you had to face?

First, I needed to learn Greek quickly to communicate effectively. Number two, the Board of Anatolia in Boston wanted me to focus on fundraising, but at the College, there was no well-organized operating budget. I searched for and hired David Willis, a Business Director, an Englishman who later became the son-in-law of Bruce Lansdale of the American Farm School. Once we had a more modern administration in place, I could focus on expanding knowledge of Anatolia's goals and hopes for the future to a broader audience, both in Greece and abroad.



Dinner party 1966

Looking back, what accomplishment during your presidency gives you the greatest sense of pride?

Anatolia's Scholarship Program. This required frequent and often challenging travel, and I got to see more of Greece than many Greeks! We were able to reach underserved areas of the country and award scholarships that provided room, full board, and an exceptional education. The home-like atmosphere at Anatolia created a safe environment for these students, who went on to wonderful, fulfilling lives in education, politics, the sciences, and the arts.



You traveled all over Greece in search of scholarship students. Is there a particular story?

Yes, in Sparta, we had a long list of contestants from several villages. There was an obvious outstanding winner, a little slip of a girl. We went to her home on the side of a steep mountainside, where her mother had prepared fresh tomatoes and bread to welcome us. The challenge was to explain gently that if they accepted the award, her daughter would be moving to Thessaloniki—and probably would never be satisfied with small village life afterwards. Immediately, the mother said, "Never mind, I want her to be educated."

Anatolia welcomed many distinguished guests during your tenure. Which visits stand out most vividly in your memory?

I remember the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Phillips Talbot, and his wife. They toured the campus and later joined us for dinner at our home, hosted by my wife, Reta. However, the most memorable was the visit of Their Majesties, the King and Queen of Greece, in 1966.



Visit of King Constantine II and Queen Anne-Marie to the Anatolia College campus, 1966

Could you share what you remember most about the King and Queen's visit to campus?

I have very vivid memories of that day. I, the Deans, and all the officers and many members of Anatolia's staff stood in a line on the steps of Macedonia Hall to wait. Then there was the sound of an army band coming up the road towards us and entering the gates of Anatolia. The King and Queen drove in next. King Constantine II was driving himself in a convertible. (I think it was a Rolls-Royce.) He and Queen Anne Marie, his new lovely bride, got out of the car, came over, and shook hands with everyone. She spoke fluent English, being Danish, and talked warmly with my wife. Then, after the playing of both the Greek and American national anthems and the official welcome, I took them on a brief tour of the newly completed Language Lab. Afterwards, we all adjourned to the Anatolia playing fields and stadium, where we had a Gymnastic Celebration and program organized by the Athletic Department.



Life in Greece changed dramatically when the Junta came to power. How did that affect life at Anatolia?

As I recall, tanks were rumbling up and down the road from Pylaia to Panorama. The Voice of America and all the airports were closed. I was called to an appearance before the new Governor General, who, with a stern face, generally bawled me out and criticized me for having expressed

"Once we had a more modern administration in place, I could focus on expanding knowledge of Anatolia's goals and hopes for the future to a broader audience, both in Greece and abroad."

an opinion contrary to the mission of the Junta. We were ordered to read a mandatory prepared speech in front of the entire student body and faculty every Saturday morning. This message was designed to reinforce the repression of the constitution, eliminate the Royal family's powers, and reinforce the Junta's authority.



After the dictatorship took control, what further changes did you notice in the College's daily life and academic direction?

After the Junta took control, there was a general shift of power from the local school administrations to the centralized power of the Ministry of Education in Athens. At Anatolia, fewer classes were taught in English, faculty members with suspected left-wing tendencies were persecuted, the language curriculum dropped demotic Greek (modernized Greek). It forced a change back to the old, formal katharevousa.

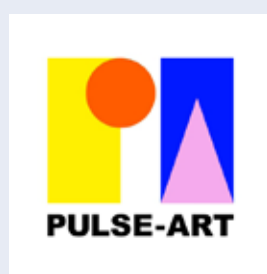
Finally, as Anatolia celebrates its Centennial, is there a message you would like to share with today's students, faculty, and alumni?

