

Odyssey in Athens Updates  
Odyssey Alums:  
What are they doing now?

Dear Odyssey Alumnus:

Yia Sou! Greetings from Athens. This April 2008 will mark my 10 year anniversary with the Odyssey in Athens program. Wow! how the time flies! I have been blessed to meet so many of you from all over the US. Some of you I keep in touch with on a regular basis and hear all the wonderful and exciting activities you have been up to. I really enjoy hearing your news and thought that other odyssey alums would enjoy the same. So, I have decided to create this **Odyssey Alums Update** for you to read about your fellow Odyssey friends and stay in touch with each other.

It's so wonderful to hear how this experience with Odyssey in Athens has changed so many of you and helped guide your future steps. That's what it is all about. So, have fun reading on and keep the updates coming!! If you are ever in Greece again, make sure to stop by and say hi!! If you have not sent me your update and wish to do so, please email me and I will be happy to include it.

Take care,  
Filakia,  
Dina

Dina Skias  
Director Odyssey in Athens  
University of Indianapolis Athens

### ODYSSEY ALUMS UPDATES

Spring 1998:

Amy Ihrke – Spring 1998 ([ihrke@usa.net](mailto:ihrke@usa.net)) University of Minnesota

Here's what's been happening with me since Odyssey: Peace Corps volunteer in Bulgaria for 2 years, got my Masters in Nonprofit Management from the University of Arizona, worked with the Asylum Program of Southern Arizona for two years while getting my Masters (a nonprofit helping political asylum seekers through the application/interview process), and have now been working for the State Bar of Arizona for the last two years. I also made my first trip back to Bulgaria in July which was fantastic - it was wonderful getting to see all my friends again (although I couldn't drink nearly as much homemade liquor as I used to). I'm glad all is well with you! Amy

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Spring 1999:

Dina Angelopoulos and Brad Beelart: ([dina\\_beelart@hotmail.com](mailto:dina_beelart@hotmail.com)) Spring 1999 University of Tennessee and University of Indiana at Bloomington

December '99 (same year as Odyssey) Brad and I got engaged and were married in August of 2000. We did the program together because I wanted him to see the country that my parents came from and most importantly to get a better idea of what my heritage and background was like. It's so much a part of me and it was important that he was able to meet all my family and grandparents.

September 2000 We both moved to Chicago and were there for approximately 7 years before we moved to Charlotte, North Carolina this May. While in Chicago, Brad was working in Finance, and I worked in the retail industry as a buyer. Brad worked for 2 primary companies with the last company being focused in real estate investments. I worked for Spiegel Catalog (not sure if you've heard of them but they were huge in the 80's) as a toys buyer, then a decorative accessories buyer. I later moved to work for a wholesaler where I was able to travel quite a bit overseas to Asia for work. It was a great job, but not conducive to having kids otherwise I'd still be doing it. I had to travel every 6 months to China and be gone for 2 weeks at a time. I also had to go to Germany, Paris, and other locations. All the travel sounds more glamorous than it is, but it was too much traveling to do and be away from Eli.

March 2006 Brad and I were blessed with Elias James Beelaert since his birth I have been home with him. Then we were blessed in August of this year with our second baby boy, Luke George Beelaert. The kids are 18 months apart and a complete handful for their mother! :) Brad is now working for a Chicago based company that focusing in real estate investments and he travels quite a bit for work around the USA.

That is a very very brief explanation of our life in a nutshell.

I hope you are well and that the new school year has proved to be another successful one for you. Please send me the webpage of the school so that I can see the posting when you have it all up and running. Talk to you soon, Dina

Irene Doukas – Spring 1999 ([Rinoula21@aol.com](mailto:Rinoula21@aol.com)) St. John's University

Received BA in Psychology from St. John's University and MA in Special Ed from Long Islands University. Teaching children with Special needs for past five years in the NYC Public Schools and early intervention for children 3-5 of age.. currently a scholar at Pace University enrolled in the TARA program (Teaching and Research in Autism).

Rita Skasilas - Spring 1999 ([ritaki77@aol.com](mailto:ritaki77@aol.com)) St. John's University

After I we left from Odyssey I received my Bachelors in Psychology at Saint Johns University and went on to receive my Masters in Social Work from Columbia University. Soon after I began working with homeless women who were addicted to illegal substances at a homeless shelter(that was a tough job). I stayed there for a year and went on to work with adolescents and elementary school in their schools who have emotional and social problems an so on, where I am currently now. I currently do individual and group therapy with the children. Also as I told you in the last e-mail I got married in May, tora eimai married woman.

Alexandra Bitzas –Spring 1999 ([alexandrabitzas@yahoo.com](mailto:alexandrabitzas@yahoo.com)) University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Greetings from Ioannina! I was so happy to get your e-mail. I think it is a great idea what you are doing for the Odyssey student alums. I have been living in Greece for four years, and I am an English teacher in the private sector. It is a very difficult, but rewarding experience. The hours are long and the expectations are many. Teaching was and continues to be a passion of mine. Up to now, my time in Greece has been a personal learning experience. It has helped me discover many things about myself and it has made me appreciate those who have helped become the person I am today. I still have very close contact with life back home, as my entire family is still in the States. I go about twice a year. Love, Alexandra Bitzas

Fall 1999

Aaron Meriweather- Fall 1999- Spring 2000 ([athenspika@hotmail.com](mailto:athenspika@hotmail.com)) University of Oregon  
"Maybe a semester or two. That's about all I intended to do with the Odyssey in Athens program back in 1999. Like many foreign students I came to Greece to absorb its history and enjoy the warm Mediterranean atmosphere.; I got to do that and much more. For me it turned out to be a life-changing experience that continues to this day. I ended up living three years in Athens, at first working odd jobs and then full-time at the University of Indianapolis itself (Instructional Technologies Coordinator & Registrar Office). Spending so much time there gave me the chance to explore much of the Balkan region and develop lasting friendships along the way. Sadly, in 2002 I departed Greece for other adventures, but not before taking part in one last Indianapolis project: Habitat for Humanity. A group of us from the school spent two weeks to help build houses in the village of Dunavarsany, Hungary; a remarkable experience and perfect end to my Odyssey journey. But it didn't end there. I then bounced around the globe, living in places like New Zealand, Hungary, and Germany, with friends I had met from Greece. I tried returning back home to Oregon for a couple of years, but was completely bored there, so now I am off to explore the world once again...but not alone. In Athens, back in 1999, I had met an amazing girl, a fellow Indianapolis student named Hayfa. We are currently living together in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and engaged to be married." Cheers, Aaron

Monica McHugh- Fall 1999 ([monicamchugh@yahoo.com](mailto:monicamchugh@yahoo.com)) California Politechnic at San Luis Obispo

I am doing well. I am living in my hometown of San Diego and am working as a tax accountant for the utility company. Since Odyssey in Athens, I've completed my undergraduate and masters degrees. I am also now a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). I have been back to Europe once since my time in Greece. I went to Ireland for vacation last year. I look forward to reading what you compile. All the best, Monica

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Spring 2000

Jeff Cenendella- Spring 2000 ([jcenedella@thmg.net](mailto:jcenedella@thmg.net)) Radford University

How are things over there? I really miss that place. I wish I was in Plaka right now. I have some great memories from over there and some wild ones. Things here are good. I actually am a Loan Officer now and do mortgages. It is really good money. Not really my background but it is good for the time-being. People get burnout in this industry really fast and I definitely don't see myself doing it for the long haul. I actually have looked into teaching ESL overseas in the

future. I still talk to Aaron, Haifa, Heyam, and Angeliki on a regular basis. They are all really great people. Maybe one day we can a reunion tour from that year. Years ago I took a cross-country trip with Hope and we stopped in Utah and stayed with Ashley. It was so fun. She actually just had a baby too. Well drop me a line and let me know what is going on and tell Ds. Michaelidis I said hi.

