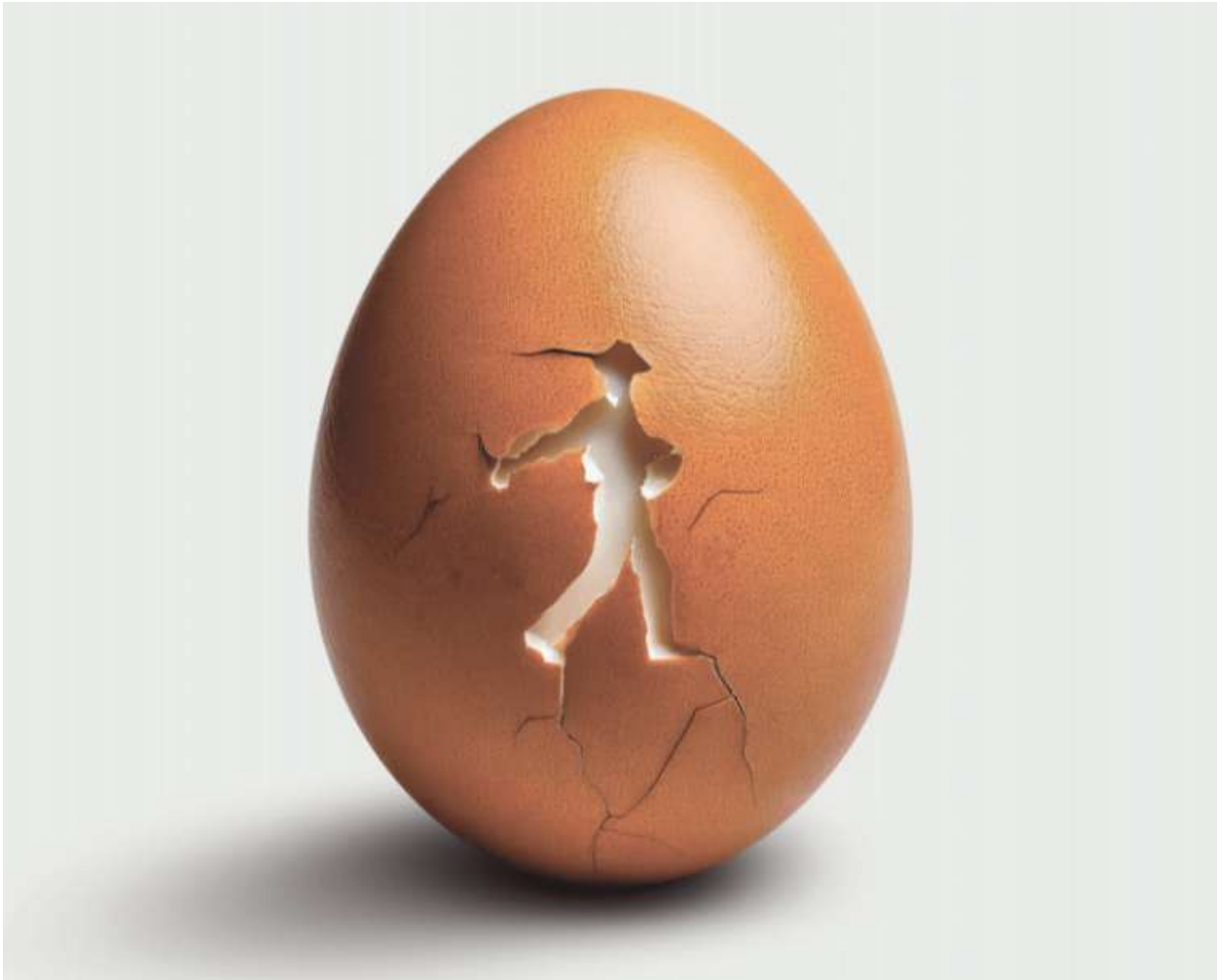


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# THE **sower**

*Thessalonica Agricultural & Industrial Institute*



The Impact of Giving

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# From the President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter, “The Sower”. In this issue, you will read about the impact of giving: the motivational impact that gifts have on our scholars, our educational initiatives, and campus and program development; about the generous gifts you have been donating to the School over the years.

