

CONTEXT



Archaeology Professor Curtis Runnels and Lucy Wiseman share a moment of amusement at the Archaeology holiday party. See inside, page 6, regarding Lucy's retirement as the Managing Editor of Context.

The Tell es-Sweyhat Archaeological Project 2008

by Michael D. Danti

In 2008, Boston University and the University of Pennsylvania Museum initiated a new research project specifically to investigate the rise and decline of societal complexity in the Early Bronze Age and the long-term effects of increasing aridity in the Middle and Late Holocene. Excavations and archaeological survey were conducted in May and June under the direction of Michael D. Danti of Boston University and William B. Hafford of the University of Pennsylvania.

Why, when complex social systems are designed to handle catastrophes and routinely do, would any society succumb? If any society has ever succumbed to a single-event catastrophe, it must have been a disaster of truly colossal magnitude (Tainter 1988: 206).

The role of catastrophes, particularly climatic phenomena, in the collapse of complex societies is currently one

of the more compelling theoretical debates in the archaeology of Mesopotamia. Scholars have cited abrupt, acute episodes of aridity lasting centuries as key shaping forces in the rise and demise of cultural complexity and as the prime movers behind plant and animal domestica-

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lucy Wiseman Retires from <i>Context</i>	6
New Managing Editor for <i>Context</i>	6
Student/AlumNews	7
Visiting Faculty	7
Luce Grant Supports East Asian Archaeology	8
ICEAACH Update	9
Context and Human Society Lecture Series	9
Cultural Heritage in Montenegro	10
Faculty/Research Fellow News	11
Elizabeth Weir Ruf, <i>In Memoriam</i>	12
Mersa/Wadi Gawasis	13
Commencement, 2008	15

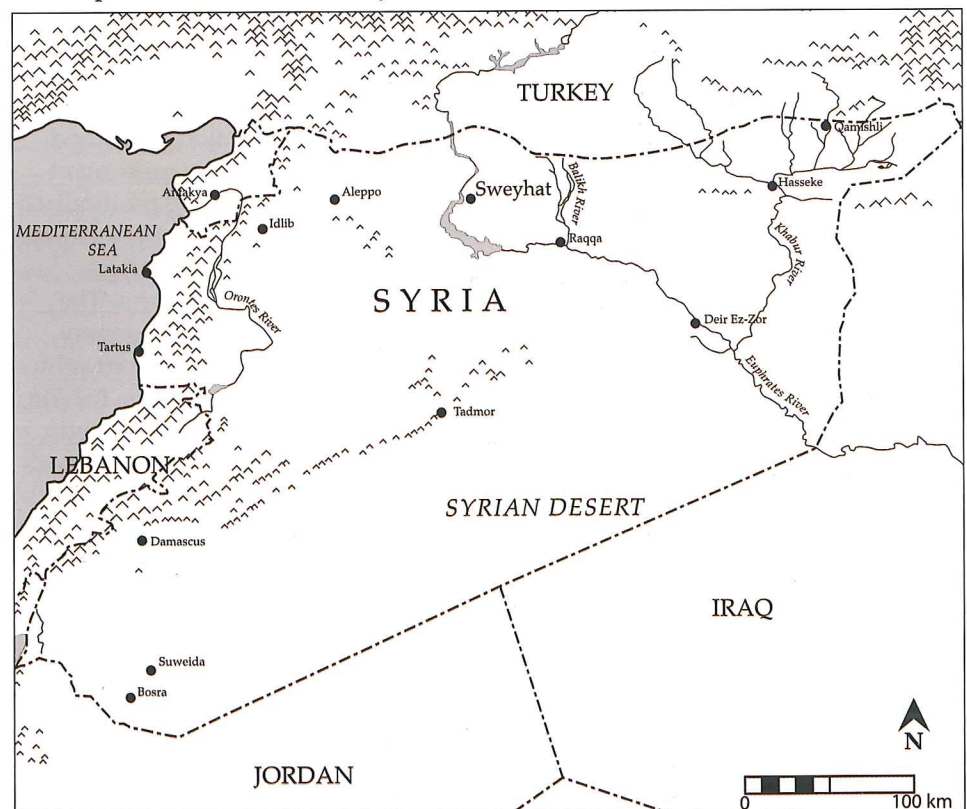


Figure 1. Map of Syria showing the location of Tell es-Sweyhat.

