

the department of CLASSICS NEWSLETTER



A PUBLICATION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

VOLUME XXIII

SPRING 2008

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Balloon photo of the northeast excavation area at Mitrou, August 2007. Early Mycenaean Building D is the rectangular building with the very thick walls. Over it parts of final Bronze Age Building B are visible. Over its northwest corner one can see small structure C, and in its southern part Early Iron Age apsidal Building A. To its south are the flimsy walls of the exterior courtyard of Building G, and to its west the exposed part of Bronze Age Building F. (K. Xenikakis).



MITROU FOURTH SEASON

BY ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTEL

PREHISTORIC PURPLE-DYE MANUFACTURE, 4000-YEAR-OLD WOODEN BOAT

The fourth season of excavation and surveys at the islet of Mitrou, in Central Greece, was held from June 18 through August 10, 2007, directed by Eleni Zahou of the Greek Archaeological Service (www.mitrou.org) and me (Aleydis Van de Moortel). Excavations in previous years already had provided breakthrough information about the rise and fall of Bronze Age Mycenaean palatial society in Greece (c. 1600–1200 BCE), the first complex civilization of the European continent. In 2007 we found more valuable information about these periods, including evidence for the manufacture of purple dye—a precious commodity in prehistory that may have brought wealth to the site’s elite. We also excavated for the first time in Middle and Early Bronze levels and uncovered the remains of a small wooden boat of the 21st century BCE, as well as baked roof tiles expected to belong to an important administrative building of the Early Bronze Age (third millennium BCE).

Our 2007 team consisted of 80 students and faculty and staff members coming from 14 countries (Greece, USA, Canada, Ireland, Wales, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Brazil, and Australia) and representing 44 institutions. They included five students and three faculty members of UT Knoxville. Adam Finn, a junior in anthropology, was trained in our basic field school, and Jaymelee Kim, an MA student in forensic anthropology, took part in our mortuary analysis field school. Adrienne Malcolm and Amber Sandman, our two MA students in Mediterranean archaeology, were trench

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FACULTY NOTES

SALVADOR BARTERA successfully defended his dissertation at the University of Virginia and expects to receive his PhD in May; he continues to teach Latin and Greek at UT. This summer he will spend a few weeks at the Fondation Hardt in Geneva, for which he received a scholarship. His plans include further work on Tacitus (and teaching it in the fall). Of the two reviews he completed last year, one has appeared in *Classical Outlook*, while the second is forthcoming in *RFIC*. He delivered a paper on Tacitus at the last CAMWS in Cincinnati.

CHRISTOPHER CRAIG has been joyfully converting the world to Cicero, one class at a time. Last fall he had his largest junior-level Cicero course ever, including several first-years who had already been in Knoxville in July

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to compete in the national JCL tournament. (The HOPE scholarship has brought us a bumper crop of well-qualified entering students. They are grateful to their high-school teachers, and we are too.) Away from the classroom, Chris has in the last year given talks on his current book-length project at American and international meetings, has published an article (on you-know-who) in the *American Journal of Philology*, has had another Cicero article accepted for publication, and has been repaying past kindnesses by writing encyclopedia articles. This spring he has been invited to speak on Cicero at an international colloquium at the University of Athens, where he is especially looking forward to seeing former colleague Sophia Papaioannou and current colleague Merle Langdon. Last fall Chris felt honored to be elected second vice-president of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association, leading to the presidency in 2010. He is proud and humbled to follow Harry Rutledge and Susan Martin in that role. He has similar feelings about following David Tandy as director of College Scholars, an assignment that continues to be great fun.

Chris's and Ann's daughters, Sarah and Carolyn, are 16 and 11. Sarah takes Latin. Carolyn will. Even if they didn't, they would delight their parents' hearts.

During 2007 **GERALDINE GESELL**, professor emerita, continued to work on the publication of the Kavousi Excavations and attend conferences and meetings. She gave a paper at the "Dark Age" conference in honor of William D. E. Coulson in Volos, Greece, in June. (For more on this conference, see "Report from Kavousi," page TK.) She attended the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Chicago January 3 through 7, 2008, where she represented the University of



Back row: Christopher Craig, Merle Langdon, Salvador Barera, Denver Graninger, Susan Martin. Front row: Robert Sklenar, David Tandy, Elizabeth Sutherland, Sarah Downey, Maura Lafferty, Aleydis Van de Moortel. Inset: Kathryn DeBusk, who held the camera for the group shot.

Tennessee at the managing committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and served as chair of the financial committee of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete.

DENVER GRANINGER continues to thrive at UT. His new upper-division course, "History of Classical Greece (479–323 BCE)," attracted more than 80 students (!) and was a big hit. On the language front, he has recently offered courses on one author newly dear to his heart (Plutarch) and another who bears considerable responsibility for his decision to pursue a career in classics in the first place (Thucydides).

