

# the department of CLASSICS NEWSLETTER



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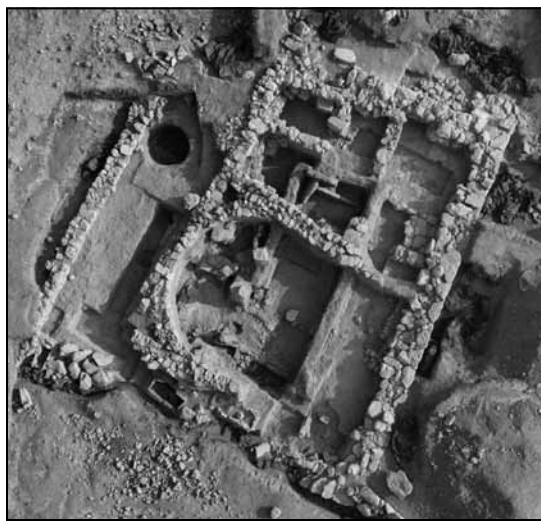
SPRING 2010

## MITROU 2009

BY ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTEL

FIRST STUDY SEASON REVEALS FASCINATING NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE SETTLEMENT'S EMERGING ELITE OF THE EARLY MYCENAEAN PERIOD

After five seasons of excavation and survey (2004–2008) at the islet of Mitrou in Central Greece, we began studying the finds for publication in 2009 ([www.mitrou.org](http://www.mitrou.org)). Eleni Zahou of the Greek Archaeological Service and I co-directed this first study season, held from June 14 through August 16. Our work this summer has given us a better understanding of the rise of Mitrou's elite early in the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1600–1400 B.C.E.), and we obtained a fascinating new glimpse into the longevity of this early elite's prestige.



Northwest area of Building D's complex with rectangular funerary enclosure and chamber tomb 73 visible below later remains. To the west is Road 1 with our stratigraphic sections. The circular feature in the road is an Early Iron Age water pit. (K. Xenikakis, August 2009)

Since this was a study season, our team was much smaller than in previous years. It consisted of 40 staff members from 12 different countries (Greece, the USA, Canada, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy, South Africa, and the UK), representing 22 different institutions. It included four UT students and one alumna: Arinn Cirulis (B.A. classics and anthropology) was our object photographer and studied our textile tools for publication. She continued her research with fresh insights after taking a spinning and weaving course at the experimental archaeology center of Lejre, Denmark (see page TK). Adam Finn (anthropology), Rachel Godkin (classics and anthropology), and Ben Johnson (College Scholars and classics) helped out in the field and storeroom. Nick Herrmann (Ph.D. anthropology, now an assistant professor of anthropology at Mississippi State University) brought two of his students to assist him in his research of our human remains.

Even though Mycenaean civilization—the first palatial society on the European mainland—is world renowned, we know little about its origins. Mitrou provides unique opportunities for studying the rise of Mycenaean complex society because

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## FACULTY NOTES



**SALVADOR BARTERA** has enjoyed another year at UT teaching Latin and Greek. After a summer spent partly in Italy visit-

ing, among other things, the splendid exhibition on the Flavians in Rome, in fall 2009 he began teaching Latin to an ever-growing number of gifted students and continued to do so in spring 2010. In January he attended the APA in California and enjoyed both the conference and the weather, including a trip to Disneyland. On the research side, he continues his work on Tacitus, both on his commentary to Annals 16 and on individual papers. He has also written a couple of book reviews. In March he attended CAMWS in Oklahoma

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City, where he presented a paper in a panel entirely devoted to Tacitus. "UT continues," he says, "to be a very pleasant experience for me, and I am lucky to be part of such a great department."



**CHRISTOPHER CRAIG** is in his 30th year in the department, and continues to see every day that there are no better students in the United States, and no better people anywhere, than the ones we work with here. Outside of class, Chris has given scholarly talks about Cicero at the University of Virginia last February, the CAMWS in April, and the biennial Congress of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric in Montreal in July. One of his essays on Cicero's use of indignation (!) will appear in an edited book from Cambridge later this year. In service, Chris serves on the APA's committee for the Thesaurus *Linguae Latinae* (the mother of all Latin dictionaries) and as president of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association. On campus, he continues as director of the College Scholars Program (a pure joy). He is also acting head of the department during David Tandy's leave this spring. So he gets to be reminded constantly how blessed he is to be part of this dazzling group of gifted and dedicated colleagues.

At home, Sarah and Carolyn are both teenagers. They love their parents, even if they won't friend them on Facebook.



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



During AY 2009–10 **GERALDINE GESELL**, professor emerita, continued to work on the publication of the Kavousi excavations and to attend conferences and meetings. She spent the spring of 2009 at the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete where she continued her study of the goddess figures from the Kavousi shrine and attended the managing committee meeting of the Study Center. After a summer at UT, she returned to Crete to complete her study of the goddess figures during the fall. She attended the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Anaheim January 6–9, 2010, where she represented the University of 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. Her vacation trip of the year came in January when she went to Churchill, Manitoba, to see the snow on the trees in the boreal forest, and on the tundra, the northern lights, which obliged with four nights of arcs, curtains, and swirls, but in only the basic greenish-white color. The highlight of the trip was an afternoon lesson in dog sledding, which culminated in receiving the Iditamide certificate.