Hope Savich- Spring 2000 ([hsavich@yahoo.com](mailto:hsavich@yahoo.com)) Illinois State University

I after I graduated college, I worked in Chicago public schools for two years then moved to Honduras in Central America and worked as a teacher there for 2 years. Right now I am living in New York City and going to Columbia University for my masters. I hope to come back to Greece soon. Take care, Hope

Ann Katsarelis – Spring 2000 ([anoulala@hotmail.com](mailto:anoulala@hotmail.com)) University of Florida

After the attending Odyssey in Athens, I returned to the University of Florida and graduated with a degree in Political Science and History. After spending a semester abroad- like so many others - I caught a serious case of the travel bug...I made my rounds...bartending in Dingle Ireland for a summer, working as a fraternity party photographer at CU in Boulder, Colorado, working as traveling preschool photographer in Los Angeles, happily unemployed in Santa Barbara, working as a bill clerk for the speaker of the Senate in Nashville Tennessee, and finally the last four years I've been working as a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines which has enabled me travel even more ! Quinn and I just bought a house together in Nashville Tennessee and are planning on getting married next summer. Love, Ann

Janette Clarke – Spring 2000 ([jclarke3@buffalo.edu](mailto:jclarke3@buffalo.edu)) University of Pittsburgh

I graduated from U. of Pittsburgh with a BA in 2001. After school I moved back to Philadelphia and spent 3 years as a store manager for Spencer Gifts. Then I spent 2 years as a store manager for Game Stop. I loved my job, but realized that I didn't want to be a district manager and that would have been then next upward move, so I started thinking about graduate school. One of my part time employees happened to be in law school and convinced me to go take the LSAT. I applied to lots of schools and ended up choosing the State University of New York at Buffalo I am now in the first semester of my second year of law school. I enjoy school, but I miss the freedom of working full time and being able to pay my bills and buy unnecessary stuff without using various government and private loans with ridiculous interest rates. I have no clear idea as to what I would like to do after I take and presumably pass the Bar exam. I seem to have a gift for trial work and would be good at litigation, but I don't know if I can run fast enough to chase down ambulances. I'm on the international moot court team and have an interest in international law, but it isn't an easy field in which to begin practice. I have also considered the idea that I don't have to work as an attorney. I have some small desire to take the State Department exam and start a career in the diplomatic service. As my interests change each month, I'm sure that by the time I graduate I'll have some other grand scheme in mind that is a far cry from any of these current ideas.

I still have waist length hair. I'm still voluptuous and I've traded in my glasses for contacts. Fortuitously, I am learning to love living in Buffalo. I go ice skating when I have time and have taken up skiing. (I'm terrible, but I enjoy it!) I live 5 minutes from Niagara Falls and often take my books to go sit and study by the banks on Canadian side. I have been dating a fellow law

student for the last year and am very happy with him. I have a neurotic cat and a fish tank that until yesterday had several large fish in it. Now it contains only one extremely large and guilty looking fish. I'm REALLY excited to find out what everyone else has been up to and to get their contact information so that I can finally stay in touch!!!! Sincerely, Janette R. Clarke

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Fall 2000 Alexa Hilal- Fall 2000 ([alexahilal@gmail.com](mailto:alexahilal@gmail.com)) St. Mary's College of Notre Dame

What am I up to? Well, after a stint in Milan with Erin Nedelisky in 2004, I moved back to Chicago and began working again in advertising as a Strategic Planner. I met a boy who is now my fiance (Robert Calabro) and we moved out to LA last year. We have both been out here living by the beach and loving life. Our next stop? Possibly Amsterdam, London or Paris! I can't get the traveling bug out of my system and we both have found jobs that are able to send us abroad. My main goal? To get back to Greece. I think I left a part of me there the last time I left in 2005. Robert and I are getting married next September in Chicago and I am hoping to have a few Odyssey people there...Agatha, Erin, Jaci and Monica are all invited. Amazing how we've all stayed in touch.

Thanks for checking in with us...I am curious about other people as well. I can't even tell you how much being in Athens in 2000 changed my life. Thank you. Hope to hear from you soon, Alexa

Jaki Smolinsky – Fall 2000 ([jacs3@optonline.net](mailto:jacs3@optonline.net)) University of Albany

I am living in Mississippi right now (quite a change from NY and Greece!) going to graduate school. I'm studying migratory birds on the Gulf Coast, and have been chasing birds around the continent now for about 2 years. After school, I got involved in wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education, but wanted to get out into the field and see these animals doing what they do in the wild. So, all my nice clothes soon became dirty field clothes as I went exploring the swamps of Louisiana, the pine savannahs of Mississippi, and the alpine evergreen forests of Vermont, following around birds. It's something I never thought I'd be doing, but I love it! I have kept in touch with Agatha Zeitala and Monica Witt (Wenzel) and visited them both in their home states after Greece. It was such a wonderful experience meeting new people and learning about new cultures. I still talk about my experiences overseas, and can't wait to come back to visit one day. I hope this message finds you well. All the best, Jaci Smolinsky.

Agatha Zietala –Fall 2000 ([agsunh@hotmail.com](mailto:agsunh@hotmail.com)) University of New Hampshire

I miss the whole Athens group so much, but I still keep in touch with Jaci, Alexa, and Monica- I am actually going to be in Alexa's wedding next year, but I'll let her give you all those fun details! This is still my current email. Once I graduated from the University of New Hampshire, I moved to New York City and have been living here for the last 5 years. I started working at CBS sports and jumped around a bit and now I work in the Marketing Department for the Hallmark Channel. I also had a brief stint as Miss Polish New Hampshire, which was fun. I still travel all the time and just got home from Brazil and am planning a trip to China very soon. No marriage or babies yet, but I do live with my boyfriend of 5 years. I hope to spend some time working abroad or even living there, but am staying local for now. I am dying to go back to Athens and probably will go sooner than later- as soon as work allows some vacation! That's

about it- life in NY is always busy so its never boring! Agatha  
Monica Witt- Fall 2000 ([mwitt@lanl.gov](mailto:mwitt@lanl.gov)) Colorado State University

Life in New Mexico is good. Eric, my husband, and I are doing great – and Addy, our daughter, is turning 4 this winter – isn't that crazy! We'll be having another little baby in early May of next year. So, that's exciting. We weren't sure if we could handle any more, but we're going for it. Work is good – I was promoted to the position of Team Leader for the Recycling Facility at the Laboratory. So, it's good being in charge of something. We're not traveling out of the country – just around visiting relatives, etc. We'll spend X-mas in Kentucky with my sister and we spent a couple weeks in Alaska with my brother last summer. Addy loves Disneyland – so I'm sure we'll go either there again or to Disneyworld early next year. Not my dream vacation, but it's really fun watching her. I attached some pics from March of this year at Disneyland. That's about it – wish I could relive Greece again. Monica

### Spring 2001

Christos Patrinos- Spring 2001 ([christospatrinos@comcast.net](mailto:christospatrinos@comcast.net)) Babson College I am still in Boston running a produce company. As you probably already know, I graduated from Babson College in 2002. Please let the Odyssey Alums know if they would like to visit Boston I would be more than happy to show them around. I hope it's not too late for my info to get to the other alums. Please let me know where you will be posting the page with all the updates. Again I would just like say thank you for one of the greatest experiences I've had (2001). It will be one I cherish for the rest of my life.