Much has changed at Anatolia since I left—all for the better, and much has also changed in Greece over the last 50 years. But the one thing I hope has not changed is the warm and friendly relationship between Americans and Greeks. I came to appreciate my many remarkable Greek friends and colleagues, Thessaloniki's beautiful countryside, the joy-filled music, and even the taste of ouzo. And most of all, our outstanding students. May I conclude by wishing continued growth and development to all of you!! And to Greece, prosperity and freedom.

Projects & Awards



PULSE-ART: a New European Program - Call for Cultural Action



Through the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center and ACT (American College of Thessaloniki), Anatolia College is a key participant in the pioneering European program PULSE-ART, which highlights the power of art as a catalyst for educational and cultural development. The PULSE-ART project is coordinated by Science for Change (Spain) in collaboration with nine other European academic and research organizations, including Anatolia College.

Anatolia leverages its expertise in innovative education and its commitment to the STEAM fields by bridging the gap between art and technology, showcasing the transformative potential of integrating the arts into STEM education. As part of the program, Anatolia is

conducting research on the state of arts education in Europe, developing a Competency Framework to promote cultural awareness and expression, creating an innovative professional training program for teachers, and spearheading a pilot action on Visual-Tech Art. Additional activities include scientific illustration, dance, performing arts, music, video games, and game jams.



Launch of PULSE-ART's MOSAIC HUB

On May 22, 2025, 40 participants from diverse backgrounds gathered at the Bissell Library for the launch of the MOSAIC HUB in Greece, part of the Horizon Europe-funded PULSE-ART project. Educators, artists, policymakers, and representatives of cultural institutions engaged in a creative brainstorming session, exchanging ideas and best practices with the shared goal of embedding Cultural Awareness and Expression (CAE) into education.



“European Aquamarine School” for Ocean Literacy Program

In December 2024, Anatolia High School was honored with the prestigious “European Aquamarine School” distinction for its innovative “Exploring Blue Connections” program. Awarded by the EU4Ocean Coalition, funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, this recognition officially places Anatolia among the select schools of the European Blue Schools Network—a community committed to promoting ocean literacy, sustainability, and student engagement with marine ecosystems. Anatolia received the distinction as part of our award-winning project, “Exploring Blue Connections: Engaging Students with the Coastal Ecosystem of Thessaloniki,” developed through the collaboration of Geography and Chemistry faculty and the 2nd Gymnasium students.



Anatolia Showcased as Best Practice in Waste Management



Anatolia was featured as a Best Practice in Waste Management under the auspices of the INTEREG-funded project MINEV, which seeks to study and reduce the amount of waste produced at large-scale events in Europe. Peggy Perakaki, Coordinator of Social Responsibility Programs at Anatolia College, presented the challenges and sustainable solutions that have been implemented. Anatolia has achieved a significant improvement in its environmental footprint by reducing plastic waste generation, increasing recycling, and promoting conservation and efficiency in precious resources such as water and energy across our campus.



English on the Mountains

How a Free Language Program Opened a Window to Equal Opportunities

Anatolia’s flagship outreach program, English on the Mountains, began in 2014 as a pilot initiative offering free English lessons to children in the remote village of Kentavros, in Thrace (northeastern Greece). What started as a modest effort soon grew into a powerful educational movement.

Spearheaded by Anatolia College and coordinated through the tireless efforts of Fay Marinides, the program has since evolved into a multifaceted initiative that continues to empower children and adults across the region. From its first summer with just 25 children in one village, English on the Mountains has expanded nearly tenfold. To date, it has served around **1,200 children** from more than 15 villages, offering creative English immersion through music, art, film, and games that bring learning to life.

Building on this strong foundation, the **2025 English Summer School** program expanded geographically to include the mountain villages of Rhodope. Two one-week Summer



English on the Mountains is more than a language program. It's a bridge to confidence, education, and opportunity—helping an often-overlooked community connect with a wider world of possibilities.

