

# THE SOWER

SPRING-SUMMER 1989

The American Farm School

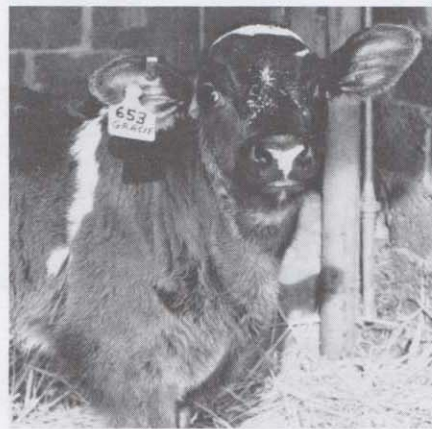
NO. 126

## Dr. Aleco Michaelides, AFS Farm Manager, pioneers embryo transplant program to increase production and reduce costs

The birth of a calf is a routine event at the American Farm School, given its healthy herd of 172 milking cows. But the birth of Gracie, a winsome 40-kilo black and white Holstein-Freissen with an impeccable pedigree, attracted a crowd and was a cause for celebration this Fall. Gracie is the first embryo transfer born calf in northern Greece.

Embryo transfer is a scientific procedure which takes one or more embryos out of a donor and puts them into other recipient cows which will carry them through gestation. In cattle breeding the goal of embryo transfers is to produce more and higher-quality offspring without the donor cow having to bear its calf. Embryo transfer makes it possible to use excess ova to produce more and better offspring per cow at substantially lower cost.

The Farm School's Gracie comes from a long line of high quality mothers. She is the daughter of Applenotch Shoestring, one of the finest pure-bred Holstein Freissen bulls in the midwest United States. Applenotch is from Minster, Ohio. Her mother, Flora, was born and raised at the



Gracie, the Calf, Promises a New Era of Improved Cows

American Farm School, part Holstein, part Guernsey Swiss. Flora is one of the most productive milkers at the School.

Dr. Aleco Michaelides, the School's Farm Manager and one of Greece's leading veterinarians, can trace Gracie's roots back to her great grandparents, so detailed are the records kept by the World Wide Sires Association, an organization responsible for exporting US bull semen abroad. Largely as a result of their artificial insemination program, the AFS dairy herd compares well with the best Holstein herds in Europe and America. It is three times more productive than the average Greek herd. Present milk requirements in Greece could be met with one-third of the number of cows, if all were of Farm School quality.

Dr. Michaelides is on the four-member Greek National Committee dealing with the Embryo Transfer Program. He has been working with the University of Thessaloniki and the Thessaloniki Livestock Breeding Institute to develop the technique in Greece. The School now has its own Embryo Transfer Laboratory, the gift of Mrs. Gerald (Grace) Lambert, (and hence the name Gracie), a long-time friend of the School from Princeton, NJ.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Year of the Library celebrates access and use of knowledge as key to farming success and satisfying life

The Trustees and staff of the American Farm School in Greece have declared 1989 "The Year of the Library." In doing so they made a significant statement to Greece. It recognizes the growing importance of written and recorded information as a tool for a satisfactory personal life and an essential element in progress and competitive status in the European Economic Community.

The AFS Library's Year will actually kick-off a three-year emphasis on up-grading library personnel, facilities, service and use. Adopting the slogan "The Library is for Everyone—Everyone Needs a Library," the School will focus on both staff and student use of the library as a center for recreational reading, pursuit of personal growth, job-skill training and career definition. Greek culture today has tended to emphasize verbal communication, sometimes at the expense of written and recorded works. In addition the difficulty of the language and relative lack of current translations has limited the availability of many needed items in both literature, science and industry. While this may have sufficed as long as Greece remained a relatively small and sometimes isolated Mediterranean country, it is clearly inadequate to national modernization and the achievement of equal status in EEC.

During the coming three-year emphasis on the Library, the School hopes to accomplish the following:

1. Recruit and train a full-time professional Librarian
2. Upgrade its Library's agricultural collection to at least equal that of any other private secondary school in Greece
3. Establish special collections to serve the Farm School constituency in:

*(Continued on page 4)*



Dr. Michaelides, with Gracie, moments after her birth.



Gracie (right) with her biological mother and new sibling. By transferring Gracie as an embryo to another cow, the biological mother was able to become pregnant and give birth two months after Gracie was born.

(Aleco Michaelides, Farm Manager—  
Continued from page 1)

Grace Lambert was first introduced to the American Farm School forty years ago when she was asked to make a donation to buy “a quarter of a pig.” The appeal touched Mrs. Lambert’s love of animals—and her sense of humor. She sits on the Board of Overseers of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and now her devotion to the care and breeding of animals has been extended to Greece.