**MAURA LAFFERTY** is enjoying teaching the letters of Abelard and Heloise. Her "*Non modo scholastico: Education and Irish Identity in the Dublin Collection of Irish Saints' Lives*," has appeared in *Sacris Erudiri*. She made presentations on the early Roman liturgy and the cult of the Martyrs in Oxford in November and on the *argumenta* in manuscripts of classical and medieval epics at the Marco Institute's manuscript workshop in February. She

is preparing both of these studies for publication. 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.



**SUSAN MARTIN** continues as provost and senior vice-chancellor for academic affairs. This position involves her in a great variety of activities, including work with a newly constituted student advisory council, strategic planning initiatives, recruitment of Governor's Chairs in conjunction with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, enrollment management, athletics, and, of course, budgeting in a difficult climate. All of these activities cause her to remain optimistic about the future of the university. She enjoyed teaching *Livy, Book 1*, to an excellent class of fourth-year students in fall 2009 and reconnected briefly with Rome by walking the marathon there last March, an unforgettable experience.



**ROBERT SKLENAR** received tenure in the summer of 2009, and is deeply honored to be a permanent member of so distinguished a Classics department. During AY 2009–10, he has been teaching intermediate Greek and elementary and intermediate Latin for the department, as well as (in the fall term) his course on Greek and Roman literature in English translation. In addition, the spring term found him teaching Linguistics 423 ("Development of Diachronic and Synchronic Linguistics"), which he finds both challenging and enjoyable. On the research front, his second book, *Oratio Corrupta and the Poetics of Senecan Tragedy*, is currently under review at the University of Michigan Press. He also gave a paper on Seneca at CAMWS in March 2010 and

BY ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND

This year's officers for both the Classics Club and Eta Sigma Phi are **ALEXANDER MANGONE** (president), **RYAN VINSON** (vice-president), **MICHAEL BALL** (secretary), and **MEGAN GOODWIN** (treasurer). This year the group has focused its efforts on working with area high-school students, particularly those who would like to attend the Tennessee Junior Classical League (TJCL) convention in April.

The club's biggest ongoing project is weekly on-campus tutoring. Each Saturday, high-schoolers from around Knox County come to prepare for the upcoming TJCL convention or to just brush up on their classical knowledge. UT students teach these students whatever they are interested in, which is mostly mythology and history; more advanced students, though, may be ready for Caesar, Ovid, and Catullus. Club members hope that the tutoring sessions will strengthen or even create area Latin programs. With a stronger knowledge base, current high-school students can pass their training on to future students.

As many as a dozen UTK students will attend the TJCL convention in April, primarily to help ensure that the convention runs as smoothly as possible. They give administrative support or do grunt work, as needed. Club members also have written tests for recent conventions and will do so once again for this summer's national convention.

Members of the Classics Club also helped Bearden High School's Latin teacher, Sandy Hughes, plan and run the Knoxville Latin Convention back in the fall, a now-annual event that elicits a terrific response from area high schools. The UT Knoxville Department of Classics is delighted with the vigor that the Classics Club is showing in its outreach efforts; we anticipate that our incoming students will be even stronger than they have been in previous years! ■

continues to work on classical reception in Czech poetry. He also serves on the Faculty Senate and in the Arts and Sciences Advising Center.



**ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND** is revising an article on Horace and planning some new academic projects, to be tackled this summer.

She has been having a lot of fun dusting off her Greek this year by teaching the combined intermediate and advanced class this spring, as well as both semesters of this year's introductory Greek class. The beginning Greek class has a large population of very talented students, which Elizabeth hopes will translate into good intermediate and advanced enrollments in coming years. In fact, motivation is so high among this year's crop of beginning Greek students that the Classics Department plans to offer intermediate Greek over the summer!



**DAVID TANDY** was on sabbatical in spring 2010 and at press time was engaged in research at the University of Leeds,

where he is making progress on his monograph on archaic Aegean economic development. He is also at work on a number of other projects, among them an article on the fourth-century sculpture industry and another on the intersection of the economy and democracies in the archaic and classical Aegean: this last one is proving to be a big topic! He will return to the department and the headship in fall 2010, grateful that Chris Craig stepped in as acting head in his absence. He has spent AY 2009–10 as president-elect of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, and so 2010–11 will be amply busy as he assumes the presidency. The department has

long been active in CAMWS: as president David follows in the footsteps of Susan Martin (2005–06) and Chris Craig (2000–01)



In spring 2009, while on research leave at the Danish Viking Ship Museum, **ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTELE** led seminars

