



@up

Periodic edition of
the University of Patras



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΠΑΤΡΩΝ
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

1st period - issue #1 - Spring 2014

2014: The University of Patras comes of age

2014: The University of Patras celebrates its 50th anniversary. It was November 1964 that the University of Patras was established with the Decree 4425/1964, as the third Greek University. It was created in order to deal with the many challenges that were then facing Greek society. It continues until today to do so.

According to the original proposal to the Greek Parliament, the mission of the new University was to promote teaching and research on subjects that



The Rector of the University of Patras, Prof. George Panayiotakis made the following statement welcoming the first issue of @UP.

"Our goal is this publication not to be a newsletter of the administration, but a voice of the community, allowing all views to be expressed. In this respect, I invite all members of our academic community and especially our students to support this effort"

would support the economic development of Greece, with emphasis on science, technology, economic and social sciences and business administration. The objective was also to train specialized scientists and engineers, to reduce brain drain and attract high level scientists from worldwide.

What has been achieved since? Many of the original objectives were met and even extended. The University has now grown into a two-city campus (in Rio and Agrinio); its subjects of teaching and research have been extended from the original ones to the humanities, education, life and medical sciences; it has attracted Greek and international scientists from all over the world; it has grown in number of students (over 30,000 today), faculty, and staff; and has become the largest educational and research institution of Western Greece and one of the most prominent in Greece. While it maintains its regional and national engagement, it also has a strong international orientation. The University recently went through external evaluation of all its 24 departments: the results underlined its strengths and values as a centre of excellence at the European level. Today, in a time of economic crisis for Greece and Europe, we believe, more strongly than ever, that our record demonstrates that public spending for Universities, such as ours,

is an investment for the generations to come and for the future of our country and Europe as a whole.

[By Prof. P. Kyprianos, Deputy Rector]

UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS



...of knowledge
and creation

CONTENTS

UNIVERSITY NEWS	(2-3)
BEING PROUD OF...	(4-6)
RESEARCH NEWS	(7-9)
FEATURE	(10)
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	(11)
ERASMUS NEWS	(12-13)
LIFE ON CAMPUS	(14-15)
NEWS BRIEF	(16)

Professor Kyriazopoulou first woman Rector of the University of Patras for the period 2014-2018



The new rector of the University of Patras, Prof. V. Kyriazopoulou

In June 2014 elections were held for the new rector of the University of Patras, for the period 2014-2018. This was the first time that the rector was elected following a procedure established under the new Higher Education act in effect since 2011. The President of the University Council has invited international candidates who express interest for the chief executive of the University for a term of four years. Candidates for the position of Rector had to be full professors in a Greek or foreign University, of Greek citizenship, of high professional

standing and having significant administrative experience.

The four distinguished candidates which expressed interest are professors of the University of Patras. The candidates were: Prof. Vassilis Anastassopoulos from the Physics Department, Prof. Venetsiana Kyriazopoulou from the Medicine Department, Prof. Konstantinos Ravanis from the Early Childhood Education Department, and Prof. Theodore Christopoulos from the Chemistry Department. The University Council then selected the candidates that went into the second phase of the elec-

tion that is the vote of the entire faculty. Profs Kyriazopoulou and Ravanis went through to the second phase.

In the election that was held on June 18th, in the middle of another crisis relating to layoffs of about 100 administrative staff, the participation of the faculty, through electronic vote, was over 84%. The results were very close. Prof. Kyriazopoulou received 268 votes (50.3%) and Prof. Ravanis 265 votes (49.7%), while 92 votes were blank. Thus Prof. Kyriazopoulou, was elected, to take office on September 1st. She is the first woman in the University history to serve in this position.

Prof. Kyriazopoulou is a medical doctor and Professor of Endocrinology. She has been acting Dean of the School of Health Sciences for the period 2010-2014. She has studied medicine at the Medical School of the University of Parma, Italy and the Medical School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Her Residency and Fellowship were both done at the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism of the University of Patras Medical School. Her special research interests are related to Hypothalamic –Pituitary –Adrenal axis disease (specially Addison disease), Diabetes and Metabolic disease, Thyroid disease.

In her thank you message after the election, Prof. Kyriazopoulou expressed her determination to work towards making the University of Patras a centre of excellence, admitting though that the current problems are explosive and require active participation of all members of the University to face the challenges.

Long strikes of the administrative staff

This academic year witnessed long strikes by administrative staff in 8 Greek universities, including the University of Patras. The strikes lasted from early September 2013 until just before the Christmas holidays. The dispute was deadlocked over the civil service redundancy plan imposed by the troika of international creditors of Greece and the progressive layoff of administrators in the Universities. The Rector of the University of Patras, Prof. G Panayiotakis, has refused to accept any redundancies and supported the strikers during their action. The University Senate issued a number of support statements. Despite the strike, the academic activities of the University were not disrupted, in contrast to other Universities that were in a complete standstill for all that period, affecting teaching and research.

The mobility program led to a new administration structure for the University that is still under negotiation with the Ministry of National Education. Until now, it is not clear how many of the almost 100 staff members of the University that went into mobility are going to find a position in the new administration structure, while the mobility plan foresees qualified members of the administrative staff, i.e. those with postgraduate degrees, to switch to teaching positions, thus weakening further the University administration.



