

# the department of CLASSICS NEWSLETTER



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## MITROU 2008 SEASON

BY ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTEL

### EXCAVATION UNCOVERS TWO MONUMENTAL TOMBS AND OTHER EVIDENCE FOR A RISING POLITICAL ELITE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE

The fifth season of excavation and survey at the islet of Mitrou, in Central Greece, was held from June 16 through August 8, 2008, under the direction of Aleydis Van de Moortel of the Department of Classics of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Eleni Zahou of the Greek Archaeological Service ([www.mitrou.org](http://www.mitrou.org)). We continued to learn more about the period after the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces, but our main focus was the formative period of Bronze Age Mycenaean palatial society in Greece (ca. 1600–1400 B.C.E.). We found breakthrough evidence for the impact of the rising elite on settlement organization at Mitrou, and we uncovered for the first time monumental tombs dating to the formative period. We also made important discoveries in Middle and Early Bronze Age levels.

Our 2008 team comprised 71 students, faculty members, and staffers from 13 countries—Greece, USA, Canada, Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, South Africa, and Australia—and representing 44 institutions. Among those were six students and three faculty members of UT Knoxville and one UTK alumnus. Arinn Cirulis, Rachel Godkin, Jessen Jacobsen, Ben Johnson, and Josh Newton were trained in archaeological excavation and survey techniques in our basic field school, and Adam Finn, who was a field school student in 2007, returned as a trench assistant. Johnny McKoy, a UTK and Mitrou alumnus who now is pursuing an M.A. degree in classical archaeology at Florida State University, returned as an assistant to our lab director. Nick Herrmann, research professor at UT's Archaeological Research Lab and, as of fall 2008, assistant professor of anthropology at Mississippi State University, was again our mortuary field school director and also supervised total station and G.I.S. work. Jerry Mattingly's team of Johnson Bible College's Karak project joined us again in early July to continue the environmental study of Mitrou and its hinterland. John Foss, retired UTK professor of soil science, was part of this team, and he continued his geomorphological study of Mitrou and the adjacent coastline. Lynne Sullivan, curator at UT's McClung Museum, visited us for a few days with her husband, Charlie, and both provided much appreciated help with the surface survey.



Balloon image of the islet of Mitrou, oriented roughly north-south (K. Xenikakis, August 2008)

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## FACULTY NOTES



**SALVADOR BARTERA** received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in May 2008. In June 2008, he spent two weeks at

the Fondation Hardt in Geneva, during which he wrote a review of R. Ash's new commentary on Tacitus, *Hist. 2*, for the Green and Yellow series. It was published in *Exemplaria Classica 2008*. In fall 2008 he taught an advanced class on Tacitus, very pleasant and challenging for both him and his students. 2009 has been very busy so far, with attendance at the APA in Philadelphia, an invited lecture given at NCSU, and the Commentary Writers Workshop at Georgetown.

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**CHRISTOPHER CRAIG** still loves working with students, especially with our record numbers of bright and engaged advanced Latinists. For the rest, he was honored to be invited to give a lecture on Cicero at the National University in Athens last May, and to lecture on teaching Cicero in the UGA summer Latin Institute in Athens, Georgia, in July. (You can guess where the baklava was better.) Chris also published an article on Cicero's use of *oratio figurata* in pro Marcello and an encyclopedia article on rhetorical arrangement (and Cicero), as well as refereeing and reviewing the work of other Ciceronians. This spring he was honored to give the annual Arthur Stocker lecture in Latin at the University of Virginia. His topic was Cicero's use of anger, the subject of his current large study. He also gave Cicero papers at the CAMWS Southern Section and at the CAMWS. Chris's most recent classics service is on the APA's committee on the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, the ultimate Latin dictionary. On campus, he continues to direct the College Scholars program, which is a ton of fun. He is also privileged to serve as president-elect of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association.

At home, Carolyn is now 12 and just about to discover how dumb her parents are. Sarah is 17; she has known for years. They delight our hearts.



**KATHRYN DEBUSK** is the Classics Department's ever-efficient administrative assistant.



During AY 2008–09, **GERALDINE GESELL**, professor emerita, continued to work on the publication of the Kavousi excavations. She spent spring and fall at the INSTAP Study Center

for East Crete and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. She took a short vacation in the fall to Sicily and Rome, where she visited some of her favorite sites. Among them were the Roman villa at Piazza Amerina in Sicily—which has the famous mosaic floors depicting, among others, the bikini girls, the circus at Rome, and African hunt scenes—and the Ara Pacis in Rome beautifully housed in a striking new building designed by Richard Meier. The Hodges Library at UT Knoxville was her winter and summer working place. She attended the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Philadelphia, January 8–11, 2009, where she represented the university at the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and she served as chair of the Financial Committee of the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete. She completed two articles on her Kavousi shrine material and its comparanda, “The Snake Goddesses of the LM IIIB and C Periods” and “The Hands of the Kavousi Goddesses with Up-Raised Hands: New Information on Technology.”