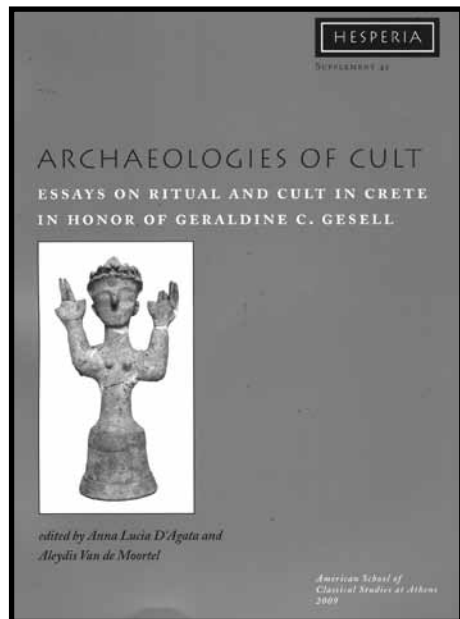
about her work with the medieval Utrecht ship type for graduate students in maritime archaeology from the University of Southampton and the University of Southern Denmark in Esbjerg. In summer 2009, Aleydis co-directed the first study season at Mitrou. In 2009–10, she taught well-attended introductory survey courses on Greek and Roman archaeology, as well as upper-division courses on ancient and medieval seafaring and on Greek archaeology. The upper-division Greek archaeology course drew a record 44 eager students.

In October, Aleydis presented a paper on the Middle Bronze Age boat from Mitrou at the 12th International Symposium for Boat and Ship Archaeology, in Istanbul, and in November she talked about the Utrecht ship type at the Wetlands Colloquium in Bremerhaven, Germany. She also chaired a session entirely devoted to Mitrou at the 111th AIA meeting in Anaheim, and visited Disneyland for the first time (yes, and stayed until the fireworks!).

Aleydis published four articles on Mitrou, the Utrecht ship type, and Malia. She also co-edited Dr. Gesell's *Festschrift*. She still happily serves as secretary-treasurer of the AIA's East Tennessee Society. ■

# FESTSCHRIFT FOR DR. GESELL

BY CHRISTOPHER CRAIG



When an outstanding scholar has had an exceptionally distinguished career, fellow scholars and students sometimes celebrate that remarkable individual by publishing a book of studies, a *Festschrift*, that shows that scholar's lasting impact. Our colleague Professor Emerita Geraldine Gesell has been for a generation one of the most important voices in the archaeology of Bronze Age and Iron Age Crete, and one of the most influential scholars helping us to understand the religious practices of these pre-classical forbearers. Gerry formally received her *Festschrift* volume, *Archaeologies of Cult*, published by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, at a party here

on February 11. The volume, containing contributions by 30 scholars from more than half a dozen countries, was co-edited by Gerry's successor as our archaeologist, Aleydis Van de Moortel. Dean Bursten was one of several campus leaders who came to congratulate Gerry. Another, our colleague and provost Susan Martin, shared special (funny!) memories of her journey to Gerry's dig at Kavousi. For her part, Gerry received the volume with thoughtful and touching words of thanks to all who had made her work possible and congenial. And she really liked her "Archaeologies of Cult" cake! ■



## LATIN DAY XXVIII

On November 5, 2009, our annual Latin Day drew an audience of secondary-school students and their teachers from across the state of Tennessee.

The star-studded lineup of the XXVIIIth Latin Day:

**SALVADOR BARTERA** (Classics)

"The Lost World of Pompeii"

**THOMAS BURMAN** (History)

"Learning and Loafing in Medieval Latin: Life in a Medieval University"

**CHRISTOPHER CRAIG** (Classics)

"Cicero's Political Rhetoric: When Is a Drunken, Bankrupt Traitor Really a Good Guy?"

**MAURA LAFFERTY** (Classics)

"Where Did Your Vergil Text Come From?"

**ROBERT SKLENAR** (Classics)

"Neronian Literature and the Decadent Tradition"

**ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND**

(Classics)

"Neglected Voices: Finding Women and the Working Class in Tomb Inscriptions"

**DAVID TANDY** (Classics)

"Yet More Adventures in Greek Mythology" ■



## REPORT FROM KAVOUSI

BY GERALDINE GESELL

**K**avousi IIA: *The Late Minoan IIIC Settlement at Vronda. The Buildings on the Summit* has now been published by the INSTAP Academic Press. It was displayed at the book exhibit at the annual meeting of Archaeological Institute of America in Anaheim and can be obtained from David Brown Publishing Company, P.O. Box 511, Oakville, CT 06779 (Tel. 800-7919354 or 860-945-9329). The second fascicule, *Kavousi IIB: The Vronda Settlement. Buildings on the Slopes and Periphery*, has been completed and is being edited. It should be out next year, and the third, *Kavousi IIC: The Vronda Settlement. Analysis*, will be ready soon thereafter. Much of the specialists' work for this fascicule has been already completed. Four more volumes are in various stages of completion. ■

## VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

**A**mong the distinguished visitors to the department in 2009–10 were these:

**ELIZABETH GREENE** (Brock University, Ontario)

"Maritime Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean: Two Archaic Shipwrecks at Pabuç Burnu and Kekova Adası, Turkey," Haines–Morris Distinguished Lecturer, UT Knoxville Department of Classics

**MARY STURGEON** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

"New Sculpture from the Acropolis of Stymphalos, Greece," Third Annual Rutledge Memorial Lecture in Archaeology

**JUDITH BARRINGER** (University of Edinburgh)

"Olympia Before the Temple of Zeus," Robert L. Scranton Lecturer, AIA

**RUI BOAVENTURA** (Universidade Clássica de Lisboa, Portugal)

"Death and burial during the Middle and Late Neolithic in the Iberian Peninsula: Case Studies in the region of Lisbon (Portugal)," AIA Lecturer

