



Alumni granted recognition of professional equivalence for their degree

As of March, 2017, the Council for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (SAEP) of the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs has begun to grant recognition of professional equivalence of Hellenic American University degrees earned by graduates of Hellenic American College. To date, alumni from the BM, BAELL, BSPSY and MSIT degree programs have informed Hellenic American College's Career Development Office that they have been notified by SAEP of the recognition of their degrees.

Furthermore, with the ratification by Parliament of the recent legislation on higher education, the process for the awarding of professional equivalence has

now been simplified. Once SAEP has issued a positive ruling on equivalence for a particular degree, as for example in the case of the University's Bachelor of Music or BAELL, a precedent is established, and subsequent applications for the same degree are processed and equivalence issued by the Ministry of Education without the need for review by SAEP.

In a statement prepared for the College website, Hellenic American University President Leonidas Phoebus Koskos noted, "We are pleased for our graduates, of course, especially in light of the years of hard work and study they devoted to earning their degree. But just as importantly, this recognition comes as a

reward for the University's long-standing, unwavering commitment to academic quality. It is a commitment we have demonstrated to our American regulatory and accreditation bodies, and it affords us great satisfaction to have this commitment recognized by the Hellenic Ministry of Education as well."

The Hellenic American College Career Development Office can help graduates gather the required documentation and submit the relevant application in order to have the professional equivalence of their degree recognized. Alumni can contact the Career Development Office at 2103680992, e-mail: careers@haec.gr.



Melina Michalopoulou, Valentini Andreoula

Melina Michalopoulou, BAELL '17 and Valentini Andreoula, MAAL '17

A key aspect of Hellenic American University's mission is to offer career-relevant higher education. But have you wondered what exactly career-relevant means? At a time when advances in technology are radically transforming the world of work—and at an unprecedentedly rapid rate—how is it even possible to know what will be relevant in the near future? As former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley once said, "We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that haven't been invented, in order to solve problems that we don't even know are problems yet."

The image of a life-time job in the same field for the same or similar companies is no longer valid or indeed for many even desirable. Once out of college, the average worker can now expect to change jobs up to ten or more times by the time they're 50. Change has become an integral element of career development, and career-relevant education is meaningful if it enables students to adapt to and accommodate change. How you learn has become as important as, if not more important than what you learn, which is why the University places such emphasis on students' becoming autonomous, life-long learners.

This issue of Connect looks at two inspiring examples of such change, both members of the class of 2017. One is Valentini Andreoula, a MAAL graduate with 15 years of experience in the banking sector who is now working as a teacher while studying for her Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics. The other is Melina Michalopoulou, a BAELL graduate who shifted in the opposite direction towards the world of business and is now working in the Public Affairs and Communications Division of Coca-Cola Hellas. Two different career trajectories, both involving change, both marked by a passion for language.

For as long as Melina remembers, she was

fascinated by the English language, an interest she pursued right up to college. She earned not one, but two undergraduate degrees in English Language and Literature: one from Hellenic American University and another from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens—and both more or less at the same time. "I wanted to do more in linguistics than I could do in my program at the University of Athens, and that was something I could do in the BAELL," she explains. "I was also fortunate to get a partial scholarship because my mom works for a multinational company that participated in Hellenic American College's corporate grant program."

While at Hellenic American College, Melina also completed a minor in Business, a choice motivated at first by her interest in teaching English to professionals in business and other fields but also by a desire to acquire skills that would make her more competitive on the job market.

Although Melina had worked as a summer assistant in the HR Department of Landis+Gyr in Corinth, it was the internship she did at the Libra Group in Summer 2016 that enabled her to gain first-hand a better understanding of how business works. She found out about the opportunity from Dr. Sophia Protopapa, Director of the College's Career Development Office, who encouraged her to apply and helped her prepare her dossier and prep for the interview (a service, by the way, that the CDO offers alumni as well).

Melina found her liberal arts education valuable preparation for the internship and even more so for her current job as a Public Affairs and Communications intern at Coca-Cola Hellas. "It's really the way I was taught to think and approach problems that helped. At work, I receive some general instructions on what needs to be done and the desired outcome, but the rest is up to me. So, things I learned during my studies like communication in English, of course, but also conducting research, using critical judgment—that's all been really important."