**DENVER GRANINGER** has started his 2-year appointment as a Rhys Carpenter Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. He is proud to be contributing to the department's rich tradition at the American School, under whose auspices Geraldine Gesell, Aleydis Van de Moortel, and Merle Langdon have each conducted their path-breaking research. In the fall Denver guided students on archaeological field trips covering much of the Greek mainland, from Thrace to Arcadia and (practically) all points in between. He has had a wonderful experience thus far, the tear gas and Molotov cocktails of December notwithstanding. Denver presented

a paper, “Absent Muse, Epichoric Memory,” at the CAMWS annual meeting in April 2008. An article, “Apollo, Ennodia, and fourth-century Thessaly,” will appear in *Kernos* 22 (2009). His manuscript, “Cult and Koinon in Hellenistic Thessaly,” is under contract with Brill for their new series, *Studies in Greek and Roman Epigraphy*.



**MAURA LAFFERTY** received tenure last summer and is enjoying teaching Roman civilization for the first time. She is also team-teaching a course with Tom Burman (History Department) on medieval Latin paleography and book culture. She has an article forthcoming in *Sacris Erudiri*, “*Non modo scholastico*: Education and Irish Identity in the Dublin Collection of Irish Saints' Lives.” She gave a presentation on hyperbaton and Latin word order at the Tennessee Association for Foreign Language Teaching in November, which she hopes to publish. She continues to work on her translation, edition, and commentary on Abelard and Heloise, as well as on her study of Latin culture in the early Middle Ages. She is a member of the steering committee of the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and leads a medieval Latin sight-reading group that meets weekly.



During autumn semester 2008, **MERLE LANGDON** offered the course “Greek and Roman Athletics” for the second time. The first offering was in 2006, and only 12 students enrolled. This time around, 50 students took the course, so it will become a regular offering. Classics chairman David Tandy deserves credit for helping to make this offering viable. In October Merle traveled to Berkeley to present some aspects of his research to the Classics Department of the University

of California. Spring semester 2009 found him in Athens, Greece, where he continues his study of rock art and inscriptions in Attica.



In May 2009 **SUSAN MARTIN** was appointed provost and senior vice-chancellor for academic affairs after serving as interim provost during AY 2008–09. She is enjoying this work although she regrets having to give up the opportunity to work with her colleagues in the Classics Department. During the time that she believed she would return to the department, she was able to participate in several classics meetings, including a conference on Roman contract law in Rome and the annual CAMWS meeting in Tucson. She was reunited with graduate school friends in Ann Arbor for the Women in Classics meeting at University of Michigan in May of 2008. After a trip to England with husband Paul Barrette and granddaughters Allison and Lauren, she began work in the Office of the Provost. She claims to be enjoying the work despite the many budget woes the current economic downturn has occasioned.



**ROBERT SKLENAR** is pleased to report that his section of advanced Latin this spring was oversubscribed; his other teaching assignments for AY 2008-09 include intermediate Greek, intermediate Latin, and Greek and

Roman literature in English translation. He has also joined the staff of the Arts and Sciences Advising Center (where he hopes to have done minimal damage) and has been promoted from alternate to full member of the Faculty Senate. On the research front, he has completed his second book, "Oratio Corrupta and the Poetics of Senecan Tragedy," which is now under review at the University of Michigan Press. Smaller projects include an article on Petronius and *The Great Gatsby*, published late last year in the *F. Scott Fitzgerald Review*; a paper, "Lucan the Formalist," delivered at the CAMWS Southern Section meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, last November and forthcoming as a chapter in *Brill's Companion to Lucan* (ed. Paolo Asso); and an article on the reception of Sappho in 19th-century Czech poetry, forthcoming in *Kosmas: Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*.



**ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND** is revising an article on Horace and planning some new academic projects she will tackle this summer. She has been teaching lots of Latin this year and is pleased to note that her "Gender in Rome" course seems to be appearing annually (or close to it) on the departmental course schedule. In her capacity as coordinator of Classics Department advising, she notes that we are graduating a whopping 15 majors this semester and that even the departure of these graduates

leaves us with a healthy list of 60 majors and minors. At the December 2008 faculty convocation, she was delighted to receive the first-ever Diversity Leadership Award given by the College of Arts and Sciences for her work during AY 2007–08 on the college's diversity plan.



Administering the department and chairing the Humanities Initiative for the college has taken up much of his time, but **DAVID TANDY** still managed to get out a chapter in a book and a couple of reviews and was honored to offer a paper on archaic exile to the classics program at Texas Tech.



In the summer of 2008 **ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTEL** co-directed the fifth season of archaeological excavations at Mitrou. Her team continued to find important information about the rise of Mycenaean palatial society in Bronze Age Greece (see page I).