A recent transformation of our agricultural machinery lab to host innovative technology and farm equipment for vocational education and training, made possible through a generous donation from Ariane Condellis, reconnected the School with companies in this field and led to scholarship support. Other examples include the new “Anna Rotsios” research lab at Perrotis College supported by Trustee Barbara Heming, recognition of our faculty, and training in regenerative agriculture, initiatives which broaden the College’s outreach.

You will read about achievements of our students, faculty and alumni. There is no greater reward for our collective efforts than seeing members of the AFS community excel and lead by example. As we continue to focus on providing a life-changing educational experience, we value professional development opportunities like the one you will find in this issue supported by Trustee Deborah Androus.

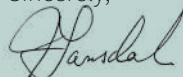
Recent Farm School events in the United States and Greece celebrated the impact of giving throughout the School’s history. Our Annual Benefit Dinner in NY raised significant funds for the Scholarship Program, while the celebration of 120 years in Thessaloniki recognized donors, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends. Thanks to the support of all the people who contributed to our Annual Fund this past year, we are able to continue our mission of service.

We invite you to join our networking events organized in coordination with the Embassy of Greece to the U.S. on February 18 in Washington D.C., and the Consulate General of Greece in Los Angeles on February 22. For more information, please contact: [events@afs.edu.gr](mailto:events@afs.edu.gr).

We also encourage you to introduce the Greek Summer program to your family and friends. During Greek Summer, participants undergo a metamorphosis of thought and spirit as they experience the impact of giving back to the community. For more information, please visit: [www.afsgreeksummer.com](http://www.afsgreeksummer.com).

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the American Farm School. Best wishes for a healthy and productive 2025. Χρόνια Πολλά!

Sincerely,



Jeff Lansdale, Ph.D.

President

American Farm School

# Vocational Education at Front and Center: A Transformative Gift by Ariane Condellis

Ariane Condellis, wife of the late AFS Trustee Pavlos Condellis, recently made a generous donation towards the renovation of the Agricultural Machinery Center, to be named the “Pavlos Condellis Vocational Center” on campus. The Center hosts the new Junior College (SAEK) specialization “Agricultural Machinery Technician” and it also benefits Vocational High School students.

This gift officially kick-started our Capital Campaign to revitalize the School’s Educational Farm aiming to reposition AFS back at the epicenter of agricultural innovation. The new Center, equipped with upgraded technology, will enhance the School’s credibility and leadership as a regional hub of education for sustainable farming practices.

Mrs Condellis’ vision was specific, purposeful, and inspiring. It motivated us all – administration and faculty – to rethink our programs and, most importantly, rethink the example by which we lead. Her giving also motivated companies in the sector to support this initiative through scholarships, recruitment efforts and in-kind donations of technologically advanced equipment, broadening the impact of her contribution beyond campus.



# Student, Faculty and Alumni Achievements

Students from the Elementary School, the Haseotes Middle School and the High Schools (both General and Vocational) were recently recognized at various highly competitive and challenging National and International Physics competitions attracting ambitious students from all over Greece.

The Elementary School awardees are: Angeliki Mouratidou Karatzi, Anastasios Karagounis and Ioannis Hatzivrettas, while the successful Haseotes Middle School students of the 12th Panhellenic Physics competition are: Minoas Mavrakis, Georgios Vrohidis, Ioannis Tsourlinis, Leonidas Psomas, Savvas Teneketzidis and Georgios Tsagaris. Georgios Vrohidis was also awarded 2nd place at the 5th Panhellenic “We Want Experiments” Physics Competition. His winning participation was a seismograph operating with arduino microprocessor, which he built during his physics class at the Middle School’s STEM labs. The High School students awarded are: Aristides Moschopoulos, Katerina Boudouri, Nefeli Theoharidou and Angelos Theodosiadis. Their recognition highlights their problem-solving skills, their ability to apply knowledge to experimental procedures, and their ingenuity in approaching complex scientific issues.

