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Anatolia Celebrates 125 Years of Service to Education



“September 8, 1886, behold a college open with the dawn light of its first day. A college! With all its aspirations, all its needs, all the aspirations and needs of the thronging multitudes of its wide field. And little else. There was no incorporation, or legal existence; no endowment or gold reserve in the treasury; no Board of Trustees; no building, campus, library, or equipment... But there was a College, our Anatolia College, for Dr. Tracy and his colleagues said so.”

*-- George E. White
Anatolia President, 1913-1933
in Adventuring with Anatolia College, 1940*

“And we still say so with 125 years of history behind us, but in 2011, with the support of our Board of Trustees, our more than 10,000 alumni, our faculty and staff, our students and their families, and all those who support this great and unique institution, we continue to serve as a role model in our delivery of instruction, our modes of teaching, and our resource management, while also acting as a torchbearer of humanitarian values bestowed upon us by our inclusive, faith-inspired history and tradition.”

*-- President Hans C. Giesecke
September 8, 2011*

This is Anatolia's 125th year, but the day of the school's opening in the town of Merzifon in Asia Minor was occasion for a special commemoration in Raphael Hall on September 8, 2011. Faculty and staff from Anatolia's three divisions as well as members of the public and press turned out for the celebration. They joined in watching a multimedia presentation made for the day that traced the background of the school's founding by American missionaries in Ottoman Turkey, and they heard an enlivening lecture by former Anatolia President Dr. William McGrew on the development of Anatolia's evolving modes of governance and curriculum over the years.

Though the general lines of Anatolia's history were known to many of those in the audience, they were in for a few surprises. Dr. McGrew, who is at work on a history of the College, explained that the impetus for the school's founding came

not so much from the missionaries in Merzifon or the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Boston but from the Armenian community of Merzifon and surrounding towns. "They were eager to provide their children with the kind of education that could offer professional advancement and social mobility, as well as instill strong moral values," McGrew noted. Specifically, they wanted a college like those the missionaries themselves had attended in America and like those started at two other locations in southeastern Turkey.

Dr. McGrew explained that the college did not materialize as quickly as the Armenians had hoped. First came a high school (aptly named Harbinger High School), which itself had been preceded by a girls' school, a theological seminary, and four elementary schools under missionary auspices. The first students of Anatolia

College were graduates of the high school, which continued alongside the college proper as a preparatory school. When Anatolia relocated to Greece, however, the school reverted to being a high school – until 1981, that is, when the tertiary division that would become the American College of Thessaloniki was founded, under the leadership of Dr. McGrew himself. With union with the Girls' School along the way, and the creation of Anatolia Elementary in 2003, Anatolia has now come full historical circle, still under the umbrella of Anatolia College, "a name too good not to be used," as the Rev. George Herrick put it at the school's founding.

After Dr. McGrew's talk, the retiring Executive Director of Public Relations, Rea Samara '72, was presented with the first Charles Tracy Award for Excellence in Administration. President Giesecke

also announced the creation of the Carl Compton Award for Inspirational Teaching, to be henceforth given annually to a member of the faculty. The President encapsulated the commemoration by summarizing the leading themes of Anatolia's history in three words: resilience, innovation, and bi-culturalism. And then there was cake.



Hans Giesecke

Instructional Technologies: Transformation In Progress

The fall term opened across Anatolia's three divisions with a wave of new developments in the domain of teaching technologies that promises to bring an institution-wide transformation in the delivery of instruction. The initiative is supported by new infrastructure, new training programs, and a new office of Instructional Design and Development. The idea is to use technology to promote stimulating, interactive classroom environments to enhance the learning process at all levels.

The changes are most striking in the High School. Thanks in large part to a grant from the U.S. government's USAID program, every classroom and lab has been equipped with

laptops and projectors that transform the new classroom whiteboards into interactive "smartboards." This technology will enable teachers to present material that calls for visualization – from historical maps to problems in trigonometry to the shape of the Shakespearean stage – at the same time as it allows for students to "come to the board" in new, interactive ways. Intensive training of faculty has been taking place and will continue throughout the year.

In the Elementary School all classrooms have now been equipped with computers and interactive whiteboards. The sixth grade

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First Anatolia Science and Technology Conference Breaks New Ground

What if Anatolia were to organize a student scientific conference, a simulation of the kind of scientific congresses at which professional scientists present their research to each other? Could it be done? And would anybody come?

It was done, under the name of the Anatolia College Science and Technology Annual Conference (ACSTAC), in Macedonia and Raphael Halls and in the Eleftheriades Library over the weekend of March 19th and 20th, 2011. And they came: 440 student participants from 32 public, private, and technical high schools in Athens, Rhodes, and Thessaloniki, who presented 96 papers and 12 poster presentations. In short, it was a colossal success.

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Outreach USA

This fall Anatolia is planning a variety of advancement initiatives throughout the U.S., with an initial focus on strengthening networks and building new relationships in key metro areas such as New York City, Washington DC, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Iowa. Naturally, our North American "hometown" of Boston, where contact with trustees, alumni and local business organizations such as Alpha Omega is on our daily agenda, is also on the list, with a November 5 event at the Downtown Harvard Club in honor of the tenth anniversary of the Michael S. Dukakis Chair in Public Policy and Service at ACT.

A cocktail reception in Manhattan at the end of September will offer the opportunity for alumni from the Class of '11 to connect with trustees, other Anatolians and Greek consular officials in the metro area, who will not only welcome them to NYC but provide some insider info on making it in the Big Apple. The establishment of a close working relationship with Leadership 100, an organization of top Greek-American business leaders, as well as media outlets and other diaspora organizations based in the New York area is also underway.

