

Remembering STEVE MEDEIROS



The OWL
NOV 2020 in review



Remembering Steve Medeiros

Dear ACS Athens Community,

The first anniversary of Steve Medeiros' passing was commemorated by the opening of the Steve Medeiros Book Collection, donated to ACS by Steve Medeiros and curated by Patty Green. In memory of this inspiring educator, colleague, friend and mentor to many, there was a virtual gathering on Monday, November 9th at 4:00 p.m. We look forward to a face to face opening of the book collection when the pandemic is over.

Peggy Pelonis, Ed.D President of ACS Athens



Steve Medeiros' remarkable humility was most noteworthy within his scope as an intellectual and ethical educator who inspired and co-shaped the current vision of ACS Athens. His invaluable contributions to ACS Athens range from being a faculty member, Principal, Dean of Academic Affairs to the first ever Dean of the Institute of Innovation and Creativity.

Further to the dedication, a school-wide moment of silence was observed in Steve's memory on Monday, November 9th at 9:58 a.m.

Thank you.



ACS Athens
American Community Schools

Empowering individuals to transform the world
as architects of their own learning

MARCA DALEY: LETTER TO STEVE

Marca Daley and Steve Medeiros arrived at ACS Athens around the same time, in the early 1980s. Both young educators in a new country, they quickly became close friends as well as colleagues - a friendship that lasted through the next few decades, and beyond their respective retirements just a few years ago. We're very grateful to Marca for sharing her thoughts on their friendship, and for reflecting the thoughts and words of some of the very many people who profoundly benefitted from Steve's dedication to students, friends and staff at ACS.

Dear Steve,

It's November, a year since your passing, a year of conscious reminiscences, and a year of memories that surface unbidden as I walk the trails and beaches of the Cape, a place you knew so well and loved so much. As Walt Whitman would say, our common love of the Cape is one of the 'gossamer threads' that binds our souls (yes, still!); other threads were our shared experiences in all walks of our lives in Athens and at ACS.

When I was asked to write this tribute/article for The Owl, I was not at all certain that I could. But then I began to read thoughts and memories of so many of us... your friends, colleagues, and students...all bound to you by 'gossamer threads' and so, bound to each other, by our memories of you and what you have meant to each one of us.

You were a light, a generous spirit, a role model, a mentor; you were our teacher, confidant, best friend, and as one of us wrote, 'a living paradigm, an angel on earth!' As I write, I



**Gossamer Threads
Boundless Connections
Remembering Steve Medeiros**

realize that the voice on the page needs to be voices; not mine alone, but ours. And so, here they are, from across miles and years, and even generations (another theme in Whitman's poetry).

A colleague wrote, "Steve, you are the light in the room wherever you stand; your generous spirit allows those who stand near to be enlightened." A student/colleague wrote "your light, love and teachings will live on in all of us who knew you" and another that "the light you shared with all of us will continue to glow." Yet another wrote of your "wonderfully open mind, and incredibly generous spirit which raised up everyone around you in a seemingly effortless way." There are threads here, gossamer threads. Weren't you the one to teach us to tease out the threads in literary commentary, in Humanities, in TOK, or in our own writing?

One colleague captured all our thoughts and feelings in a single sentence: "Steve, I have never met and will never meet such an *ανθρωπο*." Ah, Steve, you were so much to so many of us, but most of all you were our teacher; and here,

Remembering Steve Medeiros

some lasting memories of the qualities we admired in you; and of your influence on us and the lives we have lived.

-You were one of those people who dropped a golden seed in our hearts and taught us to think, to dream, and to be better people.

-Your intellect, humility, humor, and kindness blew me away and I wanted so much to be like you.

-You were a teacher in the truest sense of the word, and possessed the ceaseless patience of a saint.

-You motivated me, challenged me, and always supported me. You were always right there; not always visible but there, and this gave me immense strength.

-You taught me to see the beauty and importance of expression. Your love for teaching and learning was so pure and clear.

-You have shown me what it means to be thoughtful; the seemingly imperceptible yet astronomical difference between looking at 'the big picture' and thinking about 'the whole.'