continued from page 1

tion, canal irrigation, and many other developments. Although the details are hotly debated, there is a growing acceptance that the Holocene climate of the Near East varied a great deal and was characterized by abrupt periods of aridity and an overall trend toward increased aridity in the Late Holocene. Much attention has been given to the role of a particularly severe period of aridity, the 4.2 Ka event, which lasted from ca. 2200–1900 B.C., in the downfall of the world's first documented empire, the Akkadian Empire (2350–2150 B.C.), and the collapse of civilizations worldwide. The use of catastrophe theories for explaining societal “collapse” begs the question of why societies did not adapt to changing conditions. For the last 15 years, the archaeological site of Tell es-Sweyhat, Syria has been central to the debate about the 4.2 Ka climate event and has played a major role in the development of other theories on “collapse.”

Tell es-Sweyhat

Tell es-Sweyhat, possibly the city

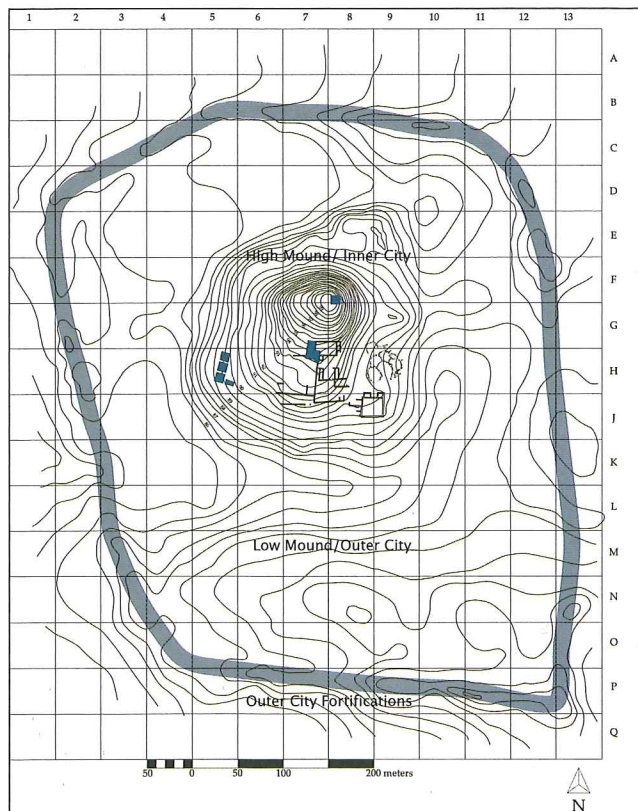


Figure 2. Topographic map of Tell es-Sweyhat showing the 2008 excavation areas and surface features on the southern High Mound.

of Burman in the Early Bronze Age (3100–2000 B.C.; hereafter EBA), is located in northern Syria 65 km south of the modern Turkish border just inside Mesopotamia—the mounds lie 3 km west of the left bank of the Euphrates River at the center of a crescent-shaped valley cut out of the surrounding limestone plateau by the river in the Middle Pleistocene (Fig. 1). Today Sweyhat occupies the southern edge of the dry-farming zone, receiving only 250 mm of rainfall per annum with 25–35% interannual variability, and thus crop failure is a constant threat to farmers. Such was also the case in antiquity, and the ancient inhabitants practiced a balanced form of agropastoralism combining sheep-goat pastoralism with the dry farming of barley, primarily as fodder for animals. Canal irrigation is not possible in the valley since the valley floor slopes up markedly away from the river. Evidence for human occupation in the region dates back to the Epipaleolithic: a Natufian site was discovered in 2008 during survey, but sedentary occupation of the region is not conclusively attested until the pottery

Neolithic along the fringes of the Euphrates floodplain. Once established, this settlement pattern, characterized by farming communities nestled along the floodplain and transhumant and nomadic pastoralists' grazing their flocks in the surrounding steppe, became the norm. The agropastoral economy has always been heavily supplemented by fishing, hunting, and irrigated horticulture on the floodplain. From an archaeological perspective, looking back across the last six millennia, four episodes of human settlement stand out markedly from the norm: the mid-to-late 4th millennium, the late 3rd millennium, the Hellenistic and Roman era, and the last



Figure 3. The southern wall of the fortress (right) and walls abutting it. The view is to the west.