Denver presented papers at the APA ("Artemis Throsia and Rites of Passage: A Reconsideration") and CAMWS ("The Persistence of *Ethne*"), and was honored with an invitation to speak at a symposium on Homer celebrating his undergraduate mentor, John Moore (New College of Florida), on the occasion of his retirement. An article, "Studies in the Cult of Artemis Throsia," appeared in *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 162 (2007), and he has been invited to contribute a chapter on the political and cultural implication of Thessaly and Macedonia to *Blackwell's Companion to Ancient Macedonia*. He continues to chip

away at articles on Homer and Plutarch, as well as his book project—"Minyan Dreams: Cult and Koinon in Hellenistic Thessaly."

Denver has been appointed Rhys Carpenter Faculty Fellow at the American School for Classical Studies in Athens for next year. This fantastic opportunity will allow him to work closely with graduate students from top PhD programs as they learn their way around the material culture of ancient Greece, to continue working on his book, and to reacquaint himself with the many delights of Athens.

The Marco Medieval and Renaissance Institute has kept **MAURA LAFFERTY** busy this year. Besides directing the weekly meetings of the medieval Latin sight-reading group, she gave a paper at the Symposium on Saints and Citizens on "The Trickster Bishop and St. Andrew's Beard" and co-organized the manuscript workshop, "Texts in Motion." She also completed a chapter on Walter of Châtillon's *Alexandreis* for *A Companion to Alexander the Great in the Middle Ages*, forthcoming from Brill, and is presenting a paper on hyperbaton in Latin prose at CAMWS in April. She is looking forward to a research trip to Visigothic areas of Spain this May for her book, *Empress of Languages: Latinitas in Early Medieval Europe*.

MERLE LANGDON continues to teach one course each semester as a lecturer, primarily carrying on some of the courses once offered by our emerita Geraldine Gesell. He is also continuing his research on Attic rock art, and he spoke about his most recent findings to the Classics Department at Vanderbilt in March.

SUSAN MARTIN has continued to serve as senior vice-provost, overseeing a number of processes and programs relating to faculty hiring, development, promotion, and tenure. She taught Roman law in the fall, 2007, to an excellent group of 37 students. She presented a paper at a conference in Hydra, Greece, in October 2007 and another at the Association of Ancient Historians in April 2008. She recently participated in a conference on the future of obligations in Roman law at the American Academy in Rome. She looks forward to fulfilling her long-term goal of returning full time to teaching and research in August 2008.

ROBERT SKLENAR is currently teaching an almost oversubscribed section of Latin 432, in which a group of talented and enthusiastic students is reading Vergil's *Eclogues* and Seneca's *Thyestes*. His course assignments also include Latin 111 and 252 and Classics 253. He published an article on Seneca's *Oedipus*, propaedeutic to his monograph in progress, in the *Classical Journal*, and gave the paper "Anti-Petronian Elements in *The Great Gatsby*" at CAAS and CAMWS.

ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND is putting the finishing touches on an article for the *American Journal of Philology*. She taught the Roman portion in of the 201 lecture both semesters this year and had the great pleasure of teaching Livy to a talented group of fourth-year Latin students in the fall. Her "Gender in Rome" course is now well enough established that it will have its own listing in the

catalog this fall, rather than continue as a special-topics course. Elizabeth is currently teaching a third-year Roman lyric poetry class of 18 students! Enrollments in our courses have been growing terrifically in the past couple of years, as has the number of majors in the department. Elizabeth now coordinates departmental advising, which gives her a first-hand look at the huge increase in our number of majors over the past few years. She was delighted this past fall to be asked to chair a committee that is developing a diversity plan for the College of Arts and Sciences. At home, children James, Katy, and Amelia are all doing just swell and learning at a terrific rate.

At the 2008 CAMWS convention in Tucson, **DAVID TANDY** received an *ovatio*, CAMWS's highest award for meritorious service to the association, discipline, and profession. The award was presented at the CAMWS banquet on Friday, April 18, which also featured David's talents as pianist. Furthermore, having agreed to an indefinite extension, David continues to administer a growing department. Enrollments are at an all-time high, being shouldered by all the faculty in one way or another. Occasionally he is able to come up for air and get some work done on his economic history of the archaic period.

In summer 2007 **ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTEL** co-directed the fourth season of archaeological excavations at the prehistoric Greek site of Mitrou, together with Eleni Zahou of the Greek Archaeological Service. They found more valuable information about the rise and fall of Mycenaean palatial society in Bronze Age Greece, including evidence for early purple-dye production (see page TK). She is now preparing the 2008 excavation season and is taking with her six of our students, five in her field school and one as a staff member.

In fall 2007 Aleydis taught a large introductory survey on Greek and Roman archaeology. Thanks to a chancellor's grant, she enjoyed time off to write a grant proposal for the National Science Foundation. This spring she is teaching three courses: the introductory survey, an intensive survey of Etruscan and Roman archaeology, and second-semester Latin. She very much enjoys the change of pace and the quiet atmosphere of this language class and is very impressed by the linguistic abilities of our students.

