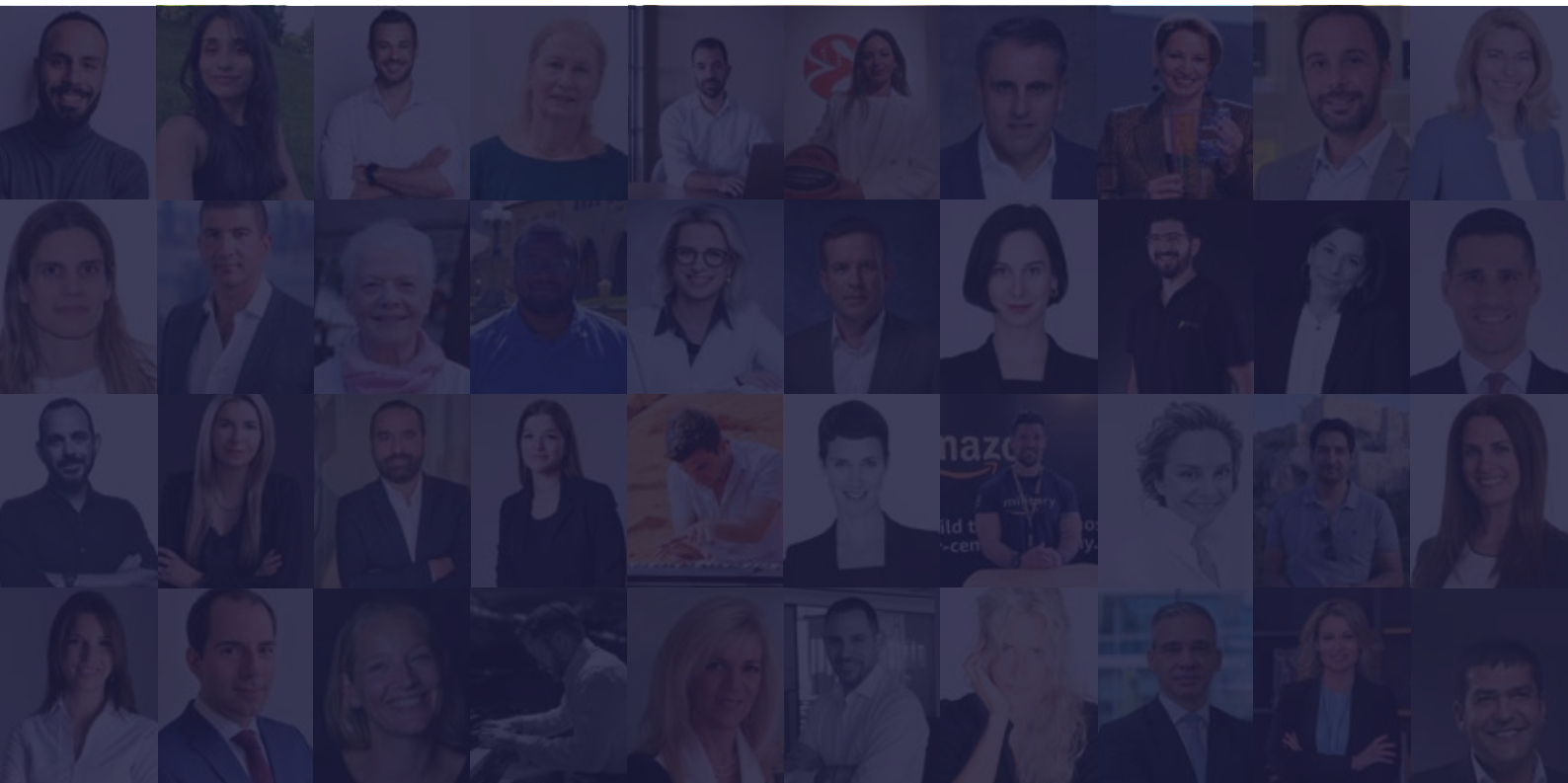
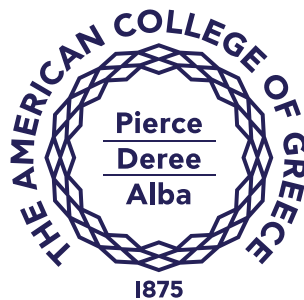


Then. Now. Always ACG.

Alumni Stories Celebrating
150 Years of Educational Excellence



150
YEARS
OF HISTORY
1875 - 2025



100
YEARS
IN GREECE
1923 - 2023

Table of Contents

A Note From The President	4
Corporate World	6
People & Culture	17
Digital Giants	27
Social Impact	35
Financial Foresight	42
Our Alumni In Numbers	48
Go-Getters	50
Travel & Tourism	58
Media & Marketing	62
We Are Family	68
Rising Stars	75
Pillars Of Pierce	80
Meet The Office of Advancement-Alumni	84

Dedicated to Maria Laina, Deree '94

We dedicate this book to our beloved colleague and friend, Maria Laina, Deree '94, whose vision first inspired its creation. Beginning in 2015, Maria brought her grace, warmth, and formidable spirit to the work of growing and strengthening ACG's alumni programs—leaving a lasting legacy in the community she so deeply loved.



A Note from the President

When I first arrived at The American College of Greece, I set out to understand what gives this institution its distinctive character. I read through reports, walked the campuses, and spoke with faculty, staff, and students—but nothing captured the spirit of ACG as vividly as this alumni book.

As part of our 150th anniversary celebration, nearly 100 alumni—from artists and entrepreneurs to business leaders and social impact pioneers—shared their stories. These individuals represent just a small cross-section of our more than 70,000 alumni around the world. Many ACG graduates have reached the highest levels in their fields and have been honored through Alumni Awards, featured at milestone events such as our recent 100th Anniversary Gala, and profiled through the Success Stories and alumni podcasts available on our website.

For this publication, we chose to spotlight a diverse group of voices—fresh faces and familiar names alike—to reflect the breadth of the ACG experience. Our hope is that every reader will see something of their own journey in these pages.

These reflections speak more powerfully than any mission statement. They illustrate how an education at Pierce, Deree, or Alba doesn't simply prepare students for a profession—it shapes who you are, how you think, and how you engage with the world. They reminded me that our most meaningful legacy is not found in buildings or accolades, but in people.

Whether you're reading this book for inspiration or reflection, I hope these stories spark pride in what ACG has meant over the past 150 years—and excitement for what we will build together in the years ahead.

Warmly,

Ed Wingebach, PhD

President, The American College of Greece

WELCOME!

In 2025, The American College of Greece celebrates its 150th anniversary—a moment to honor our history and the alumni who have shaped it. This milestone offers a unique opportunity to showcase the diverse achievements of our graduates and the lasting impact of their ACG experience.

This book brings together inspiring stories and quotes from alumni around the world, celebrating their professional and personal accomplishments. Through these narratives, we aim to foster pride within our community, highlight the value of an ACG education, and strengthen the connection among alumni, students, and friends of the College.

We invite you to explore these voices and journeys—a collective reflection of ACG's enduring legacy and global impact.

Corporate World

From boardrooms to global strategy teams, our alumni are making their mark in the world's leading companies. This section highlights their career journeys, leadership roles, and the values that continue to guide them—demonstrating how the ACG experience translates into success on the global corporate stage.



Vanessa Andreadi

**Chief Compliance Officer
and Deputy Chief Risk Officer**
Deloitte Greece

Pierce '93

Alba '03

With over two decades of experience in law, compliance, and risk management, Vanessa Andreadi has built a career defined by excellence, purpose, and a deep commitment to ethics. She oversees a team of 25 professionals and plays a pivotal role in financial crime compliance across 19 countries in the North South Europe (NSE) region.

Vanessa began her career at Deloitte as a Tax Consultant, eventually moving into the General Counsel Office. Her leadership journey accelerated in 2017 when she developed Deloitte's Tax Compliance Department and, a year later, assumed leadership of the firm's entire compliance function. In 2021, she was appointed AML & Trade Control Leader, and most recently took on a regional role within Deloitte's NSE Financial Crime team.

Vanessa credits much of her success to the solid educational foundation she built at Pierce College, where she graduated with distinction in 1993. "I'll never forget my first job interview," she recalls. "What stood out to the interviewer wasn't just my law degree—but the fact that I was a graduate of ACG. That moment made me realize just how much weight and respect the ACG name carried."

Her journey in education continued with a law degree from the University of Athens, a specialization in Tax Law from the University of Athens Department of Economics, and an MSc in Business for Lawyers from Alba Graduate Business School in 2004.

Throughout her career, Vanessa has consistently drawn from the core values instilled during her ACG years: responsibility, service, and collaboration.

"ACG's motto, *Non Ministrari Sed Ministrare*—'Not to be served, but to serve'—has guided me in leadership and in life. It taught me to take ownership of my goals and to lead by supporting others."

Her approach to compliance is both strategic and people-centered. "In compliance, your ability to communicate clearly, build trust, and think critically is just as important as knowing the regulations," she explains. "ACG helped me develop those skills early on through presentations, teamwork, and exposure to both Greek and international academic styles."

Vanessa also emphasizes the importance of meaningful relationships formed at ACG—one of which became so close that the friend baptized her daughter. "These connections, grounded in shared values, have had a lasting impact on my life."

Her motto—"To make an impact that matters" drives everything she does. Whether leading regulatory transformation, mentoring future leaders, or publishing her children's book, *The Adventures of the Fairy Kalendoula*, Vanessa brings purpose to every endeavor.

As a leader, she encourages young professionals to be adaptable, continuously learn, and never underestimate the value of values. "Ethical decision-making, clear communication, and resilience are the pillars of success in compliance—and in life."



Vily Markoglou

Real Estate Broker
Douglas Elliman

Pierce '83

Deree '87

I'm a proud graduate of both Pierce and Deree. After earning a double major in Sociology and Dance, I began my career in education as a teacher's assistant at St. Lawrence College, where I worked for nine years. I later moved to New York to pursue a master's in education and worked briefly in public relations on Wall Street—until I discovered my true passion: real estate. For the past 20 years, I've built a successful career in Manhattan and currently work as a broker at Douglas Elliman, one of the city's top residential firms. I've consistently ranked among the company's top 25 brokers and received numerous awards. Outside of work, I've served on the Board of the Greek Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society for over 15 years. I'm also a proud mother of two—my son is in medical school, and my daughter recently earned a journalism degree.

How did ACG shape your journey?

My 11 years at Pierce and Deree gave me far more than a degree—they shaped who I am. The critical thinking, core values, and mentorship I received from faculty like Dr. Wayne Burke and his wife Connie launched my career in education. They gave me my first job while I was still a student, setting me on a path of purpose and self-confidence.

When I transitioned into real estate in New York, it was that same foundation—discipline, resilience, and adaptability—that helped me thrive in one of the world's most competitive industries.

Which ACG-acquired skills made a lasting impact?

At Pierce, we practiced leadership daily. I still remember our end-of-day student meetings where we debated school issues and voted on solutions. That experience taught collaboration, communication, and

accountability—skills I now use to close multimillion-dollar deals and build long-term client trust.

What values from ACG guide your life today?

Respect, self-discipline, and responsibility were instilled in us early on. The Pierce environment balanced structure and compassion, teaching us to treat others with dignity, work hard, and own our choices. Those values guide me as a professional, a mother, and a community member.

Were there mentors who influenced your path?

Pierce felt like family. My sisters and cousins attended, and even my daughter studied abroad there. I was married on campus—my bond to ACG runs deep. Mentors like Mrs. Kosmadaki and Mr. Drakopoulos helped shape our sense of excellence and purpose. They didn't just teach—they inspired.

What role has the alumni network played in your life?

After 25 years in New York, the alumni network—especially through the ACG Office of Advancement-Alumni—has been a lifeline. It's more than networking; it's a family. We stay connected across states and show up for one another. I encourage every graduate to engage—it opens doors and reminds us of our shared roots.

What's your life motto?

"Strive for success, but more than that, strive for happiness." Knowing what brings you joy—and having the courage to pursue it—has shaped every major decision I've made. Success without joy is never enough.



Nikos Koumettis

President, Europe Operating Unit,
The Coca-Cola Company
ACG Board of Trustees

Deree '86

I serve as President of the Europe Operating Unit at The Coca-Cola Company, overseeing 40 countries. Under my leadership, the unit was awarded both the Woodruff Cup for best global performance and the Candler Cup for excellence in Greece and Cyprus. Since joining Coca-Cola in 2001, I've held leadership roles across Canada and the EMEA region. I'm also Chair of Société BIC, Vice Chair of The American College of Greece, and co-founder of the youth empowerment initiative "Regeneration." A Greek-Cypriot born in Sudan, I enjoy skiing and sailing with my wife, Sarita, and our two children.

How did your time at ACG shape your professional journey?

My ACG experience laid the foundation for my career. One pivotal moment early on involved stepping into a leadership role where I had to quickly apply critical thinking and teamwork—skills that ACG had instilled in me. The College's rigorous academic environment taught me to seek excellence and embrace challenges, and these lessons have served me well throughout my professional life.

Can you share an example where ACG-acquired skills made a difference in your work?

Problem-solving has been one of the most valuable skills I gained at ACG. As a new manager, I had to navigate a project with stakeholders holding conflicting interests. My ability to communicate clearly, negotiate effectively, and apply data-driven insights helped me lead the team to a successful outcome. These hard and soft skills — developed during my time at ACG—continue to play a central role in my leadership today.

What values from ACG continue to guide you?

Three enduring values I carry with me are integrity, perseverance, and collaboration. I remember a group project under tight deadlines where success depended on teamwork and shared accountability. That experience reinforced the importance of staying committed, working together, and being transparent—principles I still live by.

Were there mentors or moments at ACG that made a lasting impact?

Absolutely. A professor in my field of study emphasized the importance of intellectual curiosity and never settling for "good enough." That advice has been a compass throughout my career. I also recall a particularly demanding class project that we overcame through collective effort and determination. That taught me the power of mindset and collaboration—something I carry into every leadership role.

What advice would you give to young professionals?

"Fail forward" is a motto I live by. Setbacks are part of growth. Embrace them as learning opportunities and stay focused on long-term goals. The future will be shaped by technology, data, and AI—but also by people who can lead with emotional intelligence. Young professionals should strive to be agile, tech-savvy, and values-driven.

Why should alumni stay connected with ACG?

The ACG alumni network is a powerful resource for collaboration, career development, and personal growth. I've experienced firsthand how valuable these connections can be, and I strongly encourage all alumni to stay involved.



John Vasilakos

Group CEO
Fournalis Group

Deree '95

I'm the Group CEO of Fournalis Group, a leading retail organization in Southeast Europe focused on home, sports, and wellness. Previously, I served as CEO of Next Gen Retail S.A. (Kotsovolos), the region's top omnichannel tech retailer. I joined Kotsovolos in 2010 and spent 15 years there in roles including CCO, COO, and CEO, leading major digital and strategic transformations. Earlier, I held leadership positions at Multirama, Public Retail World, Informer Group, and Pouliadis. I hold a master's in management from Hult Ashridge Business School and a marketing management degree from ACG.

How did your ACG experience shape your career?

ACG laid the foundation for my leadership mindset. Its emphasis on analytical thinking, collaboration, and a global business perspective equipped me to face complex challenges and drive innovation. These skills proved especially vital during Kotsovolos' strategic transformation, when we had to reimagine our customer engagement model in a rapidly evolving retail landscape.

How did an ACG-acquired skill make a difference in your career?

When leading the redesign of our assortment planning at Kotsovolos, I applied both hard and soft skills—analytical thinking, customer insight, cross-functional teamwork, and adaptability. These were sharpened during my time at ACG. We moved away from assumption-based decisions and built a customer-centric product mix using data, which improved engagement and conversions.

What values did ACG instill that you still carry today?

Customer centricity, strategic thinking, and adaptability. These values came to life during the COVID-19 crisis, when we converted physical stores into dark stores for local fulfillment. This rapid pivot required decisive action and alignment across teams—a real-world application of the principles I studied at Deree.

Who made an impact on you at ACG?

Several people left a lasting mark. Anthony Theodorakis, then Dean of Marketing, was a mentor and role model—I worked as his assistant, gaining both financial support and hands-on experience. Dr. Eleftheria Bernidaki Aldous inspired me with her resilience and commitment. And Maria Laina, a friend and fellow alumna, reconnected me to ACG years later through her generous spirit and dedication. Her ability to foster meaningful connections had a lasting effect on both my personal and professional life.

"ACG laid the foundation for my leadership mindset."



Lena Triantogiannis

Senior Partner

Egon Zehnder

ACG Board of Trustees

Pierce '84

Deree '89

Lena Triantogiannis advises boards and C-suite leaders globally on senior talent strategy, leadership transitions, and organizational transformation.

She leads the firm's global Unlocking Transformations practice and is recognized as a global expert in supporting leaders as they grow into new roles. Based in Greece, Lena works extensively across Europe and the U.S., coaching executives, designing leadership development programs, and helping teams evolve. But long before shaping executive leadership at the highest levels, Lena began cultivating her own as a student at Pierce and Deree.

"My years at ACG gave me the confidence to dream big, to stay curious, and to explore boldly—even when society didn't always encourage it," she reflects. "It was a safe space that fostered both academic inquiry and personal development."