Our High School teacher Yiota Hatzopoulou was awarded 3rd place in Europe (among 110,000 candidates) at the 2024 Junior Achievement Europe Teacher of the Year Competition, celebrating exceptional educators who have made an outstanding impact in the field of entrepreneurship education. Yiota has been an inspirational figure at the American Farm School since 2010, teaching Mathematics and coordinating the Entrepreneurship Clubs. Under her mentorship, AFS students have consistently excelled, winning multiple awards at national and European levels.

Another recent achievement is the Farmer of the Year award received by Perrotis College graduate Savvas Kilatzidis (class of 2012). Savvas studied Sustainable Agriculture with a focus on Precision Agriculture on a full scholarship and now produces and exports more than 8,000 tons of corn and wheat in Drama, northern Greece. He continuously invests in technology and has introduced state-of-the-art smart systems to manage and expand his production. In his speech, he made special reference to the Perrotis College professors who taught him the value of the land and the need to implement sustainable practices.



Yiota Hatzopoulou and Greek Minister of Education, Mr. Pierrakakis



Haseotes Middle School students

## Dr. Drew Baker Takes Campus by Storm!

Thanks to the support of Trustee Deborah Androus, education specialist Dr. Drew Baker (from Richmond, Virginia) trained AFS teachers and faculty (Pre-K through graduate studies) in mid-November on campus. Dr. Baker offered his expertise in student engagement, visible learning, proactive classroom management, and deep learning and durable skills. His training reinvigorated our educators, who in turn impressed Drew. He called this experience a “career high”, a testament to the quality of education the School offers.



# Alumni spotlight: Stella Sapantzi (Class of 2020)

*The amazing journey of Stella Sapantzi: From AFS to a Harvard University Lab!*

Stella Sapantzi, AFS Class of 2020 from Perea, joined the Harvard Medical School Shu Lab as a Research Technician in early September. She completed her undergraduate studies in Neuroscience at Brown University last spring and is now pursuing her research goals at the Cutaneous Biology Research Center.

Stella learned about the American Farm School through a family friend and decided to apply in hope that it would support her academic goals in neuroscience. She received a full scholarship and immediately became very active in STEM associated programs and competitions, including an experimental lettuce cultivation using nanobubble technology, the F1 in Schools Competition and the European Union Science Olympiad (EUSO).



Stella secured a scholarship to study at Brown with the help and support of the AFS Study USA program that offers guidance to students interested in pursuing undergraduate studies in the United States.

Stella has fond memories of her experience at AFS. She took part in unique activities, such as driving tractors, milking and feeding cows, as well as growing vegetables and participating in making yogurt and cheese. She is passionate about the field of neuroscience and her role at the Harvard Lab, where she is testing cancer drugs on cell cultures. Stella is another vibrant example of the impact of giving at the American Farm School.

# 120 Years of AFS Celebrated in Thessaloniki



The unique history of the American Farm School was celebrated in late November at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall with the participation of friends, supporters, donors, parents, students, Trustees and staff. About 900 people honored the School's history, and left excited for the future.

The program included speeches by President Lansdale, who talked about the past, highlighting the lasting vision of the Founder Dr. John Henry House and his wife Susan Adeline

to prepare stewards of the land. U.S. Consul General in Thessaloniki Jerry Ismail, focused on the present: "The American Farm School is not just a place of education—it's a transformative force, shaping the future of sustainable agriculture, empowering underserved communities, and fostering cross-cultural understanding between the United States, Greece, and the Balkans." AFS Trustee George Milonas talked about the future, focusing on the innovative programs of Perrotis College and their contribution in shaping responsible leaders.



*AFS Choir*

The program continued with a performance by AFS students who participated in a presentation that transcended generations. We invite you to watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eTHvrz9WLw>

During the ceremony, the following major donors were recognized for the generosity of their giving: Dimitris Zannas (in memoriam), Association of Friends of AFS, Dean Dakolias, Alpha Bank, A.G. Leventis Foundation, Seth Frank, Ariane Condellis, Vasilios S. and Aphrodite B. Haseotes Family Foundation, Bodossaki Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Panteliadis Family, Athanassios Martinos, and benefactress Aliko Perroti.

The program concluded with 160 students participating in the AFS choir.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the School's history!