Strikers' banner at the Admin building during the strike, the slogan says: 'No to staff mobility and layoffs, Public and free education'

External evaluation: mission completed

The external evaluation of all 24 departments of the University of Patras was completed in February 2014. Over 100 distinguished academics, mostly from the US (to a percentage of around 42%), participated in the committees that were invited by ADIP (Hellenic Quality and Accreditation Agency) that supervises the process of evaluation of Greek Universities. The results of the evaluation of most departments were very positive. Evaluators stressed the high qualifications of most of the faculty members as well as the high research level. They also commended on the teaching excellence that was found in many programs of study. However, they also observed that the students-to-faculty ratio is often unacceptably high and that the number of courses required for graduation are often excessive. They also made a recommendation to the state agencies funding higher education in Greece to increase resources (financial and personnel). The recommendations are a strong weapon in the attempt of the University of Patras to ask for more funding and stop the mobility program that has led to serious reduc-

tion of the administrative staff. In times of crisis spending for education is an investment for the future.

Following the completion of the external evaluation, the University academic units move towards the phase of accreditation of the programs of study. In May 12, there was a workshop on the subject. Prof.P. Kyprianos, president of the Quality Assurance Committee (MODIP) of our

University, stressed the importance of the process for the future of our graduates. Members of the Quality and Accreditation Agency discussed with faculty members of the University the accreditation process that is going to start in the coming months.



External evaluation committee members at the Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering

@UP: The new University's periodic edition

The University of Patras published, between 2000 and 2005, a periodic edition on a monthly basis. It was under Prof.Zoumbos' rectorship that the publication began and flourished. Then in 2005 the publication ceased.

It was almost 10 years later, in December 2013, that the rector Prof. Georgios Panayiotakis asked the Senate to make a decision on the publication of a new periodical for the University community. With Senate's decision a supervising committee was appointed, and then an editorial board, headed by Deputy Rector Prof. Nikolaos Avouris. The first issue was published in January 2014. The editorial board consists of a number of volunteers: faculty members, staff and students. They all have contributed a great deal in making this publication very popular with our community. 6 issues have already been published and circulated in the campus in Patras and the new campus in Agrinio. The electronic version of the university periodic edition can be found at <http://up.upatras.gr>.

The present English edition is a sister publication planned to be issued once every academic semester (Spring and Winter issue). It is based on a summary of the main news of the Greek edition, and it aims at a more international audience.



Olympic Medalists in ... maths

What could be the connecting thread among a taekwondo champion, a young lady playing the piano, a music lover wearing headphones, a teacher of Argentina tango, an aspiring tennis player, and a tall student skilled in ping pong? Answer: their common passion for mathematics. A passion that led them to the Department of Mathematics of the University of Patras, where they met each other, became a team, and from there they traveled together to the city of Iasi in Romania to represent our University at the South-Eastern European Mathematics Olympiad for University Students (SEEMOUS 2014).

This journey into the world of mathematics started in October with the announcement of a three-hour competition aimed at selecting six students, from the 1st and 2nd years of their studies, that would represent our University. The selected team consisted of Ioannis Tsokanos (gold medal), Maria Christina van der Weele (silver), Andreas Kostakiotis (silver), Ioannis Vaxevanakis (bronze), Georgia Souli (bronze) and Stefanos Lappas. After being selected, they came together in weekly training seminars and finally went to Romania (4-9 March 2014), bringing back to Patras 5 out of the total of 11 medals that Greece won at the Olympiad. Spyros Kakaroumpas (a third-year student, last year's gold winner, and now Observer), Dimitris Georgiou (Assoc. Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Team leader) and Jacobus van der Weele (Professor of Mathematics, Deputy team leader) met again this year to support and accompany the new team. An important role during the intensive training seminars was also played by Prof. Stavros Kourouklis.

Upon the return of the successful team, on March 19, the Rectorate Authorities organized a special ceremony to congratulate the mission on behalf of the entire University community, and to present them with honorary certificates. At this meeting, the students and their coaches seized the opportunity to thank the University for its support and they gladly shared stories and personal experiences from their journey to Romania. The Rector, Prof. Panayiotakis, stressed that in his view the students who work hard to acquire knowledge are today's real revolutionaries; and that the young generation should not adopt a passive attitude towards life, but go ahead and live it. A particularly moving moment came when the gold medalist, upon receiving his honorary certificate, said to the Rector and to everybody present: "Let us not rest now, but go on working".



A special moment: Rector George Panayiotakis hands out the honorary certificate to gold medalist Ioannis Tsokanos.



The Olympic team of the Department of Mathematics immediately after the awards ceremony in Iasi, Romania. From left to right: Ioannis Vaxevanakis, Georgia Souli, Stefanos Lappas, Spyros Kakaroumpas, Andreas Kostakiotis, Ioannis Tsokanos, Jacobus van der Weele, Maria Christina van der Weele, Dimitris Georgiou.

The secret behind the success? The spirit of the team! Characteristically, the team leader declared: "We were one. An individual effort will bring you one step forward, a team effort ten." They are mathematicians and know about numbers. So we may safely take their word for it.

[by Christina Kouimountzi and Katerina Karanikola]

Prof. Ralli member of the Academy of Europe

Prof. Angeliki Ralli, Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Philology and member of the University Council, was recently elected member of Academia Europaea, a prestigious European non-governmental scientific academy founded in 1988.

Prof. Ralli, who holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in linguistics from the University

of Montreal, and is currently head of the Laboratory of Modern Greek Dialects, was proposed by the president of the Department of Linguistic Studies of the Academy, Prof. W.U. Dressler. This is the first Greek researcher in Linguistics who receives this high distinction.