-You are and always will be a teacher, my teacher ... someone who could see beyond your students' years and invest in the people they could become. Your faith in us, and in multiple generations of your students, is an enduring lesson that we must have faith in others.

-In the face of nagging impermanence and a world riddled with strife, you gifted me and our class with the joy of exquisite discovery of the world and of ourselves. You knew time, mortality and love would continue to weave and tangle themselves thru each individual day and this lesson would be our wings.

Steve, you transformed us. In our written thoughts, many of us focused on the transformation of our lives through the example of your own, and your teachings of what it is that makes us human. You taught us to listen, to

question, to think deeply and critically, to open our minds and widen our worlds, to give respectful attention to others, to take risks, to experience joy, to make our world a better place...



WALT WHITMAN (1819-1892)

A NOISELESS PATIENT SPIDER

First Publication Date: Broadway Magazine (Oct. 1868)

A noiseless patient spider,
I mark'd where on a little
promontory it stood isolated,
Mark'd how to explore the vacant
vast surrounding,
It launch'd forth filament, filament,
filament, out of itself,
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly
speeding them.

And you O my soul where you stand,
Surrounded, detached, in
measureless oceans of space,
Ceaselessly musing, venturing,
throwing, seeking the spheres to
connect them,
Till the bridge you will need be
form'd, till the ductile anchor hold,
Till the gossamer thread you fling
catch somewhere, O my soul.

Tasha Alkousakis
Jim Bonney
Benjamin Brunsun
Tina Dellas
Patty Green
Maha Haddad
Marwan Haddad
Stacey Harris-Papaioannou
Christina Hudson
Jan Karvouniaris
Iman Khodaei
Brady Kiesling
Alex Laskaris
Helen Liakos
Tommy Lynch
Rannelle McCoy
Dave Nelson
Lisa Panopoulos
Irina Popova
Danny Reed
Stavroula Salouros
Amanda Sanow
Dania Shawwa
Cim Thomakos
Paula Abdalas
Arash Michael Ambrose
Annie Ball Butters
Vicki Gardiaos
Zacharo Gialamas
Samer Khalidi
Georgia Koumantaris-Tzouros
Chris Kypriotis
Lydia Lampiri
Jim Manoussakis
Helen McGuire
Kimberly Mitchell
Marcia Moor
Lina & Danae Paidoussis
Angela Spiliot
Wendy Strahan
Tom Tziavragos
Lisa Waterman Kalantzako

MORE VOICES

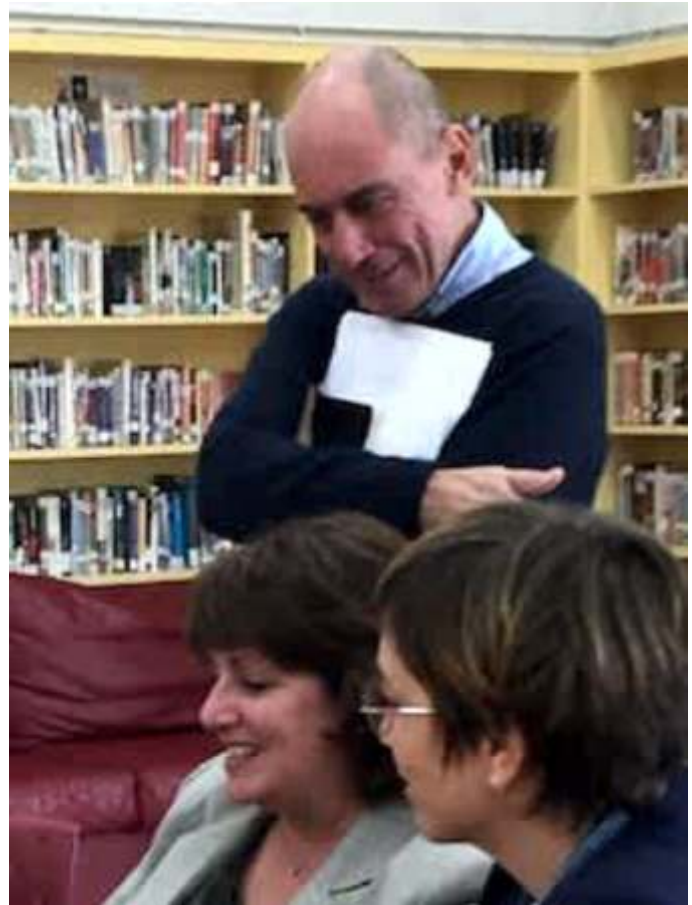
-You knew that more could be accomplished with careful listening and tough questions, and you always sought the best in each of us.

