

POLITIS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Annual Report
2025 - 2026



“Universities continue to be multilateral actors and beacons of innovation. Partnerships across institutions—whether across universities, or between universities, businesses, and nonprofits—are key to solving the array of global challenges that are ever more complex given shifts in the international policy environment.”

- Michelle Reddy, Executive Director, Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA),
as quoted in *Foreign Affairs*, September 2025

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

Hellenic American University is pleased to share with you the *Politis Civic Engagement Program Annual Report* for the academic year 2025-2026. As Director of Civic Engagement, it has been particularly rewarding to see this program evolve into a pillar of the undergraduate experience at Hellenic American College in Athens, Greece, fully integrated within the academic curriculum under the leadership of HAU President Themis Kaniklidou. The *Politis Program* renews itself each year through the dedication of service-minded students, supportive faculty, and many generous partner organizations, all of whom this report wishes to acknowledge with gratitude. As we aspire to nurture lifelong interests, the success of the program cannot be measured solely by the numbers, though it is wonderful to share at the outset that 29 students graduated this June with the *Politis Distinction* on their transcript! Congratulations to all of these deserving graduates.

In addition to commencement, a particular highlight of the year was representing the university at the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) Annual Conference in Washington, DC, in February. Across diverse panels and keynotes, what struck me about the discourse was how global education was being described not as an optional track, but an academic imperative.

This was helpful reinforcement for the developments at HAU, where a global orientation gave direction to virtually all of the key components of the *Politis Program*: local service opportunities with international NGOs, site visits, themed solidarity days, civic conferences, a signature new international service course, a leadership speakers series, the *Beyond Borders Initiative* for cross-border field studies, and co-curricular professional skills certificates from the United Nations.

The Program remains committed to three core facets of civic engagement – service learning, social impact, and global citizenship – but central to the ethos of the program is experiential breadth: a diversity of opportunities to try new things, hear new ideas, and meet new people. This year's report seeks to showcase the array of ways our students have chosen to get involved in community affairs and have an impact. HAU continues to welcome collaboration and invites new organizations and institutions to partner with us in service projects, events, courses, online exchanges, and development. Thank you for another year of outstanding student support.

Sincerely,



Cameron Bell

Director of Civic Engagement
Assistant Professor

By the Numbers:

37

NEW PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS

29

GRADUATES
WITH POLITIS DISTINCTION

50

STUDENT ENGAGEMENTS
DURING THE YEAR

1305

TOTAL SERVICE HOURS
(GRADUATING SENIORS)

2

INTERNATIONAL
FIELD STUDIES

6

CIVIC
CONFERENCES

4

NEW MEMORANDA OF
UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

7

SOLIDARITY
DAYS

Year in Review: Activities & Engagement

This year's program touched upon a range of thematic areas, guided by three core pillars:



**SERVICE
LEARNING**

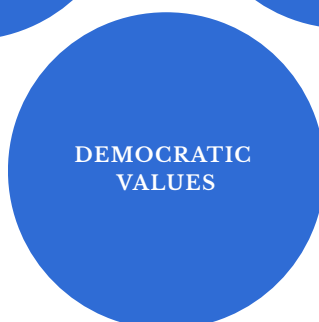
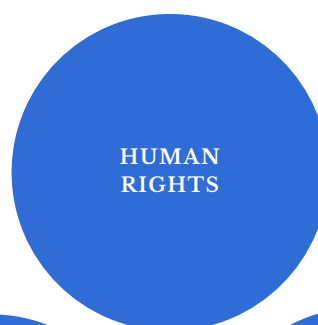


**SOCIAL
IMPACT**



**GLOBAL
CITIZENSHIP**

Thematic areas:



Highlights



HAU's Jordan Field Study faculty and students visit Greek Ambassador Irene Riga at her official residence in Amman



HAU's Anna Kouvara volunteering as a site guide at the Gennadius Library, during Open House Athens



HAU's Nikos Symvoulidis and Dimitris Vlachos supporting an entrepreneur, left, in the business program of Global Brigades



Sec. General Nasser Kamel of the Union for the Mediterranean, HAU Pres. Themis P. Kaniklidou, conference award-winner for excellence in circular economy Nadine Abdel Ghaffar, and Civic Engagement Dir. Cameron Bell at the 2026 Mediterranean Forum

Service Opportunities & Community Engagements

From local organizations to leading international NGOs, HAU students volunteered in a variety of nonprofits, gaining hands-on experience and making meaningful contributions. Students worked in organized teams of mixed academic backgrounds, and self-initiated projects in line with their major, integrating civic engagement with career goals.