In fall 2008 Aleydis taught three courses: the introductory survey on Greek and Roman archaeology, which continues to draw a lot of students; the upper-division survey course on Aegean prehistory; and first-semester Latin. In spring 2009 she was on research leave in Europe, where she spent most of her time at the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark, where she is writing a book manuscript on the

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#### MITROU 2008, continued from page VII

perforated, so that the figurine could be used as a pendant. The style of this figurine is not Aegean. According to expert Stephanie Budin of Rutgers University, it may be Egyptian in origin.

The 2008 season of the Mitrou Archaeological Project has been made possible by funding from UT Knoxville (the Classics Department, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Studies program, and the Office of Research), the National Endowment for the Humanities (Grant No. RZ-50652), the Institute of

Aegean Prehistory, the Greek Archaeological Service, Randolph Macon College, Colby College, the University of Evansville, and private donors. We very much appreciate all their support. College-Year-in-Athens again administered our field schools. We are also very grateful to Mrs. Maria Papakonstantinou, the head of the local Archaeological Service, as well as director Jack Davis and administrator Maria Pilali of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for all their help and their support of our project. ■

## REPORT FROM KAVOUSI

BY GERALDINE GESELL

The copy editing of the manuscript of "Kavousi IIA: The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement at Vronda: The Buildings on the Summit," by **LESLIE PRESTON DAY**, **NANCY L. KLEIN**, and **LEE ANN TURNER**, with contributions by **HEIDI DIERCKX**, **KIMBERLY FLINT-HAMILTON**, **GERALDINE C. GESELL**, **DAVID REESE**, and **LYNN SNYDER**, has been completed and proofed. The reading of the page proof started in the spring, and the INSTAP Academic Press expects to publish it by summer's end. "Kavousi IIB: The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement at Vronda: Buildings on the Slopes and Periphery," by **LESLIE DAY** and **KEVIN GLOWACKI**, with contributions by **HEIDI DIERCKX**, **GERALDINE C. GESELL**, **DAVID REESE**, **LYNN SNYDER**, and **M. E. EVANS**, is expected to be ready for preliminary editing this summer, and "Kavousi IIC, The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement at Vronda: Specialist Analyses," by **LESLIE DAY** and the specialists, containing an analysis of architecture and finds, will be ready for editing after. Much of the specialists' work for this fascicule has already been completed. ■

## CLASSICS CLUB

BY RYAN VINSON

This year the Classics Club has continued to increase its involvement with high-school Latin clubs. Throughout the fall, club members helped plan, organize, and run the local Knoxville Latin Fair at Bearden High. Before the convention the club wrote tests and tutored Bearden students weekly for the upcoming convention. The Latin Fair itself was a very successful event, with the addition of the academic competitions and expansion of the art, skit, and quiz bowl contests.

Last spring club members continued to help with regional and national conventions by writing tests for the Middle Tennessee convention, Virginia kick-off competition, and this summer's National Junior Classical League convention. Nine members attended April's Tennessee state convention in Memphis on April 24 and 25. There they proctored tests, ran *certamen* contests, and founded the Tennessee Senior Classical League for Tennessean high-school graduates and college students. Some members will even chaperone this summer's national convention at the University of California, Davis. In the fall the club will continue to help with the Knoxville Latin Fair and will, we hope, expand the tutoring operation to include all local high schools. ■

## UT LATIN DAY XXVII

BY DAVID TANDY

We had well over 300 middle- and high-schoolers on campus for another Latin Day in November. In addition to the usual participation of departmental faculty, we were especially grateful to our colleagues in other departments who took the trouble to join us on November 11 to offer presentations to our guests.

The star-studded lineup of the XXVIIth Latin Day:

**SALVADOR BARTERA** (Classics), "The Emperor Nero"

**THOMAS BURMAN** (History), "What Happens When a Christian Priest Writes Latin Notes in an Arabic Qur'an"

**CHRISTOPHER CRAIG** (Classics), "Criminal Justice, Roman Style"

**THOMAS HEFFERNAN** (English and Religious Studies), "Death in the Amphitheater: The Conflict Between Rome and Christianity"

**MICHAEL KULIKOWSKI** (History), "The Roman Army"

**MAURA LAFFERTY** (Classics), "Abelard and Heloise"

**CLERK SHAW** (Philosophy), "Aristotle and Epicurus on Happiness"

**ROBERT SKLENAR** (Classics) "LUCAN, OR THE EPIC TRADITION MEETS FRANKENSTEIN"

**ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND** (Classics), "Roman Houses"

**DAVID TANDY** (Classics), "Further Adventures in Greek Mythology" ■

## VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Among the many visitors in 2008–09 were these distinguished guests:

**JOHN CAMP** (Agora Excavations) Rutledge Archaeology Lecture

**ALAIN GOWING** (University of Washington) Rutledge Memorial Lecturer

**NICOLLE HIRSCHFELD** (Trinity University)

**MARIA JACOBSEN** (Clemson University)

**DAVID LEVENE** (New York University)

**FATHER JUSTIN SINAITIS** (St.

Catherine's Monastery, Sinai)