Zoi Lygerou: The first Greek lady in the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)

Zoi Lygerou, associate professor of Medicine of our University was elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) by its 1600 members. The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) is an organization of life scientists. Since 1964, scientists have been elected annually as members of EMBO based on excellence in research. There are more than 1600 EMBO Members today, 66 of whom have received the Nobel Prize. EMBO is also a founding member of the Initiative for Science in Europe. During the 50 years of EMBO, 11 Greek scientists have been elected as EMBO members. Prof. Lygerou, a University of Athens biology graduate and PhD of the University of Heidelberg, is the first Greek female scientist to receive this distinction.



Foto Prof. Lygerou (right) with members of her group

Prof. Bountis in the Academy of Athens

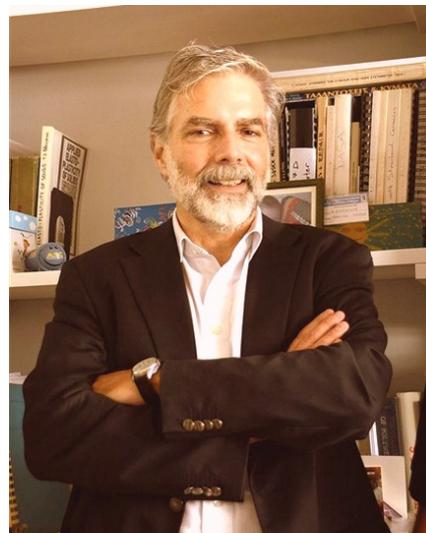


Anastassios Bountis, Professor at the Department of Mathematics was elected in April 2014 member of the Academy of Athens, Greece's national academy, and the highest research establishment in the country, established in 1926.

Prof. Bountis took the seat of Complex Systems, a new discipline for the Academy.

Prof. Bountis, director of the Center for Research and Application of Nonlinear Systems of the University of Patras, obtained his Ph.D. degree in Physics from the University of Rochester, N.Y. in 1978, and worked at CalTech in 1979 and has been an Assistant and then Associate Professor at Clarkson University (U.S.A.) until 1986. He has also been invited-researcher in several countries in Europe, Mexico, India, Japan and Brazil. His research has been supported by many U.S., European and Greek grants, most recently by a ERA-Complexity NET project, involving the University of Patras and groups from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, the University of Twente, Netherlands and the University of Manchester. In recent years he has organized 4 international conferences and 22 Summer Schools on Nonlinear Dynamics and Complexity.

Prof. Kostopoulos, member of NCRT



Vassilis Kostopoulos, professor of the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering and head of the Applied Mechanics Lab was appointed by the Minister of Education as a member of the National Council for Research and Technology (NCRT) in March 2014. Prof. Kostopoulos, has acted as a national delegate in the European Framework Program (FP6 and FP7) Committees for Transport, including Aeronautics.

NCRT is the highest consulting body to the state, responsible for defining national policy on Research, Technology and Innovation. It consists of renowned Greek academics of international reputation.

It is also worth observing that the newly appointed President of NCRT, Prof. Joseph Sifakis, Director of the National Centre for Scientific Research of France (CNRS), member of the National Academy and laureate of the 2007 Turing Award, has strong links with the University of Patras as he has been awarded an honorary Professorship by the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of our University (2008).

Nemertes - Ranked first among the Greek Institutional Repositories

University of Patras Institutional Repository "Nemertes", named after a nereid, a mythical nymph who adored truth, was ranked 327th among the 1746 digital repositories of the Ranking Web of Repositories (January 2014 edition). This ranking system includes both institutional (operated by Universities, Institutes, agencies, etc.) and subject repositories (operated by societies and groups on a thematic area), and Nemertes was ranked first among the fourteen Greek repositories, followed by the repositories of National Documentation Center, University of Piraeus, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, National Technical University of Athens, etc.

Nemertes is the repository that hosts the doctoral theses and post-graduate course and dissertations of the University of Patras. It is developed and maintained by the Library and Information Center of the University and its aim is to systematically collect and provide access to the entire scientific and research output of the University. A significant part of the Nemertes development has been funded by the Project Telephaessa of the Library and Information Centre. One of the recent collections is the press clippings that are related to the University of Patras and the Higher Education.

[by Ioannis Tsakonias, Library and Information Center]



Nemertes - Institutional Repository of the University of Patras

Honorary Doctorates of University of Patras

Three great personalities have recently visited our university, they received Honorary Doctorates and given inspiring lectures.



On Friday, January 31, 2014 Prof. **Christos Mantzoros** was ceremoniously awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the School of Health Sciences. Prof. Mantzoros, who draws his origin from Nafplion, Greece, is professor of Medicine in the Medical Schools of the Universities of Harvard and Boston. Prof. Mantzoros is a pioneer in the discovery of fat as an endocrine gland. His team has engaged in a race to identify hormones that are responsible for diseases related to both obesity and anorexia. Their study led to the discovery of new tools and medicines, such as the one that took its name from the Greek word 'thin' (leptin), which is expected to give a new dynamic weapon in treating serious diseases like diabetes.



On Wednesday, February 5, 2014 Nobel laureate (2012) Professor of Physics **Serge Haroche** received an Honorary Doctorate from the Faculty of Sciences. Our Rector, Prof. G. Panayiotakis, made the following statement: "It is a great fortune and honor

for our university to have among its Honorary doctorate laureates Prof. Haroche who was awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize for Physics for ground-breaking experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems, and a study of the particle of light, the photon". Prof. Haroche holds the Chair of Quantum Physics at the Collège de France. The distinguished guest was introduced by the Head of the Physics Department Prof. A. Argyriou.