In Washington, DC, Anatolia has been fostering relationships with local friends and alumni who have expressed an interest in playing a more active role in supporting the school, while meetings with Greek-American leaders such as U.S. Congressmen Gus Bilirakis and John Sarbanes, and American Hellenic Institute President Eugene Rossides have opened up several exciting new prospects that promise to enhance Anatolia's presence inside the Beltway.

On the West Coast, a week of meetings with prominent alumni and friends of Anatolia is on the agenda for October, with emphasis on establishing "cells" of friends and supporters in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

This initiative will continue in Chicago, where Anatolia will meet with many of its alumni, former trustees and staunch supporters. Additionally, a call on trustee emeritus John Pappajohn in Des Moines is on the docket, as is a visit to the University of Iowa, one of ACT's oldest study-abroad partners.

It all adds up to a cross-country initiative to bring Anatolia closer to our friends – and them to us.

The Anatolian

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125th Birthday Trustee Challenge Gathers Momentum

Given that this is Anatolia's 125th birthday, €125 (about \$180 at current exchange rates) seemed like a fitting amount to ask all Anatolia alumni to give back to their alma mater as a special 125th birthday present (multiples of ten or one hundred are also gratefully accepted). In any campaign of this type, there is strength in numbers, and the Anatolia Board of Trustees decided last fall that they would double all contributions of €125 during this anniversary year, or until the goal of €80,000 is met. To date more than €45,000 has been raised, but another round of giving is still needed to meet the goal of enhancing scholarship offerings and improving facilities.

The network of volunteer class agents in Greece has been trained (and fired up), and they are doing their utmost to persuade their classmates that despite the hard times – in fact, because of them – this is the year to make a gift to Anatolia. Donors may designate their gift to and its match to one of three uses: the general

fund, scholarships, or the green initiative.

"The culture of annual giving that is so ingrained in American philanthropy is still largely foreign to Greece, but that must change among our alumni if the school is to remain at the forefront of Greek education," comments Peter Chrsanthakes, VP. for Institutional Advancement. "Tuition costs meet Anatolia's basic expenses, but what sets the school apart – its facilities, its scholarship program, the caliber of its faculty, its rich extracurricular offerings – depends on the extra funds that come from capital and annual giving. Such giving is directly related to Anatolia's excellence – as it has been for 125 years."

In addition to the vigorous campaign on the Greek front, Anatolia alumni in America, numbering more than a thousand, are also being called on to support their school. They will be reminded of what they already know, namely that their Anatolia years have helped make them who and what they are. There has never been a more critical time to give back to the school. Besides, in an era of low returns, where else can one see one's money doubled overnight? That is what the Board of Trustees proposes to do. Think of your gift not only as a birthday present, but as an investment in the power of education, the key to the future of Greece and Hellenic ideals around the world. Gifts from friends in America will also be matched by Anatolia's trustees.



Yiannis Rentzeperis '77 Alumna of the Year

Each spring the trustees and administration choose an Anatolia graduate as Alumna (or Alumna) of the Year. This year's award will come as no surprise to anyone who has been following the course of recent capital improvements at Anatolia. The award went to Yiannis Rentzeperis '77, President of the Thessaloniki Anatolia Alumni Association (SAAK) since 2009 and civil engineer, for his vigorous leadership of Anatolia's alumni body and for marshalling support for key projects at the school.

In fact, he was caught in the act of giving, as President Hans Giesecke presented the award to him at the dedication ceremonies for the new 'A school' soccer field, which was funded by the Alumni Association. Besides praising Rentzeperis for his efforts on behalf of Anatolia, the President also thanked him personally for the wise counsel he has given him during the past two years on ways to improve the school's facilities and related infrastructure.

Friends Indeed

Anyone familiar with the Anatolia campus has seen a growing number of plaques discreetly mounted here and there ending with "Given by the Association of the Friends of Anatolia College." Since 1986 the Friends have been raising sums for small-scale but essential capital projects, and they have recently done it again. The latest plaque adorns the wall where Macedonia Hall joins Kyrides Hall, next to a door that was not there before: the door to an elevator that will make it possible for the first time for the disabled to have convenient access to the upper floors of the building. That includes the wheelchair-bound as well as students and faculty who break a leg or sprain an ankle during the course of the year.

The Friends' gift was coupled with one from George Papazian '53, who gave it in memory of his friend and brother Charalambos Papadopoulos '53. President Hans Giesecke warmly thanked Papazian and the Friends at the March 23, 2011 dedication ceremony for their thoughtfulness and generosity in providing a facility to meet a long-felt need.

President Giesecke unveiling the plaque in the presence of members of the Board of the Friends



Panayotis Bernitsas



Constantinos Constantinidis '81



Charis Plakantonaki '97



Irina Taka '95

New Trustees Join Board

Four new members were elected to the Anatolia Board of Trustees in November 2010, bringing new blood and global experience to the table. Three of the four are Anatolia alumni.

Panayotis Bernitsas has been the Managing Partner of the M & P Bernitsas Law Offices since 1984 and continues to have an active, broad-based commercial practice. He is particularly well known for his EU & competition practice and has advised on the implementation of a number of directives in Greece. He has also been involved in major privatizations in Greece. Mr. Bernitsas was Associate Professor of International Economic Law, the Law of International Business Transactions, and European Community Law at the University of Thrace between 1983 and 2007 and served as Counsel to the Prime Minister on E.U. matters from 1989 to 1990.