**SUSAN STEVENS** (Randolph Macon Women's College)

**PETER WELLS** (University of Minnesota) ■

# GODDESS ON DISPLAY

BY GERALDINE GESELL



New to the Classics Department office is a display case containing copies of a goddess with up-raised hands and her ritual equipment, found in the LM

IIIIC shrine at the Vronda site of the Kavousi excavation. They were made by **TED SAUPE**, a former ceramics professor in the UT Knoxville School of Art, to test his theories of how the Minoans had made the originals. The goddess image is based on Goddess 1, the best preserved of the goddesses found at Vronda. Her ritual equipment includes snake tubes, which served as offering stands to support *kalathoi* (offering bowls of a particular shape), and plaques, on which would have been ritual pictures, painted or in relief. These copies were based on Snake Tubes 3 and 4, Plaque 1, and Kalathos 5. The extra goddess head was made to test a different clay fabric. Ted also made copies of two hut urns from Karphi, now in the Herakleion Museum, and these have also been placed in the display case. It is uncertain what the function of the hut urns was.

They were not found in shrines of the goddess with up-raised hands. The shrines of the goddess with up-raised hands were public shrines serving the town.

A goddess figure in this pose might have a bird on her tiara or snakes attached to her body and arms—the former representing the celestial aspect of the goddess; the latter, her chthonic aspect. At Vronda there were only birds on the tiaras, as is illustrated on the copies of goddess and the head in the display case. Thanks to **DR. DAVID TANDY**, head of the Classics Department, who facilitated the project; **DR. JEFFERSON CHAPMAN**, director of the Frank H. McClung Museum, who provided the display case; and **STEVE LONG**, the McClung's exhibits coordinator, who altered the case and worked with Dr. Gesell on the arrangement of the objects. ■

# ΗΣΦ

BY ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND

At the spring 2008 Eta Sigma Phi banquet, we initiated **MICHAEL BALL, JENNY BLEDSOE, ALEXANDER BOTTIGGI, ISAAC BOWERS, CHRISTOPHER BURGESS, ARINN CIRULIS, SARA COLE, JESSICA DAY, KATHRYN DOWNEY, MEGAN GOODWIN, ASHLEY GREGORY, BRITTANY HENDERSON, JESSEN JACOBSEN, BENJAMIN JOHNSON, KORO JONES, WILL LADNIER, DAVID LINDEMAN, ALEXANDER MANGONE, JOSHUA NEWTON, TOMMY NORTON, CANDASHIA POLK, CAITLIN PURCELL, MEREDITH SIMPSON, SEAN STACEY, JENNIFER TUCKER, RYAN VINSON, VALERIE WOODINGS, and SEAN YUSKO**

into Eta Sigma Phi. Membership is awarded for outstanding performance in Latin or Greek classes. **DR. TOM BURMAN** of the History Department was the banquet speaker and an honorary initiate. The Latin prize, presented annually to the strongest graduating Latin student, went to **RICHARD THREADGALL**. Scholarships and other awards for AY 2008–09 were announced: **NICK JULIAN** received the Moser scholarship; **JOSHUA NEWTON** and **JESSEN JACOBSEN** received full Haines-Morris scholarships; **SAMANTHA SMITH** received a Rutledge award toward teacher training; **AMELIA CARON, ARINN CIRULIS, SARA**

**COLE, BENJAMIN JOHNSON, KRISTEN KARMAN, WILL LADNIER, ALEXANDER MANGONE, ASHLEY PARROTT, and RYAN VINSON** received Haines-Morris awards for the academic year. **SARA COLE** and **NICK JULIAN** received Haines-Morris awards for summer travel. **RACHEL GODKIN** received the Anna Marguerite McCann award. **NICK JULIAN** is the CAMWS scholar for 2008–09. **SARA COLE** has also been accepted into the Egyptology program at Yale with funding for 5 years; she was also the humanities winner in the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EUReCA) competition. ■

# THE MITROU ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

MITROU, *continued from page 1*

Our basic and mortuary field schools attracted 26 undergraduate students from various institutions in the U.S., including Boston University, Colby College, Dartmouth College, Oberlin College, and Wellesley College. This year we welcomed our first students from South Africa and Australia.

The site of Mitrou was occupied continuously from the Early Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age, and 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 end of the flourishing Early Bronze II civilization of the Corridor Houses and the possible influx of a new people towards the end of the Early Bronze Age; the formation of the Mycenaean palatial society in the early part of the 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 (see *Classics Newsletters* 2004–2008).

Perhaps the most important results of our 2008 excavation season relate to the formative period of Mycenaean palatial society (ca. 1600–1400 B.C.E.). Mitrou is unique in that it is the only site in mainland Greece where the rise of Mycenaean complex society can be studied from settlement remains as well as graves, rather than merely from mortuary data. Our work in 2008 has made it clear that major changes took place in the organization of the settlement during the Late Helladic I phase (16th century B.C.E.).