-It didn't matter whether we worked with you as an equal or as a subordinate, you were such an outstanding human being that every interaction was touched with authenticity, warmth, integrity, and kindness. You were a man of honor.

- You were the first to ask me to think deeply, critically and openly about my place in the world and what I thought about what it takes to be a human being in the world.

-I'll probably never reach your highest expectations, or in some incredible way change the world, but you have taught me to embrace that challenge and the possibility of its accomplishment.

-Thank you for opening my mind to a wider world - inside and out! Those experiences were foundational to my life and are with me always.



Steve with Julie Crain, Middle School principal

-You taught us that there is no degree of hopelessness to which we should be immune and not give our respectful attention. And you modeled that living in the presence is the triumph of the human spirit in itself.



-You have been THE most influential educator I have had in my life. You opened my eyes and heart and mind to all that is beautiful in humanity and in human nature, and for that, I can never thank you enough. To have had you as my teacher and mentor at ACS during those critical, formative, delicate years of youth, propelled me down a life path, rich and fulfilling with love and laughter and purpose, seeking to leave the world a better place.

-You always made me feel like my voice was being heard, Steve. Your attentive listening, support, and sympathetic disposition helped me keep perspective.

-Throughout a long and distinguished career as an educator, you transformed the lives of hundreds of young people, showed them the

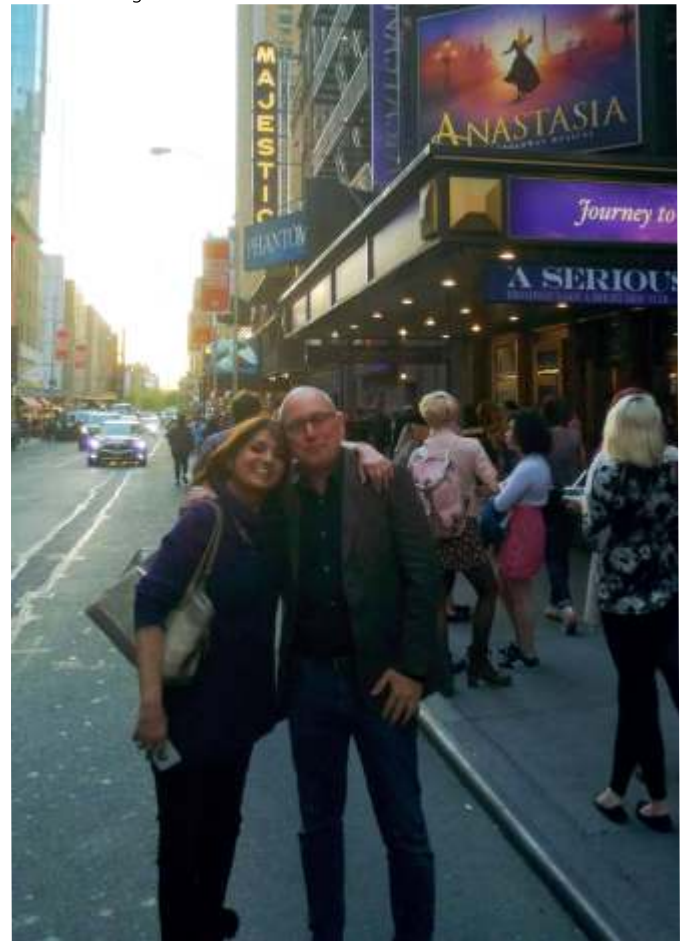
beauty of art, the history of human accomplishment, and taught them the values that make us truly human. There can be no better legacy than the ability to help a new generation of young minds grow in the right direction.

-Your reach has come across generations. Your enthusiasm, your charm, your gentle way...these have stayed with me all this time. You spread your gentle coolness and love of life to generations of people and made this world a better place.