To explain the significant role this biotechnology will play at the School, Dr. Michaelides notes that “Farm School heifers are in great demand, but we’re not able

(Continued on page 3)

**Aleco Michaelides** was only 14-years old when his family lost three of their precious dairy cows to anthrax. It was then he dedicated himself to becoming a veterinarian one day. “There was no vet in my village of Pondokomi, Kozanis, or anywhere nearby,” remembers the School’s Farm Manager. “Their death mattered to me. I had taken these cows to pasture and milked them all through my childhood. Their death also meant a significant economic loss for my family.”

That was the beginning of a career linking his love for animals with his consciousness of what improved agricultural methods could mean to the small-scale Greek farmer. Winning a competitive examination, he was awarded a full scholarship by a local dairy cooperative to study veterinary medicine at the University of Thessaloniki. Accepting it also committed him to seven years of working for the dairy cooperative after graduation. He credits much of his present success to the day-to-day practical experience he secured at the Co-op.

As Farm Manager, Dr. Michaelides supervises the staffs of the dairy, horticulture and minor livestock departments, and oversees the management of the Zannas Demonstration and Training Farm some miles from the School. The sale of the Farm School products generates 50% of the School’s gross operating budget, quite aside from being the practical training ground for the student and visiting agriculturists.

Dr. Michaelides is known for holding a firm rein on his resources. “My goal is to obtain quality products at a high rate of productivity.” His attention to detail and careful monitoring of productivity show results. Since his appointment as farm manager in 1979, milk production has almost doubled. Calvings have also increased, making it possible to distribute larger numbers of improved heifers and bulls to Greek farmers.

Besides having a proven record of good management at the Farm School, Dr. Michaelides is highly regarded in Greece as a veterinarian and instructor in animal husbandry. He provides classroom and practical training to Farm School students, as well as in-service training for farmers and international visitors to the School.

His work with embryo transfer has caught the attention of the Greek government. The Deputy Minister of Agriculture recently proposed that the government cooperate with the School in expanding the program, covering the costs of importing one hundred embryos. “We have unlimited confidence in Dr. Michaelides,” commented Mr. Demetris Kefalides, Undersecretary of Agriculture.

Dr. Michaelides has traveled extensively to attend professional congresses and training seminars in Europe, the United States, the Balkans, and the USSR. He has published several articles on his work in embryo transfer and dairy production in Greek journals and cooperates with the

Veterinary College of Aristotle, University of Thessaloniki on several projects.

Looking back on his more than 14 years at the School, Dr. Michaelides says working at AFS provides him with “great challenges, but many rewards.” His wife Ermione, son Vassilis and daughter Anastasia have taken active part in life at the Farm School over the years. Tassa was recently married on campus, and Vassilis, now 25, is studying agricultural economics at Twin Cities State University in Minneapolis. ■



Dr. Aleco Michaelides, AFS Farm Manager, and Gracie, in front of the Lambert Embryo Transplant Laboratory.

(Aleco Michaelides, Farm Manager—  
Continued from page 2)

to satisfy the needs at the present rate of reproduction. The only way to increase the rate of reproduction in the present limited facilities," he continues, "is through an embryo transfer program run in cooperation with local farmers, with whom we can share the offspring of our herd."

In 1984, Dr. Michaelides spent three intensive weeks mastering the technique at Maplehurst Ova transplants in Keota, Iowa. Maplehurst is the oldest ova transfer company in the US. Its President, Dr. R. A. Carmichael, is one of the most experienced persons working in embryo transfers today. Now a one-to-one working relationship has developed; Dr. Carmichael visited the School last December. Dr. Michaelides has also taken further training in France, and is a member of the European Association of Embryo Transfer which holds regular meetings to disseminate information about the newest developments in the field. ■

## Unusual opportunity to intern at AFS-NYC now open

Non-profit organizations represent a major segment of the US economy. Governmental priorities stress their importance to the welfare and prosperity of this country. You can learn about what makes a non-profit institution tick by serving as a summer intern at the American Farm School's Office of the Trustees in New York. Though small, the Office is a microcosm of everything the larger organizations have to do: research, writing, fundraising, people programs, travel, accounting, general management, photography, public relations, records and archives and much more. Interested? Contact Katharine Swibold, Administrative Associate, American Farm School, 1133 Broadway at 26th Street, New York, NY 10010. 212-463-8434. It's hard work but interesting and worthwhile. Some compensation possible. ■

## 20th Anniversary Reunion planned for Greek Summer graduates in 1990

### Mayor of Zografou to host return of Class of 1985

The year 1990 is shaping up as an historic one for the American Farm School. Not only is Bruce Lansdale, Director since 1955, retiring after 35 years as CEO of AFS, but a new Director will be installed. In addition the Trustees are scheduled to hold a meeting at the School in late Spring, and a 20th Anniversary Reunion for all Greek Summer graduates is being planned around the 5th Anniversary Reunion already scheduled for the class of '85 by their village of Zografou.