Aleydis again had a busy lecture schedule, speaking about Mitrou to Tennessee high-school students on Latin Day and lecturing about Mitrou at an international conference in Volos, Greece, at the 109th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America at Chicago, as well as at Washington University in St. Louis, the College of Charleston, and the AIA societies of Knoxville and Nashville. In addition, she talked about her work on Minoan pottery at two international workshops in Athens.

Aleydis was happy to see three articles appear this year. An article on regional diversity in Minoan pottery production was published in a volume of the Austrian Academy of Sciences; her study of the function of the Minoan harbor of Kommos appeared in a volume of papers published by the Institute of Aegean Prehistory in honor of Joseph and Maria Shaw; and an article on Mitrou in Homeric times was published in the most recent *Aegaeum* volume. She also reviewed a book on ancient Egyptian shipbuilding for the *American Journal of Archaeology*.

Aleydis continues to serve as secretary-treasurer of the East Tennessee Society of the AIA, under whose auspices she organized nine lectures this year. ■

BY ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND

At the spring 2007 Eta Sigma Phi banquet, we initiated **COURTNEY BAILEY, JAMES BEUERLEIN, BRYAN BLACK, CURTIS BOWER, JOSEPH BOYD, AMELIA CARON, DANIELLE CLAIBORNE, DARLA COLEY, KATHRYN DABBS, SARAH DOWNS, NATALIE EMMETT, ALYX HENRY, NICK JULIAN, KRISTEN KARMAN, JOHN LAMACCHIA, MICHAEL LANGLAIS, JOHN MCKOY, ANDREA MEIRING, AMBER SANDMAN, DANIEL SETTERLUND, DANIELLE SHEIRLING, SAMANTHA SMITH, RICHARD THREADGALL, SARAH WALKER, JESSICA WRENN,**

and **ALESIA ZARAGOZA** into Eta Sigma Phi. Membership is awarded for outstanding performance in Latin or Greek classes. **DR. MAURA LAFFERTY** was the banquet speaker and honorary initiate. The Latin prize, presented annually to the strongest graduating Latin student, went to **PHIL REED**. Scholarships and other awards for the 2007–08 academic year were announced: **RICHARD THREADGALL** received the Moser scholarship; **LIZZI KERSEY** received a Rutledge award and **SAMANTHA SMITH** received a Haines–Morris award toward

teacher training; **JAMES BEUERLEIN, CURTIS BOWER, AMELIA CARON, JESSEN JACOBSEN, NICK JULIAN, KRISTEN KARMAN, ALEXANDER MANGONE, CAITLIN PURCELL, PHIL REED, RYAN VINSON, and MARISSA WILSON** received Haines–Morris awards for the academic year. **ADRIENNE MALCOLM, AMBER SANDMAN, and SEAN YUSKO** received Haines–Morris awards for summer travel; **KATE SEAT** received a Haines–Morris award for travel during the academic year. **RICHARD THREADGALL** is the CAMWS scholar for 2007–08. ■

UT LATIN DAY XXVI

BY DAVID TANDY

We hosted the 26th annual University of Tennessee Latin Day in November. Nearly 400 students from East and Middle Tennessee invaded the University Center and were regaled with a menu of startling variety and brilliance. The department is especially grateful to our friends in other departments who took time away from their regular activities to help us out. The cast of scholars and their topics:

- SALVADOR BARTERA** (Classics), “Tacitus’ Petronius”
- TOM BURMAN** (History), “Learning and Loafing in Latin: Life in a Medieval University”
- CHRIS CRAIG** (Classics), “Marriage or Death: Tough Choices in the Roman Classroom”
- SARAH DOWNEY** (Classics and English), “How did so much Latin get into the English language?”
- DENVER GRANINGER** (Classics), “This is Sparta? Myth and History in Frank Miller’s 300”

- THOMAS HEFFERNAN** (English), “‘Damned to the Beasts’: A History of the Conflict Between Rome and Christianity”
- MICHAEL KULIKOWSKI** (History), “The Roman Army”
- MAURA LAFFERTY** (Classics), “Saints and Sinners”
- ROBERT SKLENAR** (Classics), “Famous First Words: Arma virumque cano”
- JOHANNA STIEBERT** (Religious Studies), “The Dead Sea Scrolls: What Are They and What Is All the Fuss About?”
- ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND** (Classics), “A Look Inside Roman Houses”
- DAVID TANDY** (Classics), “Even More Adventures in Greek Mythology”
- ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTELE** (Classics), “The Ghost of a 4000-Year-Old Boat and Other (But Less Scary) Finds from the 2007 Archaeological Excavation at Mitrou, Greece”
- ROBERT WEAR** (Classics), “The Roman Army Recreated” ■



CLASSICS CLUB

BY DENVER GRANINGER

The Classics Club elected as its 2007–08 officers **CURTIS BOWER** (president), **WILL LADNIER** (secretary), and **MICHAEL BALL** (treasurer). The club continues to do excellent work promoting classics at UT and in the broader Knoxville community. ■

REPORT FROM KAVOUSI

BY GERALDINE GESELL

Kavousi IIA has been completed and reviewed and is now at the INSTAP Academic Press, waiting in line for its copyediting. The second fascicule by **KEVIN GLOWACKI** and **LESLIE DAY** is expected to be ready for editing in this summer and the third by **LESLIE DAY** and specialists, containing an analysis of architecture and finds, will be ready soon thereafter. Much of the specialists' work for this fascicule already has been completed.

