



2006

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the
department of
CLASSICS
NEWSLETTER



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MITROU: SEASON II I

FACULTY NEWS I

BULLETIN BOARD IV

ADRIENNE MALCOLM
IN MITROU V

ALUMNI/ALUMNAE NEWS X

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS XI

SPECIAL INSERT: REMEMBERING
HARRY RUTLEDGE

FACULTY NOTES

CHRISTOPHER CRAIG has been teaching some terrific Latin students and seems to be getting more all the time. The enrollment for his Cicero and Sallust course set a record this year. As coordinator of our lower division Latin courses, Chris has seen firsthand the effects of the lottery scholarship; we have more and stronger students entering than ever before. This is simply delightful. On the research side, Cicero continues on center stage. Chris was honored to speak on Tully as the Hummel Lecturer in Classics at Virginia Tech in October. He gave a paper on the third Catilinarian at the Congress of the International Society for the History of

MITROU SECOND SEASON

BY ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTEL

IMPORTANT EARLY MYCENAEAN BUILDINGS FOUND

The second season of excavations on the islet of Mitrou in Central Greece (<http://www.mitrou.org/>) by the Department of Classics of the University of Tennessee and the Greek Archaeological Service has yielded very promising results that are expected to provide a major breakthrough in our understanding of the rise of Mycenaean palatial society in the Late Bronze Age (c. 1600–1100 B.C.E.), the first complex civilization ever to develop on the European continent.

Our excavation took place from June 20 through July 29, 2005, under the co-directorship of Aleydis Van de Moortel, assistant professor in the Classics Department at UT, and Greek archaeologist Eleni Zahou. Our team consisted of nearly 60 specialists, students, and supporting staff from 13 different countries (Greece, U.S.A., Canada, Ireland, England, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic) and representing 34 different institutions. Among them were six students and three faculty members of the University of Tennessee. Students Meagan Ayer, Rachael Bible, Adrienne Malcolm, and Ashley Harkenrider took part in our basic field school, and Jennifer Luedtke, as well as Sarah Moore, enrolled in our advanced field school in mortuary analysis, directed by UT's physical anthropologist Susan Frankenberg. Nick Herrmann of UT's Archaeological Research Lab was again our G.I.S. specialist.

Our basic field school teaches students all aspects of the excavation, from wielding excavation tools and observing stratigraphy to keeping a proper notebook and processing finds in the lab. In the afternoons, students attend seminars and

Continued on page VI

Continued on page II

Rhetoric last summer and spoke on Cicero's speech for Marcellus at the most recent meeting of the American Philological Association in Montreal. Forthcoming in 2006 are a book chapter, "Cicero as Orator," and an article on the first Catilinarian. Both for fun and as a member of the editorial boards for *Rhetorica* and *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, Chris has also gotten to spend a lot of time this year reading and reviewing the work of other scholars. Meanwhile, as the director of College Scholars, he continues to work with some of the best and brightest undergraduates you will ever find outside a classics department. They keep him young. Tired, but young.

On the home front, Chris and Ann marvel that Sarah is now in 8th grade and Carolyn in 4th. They are thoughtful and polite young ladies (on a good day), and largely immune from shyness. It's never dull.

During 2005 **GERALDINE GESELL**, the research professor in the department, continued to work on the publication of the Kavousi Excavations. She made a trip to Greece and Rome in January and February. She spent 2 weeks in Herakleion, Crete, to study the figurines from the site of Karphi at the Archaeological Museum there. Karphi is a settlement and cemetery site of the same period as the Vronda site at Kavousi and provides comparanda for pottery and cult material. The next month was spent in the library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. She took a 1-week "vacation" trip to Rome to see sites and museums she hadn't seen in 15 years, as well as new museums and new excavations. It was a bit rainy but exhilarating, as Rome always is. While in Rome she gave a paper on her recent work on Late Minoan III religion, "The Explosion of Goddess Figures in LM III B and C: New Evidence of a Popular Revolution in Religion?"



Seated, left to right: David Tandy, Christopher Craig, and Susan Martin. Standing, left to right: Geoffrey Steadman, Merle Langdon, Denver Graninger, Robert Sklenar, Elizabeth Sutherland, Aleydis Van de Moortel, and Salvador Bartera.

at the Istituto per Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche.

While in the United States in March, she gave a lecture, "Harriet Boyd Hawes: a Pioneer American Archaeologist in Crete," to the Asheville, North Carolina, Society of the AIA, on her other research interest, the American archaeologists in Crete in the first decade of the 20th century.

Back in Greece for April and May, then again in September and October at the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete, she continued working on final write-ups on the snake tubes, goddesses, and plaques of the Vronda Shrine. During June, July, and August, the main excavation season in East Crete, when the Study Center is too crowded for individual work, she returned to the University of Tennessee for writing and research. She plans to attend the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America January 5 through 8, 2006, where she will represent the University of Tennessee at the managing committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and serve as chair of the financial committee of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete and as a member of the Friends of the Library committee of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete.

