

Cornell University

40th

ANNIVERSARY: 1967-2007

“Any Site ... Any Dig”
The Archaeology Program Newsletter
Volume 1.2, Spring, 2008

WORDS FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This has been a busy 40th year for the Archaeology Program. Our undergraduate students have been active in the Archaeology Club with undergraduate advisor Prof. Thomas Volman (Anthropology) helping to coordinate activities. These included a trip to the Cornell Glass Museum and Archaeology Movie nights. Faculty also ran undergraduate workshops ranging from graduate school applications, to summer field schools, to employment opportunities with cultural resource management firms. Undergraduate and graduate students joined faculty every Wednesday night for Archaeology Program dinners at Risley Hall. For the larger Cornell community, we co-sponsored lectures to bring in archaeologists from various states and countries. Our faculty members have been in the news including Prof. John Henderson's discovery of the earliest evidence of chocolate in the Americas. Check our web site for details on this news item, articles on other faculty members, sponsored events, and other program information. As this newsletter goes to press many of our faculty and students are preparing to head off to summer excavations, thanks in part to financial support for fieldwork from the Jacob and Hedwig Hirsch Fund. I hope you will be able to participate in an excavation or visit a site this summer.

Sherene Baugher

NOTES FROM THE COLLECTIONS
Zooarchaeology Lab

Nerissa Russell, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology

The Cornell Zooarchaeology Lab is housed in the basement of a former frat house at 726 University Avenue, down the slope from the Johnson Museum and McGraw Hall. I operate it primarily as a teaching facility. My own research involves the study of animal bones from mainly Neolithic sites in the Near East and eastern Europe, but I am rarely able to bring bones back from these countries for study in the United States. Rather I train budding zooarchaeologists at Cornell, with an intensive lab course offered every other

fall. In the first semester students learn the practical skills of identifying fragments of mammalian bones. While some similar courses elsewhere use only modern reference material, this one starts students immediately working with fragmentary archaeological remains, which are much more challenging. Each student is given an assemblage from an archaeological unit which they will gradually record through the semester. The course meets for six hours at a time twice a week, with weekly exercises, bone quizzes, and projects. It is very demanding, but students come out with a solid grounding in basic skills. Most love the hands-on work despite the challenges, and we all get to know each other very well: it is almost like being in the field together.

This is followed in the spring semester with a seminar in zooarchaeological analysis, in which the students learn how to use basic data of the kind they recorded in the fall to address archaeological questions. At the end of the year, students are ready to undertake supervised analysis of real assemblages. Alumni of the class have gone on to write zooarchaeological senior theses, present papers at conferences, publish articles in prestigious archaeological journals, and land internships in the Smithsonian zooarchaeology lab.



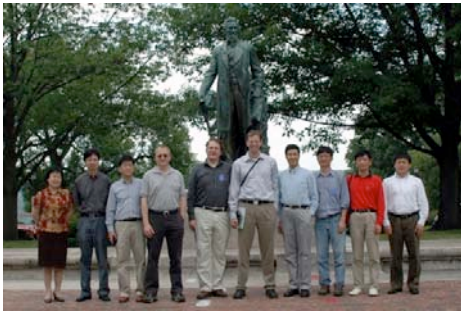
Kristen Alldredge(l) and Kate Allen(r) at work in the Zooarchaeology Lab.

In addition to enabling zooarchaeological instruction, the lab provides space for undergraduate and graduate student research projects. With a small reference collection of modern material, supplemented by the holdings of the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates (some of them

on indefinite loan to the lab), we can work on material from local or temperate Eurasian sites. Currently, a group of Cornell undergraduates are working on the animal remains from Prof. Sherene Baugher's excavation at Enfield Falls; and a recent Cornell alumnus, now a graduate student at SUNY Binghamton, is studying bones from a group of contact-period Iroquois sites, some of them excavated by Cornell archaeologists.

FACULTY PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Robin McNeal and the East Asia Program held an interdisciplinary workshop-style conference at Cornell, conducted in Chinese in June 2007. Archaeologists and Sinologists from the US, China, and Taiwan discussed the famous but as-yet unpublished manuscripts unearthed from an ancient tomb in Cili, Hunan Province, China, including problems of deciphering, comparison with transmitted counterpart texts, and the meaning of these finds in the context of the archaeology of Hunan and adjacent regions along the Yangzi River in central China.