*The character of the settlement changed from urban to rural in the late 12th century B.C.E.*



*Building D with monumental tomb 73 inside it, and the walls of its associated complex to the east and south. Near the lower right corner the later 13th-century B.C.E. pottery deposit with drain tiles was found. In the center of the bottom edge of the excavation sector is the corner of newly discovered Building I dating to the Early Iron Age. (K. Xenikakis, August 2008)*



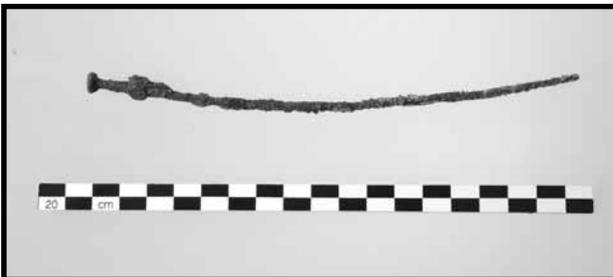
*Clay figurine pendant of parturient female, possibly coming from Egypt. It was found in a mixed context in the central-eastern area of the site. (R. Vykukal)*

These provide breakthrough information of how this emerging elite changed its society and manifested its power.

We already found evidence for the emergence of a local elite in previous years. The impressive architecture of Building D is indicative of its elite status, and the horse bridle piece and high-quality pottery found in the building complex in the northwest excavation sector also are strong indicators for the presence of an elite. In 2008 it became clear that contemporary with the construction of Building D in the Late Helladic I phase, the settlement of Mitrou had been reorganized entirely with the

laying out of a series of orthogonal roads. We now have uncovered parts of four such roads. Two roads close to Building D were 3 m wide and were carefully laid with pebbles.

A second major change in settlement organization was suggested by the results of our surface survey. Whereas in the Middle Bronze Age graves were made in abandoned structures within the settlement, it seems that in the Late Helladic I phase the northeast part of the islet became exclusively designated as a grave plot. If this finding is confirmed by further study of the pottery in 2009, it will be our first evidence for a separation of the areas of the living and the dead during the formative period—a considerable change indicating the rise of a strong central authority.



Bronze pin with globe from Late Protogeometric grave 62 in the northwest excavation sector. Pins such as this held the clothing together at the shoulders. (R. Vykukal)



Bronze bracelet from Late Protogeometric grave 62 in the northwest excavation sector. (R. Vykukal)



Bracelet with gold links and centerpiece made of a blue glassy paste held in a gold strip, from monumental tomb 73 inside Building D (R. Vykukal)



UTK's members of the 2008 Mitrou team (R. Vykukal)

In 2008 we found for the first time monumental graves that can be linked plausibly to Mitrou's emerging elite. In the northeast corner of the islet we found a plot of seven graves of this period, including a monumental cist grave (no. 51), 1.80 m × 1.50 m and 90 cm deep. This grave had been plundered, but its unusually large size and its location near the highest point of the islet, well visible from the sea, indicates that it is an elite tomb. A much more impressive monumental tomb was discovered in the last two days of excavation in 2008, and it was found in a most unexpected location, namely inside monumental Building D. Roughly in the center of the building a large rectangular tomb (no. 73) had been cut, 5 × 2 m in area, and 1.2 m deep. Its walls had been constructed with mud brick and lined with upright sandstone slabs, 1 m wide, 1.2 m deep, and 15 cm thick. Tomb 73 is not only almost five times larger than monumental cist grave 51 in the northeast

of the islet, it was also much better finished and thus much more labor intensive.

Monumental tomb 73 had been looted in antiquity, but a first analysis shows that it contained three vases of the Late Helladic IIB or IIIA:1 phase (late 15th or early 14th century B.C.E.), the last use phase of Building D. The looters left some human bones, as well as a gold ring, a fragmentary gold bracelet, a bronze ring, a piece of pierced gold foil that must have been sewn on clothing, and a small rock-crystal disk.

Mitrou is also an important site for studying the transition from the Late Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age. In 2007 we discovered that the character of the settlement changed from urban to rural in the late 12th century B.C.E., before the very end of the Bronze Age. In 2008 we discovered another flimsy Early Iron Age structure, Building I, located just south of Building E, and probably

also of Late Protogeometric date (late 10th century B.C.E.). We also found 10 more graves. By far the richest was a Late Protogeometric cist grave belonging to a ca. 6-year-old child buried with three small clay cups, a juglet, a feeding bottle, and a pyxis, as well as two bronze pins, one or more bronze earrings, a bronze bracelet, a bronze ring, an indeterminate piece of bronze jewelry, and a bead.

Finally, a very interesting find was made some 50 m south of buildings A, E, and I. We found that the 2-m wide dirt-and-pebble street and its adjacent building uncovered in a test trench here had been reused some time in the Early Iron Age. On the latest surface of the street, in a mixed Late Bronze and Early Iron Age context, was a small clay figurine of a squatting female ostensibly in the process of giving birth. The topknot in her hair is

*Continued on page III*

**Jessen Jacobsen:** Neither Josh Newton nor I had ever been out of the country before this past summer. We understood that we had been given an amazing opportunity and planned to make the most of it. We may have been ambitious arriving a week early to explore Crete, but even through all the close calls and setbacks, we made it out relatively unscathed.

