

## 2016 Commencement



On June 30th, Hellenic American University celebrated its 8th Commencement. Honored guests, family and friends, faculty and administration celebrated the accomplishments of our graduating class and wished them success in the new journey ahead. With this year's Commencement, our Alumni family has grown by 60 members, each adding something unique to the mix.

We gathered at the Theater of the American Community Schools to join in celebrating our graduating class and their families as they marked the beginning of a new chapter in their lives. In the troubled times we live in, the class of 2016 was reminded of the importance of

continuing to strive for the best possible outcome. They were reminded that the education they received within the walls of our institution was meant to guide them in what they want to accomplish.

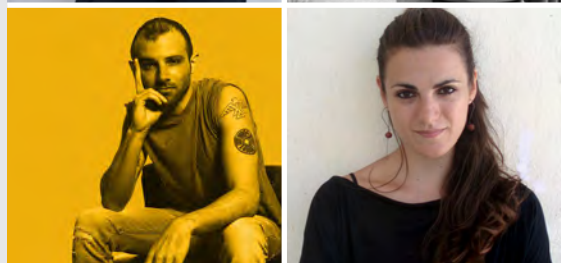
At 7:15 p.m. the processional entered the hall to the sounds of Jean Baptiste Lully's "Te Deum". In the traditional ceremony that followed, the class of 2016 were awarded their degrees and joined the ranks of our distinguished alumni. Along with them, and keeping with university tradition, His Eminence Gabriel, Metropolitan of Nea Ionis and Philadelphia was named Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa. In his address to the 2016 Graduating Class, His Eminence

highlighted the importance of education as a life-long ongoing process that is "not merely the acquisition of knowledge but a matter of self-transformation." While crisis may make us turn inward, he pointed out, it is important to maintain our humanity, help those in need, and keep our spirituality alive.

*To the class of 2016: Remember that the road ahead will not always be easy. Do not scare easily. Keep fighting for your dreams, keep your hopes alive and most of all, remain human. This is not goodbye but the beginning of a new journey, one which we will always be part of.*

Class of 2016 – Congratulations!!!

# Alumni Success story



Andreas Tselikas, Stathis Kampylis,  
William Antoniou, Konstantina Polychronopoulou

## Alumni Success Story: The 2013 BM Alumni

The Music Department's graduating class of 2013—William Antoniou, Stathis Kampylis, Konstantina Polichronopoulou and Andreas Tselikas—returned to the College this May for an unusual homecoming. The occasion was the "Hellenic American University Young Creators" concert, which featured works written by the four alumni, as well as pieces written by two current students in the composition strand of the Bachelor of Music program, Manos Markantonis and Charalampos Risvas.

All four alumni recall the encouragement, support and guidance they received from their faculty. Konstantina remembers how while a student, her mentor Ioannis Tselikas had recommended her to transcribe Stravinsky's "Suite de Pulcinella" for the Kyklos Ensemble, which was performed at Athens Megaron Concert Hall. A pianist and composer who collaborates frequently with choreographers and visual artists, Konstantina is also an engaged educator. After graduating from the University, she earned a Master's degree in music education from the University of Nicosia and now teaches piano at the Nakas Conservatory. In March of this year her piece "Nostalgia" was performed by L'Anima String Quartet and Electronics at the Music in Motion Festival.

Stathis, too, noted the opportunities he had as a young composer to have his work performed, both at the HAU and at the Athens' Concert Hall. For the young composer, his undergraduate degree in Music gave him the foundations to pursue advanced studies in composition. He's currently doing his PhD in electroacoustic

composition in the Music Department of the University of Bristol. His investigations focus on creating electroacoustic works which make use of a brain-computer music interface as a random generator.

Speaking of journey, William, who is officially the first University's first composition student, also talked about the connections he had found between student life at HAU and his professional career. "It's the process itself. Most of the work I did as a student at HAU was performed in one way or another either at the HAU Theater or elsewhere. In my opinion this is the best way to 'study' because while you may still be a student, your work is heard and critiqued by actual audiences, as opposed to just your professors."