After starting her career at Procter & Gamble in finance and marketing—including a stint in Germany—Lena joined Egon Zehnder, where she has spent over 25 years, pioneering leadership development offerings. She credits ACG's collaborative, inquiry-based learning with building her critical thinking, empathy, and appreciation for diverse perspectives—qualities she uses daily in her coaching work.

"I still carry with me the values ACG instilled: integrity, perseverance, compassion, and a commitment to service," she says. "Non ministrari sed ministrare—to serve, not to be served—is more than a motto. It's a purpose."

Lena served on Pierce's Student Council for six years, an experience that shaped her approach to leadership. "I learned to value collective intelligence and respect different viewpoints—skills that now help me guide executive teams through transformation."

She continues to stay deeply connected to ACG as a member of the Board of Trustees. "It's a privilege to give back," she says. "The school keeps us grounded while helping future generations grow into purpose-driven professionals."

Her advice to young alumni? "Know yourself. The future of leadership is rooted in self-awareness, humility, and empathy. Commit to lifelong development. Be curious about who you are and how you can serve."

Lena's guiding philosophy is summed up in her favorite quote by Aristotle:

*"Knowing yourself
is the beginning
of all wisdom."*



Ranya Shamoon

**Senior Vice-President Baby Care
Category Growth & Transformation**
Procter & Gamble

Deree '93

I'm Senior Vice President of Baby Care Category Growth & Transformation, where I have the privilege of leading Pampers—our largest global brand. Throughout my 30+ year journey at P&G, I've held a range of local, regional, and global roles, working with incredible teams to turn around businesses and unlock growth for some of our most iconic brands.

I'm passionate about building purpose-driven brands that put people first, and I believe in the power of inclusive, diverse teams to drive meaningful innovation. My leadership style blends strategic clarity with empathy, and I'm deeply committed to creating work that supports every baby's happy, healthy development—and earns the trust of families around the world.

How did your ACG experience shape your career?

After graduating from ACG, I joined Procter & Gamble, starting in the Athens office. That first role sparked my passion for building brands that make a difference in people's lives. ACG helped shape the mindset I carry with me—seeing change as opportunity, leading with inclusivity, and embracing a growth mindset. Those values grounded me during both the exciting and challenging moments of my career.

What ACG-acquired skills helped you most?

ACG helped me build a powerful combination of hard and soft skills. The academic rigor sharpened my analytical thinking and communication—essential for strategic decision-making. Equally important were adaptability, respect for diverse perspectives, and curiosity—skills that helped me lead global teams and drive innovation.

What values from ACG do you carry with you?

Three stand out:

- Integrity, which has shaped how I lead with transparency and trust.
- Respect for your true self, learned through ACG's inclusive environment.
- Commitment to service, inspired by the College's motto: "Not to be served, but to serve."

These values continue to guide how I lead, mentor, and build teams.

Were there key mentors or moments that stand out?

Absolutely. At ACG, I experienced mentorship that helped me find my voice and build confidence. It's also where I built lifelong friendships that taught me the importance of support, loyalty, and growing together. That early experience showed me how powerful it is when someone believes in you—it's why I now mentor others.

Why is the alumni network valuable?

The ACG alumni network is a way to stay connected to a shared set of values and pay it forward. It's a space for learning, support, and inspiration across generations.

What future trends excite you most?

AI is transforming how we connect with consumers. To thrive in this space, young professionals should embrace tech while staying grounded in empathy, curiosity, and purpose.

What's your life motto?

"Live authentically, serve with heart and mind." Leading with care and integrity helps me build trust, stay grounded through change, and make a meaningful impact.



Niovi **Kallergi**

Vice President & CMO
Kafea Terra Food and Drinks S.A.

Pierce '81

"My time at ACG shaped both my personal and professional outlook, instilling values of integrity, continuous learning, and perseverance—principles that have guided me throughout my journey in the coffee industry. It also reinforced the importance of adaptability, collaboration, and meaningful work. The lessons from ACG—embracing challenges with confidence and staying open to evolution—remain integral to my path."



Kostas **Sigalas**

Area Sales Manager
Athenian Brewery

Deree '06

"Studying at ACG truly broadened my mindset—it taught me to think critically, embrace diverse perspectives, and lead with integrity. The friendships I formed became a lifelong network of support and inspiration. Through countless group projects and shared challenges, I learned the power of teamwork and collaboration. ACG instilled in me the value of perseverance, which continues to guide me both professionally and personally."





Dr. Johanna **Tzanidaki**

**Executive Director EU Policy &
Innovation Research**
SAE Group Europe

Pierce '88

Deree '93

"My education at Pierce and Deree provided me with lifelong friendships and the confidence to express my opinions. I developed a genuine love for learning and the ability to think creatively. I'm deeply grateful to my teachers and professors for their unwavering support."



Nick **Stasinopoulos**

Chairman
Hellenic-ASEAN Business Council

Deree '07

"When I was an undergraduate at ACG, working full-time at Swissport, life was a constant balancing act: financial strain, sleepless nights, and self-doubt. Juggling work and studies often felt impossible. But through it all, one person changed everything: my student advisor, Ms. Tokatlian. She wasn't just an advisor, she was my anchor.

Ms. Tokatlian had a rare gift for making students feel seen and supported. She believed in me when I couldn't believe in myself. Her guidance went far beyond academics; she helped me navigate every challenge and never gave up on me. At my lowest moments, her presence alone could calm the storm. I never had the chance to thank her properly. She's no longer with us, but her impact is lasting. I know I'm not alone. She touched so many lives with her kindness, strength, and unwavering dedication. Wherever she is, I hope she knows how grateful I am. Without her, I may not have made it through college, or become who I am today."



Christine **Mavromichalis**

Head of Human Resources and Legal
NAVIMAR Shipmanagement Inc.

Deree '04

"I will always cherish my memories at ACG where I fostered life-long friendships and was so lucky to receive invaluable mentorship from the Honorable President Bailey."



George **Bourazanis**

Vice President
CVM

Alba '12

"Every person you meet carries a story of resilience, ambition, and untapped brilliance. See the hero in them, and they will rise to it."



George **Drakos**

General Manager
EMC, Clima Skin Care

Pierce '04

"At ACG, I learned that big goals shouldn't scare you—they should inspire you, and that the future belongs to those who dare to shape it."



Ivi Melakopidi

Senior HR Manager
Allianz Trade

Pierce '97

Deree '02

"My ACG journey began in the 1990s, walking up the ramp at Pierce College in Aghia Paraskevi as a young 'al-faki.' Over six transformative years, Pierce offered a nurturing environment, excellent education, and countless opportunities that helped shape who I am. At Deree, I continued to grow, fueled by a holistic American education that expanded my worldview.

Today, our family's connection to ACG spans three generations. It fills me with pride to see my own children now thriving at the newly established Pierce Elementary. Once again, I see what makes ACG special: dedicated teachers, a well-rounded curriculum, enriching extracurriculars, and a warm, inspiring atmosphere. ACG is more than a school—it's a living part of our family's story. I'm honored to be part of this milestone. Here's to the next 150 years!"



Yorgos Raskovic

Economic Policy Professional
Pepco Holdings

Deree '15

"As an economic policy professional focused on international development and energy markets, I've had the opportunity to work in Washington, D.C., at the World Bank, the European Union, and leading U.S. think tanks—contributing to projects that promote economic growth and infrastructure development around the world. My journey began at ACG, where I took full advantage of international programs and scholarships, studying abroad in South Korea and the U.S. Being part of the Debate Club and the History Society sharpened my analytical thinking and broadened my global outlook—skills that have been instrumental in shaping my career."

People & Culture

Our alumni, with their unique blend of artistic talent, business acumen, and cultural understanding, are poised to lead in the people and culture sector. They bring a fresh perspective and innovative ideas to the table, making them valuable assets to organizations worldwide.



Myrsini Feliou

Partner
Felios & Associates Law Firm

Pierce '03

For Myrsini Feliou, Pierce '03, the school motto — *Non Ministrari, Sed Ministrare*—has been more than a school emblem; it's been a compass. "It reflects my commitment to service and leadership," she says, describing how the principle has shaped both her professional journey as a lawyer and her personal life as the spouse of a diplomat.

After graduating from Pierce in 2003, Myrsini pursued her top academic choice: law school. "That came relatively easily," she reflects, "thanks to the methodologies I learned at Pierce—methodical study, consistency, and a mindset of evolution." These habits became crucial when she transitioned to the larger, more impersonal landscape of a Greek university. "The supportive environment at Pierce prepared me to navigate that new reality with independence and structure."

Now a partner at Felios & Associates Law Firm, Myrsini specializes in art law. Her career has a distinctly international dimension—an advantage she credits in part to her fluency in English, honed during her years at Pierce. "It's given me the confidence to operate comfortably in diverse professional settings," she says.

She continues to grow professionally by attending seminars and global conferences, including the annual U.S.-based "Legal Issues on Museum Administration." "Continuous learning is key," she says. "I read widely and stay curious."

Though her work has taken her across borders, the Pierce network remains a vital connection point. Before relocating to New York with her husband,

then the Consul General, she reached out to the ACG advancement team and connected with fellow alumni to explore how she could contribute to ACG's broader impact. "That sense of shared vision and purpose is what makes the alumni community so special."

Myrsini also remembers with fondness her early days at Pierce. Having transitioned with classmates from Hill School, she found herself grounded in a familiar community. "One teacher who really made an impression on me was Mrs. Isporian, my English teacher. She was known for being strict, but I truly enjoyed her class."

To today's students and young alumni, her message is clear:

*"Pursue excellence,
remain informed,
and stay engaged.
Cultivate your
curiosity and always
strive to do your best."*





Michail Tabakakis

Actor

Pierce '13

My passion for acting was ignited at Pierce College, where I immersed myself in the theater club from junior high through my senior year. Encouraged by my mentor, Maria Saliari, I auditioned for the National Theatre of Greece immediately after graduation and was accepted on my first attempt—a rare achievement that set the course for my career. Since then, I've had the privilege of performing in acclaimed productions such as *Rest in Greece* (2019) and *We No Longer Hear the Songs* (2019), and most recently, I took on a leading role in the Greek stage adaptation of *Brokeback Mountain* at the Knossos Theater. These experiences have been deeply fulfilling, and I credit the foundation laid during my years at Pierce for shaping the actor I am today.

ACG skills that made a difference in your career

One of the most valuable skills I gained through the Pierce theater club was "stage awareness"—a deep understanding of space, presence, and flow. Surprisingly, I developed this more at Pierce than during my formal training at the National Theatre.

That early exposure, in an emotionally safe and creatively free environment, allowed me to explore without pressure. When professional demands feel overwhelming, I often return in my mind to the Pierce stage. It reminds me of the joy of simply playing—and reconnects me to the essence of performance.

Enduring values from your time at ACG

Three values that continue to guide me are creativity, dialogue, and self-exploration. At Pierce, creativity wasn't limited to the arts—it was a way of thinking and being. We were encouraged to explore who we were beyond the classroom.

Dialogue was just as essential. The respect and open communication between students and teachers fos-

tered deep learning and long-lasting friendships. Pierce wasn't just a school—it was a space of discovery, exchange, and growth.

ACG mentors who shaped who you are today

Maria Saliari played a transformative role in my life—her belief in me helped me believe in myself. Mr. Kourtesakis, though he taught my least favorite subject, made chemistry unforgettable through his passion and humor. And Ms. Giannakopoulou. I used to do impressions of her, and rather than being offended, she laughed and encouraged me to perform them for her. That warmth and support meant the world to me.

Years later, I interviewed her as a National Theatre student—it felt like life had come full circle. I often think: if every teacher inspired students the way they did, the world would be a far better place.

Advice that helped shape your outlook or career

During a career orientation seminar, someone said, "Choose a path that makes you feel the way you do when you wake up on a Saturday morning." That struck a chord. It helped me realize I didn't want just a career—I wanted a life filled with joy, purpose, and energy.

It's advice I still live by and would offer to anyone searching for direction: "Do what makes you feel truly alive."



Venia Dimitrakopoulou

Sculptor, Educator, Mentor

Pierce '83

I am a sculptor and lifelong student of art's power to connect, heal, and inspire. My journey began at Pierce College, where I learned to think independently, respect diversity, and value camaraderie—principles that have guided my life and work ever since. Pierce gave me the confidence to persist and trust in my voice. Whether teaching students, exhibiting internationally, or mentoring young artists, I carry forward the values ACG instilled in me. Art, to me, is not just expression—it's a way to communicate and my goal is always to try to move hearts and minds.

Career Journey

Art has always been for me a realm of possibilities and of great freedom. After graduating from Pierce College in 1983, I studied theatre at the Drama School of the Athens Conservatoire while also studying cello. Eventually, I turned to Fine Arts, focusing on sculpture at the Athens School of Fine Arts (1995–2000), and later attended drawing lessons at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Throughout this journey, ACG's influence remained constant. The values I gained at Pierce—self-confidence, independent thinking, teamwork, and intellectual curiosity—have guided me in both life and work.

ACG's Impact

In the male-dominated world of sculpture, establishing myself was far from easy. It required grit, discipline, and emotional intelligence. Pierce gave me the confidence to persist, the resilience to face discrimination, and the clarity to trust my own talent and worth. The blend of soft and hard skills I developed there—especially the belief in my own voice—helped me navigate this challenging path.

Enduring Values

Pierce instilled in me curiosity, respect for diversity, and camaraderie. These values were embedded in ev-

erything we did. I still strive to look deeper, ask questions, and keep learning. I listen to those with different experiences and value connection and support among peers. That spirit of camaraderie we built in school still binds my classmates and me to this day—and it's a gift I cherish.

Shaping Who I Am

Pierce taught me to embrace both discipline and freedom. I remember our class being spirited, often challenging norms—with respect, of course. Teachers held us to high standards, but during our graduation ceremony, their pride and affection were unforgettable. That moment taught me that structure and freedom can coexist—and that growth is strongest when rooted in love and respect.

Alumni Network

ACG's impact extends well beyond the classroom. The alumni network nurtures that same spirit of shared values, openness, and lifelong learning. It's a space where we continue to grow together, exchange meaningful feedback, and stay connected as a community.

Life Motto

If your goal is noble, fight nobly to achieve it. In today's fast-paced world, we must act with good judgment and consider how our actions affect others. Kindness, self-awareness, and a sense of purpose are what truly move mountains.

Future of Art

Art is the language of the soul. As we face an increasingly autonomous and digitized future, art will remind us of our humanity. It can awaken, inspire, and connect us to something greater—offering insight, hope, and healing. In that sense, art may become our most powerful guide.





Panos Karan

Steinway Artist,
Keys of Change Founder

Pierce '00

From Carnegie Hall to the Amazon rainforest, Panos Karan has redefined what it means to be a classical musician in the 21st century. A Steinway Artist, pianist, conductor, and humanitarian, Panos has used music not just as performance, but as service—reaching the most remote corners of the world with harmony, empathy, and purpose.

Since graduating from Pierce, Panos's journey has taken him across more than 130 countries. "I trace any success in my life as an artist back to the foundation laid during my time at ACG, which instilled in me a belief in hard work, community, and the transformative power of art and education."

After completing his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London, Panos made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2007, a moment he credits to the unwavering support of ACG. From there, he founded Keys of Change, a charity dedicated to bringing music education and hope to underserved communities in places like Kolkata, Sierra Leone, and post-tsunami Japan. In 2014, he launched the Fukushima Youth Sinfonietta, followed by youth orchestras in Ghana and India.

His recent performances include solo recitals at Symphony Hall Boston, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Suntory Hall Tokyo, and the Sydney Opera House, with a royal audience including Empress Michiko of Japan.

But the heartbeat of Panos's work isn't glamour, it's values. "My time at ACG taught me the importance of consistency, discipline, and the pursuit

of excellence—qualities that are essential for any artist," Panos says. "Music is a craft that requires relentless practice and an unwavering commitment to growth, much like the training I experienced on the track team under Coach Iliopoulos. His philosophy of 'showing up every day' instilled in me the discipline to work through challenges and continue improving, whether preparing for a concert or launching a new project with Keys of Change."

In addition to the pivotal lessons of resilience, dedication and teamwork Panos learned on the track team, he credits Pierce's Forensics Club with honing his public speaking skills, now crucial to his role as an advocate and leader. "It's not just about playing notes. It's about connecting, inspiring, and communicating a deeper message."

Asked about his life motto, he doesn't hesitate: "Leave the world just a little better than you found it." That belief fuels his work and guides his mission through Keys of Change.

To current students and alumni, Panos offers this:

"I encourage all alumni to engage with the incredible ACG alumni network; it keeps us connected to our roots and helps us forge new paths together."



Aggeliki Dimitrakopoulou

Fashion Designer, Actress

Deree

Aggeliki Dimitrakopoulou's journey from the island of Leros to the spotlight of Greek television and theater is a testament to self-discovery and artistic resilience.

Born in Zambia and raised in Leros, a small island with a population of around 8,000, Aggeliki grappled with questions of identity from an early age. "I had an identity thing; I couldn't really find my place," she recalls.