All publication team members continue their research and writing on their next volumes, working mainly at their home institutions. **LESLIE DAY** and **KEVIN GLOWACKI** spent part of spring 2007 at the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete in Pacheia Ammos checking their material; **GERALDINE GESELL** was there in both the spring and the fall, writing up her material. **MARGARET MOOK**, on leave from Iowa State for 2007–08 academic year, spent the fall at the University of Cincinnati on a Tytus Fellowship and

spring semester 2008 at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens on an NEH fellowship, writing her manuscript on the pottery from the Kastro site.

An important event in which several of the publication team participated was the conference held in memory of **WILLIAM D. E. COULSON** at the Department of History, Archaeology, and Social Anthropology at the University of Thessaly at Volos, Greece, June 14 through 17. Willy's wife, **ELIZABETH**, chose to give this university his books and papers because she felt he would have liked to support the library of a new Greek university. The university has established the William D. E. Coulson Archive there under the direction of **PROFESSOR ALEXANDER MAZARAKIS AINIAN** and wished to honor Willy with this conference. Since much of Willy's research and publication was on "Dark Age Greece," the conference was titled "The 'Dark Ages' Revisited: An

International Conference in Memory of William D. E. Coulson."

The following Kavousi team members contributed papers on Kavousi topics: **KEVIN GLOWACKI** and **NANCY KLEIN**, "The Analysis of Dark Age Domestic Architecture: The LM IIIC Settlement at Vronda Kavousi"; **MARGARET MOOK**, "The Settlement on the Kastro at Kavousi in the Late Geometric Period"; **LESLIE DAY**, "Appropriating the Past: Early Iron Age Mortuary Practices at Kavousi, Crete"; **GERALDINE GESELL**, "The Handmade Terracotta Figurines at the End of the Late Bronze Age and in the Early Iron Age in Crete: Chronology, Technology, and Function."

Those of you visiting the Department of Classics will soon be able to see a museum case full of copies of finds from the Kavousi Shrine. A photograph and the details of this will appear in the next "Classics Newsletter." ■

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

BY DAVID TANDY

During the 2007–08 school year we have sponsored or co-sponsored lectures on campus by these noted scholars:

ANDREA BERLIN (University of Minnesota), "New Light on the Period of the Macabees: Excavations at Tel Kadesh"

LESLIE PRESTON DAY (Wabash College), "Karphi: A City of Refuge in Dark Age Crete"

J. P. DESSEL (UT Knoxville), "The Renewed Excavations at Tell Taniyat, an Iron Age Kingdom in Southwest Turkey"

ANDREW KRAMER (UT Knoxville), "Searching for our Ancestors: Paleoanthropology in West Java, Indonesia"

EVANGELOS KYRIAKIDIS (University of Kent), "Floating Objects on Minoan Seals—the Sequel"

NOEL LENSKI (University of Colorado), "Evoking the Past on the Arch of Constantine"

ANNA MARGUERITE MCCANN (MIT), "Underwater Archaeology: Exploring the Deep with Scuba, Robots, and Subs"

KATHRYN SALZER (UT Knoxville), "Frankish Monasteries in Medieval Greece"

SARAH SHERWOOD (University of the South), "Using Earth Science to Address Archaeological Questions"

Still to come, after we went to press, were talks by **SALIMA IKRAM** (American University of Cairo), **RALPH ROSEN** (University of Pennsylvania), and **MIRIAM GRIFFIN** (University of Oxford and Florida State University). ■

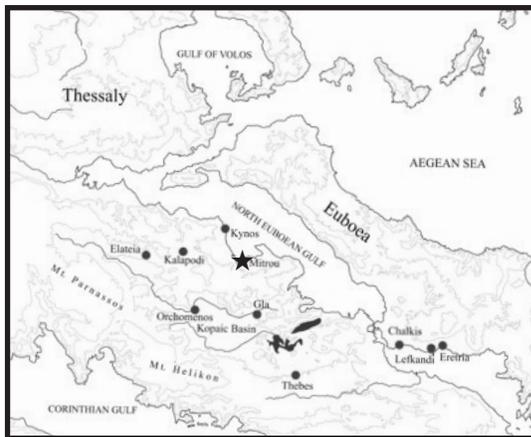
THE MITROU ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