He's now working on several film and theater projects in New York, London and Greece, including the music for Rachael Hunt's *Poker Face* and *Tingle*, directed by Mia Moldovan. His music for *Lucy*, a Greek production directed by Stamatis Giannoulis, won him the award for Best Original Score at the Los Angeles Shorts Film Festival. Hopefully, at some point in the future we here in Athens will get to see his new opera (working title: *The Turing Opera*), which he's now finishing and which will be getting its first major reading in New York this October.

Opera is on Andreas' creative horizon right now as well. He's currently working on a new opera project for the City of Athens Symphony Orchestra, where he serves as conductor in residence. The project is Giuseppe Verdi *Ernani*, which will open the new season on September 18th and which has not been played in Greece for the last fifty years. Future engagements include symphonic concerts with major Greek symphony orchestras and opera projects with companies abroad.

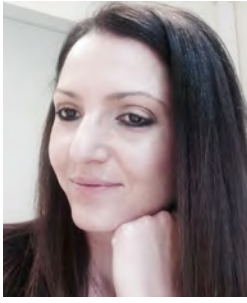
Andreas also found a close connection between study-life and real-life. "HAU offered such a significant study program," he says, "that working in real-life felt like a familiar procedure that has been accomplished with success previously."

This reunion was a moving moment for the alumni. Although their music has been performed at numerous venues in Greece and abroad, they say it was an honor to have their work performed at the College. As Andreas says, "I feel very touched that I have already 3 premieres of my music performed at HAU. I feel as if I'm at home and can express my deepest thoughts and ideas freely."

It is a feeling William echoes. "I was allowed to do my thing," he says. "I wasn't forced to work within any parameters. I was given full freedom as to the type of pieces I wanted to present, the styles, and instruments."

*The Hellenic American University Young Creators concert was held on May 17, 2016, and was organized in cooperation with the Greek Composers' Union.*

## Dr. Evangelia Siachou



It's been an eventful academic year for Dr. Evangelia Siachou, Assistant Professor in Hellenic American University's Business programs—on all fronts: research, teaching and administration.

One important highlight, for her and for the University alike, was the receipt of a prestigious Emerald Award for outstanding contribution to scholarly research. She received the award for a paper she had co-authored on the role of employee ignorance in knowledge sharing, which was published last year in the *Journal of Knowledge Management*.

The paper, which was entitled “Individual variables with an impact on knowledge sharing: The critical role of employees’ ignorance” was selected by the journal’s editorial team as a Highly Commended Paper in the 2016 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence. We asked Dr. Siachou—or Lia as she’s known among her colleagues—to tell us a bit more about her study.

“There’s been a great deal of work about how companies can manage the knowledge they possess or acquire,” she says. “But we don’t talk about how they manage ignorance. We tend to forget that employees often don’t know what knowledge is available, who has it, or where it is. This ignorance has a cost, of course: it means you’ll look outside the organization for knowledge that may already exist within the company. Our paper proposed a way to classify various kinds of ignorance and explore the managerial implications of each.”

In summer 2015, Lia was also appointed Director of the University’s General Education program. One of the first changes she spearheaded was the addition of a course in Ideation.

to increasing interest among the University’s students—regardless of their major—in starting their own business; a reflection of a trend that has been seen in Greece and the broader EU labor market. The course, which is co-taught by faculty from the Business, English and Music programs, is also much in keeping with the University’s mission-driven commitment to interdisciplinary education.

But Lia sees an even broader audience for the course beyond those who are contemplating a start-up of their own. “One of the main outcomes of the course is to encourage a habit of open-mindedness while exploring sources of possible inspiration,” she says.

The three modules of the course follow closely the process of ideation itself: idea generation, assessment, and prototyping. Students come up with ideas for a start-up and then work to develop it as a business model. The Music and English faculty get involved in the first part, as students explore innovation in the arts and the creative process of writing music and text, and a dance instructor leads a workshop on movement to help students develop a better stage presence when pitching their ideas.