Art Explora

The action was on the sea this Fall for the Destination Pireaus Art Explora Festival, a cultural odyssey through simulated Mediterranean port cities. A program first! On board a megayacht-turned-art gallery, a group of students were led on a historical virtual reality experience into Athens, Venice, and Alexandria, a reflective space for understanding identity, exchange, resistance, and imagination.

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC)

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center hosted a group of students for the SNFCC Green Weekend: Urgent Conversations, a multi-faceted and interactive environmental awareness festival of exhibitions, activations, talks, and community-building. Students left with a new appreciation for planetary health and evidence of landscapes in crisis around the world.

Humanity Greece

tudents regularly joined the high-energy group of volunteers at Humanity Greece to cook and offer meal support for vulnerable and affected families. The “Kitchen-For-Good” program feeds hundreds in need on a weekly basis. Volunteer work involved food preparation and meal packaging, in addition to logistical support and supply chain administrative duties. Our Study Abroad students particularly enjoyed bonding with their Greek peers while chopping vegetables and trading island travel tips.

Boroume

Rain or shine, groups of students supported the Athens laiki markets in Panormou to collect and package unsold food items for delivery to needy families. Students appreciated the opportunity to speak directly with farmers about environmental degradation and agricultural politics. Student efforts recovered otherwise spoiled produce for distribution, helped reduce CO₂ emissions, and connected all participants to a hallmark of Greek culture.

Odyssea

Supporting individuals who face severe barriers to social and economic integration, Odyssea engaged two student volunteers to help with their Eureka Job Fair, an employment-focused event for vulnerable citizens in the framework of the Bridging The Skills Gap program of the Ministry of Migration & Asylum. Hundreds of job offers were made!

EMFASIS NGO

Amidst a cold snap of weather in March, a pair of student volunteers joined the head office of EMFASIS to manage emergency street-based counseling and humanitarian aid for the homeless population of Athens.

DESMOS Non-Profit Foundation

At the invitation of DESMOS and a range of community partners, New York Times bestselling author and American clinical psychologist Dr Madeline Levine offered a lecture to the Athens community on adolescent development in view of material culture, new technologies, and social pressures. A student volunteer supported the event by offering logistical support for the evening.

Make-A-Wish

Make-A-Wish grants wishes that have the power to transform the lives of children with critical illnesses. In the run up to the Easter holiday, students supported Make-A-Wish preparations at the office headquarters, preparing gifts of decorative candles for Make-A-Wish bazaars in shopping centers around Athens.

BestBuddies

BestBuddies Greece works to build an inclusive community by making long-lasting friendships between volunteers and people with intellectual and physical disabilities. Several students supported the mission of BestBuddies this year by offering sustained companionship.



New course GE 162 visit the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's NOSTOS Conference



The Rome Field Study cohort on Janiculum Hill, overlooking the dome of St. Peter's Basilica



Steve Blame, in dialogue with Psychology Prof. Maria Agorastou and supported by HAU student David-Oliver Barouh, offers a lively audio-visual presentation

IASIS Community Center

A group of therapy-focused students supported the IASIS Community Center's workshop on neighborhood change. Sessions revolved around utilizing social workers, carers, green space, and artistic expression to improve quality of life for those in need. **Prof. Barbara Kondilis** and non-profit Art, Graffiti in the City (AGC) took center stage.

The Hellenic Initiative (THI)

A team of five student volunteers joined the tree-planting army of The Hellenic Initiative, in cooperation with We4All. For the second year in a row, students joined a Greek diaspora community team to plant hundreds of trees in and around Mt. Penteli, helping restore an area severely affected by wildfires in 2022 and 2024.