Seeking clarity, she enrolled at Deree intending to major in economics. However, it was the philosophy classes that captivated her. Feeling unfocused, she realized that Deree required a clear sense of direction. "I chose drama school instead. Seeing it from a distance now, it was the best way to find my identity."

After graduating from drama school, she quickly secured leading roles in theater, including performances in Marivaux plays. Her talent caught the attention of industry professionals, leading to prominent roles in Greek television series such as "Logo Timis" and "Magiki Nyhta." "I didn't have a problem finding work and having leading roles in Greece," she notes.

Motherhood introduced a new chapter. "It was another turning point in my life," Aggeliki shares. Balancing acting with parenting proved challenging. "I realized I didn't feel OK leaving my child so many hours alone." This led her to explore creative outlets that allowed her to stay close to her children.

With no formal training, she began sewing, using her mother's old machine. "I was so curious through my mistakes, and I would learn from them," she says. This hands-on experimentation evolved into a new venture: designing and creating fashion pieces. "I bring my acting to my sewing and my relationship with my customers," she explains. Observing people, understanding their movements, and connecting with women became integral to her design process.

Reflecting on her time at Deree, Aggeliki acknowledges its role in her journey. "I passed through Deree to be the person I am," she states. Today, Aggeliki continues to blend her artistic talents, creating fashion that resonates with authenticity and personal connection.





Katerina Kalou

Senior Sales Manager Partnerships
Euroleague Basketball

Pierce '05

After graduating from Pierce and pursuing a track career—with second place at the European School Games representing Greece & Pierce College as a highlight—I went on to study Psychology at Panteion University. Later I earned my Master's Degree in TV Journalism from Goldsmiths, University of London. I began my media career at Lamprakis Press, eventually becoming Managing Editor at VIMAGAZINO, before moving into digital strategy at Liquid Media. At gazzetta.gr, I rediscovered my passion for sports, which led me to Euroleague Basketball and a new life in Barcelona, blending my love for sports, media, and brand strategy in a truly global arena.

How has ACG influenced your career journey?

ACG shaped me in more ways than I can count—academically, personally, and professionally. From learning values I still live by to gaining the confidence to speak fluent English, the impact was profound. But one defining moment stands out: during a gym class, Mr. Iliopoulos—who later became my track coach—noticed me running and invited me to join the athletics team. That changed everything. Being part of the team taught me discipline, commitment, and the power of hard work. I carry those lessons with me to this day. Of course, I've come to understand that you don't always need to push your limits or be a champion to prove your worth. But the mindset I built during those years—focused, resilient, and driven—continues to guide me.

What value does the ACG alumni network bring?

For me, the greatest value has been the relation-

ships. During my time at ACG, I met my two best friends—people who have stood by me for over 20 years. From sharing snacks during recess to now being the godmother of my classmate's child, the friendships we built have truly lasted a lifetime. The alumni network also offers incredible professional connections—you're part of a strong, supportive community across many industries. I'd absolutely encourage alumni to engage. You never know where a simple conversation or reconnection might lead.

How has lifelong learning shaped your professional growth?

Lifelong learning is a mindset I truly value—and something ACG helped instill early on. I recently completed an MBA in Sports Business through the Euroleague Basketball Institute and Vytautas Magnus University. It's the latest chapter in a career journey that's taken me across different fields until I found the one that felt right—at least for now! I love learning new things, and every shift has added something meaningful to both my professional and personal growth. It keeps things exciting—and more importantly, keeps us evolving.

Do you have a personal motto or guiding philosophy?

I wouldn't say I have a single motto, but I've always believed in staying true to myself. That means working hard, listening to my instincts, respecting my limits, and not letting others define what I can or can't achieve.



Nick Venner

Concert Pianist

Deree '17

I'm a Greek-Austrian concert pianist born in Athens. I earned my BA in Music Performance with Honors at Deree – The American College of Greece, supported by a music scholarship and the Outstanding Senior Achievement Award. I later completed my Master of Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with support from the A.G. Leventis Foundation. I've performed across Europe and the UK, won multiple international piano awards, and most recently received the Diplôme Supérieur in piano performance from the Schola Cantorum in Paris, studying under the renowned Agathe Leimoni.

Tell us about your career path since graduating. Any pivotal ACG moments?

After earning my BA in Piano Performance, I pursued a career rooted in music and education. Studying under Mr. D. Toufexis and Mrs. L. Jones at ACG gave me a solid artistic and technical foundation, and they shaped my musical identity. I'm especially grateful for the scholarship that supported my studies—it instilled a deep sense of responsibility to excel.

How have ACG-acquired skills helped you professionally?

ACG taught me both technical and soft skills: sight-reading, comping, stylistic versatility, as well as adaptability and perseverance. These have been key to navigating challenges with precision and creativity.

What values from Deree stay with you today?

Excellence, resilience, and adaptability. I learned these through the demanding performance program, the encouragement to embrace failure as growth, and ACG's emphasis on constant progress.

Why should alumni stay engaged with the network?

The ACG alumni network offers collaboration, mentorship, and shared values. It's more than networking—it's a vibrant community built on a common foundation of excellence.

What's your life motto?

"Work until the work is done, while always looking on the bright side." It reflects both the discipline and positivity needed in music and life—values reinforced during my time at ACG.

How do ACG values help you navigate the music world?

In an evolving field, ACG's emphasis on using your strengths while staying adaptable has helped me meet high standards and embrace change in both teaching and performance.

How did ACG shape your approach to success?

ACG's comprehensive training prepared me for a wide range of musical demands. The scholarship experience reminded me to seize opportunities and give back to the community.





Dr. Chrisoula **Papadopoulou**

**MSc Program Leader & Educator |
President CSCMP Benelux R/T**
Rotterdam Business School

Deree '96

"From multinational boardrooms to university classrooms, I share ACG's commitment to shaping global leaders. I empower the next generation to transform business by driving innovation in supply chain resilience and sustainability, working to leave a legacy that honors my ACG foundation."



Rena **Rossi-Zairi**

Author

Pierce '73

"My experience at ACG was precious. During my years at Pierce, I was filled with confidence, critical thinking, empathy, passion for life, and feeling like being in a family every day. I learned to have faith in my fellow human beings, offer my best self every step of the way, and never give up on my dreams."



Evelina **Antemisari**

Pianist

Pierce '23

"Pierce is not only a place of learning, it is a world where our ideas flourish, friends and professors become our family, and the experiences we live become wings that take us on a journey not only to knowledge, but also to the beauty of discovering the world around us."



Evangelia **Avloniti**

Founder/Literary Agent
Ersilia Literary Agency

Deree '96

"Coming to Deree from the conservatism of the Greek educational system was a breath of fresh air for me. For the first time, I could truly think for myself in a safe, well-organized, and forward-thinking environment. My intellectual curiosity was encouraged and rewarded. Deree taught me to dream big and became my ticket to the world."



Georgina **Lioffi**

Actress

Deree '11

"The degree I earned from Deree still accompanies me to this day, even though I'm not working in the field I studied. I may not be practicing as a psychologist, but I still find myself going back to my books every now and then.

But beyond that, what has stayed with me are the more subtle qualities—those that can't be found in books. Coming to Deree opened me up in many ways. I discovered a different approach to studying and learning—one that suited me better.

Because the expectations were different at Deree, I was encouraged to find a more creative and personal way of approaching knowledge. I learned to get to the root of things, and that completely transformed me. It taught me how to carve out my own path when it comes to learning and personal growth."

Digital Giants

At the forefront of modern technology, digital giants are driving advances in data, advertising and AI. Our alumni, equipped with cutting-edge trends and practical business knowledge, are highly sought after by top tech companies.



Ioannis Volikakis

Area Manager
Amazon

Alba '24

I'm a seasoned leader with more than a decade of experience—from commanding elite Special Forces units to leading high-performing operational teams at Amazon. After graduating from the Hellenic Military Academy in 2014, I served on high-stakes missions around the world. I earned my MSc Alba in 2024, bridging my military leadership with corporate strategy. I now focus on operational excellence, innovation, and building resilient teams.

Tell us about your career journey.

If someone had told me I'd move from leading Special Forces to managing Amazon operations, I wouldn't have believed them. But my journey has been all about adaptability and growth.

I was deployed in Africa when I applied to Alba. I knew I had leadership experience but needed to translate that into the corporate world. Sitting in my admissions interview, thousands of miles from home, I realized my skills weren't just relevant—they were invaluable.

ACG became the bridge connecting my military background with a new, purpose-driven future.

Can you share an example where an ACG-acquired skill made a difference in your career?

In the military, decisions often come down to instinct. At Alba, I learned the power of data-driven decision-making—something I hadn't used before.

Today, at Amazon, data impacts everything. But what makes the real difference is combining analytics with leadership. Alba didn't just

teach me how to interpret metrics—it taught me how to lead through them, to drive both performance and people.

Benefits of being part of the ACG alumni network?

The ACG network is a powerful community—full of talent, insight, and opportunity.

In Greece especially, it offers strong connections to industry leaders and mentorship possibilities. The beauty of this network is how invested people are in each other's success. A single conversation can open doors you never imagined.

What trends are shaping your field?

AI and automation are transforming every industry. But here's the catch: technology won't lead; people will.

Success will belong to those who combine tech fluency with emotional intelligence. Young professionals must embrace digital tools, but also develop empathy, communication, and leadership. That balance is the future.

Advice for students and young alumni?

- Be relentless in your growth. Never stop learning or evolving.
- Hone your communication skills—leaders inspire, they don't just instruct.
- Master conflict resolution. Challenges are inevitable; what sets you apart is how you handle them.
- And above all, lead with purpose, not title. Leadership is how you help others grow.





Costis Paikos

Group Chief Digital Officer
Eurobank

Alba '99

Since earning his MBA from Alba, Costis Paikos has built a dynamic career in digital business, starting as Digital Marketing Manager at Eurobank, serving as Digital Director at OPAP, Greece's leading gaming company, and now as a Group Chief Digital Officer at Eurobank. "Though it was my first professional role, Alba had prepared me well—with real-world projects, strategic thinking, and a strong team-based environment," he reflects.

Over the next 15 years, Costis played a key role in driving Eurobank's digital transformation and engaging with Greece's growing fintech ecosystem. He mentored startups, supported open innovation, and gained a broad perspective on the industry's evolution. "Those experiences helped shape my strategic priorities—many rooted in the mindset I developed at Alba."

He credits the school with instilling three enduring values: resilience, innovation, and empathy. "From staying focused on my goals, to solving problems creatively, to understanding others' perspectives—these values guide me every day," he says. A transformative influence was Professor Harry Tsoukas, who mentored his dissertation team. "His strategic thinking and clarity of direction shaped how I approach challenges even now."

A major career milestone came when Costis joined OPAP, Greece's leading gaming company, as Director of Digital. There, he has led a complex digital transformation, applying the same values and strategic mindset that have defined his path. He also serves as a non-executive board member at Fourlis Group, contributing to its digital strategy.

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Costis emphasizes its importance in the ever-evolving digital space. "In my field, where change is the only constant, staying curious and continuously learning is essential to staying ahead."

He remains engaged with the ACG alumni network, calling it "a valuable resource for professional development, collaboration, and support," and encourages others to get involved. As someone who has reached a senior leadership role, he believes success today requires a mix of strategic thinking, adaptability, creativity, and strong leadership.

Costis lives by a simple but powerful motto: "Succeed by staying human." It's a philosophy that reflects both his leadership style and his respect for the values that shaped him at ACG.



George Kourakos

Director of Innovation
Kaizen Gaming

Deree '02

I'm a proud Deree Computer Information Systems alumnus. With a background in online design, video production, and digital strategy, I've co-founded two video startups and helped create the world's first interactive web series. Since joining Kaizen in 2012, I've led cross-functional teams, built our Customer Experience department from the ground up, and fostered a culture of innovation. Today, I lead Kaizen Labs, our corporate incubator, where we collaborate with startups, universities, and tech leaders to transform the iGaming industry using emerging technologies like AR/VR, Blockchain, Computer Vision, and AI.

How did an ACG-acquired skill make a difference in your career?

One of the most valuable skills I gained at ACG was effective communication—especially public speaking. It's a blend of hard and soft skills: mastering your subject matter while expressing it clearly and confidently. Whether leading teams, pitching ideas, or inspiring others, this skill has been central throughout my career. ACG gave me the foundation to develop both the knowledge and the presence to lead with impact.

What values did ACG instill that you still carry today?

Three values I continue to live by are integrity, responsibility, and perseverance. At ACG, I learned the importance of doing the right thing—even when no one is watching. Responsibility came through meeting deadlines and being accountable for my work. Most significantly, perseverance has helped

me navigate 15 years of economic, social, and global crises. Leading through the COVID-19 pandemic reminded me that resilience and persistence matter more than ever.

What are the benefits of being part of the ACG alumni network?

The ACG alumni network is an invaluable source of professional connections and personal inspiration. Engaging with fellow alumni through events and initiatives offers opportunities to learn, collaborate, and give back. I strongly encourage others to stay involved—it's a rewarding way to grow while supporting the community that helped shape who we are.

What is your motto in life?

"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." This mindset has pushed me to take risks, stay curious, and pursue innovation. It's often in uncomfortable or uncertain moments that the most transformative growth happens—for both individuals and ideas.

How has ACG's emphasis on lifelong learning influenced your growth?

Lifelong learning is essential—especially in innovation. What you knew yesterday may not serve you tomorrow. Staying curious, upskilling regularly, and experimenting with new tools have helped me stay relevant and competitive in a fast-changing world.



Andreas-William Grivas

Client Solutions Manager Lead
Meta

Alba '16

Since completing his MBA at Alba Graduate Business School, Andreas-William Grivas has charted an extraordinary course through the evolving world of digital marketing and business innovation. Today, he is a Client Solutions Manager Lead at Meta, where he advises ecommerce advertisers across Central and Eastern Europe, helping global brands scale with data-driven marketing solutions.

"My journey has taken me from launching startups to leading digital transformation projects at some of the most influential tech companies in the world," he says. "Alba gave me the foundation—not just the academic knowledge, but the mindset to believe that anything is possible."

Before joining Meta, Andreas served as Product and Digital Marketing Director at JOBSbnb, where he developed end-to-end digital strategies, led cross-functional teams, and oversaw the launch of a successful recruitment platform. He previously led the Customer Experience department at Generation Y, managing teams and driving business growth across international clients. Earlier, at Webflow, he crafted brand strategies and digital campaigns that helped businesses stand out in a competitive market.

Looking back on his time at ACG, he credits the intense academic rigor—and the community—for shaping his resilience. "I remember the pressure, the statistics courses, the late nights. But I also remember a classmate who selflessly helped me through Finance 101. That support turned into a lifelong friendship and taught me the value of giving back."

Three values continue to guide him:

1. Fear is a mile wide, but an inch deep—take the leap.
2. Time is of the essence—speed matters in tech.
3. Business Unusual—know the rules, but stay authentic.

"Innovation has become my comfort zone," he says. "But it took failures and iterations to get there. You can't disrupt if you're afraid to break things."

His personal motto—"Have no fear of perfection, you will never reach it"—serves as a reminder to focus on progress, not illusions. "Perfection is a moving target. But showing up, learning, and evolving? That's what moves the needle."

Today, Andreas sees ACG's alumni network as a force for collective impact.

"Our shared knowledge and values can shape not just industries, but the next generation of leaders. Together, we can build something bigger than ourselves."



Andreas Aktoudianakis

Lead Public Affairs EU
Google

Deree '10

When Andreas Aktoudianakis enrolled at Deree, he was feeling undecided about his path forward. "At 18, it's difficult to know where you'll be in 20 years," he reflects. "But Deree gave me the time and space to think about my path—and to choose wisely."

Today, Andreas leads Google's Public Affairs with the European Institutions in Brussels. His journey—from Athens to the heart of EU policy-making—has been defined by intellectual curiosity, a commitment to giving back, and a belief in lifelong learning through teamwork.

"The flexible curriculum, diverse courses, and vibrant community at Deree enabled me to grow academically, socially, and personally," he says. "It built my confidence and helped me see challenges not as setbacks, but as opportunities to grow."

Graduating with a major in communications and a minor in sociology, Andreas began his career in international relations and digital policy with roles at the U.S. Embassy in Athens and Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies. He later earned an MLitt, and a PhD in International Relations from the University of Saint Andrews, which helped him deepen his knowledge in European and global affairs.

A turning point came when he transitioned from academia to thinktanks, focusing on technology policy—first at the European Parliament, and then at the Open Society Foundations, and the European Policy Centre. These experiences paved the way to his current role at Google, where he works at the intersection of technology and public policy, helping shape the adoption of AI and European competitiveness in the Single Market.

"My ACG education taught me how to move flexibly between different sectors and across borders," he notes. "Learning how to synthesize complex ideas to develop new solutions, and communicating them compellingly has been invaluable throughout my career."

Andreas credits ACG with instilling three core values that continue to guide him: critical thinking, multi-disciplinary learning, and civic engagement. "These are more than academic skills—they're habits of mind that inform how I lead teams, engage with stakeholders, and contribute to society."

He urges current students to embrace the same mindset. "Fear has no place in a young, capable mind. Believe in possibility. Take risks. Challenge yourself."

His personal motto—Embrace challenges with unwavering commitment and transform teamwork into a shared journey for learning—speaks to his leadership philosophy. "True fulfillment comes from building something meaningful together with others."