DENVER GRANINGER joined the Classics faculty this year as assistant professor after completing his dissertation, *The Regional Cults of Thesaly*, at Cornell University. He has research interests in Greek history, religion, and epigraphy and is currently in the early stages of a study of the role of religion in the Greek *ethnos*. He is delighted to be part of such an active, supportive community of scholars and is having a blast teaching introductory Greek, intermediate Latin, and a survey of Greek history this fall. He looks forward to reading Herodotus, Euripides, and Sophocles with intermediate and advanced Greek students in the spring and is planning a research trip to Greece in early summer. In July 2006, he will present a paper, "Authority, Memory and the Absent Muse," at the seventh meeting of the "Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World" conference in Auckland, New Zealand.

He and his wife, Tanya, have regained their hiking legs and can be found in the mountains almost every weekend.

SUSAN MARTIN continues to serve as the college's associate vice-chancellor for academic affairs. Her principal responsibilities are in the areas of academic personnel and academic program review. She taught Classics 362, "Roman Law," in fall 2005,

again with the Frier/McGinn text *A Casebook on Roman Family Law*. She continues to interest herself in legal issues surrounding ancient transport and has served this year as president of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. She was pleased to be able to participate in and complete the inaugural Knoxville Marathon last spring.

ROBERT SKLENAR is on leave during the spring term of 2006 to work on his second book, tentatively titled *Oratio Corrupta and the Poetics of Senecan Tragedy*; his usual teaching assignment consists of all levels of Latin and the survey course on Greek and Roman literature in English translation, though he also sometimes teaches Greek. During the academic year 2005–06, he published an article on Ausonius in the *Classical Journal*; three more articles are currently under consideration. He also gave a paper on the reception of Sappho in Czech poetry at the 2006 convention of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South.

SALVADOR BARTERA is working on his dissertation at the University of Virginia and teaching Latin and Italian at UT. His first official publication, a review of Daniel H. Garrison's *The Student's Catullus in Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, came out last year.

ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND was pleased to have three articles come out in print last year, one in the journal *Classical Philology* and two others in edited volumes. She enjoyed teaching Roman satire to our ever-growing population of 4th-year Latin students, who are getting to be quite a talented bunch. This semester she has been experimenting with being an administrator by serving as interim head while David Tandy has been on leave. While the job does have entertaining aspects, mostly it has given Elizabeth new appreciation for David's hard work and forbearance. At home, twins James and

Katy turned 4 this past fall. They still can't get over themselves and feel obligated to stop complete strangers in public to tell them that next year they'll be 5.

DAVID TANDY, Distinguished Professor of Humanities, has been teaching his mythology and civilization courses with enthusiasm. With equal enthusiasm, he has been off from teaching in spring 2006 to pursue further his research into archaic Greek economy and society. In summer and fall 2005, he delivered papers at conferences in Lesbos, Paros, and Istanbul and had the pleasure and honor to visit Colby College in November to give a talk on *the Odyssey*.

In the summer of 2005, **ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTELE** directed the second season of archaeological excavations at the prehistoric Greek site of Mitrou together with Eleni Zahou of the Greek Archaeological Service. The results are again impressive (see elsewhere in this newsletter). She is now preparing the 2006 excavation season, and a number of our students are signing up to go with her.

In the fall of 2005 Aleydis taught a well-attended introduction to Greek and Roman archaeology, as well as an intensive survey in Aegean prehistory that again brought together advanced students in classics, anthropology, and history. The highlight of this course was a seminar on Mycenaean feasting and state formation led by Professor James C. Wright of Bryn Mawr College. This spring Aleydis is teaching an intensive survey of Etruscan and Roman archaeology, as well as a special-topics course in ancient and medieval seafaring.

Besides teaching, Aleydis is busy giving lectures about the Mitrou excavation and other areas of research. She held formal presentations on the excavation for the East Tennessee Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and at the 107th annual meeting of the A.I.A., in Montreal. In October, she was

an invited speaker at the New York Aegean Bronze Age Colloquium, a lecture series held in the Institute of Fine Arts, New York.

In the fall, Aleydis also traveled to the Greek island of Lemnos to inspect pottery from the Bronze Age sites of Koukonisi and Poliochni. This trip was part of her ongoing research into the maritime connections of the Minoan harbor of Kommos during the period of the First Palaces (ca. 1900–1700 B.C.E.). She gave a first presentation of her results at the Gold Medal Colloquium in honor of Joseph W. and Maria C. Shaw at the A.I.A. meeting in Montreal.

Over Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, Aleydis spent 4 weeks in the storerooms of the Dutch Institute of Ship and Underwater Archaeology at Lelystad, the Netherlands, documenting the remains of medieval ships of the Utrecht type. This visit complemented her previous research trip to the Netherlands in the spring of 2005, which she spent at the library of the University of Utrecht investigating the historical background of this ship type. While in the Netherlands, she gave a lecture about her work at the University of Groningen.

This year was also a fruitful one for publications when, in the waning days of December 2005, the final publication of the monumental Minoan buildings at Kommos appeared with Aleydis' book-length contribution on the pottery of Protopalatial Building AA (J. W. and M. C. Shaw, eds., *Kommos V*, Princeton University Press).