We traversed Crete with the smallest of budgets, relying on camping and surviving on peanut-butter sandwiches. The sites we visited were an excellent complement to our classics courses at UT and the education we would receive at the Mitrou field school. We first made our way to the Iraklion Archaeological Museum—but it was being renovated. There was, however, a temporary display of “greatest hits” of the museum’s artifacts.

Our introduction to ancient sites came at Knossos, but Knossos left us disappointed by the long lines, amusement-park atmosphere, and gaudy reconstructions. But we were able to explore the ruins of an empty Phaistos, the Minoan palace in southern Crete, freely and concluded our week by swimming in the clear waters and exploring the Roman rock-cut tombs at Matala; visiting Chania, Rhethymno, and Iraklion; and hiking the length of the Samaria Gorge.

We were the first to arrive at the Mitrou excavation, and thus the first to be put to work. We learned quickly that this was no vacation, nor should it be. We were here to take in all aspects of the excavation. However, we soon found out that it was impossible not to enjoy every minute, even in our sleep-deprived and fatigued states. Every weekday involved getting up before dawn, munching down breakfast, and wading across the water to our island home. Putting in a full 8-hour workday in 100-degree weather became more and more rewarding as the season progressed. Toward the end many of us would choose to work from sun up to sun down. The days usually ended with a refreshing jump off the cliffs on the island. On and off site we could take part not just in excavating but also in all facets of the project—surface survey, total station survey, paperwork, pottery analysis, and flotation. All the parts were important, and they all worked together.

I am very thankful for having had the opportunity to participate in the Mitrou excavation. After 10 short weeks in Greece, I discovered a new love of archaeology and a renewed passion for classics. I hope that many more excavations are in my future. All of the famous sites helped to put my education into a greater context than before.

The number of sites I visited is far too long to list here, as they range from Athens to Mt. Olympus. But each one provided me with a greater understanding of ancient Greece. I gained so much from the experience, and the only thing I lost (despite my best efforts and four meals a day) was a lot of weight. ■

**Josh Newton:** The largest obstacles we faced during our travels last summer were airports. After being delayed for a few hours in Knoxville, Jessen Jacobsen and I landed in Newark just in time to sprint to our terminal and get on the flight to Greece. After a brief reroute to Dublin, we touched down in Greece, where we then described our lost suitcases to baggage claims and sat down, contemplating our next move. At least we were in Athens.

What could have been a disastrous day was saved by UT’s own Drs. Aleydis Van de Moortel and Merle Langdon, who offered us a room at their apartment until we received our luggage. Later that night, we hiked up Lykavittos hill and saw our first real view of Athens, including the Parthenon and the straits of Salamis. Aleydis pointed out Mt. Aigaleon, where Xerxes is reported to have watched the famous sea battle of Salamis, and we returned for the

night. The next day we got our luggage and were off to brave Crete for a few days before settling down in Tragana.

I was halfway expecting archaeological work to be like an Indiana Jones film; however, I have never seen Indiana Jones tackle backfill. After removing all of the dirt covering the trenches and clearing off the vegetation, we began the work in earnest. It is meticulous work; most days, we spent 8 hours digging centimeters at a time, looking for any type of surface, grumbling if any of the potsherds were out of context. The patience that this work demands is rewarded when, slowly but surely, the

sherds begin to tell their story.

Besides digging, we were able to visit many sites in Greece and view impressive artifacts. In one day we visited both Leuktra, where Epaminondas began the Theban Hegemony in triumph, and Chaeronea, where Philip II ended Thebes’ dwindling power by shattering their Sacred Band. I walked atop the Acropolis, shouted at people from the top of the theater at Epidaurus, and stood where Socrates was read his indictment. At Delphi I stood gaping in front of the Charioteer, and in the National Museum at Athens I was literally stopped in my tracks when I glimpsed Artemision Zeus across the room. I counted no fewer than three sculptures of Alkinoos. Nothing, however, eclipsed reading various *ostraka* at the Agora Museum in Athens with Themistokles’ name scratched into them.

To actually see the topography of Greece, to unearth potsherds and seal stones somehow solidifies all the studying we do in class. For a student of classical archaeology or anthropology, there is no better teacher than experience. And for a student of ancient history, which I hope to pursue in graduate school, there is no better way of learning how important it is to view historiography and archaeology side by side. After 10 weeks, we returned to Newark and were immediately greeted by an 8-hour layover. At least we had our luggage. ■

*I was literally  
stopped in my tracks  
when I glimpsed  
Artemision Zeus  
across the room.*

BY ARINN CIRULIS

**June 14, 2008**

Tragana. Rise every morning at 5:00 a.m. and stroll through the dawning streets, accompanied by the sound of doves hooting invisibly from beneath the eaves of every house, and the omnipresent roar of starlings, chickadees, and other cheeky little birds—a constant chorus in all Greek towns. The center of Tragana is an ugly mock-adobe horror of a church, which nonetheless presides over a lovely communal space of prettily embossed cement, brick pathways and shade trees—this is the town square. Beside the church are a little school and a games court. The wealthier families and more successful shops seem to radiate outward from the church square and live within ear-shot of its bells, which are presumably sounded hourly by the quietly but firmly disapproving Greek Orthodox priest I've seen, dressed in a jet black cassock and a hat—as if in defiance of the fierce Mediterranean sun—with his bushy steel-gray beard bristling and his long hair bound at the nape of his neck. . . .