Boarding space for the Greek Summer reunion is definitely limited and will have to be allocated on a first come first served basis. So, now is the time to make a reservation, even a tentative reservation, by sending in a \$25.00 deposit for you, or for you and your family. It is fully refundable at any time you decide you can not go, but without it you may be left out in the fields when the beds are assigned.

The dates are June 25-30, 1990. So start making your plans to go to Greece again that year. And the best way to start is by signing up with your reservation NOW. More, much more, information will be coming to you directly, through your class agents and through future issues of The Sower. Keep in touch! ■



Georgos Kallinikithis, mayor of Zografou, and his family, send *poli agapi* to all GS '85ers and urge them to attend the reunion this year as inscribed on their "class ring." With the village church in the background, they are (left to right) Nikos (12), the Mayor, his wife Roula and Tassoula (14). Roula's sister has opened a popular new taverna on the *plateia* and proposes that as a site of an evening get-together.



A view of fields and olive groves from the village of Zografou.

(Year of the Library Under Way—  
Continued from page 1)

- a) English as a second language
- b) The Agriculture of Africa
- c) The European Economic Community
- d) Modern Marketing of Livestock and Produce

4. Formalize and expand its audio-visual resources to include appropriate equipment for both individual study and viewing, and create a collection of audio visual films and tapes on agricultural practices around the world and especially within the EEC.

5. Establish a continuing forum for discussion between the library staff, teachers, administrators and student leaders to insure that the library is responsive to School needs and that members of the School family, including graduates and the student's parents, are fully aware of the resources and programs available to them.

6. Offer a semi-annual orientation course for faculty and students on library purpose, facilities and methods of use. A part of this course will probably also include parental visits to the Library so that the students' interest can be reinforced at home and ideas the students acquire will be more readily understood.

The Farm School's new Library, housed in the south wing of recently renovated Princeton Hall, is named in honor of Dr. John N. Nicholson of Chicago, a long-time friend of the School who has promised a substantial bequest to the School to endow the operation and maintenance of the facility. Over the years the Library has also received welcome support from the Sigma Kappa sorority, whose chapters have frequently donated needed reading material. Now the Foster-Davis Foundation has generously pledged to match what Sigma Kappa contributes, doubling the value of their support.

During the three years, 1989-1992, the School hopes to raise an additional \$60,000, in gifts, bequests and gifts in kind, to accomplish the purposes set forth above. Annual expenditures are estimated as follows:

- 1. Librarian, staff salary and advanced training, \$12,000
- 2. Acquisitions & special collections, \$5,000
- 3. Audio-Visual acquisitions, \$3,000

## Labouisse Center, unexpected haven as huge snowstorm closes other AFS facilities to work or recreation

Northern Greece's worst blizzard in 50 years dropped more than 18 inches of snow on the Farm School a week before Christmas. The snow began falling on a Friday morning on one of the students' monthly "required weekends," when everyone remains on campus. The initial delight with the novelty of so much snow—one could actually sled on it using plastic sacks and cardboard boxes—soon wore off as students began to worry about reaching home for the holidays. The dormitory staff had its own concern; the potential effect of "cabin fever" on 234 snow-bound teenagers.

"The new Labouisse Youth Center saved us," laughed Dean of Students Nico Papaconstandinou. "The kids expended all their excess energy in the gym and, they generated plenty of heat to keep themselves warm."

The Center has been in full use since School opened in September. The main floor is divided into three playing areas, marked with two basketball courts and one volleyball court. Every afternoon it is open for student use and organized athletics. Nico estimates there are 60 students there on any given weekday afternoon. The adjacent exercise room is equipped with parallel bars, a trampoline and exercise mats. Besides the students, members of the staff have begun to see the benefits of working out regularly.

The one outdoor court, flanking the Labouisse Center, sports bright yellow movable baskets. Occasionally they can

be rolled aside to put up the tennis net. This is a sport that is beginning to attract more and more students, and outdoor basketball courts in villages are beginning to double as tennis courts as well. An asphalt running track encircling the Litsas playing field in front of the Center is almost completed.

Work has begun on the final phase of the Center's interior. An acoustical ceiling is being installed to absorb sound and reduce heat loss. After that an all-purpose polyurethane floor will be laid by Martin Surfacing, a Baltimore company. Their floor, which has been extensively used and tested in the United States will be resistant to leather shoes, rubber tires and even animal hoofs. The floor will make it truly an all-purpose center, capable of housing not only athletic competitions, but anything from agricultural fairs to dances, graduations and fundraising receptions. A number of recent, generous contributions have been received to permit completion of the Center this year.