Schools were held: one in Kentavros, with 160 children from eight villages, and another in Fil-lira, with 100 children from 15 villages. Each summer school concludes with a joyful celebration in the host schoolyard, where students proudly present their projects and perform songs for their families. In June 2025, nearly 400 parents, primarily mothers, joined in

the festivities, bringing homemade local dishes and sharing in the children’s achievements. To sustain learning year-round, Anatolia launched the **English Winter Schools** in 2022–23 for primary school students. The program expanded further in 2024–25, offering four in-person classes in Myki (mountainous Xanthi) and eleven online classes connecting

children across the mountain villages of Xanthi and Rhodope. Recognizing that the success of children’s education depends deeply on family engagement, Anatolia introduced **Adult Experiential Workshops** in 2023. These sessions—focusing on topics such as bullying, nutrition, self-care, and child behavior—have already involved over 750 women from four villages. In 2024–25, workshops were held in seven villages, with additional online meetings for mothers unable to attend in person. Since 2016, Anatolia has also extended its impact through a scholarship program, offering **ten full scholarships** to talented students from the mountain regions. Covering tuition, housing, and meals, these scholarships—supported by companies, foundations, and alumni—have opened doors to higher education and new horizons. In 2025, the tenth scholar began her journey, following in the footsteps of earlier recipients now are now studying medicine and molecular biology at top Greek universities.

Major Donor: Eurobank
Donors: Efthymiadis Agrotechnologies, Alumil, Bodossakis Foundation
Supporters: Folløe Foundation & KAVEX S.A.

Anatolia High School students thrive at PanHellenics 2025

As graduation day approached, Anatolia High School anxiously awaited the results of the national college entrance examinations. Our seniors consistently outperform their peers, and this year's scores were exceptionally high, with three students in the 95th percentile, 30 students in the 90th percentile, and 60 students in the 85th percentile or above. Several of these high-scoring students are scholarship recipients, including an alumnus from our English on the Mountain initiative, who will pursue studies in Health Sciences. In total, 138 Anatolia seniors were accepted into 'high demand' schools, beating out competition from all over the nation for these coveted placements at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Macedonia.

iGEM Petabytes Bronze Medal Winning Solution to Plastic Pollution



Twelve Anatolia & Pinewood IBDP students from the "Petabytes" team earned the Bronze Medal at the prestigious iGEM 2024 synthetic biology competition, held in Paris from October 23–26, 2024. Motivated by the global issue of plastic pollution, the team developed an innovative biological solution to accelerate the degradation of PET plastic.

The Petabytes team not only developed a sustainable solution but also secured their own funding with the support of KONVA, ENDIALE S.A., K.E.P.E.D., and Elpedison. Congratulations to the team and their mentors, Sotiris Diamantis, Elena Antonakou, and Dr. Iro Koliakou. Special thanks to Professor Ioannis Vizirianakis, Professor, School of Pharmacy, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and his team.

IBDP Class of 2025 Successes Opening Doors Abroad

This year's impressive results reflect not only academic achievements, but also the ambition and global outlook that define our students. From Anatolia's Class of 2025, 71 out of 74 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) students, along with 25 students from the General Lyceum, applied to universities abroad. Collectively, they received 113 conditional offers from universities in the United Kingdom and 43 conditional and unconditional offers from universities across Europe.



A total of 39 students were accepted to universities in the United States: 33 from the IBDP and six from the General Lyceum.

From World Champion to Yale Scholar Varvara Lykomitrou's Remarkable Year

Varvara Lykomitrou, Anatolia High School graduate of the Class of '25, won the gold medal at the World Junior Rowing Championships in Lithuania, marking her third gold medal this year in international competitions—after taking first place in the single sculls at the European Junior Championships and gold in the double sculls at the U23 World Championships. At the same time, she secured a scholarship to Yale University to study Political Science, combining athletic excellence with academic achievement.



Agrolease Sets a Record on Dragons' Den!