Christos Patrinos

Nic Scavdis – Spring 2001 ([nscavdis@yahoo.com](mailto:nscavdis@yahoo.com))- Miami University in Ohio

It has been hard for me to respond with an update without trying to write a book, but I'll try to keep it very simple so that it actually gets done, as I am very curious to catch up with all of the other alums. Looking back, I mark my time in the Odyssey program as a genuine departure from my life before it, as everything after it has been altered, influenced, and enriched by my experience there. To this day, my best friends are those that I met in Athens during those months. When I returned to university in Ohio, I finished my phil. degree and met my wonderful wife (of two yrs.). After school and a little bit of work to save money, we traveled to Ecuador together (her birthplace) and lived and loved for six months. Next, we moved to Providence, RI for 2 years, where I learned bread baking under a fine artisan baker. Amazingly, we lived only a few hours from my Odyssey roommate, Marko Bojovic. It was with his help and sponsorship that my wife and I entered into the Orthodox Church. We were married there, and in attendance was Marko, Aaron Berger, George "Nashville star George Williams" Papazekos, family from Ecuador, family from America, and other agapimenois. However, as joyful as our wedding and life was there, we still felt out-of-place on the East Coast, and made travel plans again, this time to Greece and Ikaria. It was on the island that we spent the majority of our first year of marriage (after traveling through northern Greece and to Turkey), and some of the most productive, surprising, and difficult days of our life, fixing up a stone house constructed by our great great grandfather, and willed to our pappou. After spending all of our money and overstaying our visa by 9 months (thanks to the hard working team of stone-cold professionals at the Boston consulate and their tireless paper pushing) we came back to America to visit our family and make some money to return. Our time in the states last year was no picnic, we missed our home and our sanity, we lost both yia yia and papou soon after we returned and we

spent most of our time working and being pulled around by our intense families. BUT, we survived and are again trading our normal american life and comforts for no electricity, no car, no luxury, but also no (or reduced) b.s., polluted air and water, and substansial and (to us) meaningful work on the island in the place that we have fallen in love with. So, now that the house is livable, we will try to make our life work there. I treasure all of the vivid memories of all of the beautiful friends I found during Odyssey and I also treasure the hope that we will some day meet up again (hopefully in Greece!). Sincerely, Nic Scavdis

Nick Georgiton – Spring 2001 ([ethicists@hotmail.com](mailto:ethicists@hotmail.com))- University of Pittsburgh

As for me, after working for a while in Cincinnati as a stockbroker for Fidelity Investments, I'm currently in my third year of law school at the University of Michigan. When I graduate I will be moving to Chicago to practice corporate law at a firm called Schiff Hardin. Other than that I don't have too much to report. I can be contacted at this email address. I can't wait to hear what everyone else is up to!

\*\*\*\*\* Summer  
2001

Armando Briceno-Summer 2001 ([abpeck\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:abpeck_2000@yahoo.com)) University of Indianapolis

How great is to hear from you!!!! How are you? Well, I can tell you still had your job in Uindy Athens. Those were the days... I have been in Venezuela for past 4 years. I got hired in PricewaterhouseCoopers Venezuela, the biggest auditing firms in my country. Last year, I got promoted. I am an internal audit supervisor now. What I do is internal control analysis based on fraud risk. Job is like hell. I don't have that much time to do funny stuff. Anyway, big kiss and a big hug from me to you!!!! Armando

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Fall 2001

Christina Merianos -Fall 2001 ([Christina.merianos@gmail.com](mailto:Christina.merianos@gmail.com)) University of Cincinnati

I ended up moving from Cincinnati to Manhattan 3 years ago to finish school at the Fashion Institute of Technology and now am working as a buyer for women's shoes. I love my job! Its so much fun to work with shoes- but sometimes is bad because I have way too many of them!! : ) I can't believe that it has been 6 years since our study abroad program. I think that was the best time ever! I really need to plan a trip back to Greece soon. I was thinking next fall. I will definitely let you know if I make it. Take care, Christina

Nick Gaxis -Fall 2001 ([dsckng@hotmail.com](mailto:dsckng@hotmail.com)) University of Rhode Island I am still working at the same job - a broker in the electronics industry. I've been doing alot of traveling and last year I went to Mykonos, Santorini, Budapest, Croatia, and Prague. I was only in Athens for a few hours so I didn't have time to see anyone. Out of all the countries I went to last year - Greece was my favorite, and I am not being biased. It is really the best - The people, the food, the beaches, the history, etc. Last weekend I just got back from California. I went to LA and San Diego - nice weather, nice people. Filiakia, Your loving friend, Niko

Rachel Frantz -Fall 2001 ([prpleguard3@hotmail.com](mailto:prpleguard3@hotmail.com)) University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

I am doing well! Currently, I'm a medical student at Des Moines -University in Des Moines, IA. I will be a Doctor of Physcial Therapy when I'm finished in 2009. It's a lot of work, but I'm

having a blast. My first clinical rotation starts in a couple of weeks in Pheonix, AZ. After completing my undergrad degree and prior to starting school in Des Moines, I had taken a couple of years off of school and was working as a medical massage therapist. I was working at a holistic healthcare center in Minneapolis and at two different hospitals in the city. I loved it, especially working in oncology and with burn the patients. Last year I got married, (July 29, 2006) to Joe Schider, whom you met when he came to visit me there in Athens. We got married at Superior Shores on Lake Superior in Two Harbors, Minnesota. We bought a house, and are currently living in Des Moines. It's certainly not as lively or as beautiful as Athens, but it's nice for now. I've attached a couple of pictures from the wedding. Rachel (Frantz) Schider

Katie Johnson Boland- Fall 2001 ([katieboland15@hotmail.com](mailto:katieboland15@hotmail.com)) Washington and Lee University  
Awesome idea! I would love to know what everyone is up to, and get reconnected. We all stayed in touch for a while, but after graduation, I kind of lost touch with everyone. I am living in Chicago with my husband Drew and dog Charley. I currently work in publishing, doing marketing for small, independent publishers. I am looking at law school for the fall. My address is 2500 S Senour, Chicago, IL, 60608. Thanks! Katie

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Spring 2002

Jodie Schultz – Spring 2002 ([jodie8581@aol.com](mailto:jodie8581@aol.com)) University of Kentucky  
2 weeks after I got home from Athens, I started my graduate program for chiropractic at Palmer college of Chiropractic in Davenport, IA. I graduated from chiropractic school in October of 2005. I started working with the doctor I interned with following that. The clinic I worked at is the official clinic for the Chicago Bears which is pretty cool considering we made it to the super bowl last year. I will be leaving that clinic at the end of this month and then in the next few months will be starting my own clinic in my hometown. Over the past few years I have become an auntie. I have 4 nieces and nephews all under the age of 3. They are so awesome. I wish this joy for everyone to experience. I'm playing soccer in an adult league, learned to play volleyball over the last year, started taking some more horseback riding lessons, and also took on piano lessons. Things are very busy for me getting started into practice, but the excitement and the challenge is worth it. Take care, Jodie Schultz

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Fall 2002

Liana Vasilias -Fall 2002 ([lvtb@aol.com](mailto:lvtb@aol.com)) University of Maryland, College Park  
Kalispera! So, as I see you are still very much involved in the University of Indianapolis and Odyssey program. thats great! Every time I would pass the Voulis area I would always think back to you and my days there! I have to say that I had one of the best semesters when I was there. My classes were some of the best and most interesting that I had had! The professors were just great too! As for me...I have actually been in Greece most of the past few years. After my semester in Athens, I returned to the University of MD and finished a year later with a degree in Public Relations (Comm). I then moved to Greece and proceeded to open a beach-bar in Mykonos with my (ex-)boyfriend which I had for 3 years. I would go back to Maryland in the winters and live in Mykonos in the summers. As of last summer I left the whole bar life and started to work with clothing again (as is my passion). After the summer I lived at my house in Athens and continued work but decided to return home to be with my family for the holidays. I then made the decision to take over and run the small hotel that my family built in Mykonos last summer, and have since been in Mykonos once again. The apartments went very well this year

and I have very high hopes that they will go even better next year with the experience that I have gotten! the following is a link to the mini-site we have at the moment: [http://www.mykonosgreece.com/mykonos\\_hotels/MS\\_001/mykonos\\_hotels/index.cfm?RecordID=110&HotelName=ELENIS%20VILLAGE](http://www.mykonosgreece.com/mykonos_hotels/MS_001/mykonos_hotels/index.cfm?RecordID=110&HotelName=ELENIS%20VILLAGE) pola filia!! Liana Vassila