Prof. Zhou Yuxiu (Xibei Teachers College, China) Chai Huanbo (Hunan Archaeology Institute), Prof. Guolong Lai (U Florida), Prof. R. McNeal, Prof. Magnus Fiskejö, Prof. Rowan Flad (Harvard U), Li Chaoyuan (Shanghai Museum), Li Yungti (Academia Sinica, Taiwan), Prof. Xiang Taochu (Hunan University) and Zhang Chunlong (Hunan Institute of Archaeology).

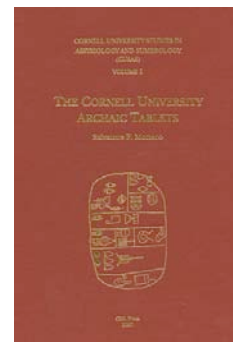
Lauren Monroe excavated at the site of Tel Zayit, Israel, during the months of June and July. She brought with her one Cornell undergraduate, Jessie DeGrado, who intends to go on to do graduate work in Near Eastern Studies.



Lauren Monroe's team excavating in the MB step trench at Tel Zayit.

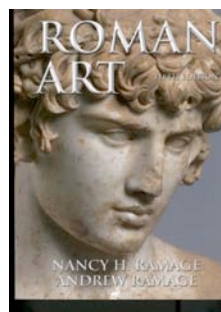
Her team worked in Area T, Square R20, which is the Eastern-most square at the foot of a large step trench. Much of what they excavated was wash that had accumulated from the top of the tel, but towards the end of the season they began to come down on top of Middle Bronze Age occupation. The existence of this Middle Bronze occupation indicates that the site was continuously occupied from at least as early as the Middle Bronze Age through the Iron Age IIB, with a short gap in occupation during the Iron Age I period. During the previous season of excavation at this site in 2005, archaeologists excavated the Tel Zayit abecedary, a 10th century alphabetic inscription which looks to be the earliest Hebrew inscription ever found in a secure archaeological context. For more information and photographs of Tel Zayit visit www.zeitah.net.

David I. Owen is the curator of the Jonathan and Jeannette Ancient Near Eastern Studies Seminar in the Department of Near Eastern Studies which houses Cornell's major cuneiform tablet collection. After years of conservation and study, the first volumes of the new series, Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology [CUSAS], have begun to appear from CDL Press (<http://www.cdlpress.com/>).



Salvatore F. Monaco, *Archaic Texts in the Cornell University Collections* (Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology, Volume 1), Bethesda: CDL Press, 2007.

Bendt Alster, *Sumerian Proverbs in the Schøyen Collection* (Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology, Volume 2), Bethesda: CDL Press, 2007.

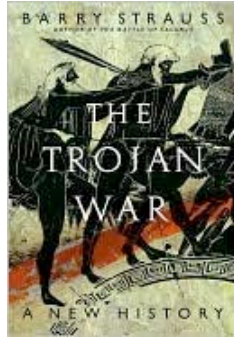


Nancy and Andrew Ramage have just published the 5th revised edition of their *Roman Art*; their *The British Museum Concise Introduction: Ancient Rome* is due out in June.

Kenneth Kennedy expects an article coauthored with Dr. S.R. Walimbe and Mrs. P.C. Caldwell-Ott (Cornell '79) "Hitherto Unknown Megalithic Burials from South Asia: The Skeletal Record" to appear in the *Deccan College*

Monograph Series in October, 2008. He recently published a paper about traumatic markers on skeletons from Mantai, Sri Lanka which appeared in the second to last issue of the *Palaeopathology Newsletter*.

Barry Straus of the Department of History saw the publication of his latest book *The Trojan War: A New History* published this August by Simon & Schuster.



Michael Tomlan Director, Historic Preservation Planning Program, organized a small conference and workshop, "Taking Vijayanagaras Past into the Future," January 19-20, 2008, at the Jindal Steel Guest House and Conference facility. The event focused on the history and the future of Hampi World Heritage site, in Karnataka, India.



Jeffrey Zorn organized and chaired a session on the Tel Dor excavations at the November 2007 annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Diego.

and being a part of the Archaeology Department. I am currently in the process of writing my Anthropology Honors Thesis, which is based upon an archaeological material collection. My thesis involves the glass bead assemblage from the Seneca Iroquois site of Townley-Read (ca. 1715-1754), and the project is being supervised by Professor Kurt Jordan, my Archaeology and Anthropology advisor. The glass bead assemblage is an extensive collection, housed at the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC) and at Cornell. I spent my Junior year and a part of last summer (2007) examining the beads at RMSC, and I am currently analyzing the data that I collected. I am especially focusing on gender roles based upon the distribution of the beads at the site and how the assemblage chronologically compares to assemblages from other sites from earlier, later, and the same time periods. I have also finished another research project on the copper-alloy assemblage from the Townley-Read site that was also supervised by Professor Kurt Jordan, and my descriptive and analytical report of the assemblage has been sent to readers and for consideration for publication. I am part of the Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholars program, which has been instrumental in funding my research



Jessica Herlich in Turkey, summer of 2007.