-Our world is better for having you in it. You will always be a light for so many of us. I want to tell you that all over the globe, right at this moment, those people whose minds you have shaped and moulded are now unified in loving you.

-I hope you feel the love and respect of a global network of the students you taught, mentored and befriended at ACS. We do not gather in person but we gather together nonetheless, united by memories whose details may have faded over the years, but whose lessons endure across time and space.

Steve and long time friend Belina Korovessis in Midtown Manhattan



Again I turn to Whitman: "It avails not, time nor place -- distance avails not," and I imagine you responding with his next line: "I am with you, you men and women of a generation, or ever so many generations hence," Crossing Brooklyn Ferry I can even hear your voice--your voice as you used to read from Whitman (or Wordsworth, or Keats, or Frost) and I'm lost for a moment in memories that have surfaced unbidden...

Steve, thus far, the voices I have shared with you are ACS voices, but there are others whose lives you profoundly touched also. You modeled for us just how one could make the world a better place through your passionate work and leadership with Democrats Abroad Greece. Two of your colleagues from DAGR also wrote to share their thoughts.

-When a friend and colleague dies young (63?), you think long and hard about memory. Steve had been a pillar of my community, the stable, infinitely sensible and unselfish core of Democrats Abroad Greece.

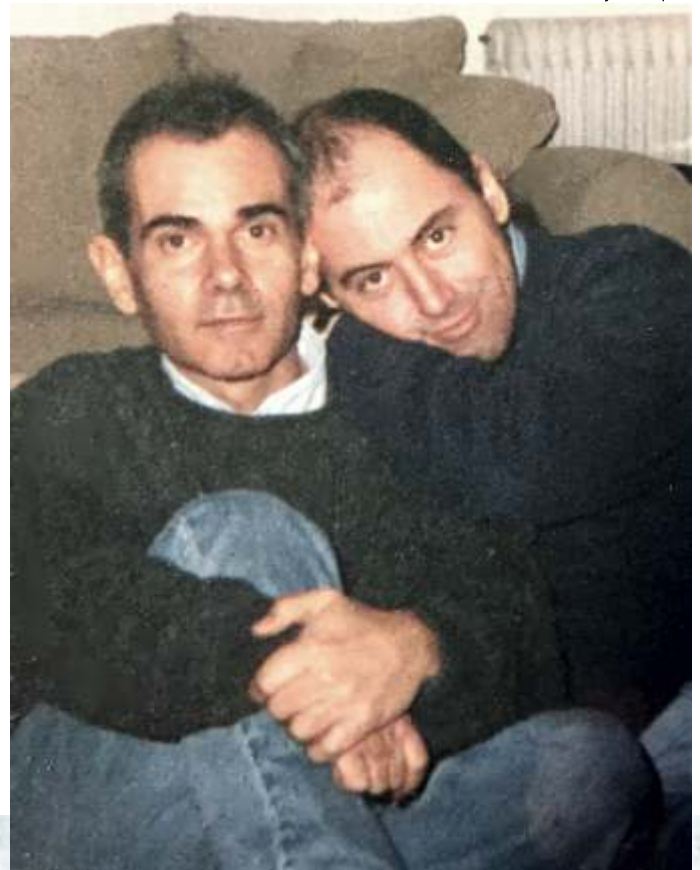
Guessing, as we did not, how little time was left to him, he willingly sacrificed that time for his colleagues and community. Forgetting him is not an option. ...

This morning, at the memorial to Steve Medeiros at the Athens First Cemetery, I saw a crowd of people large enough and loving enough to make me think memory is not safely entrusted to stonecutters, but instead to the people we leave behind us, the ones whose lives Steve worked selflessly to change for the better. ([Brady Kiesling, November 2019, Athens, Greece](#))

-It comes as no surprise that Steve died on the eve of the Feast of Angels here in Greece. Steve was truly an earth angel--an easy going, patient man, tolerant of all, a leader who always held everyone as an equal in both deed and thought. ... His legacy lives on in his learners - his students, his colleagues, his friends, and his family. ([Stacey Harris-Papaioannou, DAGR](#))

Steve, when you left us last year, we were not prepared for the leave-taking. What I mean is, we knew that your leave-taking was imminent, but were not ready for ours. Our goodbyes came later, at different times and in different settings. Physically, some of us were very near to you, and others of us oceans apart. I want to share what two colleagues wrote of their leave-takings.