MITROU, continued from page 1

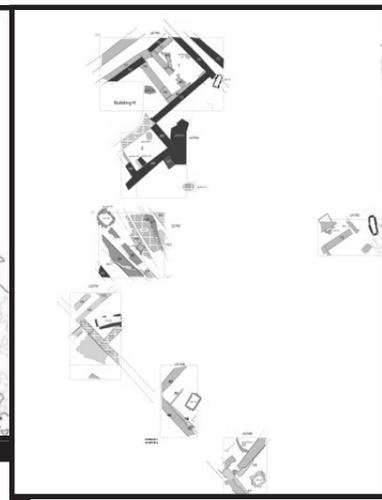
supervisors, and classics student Sean Yusko began as a trench assistant, and then was put in charge of his own area. Nick Herrmann, research professor at UT's Archaeological Research Lab, again directed our mortuary analysis field school and supervised GIS work. His wife, Sherri Turner, was our object photographer for part of the season. This year a team of seven archaeologists, geologists, and geographers led by Jerry Mattingly of Johnson Bible College joined us for 18 days in July to conduct an environmental study of Mitrou and its hinterland. One of the members of this team was John Foss, a retired UT professor of soil science, who carried out a geomorphological study to understand changes in the landscape over the past 5000 years.

Our basic field school, directed by John Younger (University of Kansas), again attracted 16 undergraduate students from various institutions in the U.S. and Canada, among them Boston U, Duke, California—Santa Barbara, Colby, and the College of Charleston. Students were trained in all aspects of the excavation, from digging and recording to operating survey instruments and processing finds in the lab. In the afternoons they attended lectures and seminars given by our staff, and on weekends they went on field trips to many important museums and sites, including Athens, Delphi, and the Argolid. Our advanced field school was likewise a success, drawing four osteology students from the U.S. and Canada.

*A key question:
How did the
Mycenaean elites
come to power?*



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



Site plan of the possible large building in the olive grove, in the northwest of the islet, 2007 (G. Bianco)

The local people of Tragana, the village where Mitrou is located, again received us with warm hospitality. Argyris Alexiou, the new town president, continued the support of our project initiated by his predecessor, Nikos Laios. Stavroula Kyriakou, our excavation cook and den mother, made us feel at home in her beautiful new restaurant and cooked us many tasty souvlakia and lamb chops on her Pompeian-style grill. Konstantinos Anyphantis, the owner of our storeroom, continued to help and support us. His daughter Alexandra, a geology student at the University of Athens, joined our environmental research team, and helped us tremendously in obtaining topographic maps and aerial photos of the Mitrou area.

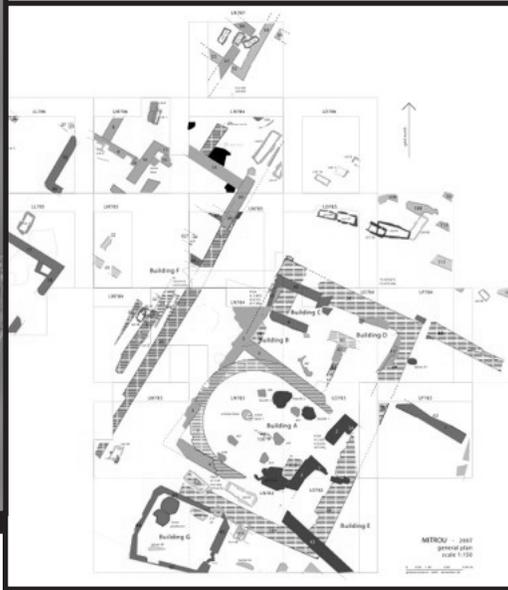
The site of Mitrou was occupied continuously throughout the Bronze Age and into the Early Iron Age, from about 3000 to 900 BCE, and for this reason it is one of the few places on the Greek mainland where we can study three crucial but little-

understood periods of change 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 decline of Mycenaean civilization and its reversion to the simple village level at the transition from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. Since it is located near the Thermopylai, on major maritime and terrestrial routes between northern and southern Greece, Mitrou is especially well situated for us to investigate whether some of these changes may have been related to increased contacts with the north or even to influxes of people coming from the north, as has been proposed by earlier scholars.