And for Andreas, that journey began at Deree—with a liberal arts education that continues to shape his work on one of the world's most complex and consequential stages.



Giannis Politis

Regional Territory Manager, CEE
Google Cloud

Deree '19

I'm a results-driven professional currently working at Google in Dublin. With a strong background in technology and business, I've held impactful roles at AWS, Pfizer, and Microsoft. I hold an Executive MBA from the Quantic School of Business and Technology and a BSc in Finance from Deree. My passion lies in leveraging technology—especially AI and data analytics—to drive digital transformation and deliver measurable growth.

Career Journey After ACG

I've always believed that luck is when preparation meets opportunity. Deree was both. It gave me the academic foundation and soft skills I needed to succeed—and it opened doors. At Deree events, I met key people who helped me land my first roles at Microsoft and Google. That start created a domino effect, leading me to Pfizer, AWS, and ultimately back to Google. Deree didn't just prepare me—it launched my career in big tech.

Important ACG-Acquired Skill

At ACG, I learned the power of being an active community member. Extracurricular involvement sharpened the soft skills—communication, collaboration, leadership—that have become essential in every role I've had. Whether consulting at Google or managing enterprise accounts at AWS, the ability to connect and build trust has been more important than any technical skill. Hard skills open the door, but soft skills help you lead.

Benefits of the ACG Alumni Network

What makes the ACG alumni network so powerful is the shared experience. Fellow graduates understand your ambitions because they've walked the same path. Deree inspires you to aim high—and alumni are your allies in getting there. I encourage everyone to stay active in the network. The connections and support are invaluable. Engage with the community—the rest will follow. You can thank me later!

Life Mottos

My first motto: If you don't ask, the answer will always be no. This mindset has shaped my biggest career moves.

My second: If your dreams don't scare you, they're not big enough. Every time I reach one goal, I'm already chasing the next. That forward momentum fuels me.

Future Trends in Tech

Working at Google gives me a front-row seat to the future. The next big leap? AI-powered wearables—think glasses that act like personal assistants. This will be the "new smartphone," seamlessly woven into everyday life.

My advice: learn AI. Understand it, embrace it, and use it to your advantage. You won't be replaced by AI—but you might be replaced by someone who knows how to use it well. Give yourself that edge.



Thanos Petsakos

**Data Scientist & AI Engineer |
Academic Coordinator**
Big Blue Data Academy

Deree '06, '07, '20

Alba '17

"My journey began at Deree, where I built the foundation for my future with a bachelor's degree in business and economics. Fueled by curiosity and a drive for continuous growth, I went on to earn a master's in finance, an MBA from Alba, a master's in data science from the Deree Graduate School, and a master's in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Bath. Over the past 18 years, I've worked across the banking, consulting, and education sectors—each experience expanding my perspective and skillset. Deree remains my cornerstone, the place where ambition took root and resilience was forged."



Vasilis Maritsas

Partner
EY Cybersecurity Consulting Services

Deree '05

"My passion for cybersecurity and ethical hacking began at Deree, where I found the encouragement and foundation to pursue an MSc in Cybersecurity at Royal Holloway, University of London. Today, I serve as a Partner at EY Cybersecurity Consulting Services, leading our regional offensive security and cybersecurity strategy offerings. I'm grateful for my time at Deree and remain a dedicated supporter of ACG."

Social Impact

Inspired by ACG's motto, "Not to be served, but to serve," our alumni are committed to making a meaningful difference in the world. Guided by this principle, they dedicate their careers to driving positive social change and choose to work in environments that reflect their values and amplify their impact.



Rosanna Mortoglou

CEO
Libra Philanthropies

Deree '15

I'm the CEO of Libra Philanthropies, where I guide our global mission through strategic planning and partnerships that drive positive, lasting change. My journey with the Libra Group began in 2014 as a Libra Intern in New York, focusing on social responsibility. I then joined the Office of the Chairman and CEO, supporting George Logothetis and eventually becoming Head of Office, coordinating global engagements across leadership, philanthropic, and business platforms. From 2018 to 2023, I served as Chief Representative in Greece, leading regional strategy, communications, and business development.

I hold a BSc in International Business and European Affairs from Deree, and a Diploma in Dance Teaching from the Greek National Opera. I'm passionate about advancing gender equity and expanding opportunity for all.

Tell us about your career journey since graduating.

My career began with an opportunity ACG put on the table—the Libra Internship Program. When I learned about it, something clicked. I interned in New York in 2014 with Libra Group's social responsibility team, and that experience shifted how I saw the world and my role in it.

Nearly a decade later, I'm CEO of Libra Philanthropies, a U.S.-based foundation launched by the Logothetis family to scale Libra Group's social impact. Today, we support extraordinary people and organizations improving lives in more than 180 countries.

Looking back, Deree was a place where doors constantly opened—you just had to step through. That first step changed everything for me.

How did your time at Deree help shape who you are today?

Deree shaped not only my career, but how I see and move through the world. With Greek and Dutch roots and a Cretan upbringing, I was always drawn to international perspectives. Deree gave me my first true global community—and it challenged me to grow.

Most of all, it gave me enduring friendships. These are people who inspire, challenge, and support me to this day. That kind of community is rare, and I'm grateful for it every day.

What are the benefits of being part of the ACG alumni network?

Being part of the ACG alumni network feels like coming full circle. Returning to speak with students or collaborate with the next generation of changemakers has been deeply rewarding. It's a chance to give back to the place that gave me my start.

It's also been a joy to connect with fellow alumni. Our paths may differ, but it's powerful to see how our journeys intersect and influence each other.

What's your life motto?

"Live life in kindness." It's a simple principle, but one I return to again and again. I've never had patience for arrogance or entitlement. I believe kindness, practiced sincerely, builds resilient relationships rooted in trust.

In my work, I've witnessed both the worst and best of the world—profound suffering, but also extraordinary courage and generosity. These experiences remind me how small our personal realities are in the context of the world. Leading with kindness is how I choose to honor that truth.



Eva Chioti

Public Affairs & Sustainability Senior Manager

The Coca-Cola Company in Greece, Cyprus, and Malta

Deree '01

With over 20 years of experience, I've led communications, public affairs, and sustainability strategies across top organizations including Mars, Gucci, Olympiacos, and the Ministry of Tourism. I serve on the CR Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the Nutrition Policy Committee of SEVT. I hold degrees in Psychology (ACG) and Business Administration (AUEB), along with an Executive MSc in Services Management. I'm passionate about driving positive impact through purpose-led initiatives and meaningful community partnerships.

How did an ACG-acquired skill make a difference in your career?

One of the most impactful skills I developed at ACG was public speaking—a blend of hard and soft skills that has proven invaluable. Early in my career at Mars, just a week after joining, I was asked to present a project at a major company conference. Thanks to the training I received at ACG, I delivered a confident and successful presentation.

Since then, in roles at Gucci, Olympiacos, the Ministry of Tourism, Frigoglass, and now Coca-Cola, public speaking has remained essential. It's a skill that demands continuous practice, and one that's enabled me to advocate effectively, lead teams, and influence stakeholders across sectors.

What values did ACG instill that you still carry today?

ACG taught me to embrace diversity—an invaluable lesson as I've worked with people from different nationalities and mindsets. I learned to value unique perspectives and build strong collaborations.

Lifelong learning is another core value. ACG instilled in me the importance of staying curious, informed, and

committed to excellence. It's a mindset that drives how I approach partnerships and decision-making today.

Most importantly, ACG taught me the value of giving back. I still recall volunteering for a nonprofit supporting underprivileged families—a moment that showed me the power of collective impact. Today, that same spirit is central to my role at Coca-Cola, where I lead community programs across three countries.

How did your time at ACG shape who you are today?

While I graduated with honors in Psychology, the most powerful lesson came from a professor who told me, "Don't be satisfied with being very good when you can be great." At first, I didn't fully understand. But over time, I realized it was a call to never settle—to keep growing, striving, and reaching higher. That mindset continues to shape my professional journey.

How has ACG influenced your success at Coca-Cola?

ACG's culture of empowerment and real-world learning helped prepare me for a career in a dynamic, purpose-driven company. Like Coca-Cola, ACG fosters leadership at every level. That alignment has strengthened my ability to grow, lead, and drive meaningful impact.

What drives your approach to innovation?

Innovation isn't a department—it's a mindset. At Coca-Cola, it runs through everything we do. To cultivate innovation, you must stay curious, open to new ideas, and unafraid of risk. Travel, learn, engage with diverse voices—and let curiosity lead the way.



Dr. Angeliki Diane Rigos

**Scientist, Educator and Consultant
Founder & President**
epistimi.com

Pierce '75

I'm a scientist, educator, and consultant committed to tackling global challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration. My career began at Physical Sciences Inc. as a Principal Scientist before transitioning to academia as a chemistry professor at Merrimack College, where I also taught courses on women in science and sustainable energy policy. For over a decade, I served as an energy consultant at Levitan & Associates. At MIT, I've held leadership roles at the Tata Center, the Center for Enhanced Nanofluidic Transport, and the MIT Energy Initiative. I co-founded the LEAPS Program to teach leadership to graduate students and postdocs and currently teach in the MIT Physics Department. In 2021, I founded Epistimi, Inc., a nonprofit offering global leadership training for women in STEM. I hold degrees from Cornell, MIT, and Northeastern University.

ACG Roots & Gratitude

Fifty years after graduating from Pierce, I still carry its influence every day. Those six years felt like life in a greenhouse—nurturing, safe, and ideal for growth. As a girl interested in science and math, I never hesitated to ask questions. That confidence shaped my career in science. I rarely think about Pierce explicitly because it's so deeply part of who I am.

Skills & Values

My physics and chemistry teacher, Mr. Kremos, treated us like university students. No homework checks or quizzes—just a final exam. At 14, I learned to take full responsibility for my learning. That semester taught me time management and discipline, skills I rely on to this day.

ACG Values

Pierce's motto, *non ministrari sed ministrare*, has guided me since graduation. I never imagined I'd later create a school of sorts with Epistimi, but the values of ser-

vice, equity, and excellence instilled at Pierce continue to shape my life and mission.

Alumni Connections

My classmates remain lifelong friends. Whenever I visit Greece, reconnecting with them brings back the optimism of our school years. I'd love to see a virtual ACG alumni network in the U.S.—a way to stay connected across the miles.

STEMM & Ethics

In my scientific training, ethics were rarely discussed. Now, through MIT LEAPS, I teach a leadership class focused on values. I call it Aristotle's Lab—a space where future scientists reflect on identifying their principles, so they're ready to act with integrity when it matters.

Advice for the Next Generation

Don't follow my footsteps—follow your own. Each of us has unique gifts, and success comes from honoring your passion. And, when you face barriers, go around them. Detours often lead to the most meaningful destinations.

Lifelong Learning

My path hasn't been linear, but it's been rich with growth. Leadership training in 2015 inspired me to develop similar opportunities for science Ph.D.s. By bringing leadership training into a scientific context, I've created space for future scientists to lead with both skill and purpose.

Life Motto

Make the world better—especially for women. Education is one of the most powerful tools for change. Like the women who founded Pierce, I believe in lifting others through learning.



Athina Dessypri

President
Bodossaki Foundation

Pierce '81

"I remember my school years, and the school itself, with great affection—those were truly wonderful years. I still carry vivid memories of life within those walls: the beautiful buildings, the expansive grounds, and the excellent facilities. Thanks to the school and its teachers, I had the chance to discover who I was, explore different interests, and uncover my potential.

Participating in athletic clubs holds a special place in my heart. Loving physical activity, I ended up involved in almost every sport! The vibrant student community encouraged me to take initiative, leading to my roles as class president and, in my final year, president of the entire school under the rotating presidency system. These experiences—through clubs, activities, and the dedication of our teachers and principals—shaped who we are today. They gave us knowledge and instilled in us perseverance, empathy, and collaboration, teaching us to be responsible individuals and active citizens."



Theodoris Foudoukidis

HR Quality Assurance Officer
International Monetary Fund

Alba '16

"I believe true success and happiness come from passion and purpose. For me, it's about making a meaningful impact—not collecting accolades or wealth. Based in Washington, DC, I serve at the International Monetary Fund, working with colleagues from over 160 countries to support 191 member states. My career has taken me through the European Central Bank, the EU Commission's Space Program Agency, and the European Parliament. Driven by curiosity and a love of learning, I hold a BA in economics and two master's degrees—in European youth policy and strategic human resources management. I'm currently pursuing a law degree and preparing for further studies in public administration at Harvard Kennedy School. Wishing ACG a joyful 150th anniversary!"



Iro
Bala

Senior Private Sector Partnerships
UNHCR

Alba '16

"My time at Alba was transformative. It gave me the confidence, knowledge and skills to take a bold step towards my passion, proving that growth and change are always within reach."



Yiannis
Vatopoulos

Senior Policy Officer
European Investment Fund

Pierce '98

"Thirty-three years after I first walked through the Pierce College gates in 1992, the school's impact on my academic, professional, and personal life remains profound. Pierce nurtured my academic curiosity and inspired me to pursue studies in Greece and the U.S. It instilled in me the value of individual contribution, collegiality, and service—qualities that have shaped my career in European institutions. Most importantly, it taught me gratitude: to my parents, for their sacrifices and the example they set, and to my schoolmates, for their genuine and lasting friendship."



Marina **Bartsoca- Martinou**

Shipping Executive

Eastern Mediterranean Maritime Group of
Shipping Companies

Deree '74

"I was born in Athens in 1953 and graduated from The American College of Greece with a degree in Economics. Today, I devote much of my time to philanthropy, culture, and heritage. I serve as President of the Athanasios and Marina Martinos Foundation and Co-Director of the Aegeas Non-Profit Benevolent Society. I sit on the board of ELLET, the Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage and I am a Council Member of EUROPA NOSTRA, Europe's heritage network. Married to Thanassis Martinos, I am mother of two daughters and grandmother to three granddaughters.

ACG offered me the opportunity to continue my studies. During these years, I learnt what meritocracy means. I am grateful to the American College of Greece."



Alexandra **Martinou**

President

Together for Children

Lifelong commitment to service and
impact

Pierce '72

"I am a proud alumna of ACG, where I learned the value of service—Non ministrari sed ministrare. Inspired by my family's example and my early encounters with children with disabilities, I helped establish the Center for Special Individuals "Hara" in 1983 and later co-founded Mazi gia to Paidi – Together for Children, which today supports thousands of families across Greece. I currently serve as its president, and I've also led Kivotos tou Kosmou during a pivotal time. My commitment remains constant: to create equal opportunities and a future of dignity and hope for every child.

ACG empowered me to dream boldly, lead with purpose, and serve with integrity. It instilled in me the ideals of excellence, responsibility, and commitment— guiding forces in my path and in my dedication to giving back to society."

Financial Foresight

ACG prioritizes a strong foundation in financial understanding.

As fundamental business skills, our alumni often cite finance and accounting as their most applied and practical courses. This invaluable knowledge is relevant across various industries and even personal financial management.



Dr. Vasiliki Lazarakou

Chair

Hellenic Capital Market Commission
(HCMC)

Pierce

Dr. Vasiliki Lazarakou is a distinguished legal expert and regulator with a career defined by purpose, integrity, and public service. A graduate of Pierce College, she holds a JSD and LL.M. from NYU School of Law, is admitted to the New York and Athens Bar, and has led high-impact legal work across banking, capital markets, and corporate law for over two decades.

After years as Partner at top Greek law firms, Vasiliki transitioned to public service. She was appointed First Vice Chair of the HCMC in 2012 and led negotiations for the Markets in Financial Instruments during the Greek EU Presidency. Since 2019, she has served as HCMC Chair, holding board roles at European Securities and Markets Authority, International Organization of Securities Commissions, Bureau of the OECD Corporate Governance Committee, and European Investment Bank Group Women Climate Leaders Network.

"My time at Pierce was foundational," she shares. "It built my confidence and taught me to speak up—even when the noise around me was loud. That skill has stayed with me through complex negotiations, leadership roles, and efforts to modernize Greek capital markets."

She credits Pierce with instilling lifelong values: public service, solidarity, and moral courage. "Our motto—Non ministrari, sed ministrare—inspired my passion for public service. We learned to stand for our beliefs, lead with ethics, and support each other."

Dr. Lazarakou's leadership was pivotal in implementing a legal quota for women on listed company boards, raising female representation from 13% to 28% in just three years. "Change can be accelerated," she says. "Think about it—and act."

When asked about future challenges, she points to the rise of AI and the importance of inner resilience: "The next generation must protect their inner voice and embrace change. Heraclitus said it best: 'Change is the only reality in nature.'"

To students and young alumni, she offers this: "Follow your heart and intuition—they already know who you want to become. Be open to growth, stay grounded in your values, and always act with professionalism and integrity. In the end, you are your most important ally."



Orestis Kokkos

Commercial Finance Lead
Microsoft Central & Eastern Europe

Deree '07

My journey in finance has been a continuous evolution, each step building upon the last. At Microsoft, I currently lead commercial finance activities across Central and Eastern Europe, focusing on accelerating revenue growth and guiding a talented team of professionals.