During these months of essential interior work, student athletics will again move outdoors to the playing field and to the outdoor basketball court, or to the old court across from Princeton Hall. In the meantime the ping-pong room, always popular, will be getting used even more until the Henry R. Labouisse Youth Center is finally fully refurbished and finished for fun again. ■

In addition, the School is seeking from Capital Funds an appropriation of \$20,000 to be spent largely in 1989 to cover additional costs related to the above needs, including storage and shelf space, and help to match funds raised elsewhere.

The School is especially grateful to Dr. Nicholson, Sigma Kappa, the national womens' sorority, and the Foster-Davis Foundation for taking an interest in this

special effort on behalf of the School. With their help and the support of the staff and Trustees, we feel certain the Nicholson-Kefalides Library will be a success and mark a very significant advance in the ability of the American Farm School to meet the needs of its students in the 21st Century. ■

## Farm School Trustees work, worry and perform wonders for the institution they know first hand and love so well

The Trustees of the American School constitute a very special constituency. They work hard, give generously and accept responsibility for anything and everything related to the American Farm School, not necessarily in that order of priority. They come from many parts of the country, as well as from Greece, and represent well the multiple interests of the School today. The parents of some were Trustees before them. Some were parents of youngsters enrolled in Greek Summer, and two are graduates of the program. One is a graduate of the Farm School itself and another was a teacher there for several years. They range in age, including the Honorary Trustees, from more than 100 to just over thirty. Seven reside in Greece, and thirty-six live in the United States, though a number of these go back and forth for business or family reasons regularly. Of the 43 current Trustees, including the Honorary Trustees, only 13 are women, though they don't feel they have much trouble making their point when occasion demands, especially since a number of the Chairpersons have been women over the years.

Their most common characteristic is dedication; dedication to the American Farm School and what it stands for in Greece, in America and around the world.

Their meetings come three times a year and there is always a very substantial majority of Trustees present. Every sixth meeting is held at the School, to which the Trustees travel at their own expense. While there, they learn about the most recent happenings and get to know many members of the staff who make it all happen year after year. One can't serve on the Board without first having visited the School, a long-standing requirement that insures first hand knowledge of the institution for which they are ultimately responsible. Who are they? We're sure you will recognize a number of friends among the current lists of Trustees which follows.

This year some special honors befell our Trustees. Paul A. Miller, Robert Moglia, Mrs. Charles J. Politis and Luther M. Ragin were elected to serve for the first time on the Board. Space does not permit printing full biographic information in this issue of *The Sower*. Especially noteworthy was the anniversary achieved by the Farm School's close friend Mrs. Clarence Bartow, known to friends near and far as Dippy. This year she is celebrating her 40th year of service to the School on the Board of Trustees: a record as far as we can confirm, and one others will find hard to match for years time to come. CONGRATULATIONS DIPPY BARTOW! ■

**Plan ahead for Greek Summer 1990.** Being a part of Greek Summer '90 will be a special experience, the 20th anniversary year of the Program. If you even think you might be interested, start planning now and get your application in by September 15, 1989.

**For information about visual aids and literature** around which to build a Farm School program, please contact the Office of the Trustees.



### List of the Current Members of the Board of Trustees

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Mrs. Clarence W. Bartow, Boca Grande, FL *Honorary*

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Mrs. Hans H. Zinsser, NY, NY *Secretary*

**We welcome your comments** on each issue of *The Sower* or on the work of the Farm School in general.



Who's teaching whom? It looks like Cassie Coggeshall, the first Greek Summer baby (she is the daughter of Rocky Christy '71 and David Coggeshall '72), is leading the dance team!

## Cincinnati Committee's Taverna Party leaves many lasting impressions

On September 24, 1988, 195 people gathered in Livingston Lodge for the Cincinnati Taverna Party. The Taverna Committee, chaired by Joan and Tom Thomas, worked hard to put on an evening of Greek food, music, and dance which was not only fun but also raised \$7,000 for the Farm School. Old friends of the Farm School came together and introduced the "family" to people new to the School. Young people from the Greek Church performed traditional Greek dances for the group and several women from the Church provided their culinary talents in preparing delicious Greek food. The *kefi* was everywhere! ■



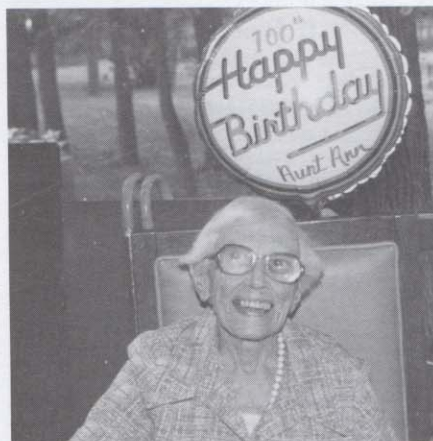
Lib Stone, AFS Board member and Taverna Committee member, joins the crowd on the floor for a *thimotiko horo*, or traditional dance.