Stacy Eads and Gary Cooper- Fall 2002 ([boydsbeargirl@yahoo.com](mailto:boydsbeargirl@yahoo.com)) IUPUI and University of Indianapolis

Gary & I have been married for a little over three years now but no kids yet. We hear from Foti and Krista every once in a while. We would love to know what is going on with everyone. Since returning, both of us have graduated from college and are working full time. Our most current email is [turnkeyrealestatellc@yahoo.com](mailto:turnkeyrealestatellc@yahoo.com). Oh yea, we have started our own business rehabbing properties. It is going pretty well so far. Hope to hear from you soon. Stacy and Gary

Krista Andersen- Fall 2002 ([guado\\_lupe@hotmail.com](mailto:guado_lupe@hotmail.com)) Western Michigan University

I hope everything is going well out there, I definitely miss and brag about how cool Greece is on a regular basis - just ask my annoyed friends. I still keep in contact with Thea and Anne - My updated email address is [krista.r.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:krista.r.anderson@gmail.com). After returning from Greece, I continued my work with several archaeological firms around the country for a couple of years or so. In 2005 I started graduate school at Western Michigan University, and am currently in the process of finishing up my master's degree in Latin American (no, not Greek) history and archaeology. It has been a great experience - I was able to obtain some travel and research grants and extend my travels from Europe to South America. Right now I am looking into a few PhD programs as well as some jobs with the federal government doing historical research on US foreign relations in the twentieth century. It was great hearing from you!! I hope everybody else that you hear from is doing well, and I can't wait to see what they are all up to! Take care, Krista

Alex Georgiton -Fall 2002-Spring 2003 ([ageorgiton@yahoo.com](mailto:ageorgiton@yahoo.com)) University of Louisville

I've graduated and have since started working for Fidelity investments. I've become a registered securities dealer. Other than that no real personal achievements, no children (congratulations by the way) or marriage. Alexander Georgiton

Annie Luther- Fall 2002 ([annie6945@aol.com](mailto:annie6945@aol.com)) **Miami University, Ohio**

Since the Odyssey program, I graduated from Miami University with a business degree. I moved to Hawaii for a year where I worked in advertising and now am back in Indianapolis working in marketing. In January, I start Nursing school at Ivy Tech Community College. Annie

Thea Gallis - Fall 2002 ([thealily@gmail.com](mailto:thealily@gmail.com)) University of Massachusetts, Amherst After returning from Athens, I graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Spring 2003 with a degree in English and Psychology. After graduation I moved to Philadelphia, PA where I got a job as a research assistant at an addictions treatment and research center at the University of Pennsylvania. For two years I interviewed patients in various stages of substance withdrawal about their levels of craving, their moods, and their treatment experience before being promoted to be the regulatory coordinator and editorial manager for the center. Now I focus on ensuring we're following all of the laws and ethical requirements for conducting research (there are quite a lot when you're doing research on humans) while assisting the professors at this center with their scholarly publications. I'm taking classes to get a certificate in bioethics right now, and I'm preparing to pursue a master's in public health full-time in the fall. I live in the Rittenhouse

neighborhood of Philadelphia with my boyfriend and our tropical fish, and we hope to get a puppy within the next year. I hope all is well in Athens! Best, Thea

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Spring 2003

Ashley Sinclair – Spring 2003 ([ashleyinathens@yahoo.com](mailto:ashleyinathens@yahoo.com)) University of Pittsburgh

Hi, I'm Ashley Sinclair and am an Odyssey alum from Spring 2003, as well as Summer 2004. Both times I realized just how much Greece was a part of me. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2005 with my Bachelor of Arts and in 2007 with my Master's in International Education. Throughout my college years, I worked for Pitt's Study Abroad Office, helping other students obtain the same wonderful experience that I had while abroad. I consider myself lucky to stay in the international arena by working with Abercrombie & Kent planning educational travel for adults. My main accounts are National Geographic and the Nature Conservancy. I look forward to returning to Greece in September 2008 to get married in Nauplio. Talk to you soon! Filakia, Ashley

Jamie Whitaker- Spring 2003 ([jame81@yahoo.com](mailto:jame81@yahoo.com)) University of Indianapolis

I am glad the Odyssey program is going well. Right now I am working on a temporary arch project in IN, but I hope to get something more permanent in the near future. I will definitely let you know when I can come back to Greece. I just hope it is in this century! It will basically depend on when I get settled down a bit and have the \$\$ and time. Jamie

Holly Adamson - Spring 2003 ([holly\\_ad@hotmail.com](mailto:holly_ad@hotmail.com)) University of Kentucky

Wow...what I've been doing since returning home from Athens... That seems like so long ago! After I finished school (Dec 04), Kerri and I were off on another adventure!!! We moved to London, England on a work abroad program. I was working at the University of London School of Pharmacy in the office as the Registrar's Assistant. It was loads of fun! We did lots of traveling while we were there. I was over there for about 5 months. We went to Scotland, Belgium, France, Mallorca, skiing in the alps...it was a blast! And we definitely had plenty of interesting stories as you can probably imagine! So I came home after about 5 months and Kerri stayed over there (She met a guy). So she is still living over there working for an engineering company, which I am sure she will probably tell you when she responds to this email. I am working in sales for a phone book company. I sell ads in the yellow pages. So I do lots of traveling (no where exciting though). I mostly just travel around Kentucky, but I am gone pretty much Monday-Friday and home on the weekends. It works out well for me because I like to travel! Our next adventure will be to Egypt. Kerri and I are actually meeting each other in Cairo and spending a few days there and then taking a cruise down the Nile. We are going Nov 10-17. We have both been wanting to get back to Greece sooo bad! One of these days we will make it back over there. When we do, we will have to stop in and see ya! Good to hear from you...oh and my email address is still the same. Holly

Kevin Adams – Spring 2003 ([kadamsteacher@aol.com](mailto:kadamsteacher@aol.com)) University of Indianapolis

It's good to hear from you. As you probably remembered, I loved my time in Greece. I think my

body was made to be on Greek time, but alas it was born in the States. There is not a day that goes by that I don't have a passing thought about Greece. Sometimes it brings me a quick smile other days heartache when I think about how some things you can't do twice (like being 20 and living in Greece for a semester). I remember walking the streets, the old apartment with Bao Zhong and Nick Goans, and the wonderful excursions. Bittersweet memories I suppose. One cool thing that happened though is I was able to reunite with Bao Zhong. He came to the States to be in his roommate's wedding and made time for us to hang out one night. It was really special to see him, considering he moved back to China and I assumed we may never see each other again. Small world. I have had the great opportunity to visit Greece again May of 2006 with my younger brother. It was the Univeristy trip led by Owen Hunt's mother. Amazing how much the city changed to accomodate the Olympics. I come back and there are shuttles up and down the street and suddenly toilet paper can go in the toilet!! I couldn't believe it! Since then I graduated from U of I with a BS in Elementary Education and have been teaching first grade in Indianapolis. I also got married to my college girlfriend Alissa just this last July. I do hope there will be another opportunity to visit Greece in the future. I work with a kindergarten teacher at my school who is Greek and I tell her how jealous I am that she has an excuse to go to Greece anytime!! When I lived there I met some Americans who were teaching English at Greek schools. God bless, Kevin Adams

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Fall 2003

Christina Jennings – Fall 2003-Spring 2004 ([christinaaj@gmail.com](mailto:christinaaj@gmail.com)) Columbia College, Chicago