The father, I am told, does not care for us “archaeologi.” We bring a good deal of money to his village, so he tolerates our presence, but he thinks we are far too interested in heathen things, and not nearly appreciative enough of Christianity.

The children, of course, are another matter. They love to say hello to us archaeologi, if only to show off the fact that we smile and say hello back. These are inevitably boys, ages 9 to 14 or so, sitting on the curbs or riding their bicycles around town when everyone else is having a siesta. One of the bold little things pedaled by the other day as I was walking to the Apotheke for an afternoon session and asked me in English where I was going—and then tried to persuade me to get on the back of his bike like a little girl so that he could take me to work! I laughingly declined, naturally, to spare his legs, his bike, and my own threadbare dignity. . . .

**June 26, 2008**

I'm trying to think of something I can tell you about this trip and my experience in Greece that might interest you in general. . . .

Greece is a land of slinky cats and despised and abandoned dogs. One of the first things I saw on the drive from the Athens airport to the village was a lean stray dog at a highway rest stop, peeling the bark from a tree and eating it—whether driven by hunger or thirst I could not tell. And there are dogs everywhere in the villages and cities, unrestrained, not spayed or neutered, slinking and skulking down alleys or panting in the shade. Nearly every female dog I've seen has had the hanging dugs of recent motherhood, sometimes one or two of the local males already in pursuit to produce another litter. The stray pups beg on the streets and follow strangers home to cry outside their windows. . . .

It does make me a bit sad when I see a stray dog sprawled in the shade of the path into the Agora of Athens itself, and I certainly approve when people quietly leave a pot of water out for thirsty dogs in the heat of the day.

I'm impressed with the cats of Greece. Even the strays are sleek and muscular—they're lean but they look healthy. My favorite cat so far was a pet in a tourist knick-knack shop in Athens. It was a white calico with a blunt round head and a solidly plump overfed body; the proprietor spoke to it in Greek, in the unmistakable tone of a man who loves cats speaking to the cat he loves, and it rolled over onto its back with the universal body language of a fearlessly spoiled pet. . . .

And of course there are bugs: cockroaches the size of a city bus at times, in the kitchen; a brilliant leaf-green preying mantis on the picnic table. And when you feel the first breath of morning breeze around 9:00 a.m. on the island, the cicadas begin their song in the pine forest, a constant rattle that surrounds you from all sides, as if thousands of invisible people were all shaking maracas full of dry beans at once. . . .

**June 29, 2008**

I'm sitting beneath a natural awning of woven leaves and branches in the courtyard of the Doganos compound, listening to the twitter of birds and the sounds of the village. The chickens are strutting and fussing in their run, the grapes on the arbor are fat and starting to ripen rosy red, the peaches are still tiny and green on the branches of the tree, and the last of my laundry is swaying gently in the breeze. The dry rugged mountains of Greece rise sharply to my left, and to my right a kilometer or two is the brilliant blue sea. I can smell salt when the wind blows from that direction, and today is a wonderfully breezy day.

After 3 weeks, I think I can say with confidence that Greece is an awful place to have to dig a trench—but a downright delightful place to do nothing. So long as you can idle your way through the heat of the day, walking sedately under a broad-brimmed hat or remaining peacefully in the shade, the land is thoroughly seductive. The soil is so fertile and the sun so constant that you can grow practically anything. The waters give you an endless variety of seafood to eat (or crush to make dye, if you're an enterprising soul!). Hills and pastures will support tough animals like sheep and goats very easily; with enough armed men you can hold a parcel wide enough to run cattle, perhaps, although it's not hard to see why the people of Lokris prefer ships to chariots and lamb to steak.

For thousands of years, people have been coming to this land and thinking it was beautiful and rich. The strata at Mitrou, if only we could dig deep enough, show occupation of the island that goes back to the Neolithic. The layers are so deep that it's almost like a Middle Eastern mound, a tel that forms on a desirable spot as one community after another, over centuries and millennia, builds and rebuilds and occupies and fights and dies over a patch of soil.

**RICHARD THREADGALL** and fellow UVA classics grad students took Chris Craig to lunch when he was lecturing in Charlottesville in February. Richard has lost none of his wit, and continues to be the tallest (and best dressed!) classics student in any group. It was a pure pleasure to see him.