**NEJIB BEN LAZREG** (Institut du patrimoine, Tunis), "Roman Mosaics of Tunisia," Haines–Morris Distinguished Lecturer, UT Knoxville Department of Classics; cosponsored by the Marco Institute

**CHRISTINA SHUTTLEWORTH KRAUS** (Thacher Professor of Latin and Chair of Classics, Yale University)

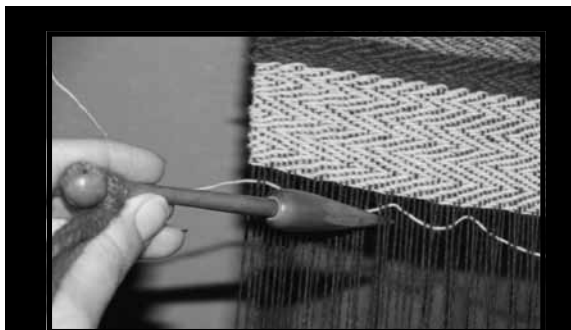
"In the Castra with the Lead Pipe: Fetishizing Roman Britain," Rutledge Memorial Lecture in Classics

And, not strictly a visitor, but certainly distinguished:

**ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTEL**, UT

Knoxville Department of Classics

"Recent Discoveries at the Prehistoric Site of Mitrou, Greece" ■



*What's this? Arinn Cirulis can tell you. See page IX to learn more.*

## ETA SIGMA PHI

BY ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND

**A**t the spring 2009 Eta Sigma Phi banquet, we initiated **MICHAEL BALL, JENNY BLEDSOE, ARINN CIRULIS, ELIZABETH CROSS, COREY DEUSO, NICHOLAS DIEGEL, LAURA ELLIS, JOANNA GOODPASTURE, MEGAN GOODWIN, ALEXIA GREENE, ALYX HENRY, KRISTEN KARMAN, WILL LADNIER, MICHAEL MAHONEY, ALEX MANGONE, KELLEY MCCOY, KYNDALL MONROE, IAN ORR, ASHLEY PARROTT, SHIVANI PATEL, DAVID REEVES, CARRY ROSE, KATE SEAT, WES SKOLITS, ANDREW STEVENS, WILLIAM VAUGHN, RYAN VINSON, JAYME WATSON, JESSICA WELCH**, and **ANDREW WHEELER** into Eta Sigma Phi. Membership is awarded for outstanding performance in Latin or Greek classes. **DR. SALVADOR BARTERA** of the Classics Department was the banquet speaker and honorary initiate.

The Latin prize, presented annually to the strongest graduating Latin student, went to **MICHAEL LUMLEY**. The Greek prize, presented annually to the strongest graduating Greek student, went to **JOSHUA NEWTON**. **NICK JULIAN** was our outstanding graduate in Latin, and Sara Cole was our outstanding graduate in civilization. **NICK JULIAN** received the APA Award. Scholarships and other awards for the 2009–10 academic year were announced: **CURTIS BOWER, ISAAC BOWERS, MEGAN GOODWIN, MARK HUGGINS, JUSTIN JORND, KRISTEN KARMAN, WILL LADNIER, ASHLEY PARROTT, RYAN VINSON, ROGER WRIGHT**, and **YESLE YI** received Haines–Morris Awards, and **WILL LADNIER** is the CAMWS Scholar for 2009–10. ■

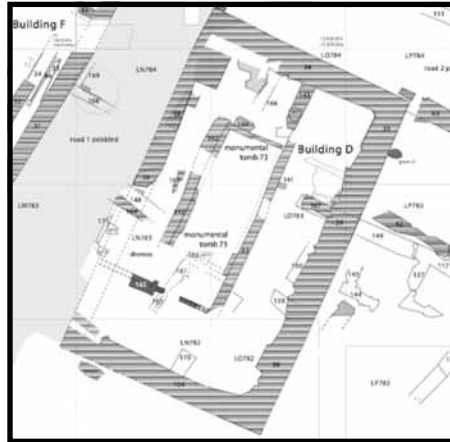
# THE MITROU ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

MITROU, *continued from page 1*

it is the first site to have well-preserved settlement remains, including graves from this period, rather than mortuary data alone. Thus we can study the nature of the power structure of this formative society, as well as the ways in which the rising elite sought to increase and legitimize its power.

Our previous excavations had shown that a visible political elite emerged at Mitrou during the 16th century B.C.E. (Late Helladic I pottery phase). Two large elite complexes were built at this time. Building D, in the northeast sector, boasted impressive architecture and an elite tomb (No. 73) with rich finds. Building H, also in the northwest sector (“the olive grove”), was very large and produced finds of undeniable elite character: a horse bridle piece imported from the Balkans, as well as top-quality drinking pottery on a par with pottery from the famous Shaft Graves at Mycenae. A range of food-processing and craft activities took place in this building complex, including the manufacture of purple dye from *Murex* snails, which may have provided a valuable commodity for elite trade. We also found indications of how this emerging elite manifested its power in society. Mitrou’s settlement underwent a major reorganization with the layout of orthogonal, wide roads lined with rectilinear structures. Road 1, which was 3 meters wide and at least 80 meters long, led from Building D to the highest point of the islet, where we found a monumental cist grave of obvious elite character. An even larger elite chamber tomb (No. 73) was discovered inside Building D in 2008.