Many executives would agree with her. A 2013 survey of business and non-profit leaders conducted by the Association of American Colleges & Universities revealed that 9 out of 10 executives surveyed say that a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important in hiring than a candidate's undergraduate major.

For Valentini Andreoula, teaching had always been a dream. Instead, parental advice and the prospects of a sure job upon graduation convinced her to study Accounting at university. But the dream was still there and for a while, she tried to do both, working part-time at a language school after her 9-to-5 job at the bank. But it was exhausting in the long run.

Leaving the bank at the time wasn't an option. As Valentini explains, "When you start to make money, it's hard to change and leave it behind, especially when you have a young child." But an opportunity came up when the bank embarked on a major downsizing operation and offered her a compensation package if she resigned. She took up the offer.

Her first step was to get some training as an EFL teacher and she began the TESOL program at the Hellenic American Education Center, where she learned about the MAAL. "My first thought was this is exactly what I want to do. My second was, I can't do a Master's in Applied Linguistics, I only know about debit and credit and interest rates!" But a visit a few months later with the Director of the MAAL, Dr. Christine Niakaris, convinced her to apply.

Shifting back into the academic world was challenging a first, and Valentini confesses feeling a bit intimidated during her first days in the MAAL program. "I remember being in class on the first day listening to the other students introduce themselves, and they all seemed to have years of experience in teaching. And then my turn comes up and I tell them I've been working in accounting and banking for 15 years. They looked at me as if to say, 'what are you doing here?'" She smiles and adds, "But you survive."

In fact, Valentini did more than just survive. She graduated from the MAAL first in her class, found work as an English teacher at the Hellenic American Union, and was accepted into the Ph.D. program in Applied Linguistics. It turns out her experience in business, including a few years

as an instructor in the bank's employee training program, was an advantage during her studies—and in her work now teaching young learners and adults at the Hellenic American Union. Making a class presentation or working on a group project wasn't anything new for her. "At the bank, you have to work with different members of the team, and interact with all kinds of people, including clients who could sometimes be very difficult," she says. "Dealing with a student's parents seems a whole lot easier."

More important to her success, however, has been her keen intellectual interest in how people learn languages and her passion for teaching. One gets the sense talking to her that she truly enjoyed her studies in the MAAL. Maybe because she's living her dream come true. In her valedictory at the recent Hellenic American University Commencement, Valentini encouraged her fellow graduates to live their dreams, borrowing the words of Christopher Reeve to remind them that the improbable dream becomes inevitable when one summons the will to achieve it.

Although determination and passion are crucial elements in shifting careers, successfully transitioning to a new field requires both support and appropriate training. Universities such as Stanford have developed dedicated programs to help accomplished professionals with major career changes, and many American colleges and universities, including Hellenic American University, offers tuition discounts for alumni who want to take courses for their further professional development. If you're interested in doing so, contact the Coordinator of Alumni Affairs at alumni affairs@hauniv.edu



JOIN US FOR
CAREER DAY
2017

Hellenic American College's 1st Annual Career Day will give you the opportunity to meet and network with company representatives, learn more about career pathways, and gain insight into trends in the labor market.

If you are currently working and think your company might be interested in participating, **Career Day 2017** offers your firm a great opportunity to present its business, students and graduates in a variety of fields.

When: Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 10.00 - 13.00

Where: Auditorium, 22 Massalias Street, Kolonaki, 2nd floor

To participate in the Career Day:

- a)** use the [online booking platform](https://www.eventbrite.com/myevent?eid=35815277459) to reserve your seat(s)—the same form can be used for individual and company bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com/myevent?eid=35815277459>
- b)** send an updated resume to the Career Development Office to careers@haec.gr

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



in cooperation with



Dr. Eva Fragkiadaki



In Fall 2016 the University community welcomed Dr. Eva Fragkiadaki as the new Director of the Psychology Division and member of the Psychology faculty.

After earning her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from City University in London, where she also did her clinical training, Dr. Fragkiadaki returned to Greece and founded “Psychonoisi”, a psychotherapy and counseling center in Iraklio, Crete. It was also on Crete where she began her academic career, serving as Adjunct Professor at the University of Crete and at the Technological Educational Institute of Crete.