SAMA Community Center

This Spring, SAMA Community Center, a social service and learning center for the refugee camps in Malakasa, north of Athens, received clothes, shoes, and furniture from a student-initiated campaign in cooperation with Swedish non-profit and humanitarian organization Lighthouse Relief.

FairLife Lung Cancer Care

Fairlife Lung Cancer Care, a non-profit dedicated to patient care and raising public awareness regarding early detection of lung cancer, benefited from a large student group of volunteer translators, working closely with Prof. Iphigeneia Roulia. Students translated complex medical texts for the organization's advocacy and patient communications, a meaningful opportunity for those interested in public health and developing professional translation experience.

Goodwill Caravan NGO

International aid group Goodwill Caravan emerged in response to the migration crisis, with an emphasis on protecting people at high risk of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and gender-based violence. A student volunteer supported the planning and coordination of humanitarian aid initiatives and deployed on the frontlines to assist families and children.

Saffron Kitchen Project

Known for its delicious Middle Eastern-inspired cuisine, the Saffron Kitchen Project benefited from a regular student volunteer this year. The Athens non-profit assists vulnerable people through meal support, but also works to create pathways to long-term employment in the local hospitality sector for chefs and culinary staff.

EuroRelief

A student volunteer came to the aide of Eurorelief, a Greek non-profit that alleviates suffering for displaced people. Born out of the need for earthquake relief, EuroRelief also addresses needs in the refugee community.

Global Brigades

Bridging both medical and commercial needs in society, Global Brigades works with vulnerable populations, improving lives through increased access to healthcare and business support for entrepreneurs. Over the course of site visits and consultations in the Spring semester, two students created a growth strategy and marketing campaign for a minority small business owner.

A representative sample of service partners at the local, regional, and international level:



In the Spotlight: *New International Service Learning Course*



Within the university's four-week winter and summer terms, HAU offered a new course built around service and social impact: **GE 162 International Service Learning**. Study Abroad students joined their Greek peers in community projects and engagements across a range of volunteer activities, workshops, guest lectures, and conferences. The hands-on applied course of theory and practice allows students to explore how international service is conceived of, implemented, and evaluated. The course balances classroom instruction with interactive volunteering excursions to support NGOs and civil society organizations. Course topics include global inequality and humanitarian ethics, measuring sustainability, emergency preparedness, and socio-environmental challenges in Greece.

As one example, the class visited Archelon's Sea Turtle Rescue Center in Glyfada for a policy workshop on preventative measures needed to protect the Mediterranean's at-risk marine life. Collectively, the class also raised funds to adopt an injured turtle undergoing rehabilitation at the center; the adoption covered the costs of the turtle's feeding and treatment for one month.

Civic engagement at HAU also supports Study Abroad students pursuing external Faculty-led courses, linking site-specific instruction to in-country expertise. With a visiting cohort from Albion College, former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, now President of the International Olympic Truce Center, shared insights on sports diplomacy drawn from ancient and modern Olympic traditions.



During a site visit to the Panathenaic Stadium, home of the first modern Olympic Games, former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou addresses a health and wellness course



HAU's Amit Jiv and study abroad student Olive Anderson during a Refugee Week Greece workshop and exhibition under the auspices of the Stelios Foundation and UNHCR Greece

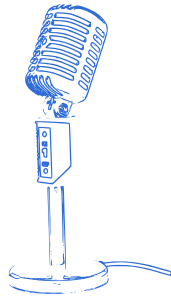


A class trip to Humanity Greece in the Metaxourgeio area of Athens to package emergency relief care boxes for displaced and vulnerable families



HAU's January term students Kostandina Vasi and Alexandros Anastasiadis join community members to analyze beach pollutants with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Greece

Civic Conferences



Athens Democracy Forum

For the second consecutive year, a group of undergraduates were selected to support the Athens Democracy Forum (ADF) 2025, a landmark conference convening leaders from around the globe in partnership with The New York Times. Organized by the Democracy and Culture Foundation, the conference examined opportunities for reimagining democracy amidst the challenges of democratic backsliding, populism, and technological advancement, including cyber-threats and AI. Highlights of the conference included a lively debate on the merits of authoritarianism. Student volunteers served as communications officers, interviewing speakers, recording panel insights, and supporting conference logistics.