Constantinos Constantinidis '81, son of Vice-Chairman of the Board Stavros Constantinidis '47, is Managing Director and Vice President of PELOPAC S.A. in Thessaloniki, Greece, a food service export firm. Previously, he was General Manager for Control Air Balkan S.A., President of Ilios International S.A., and Managing Director of Sportswear International S.A. Mr. Constantinidis received his MBA from the Columbia University Graduate School of Business following a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of London's Queen Mary College.

Charis Plakantonaki '97 is Strategy & Planning Advisor for Thenamaris Ltd, a ship management company, as well as Co-Managing Director and Vice President for Emm. Plakantonakis S.A. Construction and Real Estate Development, and ConCrete S.A. Solar Energy & Real Estate Development, both of which are family businesses. Previously, she worked for The Boston Consulting Group, Diageo Hellas S.A., and the Organizing Committee for the Athens 2004 Olympics. Ms. Plakantonaki received her B.S. in International and European Economics & Politics from the University of Macedonia and her MBA from INSEAD.

Irina Taka '95 is General Counsel for Capital Maritime & Trading Corp, Piraeus, Greece, whose holdings include two US-listed tanker companies (CPLP and CRU) and shareholder interests in SKAI television and radio, free press newspapers, real estate, alternative energy interests and sports. She is also legal advisor to EBIE Michaelides S.A., Thessaloniki. Her legal career began as a Corporate Law Associate for Sullivan & Cromwell in New York and London. Ms. Taka holds a B.A. in International Relations from Stanford University and a J.D. from the New York University School of Law.

High School News



How many schools anywhere mount two full-scale dramatic productions, in two different languages, within a month of each other? It happens every year at Anatolia. And this year both involved live music as well.

One expects music from the annual Anatolia musical, of course. This year the show was "Camelot," directed by Holly Marshall with musical direction by Kostas Katsos. "Camelot," which ran on Broadway from 1960 to 1963, is a political fable as well as a comic romance and will always be associated with the idealism and optimism of the Kennedy years. The lines from the concluding number -- "Don't let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment, that was known as Camelot" -- were quoted by Kennedy's widow Jackie in an interview given soon after his death as coming from his favorite song in the score.

By coincidence, the Greek Drama Club also put on a play from the same era, Iakovos Kambanellis' "An Unnamed Tale," from 1959, also with a political message and with music by the great Manos Hatzidakis. Vena Efstathiou, Ivi Kazantzis, and Thanasis Fotiadis directed. Kambanellis, one of Greece's most prominent modern playwrights, and a favorite of the Greek Drama Club, died at the age of 88 less than two weeks after the Anatolia production had closed.



First Anatolia Science and Technology Conference Breaks New Ground

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The conference was the brainchild of Dr. Haido Samara, Anatolia teacher of computer science and now Director of Instructional Design and Development for all three divisions of the College. It was, naturally, also a team effort, involving members of the school's science and math faculty, teachers from other schools, and above all current students, who played key roles on the organizing committee and served with their professors and Anatolia science alumni on the committees charged with evaluating submissions from prospective participants. The school administration embraced the initiative, and generous financial support from Trustee Helen Lindsay '64 and her husband Dan covered the major expenses.

The Conference called for papers in five disciplines: biology and medicine, mathematics, physics, chemistry and environmental science, and computer science and instructional technologies. "The idea was to stimulate the kind of hands-on, exploratory work that produces the most meaningful learning experiences," explains Samara. "As David Perkins has observed, formal learning rarely gives students a chance to learn to 'play a whole game.' For ACSTAC, students experienced what it means to work as a scientist from the day they came up with their idea to the day they stood before an audience to present their paper or poster. We also wanted to promote positive attitudes about research, the ethos of teamwork, and the conception of science as a means of creating new knowledge." The caliber of the submissions, the camaraderie among participants, and the buzz of excitement that was audible before, during, and after the conference showed that those aims were being met.

The Conference also brought distinguished scientists to the Anatolia campus to speak to the participants. Dr. Ioannis Antoniou, Director of the Masters Program of the Mathematics Department of Aristotle University, Dr. Peter Diamandis (via videoconference), Founder and Chairman of the X PRIZE Foundation, Dr. Tefkros Michailidis, mathematics professor and author of books on math and computing, and (via an interview recorded at MIT during last winter's HMUN excursion) game theory innovator and MIT professor Dr. Constantinos Daskalakis. A debate on the question of whether countries should continue funding scientific research given the economic crisis that the world is facing was staged during the closing ceremonies, pitting Dr. Dimitris Keridis '86, Professor at the University of Macedonia, and Dimitris Kokkonis of Athens College against two Anatolia I.B. students, Alexandros Mitkas and Konstantinos Tarabanis, respectively now enrolled at MIT and Harvard. The professors were judged to have won what was a scintillating exchange of points of view.

With what proved to be well-founded foresight, the organizers of the Conference built the word "annual" into its title, and the 2nd ACSTAC will take place at Anatolia this coming March. Those interested in learning more should visit the impressive ACSTAC website (just google it), which includes a 12-minute video on last year's conference as well as an interview that Dr. Samara and three of the student organizers gave to local TV station ERT3.

Summer 2011: From Plato to the Bayou

During summer 2011, 116 students attended 27 summer programs in the U.S., and many others studied or volunteered closer to home: it's all in a year's work for the U.S. College Counseling Summer Abroad Program. The office develops and publicizes the opportunities, arranges for scholarships and (in some cases) faculty escorts, helps students obtain visas, and monitors their summer experiences. At the end of the summer, everyone has stories to tell. Here are two of them.