Dr. Fragkiadaki epitomizes the research-practitioner model of psychology that she is hoping to strengthen at Hellenic American University. A clinical trainer and supervisor who works within the

tradition of cognitive behavior therapy and psychodynamic psychotherapy, she is also highly engaged in research. One of her fields of interest is qualitative research on the professional development of psychologists and therapists—an area she sees herself drawing on in her new role.

Not surprisingly, one of her priorities in her new position at Hellenic American University is to further integrate research in the undergraduate and particularly the graduate Psychology programs. “I want our graduate students to see their dissertation as a chance to do original, publishable work. It can be a single case study or a huge randomized control study with 200 participants, as long as it’s robust and rigorous research,” she says.

One recent example of this research focus is the fieldwork MSPSY students are doing as part of their ethics class, for which they are conducting interviews of practicing psychologists. Within this context, Dr. Fragkiadaki has also created a research group where the students meet biweekly to discuss their work to date and receive further training in qualitative research. The students presented their work at the 16th

Pan-Hellenic Conference of Psychological Research that was held in Thessaloniki in May 2016.

Complementing the research component is the effort Dr. Fragkiadaki is undertaking to broaden opportunities for students to see theory in practice. “My aspiration is for the Psychology Division to provide rigorous and stimulating studies. For me, part of what stimulating means is to see theory in practice, which is why I want to strengthen the volunteer internship program for undergraduates. It’s important for our students to have a clear view of what it means to be a psychologist, out there in the community.”

Dr. Fragkiadaki notes that the work psychologists do covers a broad spectrum of activities, ranging from therapy to research and includes areas such as occupational and sports psychology and even forensic psychology. “One of the things I would like our students to do during their studies,” she says, “is precisely to find out what they’re really interested in. Our program should help them see the range of professional choices they have.”

Free Graduate Courses in Digital Marketing and Big Data

Interested in expanding your portfolio of business or technical skills and acquiring new ones in an area with increasing—and still unmet—demand? Digital marketing and big data are two of the fastest growing specializations in business and IT, and Hellenic American College is offering alumni/ae two free courses in these fields.

One is BUS520 Integrating Marketing in a Digital Age, which teaches the essentials of planning, implementing and assessing digital marketing practices. The other is IT6274 Data Mining and Data Warehousing, which explores how to plan for, design, build, populate and maintain a successful data warehouse, as well as the use of various data mining systems. Both courses are entry points to the specialization and a certificate. More information on the courses can be found on the online course-catalog on the University’s website at <http://hauniv.edu/academics/course-catalog>.

A limited number of free places are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on how to apply, please contact alumniaffairs@hauniv.edu. Registration needs to be finalized no later than one week before classes start.

These courses are the first in a series of continuing professional education opportunities for alumni/ae. Free courses will be offered in other disciplines as well. In the meantime, keep in mind that all Hellenic American University are entitled to a tuition discount on University courses they wish to audit.

Faculty News



Dr. Vassiliki Kourbani

Dr. Themis Kaniklidou,

Assistant Professor of Translation and Coordinator of the M.A. in Translation program, gave a guest lecture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) on November 2, 2016. The lecture, organized by UNCC's Department of Languages & Culture Studies, explored news translation in the global context.

Eudaimonia as a Way of Life: a conversation with Aristotle inspired by the Nicomachean Ethics is the title of a new book by **Dr. Sophia Protopapa**, Director of the Hellenic American College Career Development Office. The work explores the philosopher's idea of *eudaimonia* (often translated as happiness but, as Dr. Protopapa points out, a much deeper concept) as an activity of the soul driven by virtue and a product of a life lived with engagement and self-reflection.

Dr. Leonidas Tzonis,

Assistant Professor of Finance and Chief Financial Officer of Hellenic American University, was a featured speaker at a recent international conference on "History and Orthodoxy:

Methodological Concerns and Ecclesial Consciousness in the Management of Crisis". The Conference, which was held at the Monastery of Timios Prodromos in Serres on October 28-30, 2016, was organized by the joint Master's degree program in Ecclesiastical History of the Schools of Theology of the National and Capodistrian University of Athens and the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.

Among the speakers at the 2016 Goodtechs Conference, organized by the European Alliance for Innovation, was **Dr. George Bravos**, Assistant Professor of Information Technology and Director of IT Programs, who delivered a paper on "Enabling Smart Objects in Cities towards Urban Sustainable Mobility-as-a-Service: A Capability-Driven Modeling approach." The conference, which took place in Venice, Italy on November 30th to December 1st, focused on smart objects and technologies for social good.