*AFS Trustee Theodora Valentis receives the award in honor of her grandmother and Honorary Trustee, benefactress Aliko Perroti Dr. Jeff Lansdale, Mrs. Annie Levis, Dr. George Milonas*



# In Gratitude

The American Farm School thanks the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations for their generous support during the previous fiscal year, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. In these extraordinary times, their commitment to the Institution and its ideals has been exemplary, allowing the School to successfully achieve its educational goals.

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Eleni Ivou  
Ilias Kalozakis  
Georgios Kapagkis  
Aggeliki Karamitsani  
Vasilis Karamitsanis  
Georgios Kasapis  
Popi Katopi  
Katherine and Kristina Kaye  
A.Konstantinidou S.A.  
Georgios Konstantinou  
Vasilis Konstantinou  
Giorgos Kouteranis  
Ioannis Lamprinakis  
Annie Levis  
Petros Levis  
Nikolaos Liakouris  
Avgi Markopoulou  
Maria Moutafi  
Arietta Moutousi  
Panagiotis Ninios  
Stella Ntoka  
Eleni Ntompridou  
Tatiana Organtzi  
Panikos Palaontas  
Christina and Dimitris Panteleimonitis  
Sofia Papadopoulou  
Afroditi Papasimakopoulou  
Maria Papasteriadou  
Katerina Papoutsis  
Athina Peristeropoulou  
Alexandros Petrogonas

Isidoros Provatos  
Maria Psinaki  
Olga Rafaelidou  
Foteini Sarantidou  
Maria Savva  
Giovanni Serafini  
Maria Shuman  
Ktima Sigala Oinopoiitiki S.A.  
Androniko Sinioti  
Ailleas Skaperdas  
Charlotte Skarpidi  
Nikolaos Sossidis  
Maria Soumelidou  
Spick and Span S.A.  
Eleni Stavroulia  
Effi Strataki  
Sofia Stratidou  
Syllogos Filon Maltas  
Syllogos Goneon and Kidemonon Mathiton  
AFS  
Syllogos Kathigiton Lykeion AFS  
Eva Symeonidou  
Theodora Tarabani  
Themistoklis Tarasidis (AFS '92)  
Olga Thomaidou  
Elisavet Trimi  
Eleni Tsakmakidou  
Paraskevi Tsakona-Vragkou  
Rodoula Tsalouchidou  
Farmakeio Tsikoudi Anna Evangelia  
Eleni Tsitsirigkou  
Vasilis Tsobanoglou  
Eleni Tzartzoura  
Hara Tzavara  
Alexandros Vaidakis  
Afroditi Valogiorgi  
Danai and Kostas Vergas  
Liza Vogiatzoglou  
Diogenis and Olina Zahariadis  
Katerina Zampekou  
Despoina Zeimpeki  
Stamatia Zisiadi

# Annual Benefit Dinner in New York City

American Farm School friends and supporters joined the School's Annual Benefit Dinner held on October 17 at the Union League Club in New York City. President Lansdale welcomed guests and talked about the history of the School; a story against all odds, formed by the Founder's exceptional vision to provide a system of education that would train the whole person: the hands, the head, and the heart.

Keynote speaker author Eleni N. Gage referred to her experience living in a Greek village and highlighted the importance of the Greek Summer program: "Living in a Greek village gave me a new world, one that was intimate and hyperlocal. But it also gave me the entire world, an opportunity to live in and love a

culture that was different from the one I lived and worked in every day. And that is the gift that the American Farm School gives its students—not just to get to know and love Greece, but to get to know themselves, to understand the world, and, perhaps, love its citizens more."

The event, organized by Chair of the Development Committee in the U.S. Joannie Danielides and underwritten by Trustee Barbara Heming, raised significant funds for the School. All proceeds will support the Scholarship Program, as well as our innovative educational programs in agriculture, the environment and other life sciences related to our sustainable future.