Aleydis still is the enthusiastic secretary-treasurer of the East Tennessee Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, and she invites you all to come to their lectures. The schedule is posted elsewhere in this newsletter as well as on the Classics and ETS Web sites. ■

CLASSICS CLUB/ΗΣΦ

BY ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND

The Classics Club continues to go strong this year, with **PHIL REED** as president and **BART AKIN** as vice-president. The Classics faculty has particularly appreciated the group's contributions to the department: members of the club staffed tables for us both at Homecoming and at the college's annual "Major in Success" fair. Club members also make a point of attending departmental lectures as a group; this year several students dressed in Greek or Roman costume for a Halloween evening out!

In related news, **MARISSA WILSON**, a student who has been active in the Classics Club, is starting a UT chapter of the Senior Classical League, an organization for college students that supports the high-school Junior Classical League.



Back row: Danielle Claiborne, Ashley Barcel, Phil Reed, and Marissa Wilson. Front row: Kate Seat.

At last year's Eta Sigma Phi banquet, we initiated **LEE BROGAN, ALLISON COLAS, SIDDARTH DESAI, JESSICA FOLIS, KATE GAC, GABE GARCIA, GAINES HUBBELL, WILLIAM JOHNSON, MATTHEW KASSNER, LIZ KERSEY, KYLE KIRKLAND, KELLEY MCCOY, MARYLEE MORRISON, ASHLEY**

QUILLEN, LAUREL ROZEMA, MARISSA WILSON, and CYNTHIE WONG into Eta Sigma Phi. The Latin prize, presented annually at the banquet to the year's strongest advanced Latin student, went to **GAIL ZASOWSKI.** ■



LIBRARY REPORT

BY ROBERT SKLENAR

In an era of declining support for research in the humanities, the Classics Department continues to be extraordinarily fortunate in its library acquisitions, thanks in large measure to two magnificent colleagues in the Hodges Library, Molly Royse and Anne Bridges. In particular, funding from the Lindsay Young endowment was secured for two big-ticket items, *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt*, at a cost of nearly \$3000, and *L'Année épigraphique*, at a cost of more than \$7000. ■

UT LATIN DAY XXIII

BY DAVID TANDY

The annual event that only gets better every year tyrannized the University Center again this year on November 8. More than 400 students as well as their teachers made the trip to Knoxville for the day. What was there for them to do? The roster of talks speaks for itself:

CHRISTOPHER P. CRAIG, "Criminal Justice, Roman Style"
DENVER GRANINGER, "How to Honor a Greek God"
THOMAS HEFFERNAN (English), "Thrown to the Beasts: Roman Persecution, Christian Response and the Evolution of the Idea of Martyrdom"

CHRISTINE SHEPARDSON (Religious Studies), "Prostitute, Heretic, Empress, and Saint: Theodora and Sixth-Century Christian Politics"

ROBERT J. SKLENAR, "Lucan: Or, the Epic Tradition Meets Frankenstein"

JOHANNA STIEBERT (Religious Studies), "The Dead Sea Scrolls: What Are They? What Do They Say? And What Is All the Fuss About?"

ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND, "How to Insult People in Latin"

DAVID TANDY, "Further Adventures in Greek Mythology"

ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTELE, "Hot on the Trail of the Oldest Palace on the Greek Mainland? UT's 2005 excavations at Mitrou, Greece" ■

ADRIENNE MALCOLM IN MITROU

As the plane touched down in Athens, I couldn't control my excitement. I practically jumped out of my seat, gathered my luggage, and literally ran to the Hertz counter to pick up my rental car. I was overcome with the anticipation of sightseeing and excavating for the first time. That first day, I drove almost 500 kilometers and checked into a hotel at the foot of Mt. Olympus.

As soon as I said "*Kalispera*" ("Good afternoon" in Greek) to the couple behind the front desk, I was immediately bombarded with questions about my knowledge of Greece and the Greek language. A four-course dinner and an endless glass of homemade wine later, I felt like part of their family. The couple was so excited that I was there to appreciate their country and to work on an excavation.

The next morning, I said goodbye to my new friends and headed out to see

as much of Greece as I could. I paid my respects at the royal tomb of Phillip II of Macedon at Vergina, walked through the intricately laid mosaics at the Macedonian capital at Pella, and spent a day enjoying the monuments in Thessalonica. I crossed the Aliakmonos River and visited the 4th-century fortifications at Goritsa. From there I turned south to the Mycenaean palace at Volos (ancient Iolkos) and explored the town where Jason and the Argonauts sailed off in search of the Golden Fleece.

The next day, I visited Demetrius, founded as a Macedonian naval base after the death of Alexander the Great. Nearby, I saw the Neolithic sites of Sesklo and Dimini, where the site-keeper allowed me to enter a locked storeroom loaded with Neolithic pottery from the two sites. I also visited Thebes, Thermopylae, Marathon, and the silver mines of Laurion. On the advice of Dr. Van de Moortel, I went to the temple of Poseidon at Sounio to watch the sunset.