**SAMANTHA SMITH** has been doing her Latin teaching internship experience with our former colleague Geoffrey Steadman at Farragut High School. Chris Craig visited their program in the fall, and was delighted to see Samantha settling in as a terrific young teacher under Geoffrey's mentorship. *Euge, Optima!*

**BOBBY HUDDLESTON**, veteran Latin teacher at Father Ryan High School in Nashville, has very kindly shared with the department his great images from recent Italian travels. He also came and observed Chris Craig's intro Latin class in the fall. The student has truly become the teacher. Chris was grateful for his good criticisms, and delighted to have the time together.

**DIANA HOWARD TOMAYKO** finished a master's degree in December. Diana, *tibi gratulamur!* Diana has a great Latin program at Brentwood High School. Now that she has been elected vice-president of the Tennessee Classical Association, we hope that she will become one of the leaders in Latin instruction in our state.

**CHARLOTTE GOSS** sent this in May 2008, just after our last newsletter went to press: "Since retirement in 2000, I have been content out of the classroom. I have been busy and happy spending half the time in Tennessee and the other in Florida and the beach. I've traveled to Mexico, Cape Cod, Boston, and Nevada with friends. My most recent

adventure is running away to Las Vegas and getting married to a fine man, Dave Mahnke, who is a retired chef. I am in culinary heaven and am blissful in our relationship." Charlotte has now moved completely to South Florida. We wish her and Dave every happiness.

**DR. SCOTT HUBBARD** was also in touch in May of last year, just after we had gone to press. Here is his good report: "After graduating from there (UTK) in 1998 with a B.A. in Greek and minors in Latin and philosophy, I went to graduate school at Vanderbilt and did a Ph.D. on Hegel and the Greek tragedians. I did graduate work in Greek, Latin, and philosophy, although the degree formally is in comparative literature. Since then I worked in the business world for 3 years or so, and as of last year started teaching philosophy. (The search for more classes continues unabated.) My wife April is working on an R.N., on the assumption that one of us will eventually have to get a real job. We have five children: Virginia (12), Amanda (8), Melody (7), Noah (3), and Katie (19 months)." It was great to see Scott, and great to see him thriving with his beautiful family.

**MEAGAN AYER**, continuing her graduate work at SUNY Buffalo, had a triumphant first professional paper at our CAMWS meeting in Tucson in April of last year.

After leaving UT, **WES DAVIS** did a Ph.D. in English at Princeton and then taught in the English Department at Yale for 8 or 9 years. While there, he started doing some freelance writing for *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and a few literary reviews. He has since decided to devote himself to writing full time. His first book, to be titled "The

Ariadne Objective," is about Patrick Leigh Fermor and the kidnapping of General Kreipe, is under contract to a division of Random House. In the meantime, he also married a fellow Princeton grad student, a Dante scholar who is currently a dean at the Horace Mann School in New York City. They now have two little girls. One just had her first birthday and the other is about to turn 4.

**ADRIENNE MALCOLM** reports, "I have my own my bookkeeping business; it's just under my name 'Adrienne Malcolm Bookkeeping.' Stanton (Charles) Webster is the general manager of Nama Sushi Bar downtown. We got married on April 4 and are in the process of buying a historic home in Fort Sanders. We are also hosting a 'Summer Supper' in July to benefit Knox Heritage."

**MICHAEL DECKER** is in the grueling process of finishing up his first semester at Bryn Mawr. He says it's tough, but he is hanging in.

**RAJSHREE SOLANKI** is currently working at the Smithsonian as a registrar in the Native American area.

In May, **STEPHANIE MCCARTER** married fellow classicist **DANIEL HOLMES** in Knoxville. She further reports, "We were thrilled to have a strong UT Classics contingent among our guests, including Elizabeth Sutherland, Susan Martin, Salvador Bartera, and alumnus Michael Decker. After the nuptials we packed up and moved to our new house in Sewanee, Tennessee, where we were very lucky to land two positions in the Department of Classical Languages at the University of the South. We are settling in nicely and are now the proud parents of two very sweet cats, Jinx and Basil." ■

## FACULTY NOTES, *continued from page III*

medieval Utrecht-ship type from the Netherlands. In March she hopped over to Volos, Greece, to participate in the 3rd Archaeological Meeting of Thessaly and Central Greece. She also lectured about Mitrou at the 110th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America at Philadelphia. Aleydis saw one article on Mitrou appear in the proceedings

of a workshop of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She continues to serve as secretary-treasurer of the East Tennessee Society of the AIA, and in this capacity organized nine lectures for this year, including the second Harry C. Rutledge Memorial Lecture in Archaeology with Dr. John McK Camp, the director of the Agora excavations in Athens. ■

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# DISCOVERIES MITROU 2008

Clay seal found in  
the sea northwest of  
the site, possibly of  
Early Bronze II date.  
This seal is indicative  
of administrative  
activity at the site at  
this early date. (R.  
Vykukal)



Gold ring from monumental tomb 73  
inside Building D (R. Vykukal)



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