I am working for a modeling agency BMG model and talent [www.bmgmodels.com](http://www.bmgmodels.com) I am the Image Manager and help out w/ art direction on photo shoots sort of like a visual director for comp cards and stuff like that but my title is Image Manager. I work out of the Chicago office but manage Orlando, LA, Phoenix, Vancouver. Um I like it...its not that bad but it is def just for now ya know? I am also working on my first passion in life haha...my art work. I am taking a class Thursday afternoon taught by an amazing instructor who pushes you to do your OWN work! NO Assignments! Through this class I am currently working on a photo project that I hope to maybe someday get published or have a show in a gallery someplace. It is an extended portrait, I am taking a second look at the people around the people we sometimes overlook, the people that intrigue me really... I can send you some examples if you want to see...? Also, I am still working nights for that magazine [www.miawoman.com](http://www.miawoman.com) as the Senior Designer and now for [www.enasman.com](http://www.enasman.com). I designed half the magazines took photos for the cover and came up w/ the cover concept. I am now designing the covers for this next issue. I think I am probably going to leave the magazine world after this issue though...this and the agency work is fun but a bit too superficial for me. Fun for now while I am young. Every artist while they work to the top needs to work jobs to support their own work...ya know.. Oh and I am doing some freelance stuff...I just finished designing the logo, business cards, menus...etc for Anasa Salon & Spa which is Dina Tsapralis's sister Litsa's new salon. I got into The Art Institute of Chicago which was exciting but decided to hold off on it because I have way to much going on right now..plus not so sure about teaching art..maybe when I get older and have a family..? because I see it as an achievable goal and I want to push myself further. SOO... in a nutshell I am working like 10hr days at this modeling agency cuz I have to make up the Thursdays that I do not work there. I am doing some photography for myself and also freelancing w/ photo, photo retouching and graphic design. Oh and I live w/ Trish downtown in this little very cute apartment and we have both

joined a dance troupe...Greek island dancing and have practice every Thursday. Kinda spices things up! It is sooo fun! Oh and 1 more thing...Nov 22nd to Nov 28th I am going to Jordan. I will def be bringing my camera with!!!! Look forward to hearing back from you! Hope all is well! Christina

Jeremy Senterfitt – Fall 2003 ([Jsenterfitt@firstpresatl.org](mailto:Jsenterfitt@firstpresatl.org)) Davidson College

I hope everything is going well over in Greece. I've been reading about the horrible fires in the Pelloponese and I hope people are recovering. Anyways, I am working with a youth group here in Atlanta. I guess my official title is Associate Director of Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. I really enjoy my job and love working with young people. This summer was amazing as we took two mission trips to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and another trip to New Orleans to do recovery work. I still think about my time in Greece all the time and it truly was one of the best times of my life. Hopefully one day I will be able to return, we'll see. Take care and let me know how things are going. Jeremy

Trish Grivas – Fall 2003 ([t\\_grivas@yahoo.com](mailto:t_grivas@yahoo.com)) University of Illinois

As for me..I am currently done with my undergraduate degree in Teaching of History and I am almost done with my Masters degree in Special Education. I am working in a suburban high school as a teacher's assistant and I like it. I went to Italy on a summer study abroad program two summers ago and I loved it.. Currently I am the President of the Youth group at the church I attend and we are raising money for the fires in Greece. I hope we can help out a little. I hope everyone in your family is ok and I hope you guys didn't get affected by the fires. Thanks!!! Patricia Grivas

Richard Ray King III – Fall 2003 ([captainkingfish2003@yahoo.com](mailto:captainkingfish2003@yahoo.com)) University of Indianapolis

I am currently working for New Boston Citimark in Indianapolis Indiana. Citimark is a real estate owner, manager and developer of commercial properties. I have been married since September 8Th 2007 to my lovely wife Carrie Claycomb-King. Carrie teaches art at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Very Special Arts for children with disabilities, and owns her own wedding photography business C.E.C photography. We have just purchased a house and are looking forward to making it a home in October. Hello to all Richard Ray King III

Dina Tsapralias- Fall 2003 ([tsaps4@hotmail.com](mailto:tsaps4@hotmail.com)) DePaul University

Well a little update about me: Since I left Greece I graduated from DePaul University with a major in honors marketing. After College I took a position with Coca-Cola Enterprises in the Sales and Marketing department. I stayed there for a little over a year and about a month ago I left Coke and accepted a position with Sara Lee in the coffee and tea division. (They have an office in Athens. If you know anyone I would love to move or any other position you know of....

:) 😊 Since studying abroad I have returned to Greece several times, at least once or twice every year since I have left. I love it and if I get the opportunity I would still love to come and live there one day. Hope all is well and I can't wait for the update from everyone. Dina

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Spring 2004

Diana Cosmas - Spring 2004 ([Diana.cosmas@gmail.com](mailto:Diana.cosmas@gmail.com)) Lesley University

Things are going well for me. I am living in Cambridge, MA and working at a mental health

agency. I work in a supported housing program for mentally ill adults. I'm learning a lot and really enjoying working with my clients, though it's hard work! I'm also taking some grad-level courses at UMass Boston. Needless to say, I'm keeping busy! I still keep in touch with Ana and Kristin, from Odyssey. We always look back and reminisce on how easy and good life was for us in Athens, as Odyssey students. We really had the time of our lives. I think back to those six months with a big smile on my face. It was such a great experience, and one that I will never forget! I am planning on coming back to Greece to visit family in the next year or so, and I'll be sure to let you know so I can stop by for a visit!

Sean Thomas –Spring 2004- Summer 2004 ([seathoma@hotmail.com](mailto:seathoma@hotmail.com)) Hawaii Pacific University

I graduated from Hawaii Pacific University with a BA in International Studies After graduation I took a job with Tiffany & Co. as a Corporate Manager working out of NYC and Hawaii. After a little over a year I left Tiffany & Co. and joined the Peace Corps where I was sent to Kyrgyzstan to working in Economic Development. I only got to stay a few months because I was medically evacuated due to illness. Currently, I am working as the Associate Director of Development and Philanthropic Giving at a private mental health institution in Atlanta Georgia. I split my time between living in New York in the weekends and working in Atlanta during the week. As for my future plans I am applying to grad school looking deciding between UINDY-Athens !!! :) Columbia, The New School in New York, San Francisco State and University of Manchester. I hope all is well. Tell everyone hello for me. Sean

Ana Murteira – Spring 2004 ([murt.ana@gmail.com](mailto:murt.ana@gmail.com)) Malacaster University After coming back from Greece and graduating from Macalester in Minnesota, I eventually came back home to Newark, NJ and worked part-time at a for-benefit company in New York. In March of 2006, I visited Athens with Diana and Kristin from our Odyssey program, which was a fantastic trip. Last year, I started a Masters in City and Regional Planning at Rutgers University and decided to do a dual degree with Law. I just started law school at Rutgers-Newark this August so the semester is well underway. This first year is incredibly draining, but it's an amazing learning experience. At this point, I'm interested in doing public interest law or working for a government organization, but I won't be done for 3 years so there's plenty of time to decide! I hope everyone is doing great. I often miss the good times we had traveling, bonding and having fun in Greece. Ana

Danielle Richardson – Spring 2004 ([richardsonda@uindy.edu](mailto:richardsonda@uindy.edu)) University of Indianapolis Since the odyssey program..... I came back to Uindy and changed my major to Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations. I will be graduating in December of this year, 2007 (5 weeks to be exact...but who's counting!!!) I am currently working at Transformations Salon and Spa and am doing some PR and Marketing for them. Greece is where I developed my desire to travel and have since been to El Salvador, Austria, Ireland, and China. I am still living in Greenwood, Indiana and my plan after I graduate is to work in the field of PR in some capacity whether that be in a non-profit organization or the corporate world. I don't have a preference. I would love to work in a job that required me to travel though! I currently teach the first grade girls class at my church and am the Treasurer for PRSSA which is our student run PR organization on campus. And my long term goal is to one day go back to Greece and get the other half of my heart where I left it! Cheesy...I know...but it's not too hard to fall in love with Greece!!!!