Famed reality-TV show Dragon's Den kicked off its 2025 Season with a presentation from our very own Agrolease. The Anatolia College student team – High School seniors Giorgos Tambouris, Nassos Papasarafricanos, and Vasilis Higas – appeared poised and confident in front of the Dragons. Their plan for creating a rental platform for agricultural machinery was met with enthusiasm by the investors, and Agrolease left the stage with a commitment for 30,000 euros in funding – the first student team to secure such an impressive amount! And perhaps more importantly, our seniors inspired all aspiring entrepreneurs that hard work and diligent preparation pay off.

From Sustainability to AI ACSTAC 2025



The 11th Student Conference on Science and Technology (ACSTAC) welcomed over 530 students from public and private middle and high schools across Greece, alongside 139 Anatolia students. The event had a distinctly "sustainable" theme, emphasizing environmental protection and climate action. In her keynote speech, Dr. Stella Bezergianni '90 (Director of Research, CERTH), discussed the biofuels revolution and its role in the green transition. During the conference, attendees – both students and educators – participated in workshops covering a range of topics from 3D printing to AI robotics and STEAM integration. Throughout the conference, students presented projects on a wide range of issues. They participated in exciting activities, such as the Hackathon "Sea of Ideas," part of the SHORE project, where they tackled marine challenges like plastic pollution and overfishing. Congratulations to the 22 Anatolia students who received awards for their exceptional contributions.

We thank Dan & Helen Lindsay, without whose support, ACSTAC would not have been possible.

Robofest 2025 Anatolia College and Pinewood Students Shine on the Global Stage

On January 26, 2025, Anatolia College's STEM Center, in collaboration with the Hellenic Robotics Organisation (HERO), proudly hosted Robofest 2025, a global robotics competition that celebrates creativity, innovation, and the fusion of technology and art.



Anatolia College teams delivered exceptional performances: Keabots — Konstantinos Mor-topoulos, Anna Maria Gioltzi, and Elisabeth Efsthadiou — claimed 1st place and secured a spot at the World Robofest Championship in Michigan, USA, while AnatoliArt — Dimitra Papaioannidou and George Papaioannidis — earned 2nd place. Both teams were mentored by George Rouvas and Stella Georgiou. The Pinewood Panthers Robotics Team won

1st place in the Robotic Sumo category. Dylan Tsachtanis ('32), Cleanthis Mavroudis ('31), and Ilias Vasileiou ('31), guided by their coach Christos Kosmidis, designed and programmed an autonomous robot that prevailed in numerous intense and closely contested matches. The team qualified for the Finals where Dylan Tsachtanis and his coach represented Pinewood against the best teams from around the globe.

AES



The SEGA program at Anatolia College Kindergarten

SEGA (Shaping STEAM Education for Young Children through Gaming) is an EU-funded program designed to enrich STEM education in preschools through play-based and experiential learning. Developed in partnership with universities and educators from Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Poland, the program offers a dynamic, child-centered approach to early STEM learning. As a key contributor to the program, the Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center at Anatolia played a central role in shaping the content and creating activities that make STEM accessible and engaging for young children. At Anatolia Kindergarten, SEGA is already part of transformative, everyday learning. Children explore science through imaginative stories and hands-on experiments, interact with technology through games, and build essential 21st-century skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, and creative thinking.



WeAreEurope at AES

Anatolia is a key partner in WeAreEurope, another EU-funded educational project designed to foster active citizenship and sustainable development through innovative, interdisciplinary teaching methods. Developed in collaboration with educators and universities from Greece, Poland, Portugal, and Italy, the program provides a comprehensive set of learning materials that integrate STEM education with civic responsibility and environmental awareness.

The Anna Papageorgiou STEM Center trained 52 teachers, equipping them with practical tools to bring the program to life in their classrooms. The program was then piloted with 80 students through two key initiatives: the "Afterschool STEM Program," which utilized game-based methods to explore sustainability and technology, and the "Bridge Bilingual Program," which integrated language learning with themes of citizenship and environmental responsibility. WeAreEurope will soon be fully implemented in AES's upper grades as well, enriching the curriculum and fostering critical thinking, global awareness, and responsible citizenship.