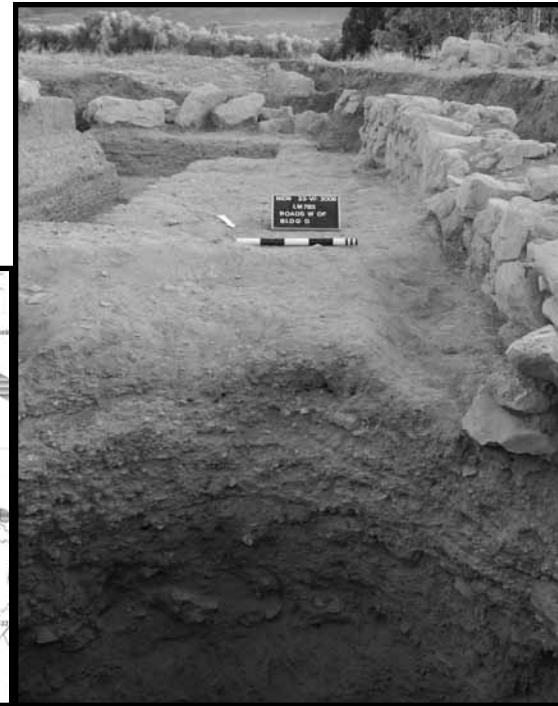
In 2009 we carried out limited stratigraphic cleaning inside



Plan of the northwest area of Building D with tomb 73, the rectangular funerary enclosure, and Road 1 in the last architectural phase, late 15th century B.C.E. (G. Bianco)

Building D and tomb 73, as well as in Road 1, which borders Building D to the west. At the same time, our specialists dated all the remaining excavation pottery of the previous years, as well as almost half of the pottery from the surface survey. Our results support last year’s hypothesis that during the 16th century B.C.E., the northeast corner of the site had been abandoned by occupation and turned into a cemetery. We also noticed that the new settlement was kept remarkably clean in contrast to the Middle Bronze Age remains, where trash was lying everywhere we excavated. Clearly, a stronger central authority was at work now, turning Mitrou from a rural settlement into one more organized and urban.

Building D’s three architectural phases are now also much better understood. In its first phase, it was



Road 1 seen from the north: This road was 3 meters wide and at least 80 meters long, connecting Building D with a monumental cist grave in the northeast corner of the site. Its many successive surfaces are visible in the Iron Age water pit (foreground) as well as in the stratigraphic sections further south. (A. Van de Moortel)

a sprawling complex with mostly thin walls and some high-quality plaster floors. In its second phase, in the late 16th century B.C.E., elite chamber tomb 73 was constructed in its northwest area, together with the thick-walled rectangular enclosure that we previously deemed so typical of Building D. Thus its northwest area effectively became a funerary structure, whereas the remainder of Building D’s complex continued to be occupied by the living. To my knowledge, this is the first time in Greek prehistory that we observe such close juxtaposition of the living and the dead, and it runs counter to their separation elsewhere in the settlement at this time. East of tomb 73 was a stone platform of about 1.5 meters by 1 meter with a concentration of animal bones that have not yet been analyzed. Very few finds were recovered elsewhere in the enclosure.

Bronze arrowhead from the second phase of tomb 73. (A. Dembo Cirulis)



Gold beads from the second phase of tomb 73. (A. Dembo Cirulis)



Exterior (top) and interior (bottom) of a pierced piece of a boar's tusk helmet from the initial phase of tomb 73. (A. Dembo Cirulis)



Pierced gold foil from the second phase of tomb 73. Such pieces were used to decorate clothing. (A. Dembo Cirulis)



Gold pinhead and piece of foil from the second phase of tomb 73. (A. Dembo Cirulis)

Tomb 73 in its initial phase had a rectangular burial chamber, 5 meters by 2 meters in area and 1.2 meters deep, lined with mud-brick walls and large, well-finished sandstone *orthostates*. The chamber was entered via a short east-west corridor or *dromos*, which had a small porch bordering Road 1. Tomb 73 is one of the nicest examples ever found of an L-shaped built chamber tomb, a class of elite graves also known elsewhere in mainland Greece at this time. In spite of later looting, we determined that a beautiful fragmentary polychrome vase, as well as one or two arrowheads and some human bones, belonged to this first phase of the tomb. To our great excitement we also discovered four perforated boar's tusks of the kind used for Mycenaean helmets. This is our first evidence that Mitrou's early rulers were not only capable managers of their societies and manipulators of space for ideological purposes but also leaders who projected a warlike image

in death to bolster their power and prestige.