When Eno Agolli walked into the Summer Programs office last March and announced to director Eva Kanellis that he wanted to study philosophy in the U.S., having had his interest aroused by a book he had plucked from the new arrivals at the Eleftheriades Library, Ms. Kanellis went to work. She found him a unique summer program at the University of Virginia sponsored by the US National Endowment for the Humanities. The catch: it was for high school teachers. The solution: to persuade the director to accept Eno – a top I.B. scholarship student with an excellent command of English, Greek, and Albanian – and to find him a place to live. He was indeed accepted, "to give a student point of view," as he explains, and he was invited to live for the duration of the three-week program with the family of the professor who served as director.

His fellow participants taught at high schools all over the States, and although he was cast in a junior role, he was also the one in the room with the best knowledge of Ancient Greek. More than once the high school student from Greece explained to the teachers what Plato and Aristotle probably meant by certain terms. What made the greatest impression on him? The exposure to American history in Virginia, including a visit to Monticello, the diversity of the people he met, and the different kinds of ethnic



Anatolians (l to r) Constantinos Heliotis, Antonis Mandenakis, Eirini Tsekitsidou, and (top right) Vassilis Morakotinis with Dr. Mark Merchant, three Americans, and a six-foot gator.

food he ate. Now a senior, he plans to attend college in the U.S. next year to study humanities.

Meanwhile, down in the bayous of southwestern Louisiana, each night when the sun went down, I.B. student Eirini Tsekitsidou and three other Anatolians, along with two American high school students and their professor, got into an airboat and, armed with flashlights and a noose on a stick, went hunting alligators. They were participating in a three-week bio-engineering research program at McNeese State University. It seems that although the alligators suffer frequent wounds in fights with each other, they almost never experience infections, despite the high concentration of bacteria in the water. What is the secret of their immunity? The way to find out is to capture them (one at

a time) with the noose, haul them onto the boat, secure their jaws with duct tape, draw blood from the top of the snout, then examine their antibodies back in the lab in the morning.

"Our professor was obsessed with alligators," reports Eirini, "and it rubbed off on us." She had spent part of the prior summer at a science program at Minnesota's St. Cloud University, but this was another world. "When I stepped off the plane, I couldn't breathe," she says. "But I got used to it, even the mosquitoes. The sugar cane, the hospitality of the people, our visit to New Orleans... unforgettable." Eirini, another top I.B. student with an Anatolia scholarship (and a twin brother who was studying physics on a Raphael scholarship at the Northfield Mt. Hermon summer program) hopes to study science at a college in the northeastern U.S. next year.

Special Events 2011

125 Years (Hallelujah)!



Athena Andreadi '95 and members of the Choir

The Trustees convene twice a year, in the spring on campus and in the fall in Boston. It seemed fitting to make their spring 2011 visit a special one, and it involved a celebratory evening at Thessaloniki's Music Hall (the Megaron Musikis), the city's premier concert venue, on May 12th. The headliners were the singers of the London Community Gospel Choir, with top alumna recording artist Athena Andreadi '95 making a special appearance, singing some of her hits, and speaking warmly of her time at the school. The Choir sang uplifting classics from the gospel repertory in lively new arrangements that included audience participation in some of the refrains.

The evening began with a no less inspira-

tional talk by Dr. William McGrew, Anatolia's 8th President, who is currently writing a history of the school. With an audience of Trustees and other special guests, including U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Bennett Smith and Thessaloniki Consul General Catherine Kay, he shared insights into the school's origins and governance as well as the development of its curriculum across the years. He paid special tribute to the role of Anatolia's Greek alumni trustees in recent decades. Ambassador Smith and Anatolia Board Chair Jack Clymer both spoke of the connections that Anatolia has forged between Greece and America and wished for many more years of bi-cultural cooperation.



Dr. William McGrew

'A Side' Soccer Field Dedicated



Yiannis Rentzeperis '77, Jack Clymer, Stavros Constantinidis '47, President Giesecke

There may not be two sides to every school, as there are to every question, but for the last 60 years Anatolia High School has had them. Once it was the Boys' School and the Girls' School, located on either side of a road on the current campus and joined by a pedestrian tunnel. When Anatolia became co-educational, the 'A side' and the 'B side' were born (meaning 'first' and 'second' in Greek). The former Boys' side became the 'B school', and there most of the athletic fields were concentrated. Six years ago, the Alumni Association of Thessaloniki (SAAK) renovated the old soccer field and track.

Facilities are sometimes used in common,

but the 'A side' soccer field was still gravel and dust. No longer! The Alumni Association of Thessaloniki (SAAK) once again generously donated the funds for a beautiful, new, fenced-in, artificial-turf soccer field. Dedication ceremonies took place in the presence of Trustees at alumni Homecoming, May 15. The ideal of "a sound mind in a sound body" was invoked in English and in ancient Greek (Νους ὑγιής ἐν σώματι ὑγιεί). Then the first ball was rolled out and, since the high school students were occupied with exams, students from Anatolia Elementary played the first game. Athletic balance has been restored between the sides of Anatolia High School.



Athens Gets in on the Act



Rena Louzidou '84, Akis Sakellariou '79



Vasilis Vasilikos '52



President Hans Giesecke, Susan Giesecke, George Nasioudjik '50, Ava Georgakopoulou '60

Alumni actors Rena Louzidou '84 and Akis Sakellariou '79 were emcees of what was a double birthday party: an event not only in honor of Anatolia's 125th year, but also of the 60th year of the Alumni Association of Anatolia College in Athens. The occasion was marked by a special fundraising gathering on June 4th at the Nasioudjik Museum in Athens, with the generous support of George Nasioudjik '50.

The event raised €6000 for the school's 125th Campaign, which comes on top of the Athens Alumni Association's support of a boarding scholarship at Anatolia. The evening was dedicated to alumni artists, who responded eagerly to the invitation to exhibit their works.