CTY Greece News

Expanding Access to Gifted Education

400 academics, scientists, researchers, and educators from 40 countries at the 19th International Conference of the European Council for High Ability (ECHA)

The 19th International Conference of the European Council for High Ability (ECHA) — a landmark event in the field of gifted education — was held for the first time in Thessaloniki in August 2024. Co-organized by the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Greece and the European Council for High Ability, the conference titled "Expanding Horizons: The Odyssey of Talents and Gifts" brought together



over 400 academics, researchers, and educators from 40 countries. Hosted over four days at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall and ACT, and featuring more than 80 sessions, 128 oral presentations, 43 workshops, and eight symposia, the event marked a major milestone in the global conversation on gifted education.

Human Rights and Business Law Responsibility in Action

The importance of ethics in the business world, human rights in the workplace, and gaining practical knowledge of the legal frameworks governing modern entrepreneurship were at the heart of a press event organized by the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Greece with the support of Lidl Hellas. The event highlighted the new summer program course "Human Rights and Business Law: Responsibility in Action!", created with the encouragement and support of Lidl Hellas.

Following the successful courses "Nutrition: Highway to Health", "Food Power: Highway to Health" and "Food Power: Science You Can Taste", also developed with Lidl Hellas, the new and highly topical course gives students the opportunity to explore —through research, debates, and interdisciplinary activities— the legal obligations of businesses concerning environmental protection, consumer rights, and fair competition. On July 2, 2025, journalists and CTY Greece students met at the historic Macedonia Hall of Anatolia College to co-create a "mock news bulletin" on Fair Business, contemporary



entrepreneurship, and its connection with Environmental Law.

Anatolia College President **Dr. Panos Vlachos** underlined the program's impact and inclusivity, while CTY Greece Director **Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa** emphasized its accessibility and unique learning environment. Lidl Hellas and Lidl Cyprus have supported CTY Greece since the beginning, offering more than 550 scholarships, funding innovative courses, and contributing over €1 million to educational and outreach activities. According to Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis, every €1 invested has generated €3.7 in social value, stated **Vasiliki Adamidou**, Director of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Lidl Hellas.



Dr. Panos Vlachos, Vasiliki Adamidou, Director of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Lidl Hellas, Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa, Director, CTY Greece

CTY Greece's Nationwide Outreach Efforts

This year, 369 students from 21 regions of Greece, Cyprus, and abroad participated in CTY Greece's summer programs in Thessaloniki and Athens, with 60% of the participants coming from regional schools. CTY Greece extends its reach across every corner of the country thanks to the endowment established with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). This outreach includes new exam places and teacher training sessions in Rhodes with the support of **Eurobank**, in Corfu with the support of the **Hotel Tourist and Commercial Enterprises Thomas Rocas SA**, and in Kalamata with the support of the **Captain Vassilis and Carmen Constantakopoulos Foundation**.

KCEE

Creativity & Artificial Intelligence



Anatolia's **Kassandra Center for Educational Excellence (KCEE)** hosted a deep dive into the changes that **Artificial Intelligence** is bringing to education, and the possibilities of integrating it into the teaching process without diminishing human creativity.

"Creativity & Artificial Intelligence: Challenges and Prospects" brought together more than 230 teachers of all levels and specialties, school principals, school psychologists, students, researchers, and education executives from public and private schools throughout Greece. The first keynote speaker of the event was **Dr. Zoe Filippakos**, award-winning Associate Professor, Department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education, School of Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The second keynote was delivered by **Dr. Eleni Katsarou**, Professor of Curriculum Theory and Didactics, at the Department of Primary Education, University of Crete, who spoke on "Artificial Intelligence and Education: Research, Teaching and Literacy in AI".

Conference participants then attended three-hour workshops on a variety of fascinating topics including: Application and Utilization of AI Tools; Recent Developments, Future Challenges and Legal Dimensions of AI; Reading Strategies in the Age of Disinformation: Fake News and Recognition Practices; Social Assistance Robots in the Support of Special Education; Digital Tools for Cultivating Creativity Skills; AI in Primary Education; and AI Tools for Teachers (in English).