In the late 15th century B.C.E. (Late Helladic IIB pottery phase), the tomb chamber was extended 2 meters to the south, making it one of the largest built chamber tombs of Bronze Age Greece. The rectangular enclosure was made more monumental with the widening of its wall to 1 to 1.2 meters. The gold and bronze jewelry found in 2008 belongs to this phase of the tomb, and so do four clay vases of Mycenaean character. In 2009 we found in addition a gold pinhead, two more pieces of gold foil, and two gold beads with bits of human bone. We also discovered an amber or carnelian bead, an arrowhead, and five more pieces of a boar's tusk helmet. Thus, at least one elite warrior and another person—perhaps a woman, to judge by last year's small gold ring—were buried during this phase. It is clear that by this time, Mitrou's rulers had adopted the full package of

Mycenaean burial customs, linking themselves with this prestigious elite culture of the Peloponnese, no doubt to increase their own prestige and legitimize its power.

The last burial in tomb 73 occurred around 1400 B.C.E. (Late Helladic IIIA:1 pottery phase). The ceasing of burials may well be related to the widespread destruction that took place at the site in the subsequent Late Helladic IIIA:2 Early phase, which we have linked to a possible takeover of Mitrou by one of the palatial polities of adjacent Boeotia. We were surprised to find, however, that throughout the palatial period and into the early post-palatial period (Late Helladic IIIC pottery phase, early 12th century B.C.E.), the *dromos* of tomb 73 remained open and Road 1 stayed in use, experiencing at least eight resurfacings. Moreover, fragments of 10 clay figurines were identified near the

*Continued on page XII*

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVES SYNERGASIA

BY BEN JOHNSON AND RACHEL GODKIN

*Synergasia* is the Greek word for *collaboration*. We first saw this word on the back of the 2005 Mitrou T-shirt. Its use explains the team effort between the 14th Ephorate of Classical and Prehistoric Antiquities and the University of Tennessee. However, the *synergasia* at Mitrou involves so much more than two organizations. At Mitrou we see *synergasia* in almost everything we do.

Take, for instance, our team of ceramic analysts. Every day, Australia, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Poland, Italy, and the Netherlands sit down at the pottery tables to study a collection that spans millennia. This is just one of many examples of the teamwork and diversity we have grown to love at Mitrou. Anyone who visits Mitrou can immediately see the *synergasia* realize that a first-class excavation like ours requires much more than one field of study, much more than just one university. Thirteen countries and 44 institutions were represented in the Mitrou Archaeological Project in 2008, and 12 countries in 2009. We have been assisted by geologists, anthropologists and archaeologists, bone specialists, shell specialists, conservators, photographers, and GIS experts, to name just some of the fields of study involved.

*Synergasia* also spills into everyday life at Mitrou. All of us live in houses rented from local people; we have grown especially close and have made lasting friendships with housemates. We eat our meals family-style; nearly the whole excavation team is present for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The appetites are never lacking either. For the ones slow to reach the serving table, a gyro after dinner is not uncommon. Everyone has breakfast, lunch, or dinner duties, which also requires proper collaboration. Breakfast itself depends on teams of two, for whom it is crucial to arrive on time every morning. If the coffee isn't ready when everybody arrives, the day can start out quite poorly. Around 10 a.m., when the heat starts to set in and the dust hangs thick in the olive grove, we stop for *kolatsio*, our snack break. An otherwise pleasant 30 minutes in the shade may turn ugly fast, however, if someone forgets the bread or yogurt.

The most important of teams, however, is the individual trench team. The trench teams create a friendly spirit of competition, rivalry, and even pranks. In the 2008 season, each team consisted of about five or six members—a trenchmaster, a trench assistant, and several field school students. Traditions developed and competition grew between and within teams. Each trench had its own trench flag consisting usually of a spade in the ground with a sharpie-decorated white undershirt. We held Mitrou Olympics, a series of events crowning as victor the person or team that moved the most of dirt. The trenchmasters also created their own quirky systems to encourage hard work. Trenchmaster Joanna Potenza always kept a rusty old *trigono* at her trench, a triangular scraping tool. At the end of each day, the teammate that worked least diligently received the *trigono* as a reminder to work harder.



The trench team "The Grovers" displays its banner proudly.

The person had to use and carry the rusty tool of shame the entire next day. Our team, working in trench LG 790, used a gold star system. These intangible rewards, a tallied list of penciled stars on trenchmaster Deanna Baker's work table, became highly coveted. We also cherished a stone "lucky egg" that every member of the trench kissed for good luck at breakfast and throughout the workday. In short, the staff members at Mitrou created a colorful and entertaining atmosphere in spite of strenuous labor conditions. Everyone who works at Mitrou manages to accomplish shocking amounts of work through a common goal and an ever-present sense of camaraderie.