Assistant Professor **Dr. Maria Koliris** and Ms. **Antigoni**

Merlioglou, an adjunct faculty member in the Psychology programs, ran a workshop for mental health professionals at the 6th Pan-Hellenic Counseling Psychology Conference, which was held in Athens on November 2 – 4. Their workshop centered on the creative synthesis of theories in therapeutic practice.

Dr. Vassiliki Kourbani has been re-elected to the Board of the European Writing Centers Association (EWCA) for the term 2016-2018. The 700-member EWCA was founded in Spring 1998 as a framework for European universities to exchange ideas and disseminate information on Writing Center goals, practices and infrastructure.

Congratulations to Ms. **Barbara Kondilis**, faculty member in the Psychology program, for winning first prize in the category of Best Table Topics (impromptu talks) at the 2016 Toastmasters European District 59 finals, which were held in Madrid November 11-13. You can see her winning impromptu talk at <http://tinyurl.com/zrk953l>

Provost's Update: De-coding "Regulatory Re-Authorization"

On October 2, 2016, we received a visit by a team from the New Hampshire Department of Education, Division of Higher Education-Higher Education Commission. We spent many months preparing for the visit, meeting regularly as faculty and staff to prepare a Report that described our processes and policies and documented our compliance with the Commission's standards. During the 3-day onsite visit we provided the team with access to our administration, trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni.

I want to thank all the University's constituencies for their support and to you, our Alumni, for your key contribution to this endeavor. Why was this process and the visit important? As you know, in May 2004 Hellenic American University was authorized to operate as a university chartered in New Hampshire and was granted degree-granting authority by the State legislature. This authorization is subject to the authority of the State's Higher Education Commission, which is the regulatory body for all colleges and universities in the State. In the years after we received initial authorization by the Commission, our authorization has been confirmed at regular intervals and extended to include additional degree programs.

Following the team's visit, the University's authorization was again validated, with the Commission approving the University's degree-granting authority through June 30, 2018.

Dr. Triant Flouris
Provost

European accreditation received for the MSPSY, Clinical Mental Health Counseling

The Hellenic American University's Master of Psychology, Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration has been accredited by the European Association for Counseling (EAC) and by the Hellenic Association for Counseling as well. The EAC is a professional body which accredits training programs in order to ensure the ethical practice of the Association's counsellor-members. Accreditation with the EAC is valid in all countries of the EU where members can practice as counsellors. The accreditation comes after a review by EAC of the program and the relevant documentation the University submitted in support of its application in Fall 2016.

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialization shares much of the curriculum of the Clinical Psychology concentration but requires an additional, third year of study. Ordinarily, students use this additional year to complete their two internships and their Master's thesis. As the Director of the University's Psychology Division, Dr. Eva Fragkiadaki notes, the program provides a robust clinical training based on cognitive behavioral therapy principles, with students conducting 600 hours of one-to-one supervised clinical and counseling work. Upon graduating from the program, alumni/ae automatically become accredited members of both the Hellenic and the European Associations for Counseling.

Alumni Mentorship program

The Hellenic American University Alumni Association is happy to announce the launch in September 2017 of the Alumni Mentorship program. A joint initiative with the Career Development Office and the Office of Student Affairs, the program pairs undergraduate students one-on-one with alumni who serve as guides and mentors, providing career advice and sharing their expertise and insight into the workplace and labor market. The program is

an excellent way for alumni to reconnect to the University, and at the same time, a chance to make a real difference in the lives of students.

We'll be sending you an email soon with more details on how the program works. In the meantime, if you're interested in becoming a Mentor you can contact Mr. Vasilis Karapetsas, Director of Student Affairs, at vkarpetsas@hauniv.edu, 2103680916.



Hellenic American University held its 9th Commencement this Saturday evening, July 1st, at the auditorium of the American Community Schools in Halandri, Athens.

The graduating students of the Class of 2017 were joined by friends, family and distinguished guests, as well as members of the Hellenic American University Board of Trustees and its faculty, staff and executive officers—all told, roughly 600 persons—in celebrating the culmination of their academic journey and the beginning of a new one.