Anastasia Marty and Dr. Jeff Lansdale



Maria Ognjanovich, Frances Manthos, Peter Schube, Dan Morgan, Chrissy Sayare



Eleni Gage and Joannie Danielides



AFS Alumnus Fotis Kourziotis (Class of 2024)



Barbara Heming

# Planned Giving

Planned Giving allows supporters of the American Farm School to integrate gifts into their overall financial, tax, and estate planning. A planned gift enables a donor to make a lasting impact by contributing significantly to the School and making a difference by helping future generations of students.

## METAMORPHOSIS SOCIETY

The Metamorphosis Society recognizes and honors the generosity and foresight of those individuals who have made provisions in their estate that include the American Farm School and who have appraised the School of their intentions. The name “Metamorphosis” is chosen for its deeper connection to the School’s tradition of providing education that brings about positive change, or “metamorphosis,” in the individual.

*David Acker, Peter Bien, Emily Carey, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Carson Jr., Marvin Fisber, Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Doolas, Mr. and Mrs. George Draper, Phillip G. and Mary Foote, Barbara K. Heming, Sarab Holland, Elizabeth (Tad) Lansdale, Jeff and Marjorie Lansdale, Susan Mees Longfield, Daniel and Mayo Morgan, Nicholas Pizaris, Gail Schoppert, and Nancy Worcester.*

## BEQUESTS

By including the American Farm School in their wills, the following individuals provided a final gift that will strengthen the School’s endowment or support other educational needs.

*Theodora Abrames, Charlotte Armstrong, Charles Storrs Barrows III, James Michael Broomas, Gregor L. Calender, Esther Carbart, Jean S. Crosby, Maria Couvaras, Hugh Cullman, Alexander Drapos, Angeline Ducas, Lula Ducas, Marvin Fisber, Claire C. Katsanis, Elizabeth M. Godley, Alice L. Hansen, Truda Jewett, Darlene Keeley, Edmund Keeley, Eve Curie Labouisse, Clara Nickolson, Eleanor McKay Norris, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Paterson, Sr., Andrew Ponas, Ruth Schoppert, Aristides Sideropoulos, Mary R. and Charles F. Lowrey, Mary Elizabeth Stewart, Barbara L. Wood, Charles L. and Joan Thomas, and Winifred E. Weter.*

## ESTATES AND TRUSTS

By creating an estate or trust, the following individuals provide annual support to the American Farm School that will last past their lifetimes.

*Esther Carbart, Ernest Thomas Cbepou, Philip and Hazel Constantinides, Lois Kerimis, Fred W. Kolb, Mary P. Gill, Henry T. Maijgren, Demosthenis Raptelis, and Dean C. Zutes.*

For more information about joining the Metamorphosis Society and other Planned Giving opportunities, please contact Laura Sommers at [lsommers@amerfarm.org](mailto:lsommers@amerfarm.org)



# Anna Rotsios Lab: A Research Nest

The academic year started on an inspiring note for Perrotis College students: the new “Anna Rotsios Sustainable Agriculture Lab”, funded by Trustee Barbara Heming in loving memory of Anna Rotsios, mother of former Dean Dr. Kostas Rotsios and longtime AFS ambassador. This laboratory has elevated the students’ educational experience and research opportunities in comprehensive chemical and physical soil analysis. The lab offers hands-on training for undergraduate and graduate students and provides services to producers and farmers through the College’s extension programs, aiming to promote sustainable practices throughout the production process.



Barbara Heming’s generosity has set in motion a variety of initiatives on campus, from the development of the Haseotes Middle School to the Scholarship Program and significant capital projects. Her recent gift in memory of her close friend benefits a community of deserving learners and touches the lives of many – just like Anna Rotsios did during her lifelong involvement with the American Farm School.



## Regenerative Agriculture Workshop at Perrotis College

With the support of the European Union, the EIT Food network and Perrotis College co-organized a workshop on Regenerative Agriculture on campus. Experienced agronomists, trainers and researchers presented the requirements for a farmer to transition to regenerative farming practices. Regenerative agriculture is a holistic land management practice that harnesses the power of plant photosynthesis to close the carbon cycle and increase soil health and fertility and agro-ecosystem resilience.



Attendees from Greece learned how to improve soil health and increase biodiversity, improve agro-ecosystem services and enhance farm productivity, reduce their dependence on chemical inputs and adopt sustainable agricultural practices that benefit the environment and society at large.