-There are only spots of color left in the forest now. Last week a big storm stripped the branches of most





Steve with former colleagues and friends: retired teachers George Peppas and Perry Fotinelli

of the remaining leaves. The bare trunks let in more light now. I wade through knee high drifts of brown leaves remembering how as kids we used to jump into the carefully raked mounds, shrieking with laughter.

This is the perfect place to reflect and to remember my irreplaceable friend who so deeply and in such profound ways touched my experience and influenced my life.

There is great beauty in this grand letting go.
[Cim Thomakos](#)

-I am bewildered by the decline in the unfolding of events; awestruck of his power--that even if the body may be wasting and ravaged, his quiet presence still holds the strength to make me a better person. How his gentility and civility, his delightful company is here to teach me yet, a new lesson. I am humbled both by his tenacity and his fragility, anticipating with foreboding the hollow of his absence...what Pico Iyer refers to "the suprasensory porousness to life"...And how not by purpose nor intent, he has given me a chance to bear witness to one of life's most profound moments.

[Patty Green Wenman](#)

And finally, Steve, my own leave-taking. It happened on your birthday, in February, when I thought that I wouldn't be communicating with you; but it was a Whitman experience. Of course.

I walked one of my favorite walks, The Atlantic White Cedar Swamp down at the site of the old

Marconi Station in Wellfleet. We passed by on our way to your wedding in Provincetown on that glorious and freezing New Year's Day! I'd been thinking of you and Tony and our friendship practically the whole hike ... high on the ocean bluffs as I gazed out over the fog-shrouded sea; as I walked the pine needle-covered paths; and into the rich silence of the swamp itself.

As I returned from the 9-km hike, I took a path that I hardly ever take. There, on a bench by the side of the woods, was a plastic container. In it, a small notebook, a pen, and a card with a line from Walt Whitman's poem "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" - Who knows, for all the distance, but I am as good as looking at you now, for all you cannot see me?

Now what would you think? One of your (and my) favorite poets in one of my favorite places, on your birthday... Walt Whitman, the Transcendentalist who believed that we can all transcend time and place and space...

Steve, I have never tried to make sense of this experience; just consider it one of the many 'gossamer threads' that binds our souls. But as I recall it, I smile. I can hear your voice, watch you speak with your hands, and remember how you always smiled with your eyes and spread joy with your laughter.

We love you and miss you. Until we meet again...

Marca



Athanasios Ellis Class of '81 is Editor in Chief of Kathimerini English Edition, published in Greece with the New York Times as a single paper. A long time Washington bureau chief, he has also reported from many other capitals - Beijing, Tokyo, Brussels, Berlin, London, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Ankara, Nicosia, Cairo- and has interviewed numerous heads of state and international organizations, among them Turkish leaders Erdogan, Gul, and Davutoglu, French Presidents Macron and Sarkozy, European Commission Presidents Junker and Barroso, and IMF Managing Directors Lagarde and Strauss Kahn. He has often appeared on international media to analyze Greece related issues. He holds a B.A. from Boston University in Economics and Political Science, and a M.A. from Boston University (Paris) in International Relations.



ACS Athens Alum
Athanasios Ellis

Editor in Chief
Kathimerini
English Edition

**The following article is from Ekathimerini's November 6, 2020 comments.
The original, and many other editorials, can be viewed [here](#)**

'Greek team' in US Congress bolstered to six

The Greek voice in the United States Congress has been strengthened even further, while at the same time becoming more gender balanced with the addition of one more woman, who is a Republican, thus making the "team" more politically diverse too.

Tuesday's polls saw the re-election of the five members of the diaspora who already sat in the House of Representatives, while their total number was increased to six after the successful candidacy of one more Greek American.