During the ceremony and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and faculty of the University, President Leonidas Phoebus Koskos awarded

a Doctorate of Humane Letters to Stavros Ioannis Benos, former Minister of Public Administration and Decentralization, former Mayor of Kalamata and President of the NGO Diazoma. In his citation, President Koskos said that in bestowing this title the University was honoring a man of visionary action whose life demonstrates to others how “with their own hands and heart and mind, they can make something of value for themselves and their community.”

Both the Athens and New Hampshire campuses were represented at Commencement, with Alicia Kocinski (MBA ‘17) delivering an address on behalf of her US classmates. Valedictories

were given by Valentini Andreoula (MAAL ‘17) and Vasiliki Kourogrou (BSPSY ‘17) from the Athens campus.

This year’s ceremonies were marked by a particularly rich music program. The concert included jazz renditions of popular music, performed by students from the Philippos Nakas Conservatory, with which the University has developed a promising strategic partnership.

With their degree awarded, the new graduates automatically become members of the Alumni Association of Hellenic American University and, of course, eligible for the benefits and services that all alumni receive.

*“It is wise to keep in mind that neither success
nor failure is ever final.”*

Roger Babson, 1875-1967, American entrepreneur

Alumni News

Dimitris Valsamis (BIST '17) is working as a systems engineer at SIEBEN.

Argyro Exarchou (BSPsy '12, MSPSY '18), together with current MSPSY students Evgenia Karamani, Evangelia Karamouzi-Papadimitriou, Alexandra Pappa-Katsiafa and Dimitra Karousou, and Psychology faculty Drs. Maria Koliris, and Eva Fragkakadaki, presented research on *"The Personal Meaning Therapists Attribute to Ethics: The 'Grey Zone' of Clinical Practice"* at the 16th Panhellenic Conference in Research in Psychology, organized in May 2017, at Thessaloniki.

Elena Cami (BAELL '16) is working as a database operations assistant at Cannes Lions

International Festival Creativity in London U.K.

Vasiliki Kouroglou (BSPsy '17) and **Hanna Rivera** (BSPsy '17), who were this year's undergraduate valedictorian and salutatorian at commencement, respectively, are both pursuing graduate studies in the MSPSY program.

Alicia Kocinski (MBA '17) is a financial associate at Fidelity Investments in New Hampshire.

Maria Dimitrakaki (MAAL '17) is now working as an English teacher and program coordinator at the University of Sussex' international summer school t in the UK.

Mandy Giouvanelli (MAT '17)

presented research in collaboration with faculty member Dr. Vassilis Manoussakis during the 6th Meeting of Greek – Speaking Translation Studies Scholars, which took place May 25-27, 2017 at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Their presentation was entitled *"Don't shoot the subtitle: the translational approach of puns, jokes and cultural references in audiovisual translation for TV and cinema"*. Ms. Giovenelli has also accepted a six-month assignment with DELUXE LOCALIZATION at their headquarters in London.

MAT alumnae ('16) **Maria Efstathiou, Eleni Rizou, Andriani Katsigianni** and **Christina Maniati** have started their own translation agency called linguamare.

Share Your Good News!

Have you found a new job or been given a promotion? Gotten an article published or run a marathon? Moved to a new town or city? We invite you to share your accomplishments with the rest of the alumni community. Just email us at alumninews@hauniv.edu a short note about what you've been up to recently. We'd be happy to share your news in a coming issue of the Alumni Newsletter.

Alumni Services

As an alumnus/a of Hellenic American College you continue to have free access to services such as:

The Career Development Office

Take advantage of career counseling and resources to develop your career. Get assistance on honing your professional and personal skills, and hands-on help in practical areas such as effective job search, résumé writing, and interviews. Find information on internships, volunteer service and networking opportunities.

The Counseling Center

In a safe and respectful space, graduates can receive confidential psychological support on a wide range of issues. The center can help you cultivate life skills necessary for personal and professional development, gain insight into your own resources and empower self-care strategies.

The Writing Center

Need help in preparing a conference presentation or editing a cover letter for a job application? Want assistance in improving the structure of a business report you're writing? Through onsite and online tutoring, the Writing Center provides personalized assistance at all stages of the writing process and in all tasks.

The Alumni Association Board

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