## When is a House a miracle?

The venerable Ann Kellogg House celebrated her 100th Birthday at Meadow Lakes in September amid friends, relatives and associates at the retirement home where she has been living for many years. It was a truly festive occasion, shared by the very young and those getting along in years as well.

At almost the same time, just a couple of weeks later, the original plaster cast of the bust of the late Charles Lucius House, appeared at the Office of the Trustees after 25 years in unknown exile, spared at the last moment from destruction by the memory of Karyl Trainor, a visitor to the Farm School in 1963, who made the connection between the bronze she had seen there and the plaster she uncovered while cleaning out her late mother's studio. It seems, unknown to most, that Karyl's mother was a life-long friend of Nellie Dodd Speers, the sculptor who made the bust, and because she shared a studio with her, was left with all Nellie's work when she died in the mid-1960s.

Two miracles, back to back, as it were, reaffirming the faith many have that the Farm School is a very special environment where things that almost never happen to others happen with almost predictable regularity. Now, thanks to the generosity of our Chairman, the plaster of Charlie is beautifully painted bronze and stands next to his father, John Henry House, to welcome all visitors to the Office of the Trustees. ■



Ann House at her 100th birthday party.



Newly discovered bust of Charles L. House.



Paul Myers and Svet Nankovitch chat with Greek Summer Program Coordinator and this year's Director Henry Crawford who came from New York City for the party with colleagues Rocky Christy and Katharine Swibold.



Dancer Melanie Sarakatsannis McNulty teaches Bill Strubbe, GS '70 and Committee member (second from left), and Chalky and Beth Thomas, Committee members and son and daughter-in-law of Chairpersons Joan and Tom Thomas.



John Sullivan, who designed and executed the beautiful invitations for the Taverna, with fellow committee members Becky Bolce and Cynthia Greene.



Everyone gets into the act! After a lively demonstration by the dance team, everyone was encouraged to join in.



Committee members: Lib Stone (AFS Board member), Virginia Sarakatsannis and Janet Duff.



Viola Christopher, center, with Helen Katsanis and Katharine Ambrames who helped cook the delicious traditional Greek food served at the party. Mrs. Christopher's late husband was an early AFS Committee Chairman when it was combined with Greek War Relief.

## Forthcoming dates of special interest

**March 15**

**Tasting and Testing the Wines of Northern Greece**, NY Office of the Trustees, held in cooperation with the Greek Consulate and Trade Office 5:00—8:00 p.m., remarks, 6:00 p.m.

**March 24**

Good Friday, NY Office Closed

**April 16**

**Open House at the Farm School, Greece**

**April 30**

Greek Orthodox Easter. *Kalo Pasca!*

**May 3**

International Oceanographic Foundation Tour visits AFS

**May 8**

Students return after Easter Vacations Rochester, NY, Group Tour visits AFS

**May 9**

University of Chicago & National Audubon Society Tours visit AFS

**May 16**

Greek Odyssey—The Glories of Greece, Cincinnati, OH, Group Tour visits AFS Association of Yale Alumni Tour visits AFS

**May 18**

Trustee Committees meet in New York **DONORS & FRIENDS OPEN HOUSE**, Office of the Trustees, 6:00-8:00 PM

**May 19**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, New York**

**May 21**

**Meet Dr. George Kiriakopoulos**, author of *Ten Days to Destiny*, the definitive book on the Battle for Crete in 1941 Reception, Office of the Trustees, 4:00-6:00 pm

**May 23**

Harvard Alumni Association Tour visits AFS

**May 29**

Memorial Day Holiday, NY Office closed

**May 30**

Smithsonian Associates Tour visits AFS

**June 5**

Summer Work Activities Program (SWAP) starts

**June 6**

Archaeological Institute of America Tour visits AFS

**June 12**

1989 Thessaloniki International Training Program (TITP) for Third World agricultural leaders and teachers starts, three weeks

**June 13**

Greek Summer Counselor's Orientation starts, Office of the Trustees

**June 17**

Greek Summer '89 leaves New York for Greece

**June 19**

Trinity Monday, Thessaloniki Office closed

**June 29**

June Dance Under the Stars, Benefit at the School

**July 2**

AFS Exchange Students arrive for six-week stay at Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, NH

