

In this issue

by Nikos Papagiannopoulos

President, Hellenic American University Alumni Association

Dear Alumni/ae,

We are swiftly approaching the Christmas holidays and what better chance to issue our Alumni Newsletter. It is with great pleasure that we welcomed the new graduates to our family of alumni, which has grown by more than a hundred graduates since October 2014. Our Alumni Association now numbers 428 graduates—a substantial network which, in these difficult times when networking is increasingly important, can become a valuable resource to us all.

The HAU Alumni Association aims to foster this network, strengthen the ties between our members and serve as an ongoing link to Hellenic American University. The newsletter is one of our main channels of communication, our way of keeping you abreast of developments in the University. We hope you'll enjoy reading it.

This issue's Alumni Success Story focuses on the remarkable humanitarian work of Laura Simões (MBA '15), which shows how one person with a simple idea but with true passion can cause such a change to the lives of those in need.

You will also find out about the developments regarding the University's accreditation from New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the latest milestone that was successfully completed. It is an important development because accreditation

attests to the high standards of education that the institution adheres to. It is also important for the status and the value of the academic degrees we earned from Hellenic American University.

The Hellenic American University has developed a key service for students and graduates in its Career Development Office. You can find out more about the innovative approach and the range of services for alumni in the article called "Would You Hire Yourself?" Among the Office's services is identifying opportunities for students and graduates, as well as for Study Abroad students. This issue of the newsletter describes the internship which the University developed with the Athens International Airport in the context of its Study Abroad program.

You'll also read about the achievements of several of our fellow graduates. I urge you all to share your own news with the Board or the editorial team, as well your feedback and comments, and any ideas about articles for the next newsletter.

I would like to thank all the alumni/ae, the Alumni Board, and the University faculty and staff for a fascinating, challenging and productive year. I wish you and your families a happy holiday season and a – much needed - prosperous and dynamic new year.

Best Wishes,
Nikos Papagiannopoulos



Dr. George Bravos



Dr. George Bravos joined the Hellenic American University faculty in Fall 2014 and serves as Director of the Engineering and Information Technology programs. He earned his

undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the National Technical University of Athens and his Ph.D. from the University of Piraeus. Before coming to the University, he taught at the Chalkida Technical Educational Institute and was an adjunct lecturer and researcher at the Harokopion University of Athens.

“One of the things I most like about teaching at Hellenic American University,” Dr. Bravos says, “is the contact I have with my students. Since classes are small, I can get to know all my students well, and the quality of the interaction in class is excellent. It’s very different from the lecture-style classes I taught at public universities.”

Dr. Bravos is currently involved in research on smart buildings. These are structures in which conditions such as temperature, light and humidity are automatically adjusted on the basis of who is in the room—without the person needing to interact with a device. Dr. Bravos’ research focuses on the communication between sensors and other devices and the algorithms used in such energy-aware systems.

An avid athlete, Dr. Bravos was part of the contingent of Hellenic American University faculty, staff and students who took part in the recent Athens Half-Marathon on May 3, 2015 to raise money for the SOS Children’s Villages. He also ran the 2015 Athens Marathon this November, finishing with a personal record.

Alumni Success story



Laura Simões, giving the valedictorian address at the June 2015 Commencement

Laura Simões changes lives with her start-up “Share Your Load”

Like many other Hellenic American University graduate students, Laura Simões (MBA ’15) came to the University with an impressive professional background. She served as Deputy State Director for U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Communications Director for the NH Charitable Foundation, and the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development as its chief strategist and spokesperson on tourism, the state’s second largest industry. Like other Hellenic American University students, she also exemplifies the University’s mission to educate its students to be “equipped to contribute to the economic and social development of their communities.” Part of this contribution took shape in a unique project to help improve the health, hygiene and well-being of the homeless.

“Share Your Load” is an initiative to bring clean laundry and support services such as counseling, education and financial assistance to homeless and low-income residents in Concord, New Hampshire and the surrounding area. Developed as part of Laura’s Capstone Project, “Share Your Load” raised funds in its first year of operation to install a washing machine and showers at the Concord Homeless Resource Center.

Laura implemented her innovative concept with the skills and knowledge she acquired in the MBA program. “I undertook feasibility planning,” she notes, “worked on a detailed budget and sustainability plan, and wrote a marketing fundraising plan. Following this work, I believed I could design a project to make this vision a reality.” Which is exactly what she did, managing to raise even more money than she had projected.