UT Classics student Adrienne Malcolm taking notes in her trench notebook. In the background is Total Station operator Sarah Murray (Dartmouth College, now Nick Herrmann's G.I.S. assistant in the Archaeological Research Lab at UT). (T. Dabney)

The next day an overnight ferry carried me across the Aegean to Crete, where I spent a few days visiting the Minoan palaces. Before I knew it, it was time

Continued on page IX

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

BY DAVID TANDY AND ROBERT SKLENAR

The fall term was a busy time for us with visitors. Robert Sklenar organized a symposium that kept us busy on September 23 and 24. Titled "The Poem as Textile: A Problem in Ancient Aesthetics," the sessions were well attended by faculty and students from across the campus, as the experts held forth on weaving both as productive activity and as metaphor. We were lucky to have with us seven first-class scholars, to hear them speak, and to watch them interact. They were **ELIZABETH BARBER**, Occidental College; **ANDROMACHE KARANIKA**, Temple University; **FRED S. NAIDEN**, Tulane University; **EVANTHIA SPELIOTIS**, Belarmine University; **ANTHONY TUCK**, Tufts University; **STEPHEN**

M. WHEELER, Pennsylvania State University; and **KATHARINA VOLK**, Columbia University.

Besides our seven symposium scholars, we had the following visitors:

CLAYTON FANT, University of Akron: "Sleazy Bars, Fancy Countertops: Reused Marble for Status Therapy at Pompeii"

WALTER DONLAN, University of California—Irvine: "Odyssean Oddities (Having to Do with Trade and Trade)"

JONATHAN C.R. HALL, University of Otago: "Special Delivery: Cicero on Oratory and the Emotions"

JAMES C. WRIGHT, Bryn Mawr College: "A Mycenaean

Settlement and its Cemeteries in the Nemea Valley, Greece"

The spring term featured, among others, **NANCY WILKIE** (Carleton College), **VICTORIA WOHL** (Ohio State University), **IAN RALSTON** (University of Edinburgh), and **MARILYN SKINNER** (University of Arizona). ■



THE MITROU ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

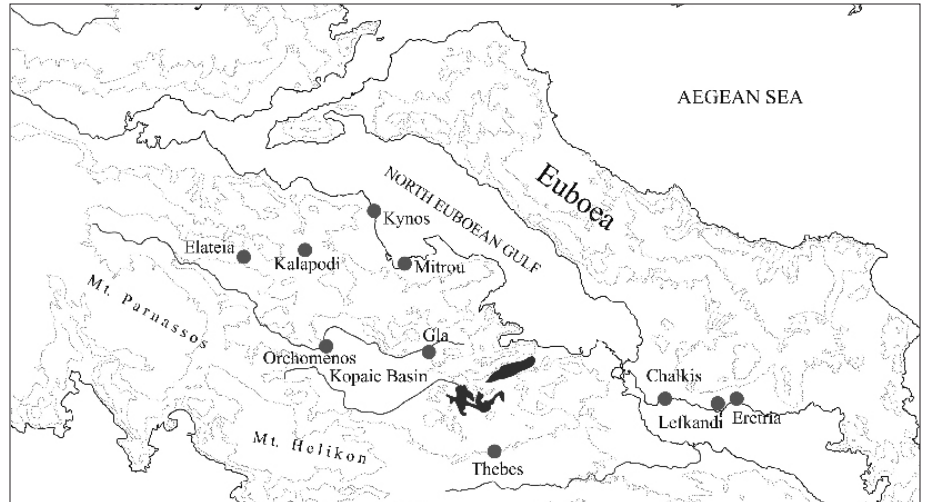
MITROU *continued from page 1*

lectures, and on weekends they are taken on field trips to various important museums and sites of Greece, including Delphi, Athens, and the Argolid. This year we saw a considerable increase in the number of students enrolled in our basic field school, now totaling 14 undergraduate and graduate students from various U.S. institutions, including Columbia University, Brown University, the University of Cincinnati, George Washington University, the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Minnesota. Our advanced field school, which was held in 2005 for the first time, was likewise a success, drawing a graduate student from Oxford University and an undergraduate from Yale University in addition to our two advanced UT students. As was the case last year, we are proud to report that our UT students performed very well. One of them (Adrienne Malcolm) proved to be so capable and energetic that she was given her own trench to supervise by the end of the season.

Our students had an unforgettable time not only on the dig but also in the evenings. The usual fun factor was dialed up several notches

by our moving this year into rental rooms and apartments at Tragana, a farming town located a mile and a half from the site of Mitrou. Here we were simply overwhelmed by the warm hospitality of the town's inhabitants, who adopted our stu-

The geophysical survey team found a buried apsidal building complex of monumental proportions, measuring almost 100 ft. by 75 ft.