**July 4**

Independence Day, NY Office Closed

**July 29**

Greek Summer '89 returns to New York

**July 31**

Summer Work Activities Program ends

**August 4**

Kimball Union Exchange Students arrive in New York for three days

**August 15**

Assumption of the Holy Virgin, Thessaloniki Office closed

**September 4**

Labor Day, NY Office Closed

**September 6**

All Staff Conference starts at School

**September 11**

School opens for 1989-90 School year

**October 26**

St. Demetrius Day, Thessaloniki Office closed

**November 9**

*Board of Trustees Committee Meetings, NY*

**NEW TRUSTEE RECEPTION, 6—8:00 pm**

**November 10**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, New York**

## The American Farm School

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

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## THE SOWER

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# THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM



A special supplement to The Sower No. 126, Spring-Summer 1989

## First International Pilot Training Program held at Farm School

For ten years the Trustees of the American Farm School have been asked to what extent, if any, the School's successful approach to agricultural education is relevant to the agricultural needs of developing countries. Its most recent, and best, answer to the question was the 1988 Thessaloniki International Training Program (TITP), held in Greece last June.

Nineteen African and Middle Eastern professional agriculturists attended a three week seminar at the School. It was jointly sponsored with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the University of Thessaloniki. Entitled "Methods and Management of Practical Training," the course was considered "a solid success" by a team of outside evaluators. On the basis of these the Board has approved an additional three year commitment to the program, subject to annual review to insure quality and continuing relevance.

**"I am back to my working station trying to implement all good and constructive ideas, new technologies, and well established principles gathered from American Farm School staff members during my seventeen days of stay at the School. I found the seminar very profitable and wished it could continue."**

*Theodora K. Mugangala  
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock  
Development Training Institute, Tanzania*

The seminar included courses on such topics as: What made the Farm School grow and prosper; How the School relates to the local university, extension, and governmental programs; Adapting Greek practices to developing countries. The practical program of the Farm School served as a basis to enhance the participants understanding of how hands-on experiences can be incorporated into educational programs.

Tours provided on-site observations of all of the Farm School facilities. Field trips allowed the participants to observe Greek farming practices and discuss problems with Farm School graduates, agribusiness people, farmers, and university and government professionals.



Participants in the 1988 seminar, "Methods and Management of Practical Training," represented Mali, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Lesotho, Egypt, and the Southern Yemen Republic. The seminar was given in conjunction with the University of Thessaloniki and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Dr. John Crunkilton (second row, far left) and Dr. Jim Clouse (top row, far right), both of VPI, were two of the seminar instructors.

In order better to understand the agriculture of Africa, and to assess ways in which future TITP seminars could be even more useful to participants, two members of the School's staff traveled to Tanzania and Malawi in January of 1989.

This special supplement to The Sower is planned to give you an opportunity to hear direct from the participants, the instructors, and evaluators of the program. We hope you will be interested in the issues raised and points made. As the program moves ahead, the Trustees will continue to ask the three key questions asked of our evaluators: Will the TITP meet a real need? Can an ongoing TITP program support itself? What are TITP's implications for the Farm School and its staff?

We hope you will join in our enthusiasm and excitement about the School's further move into international cooperation, and welcome your response to it.



The major thrust of the three week seminar was to introduce participants to the successful "hands-on" method of practical training that is the basis of the Farm School method. Here, Costa Evangelou, instructor in the Agricultural Mechanics Department, is featured showing Toby Echebiri from Nigeria how to teach students to better understand some of the principles of how an air cleaner operates on a tractor engine.

*"I benefited immensely from the course and I am utilizing the lessons gained in my extension work which involves reaching about 400,000 farm families."*

*Peter Akoro, Assistant Chief Agriculturist, Bendel Agricultural Development, Project, Nigeria*

## Senior Staff compare agricultural training needs in Tanzania and Malawi with Farm School's International Program plans

Two-weeks in Tanzania and Malawi, meeting and talking with past TITP participants and local agriculturalists, have convinced Andonis Stambolides and Panagiotis Rotsios that the Thessaloniki International Training Program is on the right track. "We discovered the real strengths of the program," elaborated Stambolides, Associate Director of Education at the American Farm School, "but we also saw how we needed to modify it for this year. ...I'm now confident that the 1989 seminar will be even better than our first one in 1988."

Stambolides and Rotsios visited the two countries at the invitation of the respective Ministries of Agriculture during January, trying to determine the needs of future program participants, as well as to evaluate the reactions of past trainees. They visited a number of different levels of agricultural schools in both countries: high schools, junior colleges, universities and extension field stations.

**"It was very much of an eye-opening experience,"** said Stambolides. **"The reality of an average African farmer is very grim. Many of the agricultural educational institutions do not reflect their basic training needs. Either they are too sophisticated, or extremely theoretical. Others lack the essential equipment for hands-on training."**

*Andonis Stambolides  
Associate Director of Education at the  
American Farm School*

In Tanzania, they were met by Dr. Michael Mziray, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and a 1988 participant in TITP. With him as their guide, they traveled four days by jeep, visiting schools and meeting local farmers. Mziray believes that TITP was useful and has sparked his ideas for initiating changes in his country's training systems. He suggested that future seminars provide even more skills training, and include field visits to more small family enterprises, rather than larger operations. He stressed how important it was for African agriculturalists and trainers to relate the needs of their farmers at home to successful, but not overwhelming, enterprises that had been realized in Greece.