Hellenic Impact Investing Network (HIIN) and Conference

In the Fall, a group of students joined the HIIN Conference at the Acropolis Museum to learn about the fundamentals of impact investing and join a professional

network of representatives from investment funds, foundations, and Greek family offices. The conference spotlighted sustainable design thinking, water conservation, and recycling practices from Classical Greece, as the means to inspire today's investing frameworks.

Mediterranean Forum: Circle the Med

The 9th Mediterranean Forum took place this May in the Mikrolimano port of Piraeus, where a distinguished array of regional policymakers convened to address climate and regional challenges, including sustainable tourism and development, renewable energy, and maritime cooperation. **President Kaniklidou** represented the university and signed the Girona Manifesto, a shared commitment by regional institutions of higher education to addressing climate and environmental change, overseen by the Euromed University Initiative for Climate Action, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED).

Young Executives Shipping (YES) Forum - Posidonia

The global biannual shipping conference, Posidonia, held its Day of Youth and welcomed a group of students. The YES Forum is a platform for open dialogue in the Greek Shipping and Sea Tourism industries. In a full day of vendor tours, panels, and executive Q&A, the forum brought the maritime industry closer to universities, building bridges for understanding and opening new opportunities.

Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) NOSTOS

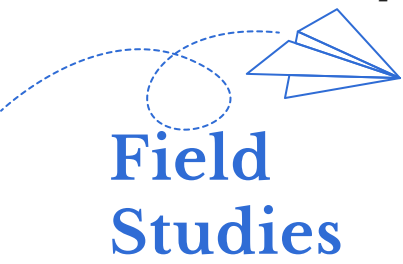
In the context of the Summer Session at HAU, students in GE162 International Service Learning joined the SNF Nostos, a celebration of 30 years of global philanthropy and impact. Highlights included stops at the University of Pennsylvania's Political Empathy Lab; an overview of press freedom, media integrity, and investigative journalism with the Incubator for Media Education and Development (iMEdD); and youth-led panel discussion on social media and mental health.

Youth Climate Diplomacy Forum

The UNESCO Youth Climate Diplomacy Forum Regional Conference came to Athens and featured a panel discussion on regional collaboration and policy gaps on environmental issues. Prof. Bell spoke on a panel on the topic of youth mobility.



HAU students Alexandra Kyriakoulaki, Maria-Crisalyn Serquina, and Aikaterini Lathoura attend the university programming at the global shipping conference, Posidonia



The Beyond Borders Initiative (BBI) welcomed undergraduates on two field studies this year, enriching the Politis Program with international service learning, immersive travel and site-specific instruction. International study opportunities are integral to the liberal arts experience and development of global citizens. These faculty-led programs have previously brought HAU students to Cairo, Alexandria, and Istanbul, and prompted new forms of institutional collaboration in the region. Participating students receive Politis hours to apply towards the program requirement.

Amman, Jordan

This November, HAU partnered with the University of Jordan and AMIDEAST for a four-day field study to Amman, the ancient city of Philadelphia. The program offered a dynamic academic survey of Greco-Roman, Nabataean, and early Christian sites, modern Middle Eastern

politics, and Jordanian civil society challenges, including engagements with research institutions, media, social impact and art foundations, as well as a poignant service day under the auspices of UNICEF in support of Palestinian and Syrian youths. Students particularly enjoyed seeing Hellenistic influences first-hand in the expansive archeological sites of Jerash and Petra.

Rome, Italy

This April, a student cohort kicked off their Spring Break with a four-day field study to Rome to examine the Greco-Roman and contemporary connections between Greece and Italy, and discover the rich cultural and artistic landscape of the Eternal City. Students engaged with themes of cross-cultural exchange and rivalry, while reflecting on how these dynamics continue to influence modern European identities and urban futures. The academic experience was enriched through guided visits to major cultural institutions, and a critical reflection on the urban and historical parallels between Rome and Athens.