The workshop for putting together the business development canvas is led by Benno Groosman, Founding Director of an architectural/engineering firm and residential entrepreneur at Orange Grove, a business incubator and innovative workspace for young entrepreneurs that was started by the Dutch embassy along with Greek and Dutch corporate sponsors and NGOs. One unanticipated positive outcome of the collaboration was that Orange Grove offered one of the students (and an alumna) an internship, following an interview with Groosman.

### International Conference on “Europe in Discourse”



#### Conference Volunteer Opportunities for Alumni

As we’ve already informed you, Hellenic American University is organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference Europe in Discourse: Identity, Diversity, Borders. This September, over 200 presenters from 40 countries—discourse analysts, linguists, historians, economists, sociologists and other scholars and researchers—will come together in Athens to explore issues in the discourses of European identity.

You can get involved by donating some of your time and expertise before and during the conference as a volunteer. HAUUniv alumni are invited to apply to volunteer. We are hoping, given the focus of the conference on discourse, to attract volunteers from our BAEL, MAAL, MAT & MACI programs, as well as alumni from our IT programs who can help with the more technical parts of the conference.

#### Why Volunteer?

The Conference will be a unique opportunity to network while getting a behind-the-scenes look at the conference. You will be a key person in making this Conference a great event. Volunteering for this event is also a very good chance to develop your career. Many future employees will value the fact that you volunteered for the organization of an academic event such as this.

#### Extra incentives for volunteers

Hellenic American College alumni who volunteer will receive free entrance to the Conference, and access to lunch and coffee breaks. Volunteers will receive a certificate attesting to their work during the Conference, and their name will appear on the Conference website acknowledging their contribution.

To find out more about the different ways to volunteer, visit the Europe in Discourse Conference website at <http://www.europein-discourse.eu/about/volunteer-opportunities>

# The Summer Academies Program for High-School Students

Welcome by Ms. Teta Petroula, Public Relations Coordinator of Athens International Airport S.A (AIA mascot in the middle)



Visit to the Fire Brigade Station of Athens International Airport S.A. In the middle is the Commander of the Fire Brigade of Athens International Airport S.A.

Visit to the Baggage Handling System (BHS), Athens International Airport S.A. Students divided in 3 groups in order to keep the safety and explanation by the supervisors of the department on how a baggage handling system is work from ticket counters to areas where the bags can be loaded onto airplanes.

This summer Hellenic American University welcomed its first group of high-school students in its new Summer Academies program at the Athens campus. The students took part in an Aviation and Flight Academy.

For most teenagers summer vacation is first of all a chance to unwind after a stressful academic year and to catch up on missed sleep. But after the first few weeks of endless hours spent playing video games and hanging out with friends on the beach (or on Facebook and Instagram), at least some teenagers are eager to find an engaging and creative activity to

fill the long stretch of unstructured time.

The Summer Academies do just that, giving motivated high-school students (14-16 years old) the chance to explore new fields of interest and make new friends—and earn college credits at the same time.

The program is the brainchild of Hellenic American University Provost, Dr. Triant Flouris. As he notes, the Summer Academies came out of the University's commitment to creating learning opportunities at Hellenic American College for high-school—and

eventually primary school—students. “They’re an excellent way to smooth the transition from high school to college studies, wherever the student decides to go,” he says.

The Academies also reflect the Provost’s own interest in action research and STEM education [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics]: “I think courses like the ones offered in the Summer Academies program can have very positive outcomes for young students when they’re done right—with a good balance of theory and practice, as it’s done in the US.”

*continue on page 6*

The Aviation and Flight Academy was developed in partnership with Athens International Airport.