"We found that many instructors had received training in the USA or Holland," noted Stambolides. "Many of them were discouraged at the impossibly large gap between what they saw in America and the reality of agriculture in their own countries."

Both Stambolides and Rotsios were surprised by the lack of animal use for labor or as sources of food. They spoke with Joseph Lyakura, Principal of the Livestock Training Institute in Mpwapwa, also a 1988 TITP participant. He noted that there is a major government effort to foster the use of livestock and teach animal care. He found the AFS practical training workshops and incentive-based student projects particularly good. He wants to send another staff member from the Institute to a future TITP seminar.



On a visit to the Livestock Training Institute in Mpwapwa, Tanzania, Mr. Rotsios (second from left) and Mr. Stambolides (third from left) talked with Principal Joseph Lyakura (second from right), a 1988 TITP participant. Dr. Michael Mziray (far right), Deputy Minister of Agriculture in Tanzania, a 1987 TITP participant, acted as the AFS staff's guide.

In Malawi, Dr. Tom Trail, an American working as special counselor to the Ministry of Agriculture, organized the AFS staff visit. Trail has visited the Farm School and supports the TITP program. In Malawi Stambolides found agricultural training to be "somewhat better organized." The average farmer had from 2 to 10 *stremma* of land (one half to two and a half acres), and corn was the basic staple of each family. With Trail, Stambolides and Rotsios visited farmers who were organized into

agricultural clubs, as well as several adult training centers and experimental stations.

They spoke with E.C. Kanyinji, vice principal of the Natural Resources College in Lilouguse, Malawi, another participant in the 1988 TITP program. He said he found the AFS seminar "extremely educative," and suggested that seminar visits to Greek farmers be extended, that participants with common professional interests stay in a village overnight in small groups of 4 or 5.

Stambolides already sees several modifications in the planned 1989 seminar. "For one thing, we will recruit more women participants," he said. "It seems that close to 90% of those working in agriculture are women, and women hold many positions in government and training institutes." Last year, 4 of the 19 participants were women.

A second change will be greater emphasis on the teaching of practical skills allowing the participants themselves to select areas of skill concentration. There will be more time spent visiting farmers and family enterprises in small groups. Training in household health and economy will be introduced. "This is a new and obviously needed theme," noted Stambolides.

Mrs. Nomiki Tsoukala will be a special assistant in the TITP seminar this year. Until recently she served as the General Manager of Home Economics in the Greek Ministry of Agriculture. She has studied in the U.S. for two years and worked in Africa for a special program focused on the education of African women. ■

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Tuition and travel fees are paid for by the participants themselves or their sponsors.

We are especially grateful to the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, the Consortium for International Development, the International Foundation, the Malawi government, the Near East Foundation, and the Public Welfare Foundation, Inc. for their generous support of the TITP.

*"I must confess that every minute I spent at the Farm School was well worth it."*

*Toby Echebiri, Zonal Extension Officer, Nigeria*

## Independent educators evaluate TITP's implications for the Farm School, Greece and Third World nations

At the Trustees' request, three professional, independent evaluators attended all or portions of the first international agricultural training seminar and prepared individual reports for the staff and for the Board. Their charge was to evaluate TITP in light of the following questions;

1. Would the TITP meet a real need?
2. Could an ongoing TITP support itself?
3. What implications does such a program have for the Farm School?

Two of the evaluators, Drs. Paul and Francena Miller, were from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where Dr. Paul Miller is President Emeritus. The Millers' 35-page evaluation recommended that the School continue the TITP seminar for at least five years. Central to their conclusion was the feeling that "...given a long term view, the AFS model of practical agricultural training would be useful and is capable of being replicated throughout the developing world. This accomplishment, given the proper involvement of AFS staff, would also stand to add and sharpen insights about the work in Greece.

**"This raised with me the logical question, whether the pioneering and caring spirit of the American Farm School's founding father, Dr. John Henry House, and his successors, Charles House and Bruce Lansdale, should now embrace to some substantial degree the really needy people in some less favored part of the world."**

*Dr. E. H. Hartmans*

A third evaluator was Dr. E.H. Hartmans, an agricultural specialist with more than 30 years of experience in African agriculture. He has worked for FAO and was Director of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria. Currently he is a consultant to the Leventis Foundation which is directly involved in rural education in Nigeria. Dr. Hartmans wrote:

"No institution in Europe (to my knowledge) has shown a greater ability and effectiveness in influencing the course of development in a national agriculture than the American Farm School. It has done this through its unique approach in all its



Since many of the participants were from developing countries in Africa where adequate water was a problem, all participants took a special interest in the different irrigation methods used by Greek farmers. They were able to observe flood, sprinkler, and drip irrigation systems.