Map of central Greece and the Euboean Gulf with Mitrou. (M. Kramer Hajos)

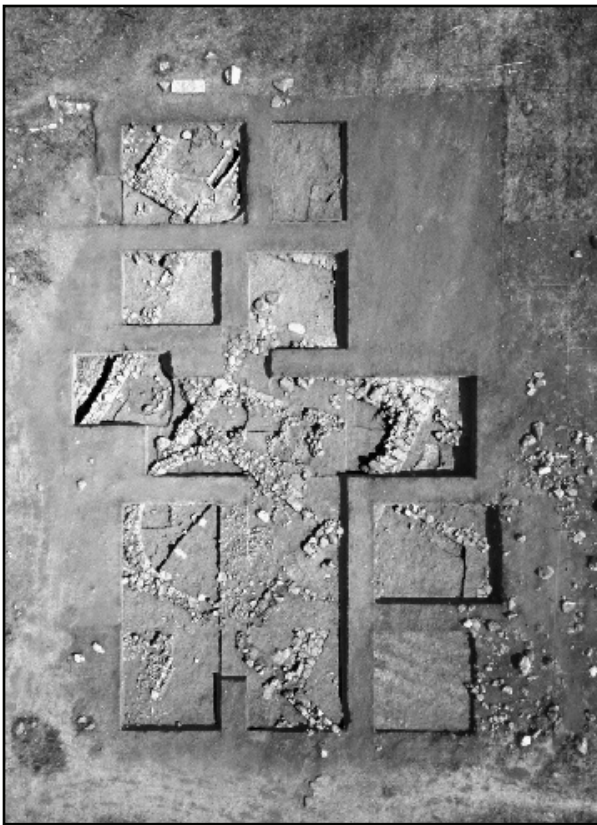
dents as family. As the chairman of the local agricultural cooperative, Mr. Dimitris Inglezou, explained to Aleydis, the town's own young people had moved to the city in search of work, so they welcomed our students as the new youth of Tragana. We attended religious festivals and were guests of honor at village parties,

doing our best at the local dances. Invitations to coffee or dinner in people's homes were daily occurrences, and our students responded in kind by eagerly trying to learn Greek.

We are happy to single out for special thanks

Mr. Nikos Laios, the town president of Tragana, and Mrs. Stavroula Kyriakou, the manager of the old folks' café—the Greek equivalent of an American retirement home. Nikos was the man who set the Mitrou excavation in motion back in 2001

by reporting an illegal excavation on the islet to the Greek authorities. He is already planning a small museum dedicated to the Mitrou Archaeological Project as part of a new cultural center to be built on the beach of Tragana. Stavroula is our excavation cook, and she spontaneously assumed the additional role of logistics director, helping us with everything from arranging the shopping and organizing the Fourth of July barbecue to finding us lodgings, a dining room, and classroom. She also worked tirelessly to find a new storeroom for our archaeological finds. We were hoping to rent a storeroom in town because the one we were using was located in another town 10 miles away, a fact that added considerably to our transportation costs. Our need became particularly urgent at the end of the 2005 season when we were told to vacate that storeroom by this coming summer because it would be sold. Thanks to Stavroula's contacts, we inspected pretty much every available warehouse in Tragana and environs. As it turned out, however, none were suitable, and now a new storeroom is being built for us in an empty field between the village and our site.



UT Anthropologist Susan Frankenberg teaching two of her advanced field school students, Jennifer Luedtke and Sarah Moore (both from UT) the fine points of excavation. (T. Dabney)

Balloon photo of our main excavation area. To the north (upper part of the photo) are the graves of the Iron Age cemetery amidst the ruins of the Bronze Age settlement. In the center is apsidal Iron Age Building A set inside final Bronze Age Building B. Below the east part of Building B the large wall of early Mycenaean Building D is visible. (K. Xenikakis)

One of our main reasons for wanting to excavate Mitrou was that with its long occupation and its location on a major maritime and terrestrial route between northern and southern Greece, this site appeared to be ideal for investigating the three important transitions in Greek prehistory: “the Coming of the Greeks” at the transition from the Early to Middle Bronze Age; the rise of Mycenaean palatial societies at the transition from the Middle to Late Bronze Age; and the demise of the Mycenaean civilization and its reversion to the simple village level at the transition from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (see *Classics Newsletter* 2004). During our first excavation season in 2004, we indeed exposed remains of the Bronze Age—Iron Age transition (see *Classics Newsletter* 2005). These showed that Mitrou, unlike most of southern Greece, was not destroyed or abandoned at the end of the Bronze Age. Instead, we found a surprising continuity in human occupation and even in the layout of the settlement and use of the land. Most unusual was the find of an

important Early Iron Age apsidal structure (Building A) constructed inside an impressive final Bronze Age building (Building B).

In 2005, we excavated the area surrounding Buildings A and B in order to understand their role in the settlement and to explore any possible changes between the Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation. In addition, we exposed earlier levels of occupation in several parts of the site, including what seems to be a breakthrough find that will throw considerable light on the rise of Mycenaean palatial civilization. In all we have now excavated an area of some 4000 sq. ft.

The 2005 excavations have shown that the continuity in settlement layout already observed in 2004 extended back into the Middle Bronze Age, spanning at least 700 years. Such long continuity is thus far unprecedented on the Mycenaean Greek mainland. At first sight it does not accord well with the theory that a people invading from

the north (“the Dorians”) destroyed the Mycenaean palatial civilization. However, during the course of our 2005 excavations we began to notice some instances of change.