Career Journey and ACG Influence

Reflecting on my time at ACG, I realize how foundational it was. The emphasis wasn't solely on acquiring knowledge but on applying it practically. Group projects, in particular, taught me the nuances of effective communication and collaboration—skills that are indispensable in my current role, where cross-functional teamwork is the norm.

Enduring Values

ACG instilled in me three core values: excellence, innovation and empathy. These principles have consistently guided my professional approach, influencing how I lead teams and make strategic decisions.

ACG Mentors

One memorable aspect of my ACG experience was the community's support. Professors were genuinely invested in our growth, and peers offered encouragement during challenging times. This sense of camaraderie has shaped how I mentor others, emphasizing the importance of belief and support in personal development.

Favorite Quote

"Everyone knew it was impossible until a fool who didn't know came along and did it." This mindset encourages me to challenge limitations and approach problems with creativity and determination.

Career Advice

For those embarking on their careers, I advise focusing on developing soft skills. While technical expertise is essential, qualities like empathy, communication, and the ability to inspire others distinguish exceptional leaders. These traits cultivate strong teams and foster environments where innovation thrives.

Thriving in Finance

In the ever-evolving field of finance, adaptability is crucial. Embracing change, staying curious, and committing to lifelong learning are key to staying ahead. By combining analytical proficiency with a people-centric approach, one can navigate complexities and drive meaningful impact.

Value of the Alumni Network

The ACG alumni network continues to be a valuable resource. It's more than just a professional connection; it's a community bound by shared experiences and values. Engaging with fellow alumni has opened doors to collaborations and provided a platform to give back, supporting current students and strengthening our collective legacy.





Panagiotis Chormovitis

Chief Operating Officer
Deloitte Greece, Strategy &
Transactions Leader and Equity Partner

Deree '03, '05

Panagiotis Chormovitis is Chief Operating Officer, Strategy & Transactions Leader, and Equity Partner at Deloitte Greece. A Deree alum with over 20 years of experience, he specializes in M&A, advising on numerous local and cross-border corporate and banking transactions. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics and an MBA (Class Valedictorian) from The American College of Greece and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

Tell us about your career journey and how ACG influenced it.

Since graduating in 2005, my career has evolved through a series of milestones that all build on the foundation laid at ACG. I feel genuinely grateful to have studied there. The academic environment, the values, and the intellectual legacy of ACG have consistently guided me—especially in moments that called for clear thinking, adaptability, and leadership.

What ACG-acquired skills have shaped your professional journey?

Many. But at the core are four essentials: leadership, teamwork, technical competence with a drive for continuous development, and setting high goals with a determination to achieve them. These were all cultivated during my time at ACG and continue to define how I work today.

What values from ACG still guide you?

Three values stand out: embracing diversity with an inclusive mindset, showing unwavering commitment, and maintaining an ethical approach. These were not just taught in class—they were part of daily life, reinforced by peers and especially by professors who led by example.

Were there mentors at ACG who made a lasting impact?

This is my favorite question. My professors played a crucial role in shaping who I am today. Dr. Annie Triantafillou, who I'm honored to consider a mentor, was especially inspirational. Dr. Dimitris Doulos taught lessons that became invaluable after graduation. Dr. Albert Arouh and Dr. Anna Giannopoulou also had a lasting impact. Honestly, I remember every professor I had at ACG—and I always will.

Why is the alumni network important to you?

The alumni network is the natural extension of the ACG experience. It's a vital bridge across generations and a powerful tool for connection—not just in good times, but especially when it matters most. I admire strong alumni communities and believe ACG should be among the best.

What's your life motto?

"Refuse to follow a roadmap that might get you somewhere and instead design your own map that will definitely get you where you belong." I share this often—especially with my daughters—and it's helped me through life's toughest moments.

You're also a Greek Chapter Leader. What inspired you to take on that role?

It started with simply walking back on campus and remembering how much I loved every day at ACG. Being involved is my way of honoring the College and passing that passion on. It's a promise I made to always give back to the place that helped shape me.



Foteini Galli

Risk Analyst, Corporate Risk Management/Enterprise Risk & Reporting

International Finance Corporation – World Bank Group
in Washington, DC

Deree '20

"At Deree, I learned to keep my eyes on the stars and my feet on the ground—dream big, work hard, and embrace every challenge as an opportunity."



Ilias Kechagias

Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Sixty Three Capital

Pierce '96

"Pierce played a pivotal role in creating an environment where every student could thrive and feel a genuine sense of belonging—a community that continues to impact your life through lasting friendships, a strong network, and, in my case, even love and family."



Marietta Korre

Data and Claims Support Analyst

Belvedere Mead Ltd.

Deree '15

"At ACG, I was introduced to finance, investments, business ethics, and other compelling subjects. Engaging with insightful professors, dedicated staff, and peers from diverse organizations enriched my academic journey. These interactions, combined with the curriculum, significantly broadened my horizons and laid a strong foundation for my future endeavors."



Despoina Tzoulaki

Senior Manager, Energy Department

Grant Thornton

Pierce '00

"The unexamined life is not worth living" - Socrates.

"Through the halls of Pierce, I discovered knowledge, ambition, and a lifelong thirst for learning. Those years shaped who I am today and guided me through my decisions."



Vania Papakonstantinou

Head of Wealth Management Marketing
Eurobank

Pierce '89

Deree '93

"As a proud graduate of both Pierce and Deree, I cherish the formative experiences and lifelong friendships they gave me. At Pierce, I gained not only a strong academic foundation, but also a deep appreciation for values like respect, responsibility, and integrity—principles essential to a thriving society. Deree further expanded my academic horizons, nurtured my sense of civic responsibility, and helped me grow through diverse interests and challenges."



Theodosios Michalopoulos

General Manager, Enterprise Commercial,
Microsoft UK & Ireland

Alba '02

"My time at Alba was a turning point—bridging my engineering background with a commercial mindset. Collaborating on business projects sharpened my teamwork skills and led to lifelong friendships. I was especially inspired by Charidimos Tsoukas's Organizational Behaviour classes, which emphasized the importance of a moral compass in business—balancing ethics with impact."



Panagiotis Syros

Product Owner
TD Bank

Alba '00

"After graduating from Alba, I began my career at a multinational in Greece, which eventually took me to a major Chinese corporation and then to leading North American firms in sectors as diverse as telecommunications and banking. What gave me the confidence and perseverance to navigate these transitions was Alba's belief in me as an MBA candidate. Making the most of my time there instilled an unshakeable belief in myself that has been instrumental in my career."

The American College of Greece Alumni



Alumni Chapters

- Greek
- USA
- Canada
- UK
- UAE
- Belgium
- Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Deree Graduate School
- Norway



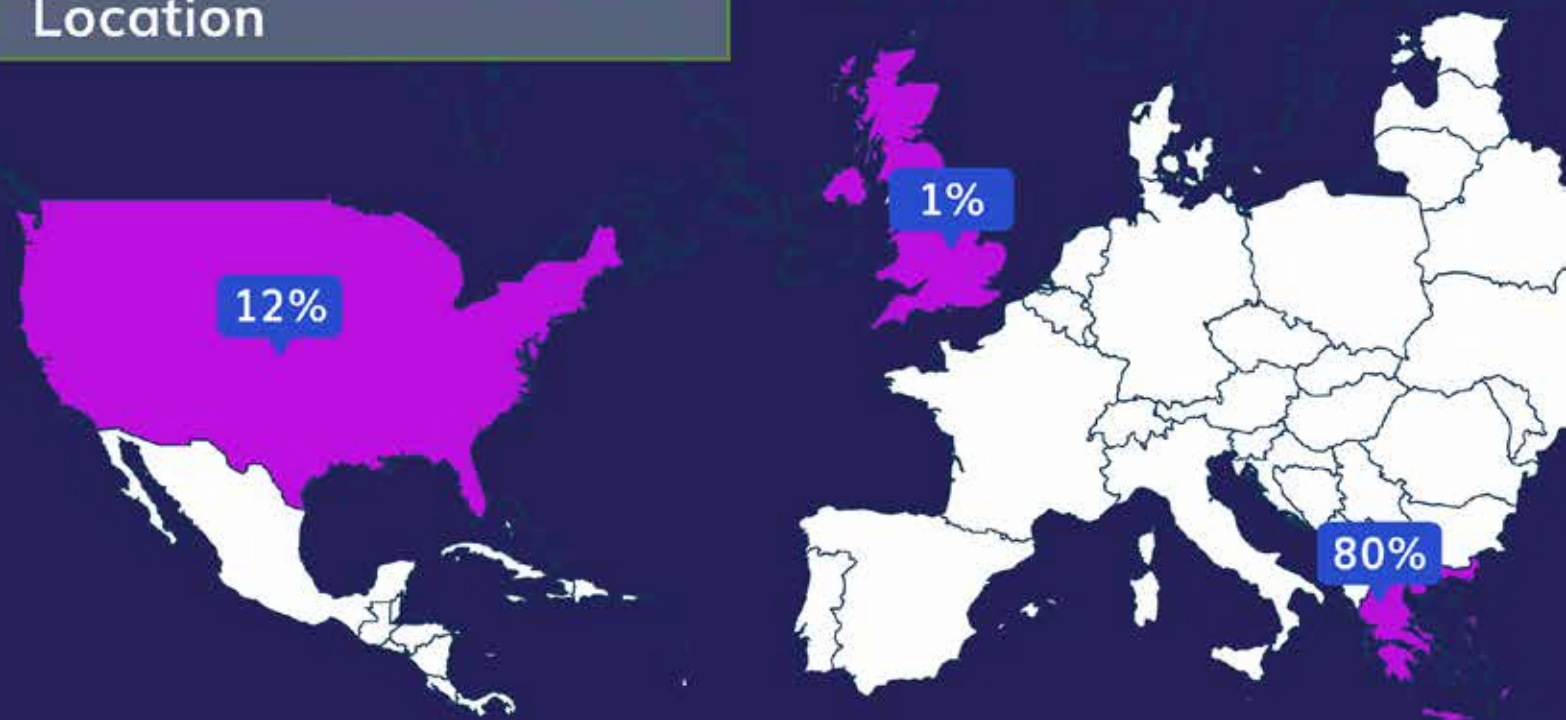
67% of our alumni are female

63%

ACG Alumni representation in the world's 100 Most Powerful Brands

Stats from Visual Capitalist

Location



2023-2024

2.5%

of contactable alumni made a donation

226

alumni volunteers

\$500K

alumni funds raised

24

alumni events

1,921

alumni event attendees

Last 7yrs vs Prior 7 yrs



716%

in unique alumni donors



953%

in total alumni funds raised

ACG Office of Advancement-Alumni

Go- Getters

Our alumni, equipped with a strong entrepreneurial mindset, often venture into creating their own companies.

Driven by a desire to make a positive impact, their innovative spirit leads them to identify untapped market opportunities for growth and expansion.



Athanasios (Thanos) Geramanis

CEO and Partner
Moving Doors

Pierce '95

Alba '01

Athanasios (Thanos) Geramanis is a seasoned business leader known for scaling high-growth ventures across real estate, fintech, and consulting. As CEO and Partner at Moving Doors, he is leading the company's expansion across Greece and Central & Eastern Europe, overseeing more than 400 managed units and projected revenues of €5.9M in 2024.

Before Moving Doors, Thanos served as COO and Partner at Blueground, where he helped transform the company into a global player in flexible living. He also led Mastercard's operations in Greece, Cyprus, and Malta, growing market share from 18% to 42% during a challenging economic period.

Reflecting on his career journey, Thanos credits his Alba education with equipping him for leadership. "My career has been a journey of strategic growth and entrepreneurship. The pivotal moment was joining Blueground—and I was especially grateful then for the analytical and problem-solving skills I honed at Alba," he says.

A defining skill he took from Alba? "The ability to make data-driven decisions. From scaling Mastercard to expanding Moving Doors, combining financial analysis with leadership and adaptability has been key."

He also holds three enduring values instilled during his studies: resilience, integrity, and collaboration. "These values weren't just taught—they were lived. Team-based casework taught me the power of ethical, collective problem-solving."

When asked about mentors, Thanos emphasizes the importance of learning from both professors and peers. "Alba helped me see business through a customer-centric lens—something that continues to guide my decisions as an entrepreneur."

Thanos is a strong advocate for staying connected.

"The ACG alumni network has opened doors to partnerships, talent, and investments. It's more than a network—it's a community of shared values."



Despina-Vasiliki Bakali

Master Franchisee

CURVES International (Greece & Cyprus)

Pierce '90

Career Journey

My professional path has traversed various sectors—from senior roles in banking to entrepreneurship in communications and hospitality, and public affairs as an Accredited Assistant to a Member of the European Parliament in Brussels. Following Pierce, I received a bachelor's and master's degree from Panteion University and an LLM in law from University of Nicosia. Today, I lead CURVES International in Greece and Cyprus, a women-only fitness franchise.

ACG's Impact

Pierce College was instrumental in shaping my leadership style. As Student Council President, I learned to value individuality and foster inclusive environments. These lessons have been pivotal in my approach to team management and business development.

Communication Skills

Organizing events and launching a student newspaper at Pierce honed my ability to communicate with clarity and purpose. These skills have been invaluable throughout my career, from pitching ideas to leading teams.

Core Values

Pierce instilled in me the importance of integrity, dignity, and empathy. Witnessing the school's proactive stance against bullying and its embrace of diversity taught me to lead with compassion and stand up for others.

Mentorship

Educators like Mr. Tziros, Mr. Mellas, and the late Mr. Baloumis left lasting impressions. Their guidance not only enhanced my academic abilities but also inspired my entrepreneurial spirit and communication style.

Alumni Network

The ACG alumni community feels like an extended family. Sharing common values and experiences has opened doors to meaningful collaborations and support. I encourage fellow alumni to engage with this vibrant network.

Life Motto

ACGs "Non ministrari, sed ministrare"—to serve, not to be served—guides my personal and professional life. It underscores my commitment to public service and my mission to empower women through wellness initiatives.

Current Work Influence

The holistic education at ACG taught me that excellence is about nurturing individual strengths. This philosophy drives my efforts at CURVES to create inclusive spaces that empower women of all backgrounds.



Ilias Vartholomaïos

CEO & Co-Founder

Owiwi

Alba '13

Ilias Vartholomaïos is the CEO and co-founder of Owiwi, a Greek startup revolutionizing talent assessment through gamification. Launched in 2014 alongside co-founder Athina Polina Dova, Owiwi transforms traditional hiring by immersing candidates in narrative-driven games that evaluate soft skills like adaptability, resilience, and decision-making. This innovative approach aims to reduce hiring biases and enhance the recruitment experience for both employers and applicants.

The inspiration for Owiwi emerged during Vartholomaïos's time at Alba, where a collaborative thesis project with Dova evolved into a full-fledged venture. "What began as a thesis project quickly turned into something bigger when we saw the potential of gamification in talent assessment," he recalls. Launching amid Greece's economic crisis, the duo faced significant challenges, including capital controls and a nascent startup ecosystem. Yet, their perseverance paid off, with Owiwi securing funding and partnerships that propelled it into international markets.

Vartholomaïos attributes much of his entrepreneurial mindset to Alba's "Business Unusual" philosophy. "It encouraged questioning the status quo, thinking differently, and approaching challenges with creativity rather than convention," he notes. This ethos proved invaluable as he navigated the uncertainties of building a startup in a turbulent economy.

A pivotal moment in Owiwi's formation was the partnership between Vartholomaïos and a classmate. Initially competitive classmates, their collaboration on a school project revealed complementary strengths. "At first, we clashed, but over time, we realized that our differences actually made us a great team," Vartholomaïos reflects. This synergy became the foundation of Owiwi, underscoring the importance of collaboration and shared values in achieving success.

Beyond his role at Owiwi, Vartholomaïos is passionate about continuous learning and personal growth. He has pursued certifications in areas like gamification, people analytics, and digital marketing, emphasizing the importance of staying adaptable in a rapidly evolving business landscape. "Knowledge is something you actively build, and I see it as one of the biggest competitive advantages anyone can have," he asserts.

For aspiring professionals, Vartholomaïos offers this advice: "Success isn't about speed; it's about endurance. The people who truly go far are the ones who continuously push themselves beyond what they thought was possible." He emphasizes the value of stepping outside one's comfort zone, embracing discomfort, and surrounding oneself with individuals who challenge and inspire growth.



Lela Dritsa

Co-Founder and Managing Partner
Nannuka

Deree '04

Lela Dritsa transformed a personal challenge into Greece's leading online care platform. What began in 2013 as a mother's struggle to find reliable child-care has grown into a trusted resource for thousands of families in Greece and Cyprus. "It wasn't just about building a business—it was about solving a real problem for families like mine," she says.

With a BA in Communications from Deree and an MA in International Journalism from City University London, Lela built a strong foundation in communication, strategy, and leadership—skills that proved vital in launching and scaling a purpose-driven platform. "Presenting our business model to investors for the first time, I leaned heavily on the public speaking and critical thinking skills I developed at ACG. Those lessons gave me the confidence to articulate our vision and secure funding."

Lela credits ACG with instilling three enduring values: integrity, perseverance, and community. "In entrepreneurship, trust is everything. I learned at ACG that success should never come at the expense of transparency. That principle has guided every major decision at Nannuka." She also recalls a late-night group project at Deree as a defining moment. "We pulled together, stayed focused, and delivered—and I've carried that same spirit into every business challenge since."