Speakers included President Giesecke, Athens Alumni Association President Ms. Ava Georgakopoulou '60 and writer Vasilis Vasilikos '52. Friends, members and guests had the chance to view the works of thirty alumni artists and, later, to watch a theatrical performance based on a play written by Rena Rigga '71 and directed by Kostas Athyridis '76. Athina Saravelou '78 and Antonis Kargopoulos '87 played the leads, while Samy Amiris '90 and Maroula Theofilou '95 were responsible for the music. What's a birthday party without a present? One was given to Ms. Nantia Galani '69 in recognition of her continuous and valuable support to the Athens Alumni Association.

Anatolia's Archives Get Professional Treatment



An Appeal for Donations

If you or your family hold photographs, letters, or even home movies relevant to Anatolia's history, please consider giving them to the school, or lending them for digitization. You can do so now secure in the knowledge that they will be handled carefully and contribute to the school's collective memory of itself. Please contact the Bissell Library at Anatolia College.

One of the best 125th birthday presents Anatolia has received this year is kept in a special room of the Bissell Library. It's not a rare volume or a basket of rubies, although some rare volumes are included, and for those with an interest in the history of the school, rubies could not compare with what the room now contains: Anatolia's past in the form of a professionally organized and conserved archive.

Never mind what it was like "Before." Enter Nancy Birk, a retired Special Collections Librarian and Professor of Library Science from Kent State University in Ohio, fresh from a similar volunteer stint at the American Farm School across town. Fortunately for Anatolia, she is a long-time lover of Greece and its American institutions. She came, she saw, and she organized for a period of six months beginning in 2010. The results are immediately apparent if you now step into the Special Collections Room at the Bissell. Some can also be seen on the Bissell Library website, where a banner features the Anatolia Digital Archive. Researchers and the curious can look at old photographs in digital form, with accompanying descriptions.

"One of the things that I find so remarkable about Anatolia," comments Birk, "is the strong at-

tachment that alumni have to this institution. The Archive functions as the historical and collective memory of the school. I came to feel that I was helping to conserve important pieces of people's personal and family histories."

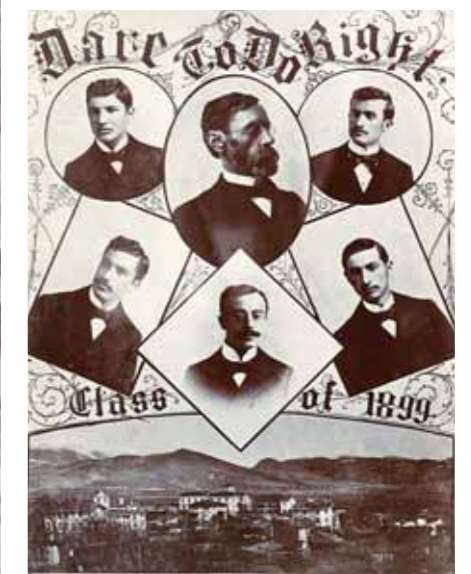
Birk would be the first to say that the Archive is a work in progress; 125 years is a lot of history. Even though some materials were lost during some of the school's most turbulent periods, much remains, including many photographs by the school's outstanding official photographers in Merzifon, the Dildilian brothers. Some of the pictures now digitized will be familiar to those with a prior acquaintance with Anatolia history, but some will be a revelation, not least the aerial views of the current campus at various stages of development from bare fields to today's beautifully landscaped grounds. There is still much to do, and the good news is that Birk is back this fall for another round.



Merzifon Seminary, Anatolia's first building



Class of 1887



Instructional Technologies: Transformation In Progress

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will soon begin to experience learning in a paperless environment, as students will rely on their tablet netbooks for a number of their subjects. Even kindergarten classes now have smartboards, and classrooms in grades 4-6 will have multimedia capabilities. A generation that is growing up with digital technologies outside of school will also be experiencing the best of digital stimulation in Anatolia's classrooms.

Institutionally, ACT has been at the forefront in the use of technology in instruction for a number of years, but five new multimedia classrooms have been created there as well; now

every ACT classroom is able to handle multimedia interactively. Use of the MOODLE platform for digital communication with students is in widespread use by ACT faculty, and the use of so-called Web 2.0 tools (social media, user-generated content) is in the formative stages. Last but not least, Internet bandwidth has been recently doubled schoolwide.

These advances have been accompanied by the creation of the new office of Instructional Design and Development, headed by high school computer teacher Dr. Haido Samara, which is responsible for overseeing the integration of technology into teaching across all divisions. "We know we have been given responsibility for bringing about major changes in teaching and learning at Anatolia," says Samara.

"I want to emphasize that the heart of any classroom is an inspirational, knowledgeable teacher. But we believe we can make such teachers even more effective by giving them the tools to present their lessons in new ways, ways that engage students and involve them actively in the learning process. I am delighted to say that the response from teachers across Anatolia, including veterans, has been overwhelmingly positive. There will be a learning curve, but the potential rewards are great, and I and my colleagues will be there to support the transition."

"Research shows that technology is not a panacea," adds Dr. Panos Vlachos, VP for Academic Affairs, "but it also shows that technology can have a tonic effect on what students absorb from a lesson. We want to make changes that

are meaningful in terms of learning outcomes. We will be assessing what we are doing as a school at every stage of the process."

In addition to inaugurating the IDD Office, Anatolia has appointed an institutional STEM Coordinator (that's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), high school chemistry teacher Dr. Ilias Kalambokis. His role will be to develop and promote extra-curricular opportunities in those fields, as he has already done with the Summer Science and Science Saturday programs.