Throughout all of these interactions and relationships, *synergasia* has been at the center of it all. Our ability to come together throughout this project is what has allowed the Mitrou Archaeological Project to be as strong and lasting as it is. The *synergasia* surrounding every aspect of this project allows a diverse learning experience, where students are offered exposure to experts from around the world who have come together to make this project possible. The collaboration in the Mitrou project has not only broadened our horizons, it has also aided in teaching the importance of this sort of cooperation in all aspects of life. These spectacular opportunities offered to us would never have been possible without the collaboration of the Haines-Morris Travel Fund of the Classics Department. Thanks to its travel grants, every year Classics students at UT Knoxville have the opportunity to travel and gain once-in-a-lifetime chances to visit and learn about the wonders of the ancient world. With the state of the economy in these last few years, students' ability to travel and participate in the Mitrou Archaeological Project would have been greatly limited without this much-appreciated financial support. ■



BY ARINN DEMBO CIRULIS

In June 2009 I spent three weeks in Denmark with a Haines–Morris Traveling Scholarship. When Dr. Van de Moortel assigned me the textile tools from Mitrou for publication, she arranged for me to take a course in traditional spinning and weaving techniques at the Experimental Archaeology Research Facility at Lejre, so that I would be able to study Mitrou’s tools with the insights of an artisan, not just those of an archaeologist. My instruction took place in the facility called the Weaver’s House, which serves double duty as a workshop and a museum of prehistoric and historic textile technology. Besides the spindle and spindle whorls that I learned to use, there were various models of antique spinning wheels. Alongside the warp-weighted loom that I put together and used, there were other looms from many different eras.

My teachers, Ane Batzer and Ida Demant, were both highly accomplished textile artisans. Ane Batzer is one of the few women in Europe who retains the level of skill in hand-spinning that was typical of prehistoric and historic-era women in Greece. Ida Demant is an archaeologist and a weaver who spends her days in the reconstruction of ancient fabrics and costumes. Her most recent work had been presented by Sanglandet Lejre as a gift to the Queen of Denmark.

My work began June 9 at the beginning of the textile production process: Ane Batzer sat me down with a basket of wool sheared from modern sheep and a pair of carding paddles. Over the course of three days of training, Batzer patiently taught me the vocabulary and theory of preparing raw wool for spinning, explained the differences between modern and ancient sheep, and gave me instruction with the spindle and whorl. Even a day or two of practice with these tools taught me by experience the type of lessons which are impossible to get from any book, and gave me long-term insights into



*Arinn observing a Sarakatsani woman spinning in Greece.*

the nature of spinning which I can easily apply to my analysis of the textile tools at Mitrou.

When I had completed my time with Ane Batzer, Ida Demant took over and gave me a boot camp run with the warp-weighted loom. I worked with the loom daily for a week, stopping occasionally when Batzer or Demant would come to oversee my work and teach me something new. In that time I was able to create both a tabby weave and a twill weave on a single strip of woven material, changing colors as I went. I even achieved a few very simple decorative effects, and came to understand how the tools function to achieve these effects; this real life experience has made it much easier for me to interpret depictions of looms and weavers from antiquity.

This experience was instructive in a number of ways. The fact that I was able to spend even a single week attempting to weave with a real warp-weighted loom has put my understanding of the Aegean archaeological

record light years ahead. The problem is that, typically, the loom itself never survives in Greece; wood preservation is very poor in Greek soil. All that generally remains of the ancient loom is a loom weight, but to interpret a loom weight when you have never seen and used a real loom is like trying to interpret a hubcap when you have never seen or driven a real car. You may have a vague sense of what the item is and about where it goes on a drawing of the ancient device—but how that device actually functioned seems very abstract and somewhat hazy.

Since my focus in textile research is not just the tool but also the prehistoric economy driven by textile production, my research in Denmark did not stop at Sagnlandet Lejre. When I had completed my instruction at the Weaver’s House, I moved on to the Viking Ship Museum at Roskilde. Roskilde Harbor is the home of a number of reconstructed Viking ships built according to the plans of the Iron Age shipwrecks that were recovered from the bottom of the fjord.

In the course of my stay at Roskilde I had a chance to sail with three reproduction Viking ships, including the *Helge Ask*, a longboat designed for coastal defense; the *Oseyev*, a small fishing boat; and a full-scale Viking trader weighing in at 26 tons, the *Ottar*. I was also able to spend a few hours with Anna Nørgård, the professional weaver attached to the museum, who specializes in reproducing the sails of Iron Age vessels.

I finished my visit to Denmark in the city of Copenhagen, where I met with professional archaeologists who specialize in this field at the Centre for Textile Research at Copenhagen University. All in all, my trip was an extremely valuable experience, and I cannot possibly overstate the benefits to my knowledge and understanding of Aegean archaeology. Nor can I ever thank UT’s Department of Classics enough for affording me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. ■

**NOTE:** The tool pictured on page V is a **weaving pick**.

**SARAH SMITH**, still the Latin program at Antioch High School in metro Nashville, has been in touch on diverse topics. Chris and Sarah find that they are both missing Harry Rutledge this spring, even as they address tasks that he avoided; Sarah's last e-mail was to ask for a check on her Latin translation of "If not for this, then for nothing." She had gotten the query from a tattoo parlor. This gives new meaning to the permanence of the Classics!

**JOHN STARKE** and Beth, his spouse of 3 years, have moved from Athens, Georgia, to Austin, Texas, where both are now teaching and trying to keep up with their newest addition, Winston, a Great Dane who weighs in at a petit 140 pounds. John writes "We have come to love Austin—finding it a perfect halfway point (in more ways than one) between the sprawl of Los Angeles and the small-town feel of Athens. Its rolling hills, ridiculously good food, laid-back atmosphere, quirky culture, abundant music, and good football ;) make it quite enjoyable." We agree. If only Austin had the real UT, it would be perfect.