ACT Faculty Secure UK Grant and Broaden Global Learning with Gerondelis Foundation

Faculty members Dr. Christos Aliprantis and Dr. Maria Kyriakidou, in collaboration with Dr. Oliver Ayers of Northeastern University London, have been awarded a Leverhulme Trust/British Academy small research grant (August 2025–August 2026). Their project will explore the shift in geopolitical influence from the UK to the USA during the Greek Civil War (1946–49) and its impact on Thessaloniki and Northern Greece, examining broader Great Power dynamics in the early Cold War. In parallel, ACT has received a \$50,000 grant from the Gerondelis Foundation to support Gordon College (MA) students in a summer study abroad program in 2025. Facilitated by Dr. Kyriakidou and Dr. Aliprantis, the initiative will allow seven undergraduate students to immerse themselves in Thessaloniki’s historical and cultural landscape through ACT’s humanities courses.



Decoding Trust in Greece A Lecture by Stathis Kalyvas

In January, 2025, Professor Stathis Kalyvas of Yale University and the University of Oxford delivered a guest lecture in the Bissell Library on the issue of trust in contemporary Greece. Professor Kalyvas presented the findings of a recent research project conducted in northern Greece, specifically in Thessaloniki and Drama and discussed different methodological approaches that can be used to supplement potential gaps in the outcomes of survey-based research. Professor Kalyvas appeared with the support of the Dukakis Center.



Tourism and Real Estate Intersect in a Global Shift

Tourism plays a vital role in Greece’s economy and is closely intertwined with other key sectors, both domestically and globally. At ACT’s Annual event Tourism of Tomorrow in April 2025, industry leaders highlighted how tourism is reshaping economies and real estate markets across the world. Experts stressed the role of geography, sustainability, and regulation in shaping the future of Greek tourism. Speakers included: Griroris Avavidis, Head of Press & Communication, Kourtidis Group, Stefan Merkenhof, Director of Tourism & Leisure of CBRE Atria and Managing Consultant of GBR

Consulting, Tasos Andreadis, Chief Executive Officer, STANTA S.A., George Zografos, PhD, Property Development Consultant, Adjunct Professor in Tourism, Hellenic Open University.



Dukakis Center Exploring Democracy, Technology, and Diplomacy in a Global Context

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Michael and Kitty Dukakis Center for Public and Humanitarian Service at ACT has marked 2024–2025 with a series of high-profile initiatives at the intersection of democracy, technology, and diplomacy.



At the **Beyond 2025** technology forum in Athens (April 2025), Dukakis Center Executive Director David Wisner hosted a fireside chat with Clay Shirky, NYU Vice Provost for AI and Technology in Education and acclaimed author. Their conversation, “AI, Social Contracts, and Digital Literacy,” traced the evolution from the early Internet to ChatGPT, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges of global educational technology and examining the broader social implications of artificial intelligence.



In March 2025, the Dukakis Center welcomed Dr. James Quirk, Professorial Lecturer in Politics at American University, for a week-

long residency in Thessaloniki. This complemented the launch of a new hybrid roundtable series on political analysis, inaugurated in December 2024. The series—designed to explore how citizens engage with political information during an unprecedented cycle of global elections—opened at Thessaloniki’s Daios Hotel with experts Sotiris Serbos and Alkman Granitsas. Subsequent Dukakis Center Live episodes on Anixneuseis Web-TV featured Rikard Jozwiak, Dimitris Papadimitriou, John Koenig, and Andrew Miller, who analyzed electoral outcomes across the UK, EU, and U.S., underscoring their diplomatic and policy impact.