The visit coincided with Catholic Easter celebrations, allowing students to witness the spiritual and cultural significance of the season. Highlights included observing the “Urbi et Orbi” Easter address delivered by Pope Leo XIV and touring the Baroque masterpieces inspired by Greek mythology at the Galleria Borghese. This field study brought together students from diverse academic backgrounds—including Business, Informatics, and Psychology—encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue and collaborative learning.



HAU student Gerasimos Manesis with Palestinian and Syrian youths. Under the auspices of UNICEF, the Jordan Field Study incorporated a service-learning opportunity with the I-Learn Organization



HAU's Ilektra Fragkaki and Mario Chotza exploring the Treasury monument in Petra on camels



HAU student Evangelia Theofanous admires a Pentelic marble torso of the Greek god Apollo at the Barracco Museum in Rome

Leadership Dialogues

This year, the Politis Program launched the Leadership Dialogues. The new programming pillar featured prominent figures across a variety of fields, including contemporary art, sustainability, international politics, social activism, public health, and culture. These distinguished civic, humanitarian, and cultural leaders gave students the chance to connect their studies with real-world challenges, career pathways, and meaningful public impact.

- **Nathan Clements-Gillespie**, Former Director, Frieze Masters
- **Olga Dourou**, Deputy Mayor of Athens
- **Dr. Alexander Costy**, Senior Leader and 20-year veteran of the United Nations
- **Mirella Alexou**, Citizen Humanitarian
- **Anne Stake**, AI Product Lead, Gates Foundation
- **Steve Blame**, Former On-Air Host, MTV Europe

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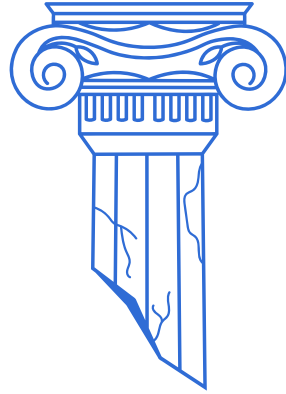


Steve Blame

Former On-Air Host,
MTV Europe



Site Visits



Groups of students attended seminar-style discussions at select institutions around the capital, accompanied by private tours and Q&A sessions. These opportunities were designed to introduce students to the responsibilities of citizenship, such as speaking with an elected representative, visiting museum collections, engaging with public exhibitions, and developing inclusive community initiatives.

European Parliament - Europa Center

At the start of Fall semester, a group of students visited the Europa Experience Center for a deep-dive into the history of European integration and institutional architecture. Curated by the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, the Athens center offers interactive learning stations with live feeds and parliamentary simulations.

Curated by the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, the Athens center offers interactive learning stations with live feeds and parliamentary simulations. Later, in May, Student Council President Maria-Crisalyn Serquina represented the university at Europe Day, held at the Europa Center with participation from major European institutions.

VouliWatch

In the context of a Greek Politics workshop on campus, students engaged with the VouliWatch platform, a unique and independent, non-partisan non-profit civic technology platform that monitors the Hellenic Parliament and the European Parliament to promote transparency and public accountability. Led by the Politis Program, the session included an introduction to Greek political parties, the Parliamentary system, party financing, and leading politicians. VouliWatch allowed participants to compare issue areas with voting records, instantaneously, and make inquiries directly to Members of Parliament.

National Gallery

This year, students visited the National Gallery Alexandros Soutsos Museum on a mission to analyze and reflect upon private patronage of public-facing institutions. Why are free citizens motivated philanthropically to support the arts and what impact do they have? Of particular interest to those volunteering with Boroume was the masterful lobby art of Panagiotis Tetsis inspired by the scenery of a classic farmer's market, the *laiki*.