The Nobel laureate Professor of Medicine **Harald zur Hausen** visited our university participating in the 15th Congress of Medical Chemistry and received an Honorary Doctorate from the Health Sciences School on Thursday, April 10, 2014. Professor zur Hausen, internationally known for his research in cervical cancer, which led to the first

vaccine for it, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology in 2008. He is also a declared philhellene, something which he has practically proved when he pioneered support for Greece and the Greek Universities at a particularly difficult time for our country. In May 2012, as head of 22 eminent scientists, of which 20 are Nobel Prize laureates, he signed the famous letter entitled "Support for Greece", published in Science (Vol. 336, No 6084, pp. 978 - 979) and sent to the European Leadership, an activity that received high publicity.

Searching for ancient Helike

Since 1993 the Department of Geology of the University of Patras has participated in the search for the discovery of Helike, the ancient capital of Achaea which was destroyed by a violent earthquake and tsunami in 373 BC during one of the most impressive catastrophes that occurred in the ancient world.

The multidisciplinary Helike Project started in 1988, at the initiative and under the direction of archaeologist Dora Katsonopoulou and geoarchaeologist Steven Soter of Cornell University.

The Helike Project offers to University students the opportunity to practice in field work and excavation methodology at an international level. The rich findings from the excavations are the subjects of undergraduate and graduate work and diplomas awarded to archaeologists and geologists working with the Project by the Department of Geology of the University of Patras and other foreign Universities.

The most significant discoveries of the Helike Project so far can be summarized as follows: (i) The Early Helladic settlement (3rd millennium BC), a unique pro-

to-urban coastal site, found in the center of the Helike area preserving its contents intact, buried 3-5.5 m below surface. (ii) The Early Hellenistic settlement (late 4th-2nd c. BC), in the western part of the Helike area, developed only a few decades after the 373 BC earthquake and including a well-preserved rare building complex of dye-works. (iii) Mycenaean (13th-12th c. BC) and Geometric remains (late 9th-early 7th c. BC) in the eastern Helike area near the Kerynites river, associated with the Homeric and Geometric Helike, the metropolis of Sybaris founded in the West around 730 BC. (iv) The impressive 1300 m central Roman Road discovered in the Helike plain (most probably the root travelled by Pausanias in the 2nd c. AD), the first technical work of such scale found in the northern Peloponnese. (v) An ancient lagoon located in the center of the Helike plain, where Classical remains most probably associated with the 373 BC catastrophic phenomenon, were found buried. (vi) Remains of several buildings and cemeteries of Roman Helike, uncovered in an extensive area between the Selinous and Kerynites rivers.

More in www.helikeproject.gr

[By D. Katsonopoulou, Archaeologist and Prof. N. Kontopoulos, Dept. Geology]



Excavation and maintenance work in progress at the dye works complex (3rd c. A.D.) in Helike

Patras researchers contribute in the decoding of the Genome of tse tse fly

According to an article that appeared in the Science magazine in April 2014, scientists have cracked the genetic code of the tsetse fly hematophagous, giving hope that the discovery will help in future efforts to combat one of the most devastating to livestock diseases in sub-Saharan Africa.

The bite of a tsetse carrier of the parasite can cause animal trypanosomiasis and sleeping sickness in humans. The genome of the tsetse fly has been sequenced and annotated by an international collective effort of ten years which was managed jointly by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna. In this effort our colleagues K. Boutzis and G. Tsiamis, faculty members of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Management in Agrinio participated as representatives of the Molecular Genetics and Microbiology Group.



700MHZ NMR facility at University of Patras for High-Resolution Conformational studies of Biomolecules & Drug Design Efforts

Since May 2013, the University of Patras and its Pharmacy Department possess a state-of-the-art 700 MHz NMR machine with an ultra-sensitive cryoprobe. This NMR equipment is practically unique not only on the national academic level, but

even in the whole of South-eastern European region, and can be accessed both by research groups and individual users. Its possible applications are vast and include the analysis of various substances with high biological significance (natural products, metabolites, pharmaceutical substances, and even macromolecules such as proteins, nucleic acids and their complexes).

The potential of NMR spectroscopy to acquire information from both the structural and the dynamic properties of a (macro-)molecule, as well as their interaction with other molecules, is indeed priceless and can be exploited in various fields, including Structural Biology, Analytical (Bio)Chemistry and more generally, in all the various branches of Life Sciences. Thus, it provides opportunities for cooperation with different academic and research units, both locally and internationally (Italy, France, Germany etc).

[by Prof. G. Spyroulias, Dept. of Pharmacy]



Joint Research Lab of University of Patras and Vrije Universiteit Brussel

The University of Patras and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel have a longstanding and intense history of collaboration. To further intensify and facilitate this already successful collaboration, both Universities have expressed their commitment to create a Joint Research Laboratory. The Lab will address complex end-to-end (E2E) ICT systems and investigate technologies for (a) multimedia communication platforms - ranging from low-power visual sensor networks to high-end imaging and visualization systems -- and (b) advanced multi-body and UAV robotic platforms.

The Departments of Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE), Physics and Computer Engineering & Informatics (CEID) of the University of Patras excel in the domains of signal, speech and audio processing, image and video processing and analysis, computer vision, wireless communications, AI, 3D, robotics, and embedded systems. This strategic collaboration will enable both partners to strengthen their position in the individual core competence domains and deliver interdisciplinary research contributions to the vast domain of E2E ICT systems.