More specifically, Democrat John Sarbanes from Maryland with 70% of the vote, Charlie Crist from Florida with 53%, Dina Titus from Nevada with 61% and Chris Pappas from New Hampshire with 52% enjoyed relatively easy wins

that saw them reclaim their seats in Congress. Along with the four Democrats, two Greek-American representatives of the Republican Party were also elected. Florida's Gus Bilirakis, a steady presence in Congress for many years, was easily re-elected with 63% of the vote, while the "Greek team" was strengthened with the addition of one more Republican, Nicole Malliotakis, who was elected for the first time in her home state of New York, with 58%.

In total, this means that there are six Greek-American representatives in the US Congress who will be able to express the community's concerns not only on domestic issues, but also with respect to the problems, and in some cases threats, that the motherlands of Greece and Cyprus, are facing.



The positive trend in the House of Representatives is, unfortunately, not matched by a similar one in the Senate, where there is no member with Greek roots. There was a time when we had two senators in the upper chamber – both of whom served for many years: Democrat Paul Sarbanes and Republican Olympia Snowe. One only hopes this will change soon.

Still, for the past few years, that vacuum in the US Senate body has been filled very amply and ably by Robert Menendez, who has shown a keen and consistent interest in issues related to Greece and Cyprus. rican president and his administration.

Tom Ellis

ekathimerini.com



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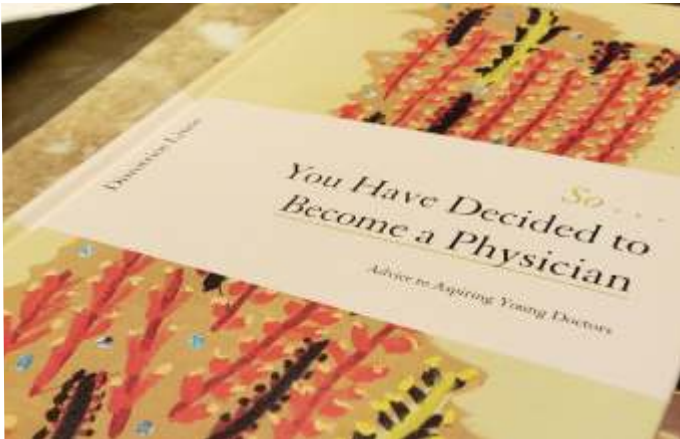
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TALENT SKILL ADVICE EXPERIENCE EXPERTISE



Congratulations to Valia Efstathiou, Athletic Programs & Events Coordinator at ACS Athens, whose love for photography earned her the Fall 2020 Award from Viewbug.com



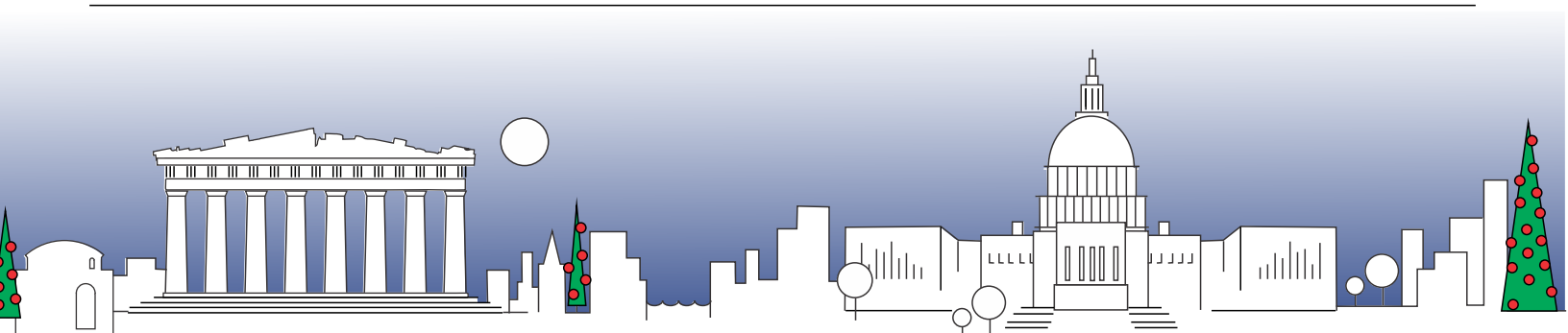
New book by Parent Dimitrios Linos

My new book " So... You have Decided to Become a Physician. Advice to Aspiring Young Doctors " coming to Greece soon from the publications of Chinese University of Hong Kong. China comments are already very good...