# International Olive Sustainability Conference: Lecture by Perrotis College Dean

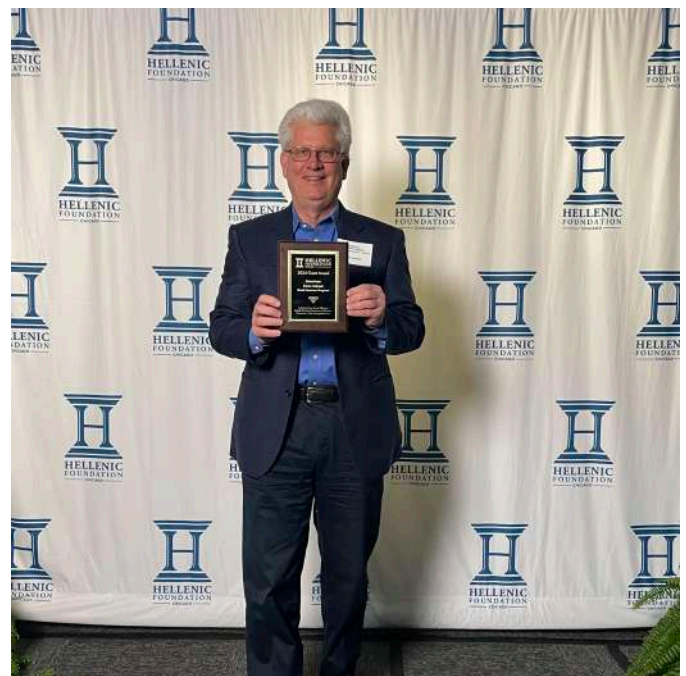
Perrotis College Dean, Dr Kiki Zinoviadou, recently participated in the International Olive Sustainability Conference (IOSC) organized by the University of California Davis Olive Center, both as a lecturer and a member of the Scientific Committee. Her lecture on "Insights, trends and legislation for sustainable olive oil packaging" offered a different perspective on production in the Mediterranean basin. Dr. Zinoviadou also presented the poster

"The effect of the processing method on the nutritional value of table olives". During her participation in the conference, she met with representatives of the UC Davis International Relations Department exploring the possibility of strengthening cooperation with Perrotis College. Dean Zinoviadou also visited Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo.



# AFS Awarded by the Hellenic Foundation in Chicago

The American Farm School was one of the Hellenic Foundation's 2024 grant recipients in recognition of the Greek Summer Program and its role in preserving Greek culture. The grant will enable one student from the Chicagoland area to attend the program this summer and experience a unique odyssey that combines culture, travel, and community service. AFS Trustee Keith Dronen received the award on behalf of the School at a ceremony held on December 12th celebrating the organizations that benefit the Greek American and Orthodox community in Chicago.





AMERICAN  
FARM SCHOOL  
THESSALONIKI

# SAVE THE DATES

February 18, 2025

Reception at the Embassy of  
Greece to the U.S., Washington D.C.

February 22, 2025

Reception at the Consulate General  
of Greece, Los Angeles

RSVP: [events@afs.edu.gr](mailto:events@afs.edu.gr)

## Stay in touch!

If you want to receive news about the American Farm School & Perrotis College send us an email at [sower@afs.edu.gr](mailto:sower@afs.edu.gr) and we will add you to our electronic newsletter contact list.





### American Farm School & Perrotis College

Marinou Antipa 54,  
Post Office Box 60097  
GR-57001 Thessaloniki, Greece  
Tel +30-2310-492-700  
Fax +30-2310-492-710  
[info@afs.edu.gr](mailto:info@afs.edu.gr)

1325 Avenue of the Americas, 28th Floor,  
New York, NY 10019  
Tel +1-212-463-8434  
Fax +1-212-292-3801

[usoffice@amerfarm.org](mailto:usoffice@amerfarm.org)

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NOTE: If you are not receiving our invitations/save the dates via email, please contact us at [info@afs.edu.gr](mailto:info@afs.edu.gr)

[www.afs.edu.gr](http://www.afs.edu.gr)