Right to Left: Profs Skodras, Kyprianos, Schelkens, Cornelis, Panayiotakis, Tzes

Moreover, joint European projects, publications and MSc/PhD student courses will be pursued. The collaboration will act as a platform enhancing student mobility until it reaches the European goals of exchange of human capital. Its goal also to connect to the companies in local incubation ecosystems and to boost the local economies by an increased knowledge transfer both at an academic and at B2B level.

The joint laboratory will be chaired by Prof. Athanassios Skodras (University of Patras) and by Prof. Peter Schelkens (Vrije Universiteit Brussel). Prof. Jan Cornelis, vice-Rector Internationalization of

the Vrije Universiteit Brussel said: "I was there from the start of the biomedical engineering course in Patras, I fell in love with the place, went back every year and made new friends, we published together and the community of involved researchers became bigger and bigger. Now it is time to set up a structure. We received an enthusiastic 'go ahead and do it fast' message from Rector George Panayiotakis, when we presented him with the plan, the task forces and the names of the laboratories and persons involved."

[by Prof. A. Skodras, Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept]

Listening to the voice of forest

Once more our University is being recognized as one of the top leaders of innovative research at international level. The LIFE project AmiBio (Automatic Acoustic Monitoring and Inventorying of Biodiversity - LIFE08 NAT/GR/000539), coordinated by Prof. Nikos Fakotakis, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, has been selected as the "Best of the Best" LIFE Nature or Information project of 2013.

The AmiBio project aims at constructing and deploying autonomous multi-sensor monitoring stations and automatically analyzes their transmitted measurements, for long-term monitoring of biodiversity activity trends in the region of Hymettus, a mountainous area located at the eastern periphery of Athens. The acoustic monitoring stations, which are non-intrusive and cost-effective compared to human expeditions, assist in systematic seasonal and longitudinal long-term environmental monitoring that will allow the automatic inventory and examination of the biological diversity of the



The Coordinator of Amibio project, Prof. N. Fakotakis (second from left) receives the prize of best of the best LIFE project, among colleagues and EU officials.

study area. The monitoring stations record audio signals, temperature, humidity, illumination, wind speed and direction. They then transmit these data to a central station far away from the monitoring region. Special computer software at the central station, deployed in the premises of the Uni-

versity of Patras, further perform automatic species identification and statistical analysis, thus contributing to a continuous biodiversity survey of the designated area. During project implementation, a fully functioning system has been deployed and exploited, with a total of 17 monitoring stations distributed at all habitat types found at Hymettus: phrygana, maquis, pine forest and inland rocks and cliffs. A unique sound collection of Greek soundscapes of over 15 TB of audio recordings (48 kHz, 16 bit, stereo), has been long-term stored, and an archive of over 28000 reference sound recording for 325 sound-producing animals has been produced. During the project, the list of sound-producing animal species for the Hymettus area has been increased from 132 to 180 species, and 70 species specific detectors have been implemented.

More: <http://www.amibio-project.eu>

[by Nikos Fakotakis, Prof. Dept. of Electrical Engineering]



Greek and German researchers during field work

Our great benefactors

The University of Patras has the fortune to have received the generous support of great philanthropists who support our students and our mission, following the tradition of many great benefactors of Greek learning institutions through the ages. In particular, in the relatively short life of our University, we should mention by name two great benefactors: Dimitrios Sfikas and Corine Mentzelopoulos.



Dimitrios Sfikas is a man of low profile who does not like publicity. He comes from Patras, is a graduate in Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture of the University of Hanover, and has made a career in ship-building and shipping in many countries around the world. In 2004 he approached the University

authorities in search for a suitable project to support. It was agreed to be the Rehabilitation Centre for Spinal Injuries that was subsequently built and was inaugurated in 2011. The project of building the center from a budget of around 3,000,000 Euros was covered by the donation of D. Sfikas. The Center, built next to the University Hospital in our Campus, is part of the Medical School, and promotes teaching and research in orthopedics.



Corinne Mentzelopoulos is the daughter of the successful Greek entrepreneur Andreas Mentzelopoulos, who was born in Patras and made a fortune in France and other parts of the world. She is a businesswoman owning and running the prestigious Bordeaux wine estate, Château Margaux. In 2007, Corinne

Mentzelopoulos with her husband Hubert Leven, both well-known philanthropists who often visit Patras, offered the University of Patras several research scholarships so that outstanding alumni can pursue postgraduate studies in North American universities. Five such scholarships were established in memory of her father ("Andreas Mentzelopoulos scholarships") of \$ 50,000 each, to be given for two consecutive years. The University of Patras agreed to participate in the funding of scholarships and to contribute 25% of the grant. The scholarships were first awarded in the academic year 2008-2009, and have been administered ever since, 36 graduates have so far received them, with a total cost exceeding \$ 1,500,000. Recently, a similar scholarship scheme has started for undergraduate and postgraduate students of our University.