"We want to be the premier school for science and technology instruction in Greece," states President Hans Giesecke. "The recent changes in infrastructure, staffing, and training all point in that direction."



Study-abroad students visiting the ancient theater at Dodoni in Epirus in summer, 2011. For the fall term, study-abroad enrollment stands at a record 178, with 139 of those students coming from Boston's Northeastern University.

ACT Reaches Out

Tarek Koutaly, ACT class of 2004, MBA 2009, and now Associate Director for European Enrollment Management, was out of the office. "He's in Russia today. You can catch him next week."

"It was a successful trip," says Koutaly. "Quite a few Russians have been to Greece and like the country. The idea that they can get an affordable, American, NEASC-accredited education at ACT and have a healthy Greek student experience at the same time was well received at the university fairs I attended in Moscow, Kazan, Perm, and St. Petersburg. I think something will come of it."

The international mix of students at ACT is part of the institution's DNA. Founded thirty years ago to offer Greek students an alternative at the college level, ACT began to attract students from beyond Greece's northern borders after 1989 as the region emerged from the grip of the Cold War. Greeks still predominate in ACT's four-year degree programs, but students from the Balkan countries are an important presence at the school. Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia,

the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, and Kosovo are all well represented. Besides a contingent of Americans (and the American study-abroad students), there is also a smattering of students from Armenia, Turkey, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Guatemala, and Turkey at ACT this fall.

"It makes for an interesting learning environment," comments David Wisner, Chair of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. "Moreover, our students form international networks that they sustain beyond graduation. Most of them eventually return to their home countries to try to make a difference, and they take their American and Greek experience back with them."

The fledgling Republic of Kosovo (which declared its independence in 2008 after a period under U.N. control) has the most numerous Balkan cohort at ACT, with twenty students, most with merit-aid scholarships. One of them is Fjolla Raifi, now a senior. She's from Mitrovica, the town in Kosovo's north that is divided into Albanian and Serbian enclaves where ethnic

tension sometimes runs high. She came to ACT to study international relations and attended Northern Iowa State University for a semester as a study abroad student. She hopes to return to the U.S. to do a master's degree. "Life in Thessa-

loniki is great," she says. "All of us Balkan students feel at home here." A series of internships at the Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development in Pristina, whose mission is "to promote and strengthen democracy and democratic values in Kosovo and the region," has confirmed her ambition to acquire the education she will need to return to Kosovo and help build her country. In the meantime, she's serving as an ambassador for ACT at Kosovo college fairs.



Fjolla Raifi

Cogll) is flourishing, as a glance at its website, www.eucognition.org, reveals.

On the weekend of April 11-12, 2011, ACT was itself the host of an EUCogll conference on the theme of "Embodiment – Fad or Future?" Mueller explains: "Much research in cognitive science and artificial intelligence has moved away from the notion of a disembodied symbol processor. That is, the body is being studied as an active agent of cognition. This development comes into conflict with the traditional Cartesian view of the separation of mind and body and has implications for artificial cognitive systems. Does embodiment actually lead to better artificial agents (robots, for example)? Will these

English and Business Spawn New Concentrations

"Knowledge is a moving target," remarks ACT Provost Dr. Panos Vlachos, "and our curriculum at ACT must not only track it but aim a little ahead of it. Hence these two new programs, which represent an attempt to educate for emerging fields."

"This is not your father's English major," quips ACT English Coordinator Dr. Eleni Godi about the new B.A. in English. "Our tag line is 'Where Shakespeare meets Facebook.'" Godi is quick to dispel any whiff of modishness, adding that the fundamental things apply. "Our aim is to make students more astute readers, writers, thinkers, and communicators. The English language is the most powerful tool of communication in the world. It is the digital global language of choice, the language where the cultures of the world intersect. Our new major offers concentrations in Language & Literature and Communication & New Media. Both will cultivate students' analytical and creative skills in English and promote their intellectual and professional development. Visit the ACT website – or our Facebook page – for more information."

In ACT's Business Division, something new is also cooking, a concentration is Energy Management & Sustainability. "This is not a big field in Greece at the moment, but it should be," comments Dr. Nikos Kourkoumelis, Chair of the Business Division and former senior executive for Texaco. "The energy business is the largest industry in the world and requires a diverse range of operations. Energy impacts every aspect of society, and energy companies need managers whose primary expertise lies in diverse fields of study. At the end of the day, though, the common denominator is always business. Many of today's energy executives are retiring – some have already retired! – and many job opportunities are expected to open up in the energy field for students with leadership ambitions. This region has great potential in renewables and fossil fuels, and we aim to educate the next generation of energy leaders right here at ACT."

developments remain a passing fad or are they becoming the mainstream? The conference aimed at bringing theoretical clarity to these questions."

What's next? A conference in Groningen, Holland, in October coordinated by Mueller and a Dutch colleague on the theme of "Autonomous activity in real-world environments," and a gathering, also in October, that will bring some of the world's leading theorists and philosophers of artificial intelligence to ACT (details at pt.ai.org). Mueller puts in a plug for the calibre of the school's hosting. "The facilities, support services, and hospitality provided by ACT are world-class."

Commencements 2011



Anatolia High School

On an electric late June evening, with the courtyard in front of Macedonia Hall overflowing with parents, relations, faculty, trustees, and dignitaries, the 235 graduates of the Class of 2011, including 72 from the I.B. Program, passed in pairs through the stone arches and carefully proceeded down the steps of Macedonia to take their seats for the ceremony marking what one of the student speakers aptly called a rite of passage. The graduates heard some blunt – as well as inspiring – language from keynote speaker Antonis Karamas '82, an economic de-

velopment expert as well as a former Anatolia trustee and Minister for Macedonia and Thrace. President Hans Giesecke and VP for Secondary Education George Lysaridis added their own words of wisdom before the traditional awarding of prizes for academic, extracurricular, and athletic achievement, as well as for progress in English. The consensus among speakers old and young: whatever challenges may await the graduates, their years at Anatolia have given them the values, self-confidence, and fast friends to meet them with.