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Summer 2004

Shannon Cook – Summer 2004 ([scook6@clarian.org](mailto:scook6@clarian.org)) University of Indianapolis

I miss you and Greece so much! I still remember that summer so vividly, and your mention of the flybee made me giggle. I am well, I graduated in 2006 with my bachelors degree in science of nursing (BSN). I have been working at Methodist Hospital in downtown Indianapolis. I work in the Emergency department. It is a level one trauma center, which means we get people flown in from all over the state for very serious injuries. I also work as a forensic nurse examiner/sexual assault nurse examiner. In that position, I collect evidence from rape victims mainly, but also from other crime victims such as gunshots and stab wounds. I take specimens, clothing, pictures, etc. These are all sent to the crime lab, and can be used in trial as evidence. I work a lot, but I do enjoy my work. It can be exhausting, but I like to think it makes a difference. That summer was definitely magical and unforgettable. I want to come back so badly..and I know I need a vacation soon. So, hopefully I can revisit you and some of my fond memories. I see Suzanne every once in a while. She is doing well. I think she works in fashion merchandise. I see Amy less than Suzanne, but I heard she is working at a surgery center as a nurse. Shannon

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Fall 2004

Joanna Weber - Fall 2004 ([jmw2001@hotmail.com](mailto:jmw2001@hotmail.com)) University of Charlotte

Well I have been living in Memphis, TN for the past 2 years. I moved here for a job with organ donation and transplantation. I am not fond of Memphis; however, I have found the love of my life. I am engaged to a man named Mounir Khouy, and we are getting married next summer. He is actually Moroccan. We spent the entire month of Feb. in Morocco spending time with his family. I have also decided to go back to school to obtain a second degree. I am going back to become a nurse. I am scheduled to start nursing school in January. We will be moving back to Charlotte, NC so that I can go to school in NC. My address is: 7377 Unbridle Way Apt 204 Cordova, TN 38016 Thank you, JoAnna Weber

Anthony Fourkas- Fall 2004 ([anthonyfourkas@yahoo.com](mailto:anthonyfourkas@yahoo.com)) St. Petersburg College

It is I the one and only Anthony Fourkas, and since Odyssey in Athens I returned home to complete my B.A. in Political Science at the University of South Florida. Now I am successfully running and operating TARBAR Chicago, and Chubby Wieners, Hot Dogs, Beefs, and Burgers. You can reach me at [anthonyfourkas@yahoo.com](mailto:anthonyfourkas@yahoo.com) or [lildiesel7@aol.com](mailto:lildiesel7@aol.com) With much love, Anthony Fourkas

Carey Hart – Fall 2004 ([careyhart@gmail.com](mailto:careyhart@gmail.com)) University of Indianapolis

I still live in Indianapolis, only about five minutes from campus! I still go back to speak to classes about my job, experience in school, etc. I am working at a media relations firm as a publicist. BLASTmedia ([www.blastmedia.com](http://www.blastmedia.com)) is the name of the company, they are located just northeast of the city in Fishers. I have a great boyfriend named Dan-- we live together with our two dogs-- boxers. I have also recently decided to begin working as a Mary Kay consultant, which I'm really excited about! Here's my Web site: [www.marykay.com/careymhart](http://www.marykay.com/careymhart). I haven't traveled anywhere nearly as exciting as Greece since I came home and really want to visit sometime soon--we'll just have to see if I can afford it! Best, Carey

Nick Nikitas – fall 2004 ([nick.nikitas@gmail.com](mailto:nick.nikitas@gmail.com)) Carthage College

I graduated from Washington University in St. Louis this past May with a degree in Economics, and I'm currently working for Bank of America/LaSalle Bank in their Global Securities division. I've been dating a girl (Liza) for about 2 years now and everything is going great. I miss Greece a ton, but hopefully I will be able to plan a trip back there in the near future. I still talk with Anthony, Ursula, Sophie, and see Christina Jennings here and there around Chicago. In general everything is going pretty great and hopefully the same is true for you. It definitely sounds like it. Nick

Courtney Poulos – Fall 2004-Spring 2005 ([moondreamer2709@yahoo.com](mailto:moondreamer2709@yahoo.com)) University of Indianapolis

I miss Athens very much! I will be visiting very soon! Right now, I'm studying at the University of Kent-Brussels in Brussels, Belgium. I'm getting my Masters in International Political Economy. As you know, I moved to NYC after getting my bachelor's in Athens and I worked in the art community organizing purchases for the wealthy. (I really moved there to pursue music, though. I still write but I haven't performed in quite a while!) I'm planning on visiting Athens in the spring, when I get a break from studying, so I'll be sure to drop in and see you! I hope all is well! Lots of love, Courtney

Penny Sgardelis – Fall 2004 ([pennoula3@hotmail.com](mailto:pennoula3@hotmail.com)) George Mason University

As for my update, I have obviously graduated from college with my bachelors in International/Intercultural Communications. Aside from helping out at my parent's restaurants (We recently opened another one a few months ago) on the weekends, I am working at Ameriprise Financial Services, a financial advising company where I am part of the operations team and actually training right now to be the licensing specialist. I am also thinking about going back to do my masters in possibly public policy or International Relations. My goal is to work for the World Bank. Hopefully one day it will happen. Keep your fingers crossed!!! :) So that is my news as of now. I guess my next step is to find someone, get married and start a family :) lololol. hahahaha. Filakia polla!!!!~Penny

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Spring 2005

Becky Groen – Spring 2005 ([groe0071@umn.edu](mailto:groe0071@umn.edu)) University of Minnesota

Well, I've recently graduated from the University of Minnesota and am currently living and working in Minneapolis, MN. I am working as a fundraising consultant for political campaigns (it actually is a lot of fun!). I am planning a big trip next year after the elections in November and am hoping to get back to Athens - I can't wait!

Sylvie Cierny McDonald -Spring 2005 ([ciern001@bama.ua.edu](mailto:ciern001@bama.ua.edu)) University of Alabama

I am also married now. I got married June 30, 2007...so I'm still a newlywed. I graduated with a B.S. in Apparel & Textiles and Apparel Design, minor in Marketing, and a concentration in Art History this past Spring. Now, I've decided to go back and get my Masters and Teaching Certification. I am no longer "Sylvie Cierny" but "Sylvie McDonald". My husband, Lucas, is a high school teacher for going on 5 years now. We adopted a dog last summer. Her name is Lucy and she is a Basenji (some kind of African barkless dog). We also just bought our first home in

Tuscaloosa, AL. I really haven't kept up with anyone else from the group, but I wish that I had. It seems so hard to keep track and up to date with long distance friendships. This is my current email and I check it almost everyday. I'm so impressed that you kept our addresses and information and that you continue with the Odyssey program. I love when I get emails from people that have signed up to go. I get to tell them all how wonderful you are and what a great time we all had. Sylvie McDonald

Jesse Rodriguez -Spring 2005 ([jrodriguez@ulv.edu](mailto:jrodriguez@ulv.edu)) University of LaVerne

I got my Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration. Um...the only person that I kind of stay in touch with is Rheana. Yea, my goal is to one day go back to Greece...I LOVED it!!!  
Jesse

Effie Saragas- Spring 2005 ([esaragas@gmail.com](mailto:esaragas@gmail.com)) Assumption College

I graduated from Assumption in May '06 and in June I landed a job at a company called [Salary.com](http://Salary.com). [Salary.com](http://Salary.com) provides compensation data to people and companies. I started in the sales department and recently got promoted to Marketing (Ad Operations). It's been challenging, but I really like it. I live at home with my parents, so that's nice because I get to save and get home cooked meals :-)) hahaha. I was actually in Greece this past summer, but I never got a chance to stay in Athena...I was upset with that, but I had limited time to go visit my family in Lesbos. IT was a nice time, but let me tell you it didn't top off my experience with the Odyssey Group. That was the best decision I ever made. Best memories ever! I miss it! I hope that all is well! Take Care and it was so nice hearing from you! Filakia Polla! Effie

AmyKalogeropoulos – Spring 2005 ([amy.kalogeropoulos@gmail.com](mailto:amy.kalogeropoulos@gmail.com)) Assumption College

Since the Odyssey program I have graduated from Assumption college and working as a Speech Therapist Asst. for the Wachusett School District. I plan to continue with school and go for my Master's Degree in Speech/ Language Pathology. I am still living in Worcester, MA. The last time I was in Greece since the program was this past summer. Hope everything is well Dina, talk to you soon! Filakia Amy

Robyn London: Spring 2005 ([robynlondon@gmail.com](mailto:robynlondon@gmail.com)) University of Washington

After culminating my study abroad experience with a two-week backpacking trip through Israel, I returned to Seattle, Washington to finish my last year at the University of Washington. I earned my B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Classical Studies. During my senior year I completed two political internships, one with the Washington State Democrats and the other with a political consulting firm. After graduation I decided to stay in Seattle and explore another area of politics – county government. I joined King County Elections as an outreach and education coordinator to promote the mandatory Accessible Voting Units (AVU), machines that helped people with disabilities cast an independent and private ballot for the first time.