Ms. Mentzelopoulos has sent to @up the following message:

"It has been a privilege to develop and support, in partnership with the University of Patras, the Andreas Mentzelopoulos Scholarship program for the past 7 years. The students who have benefited from those scholarships have earned them by their sustained efforts and ambition, at a time when the socio-economic context has made success all the more difficult. More than ever it is now that Greece needs to invest in the brightest elements of its young generation, those who will become the leaders of Greece's economic, scientific, social and political renewal. I take pride in your success and wish you all the best for a bright future. "

Promoting Biomedical Engineering Education: The Tempus BME-ENA Project

The University of Patras (represented by the Biomedical Technology Unit - BITU, www.bitu.upatras.gr, headed by Prof. Nicolas Pallikarakis) is for the second time Coordinator of a TEMPUS IV project. The BME-ENA - Biomedical Engineering Education Tempus Initiative in Eastern Neighbouring Area Project (www.bme-ena.net) aims to promote Biomedical Engineering (BME) Education in the EU and Eastern Neighbouring Area (ENA), through the creation of 4 joint multidisciplinary MSc programs in the field of BME in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, which will enable these ENA countries to face the challenges of biomedical technology through capacity building measures. The programs will be designed and implemented according to the most recent development in the field and following the recommendations of the previous very successful TEMPUS CRH-BME - Curricula Reformation and Harmonisation in the field of Biomedical Engineering Project (www.crbme.upatras.gr), also coordinated by BITU. The BME-ENA project consortium consists of 7 EU and 10 ENA Partner Institutions from 11 countries.



Photo from the BME-ENA 1st General Assembly and Kick-off meeting, UPAT, April 2014, Patras, Greece

The 1st General Assembly and Kick-off Meeting of the BME-ENA project was held in Patras, Greece, on 28-29 April 2014, and concluded with success. With this occasion, a Workshop on "Biomedical Engineering Education in Europe", endorsed by the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE), the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering (IAMBE) and the Hellenic Society for Biomedical Technology (ELEVIT), was held on April 28th 2014 at the Conference and Cultural Centre of the University of Patras, Greece. Among the Speakers, Prof. Ratko Magjarić, IFMBE President, presented an overview of "BME Programs in European Universities" nowadays. In addition, Tomaz Jarm, Associate Professor at the University of Ljubljana, presented the "Generic curriculum of BME postgraduate studies", an outcome of the CRH-BME Project. The positive students' experience from the multinational character of the BME MSc Program running at the University of Patras during the last 25 years was expressed during the presentation of Ms Evgenia Papavasileiou, currently second-year student of the program.

During the discussion, all Workshop participants emphasized the need to promote BME Education in Europe through the creation, harmonization and updating of study programs, in order to prepare a new generation of skilful Biomedical Engineers, able to face challenges in this rapidly evolving field.

[by Prof. N. Pallikarakis, Dept of Medicine]

Patras - Canada: a strong relationship

The links between the University of Patras and Canadian Universities are longstanding. From the time that distinguished professors such as V. Makios came to Patras from Carleton University in Ottawa in the 70s, until today, many prominent faculty members of our university maintain and develop partnerships with Canadian universities.

A recent event that contributed towards strengthening relations between Greek, Cypriot and Canadian Universities was organized last September in Athens by the Canadian Embassy in Athens. University of Patras was represented in the event by Deputy Rector Nikolaos Avouris, who signed a new Memorandum of Cooperation with Simon Fraser University which includes, among other things, exchange of students under the supervision of Prof. Eugenia Arvanitis, of the Early Childhood Education Department, supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.



The representatives of the University of Patras and Simon Fraser University sign the MOU

From Hong Kong to Patras

On December 18 we welcomed a group of students and faculty of the Chinese University of Hong Kong on a tour in Greek historic sites and Universities. They were welcomed by authorities and the International Relations Office personnel. During the talks they demonstrated particular interest in the new Center of Greek Language and Civilization that is going to be inaugurated soon in our University, so they promised to return soon for a longer stay.



The Chinese guests posing with their banner in front of the 'double pi statue' symbol of our University

A letter from Hong Kong

The warm welcome by the academics of the University of Patras last year conveyed to us a message that we will be able to have more future academic contacts in Greece through Patras.

Last year, from December 13 to 24, when I organised a 12-day tour of archaeological sites and museums in Greece after offering a course on the history of ancient Greece at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a group of 40 present and past MA students courageously joined the tour.

From the very beginning they knew that we were to visit 9 archaeological sites and 15 museums during the tour. Fortunately, they were not disappointed and were very pleased to have the rare chance to visit the University of Patras too.

Through the kind liaison between Dr. Brian Olsen and Prof. Eugenia Arvanitis, we were able to stop over Patras on our way to Delphi from Athens through Mycenae and Olympia. We were welcomed by Prof. Avouris, the Deputy Rector of the University and Dr. Helene Simoni of the International Relations Office. The friendly reception impressed us very much and information and gifts from the University were received by us gratefully. Some of us immediately raised the question of future contacts and studies in Patras too. We were very glad to learn that a Centre for the Greek Culture and Language will be set up soon.

Hopefully, some of us will join your program in the future.

Louis Ha, Ph.D. Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of History, Chinese University of Hong Kong"

Training the European Libraries

Last September, the Library and Information Center (LIS) of the University of Patras organized an Erasmus Staff Mobility Week for Library Personnel. The event was held from September 2 to 6, 2013, and the LIS personnel was deluged with applications from all over Europe. Twenty out of 85 people, were selected, based on their professional duties and interests, their age and their country of origin. The participants represented 13 European countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, UK, Ireland, Spain, Hungary, Croatia, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and Germany). The first-day sessions were held in the Museum of Science and Technology and included presentations from the University of Patras, the Erasmus Mobility Program, the LIS, as well as tours in the Museum and the Library. The following days the participants were actively involved in workshops that showcased the daily activities in LIS, its research programs, the ways to provide high class services in an environment of crisis, and activities from the Libraries of the participants, and the social program that revealed the beauties of Patras and Achaea (from the newly established Archaeological Museum to the Rio-Antirio Bridge). This September, the Library will organize the second mobility week of this program and is already accepting applications.