Part of the success of the project is due to Laura’s professional experience and the knowledge of the non-profit sector that she acquired through her working government and as a member of the Board of Directors of various organizations. But as she herself notes, part of it is also due to the skills and knowledge she acquired during her MBA studies.

Laura is currently working as a partner in the strategic communications firm Louis Karno & Company.

Would You Hire Yourself?

Career Development Services for Hellenic American University Alumni



*Dr. Sophia Protopapa,
Director of
the Career
Development
Office*

If you were running an organization or managing a department or if you had your own business or shop, would you hire an applicant who was just like you? Most likely you'd say yes, but why?

What is it about you that a prospective employer would value? This is one of the most valuable questions you can ask yourself whether you're searching for a job, working towards a promotion or exploring a change in career. In an increasingly competitive labor market, a university degree is often a necessary but on its own never a sufficient condition for being hired. So knowing how you stand out from the others and what unique set of talents, skills, character traits and experience you have to offer is essential to developing a successful career. And just as importantly, knowing how to convey this in your résumé and in a job interview. It's one thing to say, "I've got strong analytical skills, work well on teams and am eager to learn," and another thing to make sure your résumé brings these skills to the fore.

We know that companies spend millions each year carefully crafting the character and image of their products and services to highlight the unique

selling point of each. Shaping the identity of the product is a process that runs from the design of the packaging right up to the narrative told in their advertisements. Career development, when effective, is also a matter of investing time and resources in not only identifying your own personal selling point but also finding ways to highlight and promote it.

The Hellenic American University Career Development Office was set up in 2014 to help students and alumni do just this. It offers free career development counseling, skills workshops and practical help in areas such as searching for a job, drafting a c.v. and preparing for job interviews.

Career development counseling will help you heighten your self-awareness and better understand your professional and personal needs, values and goals. Just as importantly, it will help you identify your own competitive advantages—what it is that sets you apart from others.

Career workshops explore enhance your skills in practical areas such as goal setting, time management and prioritization, as well as specialized topics such as using LinkedIn for job searches.

Guidance is also given to help you write a résumé that reflects your personal brand or prepare yourself for job interviews. The CDO also provides job search tips, weekly information about job vacancies and internship opportunities in Greece and internationally.

If you're interested, contact the Career Development Office at careers@haec.gr to set up an appointment anytime between 10.00-16.00.

The Career Development Office is headed by Dr. Sophia Protopapa. Before joining Hellenic American University, Sophia taught organizational behavior, research methods and organizational communication at various UK and US universities and colleges. She has also worked as a project coordinator, researcher and vocational trainer in numerous EU projects in the areas of skills development, strengths-based mentoring and entrepreneurship. Her book Emotional Prosperity, Emotional Bankruptcy: An Inside-Out Approach was published this fall by Plethora Publications.

Update on Accreditation: The Interim Report

I wanted to update you on our current status and expectations in the area of accreditation. The University has just passed yet another milestone with the authoring and submission of an Interim Report to NEASC. This comprehensive report, which all accredited institutions must submit in the middle of their accreditation cycle, assures that the institution continues to comply with the standards of quality and institutional effectiveness set by the accreditation body.

Our next key accreditation milestone will be the authoring of a comprehensive self-study which will be submitted by mid-August 2017 and will lead to a NEASC team visit. When successful, this review will mean that the institution will be re-accredited for another cycle, hopefully ten years. This assessment will be conducted under a new set of NEASC standards, now in draft form and expected to go into effect in 2016. In my accreditation update in the next newsletter I will provide you with an overview of the new standards.

Dr. Triant Flouris
Provost

CUNY Study Abroad Students Intern at Athens International Airport



Diana Rodrigues and Thinley Wongmo at the AIA

Hellenic American University's Study Abroad program continues to grow. This year the University welcomed students from institutions such as Tennessee Technological University, Berklee College of Music, the New Hampshire Institute of Arts and Southern New Hampshire University. The students came to study for a semester abroad or to do an internship in Greece, or as part of a seminar group led by a faculty member from their college or university.

Two students in the York College Aviation Management program of the City University of New York, Dianna Rodriguez and Thinley Wongmo, spent their summer in Athens on an internship with Athens International Airport. Their internship was supervised by Hellenic American University and facilitated by the University Provost Dr. Triant Flouris, who once served as Director of the CUNY Aviation Institute at York. The two students also completed projects at the University for which college earned credits towards their degrees. Student Thinley Wongmo referred to the experience as "transformative".