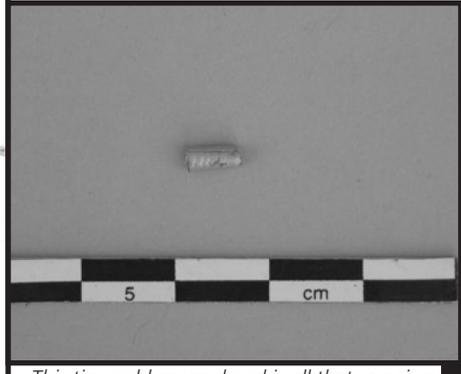
In the first four seasons of excavation (summers of 2004 through 2007), we focused on the periods of the rise and fall of Mycenaean palatial society. We discovered that Mitrou is one of the few sites in Greece that has a settlement of the early Mycenaean period (c. 1600–1400 BCE), and the only site so far with a well-preserved



Crushed Murex shells from a 16th-century dump found in the possible large structure in the olive grove. They were crushed for the extraction of purple dye. (S. Turner)



Site plan of the northeast excavation area at Mitrou, 2007 (G. Bianco)



This tiny gold spacer bead is all that remains of the grave goods in the three elite graves found near Building B. (A. Van de Moortel)

monumental building from the very beginning of this period (16th century BCE). Key questions related to the beginning of Mycenaean civilization are how did the elite come to power and what were the characteristics of this early society. At Mitrou we discovered for the first time a well-organized urban settlement of this period with 9-foot-wide orthogonal streets carefully paved with small pebbles. This has given us the first evidence that these early Mycenaean settlements were no longer the simple villages of the Middle Bronze Age, but highly organized urban societies with a strong leadership.

It is not yet clear whether Mitrou had a hierarchical power structure with a single dominant leader or multiple elite factions vying for power. Monumental Building D (about 40 feet by 25 feet) with its impressive 3- to 4-foot-wide walls is expected to have been an important political center, but we have not yet excavated enough of its interior to understand its function. In 2007,

however, we found on its east and south sides white plastered surfaces instead of pebbled streets, and this suggests that Building D did not stand alone but was part of a larger compound and thus was even more substantial than we thought.

In 2005 a magnetometry survey carried out by Grigoris Tsokas of the University of Thessaloniki suggested the existence of a very large apsidal structure, 100 feet by 75 feet, buried in the olive groves in the northwest part of the islet, about 120 feet from Building D. In 2007 we discovered that most of the architectural remains here are contemporary with Building D. However, since we are digging between the olive trees, many of our trenches here are small, and it is difficult to link their results. Thus we are not yet sure whether we are dealing with a number of independent structures clustered together or we have indeed a single large architectural complex that may have been the seat of a rival political faction vying for power with those who controlled Building D.

A large variety of activities had been carried out in this area, which would have been fitting for an elite household. On an earthen surface possibly belonging to an interior courtyard we found a stone platform surrounded by an unusually large number of animal bones and fragments of cooking pots, indicative of the slaughter and preparation of animals. South of this area was a concentration of high-quality pottery used for drinking and dining, including many vases imported from Aigina and Kea, islands in the South Aegean with advanced societies strongly influenced by Minoan Crete. To the north was evidence for the storage and preparation of cereals. Nearby was a dump of 16th-century destruction material that included a curious curved object made of horn. At a first glance it looked like a flute, but the number of holes and the size of one of the holes seems excessive. A more plausible interpretation is that this horn object was part of a horse bridle.

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Similar horn bridles were used at this time in the Balkans and other areas of Europe. In the 16th century, the horse was introduced into the Aegean as an animal for pulling war chariots, and it is always depicted in elite contexts. If this horn object is indeed a horse bridle piece, its presence here would suggest elite occupation.

Even more impressive was our find, just south of the animal slaughter area, of a dump of about 11 pounds of crushed murex shells. These sea creatures are edible, but the fact that their shells had been crushed indicates that they had been used for the production of purple dye. Near Eastern texts from the 15th century onward tell us that purple was a very costly color associated with royalty and much desired by the Near Eastern elite. In the Aegean, murex dye production began as early as the 18th century BCE, and one wonders if it was used by Aegean elites as a trade item to obtain copper and tin from the Near East, the metals they so needed to make bronze weapons and tools.

Because of erosion, we do not have much evidence of post-15th-century occupation in this area of the site. In the northeast excavation area, Building D and its adjacent buildings were utterly destroyed in the early 14th century, and throughout the remainder of the Mycenaean palatial period (c. 1400–1200 BCE), Building D was lying in ruins, with evidence of only limited reoccupation in areas to its west and north. All this suggests hostile destruction, perhaps at the hands of a rising palatial ruler of the nearby Mycenaean centers of Orchomenos or Thebes.

Mitrou revived only after the fall of the Mycenaean palaces, about 1200 BCE. Its settlement was rebuilt, and a new monumental structure, Building B, was set over the ruins of Building D. In 2007 we found that even

before the end of the Bronze Age, in the late 12th century, the character of the settlement changed from urban to rural, and part of the settlement became an intramural burial ground. A similar change has been observed at various Early Iron Age sites in Greece, but always preceded by a period of temporary abandonment. At Mitrou there is no evidence for such abandonment, and thus we have a unique opportunity here to understand better the reasons for this change from urban to rural, whether it was due to local developments or the influx of new people.