LIS personnel at the Museum of Science and Technology

[by Ioannis Tsakonias, Library and Information Center]

Staff Mobility – “To know us better”

Maria Kotsari, member of our administrative staff, recently visited UPV - Universitat Politècnica de València under Erasmus staff training program. Maria participated in a week-long meeting where she made a presentation of the University of Patras structure and services and discussed with peers the connection between the University and social needs. She shared with us some thoughts about Erasmus staff mobility after her visit.



When you are part of a team with multi-cultural background the important issue is to put effort in “knowing each other better”. In the context of such a meeting, presentations of educational systems, discussions, and social events are oppor-

tunities for realizing that Higher Education Institutions face similar problems and challenges across Europe.

In the meeting in Valencia, participants from Poland, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Mediterranean countries, Finland, Denmark and Germany made presentations about their institutions, their historical backgrounds, educational structures and networks of services.

What is the value of such a meeting? In my view, there are many good reasons to attend such an event. However, the most important of all is to learn how other educational institutions face their social and political environments. So the next thought is whether we could change our attitude so that we can become more responsive to the needs of our society. How is the relation between education and society shaped? Is our professional development in the right direction, so that we can be sensitive to social problems? Are the needs of modern society properly addressed by our Universities and educational system in general?

Coming back home after the meeting, I still look for answers to these questions, and I feel I am more alarmed by the difficulty of the problem. Being puzzled I wonder what the impact will be on my everyday practice. Am I going to start thinking and acting differently? In any case, Erasmus staff training programs are opportunities for reflection and increased self-awareness at a personal and institutional level.

[By Maria Kotsari, Philosophy Department]

ERASMUS+

Erasmus+ (2014-2020) also called Erasmus Plus, is the new EU funding programme for education, training, youth and sport. The new Erasmus+ programme combines all the EU's past schemes including the Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig), Youth in Action and five international cooperation programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries).

Within the frame of the Erasmus+ programme, the University of Patras has conducted over 200 Bilateral Agreements with European Universities all over Europe that facilitate the mobility of students, teaching staff and administrative staff. The University also promotes the Erasmus+ placements mobility for students in companies, laboratories of Universities, schools, industry and organisations all over Europe. In fact the University is classified in recent years within the top triad of Greek Universities regarding the number of outgoing students participating in the mobility for placements (internships).

The main objective of the University is through the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme not only to maintain and upgrade the existing bilateral agreements with European universities, but also to promote new high-level agreements with European universities and research institutes in Europe. Internationalization and openness to cooperation with prestigious universities in third countries outside Europe is considered a necessity in order to upgrade academic quality, increase worldwide recognition and benefit the multiple advantages that will arise.

The University of Patras welcomes International students from all over the world through exchange programmes to study or do an internship and become members of the University community.

Incoming students will have the opportunity to attend an individualized study programme since all undergraduate courses are taught in Greek, to take courses on Greek language and culture and be hosted in the dormitories for International students.

The University's aim is all International students to become the best ambassadors of the University and Greece in general, when they will return back to their countries.

[By Polyxeni Christia, International Relations Office]



Erasmus+



Y.Samy graduate of the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautics Engineering, who visited Von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics in Belgium, last year, through the Erasmus LLP Placement Program, posing with colleagues of the Institute during the visit.

University of Patras donates life



The Center of Donors of Bone Marrow (ΚΕΔΜΟΡ) announced that one of its donors was found compatible with a receiver abroad. This was the fourth case of successful transplant between non-related individuals that the Center has helped to identify.

The data base of the Center has information from over 4,500 donors and it is the national contact point with international registries. Registering with the center is a simple process that takes only a few minutes.

More information at www.xarisezoi.gr

University of Patras: A Green University



Goal: to transform the University of Patras into a more sustainable institution. Establishment of the Committee of Environmental Management and the Office of Campus Sustainability are the first steps for accomplishing the target. Their scope is to set goals and identify opportunities for sustainable operations.

Recycle, reduce, reuse: recycling of paper, plastic, batteries, ink cartridges, light bulbs, hazardous wastes and e-waste are well organized in various areas of the campus. Reduction of waste can be attained through people's awareness (related leaflets and posters have been created). Reuse of paper, old furniture

and equipment has been recently introduced.

Education and Research: 10 postgraduate programs have been established in the past years, several undergraduate courses, seminars and lectures have taken place, and high-value and pioneer research have been done on bio-fuels, waste valorization, renewable energy sources, fuel cells, bio-hydrogen production and greenhouse gases.

Environmental awareness: tree-planting and volunteering activities have been organized on several occasions. A voluntary group from undergraduate and postgraduate students has been created in order to diffuse the information to the campus. Reducing of energy consumption can be established through management schemes and people's awareness.

Next steps: to calculate the carbon footprint of the University Campus, to set an environmental management system and to inspire people for energy saving and sustainable actions.

[By Prof. G. Angelopoulos, Engineering School]

@up event

On May 27th our University periodic edition @up in collaboration with the University Library organized a concert and a wall art event at the main entrance of the University Library.

This was an opportunity to promote our publication and at the same time allow creativity on the wall by graffiti artists. The event was well attended and received positive comments. It will be repeated soon.