Her career has earned her recognition from Forbes' 100 Top Women Entrepreneurs in Europe and Fortune's "40 Under 40", but she remains grounded in her roots. "Every professor and classmate at ACG contributed to who I am today. The diverse environment helped shape the global mindset I apply in my work."

Lela sees the ACG alumni network as an invaluable resource. "It's not just about networking—it's a community built on shared values. I always encourage fellow graduates to stay connected. Some of the best opportunities come from unexpected conversations."

Her motto, "The best decision is the one you take," reflects her approach to entrepreneurship: bold, thoughtful, and forward-moving. "Don't wait for perfect timing. Start, learn, and adapt."

To aspiring entrepreneurs, she offers this advice:

"Execution matters more than ideas. Stay curious, embrace failure, and surround yourself with people who challenge you. That's how great businesses—and great leaders—are made."



Violeta Xanthouli

Founder
Brave Owl

Deree '03

I'm a business and marketing professional with a passion for sustainability and meaningful connections. After 20 years in marketing roles at companies like Microsoft and Xerox, I co-founded Brave Owl—a consultancy that blends my marketing background with my partner's HR expertise. Outside of work, I love spending time with my family, playing basketball, scuba diving, and hanging out with my dogs.

Tell us about your career path. Any pivotal moments tied to your ACG experience?

I started working during my last year at Deree in the marketing department at Grant Thornton. It was a small, new team doing everything from business plans to promoting services. That's when I realized how prepared Deree had made me—not just academically, but in teamwork, accountability, and understanding the business world. Deree helped shape my mindset: to think beyond limits and approach challenges with confidence.

What ACG-acquired skills have helped you most?

Deree taught me to build my own path. I loved being able to choose courses, combine academics with extra-curriculars, and shape an experience that worked for me. That flexibility gave me the confidence to speak up early in my career, even as a junior employee. It taught me to question, challenge, and lead.

What values from ACG have stayed with you?

Collaboration and trust—from working in groups and playing on the basketball team. It taught me that sharing responsibility and trusting others leads to success.

Flexibility—I learned there's always more than one way to reach your goals. That mindset helps with problem-solving and working with diverse teams.

Was there a defining ACG community experience for you?

Definitely the basketball team. We trained together, traveled, competed—those experiences shaped me. We built bonds that have lasted for decades. In fact, this summer I'm vacationing with two of my former teammates and our families, 20 years later.

Why engage with the alumni network?

The ACG alumni network is strong and far-reaching. There's a shared sense of belonging and connection—even across generations. Especially in the business world, it makes collaboration easier. I always recommend tapping into it—it's one of Greece's strongest.

Do you have a personal motto?

"Explore life with joy." I'm at my best when I'm learning or trying something new, and I always try to bring joy into everything I do—work, relationships, or sports.

How do values help you navigate your industry?

Values are at the core of my work. At Brave Owl, we help businesses define and live their values. We've also built our own company around values that align with who we are. It keeps us grounded and consistent in how we do business.

Has ACG's emphasis on lifelong learning shaped you?

Absolutely. Today, if you're not learning, you're falling behind. I've pursued an MBA and picked up everything from web tools to people management skills. I also try to unlearn things that no longer serve me—it's tough, but necessary.



Tina Miteko

Founder
Marketing for Tech

Pierce

"What makes an institution if not its people? As I reflect on my ACG experience, I've come to understand the power of community and working together. From my professors, I learned about the virtues of patience, accountability, honor and leadership. From my classmates, I learned the meaning of true friendship and that it can endure the test of time. And as a student, I learned to stay curious, open-minded, and young at heart – valuable lessons that continue to shape my career and life."



Argyro Kanavou

Senior Consultant
Linkage Greece

Deree '97 & '18

"Deree equipped me with the essential skills and knowledge to accelerate my career both locally and globally. Through collaboration with leaders at all management levels, I developed a strong ability to thrive in dynamic professional environments."



Irene Psyrra

Vice President, Head of HR Strategy & Enablement, Office of the CHRO
Johnson & Johnson

Pierce '99

"My six transformative years at Pierce College laid the foundation for my academic and professional journey. After graduating with highest honors from Tufts and earning a master's from George Washington University, I returned to Greece in 2005 to begin a career in public service before moving into senior roles in the healthcare industry in Athens, Brussels, and the U.S. Committed to lifelong learning, I recently completed a Certificate of Management Excellence at Harvard Business School and published my first Greek novel, Innocent Lies, Guilty Truths."



Maria Mougarakis

Founder and CEO
OceansCaptain

Deree '02

"I am honored to be a graduate of ACG, an institution that has profoundly shaped my education and career. My time at Deree was truly transformative—not only did I earn a bachelor's in English Linguistics and Business, but I also embraced fundamental values that have guided my professional journey. Through academic studies and campus experiences, I developed key competencies such as engagement, accountability, a global perspective, and a results-driven mindset, learning firsthand what it takes to succeed."



Konstantinos Dendrinis

Co-founder and Managing Director
UNIPERFECT

Deree '11

Alba '19

"Success is built on the lessons of perseverance—every challenge is a step forward, and every setback a lesson in resilience."



Ambrosios Kardaris

Managing Director
CX Optimus, Greece

Deree '00

"Throughout my time at ACG, I gained invaluable experiences that shaped both my personal and professional journey. Group projects, volunteer work, and healthy competition taught me the value of teamwork, collaboration, and lifting others up. I also developed critical skills—managing time effectively, setting clear goals, and meeting deadlines—that became essential as I advanced into senior leadership roles within major corporate organizations. The drive to improve and grow through challenges and competition became a defining force, helping launch my career and fueling my continued professional development. "

Travel & Tourism

The ever-evolving travel industry promises demanding yet rewarding career prospects. Our alumni are all too familiar with the hard work and dedication it takes to succeed in this attractive sector and have gone on to work for elite companies across the globe.



Dimitris Floros

Chief Commercial Officer
Welcome Pickups

Deree '10

My career in the travel industry has taken me from Greece to the Middle East and beyond, with leadership roles at Emirates, Qatar Airways, and Travelport. I'm a proud Deree and INSEAD graduate and actively support the ACG Greek Alumni Chapter. Outside of work, I'm a husband and father to three wonderful daughters. I have a passion for endurance sports and love exploring the world—both personally and professionally.

Tell us about your career journey.

A major turning point came right after I graduated from Deree—while completing a second degree at a public university. I had applied to a top marketing and strategy consulting firm in Greece and was initially rejected. But a director there—also a Deree alum—saw my CV, called me in, and that changed everything. I spent three great years at the firm and became their first Head of Digital Strategy, just as “digital” was emerging in Greece.

Later, during the Greek financial crisis, another Deree alumna reached out with an opportunity in the U.S. That role introduced me to the company's CEO, himself a former Deree valedictorian. Those alumni connections helped launch the next phase of my career, which took me to the Middle East to lead growth at major airlines, and back to Greece, where I now shape commercial strategy at a global travel-tech scaleup. The ACG network has truly been the foundation of my career.

What skills from Deree have proven most valuable?

Deree excelled at combining theory with action. We worked in teams, tackled real business problems, and presented our solutions as if to actual clients. That prepared me to communicate complex ideas confidently—

an essential skill in commercial leadership roles. It also taught me empathy, adaptability, and how to bring out the best in others under pressure.

What values from ACG have stayed with you?

Integrity: It wasn't just talked about—it was expected in every class and interaction. That ethic continues to shape how I lead and build trust.

Empathy & Cultural Awareness: Deree's diverse community taught me to collaborate across perspectives, a crucial skill in global business.

Lifelong Learning: From class to seminars to hands-on projects, Deree instilled curiosity and the drive to keep evolving. I went on to earn an MBA at INSEAD—and I'm always learning.

Your motto?

“Choose to be happy.” Deree taught me that mindset matters. We can't control everything, but we can choose how we respond—with positivity, ownership, and openness to new experiences.

Why lead the ACG Greek Alumni Chapter?

Because I've seen how powerful this community can be. Through events, mentorship, and service, we build real value—together. I'd urge every alum to engage. We all have something to give, and even more to gain.



Lillian Psylla

Co-Founder and Chief Content & Strategy Officer
GRtraveller

Deree '19

For this Deree graduate, a career didn't follow a blueprint, it followed a calling. Since leaving ACG, she has launched brands, led teams, and co-founded platforms like GRtraveller Magazine and FemVed, translating vision into lived experience. The turning point wasn't a title or project, it was the realization that she wasn't here to execute other people's strategies, but to shape her own.

"At ACG, I learned how to turn thought into impact," she reflects. "I discovered that clarity is a superpower and conviction is a muscle you build." The knowledge she took with her was important, but equally valuable was the transformation—becoming someone who trusts her instincts enough to lead.

That confidence came with practical skills. By the time she was leading national tourism projects, her advantage wasn't just expertise—it was the way she worked: structured, focused, steady under pressure. She credits Deree with teaching her how to hold a room, craft compelling arguments, and lead with composure even in chaos. As President of the Marketing Society, she managed large-scale events and honed stakeholder management skills. Leading the Promotion Team for Deree Business Week sharpened her timing, empathy, and resolve. "Leadership isn't performance—it's architecture," she says. "Deree was where I laid the foundation."

Her approach to leadership is grounded in values she absorbed at ACG. "Non ministrari, sed ministrare" wasn't just a motto, it shaped her philosophy of leading through service, not ego. She also developed intellectual autonomy, learning to question, synthesize, and build perspective, and embraced

ethical consistency: "Integrity isn't just about reputation, it safeguards your vision." These principles guide her decisions and influence the cultures she builds.

Professors, mentors, and classmates all played a part. Some challenged her thinking; others taught her to research thoroughly, write with clarity, and speak with presence. Classmates became both mirrors and catalysts, debating, collaborating, and failing forward together. "That early training in emotional maturity and intellectual resilience shaped the leader I am today," she says.

She views the ACG alumni network as a "long-term strategic asset" and a living ecosystem of high-caliber professionals who are structured, curious, and globally aware. Many have become clients, collaborators, and co-creators. Her advice? Engage not for nostalgia, but for alignment: "If you're building something meaningful, someone in this network probably wants to build it with you."

Her personal motto, "Inspired by the fear of being average," isn't about perfection, but about refusing to settle for diluted ideas or mechanical effort. It drives her to question, reimagine, and raise the bar, even when no one's asking for more.

Looking ahead, she sees the future shaped by the convergence of multisensory content, strategy, and AI, where meaning remains the differentiator. "The future belongs to those who lead with narrative, data, and emotional intelligence," she says. "Learn to write. Learn to listen. And always act from values, not vanity."





Kostas Tsigkourakos

CEO

Sky Express Airlines

Chief Investment Strategy Officer

Aviareps Hellas Group

Deree '05

"At ACG, I received a well-rounded education in accounting and finance, enriched by student initiatives and part-time roles that honed my leadership, communication, and time management skills. A highlight was representing ACG in the U.S. at the Darden University Competition, where our four-member team won first place for our work on M&A and valuations—a defining experience made possible through the mentorship of Mrs. Lila Mordochae. My time at ACG profoundly shaped my personal and professional growth, giving me the tools and confidence to pursue my ambitions."



Panagiotis Merkouris

Head of Information Security

Athens International Airport

Deree '06

"In the pursuit of knowledge and growth, we are not just graduates; we are the living legacy of those who dared to dream before us. As we celebrate 150 years of excellence at ACG, let us honor our journey by lighting the way for future generations—because the future we shape begins with the steps we take today."



Barbara Metalinou

Chief of Staff

Aria Hotels, Libra Group

Deree '18

"Deree was more than an academic institution—it was a gateway to the world. Through its international community and global opportunities, it gave me the perspective, confidence, and foundation for a career without borders."

Media & Marketing

Our alumni are skilled in both the art and science of marketing and communication. They possess a deep understanding of digital trends, data analysis, and effective storytelling, making them quick adapters to industry shifts.



Christos Latos

Deputy CEO
Ogilvy Greece

Pierce '91

With nearly two decades at Ogilvy Greece, Christos Latos has helped shape one of the most awarded and influential agencies in the region. As Deputy CEO, he's led campaigns that have earned accolades at Cannes Lions, Clio, and other top global festivals—yet his journey began with a personal transformation during his years at Pierce College.

"I wasn't a top student at first," he admits, "but Pierce offered an environment that gave me room to grow. It shaped my character more than anything else—and ultimately, that's what led me to where I am today."

After completing his undergraduate studies at Panteion University and taking non-degree courses at Deree, Christos pursued an MA in Integrated Marketing Communications at Emerson College in Boston. He later worked in New York during the dot-com boom, gaining valuable experience with global brands like Apple, Motorola, and Sony.

"I was lucky to be in New York at the right moment—it was the epicenter of innovation," he says. After co-founding an internet startup in Greece, he joined Ogilvy, where he has remained ever since.

Throughout his career, Christos credits ACG with equipping him with the confidence to adapt and connect with people—what he sees as a vital asset in any leadership role. "ACG made me an extrovert. It helped me socialize, build relationships, and navigate any professional setting."

He continues to hold onto the core values he developed during his ACG years: integrity, humility, and compassion. "These values have positively affected both my personal and professional life," he notes. He also emphasizes the lasting impact of sports on his mindset and balance. "Even today, I still go to the Deree gym and run at the stadium."

Christos stays closely connected to the ACG community, frequently participating in alumni events and mentoring young professionals. "It's a strong network full of successful, charismatic people always willing to help."

His advice to students? "It's not just about skills—your personality matters. Be honest, humble, and treat people well. And if you can, study abroad. It will broaden your perspective."

His motto: "Ask for forgiveness, not permission." It reflects his belief in bold thinking, decisive action—and accepting that failure is part of growth.



John Kalimeris

Media Executive

Deree '82

John Kalimeris is a leading figure in Greek media, with a career that spans major private television networks including MEGA, STAR, ANT1, ALPHA TV, and ERT. Early in his professional life, he balanced a career as an electrical and mechanical engineer with competitive water polo—foreshadowing the drive and adaptability that would define his path in broadcasting.

John's journey began at Deree—The American College of Greece, which he credits for giving him more than just academic preparation. "The first time I truly felt grateful for Deree was during my MBA studies," he reflects. "I realized my academic foundations were incredibly strong—comparable, if not better, than peers from internationally known institutions."

What stuck with him most wasn't textbook content but the way of thinking Deree encouraged. "Our professors weren't just academics—they had real-world experience. Their advice turned out to be invaluable," he says. "One thing that stayed with me came from a professor who said, 'Use common sense and a tidy mind. Keep your cool, and you can solve the worst of business crises.' I've applied that wisdom throughout my career."

John's student experience extended beyond the classroom. "I looked forward to going to class—something I hadn't felt in high school," he says. He recalls spearheading an initiative to remove political party influence from student elections, promoting merit-based representation instead. "That experience taught me that nothing is impossible when approached the right way. It's a lesson I've carried with me in leadership roles."

Today, as the media landscape undergoes radical transformation, John remains pragmatic. "Streaming and digital media are changing everything. Free-to-air TV, as we know it, may not exist in ten years. We're in an industry where constant reinvention is essential, and we must keep thinking outside the box."

Through it all, his Deree roots continue to shape him. "I go back to my days at Deree often. I'm grateful for the foundation the faculty helped me build, and I encourage friends to send their kids there. After Deree, the sky's the limit."

His guiding belief? "The best is yet to come." And with that mindset, John Kalimeris continues to navigate change, grounded in experience—and possibility.



Tonia Gogou

General Manager
V+O International

Deree '94

With more than 27 years of experience in strategic communication and public affairs, Tonia Gogou has built a career that bridges industries, sectors, and borders. Today, as CEO of V+O International, she leads a team of 50 professionals across six markets, overseeing the firm's business growth and development in Europe.

From designing crisis management frameworks for multinationals to executing complex stakeholder engagement strategies, Tonia's work has had a lasting impact on the energy, retail, FMCG, and public sectors. "In communications, you must constantly scan politics, the economy, society, and human behavior. The ability to synthesize all that data into strategy was something I first developed at ACG," she says.

Tonia holds a BA in History from Deree and a Master's in Post-Soviet and Russian Diplomatic Studies from the London School of Economics. While her academic roots were in the humanities, it was at Deree that she discovered the analytical and critical thinking tools that continue to guide her today. "The synthesis of knowledge, paired with impactful communication, helped me navigate some of the most complex crises for international and Greek clients alike."

She credits ACG with instilling the enduring values that guide her leadership: transparency, honesty, and respect. "The sincere communication and honest feedback from professors taught me how to grow. These values define how I operate professionally and personally."

As a student, she was deeply influenced by professors Haris Vlavianos and Mr. Arouch, and she continues to maintain strong friendships with classmates. "Every time I visit Deree—for my son's basketball games—I feel a sense of awe and deep emotion. ACG remains part of who I am."

Tonia encourages young alumni to actively engage with the ACG network. "ACG is a knowledge ecosystem. Many graduates have worked and trained with us at V+O. The values it teaches help shape the professionals of tomorrow."