Dr. Flouris and Dr. Chun-Pin Hsu, Director of the Aviation Institute at York, who began the internship project almost a year ago, look forward to continuing the internship program this coming summer.



Your Library Privileges Are Still Valid

Members of the Alumni Association of Hellenic American University enjoy lifelong borrowing privileges for the Library. With your Alumni Card, you still have access to the more than 35,000 titles in English and Greek, an online collection of over 250,000 digital books, and the University's subscriptions to major academic periodicals databases numbering 10,000,000 articles. You can also take advantage of the Inter-Library Loan Service (ILL), through which you can request, free of charge, journal articles that are not held by the Hellenic American University Library.

International Conference on Europe in Discourse



Europe in Discourse:
Identity, Diversity, Borders

Hellenic American University
Athens, Greece
September 23rd - 25th, 2016

Screen shot from the Conference site

What does it mean to be a European? Who is European? And what forces, historic and present, define what being European means? Where do the borders of Europe end?

These are some of the questions that 1st International Conference on “Europe in Discourse: Identity, Diversity and Borders” will explore this coming September (9/23-25, 2016). Organized by the Hellenic American University and Hellenic American College, the Conference will explore issues of European identity and notions of diversity and borders, drawing on discourse theory and textual analysis. It brings together leading scholars and researchers from the fields of discourse analysis and applied linguistics, but also specialists in European studies, cultural theory, media studies, economics, and ethnology.

Dr. Julianne House, Director of the University’s Ph.D. program in Applied Linguistics and member of the Conference Scientific Committee underlines the significance and timeliness of the conference: “It is high time to examine the conflictual views about the state of Europe today from the multiplicity of perspectives that only academia can provide. And it is of course no accident that this conference should take place in Athens, Greece, birthplace of democracy and today center of the debate on the European crisis.”

The Conference Scientific Committee and plenary speakers are a Who’s Who of scholars and experts in the fields of discourse analysis and applied linguistics. As Dr. Themis Kaniklidou, Coordinator of the M.A. in Translation and the Conference

Coordinator notes the Conference is “an inspiring ‘must-attend’ event bringing together students, educators, and researchers from all over the world to discuss what being European actually means.” She also points out that it’s no coincidence that the University decided to launch this initiative, noting that “At Hellenic American University we passionately believe that language plays a key role in constructing a European identity.”

Alumni/ae of the University’s MAT, Ph.D. and MACI programs are invited to submit proposals for Conference papers. Details on the Conference and submission guidelines are available on the Conference website at Website: <http://www.europeindiscourse.eu>. Even if you’re not interested in giving a paper, we hope to see you at the Conference in September.

Alumni News

George Tekakis (PMBA '14) has been appointed Sales Director for Air Berlin for Greece and Cyprus.

Nikoleta Tsoutsis (MAT '15) joined NOKIA Hellas's terminology management and technical writing teams. Nikoleta develops and records terminology alongside other company members.

Kostas Maris (PMBA '12) has been promoted to a management position at the Athens International Airport.

Anna-Maria Mavrainou (MACI '13) is working as In-house Translator at Swissport Hellas. Her work for this firm focuses on translation of specialized texts.

Roni Chairalla (MBA '12) is currently Account Manager at Dukascopy Bank, Geneva, Switzerland.

Stathis Kampylis (BM '13) has been accepted into University of Bristol PhD. Program in Electroacoustic Composition.

Chrisanna Mastorakis (MSPSY '14) is a Scientific Associate of the Adolescent Health Unit at the Children's Hospital "P. & A. Kyriakoy", where she conducts clinical sessions with adolescents and co-coordinates parent groups for adolescent internet use. Chrisianna is also the Scientific Director of the Counseling & Psychotherapy Center "OriZo" where she provides mental health services and organizes seminars and psychoeducation groups.



Nicole Mitroussias, BM '15

Nicole Mitroussias (BM '15) has been accepted into New York University in the MA program in Voice.

Lara Mourad (MBA '12) is currently the Marketing Director of Eris Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd.

Dimitrios Revinthis (MBA '11) is currently Sales Manager at ProCons 4It in United Arab Emirates.

Isaak Chazan (PMBA '10) is working as After-Sales Director at Toyota Hellas.

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.

Happy Holidays!

The Alumni Association of Hellenic American University wishes you and your families a joyous and healthy holiday season. Happy New Year!

The Alumni Association Board

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