Maria Mazarakis Tastemiroglou

We have hand selected young talented individuals that both ideate and create their pieces in Greece to be highlighted through our website. We believe in this unique space to nest and increase the creative reach of our young talented Greek Artists.



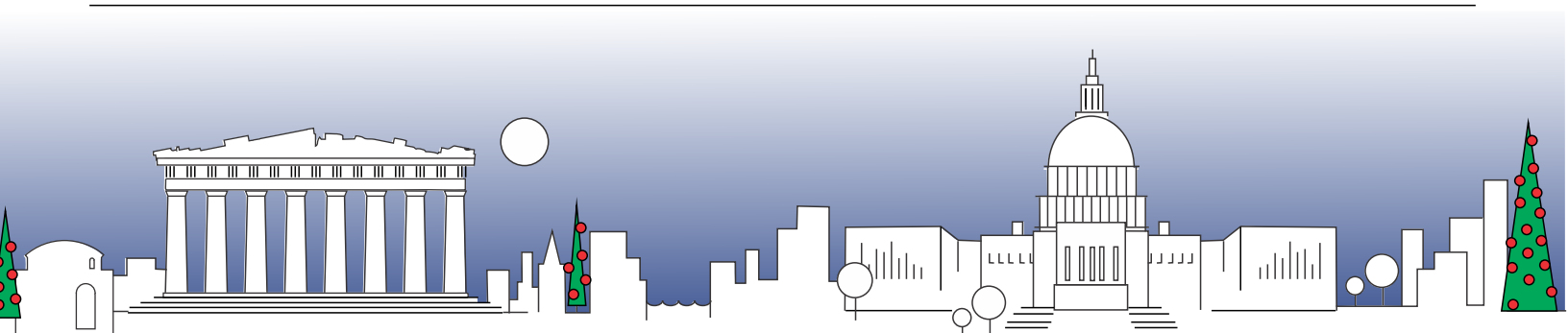


The amazing work of alum Mano Cris on sale!

Abstract and robot digital art prints for home decor that are an eclectic mix of Mid-century modern style, found object art, Google design, Atomic age design, Pop and Art deco influence.



Tasty, healthy and eco-friendly: Christina Hudson on how to eat like a Greek





George Tselalis

Alum George Tzelalis' new venture begins - the new e-shop is now live! Socks, insoles and other accessories! Good Luck George! Details here



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ACSAthensGlobal.org's BizNET Discount Project is part of our effort to help network and build support for Global Member



It's Easy

- You must be a member - join us (free) at www.acsathensglobal.org
- Please send us your Business Name, website link and discount percentage you will be offering ACS ATHENS GLOBAL Members
- We will list your business on the BIZNET Discount Gallery of our site for members to view.
- Once you have become a registered member you may print your card from your profile and present it for the discount.



ACS Athens House T-Shirt Day is coming up!

Let's celebrate, build, and promote the School's Spirit - and also earn points for our House! Students, faculty, and staff, you are all invited to wear your House T-shirt and promote your House!

To claim your points: Academy students & faculty please report to Mr. Mologousis, Middle School students & faculty please report to Mr. Achilleos, and Staff members may report to Ms. Pateraki at the Athletic office.



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ACS Athens NEWS



NGTV news segment on virtual teaching and learning at ACS Athens: Dr. Peggy Pelonis talks about the online platforms, the philosophy of virtual schooling, the tools and best practices that culminate from over a decade of innovation at ACS Athens



ACS Athens House System - November 2020 Points Tally



A well-established ACS Athens tradition, the House system is running strong and participants continue to get involved in various activities, earning points for their House.

Currently, the proud House of Macedonians is leading all Houses in Total Points, while Athenians and Trojans are in second and third places respectively.

House points are assigned to ACS Athens students, parents, guardians, faculty, and staff based on participation and special recognition in school related events and activities.

The main focus of the House Spirit System is to connect our students, parents, guardians, faculty, and staff and therefore to empower our community to be successful academically, socially, and ethically!

The entire ACS Athens Community, including our beloved alumni, is invited to join the fun and embrace the history and tradition of ACS Athens!