Sieving at Kurt Jordan's Seneca White Spring site (reported on last issue). Pictured (l-r): Beth Ryan (Ph.D. student, Cornell); Adam Dewbury (M.A. student, SUNY-Binghamton); Christian DeHoyos (UC-Santa Barbara); Keelin Martinek (volunteer); Shannon Connolly (Kansas State U.); and Dr. Kurt Jordan.

I have also been able to participate in other forms of archaeological research at Cornell, including dendrochronology and field excavation. I have been a student researcher in The Malcolm and Carolyn Wiener Laboratory for Aegean and Near Eastern Dendrochronology since my Freshman year. Working in the lab has been a great experience, and I have had the opportunity to work with samples from sites and from many different time periods and contexts. In the Summer of 2006, I traveled with Professor Peter Ian Kuniholm on the lab's summer collection trip, traveling through Turkey, Greece, Italy, and Switzerland. This past summer I participated in field work in Cyprus through the Elaborating Early Neolithic Cyprus Project, co-directed by Professor Sturt Manning and attended a field school in Italy co-directed by Professor Kathryn McDonnell. I received funding for the summer, which included the Archaeology Department's Hirsch Scholarship for travel and the Etruscan Fieldwork Fellowship from the Etruscan Foundation.

STUDENT PROFILES

Jessica Herlich I am currently in my final year at Cornell, and through Cornell's Archaeology program, I have had many opportunities to get involved in archaeological research. I have really enjoyed these research experiences

When I entered Cornell in Fall 2004 I had been interested in learning more about archaeology and getting involved in archaeological research. My undergraduate years at Cornell have enabled me to explore the field of archaeology, and it has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Jessie DeGrado Thanks to the Kroll Travel Award, during summer 2007 I was able to spend five weeks in Israel volunteering with the Zeitah Excavations, run by Professor Ron Tappy of Pittsburg Theological Seminary. In the 2005 season, the Zeitah Excavations discovered an inscription bearing the oldest known securely datable example of the linear alphabet. This summer, volunteers continued work in the area in which the inscription was found. On the other side of the tel, I worked under the supervision of Lauren Monroe as we opened a new square. The tel currently shows signs of nearly continuous occupation from the Late Bronze Age through the Iron II period; the excavations hope to uncover a secure Middle Bronze context in the new square.

I am currently finishing my undergraduate degree in mathematics; however, my experiences at the excavation, coupled with several excellent undergraduate classes I have taken this year, have inspired me to continue my education in Near Eastern Studies, ultimately with the goal of applying to graduate school. I hope to return to a dig in Israel next summer and, if possible, to spend the rest of the year in Israel preparing myself for graduate school.



Jessie deGrado using the transit at Tel Zayit, Israel.

FEATURED FACULTY

Kimberly Bowes, Assistant Professor of Classical Archaeology, joined the Cornell faculty in the fall of 2007 after three years at Fordham University. She completed her Princeton Ph.D. in 2002 in the Department of Art and Archaeology. Her interests are: archaeology of late antiquity, archaeology of religion, domestic architecture, landscape archaeology, and later Roman economies.

From 2002-2004 she was the director of the Durres Amphitheater Project, Durres, Albania. From 1998-2000

she was co-director of the Haluzta Project, Haluzta, Israel, a Nabatean to late antique city.



Professor Bowes adjusting a total station.

Professor Bowes has numerous publications to her name. Among the most recent are: *Between Text and Territory: Survey and Excavation in the terra of San Vincenzo al Volturno*. Edited with Richard Hodges and Karen Francis. Rome/London: British School Monographs, 2007; and also “‘Christianization’ and the Rural Home,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 15.2 (2006): 143-170.

FROM THE EDITOR

Do you have any information you would like to share with Cornell's Arkeo community in this Newsletter? Would like to discontinue receiving the Newsletter? Would you like to receive it as a PDF in your email? Send all such material and requests to the editor:

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