Greek Embassy, Jordan

Greece's Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Irene Riga, hosted a HAU delegation at her official residence in Amman during the first-ever student program to the country from Greece. In a wide-ranging discussion with students, Ambassador Riga touched upon regional diplomacy, Greek communities of the Levant, foreign service careers, and global politics, in what was a highlight of the trip.



A Politis Program student cohort at the conclusion of a European Parliament simulation in the Europa Experience Center, Athens

Campus Activities & Professional Skills



Select university events throughout the year complemented work with external organizations, providing a balance of on-campus gatherings and online opportunities for remote students unable to participate in the Athens community.

Peloponnese International Documentary Festival (PIDF)

A group of students joined the community in celebrating the PIDF, hosted by the Hellenic American Union this February. With highly-acclaimed film submissions from countries including Bulgaria, Iran, Austria, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, and Norway, the festival presented students with an international portal to contemporary culture and new forms of storytelling around important social issues.

Book Talk – The New Byzantines

In furtherance of regional and international studies, the Politis Program hosted the book launch of author Sean Mathews' *The New Byzantines: The Rise of Greece and the Return of the Near East*, published by Hurst. Panel discussion included distinguished authors in diaspora studies Dr. Michael Vatikiotis and Prof. Alexander Kitroeff.



Diverse perspectives from the academic panel at the Hellenic American Union theater

Workshop on Workplace Readiness

As graduation approached, the Politis Program held a summative year-end workshop for students to reflect on the program journey and identify how Politis translates into workplace values and skills. During the session, discussion centered around professional expectations regarding communication, teamwork, and responsibility, and how to effectively share service work and leadership development on one's CV. This year, dozens of students pursued independent online certificates offered in conjunction with the Politis Program, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Primer, and UNICEF Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), a required credential for UN service work.

Music Night with Broadway Artist Brody Grant

This special evening for students and faculty in the Hellenic American Union theater featured Brody Grant, a New York-based multi-disciplinary artist and accomplished musician, currently making his Broadway debut in *The Outsiders*. In coordination with **Prof. Ioannis Tselikas** of the Music Department, the live performance was a chance to enjoy a unique musical talent that resonates across audiences.



Dr. Travis Bristol, Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley

Research Presentation

Dr. Travis J. Bristol

In December, students joined faculty and staff for a visiting lecture from Dr. Travis Bristol, Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who provided insights on the educational experiences of marginalized youth and teachers, highlighting systemic inequalities and evidence-based practices that foster more supportive and equitable learning environments. This was a special opportunity to reflect upon diversity in the US and Greek contexts.

Solidarity Days



National commemorations, global challenges and social activism: the Politis Program celebrates a range of calendar days. Solidarity days build space for reflection and community, and an opportunity to support external organizations that spotlight a particular issue area.

World Heritage Day and the International Day for Monuments

To celebrate World Heritage Day and the International Day for Monuments, students participated in Open House Athens, an exploration of architectural heritage for one weekend during which private buildings open their doors and the city is transformed into an urban museum. Open House is a global non-profit with the aim of promoting architecture and cultural preservation, and student volunteers undergo rigorous training to understand and then present the historical context of a given structure.

International Women's Day

A group of student volunteers and university staff came out to support the Greek International Women Awards (GIWA) in advance of International Women's Day. This marquee event drew prominent leaders from a range of industries, such as finance, fashion, media, shipping, and the arts, to recognize women leaders in Greece and celebrate women's empowerment with professional networking and career inspiration. The evening featured GIWA founder and HAU board trustee **Ms. Sofia Konstantopoulou** and **President Themis P. Kaniklidou**.

Earth Day

Following the strong turnout for last year's Annual Service Day, the Politis Program partnered this year with the **Alumni Association Board** for a joint service event in honor of Earth Day to support Philodassiki, the Athens Forestry Association.



Student volunteers and university alumni came together on the verdant slopes of Mt. Hymettus. The group participated in an educational tour of the botanical gardens and conservation area around the historic Kaiseriani Monastery, and helped out with seasonal brush clearing and trail maintenance. Philodassiki, founded in 1899, is the oldest Athenian environmental organization and twice honoree of the Academy of Athens.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

To honor the call of the day, **Prof. Kalliopi Koundouri** invited students to an academic conference on the topic of “Representations of Women in Literature and Street Art” – a scholarly reflection on the trailblazing Sicilian actress and feminist Goliarda Sapienza. The event unveiled a custom mural at the University of Athens, raising awareness on the risks to women in today’s society.