The Center also hosted the **Silver Jubilee Dukakis Lecture**, delivered by Sarah B. Snyder, Professor of Global Inquiry at American University in Washington, DC. Drawing on her forthcoming book *Unofficial Diplomats*, Snyder examined how American citizens abroad—such as educators establishing schools—shaped U.S. international presence throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Entrepreneurship Hub Sparking Innovation

Alpha Females for VentureGarden

For a second year in a row, VentureGarden—the free educational program for aspiring women entrepreneurs—implemented the “Alpha Females for VentureGarden” initiative. This pioneering program was organized by the Entrepreneurship Hub, ACT (American College of Thessaloniki) and ALBA Graduate Business School, The American College of Greece, in Athens, with the support of Alpha Bank. The program seeks to create a supportive and inclusive environment for sharing experiences, gaining knowledge, and cultivating valuable skills. Throughout its duration, participants had the opportunity to connect with entrepreneurs, mentors, and industry experts, while strengthening their sense of mutual support and collaboration.



Funding Your Idea: Financial Tools for Start-ups

In January, 2025, ACT hosted a workshop at the Bissell Library, welcoming more than 60 start-up founders eager to explore financial tools and funding opportunities. Young entrepreneurs, many of whom had previously participated in ACT’s VentureGarden or the John Pappajohn Business Plan Award, engaged directly with leading venture capital firms active in Northern Greece, including Thermi VC, TECS Capital, and Loggerhead Ventures.



Beyond Borders: Greek Brands on the Global Stage

As part of ACT’s MBA program, in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Hub, the open event *Beyond Borders* explored strategies for Greek companies expanding internationally. Industry leaders from leading Northern Greek companies—Pelopac, Olympia Electronics, Pyramis, Souroti, and SEVE (the Greek Exporters Association)—shared insights on navigating global competition, building competitive advantages, and reaching international consumers.

Dr. Nikolaos F. Dimitriadis Global Dialogue on Theology, Ethics and Leadership

Act professor Dr. Nikolaos F. Dimitriadis, Adjunct Professor of World Religions and President of the Center of Ecumenical, Missiological and Environmental Studies (CEMES) “Metropolitan Panteleimon Papageorgiou”, engaged in high-level international forums exploring theological discourse, ethical leadership, and

intercultural understanding. In June 2025, Dr. Dimitriadis participated in the international conference “**Nicaea and the Church of the Third Millennium: Towards Catholic–Orthodox Unity**”. Continuing his engagement on ethical and intercultural issues, Dr. Dimitriadis participated in the high-level consultation “Living Together in Harmony: Rejecting Dehumanization and Overcoming Polarizations” at the United Nations Office in Geneva.



Anastasia Mantziou '97 Lazaros Goutas '98

Anatolia Alums Anastasia (Natasa) Mantziou '97 and Mr. Lazaros Goutas '98 have recently donated a full, six-year scholarship for an incoming female High School student, which began in Fall 2022.

Natasa Mantziou was the valedictorian of her class at Anatolia. She is now the head of Cross Border Legal LatAm & US at UBS, in Zurich, Switzerland. She earned her law degree from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and then continued to achieve two Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees - one at LSE and another at New York University.

Lazaros Goutas is an Associate Professor of Information Systems at IMT Business School in Paris, France. He held earlier academic positions at IMD Business School, Loughborough University, ETH Zurich and INSEAD. His research focuses on topics related to business sustainability and AI. He received his PhD in Social and Political Science from the University of Cambridge.

Below, they reflect on how their time at Anatolia influenced their lives and careers.

What are some memorable moments from your time at Anatolia?

NM: Some of my most memorable moments at Anatolia revolve around shared experiences, both behind the scenes—such as those in the Drama club—and significant milestones, such as the Commencement ceremony. In Drama club, I didn't perform on stage—being too shy at the time—but started as a stage manager and eventually became assistant director. That journey sparked my creativity, encouraged me to take initiative, and taught me how to work as part of a team to deliver results. One of the best aspects was the chance to meet and collaborate with students from different grades and classes; this diversity made every production richer, fostering lasting friendships and fresh perspectives. Our rehearsals and shows were filled with laughter, dancing, and singing—proving that hard work can also be joyful.

Separate from this, I was privileged to forge lifelong friendships with many of my classmates. These relationships have endured for decades and have truly become part of my extended family—a constant source of support, inspiration, and joy.