Pharmacy Department moves to its brand new building

The Department of Pharmacy, one of the important centers of excellence of our University, was for years housed in a number of small buildings, distant from each another, that did not serve the needs of students and staff. After a difficult course of many years, the vision of a

modern building of Pharmacy, to which many have contributed, seems to be coming close to reality. In recent months laboratories gradually moved from the prefabricated buildings to the new Pharmacy building, designed by the famous architect A.Tombazis. In March 2014 the

Department Secretariat and Department Head moved, followed by a number of Labs. Prof. Sotirios Nikolaropoulos said to @up that the new building marks a new start for the department since the new premises "are a new humane building that produces energy and life", as he stressed .



View of the entrance of the new building

Scanning the sea bed in the vessel of the Geology Department



Prof. Papatheodorou with his students aboard vessel "Irene"

A group of students of the Geology Department, went for a field trip in Patraikos Gulf, in the vessel of the Laboratory of Marine Geology and Physical Oceanography. This lab studies environmental issues, but also explores forgotten shipwrecks by bringing them to light and relating historical findings to their evolution in geological time, all with oceanographic expeditions organized in Greece and abroad.

A similar experience was given to us by our Professor Georgios Papatheodorou. The experience included a memorable field trip with a research vessel off the golf of Patras, where we

were initiated to the scientific sea world. As soon as we were introduced to sea regulations and equipped with the necessary equipment, the research journey had just begun. Objective? The mapping of the seabed. The side scan sonar, jokingly called 'the fish' was the ideal system for fast scanning of large surfaces, regardless of the environmental conditions. Our professor, with almost surgical movements, threw it into the sea and, as if by magic, gave us the first recordings. Amazing Technology!

[By Amalia Katsifara]

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5th Cycling run from the University Campus to Patras

For the 5th consecutive year the University Sports Center organized the Cycling Day, on May 11, 2014. Around 400 cyclists took part in the run that promoted cycling in the University campus and the city. There is a big demand for more favorable policies towards cyclists, as Patras is a city with very few cycling lanes. Since the event was close to the Municipality elections, it was an excellent opportunity for the University community to stress their point for the benefits of cycling.



News Brief

Our [facebook page](#) was launched earlier this year. Within a few months it reached around 6,000 followers and an active community was quickly built around it.

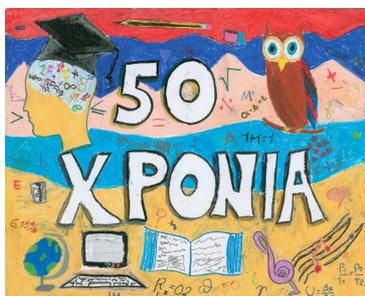


Professor Emeritus of U. Patras G. Dassios was appointed as the first president of the newly established National Exams Organization, which is the independent body to manage the university entry exams in Greece.

The scholarships of the basic research program Karatheodoris were announced in April. This is an internal fund that awards scholarships for Doctoral and Post-doctoral research. 19 doctoral and 5 post-doctoral scholarships were awarded this year. Overall, the Karatheodoris program has awarded around 500 scholarships since its start in 1998 with a budget of over 10 M. euros.

The highlight of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of our University so far has been the Concert by Maria Farantouri, on March 12. A packed audience at the large hall of the Conference and Cultural Centre of the University applauded this legend of Greek music. Maria is a famous Greek singer and also a political and cultural activist that has collaborated with prominent Greek composers such as Mikis Theodorakis. Since she celebrates this year her 50 years in musical performance, as she told us during the concert, this has been a joint anniversary event.

A colourful poster was prepared on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our University, by the 4th year pupils of the Primary Experimental School of our University. It will be framed and used to decorate the Rector's office. Thank you, kids.



In November 2013 representatives of the Centre of Greek Studies of the University of Harvard, visited the University and discussed collaborations of the Centre with the University of Patras in the current academic year. Coordinator of the collaboration is for the University of Patras Dr. Valakas, associate professor of the Department of Philosophy. The program offers a scholarship to an undergraduate student of the Department of Philology, University of Patras, for Practical Training in the Centre. During the meeting the two parties also agreed on the participation (i) of a member of faculty staff and (ii) two students, all from the Faculty of Humanities and

Social Sciences of the University of Patras, as fellow young researchers and students of the Summer Program to be held by the Centre in Olympia and Nafplion.

On February 14, the Museum of Science and Technology organized a celebration for the world radio day. The event, jointly organized with UP FM, the university's radio station, involved seven schools of the region that had prepared radio programs to be broadcasted live for most of the day. The schools participated in a thematic network that was coordinated by the Museum. The pupils also visited the exhibition of the museum that currently hosts old radio sets and sound equipment.

Ask the kids how to get over the economic crisis. A high school competition for an essay on how to get over the economic crisis was organized by the Department of Business Administration of our University. The ideas of the young students were related to innovation, entrepreneurship as well as fighting corruption and attaining sound leadership. The prizes were given in a ceremony that took place in the Ceremonial Hall of the University on February 6, 2014, and attracted publicity by local media.



The head of Business Administration Dept Prof. Siroiopoulos (left) with the prize winners

In March 2014 our Library and Information Center signed a cooperation agreement with the Municipal Library of Patras. In a joint public statement of both the Mayor of Patras Y. Dimaras and the Rector of the University of Patras, Prof. G. Panayiotakis, it is declared that this cooperation can be beneficial for both parties and especially for the citizens of Patras that can use the advanced know-how of the University Library, especially in digital media.

In April/May 2014, the University of Patras hosted the annual event of the biggest student organization in Europe: AEGEE. This was the Patras Spring Agora Meeting. Students from around Europe flooded the campus for 4 days and had lively meetings in the Conference Centre.



Spring Agora of AEGEE student group, U. of Patras Conference Centre, April 30, 2014.

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