At this time I decided to apply for the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programmme, something I have been thinking about since my interest in Japan started in high school. In March 2007 I was accepted to JET to teach English at a rural high school in Mie Prefecture, Japan. I arrived here in August and have been settling in for the past four months. Although I had previously lived abroad in Greece, living in Japan is a completely different situation and constantly filled with struggle and language barriers. Everyday I learn something new about Japanese language, culture, and tradition. It is an amazing experience I am fortunate enough to

have, and I don't think I would have been able to commit to living a year abroad had I not previously lived abroad during my time on Odyssey in Athens. After the JET Programme I plan to travel around Asia, then make my way back to the U.S. and start a graduate school program in political science or international relations. Check me out! <http://robynlonon.blogspot.com>  
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#### Fall 2005

Nicole Sturdivant- Fall 2005 ([blazing\\_soul@yahoo.com](mailto:blazing_soul@yahoo.com)) University of Indianapolis

Well, let's see...a summary of what I've been doing: I was planning on going back to Greece and spending a year in the program, but some things have interfered with those plans. Hopefully, I will be able to go back there eventually with some friends and family. I transferred schools and no longer attend the University of Indianapolis, mainly because I thought perhaps archaeology wasn't for me, and that was my main reason for choosing to go to a private university. Tuition was kind of high too, so I now attend Purdue University Calumet and have decided to just major in accounting. However, transferring credits has kind of put me behind so I am currently a junior and have this year and next left to complete. Haven't really been up to much, other than planning trips with friends from all over the states. We have so many plans but fear that we'll never get to experience even half of them. Have also been trying to plan a business with my mother. We want to open our own store where we can sell jewelry, materials to make jewelry, and have classes to teach people to make things. So that's basically it, school, and planning. Nicole

Kenna Hanni – Fall 2005 ([kena\\_hanni@yahoo.com](mailto:kena_hanni@yahoo.com)) University of Indianapolis

I've been wild since I left Greece but I talk about my time there at least 2-3 times a week to this day! OHH How I miss that country! ~ And the people! I'd come back tomorrow if I could. I graduated in May from U of I and accepted a job in Boca Raton, Florida. I'm the Merchandising Supervisor (clothing buyer and personal shopper) for a private Yacht & Country Club in South Florida, about 30 minutes from Miami. I plan to work towards becoming a PGA Professional this spring and will instruct golf as well... I'm working with a few professional athletes in the area, shopping for them-they found my "best shopper" award in the Odyssey Group impressive!! ~ It's been fun so far, I've only lived in "Boca" for 3 months now but I couldn't be happier! **My time in Athens made me a lot of who I am today as a professional and dealing with people of every level, and I thank you!** Let me know if I can write out a longer explanation of my experience, I'd be more than happy to do that! My residential address in Florida is: 33 East Camino Real Apt# 805 Boca Raton, FL 33432. Cell #: 561-271-5024 Hope to hear from you soon! Kena

Cassi Danzl –Fall 2005-Spring 2006 [cdanzl@assumption.edu](mailto:cdanzl@assumption.edu) University of Indianapolis I can't believe it has been almost a year and a half since I left-It feels like yesterday (and I still dream about the food)! I've become a master at making Galactabourekos, but gave up trying to replicate Ithaki's gyros. What I wouldn't give to be able to cross the street at 11am and order one!! I still have the urge to say "signome" to people when I run into them-I don't think that will ever go away! Let's see...what have I been doing... I graduated from U of I Summa Cum Laude in May of this year with a BA in Psychology. I'm currently just outside of Boston going to graduate school and I am having fun exploring New England. I should finish my program in the winter of

2009 with a MA in Counseling Psychology with concentrations in Cognitive Behavioral and Child/Family Interventions. Of course, moving cross country was interesting, but whenever people comment about it I just go "huh? I moved to Greece for a year in college. This is nothing!" Of course, the traveling urge hasn't gone away and I spent a month this summer traveling around Europe with my mom and sister. I even got through some sticky situations in Norway by speaking Greek-who knew! Hope all is well there! Cassi

Owen Hunt – Fall 2005 ([tohunt@gmail.com](mailto:tohunt@gmail.com)) University of Indianapolis

Since my Odyssey semester in fall 2006, I finished my degree at the home campus, and now I'm back in Athens working as Dina's assistant while I complete my MA in Media and Communication, which I will finish next June, 2008. Other than that, things have been up and down, loves lost, sad truths realized, about myself and my country. But overall, I definitely feel like I'm having valuable experiences. I have no real clue what I want to do for a living, but if living means a 9-5 job in suburbia, I'd rather not, at least not now. I plan to get another degree, probably a phd, because I feel I need the education, and because I can teach with it when I find nothing worth pursuing in the job market, ha. I've come to better understand why the US is so loathed in the rest of the world. In many ways the US is not the great nation we Americans like to think it is. I'm trying to not fall into the traps of tradition and just doing what others are doing. That may sound cliched, but I'm discovering that when I think about many of the traditions in the US, and the west in general, many of them don't make much sense to me, namely, sports, marriage, TV, religion, shopping, etc. These things seem to me to be unanalyzed and just taken as the way life is. I don't like this very much. I guess for me, again it's a cliché, but having the right answers is less important than asking the right questions. For example, do I really know enough to make well-informed choices in my life, or am I just doing what I've been trained to do? That's a hard one for me to answer. So I'm trying to learn as much as I can, after that, who knows? good luck, Owen

Stephanie McKaig- Fall 2005 University of Indianapolis ([mckaig@uindy.edu](mailto:mckaig@uindy.edu))

Since being in Athens, I graduated from UIndy the following spring. I am now in my second year of medical school at Indiana University School of Medicine. That's about all I've been doing though... studying. Haha. I wish I was more exciting, but I guess I'm not. I didn't realize how boring the past year and half have been for me until just now either -- so thanks for helping me see the light! Always great to hear from you. Take care, Stephanie

Noelle Diaz- Fall 2005 ([diazn@spu.edu](mailto:diazn@spu.edu)) Seattle Pacific University Well I haven't done too much since my time in Athens. I graduated from SPU with a degree in journalism and moved from Seattle to California and back to Seattle. I am working for a company called Emeritus right now in downtown Seattle--they own assisted living homes across the nation and I work out of their corporate office. I am looking for a job in the non-profit sector and one cool thing I did was go to Nicaragua in June with Feed the Children to work on a building project at an orphanage right outside the capital city of Managua. I am glad to hear the you are doing well. I miss Greece and often think about going back and every now and then I even look for jobs there. I hope work is going well and that the family is doing great! Noelle

Joy Mires – Fall 2005 ([sweetjoy802@aol.com](mailto:sweetjoy802@aol.com)) University of St. Thomas

I had a hard year when I got back. I just finished courses at school, but don't graduate (BA in Psych and minor in Phil) until Dec. I'm trying to find a job now. I will audition for a job as an

instructor, if I get it I will let you know. I've explored Vegas with some friends 🤪 and hope to make it back to Greece next summer. Before I was interning as part of Post Court Interview for juvenile court, worked as a receptionist, and going to school full-time. I've spent a lot of time with my family... that's nothing new. I've also gotten back into dance with some belly dancing classes. It's good to hear from you. Take care, Joy