The Commencement ceremony was the perfect close to my time at Anatolia. As valedictorian, drafting and delivering my speech gave me the chance to reflect on all those unforgettable moments, the friendships I treasure, and the personal growth Anatolia inspired.

What universal skills did you acquire at Anatolia that remain important to you today?

NM: What I gained at Anatolia still guides me today: a curiosity and love of learning; open-mindedness and the ability to see things from others' perspectives; a willingness to challenge myself and grow; kindness and consideration for others; a positive, optimistic outlook; and discipline, structure, and organization. Balancing academics and activities taught me to stay organized, meet responsibilities, and get things done. Alongside creativity, initiative, teamwork, and problem-solving, these values and habits have become the foundation for both my personal life and my career.

How do you remember your school years?

LG: I look back on my high school years at Anatolia with great fondness, having built friendships that have stood the test of time. When it came to charting my professional path, I was something of a late bloomer—it took me a while to figure out my direction. I was also a bit of a restless student, so let's say, politely, that being a top performer wasn't exactly my main priority at the time! Still, I am grateful to all the teachers who kept me engaged and nurtured in me a commitment to excellence and continuous self-improvement—qualities that are essential for success in any profession today.

At Anatolia, I was surrounded by many high achievers, and their drive and ambition inevitably influenced me. There was also a strong underlying belief that we were meant to do something meaningful with our lives, and that ethos left a lasting mark on me.

What skills are most important for success in your field, especially for students interested in either tech or the humanities—and how did Anatolia help you develop these?

LG: To succeed in Information Systems and digital transformation, especially for students interested in technology or the humanities, requires a dual mastery of the business and the technical/digital worlds. This is not as easy as it sounds, and many students struggle to excel in both domains. Nonetheless, capabilities in data literacy, strategic thinking, change management and leadership, communication and collaboration, critical and creative thinking, adaptability, and continuous learning will set students up for success.

The transferable skills I acquired at Anatolia, such as adaptability, communication, commitment to learning, and a mindset toward making meaningful contributions and driving innovation, have prepared me to navigate the dynamic field in which I am involved.

What inspired your decision to support the Anatolia College Scholarship Program?

NM: At a certain point in life, you start seeking meaningful ways to contribute and support the community that has shaped you. For me, Anatolia remains a strong and close-knit community tied to our hometown.

I was fortunate enough to receive essential financial support from Anatolia during a critical time—the last two years of High School. This generosity had a profound impact on me, and supporting the scholarship program felt like a natural way to give back and help new students have similar opportunities.

LG: Our lives have always been deeply intertwined with Anatolia. I grew up quite literally in its shadow—as a child, I spent countless hours playing on its grounds, since my parents' house was right next door. My grandparents, Lazaros and Despina Amarantides, were working at the school. Anatolia is also where Natasa and I first met as students.

Given that Natasa herself was a beneficiary of the scholarship program, the decision to give back once we had the means was a no-brainer. For me, the opportunity cost was minimal—even if it meant sacrificing other expenses—because the chance to help a student realize their dreams is priceless.

“We hope the scholarship recipient makes the most of every aspect of the Anatolia experience. It's a unique environment full of opportunities for growth, learning, and building lifelong connections.”

What are your hopes for the scholarship recipient?

NM & LG: We hope the scholarship recipient makes the most of every aspect of the Anatolia experience. It's a unique environment full of opportunities for growth, learning, and building lifelong connections. We wish for the recipient to be curious, embrace challenges, and take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way, both academically and personally. Above all, we hope she finds a supportive community that inspires and uplifts her throughout her journey.

How would you encourage others to get involved with Anatolia?

NM: I would encourage everyone to keep themselves informed about the various initiatives and programs that Anatolia participates in. If something sparks your interest, don't hesitate to reach out and ask for more information. Getting involved can take many different shapes and forms: it can be as simple as volunteering your time, sharing your expertise, or providing financial support through scholarships. Giving back to a community like Anatolia is incredibly rewarding and self-fulfilling, as it helps nurture the next generation and strengthens the bonds that hold the community together.