Looking ahead, she sees the future of communications shaped by the interplay of human intellect and AI, as well as the strategic use of data and research. Her advice? "Stay informed. Read, question, compare. Take risks. And remember—everything meaningful is built with love, knowledge, and dedication."

Her life motto is simple yet powerful: "It is what it is." Whether you stay and fight or choose to move on, the key, she says, is accepting reality and growing through it.



Alexandros Fragkos

Product Marketing Analyst
Gemini AI, Search & Chrome
Google

Alba '15

From Greek tech startups to Google's global innovation hubs in New York and London, Alexandros Fragkos' journey is a story of curiosity, resilience, and lifelong learning.

Today, as Senior Marketing Analytics & Strategy Manager for Google Consumer Apps in EMEA, Alex helps shape how millions engage with technology—especially as AI transforms the digital landscape.

"My career journey really took off while I was studying for my ACG master's," Alex recalls. "I was working full-time at a tech startup in Athens, managing intense demands while pursuing an International Management degree at night." This experience, made possible by a full scholarship, helped him develop what he calls a "ruthless prioritization" skillset: "ACG taught me to focus on what truly drives impact while avoiding perfectionism that often slows down progress in fast-moving environments."

After graduation, Alex joined Google Greece, where he led B2B marketing programs for small businesses. He later advanced to a Senior Analytical Lead role, working closely with large advertisers and agencies on marketing transformation. "But the real turning point," he says, "was recognizing that I wanted a truly international career." Drawing on the global mindset he developed at ACG, Alex began volunteering for internal "20% projects" at Google—side initiatives that eventually led to a three-month rotation in New York.

That rotation turned into a full-time role on Google's Global Client & Agency Solutions team. "I've since worked from New York, Athens during the pandemic, and now London." Today, he leads marketing analytics for consumer apps like Google Maps, Photos, and Gmail, helping define strategy in a world increasingly shaped by AI.

AI is more than a trend, Alex believes—it's a paradigm shift. "Tools like NotebookLM, which can turn dense scientific texts into conversational insights, or Gemini Canvas, which brings app ideas to life through intuitive interfaces, are revolutionizing how we access and apply knowledge," he says. "For young professionals, the key is to embrace AI as a collaborator—learn with it, think critically, and create boldly."

Alex attributes his adaptive mindset to ACG's holistic approach to education. "The concept of 'education for life' stuck with me," he says. "It wasn't about finishing a degree—it was about learning how to learn, again and again."

His personal motto—Shape your circumstances before they shape you—reflects that proactive philosophy. "It's about building deliberate habits, curating your environment, and being intentional about growth. That mindset has been my compass."

As for innovation, Alex believes it thrives on curiosity, courage, and a willingness to fail forward. "At Google, there's a healthy disregard for the impossible. That's the culture we all try to contribute to."



Ellie Terzaki

**Marketing and Advertising
Professional**

Deree '82

"Studying business administration at ACG has been incredibly empowering! Deree provided me with valuable knowledge, practical tools and required skills, while it also granted me the confidence to embrace challenges and tap into my potential. Deree has always been my "partner" in helping me achieve my goals."



Amalia Karalis

Marketing Director
Viologiko Xorio

Pierce '01

Deree '06

"Attending both Pierce and Deree has been a life-changing experience for me. The caring, supportive environment at Pierce encouraged my academic curiosity and personal growth, laying a solid foundation for my future years at university. At Deree, I discovered a community that valued academic excellence and social responsibility, pushing me to engage deeply with my studies and the world around me. The continuity of studying at both institutions helped me develop a sense of belonging and purpose, shaping my ambition and vision for the future."

We Are Family

ACG passes knowledge and values through generations and builds lifelong friendships. From mothers and daughters who have followed in each other's footsteps, to partners and friends who met at ACG, we celebrate the families and communities who continue the legacy. The longer profiles in this section feature friends who met while studying at ACG and have remained deeply connected and supportive as they moved to the U.S., pursued further education, and built extraordinary careers.



Nicholas Karytinios

Architect/Principal

Tacet Creations

Pierce '91

For Nicholas Karytinios, architecture is more than buildings—it's about ideas, relationships, and spaces that invite people to think, grow, and connect. That vision was shaped not in a design studio, but in the open courtyards, sunlit atriums, and interlocking spaces of Pierce College.

"The architecture of Pierce shaped me before I even knew I wanted to be an architect," says Nicholas, now an accomplished designer based in New York and Greece. "It wasn't just about form—it was about freedom. The campus was filled with light, movement, and possibility. You didn't walk through Pierce—you flowed."

Designed by Constantinos Doxiades, the Pierce campus blended Hellenic spirit with American ideals. "As students, we didn't yet have the vocabulary to describe what we were experiencing, but it was deeply modern, optimistic, and human-centered."

That early influence led him to Cornell University's architecture program. "I later became close to the professor who reviewed my application. He told me my admission hinged on my portfolio and essay. The drawings weren't representational—they captured motion, time, and ambiguity. That openness of form came directly from my Pierce education."

After graduation, Nicholas stood at a crossroads. Though drawn to an academic career in the U.S., he returned to Greece as the country prepared to host the Olympic Games. "There was a collective call to action," he recalls. "It felt like a moment when everyone was needed. That sense of civic duty was something Pierce had instilled in me."

He contributed to major Olympic projects before returning to the more intimate scale of residential design. "You listen, you interpret, you translate lives into space. That ability to truly listen—that started at Pierce."

Through his firm Tacet Creations, Nicholas designs homes, interiors, and furniture across the U.S. and Greece. "The most meaningful projects come from openness—no ego, no assumptions. That value was embedded in me from the beginning."

Three principles guide him: openness, curiosity, and respect. "Pierce taught these not as slogans but as a way of being. We were encouraged to question, to explore, to see the world through multiple lenses."

One pivotal moment came in literature class. "Mrs. Tsoakas assigned *The Inheritors* by William Golding. You start the book identifying with the narrator—then realize he's a Neanderthal. That perceptual shift was seismic. It was a lesson in empathy, in perspective—and it changed how I see everything."

Nicholas also credits teachers like Mrs. Dusendschon, Mr. Tzelekis, Mrs. Rari, and Mrs. Marketos with nurturing his aesthetic instincts and analytical mind. "They carried themselves with lightness and dignity. Those qualities prepared me not just for a career, but a way of life."

Today, as architecture evolves with AI and digital tools, Nicholas stays grounded in human connection. "I still sketch by hand—even digitally. The tools change, but the mindset—exploration and dialogue—remains the same."

"Pierce gave us room to move, to see, to imagine," he says. "And that's what great design—and great education—should always do."



Pandora Lycouri

Global Communications and Brand Strategist
Ross Stores

Deree '95

With over 20 years of experience guiding companies through change, growth, and reputation challenges, I've led communications and brand strategies across sectors—from retail and consumer goods to finance, utilities, and defense. Currently at Ross Stores, I've previously led global communications at BIC and held senior roles at Pernod Ricard and Kantar Consulting, supporting brands like Shell, Pfizer, and PepsiCo. Earlier, I advised the IMF during Greece's debt crisis and led communications at CIVITAS for clients including Boeing and Adidas.

Career Journey

Since graduating from Deree and Stirling, I've helped businesses and leaders navigate complexity, articulate their narratives, and connect with stakeholders. From crisis communications in Greece to brand strategy in New York, storytelling has been my tool for clarity and transformation.

I began at CIVITAS, advising clients during high-stakes transformations. The analytical thinking I honed at ACG, and the mentorship of George Flessas, laid the foundation. At Kantar, I helped Fortune 500 companies reposition for growth. Today, I lead internal and external communications for one of the largest off-price retailers in the U.S.

ACG-Acquired Skills

ACG taught me to think critically and communicate under pressure. At 23, I was defending a communications plan before an international oil board, intimidating, but manageable thanks to the hours of presentations and debates at Deree. Years later, I relied on the same skills to guide IMF messaging during the debt crisis, translating economic complexity into clear, actionable strategy.

ACG Values

Three values have stayed with me: service, excellence, and global perspective.

Service: Coming from a family of educators and public servants, I grew up believing leadership is service. ACG's motto—*Non ministrari, sed ministrare*—shaped how I lead today: by mentoring and creating space for others to thrive.

Excellence: Ballet taught me that excellence is resilience, not perfection. ACG built on that. Dr. Arouh's economics classes pushed us to apply theory, question assumptions, and think strategically.

Global Perspective: ACG gave academic grounding to my multicultural background. Learning in a diverse environment prepared me to communicate and lead across borders, essential in my global roles.

ACG Influence and Mentors

Two professors had a lasting impact. Dr. Vlavianos' one-question midterm, "What led to the rise of Hitler?," taught me that connecting ideas matters more than memorizing facts. Dr. Arouh trained us to think deeply, trust our voice, and bring rigor and personality to our work.

And then there was Mario Simon—friend, classmate, and later, the one who opened the door to my first U.S. job. Our debates forced me to think for myself. That habit of synthetic thinking has shaped how I solve problems ever since.

Advice to Young Communicators

Listen more than you speak. Write well, it's your superpower. Stay calm when others aren't. Leave your politics at the door. Great communicators hold space for all perspectives and build trust over time.

Life Motto

"I know that I know nothing." It keeps me curious, humble, and open to growth. Curiosity, not certainty, is the root of progress.





Nikitas Koutoupes

Managing Director
Insight Partners

Pierce '91

I'm a Managing Director at Insight Partners, a private equity firm with over \$90 billion in assets under management. I focus on investments in application software, especially in education technology, sales and marketing automation, construction, and ecommerce. My career began at McKinsey & Company, followed by co-founding eBricks.com. I hold a BA from Princeton, an MBA from Harvard, and an MA in the Philosophical Foundations of Physics from Columbia. Outside of work, I enjoy travel, photography, and running or cycling—when my back allows. My wife and I live in Manhattan, where we're learning to play zone defense with our three kids.

Career Journey and ACG Gratitude

When I landed at JFK in 1991 with two suitcases and my mother, it was my first time in the U.S.—and the start of a journey shaped by extraordinary institutions. That journey began at Pierce. It gave me the intellectual, cultural, and personal foundation to access a world I might not otherwise have known. More than 30 years later, I'm still grateful for that pivotal connection.

ACG-Acquired Skills

Analytical ability, hard work, and patience have shaped my career—but it's often been my grounding in literature and culture that made me stand out. Conversations about Homer, Emerson, or Chaucer helped me build unexpected connections and, as an immigrant, feel less out of place.

During a final McKinsey interview, the discussion turned to American literature. My interviewer assumed I'd gained that knowledge at Princeton—but much of it came from English IV at Pierce. That experience confirmed that a strong foundation in both analytical and cultural literacy is invaluable, professionally and personally.

Pierce Influence and Mentors

On a recent trip to Greece, I visited Mrs. Georgia Marketos. She handed me two envelopes postmarked 1991—filled with postcards and letters I'd sent her from the U.S. She had kept them all. Her steady encouragement, always signed "Fondly, Georgia," meant the world. That kind of mentorship builds lasting confidence—and many Pierce alumni know the power of it.

ACG Alumni Network

For me, it's personal. Through Pierce, I met lifelong friends—Patrick, Nikos, Pandora, Mario—who also left Greece to build lives abroad. We share more than experiences—we share values. My advice: let your network grow through trust, but always be open to helping others who reach out.

Life Motto

"Σὺν Ἀθηνᾶ καὶ χεῖρα κίνει"—With Athena's help, move your hand. Some things are beyond our control, but we are rarely without agency. Success takes both effort and fortune. That balance brings humility when success happens, and perspective when it doesn't.

Opportunities for Alumni

You don't need vast resources—just passion and focus. Small, committed teams can do big things. The greatest impact comes from giving where you're most engaged and fulfilled.



Lifelong Friends

The friendships formed at Pierce often last a lifetime. In this story, we celebrate three classmates whose bond began in the school corridors and has only grown stronger over the years. Their enduring friendship is a testament to the powerful sense of community and belonging that defines the Pierce experience, long after graduation.



Dionysis Makris

Actor

Pierce

"My student years at Pierce were a blur of coffee-fueled study sessions, adventurous escapades with close friends, and dreams that felt too big to fail. We were young and untouchable, weaving our lives together with shared secrets and inside jokes, believing we'd always be this way. First loves came like storms—wild, exhilarating, and all-consuming—teaching us the beauty of beginnings and the ache of endings. Through it all, I discovered myself, piece by piece. It was a time of becoming, of learning not just from books but from every mistake, every heartbreak, and every moment of unfiltered joy. We didn't know it then, but those days were shaping us into who we were meant to be."



Dimitris Vournas

**Director of Revenue
Hotel Plus**

Pierce '02

"Pierce College was transformative beyond academics. The vibrant concert hall performances ignited my passion for music, athletics instilled discipline and teamwork, and school trips forged lifelong friendships. These experiences, coupled with a supportive environment, shaped me into a resilient, well-rounded individual who values the balance between hard work and enjoyment."



Thanos Goltsos

**Associate Professor
Cardiff Business School**

Pierce '02

"Education is a foundation of success, and meaningful connections are a foundation of happiness. I remember my school years at Pierce fondly in both regards - the academic stimuli and the long-lasting friendships that helped shape who I am. The motto of the school is something that resonates with me to this day: Non Ministrari, Sed Ministrare!"





Two Generations, One Legacy

Some stories speak to the lasting bond between a family and their alma mater. In this section, we proudly feature a remarkable family whose three generations have all walked the halls of Pierce. Their journey reflects the deep-rooted connection, shared values, and enduring impact of an ACG education passed down with pride, shaping not only individual lives but also a shared legacy across time.



Katy (Aikaterini) Nanou- Giannarou

Academic Staff
NTUA, School of Civil
Engineering

Pierce '72

"Pierce College during my years there (1966–1972) was a world apart from both public and private secondary education of the time. It didn't just provide knowledge—it offered a holistic education that shaped our personalities and character. English became almost a second native language, and the world beyond Greece felt closer and more familiar. As an all-girls school then, Pierce gave those of us fortunate enough to study in such a modern, forward-thinking environment the foundation to grow into independent individuals with broad horizons, strong values, and a deep sense of responsibility to serve our communities—no matter what career paths we pursued."



Joanna Giannarou

Head of Marketing
Shisan Sushi

Pierce '07

"Beyond practical skills and a strong command of the English language, Pierce College offered so much more. It provided a well-rounded education that went far beyond ministry requirements, shaping my worldview and igniting passions I hadn't yet discovered.

From reading Macbeth in its original form to traveling to London for the first time—and falling in love with the city I would later call home—to discovering classical poems set to music and attending events that sparked lifelong curiosity, these moments defined my educational journey. They also shaped the standard I now seek in a school for my son: a place that nurtures curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning that extends well beyond the classroom."



Christy Giannarou

**ESG &
Sustainability Lead**
Delta Foods

Pierce '03

Alba '20

"Pierce was where my mother's journey began, shaping her path of growth and discovery. Following in her footsteps, I found my own beginning at Pierce, where I learned that knowledge is multi-faceted and gained the foundation to explore, evolve, and carve my own path. It wasn't just about learning; it was about learning how to grow. The MBA at ALBA built on this foundation, strengthening my business acumen and strategic thinking, and giving me the tools to approach business challenges effectively."





Mario Simon

CEO
ChangeMakers

Pierce '91

Deree '95

I'm a Greek-American entrepreneur, academic, and CEO of ChangeMakers—a fast-growing Reputation, Marketing, and Social Impact consulting firm with 500 professionals across eight North American offices. Before founding ChangeMakers, I was a Managing Director and Partner at BCG, where I led global work in customer-centricity, brand strategy, and consumer insights. I started my career at McKinsey, later co-founded BBDO Consulting in London, and built Kantar Consulting into a 1,000-person firm. I hold a PhD from Yale, where I focused on behavioral economics and decision-making as a Fulbright scholar. I've shared ideas through media like The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, and Fox Business, and spoken at events hosted by the AMA, ANA, and more. I am currently working on a new book, *Free You from You*, exploring advanced leadership and spirituality as conduits to personal and professional success. I live in New York with my partner, Robbie, and our two kids, Penelope and Leandros.

Career journey and ACG impact

There would be zero chance I would have landed at one of the most competitive PhD programs on the planet had it not been for the unwavering support of Dr. Evangelos Voloudakis, who was chair at the Deree Economics Department, chair of PPC, the Greek electric company, and he himself a graduate from the same Yale elite doctoral program.

Values instilled at Pierce and Deree

Integrity, Excellence, Optimism, Ambition, Openness, Hard Work, Impeccable Standards. I spent ten years between Pierce and Deree. These institutions' values-led orientation honed me as the leader, professional, and human I am today.

Mentors and ACG influence

My desire to give back, to mentor, to support people to surpass what they thought possible was honed during my time at Pierce and Deree. I am often told I have the gift of seeing in people what they don't yet see in themselves, and my first realizations and the space to express that gift was given to me at Pierce College.

Career advice

There is no "I can't," there is "I don't want to." Your attitude, not your aptitude, ultimately defines your altitude.

Lifelong learning

My philosophy is, if you are not growing, you're dying. The foundation of that philosophy is grounded in my formative years at Pierce and Deree. The multi-faceted perspective and seeking to always expand my horizons is a trait and positive habit I developed then and still carry with me.