Building B went out of use at this time, and over its northwest corner

These graves indicate that Early Iron Age villages were simple societies ruled by warrior leaders.

small structure C was built, which appears to have had a ritual function, perhaps related to the earliest burials (see earlier newsletters). South of Building B a much more flimsy structure, Building G, was constructed. This new structure had a walled courtyard for household activities adjacent to the street. Two overlapping circular platforms found in this courtyard may have been floors of ovens or silos. To the west, part of Building F was rebuilt, and the area to its north turned into another exterior courtyard. The presence of such exterior courtyards is characteristic for rural occupation, and becomes common at Mitrou from now on. Into the ruins of the Bronze Age settlement, beginning in the late 12th century BCE and

continuing through the 10th century BCE, at least 30 graves were dug, mostly belonging to children, but some to adults.

It is remarkable that none of these final Bronze Age and Early Iron Age graves has been found inside Building B, and that most stay at least 9 feet away from that building. The reason for this is unknown, but it may be related to the surviving prestige of this building. Only four graves were dug close to Building B's south wall. Three of those were lined with conglomerate slabs—a stone rarely used at Mitrou. Two of those graves were large and presumably belonged to adults. They were robbed, but one still contained a tiny gold spacer bead. The third grave belonged to a child buried without grave goods. This group of three graves is reminiscent of groups of elite graves consisting of a warrior grave, a rich female grave, and sometimes a child's grave found in Early Iron Age cemeteries at nearby Tragana and Atalante. These graves indicate that Early Iron Age villages were simple societies ruled by warrior leaders. Also the three or four graves dug close to Building B at Mitrou, because of their location, may have belonged to such elite warrior and his family.

This leading family may well have resided in apsidal Building A, which we now know was constructed inside the southern part of Building B at the beginning of the Early Iron Age, in the 11th century. Such apsidal buildings may have been elite structures used for large-scale drinking and dining, and at Mitrou we definitely found evidence for this in the form of many drinking vessels and mixing bowls for wine and water—many more than would have been needed by a family. Building A was destroyed in the mid-10th century BCE and succeeded by a rectangular structure, Building E, built over its southeast part. The apsidal area of Building A was converted into an

exterior courtyard of Building E. In 2007 we found evidence here for purple dye manufacture in the form of crushed murex shells on top of a small stone platform, stone pounders, two stone grinding slabs, and three hearths. A large clay jar had been sunk into the surface near one of the hearths, perhaps as a receptacle for water.

In 2007 we also dug for the first time in pre-Mycenaean levels. In one trench in the northwest excavation area we dug through Middle Bronze Age levels and reached the top of the Early Bronze Age occupation. Below the Mycenaean occupation we found a burial ground with individual cist graves dating to the final Middle Bronze Age and beginning of the Late Bronze Age. Below this we uncovered a small part of a Middle Bronze Age and Early Bronze Age settlement with a narrow, rough gravel street. To our great surprise we discovered in this street, in a level dating to the transition from the Early to the Middle Bronze Age (21st century BCE), the remains of a small wooden boat. Its wood had disintegrated but had left a black stain in the ground in the shape of the hull. We uncovered 9 feet of its length, and estimate that the boat was originally 18 feet long and 3.3 feet wide. The hull is lanceolate in plan view, with blunt ends. It curves gently in its fore-and-aft as well in its transverse direction. The use of the boat is as yet unknown, but its modest size suggests that it was a fishing boat or small transport vessel. There is as yet no indication of its mode of propulsion. In the unexcavated part of the boat, visible in the scarp of the trench, a plank-like object—perhaps a paddle—is visible lying inside the boat, and there may be other organic objects. This is only the fourth small boat discovered at a prehistoric site in Greece, and it's the first one dating to the Bronze Age. Outlines of three much smaller boats have been found at the Neolithic site of Dispilio, in Macedonia.

Very scant wooden remains of a much larger seagoing cargo ship, possibly of Cypriot origin, have been found in the sea off Point Iria, in the Peloponnese. No wooden boat remains have ever been found in Minoan Crete or the Bronze Age Cyclades, even though these areas were very active in seafaring during prehistoric times. In view of the scarcity of boat finds in prehistoric Greece, the discovery at Mitrou is very significant for our understanding of boatbuilding in the Bronze Age Aegean.

In the northeast scarp of the islet, our team documented a deep stratigraphic sequence with 25 occupation levels dating from the Early to Late Bronze Age. On an earthen surface datable to the Early Bronze II phase, several fragments of baked roof tiles were discovered in 2007, as well as a large mass of disintegrated mud brick. Baked roof tiles are found only on important administrative buildings in this period, such as the famous "House of Tiles," a corridor house at Lerna. This is the first time that Early Bronze Age roof tiles have been found this far north in Greece. Thus it seems that Mitrou already was an important administrative center in the Early Bronze Age. Like most Early Bronze Age corridor houses and comparable administrative structures, the Mitrou building appears to have been destroyed by fire at the transition from the Early Bronze II to III phase.