It is now clear that the Bronze Age settlement in the north and west parts of our excavation area ceased to exist and was turned into a cemetery of cist graves at the transition to the Iron Age. Whereas all the graves excavated in 2004 belonged to children, this summer we found a middle-aged adult burial. The cemetery area seems to have extended down to the northwest corner of Building B, which was occupied by a small structure (Building C), dated by its pottery to the very transition between the Bronze Age and Iron Age. Inside Building C were 23 intact vases. A wheel-made cooking pot covered by a makeshift lid held the thighbones of a young pig, 3 to 5 months old, placed on top of the neatly stacked thighbones of four fetal piglets. This find is highly unusual and suggests a ritual rather than ordinary household use of

Continued on page VIII

Continued from page VII

this cooking pot. Associated with it were miniature conical cups and other drinking vessels, most of them arranged in fallen stacks, as well as a large pithos fragment that may have served as a tray. The fact that these vases were intact suggests that this structure had been buried deliberately, perhaps in relation to funerary use. On top of Building C and over its north wall were two patches of blackened soil with a few remnants of cremated human bone, to all appearances remains of cremation graves disturbed by modern plowing.

A second indication of change in spatial use at the Bronze Age–Iron Age transition is our discovery this summer that the area immediately to the north and south of the Iron Age apsidal building was occupied by small flimsy structures, which formed a very different kind of occupation from the sturdy Late Bronze Age remains that covered the area before. It remains to be seen whether a more detailed study of the architecture, pottery, stone tools, and plant and animal remains will lead us to discover other changes in behavior and lifestyle between the Bronze Age and Iron Age inhabitants of Mitrou.

Another phenomenon at odds with the overall pattern of continuity is the scarcity of 13th-century B.C.E. architectural remains in our excavated area. We have uncovered only three very small walls and partially preserved dirt floors of this date. It is of course possible that the inhabitants of Mitrou lived elsewhere on the site at that time. One wonders, however, if the 13th century was a period of decline for Mitrou, perhaps related to an expansion of territorial power on the part of the Mycenaean centers of Thebes or Orchomenos, which experienced their acme at that time. In this respect, it is interesting to note that we now have four areas at Mitrou with heaps of broken pottery and other remains dat-

ing to the 14th century B.C.E. left on the floors of buildings. One of these deposits shows evidence of heavy burning. Likewise dating to the 14th century B.C.E. is a steatite sealstone with the image of a bull, which was found elsewhere in the plow zone. Such a pattern of abandonment suggests that a major destruction took place at the site, but whether this was related to war or natural disaster is still uncertain.

Our 2005 excavation uncovered for the first time substantial remains dating to the beginning of the Late

The contents of this building and the strata below it may tell us whether Mitrou had contacts with the palatial societies of Crete, Egypt, or the Near East.

Bronze Age, a time when elites arose in various areas of Greece, leading eventually to the establishment of highly stratified Mycenaean palatial societies. Parts of the north and east walls of a substantial building of this period (Building D) were found below the northeast corner of Building B. Its east wall is the widest wall of the site uncovered so far (3.5 ft.), built of carefully laid small fieldstones. The exact construction date of Building D is still unknown, but it is certain to be older than the 14th century B.C.E.

The most spectacular find this summer came not from excavation but from our geophysical survey. Grigorios Tsokas and his team of the University of Thessaloniki returned and completed the survey of the wooded parts of Mitrou. Using a magnetic gradiometer, they revealed that these parts of the islet are covered

with buildings and roads. Most important, they found in the northwest part of the islet a buried apsidal building complex of monumental proportions, measuring almost 100 ft. by 75 ft. (32 m by 24 m). Apsidal buildings are prominent in Greece during the late Early Bronze to Middle Bronze Age and again in the Iron Age. Eager to establish the date of this buried building complex, we applied for and received permission to dig a test trench of 6 ft. by 15 ft. (2 m by 5 m). To our great joy, we found that the structure had three architectural phases, all datable by their associated pottery to the very beginning of the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1600–1500 B.C.E.). Because of its large size and the high quality of its architecture—including courses of carefully cut field stones and pink plaster floors—we expect that this buried building complex was related to an emerging political elite at Mitrou. Among its possible functions, it may have been the residence of a strong leader or the meeting hall of the new upper class. This buried structure is not only the largest apsidal building ever found in Greece, it is also the earliest example of an important building of this formative period which has its complete plan preserved. Parts of a roughly contemporary large building have been found at Pylos, but this was largely destroyed by the later Mycenaean palace.

As a result of our 2005 finds, it has become clear that Mitrou is a key site for studying not only the demise of the Mycenaean palatial civilization but also its beginnings. It is anticipated that the buried monumental structure in the northwest part of the islet will give us our first opportunity to study the basis of power of the nascent Late Bronze Age elite, whether it was agriculture, manufacture, trade, ideology, or a combination of those. Furthermore, the contents of this building and the strata below it may tell us whether Mitrou had contacts at that time with the more advanced palatial societies of Crete, Egypt, or

the Near East. This in turn would provide an indication of whether the rise of the political elite in Central Greece was largely an indigenous phenomenon or whether it was stimulated by contacts with these more developed societies. The fact that our monumental building complex has an apsidal shape—a building form unknown at that time in Crete, Egypt, or the Near East—already suggests that local dynamics played a considerable role.