Anatolia Elementary

Eighty-eight students graduated from Anatolia Elementary on June 14th, a record 69 of whom will be moving on to the High School in September. The festive graduation ceremonies for the sixth graders in the Bissell Library amphitheatre saw girls in white dresses and boys in white shirts (with red suspenders) stage an elaborate pageant on themes related to Anatolia's history. Students sang, danced, acted, and recited with a poise that belied their years. It was apparent that they were equally at home in English as well as Greek. School Director Nikolaos Arnaoutis and President Hans Giesecke encouraged the graduates to make some history themselves at Anatolia and the other junior high schools they will be going on to next year.



It was the vision of Anatolia's early leaders to create a multi-ethnic college that offered opportunities for academic and personal development to students of all backgrounds. The realization of that vision was on full display at ACT's June 22nd Commencement ceremonies, where those taking prizes included graduates from Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Armenia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Scholarship holder and valedictorian Ermal Vila, from Albania, paid a moving tribute to what he called his two families: the one headed by his parents and the one constituted by the faculty, staff, and students of ACT. Prominent Greek businessman Nikolaos Pentzios '91 spoke of the values by

which he had lived in the world of business and told the graduates that they had acquired at ACT the tools to meet the certain challenges ahead (in the case of the winner of the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Award, the tools included a check for \$5,000). Dr. Panos Vlachos, Anatolia Vice President for Academic Affairs and ACT Provost, along with President Hans Giesecke, added their congratulations to the 52 members of the Class of 2011. The Philip and Marjorie Ireland Humanitarian and Public Service Award, always a touchstone of ACT's values, went this year to Alexandros Taxildaris for his efforts to make his home city of Komotini a leader in public action and awareness for the disabled.



Academic prize winners in the A Lykeion with Dean Yannis Lalas '67 and Theodoros Kartsiotis

Antonis Karamas '82

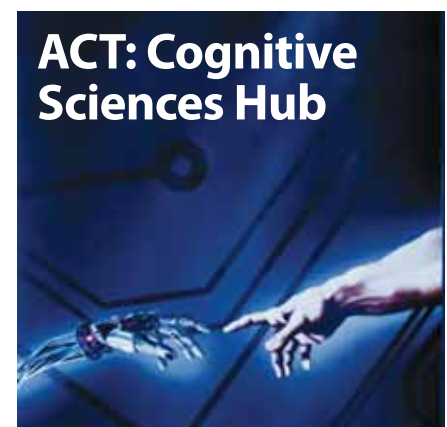
More High School Grads Heading Abroad

Whether it is a case of success in U.S. and U.K. university admissions breeding more success or a sign that Greek youth are increasingly choosing to leave the country (and its struggling university system) for studies and careers abroad, the number of 2011 Anatolia graduates heading to North America and Europe for post-secondary education reached new highs this year. Thirty-four graduates will be studying in the U.S. this fall, while 35 are going to the U.K., two apiece to Italy and Hungary, and single students to Australia, Austria, France, and Switzerland.

Two of the top I.B. students will attend Harvard University with significant financial support, three will go to Northeastern, and two apiece to NYU and Washington's American University. Others will head West, South, and in-between, with single students going

to Cornell, Dickinson, John Carroll, Lewis & Clark, Loyola Marymount, MIT, Pratt Institute, Reed, Sarah Lawrence, Savannah College of Art and design, Smith, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stony Brook, the University of Chicago, the University of Miami, Vassar, and Worcester Polytechnic, many with substantial financial aid packages. Several students elected to attend an American institution closer to home: ACT, Anatolia's own tertiary division, and others may follow now that Greek university offers have been announced.

"I love to see our graduates going to colleges and universities where Anatolians have not been before, at least not in recent years," comments Eva Kanellis, Director of U.S. College Counseling. "It shows that our students are getting to know the U.S. better and the wide variety of opportunities it affords."



ACT: Cognitive Sciences Hub

In February 2009, after winning a grant from the European Commission's Information and Communication Technologies division, ACT assumed leadership of a consortium of European universities in the field of artificial cognitive systems, or artificial intelligence, as the field is popularly known. The grant made possible the establishment of a network of researchers, now numbering 770 members, in diverse fields having to do with cognitive systems. Dr. Vincent Mueller, Professor of Philosophy at ACT, is coordinator of the network. The original grant was for three years, and it has now been renewed for another three, with an overall budget of four million euros. The network (known as EU-



Ermal Vila - President Giesecke

Nikolaos Pentzios '91

Yiannis Boutaris '60 Elected Mayor of Thessaloniki

For 24 years, the mayoralty of Thessaloniki had been in the hands of Greece's center-right party. No longer. On November 14, 2010, Yiannis Boutaris '60, running as the head of a party of his own making called "Initiative for Thessaloniki," staged a come-from-behind runoff election victory, beating his New Democracy opponent by 329 votes out of more than 100,000 cast. An outsider also won the mayoralty in Athens. Clearly the Greek electorate was ready for something new. They got it in Boutaris, the first Anatolian to hold the office of mayor in the country's second largest city, with a population of more than a million.