**DR. STEPHANIE MCCARTER** is thriving as assistant professor of Classics at the University of the South. Small-town living and very good students seem to agree with her and with spouse and fellow classics professor, Dr. Daniel Holmes. Stephanie has earned the gratitude of all members of the CAMWS by agreeing to serve as the editor of the CAMWS newsletter. Thanks, Stephanie!

**RICHARD THREADGALL**, now in his second year of graduate school at UVa, is already showcasing his enormous range. He gave a paper this year on Statius at the Classical Association meeting in Cardiff, and a paper on Sophocles as his first CAMWS paper this spring. We enjoyed seeing him at CAMWS (and wish we could have all gone to see him at Cardiff, too!).

**ABBY BRADDOCK**, our fellow Latin teacher and former student, enjoys anchoring the Latin program at Houston High School in the Memphis area. Abby has become a leader among foreign language educators in Tennessee. As punishment for her prominence, she had to spend 6 hours with Chris Craig and others in a room at the Department of Education in Nashville in January. Abby was there to consult on the revision of teacher licensure standards. Chris was there to watch her work, and he learned a lot.

**MARISSA WILSON** stopped Chris Craig during a lunch hour on Market Square. Since Marissa is now with the FBI, Chris expected to hear his Miranda rights. Instead, Marissa reported that the job is satisfying and that she is enjoying this chapter of her life as she makes a difference keeping us safe. It was wonderful to see her.

**NICK JULIAN** seems to be thriving in his first year in graduate school at FSU. Chris Craig saw him over the holiday break while shopping for an electric guitar (for someone else!). Nick is finding Tallahassee a very good fit, and was looking forward to working with our former colleague Svetla Slaveva-Griffin, now tenured and well established in that department. While testing out the wares in the guitar store, he also revealed a side we hadn't seen during his undergraduate years. Nick Julian rocks!

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Latin in May 2009, **KATIE WOOTEN** will be attending graduate school at National-Louis University in Chicago. She has been accepted into the Masters in Teaching Program, with emphasis in Latin and secondary English. She has also been awarded a graduate assistantship through which she will be working side by side with two well-known international education professors, Junko Yokota and Gail Bush. All of us look forward to the day when she will join us in the profession.

**SARA COLE** is finishing up her first semester of Egyptology at Yale with great success. This past semester she took beginning Coptic, beginning hieroglyphic Egyptian, a seminar on Egyptian medicine, and German, and she audited a Greek course on Aristotle. Next semester she will be continuing her language courses, as well as seminars on Egyptian magic and Nubian archaeology.

**CHRIS WEBB** (Latin '02) has returned to Knoxville after a 2-year sojourn at the University of Georgia, where he earned an M.A. in Classics, followed by a 3-year stint at Christ School in Asheville, where he taught Latin and coached basketball and track. He now teaches Latin, English, and mythology at Karns High School, and he and his wife, Angela, are the proud parents of an 18-month-old daughter, Camila.

Rani and **BRIAN CARR** (B.A. Classics, '97) currently live in the mountains of Jackson, Wyoming, where Rani oversees the Inn on the Creek, a romantic nine-room bed and breakfast. Brian splits his time between directing a scholarly and classical studies outreach organization, Frontier Classics ([www.frontierclassicswy.org](http://www.frontierclassicswy.org)) and working with Jackson Hole FIRE/EMS as a firefighter/EMT. Their son, Sebastien, is a vigorous little 4-year-old bull who, incidentally, loves to listen and practice with *Ursus et Porcus*, an "I Am Reading Latin Stories" book.

**MEAGAN AYER** stopped by during her spring break to have gelato and espresso with Aleydis Van de Moortel. She is in the fourth year of the Ph.D. program in Classics at SUNY Buffalo and loving every minute of it. She needs to take only one more final—really final—exam before reaching the coveted status of ABD (All But Dissertation). She is overflowing with good ideas for a Ph.D. dissertation in ancient Greek history. We wish her good luck and lots of visits by the good Muse Clío. ■

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*MITROU 2009, continued from page VII*

*dromos*. All this suggests that for 200 years after the last burial, tomb 73 was still visited, and some form of ritual or cult was taking place in relation to its occupants. This would mean that even if Mitrou had been taken over by an outside power in the early palatial period, the memory of its dead rulers of the formative period continued to be revered, surviving even the fall of the palaces. This is an astonishing testimony to the power and prestige of these early rulers.

In 2010 we will have another study season at Mitrou. Armin Cirulis, Rachel Godkin, and Ben Johnson will return. Rachel Vykukal, our photographer in 2008 and now a first-year M.A. student in Mediterranean archaeology at UT Knoxville, will study purple-dye production at Mitrou for her M.A. thesis. Our 2009 season was made possible by funding from

the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (the Classics Department, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of Research), the National Endowment for the Humanities (Grant No. RZ-50652), the Institute of Aegean Prehistory, the Greek Archaeological Service, Colby College, and private donors. We are very grateful to all. We also thank Mrs. Maria Papakonstantinou, the head of the Archaeological Service at Lamia, and director Jack Davis and administrator Maria Piali of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for helping us in many ways. ■



*Nine field school students huddle together in a Mycenaean chamber tomb at Tirgana.*

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