Each participant was required to present a 30 minute program on his or her home country, usually on the agricultural, educational, and cultural conditions. This group from Malawi (from l to r: E.C. Kanyinji, Joyce Mwambaghi, and Annie Chiumia) used a map to help illustrate the environmental and climatic conditions of their Central African country.

training activities. This school, more than any other Institution can play an important role in bringing about a gradual change in the generally sterile system of training in organization and management and in the methods of transfer of technology in the African (but also the Near East) countries.

"The special attributes of the Institution are:

1. Its practical hands-on approach.
2. The integration of its practical stu-



One of the major goals of the seminar was to help each participant develop an individual plan of professional activities he or she would implement once returning home. Here a small group is beginning to share ideas and develop individual plans for use in their respective professional careers.

dents' program and its farming activities.

3. The still missionary spirit and clear direction of objectives and purpose of the leadership and its staff, basic qualities so badly needed in African countries.

4. The harmonious relationships and sense of community throughout the whole Institution.

5. Its standards of excellence and orderliness.

6. Its location in Greece, a country which can still show some of the old traditional farming practices, very similar to countries in Africa and the Near East, but also can show the intermediate and advanced stages of technology. These visual examples, if carefully chosen, enable trainers of African and Near East countries to draw valuable lessons for potential developments in their countries."

A fourth evaluation was offered by David Acker, a former AFS farm manager who has spent the last 13 years working in Africa and is presently an Assistant Professor of Agriculture at Oregon State University. Dr. Acker writes:

"I have spent the last 13 years trying to methodically determine what are the real needs of Africa. It is my opinion that the American Farm School is best equipped to meet the needs of African agricultural trainers in improving their ability to perform their craft.

*(Continued on page T4)*

*"Since my return, I have not stopped talking about the seminar and my new experiences which I wish to put at the disposal of the young farmers."*

*Kwassi Gbiblewo-Manyo, Feeder Instructor, Student Service Manager, Togo, West Africa*

*(Evaluation—Continued from page T3)*

"It is not only the opinion of myself that the School is in a unique position to meet this real need, but also the opinion of more than 50 trainees with whom I have personally worked at the School during 1987 and 1988, as well as the supervisors of the trainees who attended from Tanzania and Malawi in 1988."

Dr. Acker concurs with Drs. Miller in their conclusion that "...given the historic interests of the donor agencies in the regions of interest, together with mounting concern over Africa in particular, careful planning and effort should yield not only the full costs of the seminars, but also funds sufficient to both provide scholarships for occasional participants and to assist staff development and augmentation at the AFS." ■



Each day of the three week seminar usually began with an opening session in the Princeton Hall Library. Presenters like Joyce Mwambaghi shared information with other TITP participants on an issue common to all those participating in the seminar.



## The American Farm School

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## TITP one of many international programs offered by AFS

TITP is but one of a number of programs through which the School is increasing its relationships with other countries and cultures. Among the 10,000 people who visit the School each year, many come from countries other than Greece and the United States. Other AFS international programs include:

### The Reading Tours

The University of Reading in England has, since 1982, sponsored study tours to the University of Thessaloniki and the Farm School for Third World agriculturists.

### Ongoing seminars

The Farm School responds to requests to conduct seminars tailored to the particular needs of groups from a single country. One such group visited from Egypt.

### Training for AFS staff

In April, 1988, two Farm School teachers visited Nigeria to advise agricultural schools. Two additional teachers went to Tanzania and Malawi in early 1989 to prepare for the June 1989 TITP seminar.

### Greek Summer

Living and working at the school and in a nearby village, more than 900 American high-school students have participated in this program since its inception in 1970.



Other international programs visit the School, such as the Reading University group which sends students in its Master's program. Here is one participant in the village of Pella, near the palace where Alexander the Great is believed to have been born.

### The SWAP

#### (Summer Work Activities Program)

Since 1978, the School has provided a seven-week practical hands-on farm maintenance experience for college-aged students from Europe and the U. S. The Farm School also works with International 4-H clubs and similar groups to send its undergraduates abroad.

### The Kimball Union Exchange

Beginning in 1987, six Farm School students have spent the summer at Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire, studying English and working on physical projects needed by the School.



Field trips were taken into the countryside to see Greek farms and spend time with local agricultural extension agents. On this visit to a sugar beet field, of particular interest to the many participants who had never seen sugar beets, the extension agent explained sugar beet production and practices that would help produce a cost effective crop for the farmer.