Collaboration and ACG network

I deeply cherish my lifelong friends from Pierce and Deree – Nikitas, Nick, Pandora, Patrick – who I always aim to see more of, and I love receiving updates about so many friends from those very special golden years! I would love to reconnect!

Life motto

I have many mottos in life. One of them is: People don't buy what you do, they buy who you are. What I mean by that is that I aim to work on the inside to reach new frontiers. I'm firmly grounded in the knowing that manifest growth is the result of inner growth.



Rising Stars

With unparalleled international backgrounds, solid networking skills and unstoppable ambition, our graduates are hungry to seek out fast-paced, multicultural environments to start their career.



Boye Alhassan

Biomedical Sciences and Sociology

Deree '25

I'm a senior at The American College of Greece, Deree, majoring in Biomedical Sciences and minoring in Sociology. Originally from Ghana, I arrived on Lesbos in 2018 as a refugee. Determined to rewrite my story, I became the first refugee from Moria refugee camp to attend the Greek vocational school Esperino EPAL and pass the Panhellenic exams. I joined Deree through the Education Unites Scholarship Program for refugees at ACG and have since embraced college life—serving as President of the International Honors Program (IHP), Vice President of the Sociology Society, and participating in the Stanford Summer Exchange Program. I've also worked across campus through the work-study program, gaining valuable experience.

Career journey

Thanks to the Education Unites program—which covers tuition, housing, and meals—I've been able to fully dedicate myself to my studies while actively engaging in campus life. Participating in events like the Athens Democracy Forum and the Millennium Fellowship has connected me with inspiring students and professionals. I felt especially grateful during a visit to Schisto refugee camp, where we delivered educational materials through a project with the Sociology Department and my IHP course. Standing there, I reflected on my own journey from Moria camp to Deree—and how far I've come.

ACG-acquired skill that made a difference

During my internship at Mitera Hospital (Dec 2023–Jan 2024), I observed live surgeries and shadowed doctors. My coursework in biology and physiology gave me the foundational knowledge to follow complex procedures, while ACG's emphasis on group work and presentations helped me develop confidence and communication skills. This combination allowed me to engage meaningfully with the medical team and build strong relationships in a high-pressure clinical environment.

Three enduring values from ACG

Empathy & Community: Collaborating with organizations like Boroume taught me the value of service—to people and the planet.

Integrity: ACG's strong emphasis on academic honesty has shaped how I approach both personal and professional challenges.

Leadership & Responsibility: As IHP President and Sociology Club Vice President, I learned to lead with empathy, manage teams, and create meaningful impact through student-driven initiatives.

How did Deree shape you?

Deree has been transformative. Professors and mentors like Ms. Helena Maragou, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Ms. Marilly Douni, IHP Senior Administrative Support, and Ms. Nefeli Alexandraki, Marketing Specialist, have supported and encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and embrace every opportunity. Their belief in me helped build the confidence and drive I carry today.

Benefits of the ACG alumni network

Alumni mentorship—especially for Education Unites Scholars—has been invaluable. Their insights help current students clarify goals, understand the job market, and feel supported. I strongly encourage alumni to stay engaged—you're making a real difference.

Life motto

"And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it." This quote from The Alchemist has guided me since 2018. Despite the challenges of Moria camp, I kept believing—and with the help of many, including the ACG community—I've come this far. I can't wait to see what comes next.





Fridoon Joinda

Multimedia Producer, Public Speaker, and Human Rights Advocate

Deree '24

My journey began with displacement. In early 2016, my family was forced to flee Kabul due to our work in journalism, an experience that led me to Moria Refugee Camp, where I spent over a year. That experience profoundly shaped my perspective and ultimately led me to establish Joinda Productions, a multi-media company, in 2017.

Over the years, I have produced numerous documentaries that have been screened internationally and have won multiple awards. I also hosted and produced *The Untold Vodcast*, which focused on human rights and displacement, featuring interviews with influential figures including Dr. David G. Horner, Former President of ACG.

My work aims to provide a platform for marginalized communities, challenge stereotypes, and advocate for more inclusive policies that impact broader society.

Career Journey

Before ACG, my life was defined by displacement. I had lost stability, opportunity, and belonging. ACG gave me more than an education—it gave me confidence, acceptance, and the ability to think critically. Since graduating in 2024, I've developed *Voices of Democracy*, a video interview series with ACG's Demos Center, exploring global threats to democracy and systemic inequality.

ACG-Acquired Skills

At ACG, I found my voice. As a Communications major, I learned to express ideas clearly, think critically, and connect across cultures. I went from speaking English for the first time in class to addressing international audiences at events hosted by the EU, UNHCR, and embassies. ACG also gave me tools in journalism and storytelling, which I use in films like *Moria 35* and *Nice Lie*—both screened in global advocacy and educational settings.

ACG Values

Critical Thinking: I learned to question, analyze, and push past the surface—skills I now use in advocacy and filmmaking.

Inclusivity: In a diverse classroom, I saw how shared struggles connect us. My history courses helped me understand why equity matters.

Resilience: It took seven and a half years to graduate while adjusting to a new country and working full time. That journey taught me persistence and self-belief.

Impact of ACG & Mentors

Crossing from Moria Refugee Camp into ACG changed my life. Ms. Kathleen McDonald, Director of the Education Unites scholarship program for refugees at ACG, was my first point of contact and greatest supporter. She helped me believe in myself—and never said “no” to an idea, no matter how ambitious. Professors challenged me, classmates welcomed me, and the entire ACG community empowered me. I entered unsure and voiceless; I left confident and heard.

Alumni Network

Graduating after seven and a half years was a personal triumph. Being part of the ACG alumni network now connects me to people from across industries and cultures. It's more than a professional opportunity—it's a community of resilience, generosity, and shared values. I absolutely encourage other alumni to engage. In a world of uncertainty, networks like ours matter.



Elli
**Anemogianni
Sinanidi**

**PhD Candidate, Mechanical
Engineering
City, University of London**

Deree '18

"I began my academic journey with a Ptychion in French Language and Literature from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2008), followed by a BA in Economics from Deree. My growing interest in the maritime industry inspired me to pursue an MSc in Maritime Operations and Management at City, University of London (2020). Continuing to build on this passion, I recently completed a second Ptychion in Ports Management and Shipping at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2024). I am currently a PhD candidate at City, University of London, where my research focuses on the 'Business case for autonomous dry bulk ships.' My motto - Follow your heart and never stop dreaming."



Farahnaz
Faiz

**Economist, Girls and Women's Rights
Activist**

Deree '22

"Displacement strips away everything—home, identity, security—but education is the one thing no one can take away from you. It serves as a bridge between loss and possibility, between survival and true belonging. For me, Deree was more than just a place to study; it provided the strength and agency to reshape my future."



Fivos Mavridis

Rise Mentor
Crimson Rise

Pierce '17

"At ACG, I learned to be inquisitive with purpose; how to ask questions not just for answers, but to drive meaningful change. It was there that I first understood how aligning personal motivation with community impact can shape a fulfilling and principled path forward, an understanding further reinforced through my collaborative work on the ACG UAE/GCC Alumni Charter."



Niki-Despoina Karousi

Trainee
European Parliament

Deree '21

"Although I studied in two universities during my postgraduate degree, being a Deree alumna is something that I identify with the most. Being a Deree alumna is not just about the diploma or the transcript, those are just pieces of paper. When you graduate, you leave Deree with a mindset – the Deree mindset. Deree has shaped my way of thinking and functioning as a young professional and as a person. That's why when I meet students or alumni from the ACG family, it feels like we connect somehow, almost like a common part in our identity."

Pillars Of Pierce

Honoring Courage, Leadership, and Legacy

This special section honors four exceptional Pierce alumnae whose lives embody the values that have guided The American College of Greece since its founding in 1875. Representing hundreds of remarkable Pierce graduates, these outstanding women reflect the school's enduring mission and the transformative power of a life shaped by purpose and courage. Their stories speak not only to our past, and inspire the future we continue to build.



Lola Angel

Pierce '55

Lola Angel is a Holocaust survivor whose life speaks to resilience, courage and hope. After enduring the darkest chapter of the 20th century, she rebuilt her life in Athens, raised two children—both Pierce and Deree alumni—and today celebrates her large multi-generational family.

"In Prague there was a synagogue that was supposed to become a museum for a population that wouldn't exist anymore. No. We exist. And I am very proud to be a Jew," Lola says. "And I have a big family, two daughters, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. I 'buried' Hitler."

For 25 years, Lola worked long hours in a photography studio in Athens during the boom of one-hour photo processing. Her clients included embassies and ministries. "It was exhausting and exhilarating," she recalls. Lola graduated from Pierce College in 1955, but the memories remain vivid: the sweltering summer catch-up lessons, the spirit of community, and the bond with classmates that lasted a lifetime.

"We were behind in our studies because of the war," she recalls. "We caught up during three months of summer and sat for exams in September. The YWCA lent us classrooms. No air conditioning—it was so hot, we'd faint. But we got through it."

Though Lola describes herself as a "terrible student," her affection for school was unwavering. "I loved going to Pierce. I wasn't good at everything—Ancient Greek didn't interest me at all—but I adored Renaissance and Medieval History. I went to school with joy."

She remembers her class as close-knit and full of personality. "We were a remarkable class. We still met up decades later—until the one who organized us passed away. Now, someone else is trying to get us back together."

Pierce was also the site of important lessons in humanity. Lola recounts a powerful moment when an older student insulted her with an antisemitic slur. "Our teacher didn't punish her in the usual way. She told her, 'You clearly don't know the history of the Jews or the Holocaust. You'll

prepare a talk about it—with Lola's help, she will tell you the story and give you material—and deliver it in the auditorium.' This for us was the greatest punishment, I'll never forget that."

After graduation, Lola hoped to study decorative arts, but her father insisted she work in the family business. Yet her creativity and resilience found expression in work and community—and later in education.

Now in her 80s, Lola continues to share her story as one of the few living Holocaust survivors in Greece. "When I saw that my grandchildren weren't learning about World War II, I started visiting schools each January. I felt that it was my responsibility to share the story. The questions these kids ask—they're sharp. They're paying attention." She tells them: "You can't imagine what it means to be free." And they listen.

Asked what Pierce gave her, Lola doesn't hesitate: "A way of thinking. A freedom. A kind of openness to the world. I still remember Ms. Meria's motto: 'Keep on right.' Even now, I can't climb stairs without staying to the right."

Despite changing times and educational systems, Lola believes the spirit of Pierce endures. "The school shaped us. Even the mischief we got into—like sneaking out through the fence to go swimming during religion class—which as a Jew, I didn't have to participate in—was part of growing up in a place we loved."

Her advice to today's students and alumni? "Hold on to the friendships. They change as we age—at our reunions now we compare hearing aids!—but they matter. And hold on to determination. Life takes grit. That's what I tell my children and grandchildren: nothing happens without persistence."

After a lifetime of loss, rebuilding, and love, Lola smiles at how her class was known. "We were 'the angels,'" she says. "That's what they used to call us, because we were the exact opposite, so we kept calling ourselves: The class of Angels!"



Dr. Eleftheria Bernidaki-Aldous

**First Vice President National
Accessibility Authority of Greece**

Pierce '70

Eleftheria Bernidaki-Aldous, the first blind student admitted to Pierce, has spent a lifetime breaking barriers and championing education. Fully immersed in student life, she graduated with high distinction and went on to earn multiple degrees in the U.S., including a Ph.D. in Classics and History.

A respected scholar, award-winning author, and former Member of the Hellenic Parliament, she returned to ACG as a professor at Deree and later as a proud Pierce parent. Her son, Alex Aldous, Pierce '98, is now a member of the ACG Board of Trustees, serves as General Counsel at Chef's Warehouse and supports The Aldous Family Accessibility Expendable Scholarship for blind students in his mother's honor. Through every chapter of her life, Eleftheria has remained a devoted ambassador of the values that define ACG.

"I am grateful for the opportunity given to me by ACG Pierce to study on a scholarship and for the pioneering decision to admit me as its first and only blind student.

Pierce opened the path for my undergraduate and post-graduate studies, all the way to earning a PhD at Johns Hopkins in the United States, and led me to a successful academic career as a university professor both in the U.S. and at Deree.

I want similar opportunities to be available to blind students, and for that reason, in my role as Member of Parliament (State Deputy) in the Hellenic Parliament, I contributed to the establishment of laws concerning the education of blind students and, more broadly, the inclusion of people with disabilities in education and employment.

I never forget that Pierce meant real inclusion for me, and I firmly believe it deserves our support so it can continue offering excellent academic opportunities and scholarships to its students.

That is why we are pleased to offer the Aldous Family Scholarship for a blind student."



Anna Psarouda Benaki

Attorney, Politician, Law Professor

Pierce '52

"The first female President of the Hellenic Parliament, Anna Psarouda Benaki has dedicated her life to public service and the rule of law. Her career stands as a testament to the strength, intellect, and civic responsibility fostered at Pierce. As one of Greece's most respected public figures, she has opened doors for generations of women in politics and remains a powerful role model for young leaders committed to justice and democratic values.

"When I entered politics, I came to appreciate even more deeply the foundation Pierce gave me. When we received our grades, there was a specific component that evaluated our sense of responsibility, reminding us that we must always be accountable for our actions. I've carried that lesson throughout my life, and I believe it has helped me uphold a strong sense of justice."



Athina I. Martinou

**Greek Shipping Pioneer and
Philanthropist**

Pierce '45

Athina Martinou, (1927-2024), was a trailblazer in global shipping and one of the most respected women in the industry. Founder of Thenamaris Ships Management, she led with quiet strength, bold vision, and unmatched expertise, earning the affectionate title "Nounou" of the shipping world.

Her legacy—rooted in perseverance, generosity, and service to Greek society—continues through her family and the company she built. In 2023, ACG honored her with its highest distinction, the Maria West Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating a life of excellence, leadership, and lasting impact.

"I wish the College many hundreds of years with lots of success."

Office of Advancement - Alumni

This booklet was produced by the ACG Office of Advancement-Alumni, which builds bridges across generations and geographies to strengthen the lifelong bonds that unite the ACG community— alumni of Pierce, Deree, and Alba, as well as faculty, staff, friends, and partners. We create meaningful opportunities for connection, celebration, and impact through alumni reunions, professional networking events, and educational forums featuring distinguished graduates and thought leaders. At the same time, we advance ACG's mission by securing vital support for scholarships, academic innovation, and transformative initiatives that benefit current and future students.

About the ACG Office of Advancement-Alumni

Vision

To cultivate a connected, vibrant, and proud alumni community that champions the ACG brand by supporting each other and contributing to the College's growth—both intellectually and financially.

Mission

To engage and connect alumni with ACG and with one another, in alignment with the College's mission. We aim to enrich the lives of alumni and inspire them to serve as volunteers, advocates, and philanthropic supporters who help strengthen ACG's future.

Giving

As a nonprofit institution, ACG is dedicated to academic excellence and student success rather than profit. For over 150 years, philanthropy has played a vital role in bridging the gap between tuition and the full cost of education. Today, ACG invests more than €10 million annually in financial aid, benefiting over 50% of its student body—thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends.

Visit:

<https://www.acg.edu/alumni/> | <https://www.acg.edu/giving/>



ACG Connect:

ACG Connect is the exclusive networking platform for Pierce, Deere, and Alba alumni. Reconnect with fellow graduates, explore job opportunities, promote your business, find a mentor, and much more!

Join today at www.acgconnect.org

Find us on Social Media:

 /ACGALUMNI

 @acgalumniofficial

 ACGAlumni

Networking

Lifelong Learning

Mentoring

Reunions & Events

Giving Back & Volunteering

Exclusive Benefits

Meet the ACG Office of Advancement-Alumni Team



Anna Seaton-Huntington

Executive Director
Advancement
Office: 857-284-7908
E-mail: ahuntington@acg.edu



Aliko Giannakopoulou

Executive Director of
Advancement – Development
Tel: +30 210 600 9800,
ext. 1239
E-mail: agiannakopoulou@acg.edu



Dimitris Toubis

Executive Director of
Advancement - Alumni
Tel.: +30 210 600 9800,
ext. 1035
Email: dtoumpis@acg.edu



Christina Chantzou

Director, Advancement
Tel.: +30 210 600 9800,
ext. 1308
E-mail: cchantzou@acg.edu



Natalie Delli

Communication &
Development Manager,
Advancement – Alumni
Tel: +30 210 600 9800,
ext. 1038
E-mail: ndelli@acg.edu



Tina Roumeliotis

Manager,
Advancement - Alumni
Tel.: +30 210 600 9800,
ext. 1379
E-mail: sroumeliotis@acg.edu



Michael Koukas

Insights & Reporting
Specialist
Tel.: +30 210 600 9800,
ext. 1036
E-mail: mkoukas@acg.edu



Office of Advancement-Alumni

Boston Office

The American College of Greece
101 Arch St., 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
USA Tel: 857-284-7908
Fax: 857-284-7915

Athens Office

The American College of Greece
6 Gravias Street
153 42 Aghia Paraskevi – Greece
E-mail: development-alumni@acg.edu
Tel: +30 210 600 9800 ext. 1308, 1037, 1379