International Museum Day

A group of students enjoyed an immersive private tour of the landmark exhibition “Sector 2: Nicosia” by the Leventis Museum and House of Cyprus (Cultural Affairs of the Cypriot Embassy in Athens), which recreated the Green Line dividing the Cypriot capital. The highly engaging installation underscored a range of human and sovereign rights violations, international complicity in the occupation, and the challenges of transitional justice and peaceful conflict resolution.

World Refugee Day

This June, study abroad and domestic students supported multiple programming pillars of Refugee Week Greece, including workshops, art and history exhibitions, minority cultural events, and advocacy, culminating in a World Refugee Day Festival in a central Athens park. The themed week and diverse stakeholders provided students with the unique opportunity to assess the needs and interests of small NGOs and large foundations alike in addressing the migration crisis.

The HAU community also marked World Press Freedom Day and Global Youth Service Day.

Student Reflections



“Even small actions, like cleaning and caring for green areas, can make a big difference in our community.”

- Panagiota Paraskeva, BS Business Administration, supporting *Philodassiki*

“By preparing a meal, I directly contributed to nourishing people in need, proving my usefulness to the community.”

- Oleksandra Lubnina, BS Engineering, supporting *Humanity Greece*

“Hearing the stories of accomplished women leaders motivated me to pursue active engagement and leadership in my own path.”

- Panagiotis Mitsopoulos, BS Business Administration, supporting the *Greek International Women Awards (GIWA)*

“I aspire to translate global discussions on democracy into meaningful local action.”

- Evina Walsh, BS Informatics, supporting the *Athens Democracy Forum*

“The experience showed me the real challenges people face in finding work and inspired me to support opportunities for everyone.”

- Anna Kouvara, BS Psychology, supporting *Odyssea*

“It was interesting to see that despite the difficulties and uncertainty many people face, they still want to learn, improve themselves, and remain active and useful. I think this made the experience more personal and meaningful.”

- Theodoros Michalopoulos, BS Psychology, supporting *Sama Community Center*

Institutional Engagement

The Politis Program worked closely with a number of additional regional and international institutions to foster new forms of student programming and partnership. Collaborative institutions include:

- American College of Greece, Deree, Education Unites
- Arizona State University, Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Media
- Lebanese American University, Institute for Migration Studies
- Koç University, Global Learning and Leadership – Sustainability
- St. Petersburg College, Global Initiatives
- American University of Madaba
- American College of the Mediterranean – Institute for American Universities
- Union for the Mediterranean
- Heritage Management Organization
- Office of the Mayor, City of Athens
- Energean PLC

Looking Ahead

- The Politis Program congratulates BS Psychology student Angelos Varotsis in being named this year's Newman Civic Fellow at the 2026 Student Achievement Day. Offered by the Campus Compact NH, the Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who are changemakers and public problem-solvers, and demonstrate potential for public leadership.
- This year, 14 students applied for competitive external fellowships, including the Youth Development Forum, Berlin, and World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Shapers Athens. As deadlines arrive in the Fall, please take note of any early application requirements.
- Look out for the upcoming information session on the Fall Semester field study to Cyprus, in partnership with the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo.
- Should you have any questions about the program or ideas for future opportunities, please kindly contact politis@hauniv.edu.

See you at the Politis program Orientation in the Fall,
for all new and returning students!



POLITIS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM ΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ

 *@haupolitis*  *politis@hauniv.edu*

Hellenic American University (HAU), accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), educates students to be global citizens across two campuses in New Hampshire, USA, and Athens, Greece. HAU's Athens campus, Hellenic American College, offers a wide variety of degree options, cultural events and study abroad programs in a rich learning environment within walking distance of the Acropolis, the Parliament, ancient Greek and Roman agoras, and the first modern Olympic stadium.