**The Aviation and Flight Academy was held June 27th - July 15th, 2016.**

More information the Summer Academies can be found on the College website at: <http://haec.gr/en/academics/summer-academies>

## Provost's Update on Accreditation

In previous updates for our Alumni Newsletter, I have focused on the value of accreditation and our status as a United States university accredited by NEASC. However, equally important in the life of the University is its compliance with the standards of its regulatory body, by whose authority it is entitled to grant degrees. In fact, in order to earn accreditation, a university must be in good standing with its regulators. In the case of Hellenic American University, this is the Higher Education Commission of the Division of Higher Education of the New Hampshire Department of Education. The Commission regulates colleges and universities such as ours that have a physical presence in the State. As part of this oversight, the University periodically reports on regulatory matters and is visited by a team from the Commission that verifies our compliance with relevant standards and laws. The next visit is scheduled for October 2-4, 2016. The university's faculty and administration have been diligently working to finalize the reports needed for the visit. We are ahead of schedule and hopeful that we will meet this milestone with success. I will keep you updated on our status.

Dr. Triant Flouris  
Provost

## 2016 Alumni Employment Survey

Alumni employability is a key measure of student success and has always been a priority for the University. It's even enshrined in its mission to educate its students "to contribute to the economic and social development of their communities." Earlier alumni may remember the first extensive survey of alumni employment, conducted 4 years ago. This spring, the Director of the Career Development Office conducted a telephone survey of all alumni. The idea was not only to gather data on the employment status of alumni but also to provide information on the Office's services.

Before this June's commencement, the University has graduated about 400 alumni. We managed to reach about half of you by phone. Program coordinators and faculty were able to provide employment information for another 10% of alumni. It's encouraging to find out that the overwhelming majority of all respondents are employed.

Although the survey did not specifically ask respondents about the relevance of their job to their studies (the next survey will), it appears that for most degree programs, the great majority of alumni/ae are working in sectors, positions or organizations that are connected somehow with their degree program.

For the MAT program, for example, the majority of alumni/ae indicated are working as employed or freelance translators, but an additional sizable number are employed in language-related fields, such as English-language teaching and tourism. Graduates of the PMBA, MBA, Music, Ph.D., BSIT/MSIT, and MAAL programs are all employed in positions connected to their degrees.

It's worth pointing out that for most degree programs, the employment figures from this year's survey of alumni are the same as or slightly better than corresponding figures from the 2013 study (there were no PhD, BM or MSPSY alumni to be surveyed in 2013).

An electronic version of the survey has been posted on the SurveyMonkey platform. If we didn't manage to contact you by phone, and you haven't yet filled out the online survey, please take 10 minutes to do so.

**You can access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3T5V6GR>**

## The Summer Academies Program for High-School Students, continued

This mix of theoretical presentation and guided experiential learning is very much at the core of the Aviation & Flight Academy. It combines in-class sessions with first-hand observation at a number of aviation sites. For example, a module on the scientific fundamentals of aeronautics is followed up with a practicum on flight operations and aircraft maintenance at the Athens International Airport. The program leads up to a day-long session where students learn to fly with a state-of-the-art flight simulator.

The Flight and Aviation Academy was developed by Dr. Flouris, himself a professional pilot and certified flight and ground instructor who's logged over 6,000 hours of flight time, in collaboration with faculty member Dr. Konstantinos Kalligianis. This summer's course was taught by the Provost himself but one he says he found rewarding. "These are not your average students. They've got talent and drive, and are definitely college material."

# The University Counseling Center: Alumni services



*Dr. Maria Koliris at the Counseling Center*

Meeting professional and life challenges after graduating from University, balancing different roles and responsibilities and coping with personal, family or financial problems can sometimes prove to be complex and difficult, however skilled and resourceful we might be.

The Hellenic American College Counseling Center can provide support in different ways. It can foster insight into our own coping resources, empower self-care strategies, enhance a sense of inner stability and mobilize personal and professional development.

## **What kinds of problems do we deal with?**

Some common problems that our service users report are personal and family difficulties, depression,

stress and anxiety, relationship problems, self-esteem issues, life changes and transitions, grief and loss, body image issues, health and sexual health issues, and substance use problems.