Our official excavation permit allows us to excavate for one more summer. This summer we plan to excavate the interior of early Mycenaean Building D and dig below it in order to find out whether it had a Middle Bronze Age predecessor. We also want to excavate further in the olive grove, where we hope to establish whether we are dealing with a single early Mycenaean elite compound or with multiple buildings. We will try to expose the remainder of the wooden boat and consolidate

it before excavation in an effort to preserve its shape and that of the organic objects inside. We also want to explore the Early Bronze Age administrative building in the northeast scarp of the islet. We are still trying to raise funds to transfer control of the land plots that we are currently excavating. Expropriation of the area in the olive grove would allow us to remove some of the trees and connect our trenches, so that we would be able to determine whether we are dealing with one or more buildings. Five UT students (including four from Classics) have already signed up for our 2008 field school, and one UT student will return as a staff member.

The 2007 season of the Mitrou excavations was funded by the University of Tennessee (the Classics Department, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Studies program, and the Office of Research), the National Endowment of the Humanities (Grant No. RZ-50652), the Institute of Aegean Prehistory, the Greek Archaeological Service, Colby College, the University of Evansville, and private donors. We very much value all this support. College-Year-in-Athens again administered our field schools. Last but not least, we thank Mrs. Maria Papakonstantinou, the head of the local Archaeological Service, as well as Jack Davis, director, and Maria Pilal, administrator, of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for their continued help and support. ■



I awoke on the morning of August 11, 2007, on a ferry crossing from Bari, Italy, to Patras, Greece. At first light, I got my first glimpse of the Greek coastline. Rising out of the crystal blue waters were beautiful hills covered in brush. What a great introduction to a country I had never seen before! Within hours, I was to meet the Mitrou 2007 archaeological crew in Tragana, Greece. I had been offered a wonderful opportunity to serve as a trench assistant on the Mitrou Archaeological Project. Because I was generously awarded the Haines–Morris scholarship through the UT Knoxville Classics Department, I was able to take advantage of this offer.

Upon my arrival in Tragana, I was shuttled to the staff house and quickly began to settle in. After meeting the rest of the crew at dinner, I fell asleep, eagerly anticipating the work ahead. The first few days at Mitrou were spent removing backfill from the previous year’s excavation. The site quickly began to take shape, and by the third day, the previously excavated walls had become visible. It was exciting to see the remains of civilizations that had occupied the site thousands of years before. With the backfill removed, both staff and field school students were eager to begin new excavations.

We spent the next 8 weeks working under the hot Greek sun, uncovering clues about the Bronze Age inhabitants of this small islet. We excavated the soil, exposing ancient walls and recovering countless pot sherds and other small finds. Every afternoon, we returned to the apotheke to drop off the day’s finds, enter our detailed notes about the day’s

work into the database, and talk with the pottery analysts to try to reconstruct the chronology of our excavation trenches. The work was intense, but the rewards were immense. Field-school students were introduced to all aspects of an archaeological excavation. Trench assistants and supervisors honed their excavation skills and were actively involved in the analyses of our trenches. I felt privileged to be working with such a talented and hard-working staff, composed of students and eminent scholars from around the globe.

I was fortunate to be able to accompany the field-school students on their weekend field trips to ancient sites throughout Greece—Athens, Orchomenos, Delphi, Tiryns, Mycenae, Midea, Gla, and Lerna. We toured museums and ancient ruins while hearing lectures from our field-school director, as well as from the directors of the archaeological sites. This was a wonderful way to deepen our knowledge of Bronze Age Greece and get a better understanding of the greater context in which the ancient inhabitants of Mitrou had existed. No matter how many times you see pictures of these sites in books, nothing can prepare you for the experience of seeing ancient temples and cities rise out of the ground. We also had free time to explore the local markets, restaurants, and beaches. It was in my free time that I gained a great admiration for the Greek people and their way of life.



Mitrou crew at work (K. Xenikakis)

This trip to Greece was about so much more than learning how to become a better archaeologist. It was a great cultural experience. We were deeply immersed into Greek culture and were fortunate to have resided in such a hospitable town. The people of Tragana were so welcoming and treated us like family. There is no better way to see the heart of a foreign country than to spend several weeks in a small village alongside its residents. Everything about Greece was awe-inspiring: the beauty of the landscape; the reverence for the past; the kindness of the people; the succulence of the food; and the Greeks’ appreciation of the important things in life. I went to Greece with the goal of becoming a better archaeologist. I came away with that and more. I gained skills that helped me as an archaeologist; I made lifelong friends; and most important, I had an amazing cultural experience that took me out of my comfort zone and helped me grow as an individual. I am deeply grateful to the UT Knoxville Classics Department for allowing me to be a part of the Mitrou Archaeological Project. ■

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**DISCOVERIES
MITROU 2007**



Horn object from a 16th-century horse bridle. (S. Turner) may have been the cheek piece of a destruction level in the olive grove. This

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