Our 2005 season at Mitrou ended on a high note with a presentation of the results by Aleydis Van de Moortel and Eleni Zahou for the people of Tragana and the larger area. To our delight, nearly 200 people showed up. Introductory speeches were given by the head of the local branch of the Greek Archaeological Service, Mrs. Maria Papakonstantinou, as well as by the town president, Mr. Nikos Laios. The academic part of the evening was followed by roasted lamb and a rousing party, Greek style.

We have now begun preparations for the 2006 excavation, which will take place from June 19 through July 28, to be followed by a 2-week study season. Most of our efforts will remain focused on the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age levels in the main excavation area. At the same time, we are trying to raise funds to buy the land plots in which the buried monumental structure is located, which is a prerequisite to our carrying out systematic excavations in this area.

The 2005 season of the Mitrou excavations was financed by the University of Tennessee (Classics Department, College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Studies program, and the Office of Research), the Institute of Aegean Prehistory, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, the Greek Archaeological Service, Colby College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of Rhode Island, and private donors. We are very grateful to

all of our sponsors for their generosity. Our field school was ably administered by the Greek-American educational institution College-Year-in-Athens. As in the previous year, the Mitrou project received the strong support from Mrs. Maria Papakonstantinou, the head of the local Archaeological Service, as well as from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. We would like to extend our gratitude to them. ■

ADRIENNE, continued from page V

to return the rental car and head north again to begin work at Mitrou.

On June 16, 2005, I arrived in Tragana, the village where we lived for the summer. I was instantly welcomed by the project staff and introduced to the village, the site, and the basics of field archaeology. The 14 other field-school students and I were immediately impressed by the expert team of specialists ready to begin work. Dr. Van de Moortel had assembled specialists from every field possible. There were experts in ceramics, mortuary analysis, architecture, geoarchaeology, physical anthropology, zooarchaeology, ethnobotany, residue analysis, lithics, and conservation. We also had a professional team of artists and photographers to document our finds. Many of these experts were archaeologists who had written books and articles that I had studied in class. We had the privilege of working directly with most of these specialists—an experience unattainable in any classroom.

A typical day began at sun-up, breakfast was at 6 a.m., and by 6:30 we were wading across the Aegean Sea to the island to begin digging. We excavated for 4 hours and then at 10:30 had what was affectionately called “second breakfast” (yogurt, fruit, and cookies). Two more hours of excavating in the blazing Mediterranean sun, and it was time for our favorite break—watermelon! Excavating officially ended at 2:30, when we waded back across the water for lunch.

Overwhelmed by excitement, several of us volunteered on many afternoons to cross back to the island and work during our free time.

The rest of our time was occupied by lectures about Greek history, excavation methods, visits to other sites nearby, and the occasional lazy afternoon on the beach. Many of the afternoon lectures included talks from the team of specialists about soil analysis, conservation, and pottery analysis. Two to three times a week, we went to visit other sites and such museums as at Gla, Kalapodi, Halai, and Thermopylae. Some of the sites were being excavated, and we received special site tours from the excavators. We also took several weekend excursions to famous sites, for example, Delphi, Mycenae, Tiryns, Corinth, Athens, and Lerna. We were able to visit more than 30 archaeological sites by the end of the season. I will be amazed forever at how I was able to excavate for as many as 10 hours a day, attend lectures, visit sites, and have the time of my life on virtually no sleep.

It was a priceless experience to learn hands-on about archaeology. Every day was filled with learning about how to excavate and record what we had found. In the field the value of documentation and good note-taking was impressed upon us daily. I learned that archaeology is extraordinarily dynamic, encompassing almost every realm of science and relying heavily on attention to detail. Each morning I woke up with a smile on my face in anticipation of what we would uncover next. As the excavation progressed, walls, graves, and buildings emerged out of what first had appeared as only a typical little field on the island. It was thrilling to watch artifacts come out of the ground, undisturbed for thousands of years, now to be cleaned, sorted, and analyzed to give us a better understanding about the human past. It was an incredible experience that intensely reinforced my desire to become an archaeologist. As I boarded the plane to return to Tennessee, I was again overcome with excitement, this time in anticipation of returning next summer to be a part of the 2006 Mitrou Excavation. ■

ALUMNI/ALUMNAE NEWS

BY CHRISTOPHER CRAIG AND ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND

DIANA HOWARD (now Tomayko) and John Tomayko were married last July. We wish them every happiness. Mrs. Tomayko left the Latin program at Bearden High School in Knox County and followed her new husband to Middle Tennessee, where she divides her time between Brentwood and Ravenwood high schools, both in Brentwood.

SANDY HUGHES finished his Latin training and immediately became the Latin program at Bearden High School, where he is working very hard and being much appreciated. He has just been awarded a CAMWS Mary Grant award for travel to Rome.

FRANCES NICHOLS graduated last spring and this fall began her graduate work in 18th-century history at the University of Kentucky. We are glad to see her bring the skills of her strong classical training to a strongly classical century. Good luck, Frances!