Although Boutaris, 69, had served on the city council for eight years and had run for mayor four years before, he is not a career politician. After graduating from Anatolia he studied Chemistry at the University of Thessaloniki, then joined the family wine-making business, started by his great-grandfather in 1879. With his brother he built it into one of Greece's leading brands, then struck out on his own to begin the Kir-Yianni winery in 1997, which is now run by his sons. He has also been an environmental activist, founding an organization, Arcturos, to protect the endangered brown bear and wolves of Northern Greece and helping to conserve the traditional village of Nymphaion outside of Florina. He served briefly as an Anatolia trustee in the 1990s.

His politics are on the left, but he has mostly

operated independently of Greece's party structure. He wears a gold stud in his left ear and two years ago had a lizard tattooed on his right hand (a symbol of renaissance, he explains). He has a habit of speaking his mind



and not mincing his words. He calls himself an alcoholic, although he has not had a drink in twenty years. Blunt but kindly, Boutaris spends time with his six grandchildren when not running the city.



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His platform called for a common sense approach to problems; a repudiation of party mentality; economic relief for both businesses and the city's disenfranchised; development of the city as a tourist destination, with open-

“For me the primary responsibility of a socially conscious leadership class... is to contribute to and not to lessen the ability of Thessaloniki to have a dynamic, meritocratic, and developed elite such as the one created by the educational experience at schools like Anatolia.”

ings to Israel and Turkish markets, to capitalize on elements of Thessaloniki's ethnic past; modernization of the city's infrastructure (including its human resources -- he suggested cutting the size of the workforce at City Hall in

half); environmental initiatives; and above all, the development of an urban social conscience on the part of all citizens.

No sooner had he taken office than garbage piled up on the streets. The garbage trucks had no gas. Someone had stolen the entire supply of fuel within a day of its delivery to the city. A deficit of 60 million dollars from the past year was discovered. The former mayor is among those under investigation for embezzlement.

But Boutaris has set a new tone for city politics. His election was cited by the New York Times of one the reasons that Thessaloniki was chosen as one of "41 Places To Go In 2011." He has gathered around him a team that includes some other Anatolians in key positions. Hasdai Kapon '81 is serving as Managing Director of Finance and Economic Development, and Calypso Goula '84 as Vice-Mayor for Social Solidarity and Protection. With the city hard-hit by the economic crisis, the mayor and his team have their work cut out for them. All Anatolians wish them the best.



Hasdai Kapon '81



Calypso Goula '84

The Development of a Socially Conscious Thessaloniki

Excerpts from a talk delivered by the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Yiannis Boutaris '60, to the Anatolia Alumni Association at Anatolia's Raphael Hall, March 23, 2011. The full text is available at www.anatolia.edu.gr

Good evening, everyone. I'm going to get right down to business. Why the development of a socially conscious Thessaloniki? Why am I speaking about this subject to a group of Anatolia graduates, being one myself?

Let's take things one step at a time. We can't have a successful Thessaloniki, with all the characteristics of a successful European city, without a socially aware, urban, upper middle class, one that is conscious of its obligations to the collective life of the city and determined to fulfill those obligations.

In our time the historical experience of participating in public affairs and the proper management of the public interest survives in some pockets of our city, and Anatolia is surely one of those. The Anatolia of today constitutes a reminder of the ethical conduct of our ancestors, whether they came from the Pontus, Asia Minor, Macedonia, or Epirus.

For me the primary responsibility of a socially conscious leadership class, for the good of the city and therefore for the good of all of us, individually and collectively, is to contribute

to and not to lessen the ability of Thessaloniki to have a dynamic, meritocratic, and developed elite such as the one created by the educational experience at schools like Anatolia. That obligation presupposes not only meritocratic procedures for entry to schools like Anatolia but the setting aside of funds by the well-off among us so that the children of other families can attend schools like ours on scholarship.

Only in such a city will our own children prosper. Because the world we live in remains competitive and outruns by a wide margin our powers as parents to protect our children for life inside of castes. Because a city that is run by castes can only decline.

My job as Mayor is not so much that I do things as that I organize, co-ordinate, and above all incite others to do things. That means that I expect much from the most privileged of my fellow citizens, that is, from people like you. I am counting on your willingness to give your time and your financial support to actions that will bring into being a modern,

human, and refined urban environment.

What am I able to give you in return? Nothing and everything. Nothing in the way of favors, especially material ones. Everything in the way of recognition for your generous and effective contributions as leading citizens of Thessaloniki. Everything too in terms of the returns to you and also to your fellow townspeople, namely, a Thessaloniki that because of you will be a city which first and foremost you and your families will be happy with, a city with a rich artistic life, a city which will continuously draw interesting people and initiatives from all over the world, a city that will take care of the weak and make the foreigner feel at home.

I expect you to participate richly, and not out of narrow self- or professional interest, in the changes that are being implemented at the national level but the nature of which will affect the outlook for Thessaloniki. I expect you to support, not resist, the changes which will make the domains in which you work more open and competitive. I expect you to support transparency and proper management of the

city's public organizations for which you work, whether universities, hospitals, or something else. I expect you to welcome the influx of capital and technical knowledge into Thessaloniki across the spectrum of the activities of our city, even when it may harm your narrow personal interests in the short term.

For those of you who have sons and daughters who prefer to live in more successful cities abroad, because Thessaloniki doesn't make use of their training and talents, or satisfy their ambitions, I am counting on you to help me build a city like the one where your children are now living. A city, that is, that they might wish to return to, their own Thessaloniki, one that has developed a social conscience.

Ladies and gentlemen, just as you expect a lot from me, I expect a lot from you. I am fully convinced that whatever I may give to you, as citizens of Thessaloniki or its suburbs, you yourselves can give much more to the city. Because, if for no other reason, the school from which you have graduated has made you capable of doing it.