Courtney Bianchi- Fall 2005 ([bianchicm@uindy.edu](mailto:bianchicm@uindy.edu)) University of Indianapolis

After my semester in Greece I returned back to the main campus in Indianapolis to finish my degree in Theatre. During my senior year I performed in a 3 person play titled Laundry and Bourbon, where I played a loud mouth high energy southern mother of three. I thoroughly enjoyed the role and experience. That same year I also had an opportunity to student direct a musical titled, Baby, where I came to realize one of my true loves, directing. Once I graduated with my degree in hand, I took a position as a program advisor at a publishing company, nothing close to what my degree was in, but it has given me the chance to save money and still pay my bills... Over the summer I completed my second triathlon reaching my goal of completing it under 2hrs. I continue to act where I am able to express myself creatively as well as taking piano lessons from a sweet hip all American lady who has become a dear friend. If I'm not working you may find me out running my favorite trail, walking my dog or taking an improv workshop. I can say I am glad to be back in the States but consistently find myself thinking about my time in Greece where I met some amazing people and experienced some incredible memories!OPA! Xo Courtney

Dina Panopoulos – Fall 2005-spring 2006 ([dinapanopoulos@hotmail.com](mailto:dinapanopoulos@hotmail.com)) California State University at San Marcos Not much has been going on in my life. After I came back from Greece last summer, I went back to school and work. I'm taking my last semester of classes now, so I'll be finishing in December and walking next May. After that, I don't know what I'll be doing! myaddress: 3671 Mission Ave.Oceanside, Ca. 92058Email:dinapanopoulos@hotmail.com

Spring 2006

Renee Butner- Spring 2006 ([reneebutner@gmail.com](mailto:reneebutner@gmail.com)) College of William and Mary

I graduated from William and Mary this past May. After graduation I took off for a 3 week trip to Europe to back pack by myself. I met up with friends and family in some places and saw some cities on my own. After I got back I started my Management Trainee job with Enterprise Rent-a-Car in the Northern VA area and I've been there for 6 months now. I hope to be an assistant manager by my 1 year mark and I'm well on my way to that goal. I guess that sums up what I've been doing since I was in Greece.

I will say that my semester in Greece was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. It ignited a love for travel for me, taught me a lot about myself that I never knew, and created friendships with some of ladies in the program that I hope last a lifetime. I've kept up with Robin and caught up with her and George this past summer when I went back to Greece. I attended Gina's graduation, I've seen Rachel several times, and Tess is on her way to DC as we speak so I will be seeing her tonight. I've also kept in touch with Cassie, Peggy, and Dina. I wish you all the best for 2008.

Georgina Miltiadous – Spring 2006 ([gmilt002@odu.edu](mailto:gmilt002@odu.edu)) Old Dominion University  
Last May I graduated from Old Dominion University with a BA on History. Currently I am in Durham, England, doing my master's on Modern History. Last June, I was in Athens and I came by the school. It was Sunday so nobody was there but I just wanted to see the buildings and see how they have changed. I'm coming back in Athens this March! Georgina Miltiadous

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Fall 2006

Laura Canter – Fall 2006 ([lec43@yahoo.com](mailto:lec43@yahoo.com)) Queens University of Charlotte  
I graduated from college in May and I am working at a software/consulting firm in Charlotte, NC. I love the job! My family is doing well in Maryland and I can't wait to go home for the holidays! From what I hear, the other girls from my apartment are doing well too. Hope to talk to you soon! Laura

Alexandra Avlonitis – Fall 2006 ([AA578259@wcupa.edu](mailto:AA578259@wcupa.edu)) West Chester University  
Next semester I have an internship at PA's Equine toxicology lab. There, I'll be analyzing race horses blood, urine and DNA for the presence of any illegal use of medications. I'm really excited about it. I hope all is well with you! and I think this update is such a great idea! love, Alexa

Zhiela Ashtianipour – Fall 2006 ([ashtianipouz@vcu.edu](mailto:ashtianipouz@vcu.edu)) Virginia Commonwealth University  
Great to hear from you. A quick update. I have graduated and I am working in the Richmond, VA area. I will be starting my Masters degree in Peace Operations in January in hopes to work with international non-profits. All for plans to keep up the traveling! Talk to you soon! Zhiela Ashtianipour

Spring 2007

Anne Nolte- Spring 2007 ([anne.nolte@mnsu.edu](mailto:anne.nolte@mnsu.edu)) Minnesota State University  
Wow, it's hard to think that a year ago from now, you were sending us pre-departure information. Where has the year gone? I really miss every little thing about Athens. The gang and I have kept it such close contact and are all meeting in Chicago for New Year's. Rachel and I still talk about 10xs a day and she's spending most of her xmas break with me. I am graduating next December with a public relations degree and am applying for the peace corps this summer. If I get in, I'll depart summer 2009. I plan on making a trip back to Athens before then. I want to make sure everything is the way I left it at Mitropoleos. :) Take care, great to hear from you. Annie

Terri Nichole Eury- Spring 2007 ([euryterri@meredith.edu](mailto:euryterri@meredith.edu)) Meredith College It has been so long. I can not believe I'm not in Athens anymore. Upon getting home in late June I started training for a half marathon that I did in September. I started my junior year of school and our taking classes to finish my degree and attained my teaching licenses. I have been tutoring every Friday since September at Powell Elementary School with the MeredithReads Program. Now I

am preparing for exams and looking forward to have the Odyssey in Athens reunion in Chicago for New Years. I also finished my application to volunteer with the Special Olympics segment that they have in Raleigh on Feb 4th 2008. I'm miss you and Athens. T. Nichole Eury ~Have a Great day, God Bless

Amanda Cornwell- Spring 2007 ([cornwell@marist.edu](mailto:cornwell@marist.edu)) Marist College

I very much miss seeing emails from you in my inbox. I am doing well, other then missing Greece terribly. I am beginning to think that I miss it more now then when I first came home. I have been working and doing endless school work in preparation for graduating in the spring. Scary huh? I plan on doing an internship next semester with an ad agency, and after graduation finding another internship and then starting my career in advertising. All is easier said then done. I hope everything is well you and everyone else over there. I miss you all very much. At least I get to see everyone in Chicago for New Years, I think everyone is going to be able to make it, even Nedim, which is really exciting. I just have one question for you, what is the greeting that you say on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month? I can't find it anywhere. Be well! Kind regards, Amanda

Tim Morris- Spring 2007 ([tpmorris@usc.edu](mailto:tpmorris@usc.edu)) University of Southern California

It's good to hear from you and that things are going well in Athens. I have started work at PriceWaterhouseCoopers accounting firm here in Denver, Colorado and have joined the Greek expatriots group in the firm and hope to work in the Athens or Thessaloniki office in a couple years from now. I am living with My YiaYia and trying to practice my Greek. My sister is coming to do the Odyssey program in the Spring, I am very jealous of her, I think I am coming to visit in May for a couple of weeks so I hope to see you then. Please say hello to Tom and Mr. Kiritsis for me and I hope to hear from you again soon. Na Esay Kala, Timotheos

Rachel Magrdichian – Spring 2007 ([rachmag86@yahoo.com](mailto:rachmag86@yahoo.com)) Butler University

Since being abroad, I have been wrapping up loose ends at Butler, trying to get my degree finished on time. I am currently applying to the Armenian Volunteer Corps to gain more experience abroad. Life is very tame compared to during my Odyssey experience. Other than that its just the same old song and dance.

Summer 2007

Emily Csinsi- Summer 2007 ([Emily.csinsi@uky.edu](mailto:Emily.csinsi@uky.edu)) University of Kentucky

I'm studying abroad, again. I'm in Finland:) And I guess that's pretty much it.:) Emily Csinsi