DEBBIE HAWHEE, who once survived a national championship run playing basketball for Pat Summitt and three semesters of Greek with Chris Craig, published her latest book, *Bodily Arts: Rhetoric and Athletics in Ancient Greece*, with University of Texas Press in 2005. We offer warmest congratulations. Debbie is associate professor of English at the University of Illinois, but we know she has a classicist's heart.

JOHN STARKE has spent yet another year coordinating the Navigators ministry at UCLA. He now seems ready for the next chapter in his odyssey, graduate school in religious studies. Our sources say that he is highly recruited, and we look forward to learning which fellowship offer he will accept.

ABBY BRADDOCK, the Latin maven of St. George's School in Memphis, has been back in town twice since her little sister Mary enrolled here as a freshman this year. It is always good to see her.

STEVE TACKETT, the Latin teacher at Briarcrest Christian School, of which both Braddock sisters are alumnae, received the Tennessee Classical Association's Distinguished Latin Teaching Award at the Association's annual meeting this fall. We add our congratulations to a master teacher and a great guy!

MICHAEL DECKER is rumored to be taking a hiatus from the classics graduate program at

UVA to bring classics to the next generation in Hampton, Virginia.

JACK SMITH, after a very successful year teaching at Gatlinburg-Pittman High School in Sevierville, has again taken his talents outside Tennessee. Virginia's gain is our loss, but he goes to Richmond with our best wishes for continued success.

When **ANN BENNETT** graduated last May with top honors in the college in social sciences (political science was another of her majors), she had already taken up a new full-time position as the Latin teacher at Knoxville Catholic High School. Ann has had a great year at Catholic and is now ready to finish her teacher certification and move into public education. Whether or not our taxes are paying her students' tuition, we are very glad to count her a colleague.

NICK SCHULTZ discovered 48 hours before the school year began last fall that he would be teaching Latin at West and Central High Schools in Knox County. Nick had a good visit with Chris Craig at a meeting in Nashville in November. He knew that teaching was not going to be easy and has had this thoroughly confirmed. Our sources say that he is doing a great job, and Chris's daughter Sarah, who is headed for 9th grade at West, may see him in a professional capacity in the fall. Chris hopes so!

CASEY MOCK had an epiphany during his first year in graduate school; he wants to become a lawyer. Casey has been accepted into several top-10 law schools, and we hope he chooses one that will ensure a future of success and generosity to his undergraduate alma mater.

JEREMIAH KING came by in December with his almost-toddler son, Elijah. Mercifully, Elijah looks like his mother; he is adorable.

CURTIS SHEIDLER ("Ridiculus Rex") moved back from Texas with his spouse last year in hopes of being accepted for graduate study in English at UT. In March he shared with Chris Craig the happy news that the English Department has offered him a teaching assistantship. We look forward to seeing that smile in our hallowed halls again.

Very shortly after our last newsletter went to press, the History Channel aired a show on crime in ancient Rome. Our own **JASON**

SIMMS was the most convincing Cicero we have ever seen (on the History Channel). Jason is finishing a master's in anthropology this year while spouse Julia Wall Simms continues to distinguish herself as the Latin program at Farragut High School.

LIZ LAMBERT graduated last May and moved to MTSU, where she is a graduate teaching assistant in history, works in a federally funded history-teaching project, and will this summer be doing what she calls her first big-girl job, organizing a project for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Liz is a classicist in a not-very-classical department, but she professes herself happy with the program, and does note that she has made "O tempora!" into the new catchphrase around her department.

THOM CARROLL, who was our college's top graduate in the humanities in 1999, touched base this spring after a very long hiatus. He earned an M.A. at Kentucky with distinction, had a Fulbright in Greece, taught high-school Latin in Kentucky for 4 years, and is now teaching in a private school in Nashville. Perhaps just to prove that he is not rusty, he wrote Chris Craig a long, chatty e-mail in elegant Ciceronian Latin. (Chris responded *lingua britannica*.) We are very glad to be in touch again.

VICKI WEAVER is an aunt! Vicki, who continues as the director of human resources at 21st Century Mortgage, writes that her younger brother and best friend, Michael, and his wife, Caroline, had their first child, Peyton Caroline Weaver, on March 3.

BRIAN CARR has resumed his studies after a few years away from the classics. He now lives a stormy life in New York City with his lovely wife, Rani, and their 6-month-old son, Sebastien. He divides his time disproportionately between Greek lyric poetry, political maneuvering, and chasing randomly tossed pacifiers. Mainly it's the life of a misinformed pseudo-sophisticate. Brian rarely sees his like-minded friend Drew Moore, although he regrets this shortcoming.

DREW MOORE is working on a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at CUNY and teaching "Classical Origins of Western Culture" (a required course for all undergrads) at Brooklyn College. He recently finished his "First Exam" at CUNY with a high pass. ■

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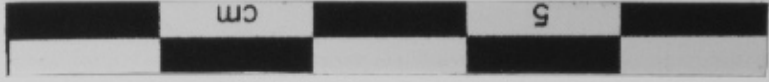
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VOLUME XXI / SPRING 2006

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS NEWSLETTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

T. Dabney



STORY ON PAGE VI


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