## **What kinds of services can you ask for?**

The following services are offered during the academic year; however, as every individual is unique, services are adapted so that each intervention is tailor-made to suit your specific needs:

- Professional clinical assessment of your current difficulties
- One to one counseling support: we provide brief counseling (10 sessions) based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

- Discussion and professional guidance of other possible ways available to deal with difficulties in addition to counselling
- Group work on specialized topics: last year we ran a group focusing on building “Healthy Relationships”; this year we are running a group focusing on “Positive Parenting Skills”. The group usually runs once a year.

We respect the right to privacy of whoever comes to the Center; your personal details and your use of the services are confidential.

## **Who carries out the counseling services?**

We have a team of highly devoted and expertly trained counseling interns at the Center. The interns are in the final year of our Master’s program in Psychology/Mental Health Counseling and are especially selected for this role based on their personal maturity, cultural sensitivity and ethical behavior. The counseling interns are regularly and confidentially supervised by expert clinical professionals who are part of the Psychology Department.

## **How can you contact us?**

We are open during the week, Monday to Friday. You can call us on 2103680978, email us at [counselingcenter@hauniv.edu](mailto:counselingcenter@hauniv.edu) or drop in at Massalias 10 & Solonos, 1st floor.

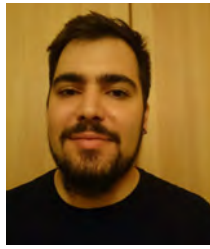
## Alumni News

**Kalliopi Deferigou** (BSPsy '14) is a language-school owner in Naousa, Paros. Apart from teaching English, she has also staged theatrical plays in English for students of all ages and delivered courses for presentation skills.

**Joe Gallagher** (MBA '16) is a communications administrator and web content manager at the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority.

**Nikoleta Samara** (BSPsy '16) was awarded a scholarship from the Libra Group. At the moment she is working in the HR department of London Business School.

**Konstantinos Plisiotis** (MAT '15) was the only one of 20 candidates from different universities all over the world to receive a full



*Konstantinos  
Plisiotis  
MAT' 15*

scholarship for a PhD in Translation Studies at Aston University. His research will focus on the translation of texts on tourism and the impact of this in branding Greece abroad.

**Despoina Andriotelli** (PMBA '12) has been accepted for a Master's degree at Concordia University in Canada.

**Konstantinos Xylogiannopoulos** (BSIT '11) has been appointed teaching assistant at the University of Calgary in Canada.

**Electra Braska** (MACI '15) is working as a translator/interpreter at the Ministry of the Interior in Athens.

**Leonidas Pertesis** (PMBA '12) is working as a Project Leader in IT & T Operations at the Athens International Airport.

**Athanasios Zachos** (PMBA '10) is the founder and owner of the e-shop IZA Jewellery (izajewellery.gr)

**Ioannis Koutros** (MSIT '13) is employed at Eurobank SA as an IT Strategist.

**George Kanellopoulos** (PMBA '13) is a Principal Solution Specialist at Microsoft Central & Eastern Europe HQ driving cloud platform transformation solutions for top enterprises.

### 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](mailto: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.

## Have a great summer!

The Alumni Association of Hellenic American University wishes you a happy summer! See you all back in October!



### The Alumni Association Board

- Nikolaos Papagiannopoulos, President
- Lara Mourad, Secretary
- Katerina Hassapi, Member
- Maria Salteri, Member

The Board has grown to 17 members to include alumni from all disciplines

### Contact information:

Georgia Dimitropoulou, Office of Admissions and Student Recruitment  
T: +30 210 368 0967, +30 210 368 0950  
E-mail: [gdimitropoulou@hauniv.edu](mailto:gdimitropoulou@hauniv.edu)

### Editorial Team

Editors: Stefanos Basigkal, Angeliki Tzigkou  
Copy editor: Stavroula Floratos, Rena Efstathiou  
Graphics design: Anna Razou

Send us your news, photos and feedback to [alumninews@hauniv.edu](mailto:alumninews@hauniv.edu)

© Hellenic American College  
Massalias 22  
10680 Athens