75 years. The first of these periods includes the colonization of the region by southern Mesopotamian Uruk colonies and their sudden demise at the end of the 4th millennium. Urbanization occurs in the latter three episodes with settlements expanding beyond the floodplain of the river into the adjacent valleys and the undulating steppe of the uplands between the Balikh and Euphrates Rivers. The Tell es-Sweyhat archaeological project seeks to elucidate the factors that supported these intermittent periods of urbanization in this agriculturally marginal environment as well as the intervening episodes, which are characterized by the dominance of transhumant and nomadic tribal pastoralists. Cultural responses to short- and long-term climate change are naturally one of our key interests.

Sweyhat consists of a High Mound rising 14.5 m above the surrounding plain and covering approximately 5–6 ha (Fig. 2). A rectangular Low Mound surrounds the High Mound and covers approximately 40 ha. In the early-to-mid 3rd millennium B.C., the settlement consisted of a large mudbrick fortress (measuring minimally 75 m east-west by 62 m north-south and at least 3 m high) surrounded by a settlement that was likely unfortified (Fig. 3). Cemeteries of subterranean



Figure 4. Mapping a tomb shaft in the southern Low Mound.

shaft-and-chamber tombs lay on the outskirts of this settlement.

From Fortress Town to Urban Center

In the mid-to-late 3rd millennium, Sweyhat's urban environment was radically modified. The fortress was buried within a high earthen terrace upon which a bent-axis long room temple was constructed. This terrace and temple, called the High Inner City, towered over the surrounding settlement of the late-3rd millennium. The terrace was abutted by the buildings of the Low Inner City, consisting of residential structures and industrial facilities such as a large kitchen, a warehouse, and facilities for grinding grain. The Inner City was surrounded by the Inner City Wall—a 2.75-meter-thick mudbrick fortification wall on a stone foundation with projecting buttresses and towers. Beyond this wall lay the Outer City (the area of the Low Mound), which was surrounded by the Outer City Fortifications, composed of a mudbrick wall on stone foundations protected by an outer earthen rampart and ditch. In the late 3rd millennium, there is evidence of at least one violent disruption in some buildings of the Low Inner City and in the temple of the High Inner City. Buildings were burned with their contents in place, and the walls of other buildings were toppled,

crushing their contents. Following this disruption, most of these structures show evidence of having been rebuilt using the same architectural plans, which indicates this violent episode was not followed by a major abandonment. Concurrent with Sweyhat's urban apogee we see a peak in settlement in the valley, in neighboring regions along the Middle Euphrates, and even in the surrounding steppe. Then this unprecedented period of urban growth came to an end in a relatively short time. At the end of the 3rd millennium and into the early 2nd millennium, the Early Bronze-Middle Bronze transition and Middle Bronze I periods, Sweyhat and other sites located away from the Euphrates declined. Settlement at Sweyhat contracted to the High Mound, monumental buildings and industrial facilities were abandoned, and the fortifications fell into ruin. Before the Middle Bronze II period, Sweyhat was abandoned and regional settlement was confined to the fringes of the Euphrates floodplain.

The 2008 Excavations

Our current objectives are to study the development of societal complexity and urbanism in the area of the High Mound with special emphasis on the examination of the agropastoral economy. We are contin-

uing the excavation of units opened by previous expeditions (Holland 2006, Zettler et al. 1997, Danti and Hafford 2008) as well as new areas. Since the early 1990s, the Low Mound has been under irrigated cultivation and we are not permitted to excavate there. Between 2005 and 2008, a number of subterranean shaft-and-chamber tombs of the mid-3rd millennium were opened by irrigation water in the northern, eastern, and southern Low Mound; we were granted permission to map them (Fig. 4), but not to excavate. A Syrian salvage project excavated an unspecified number of tombs following our 2008 season, and we await their published results.

In 2008, we began the excavation of a large horizontal clearance of Seleucid and Late Roman remains on the southern High Mound to better document these poorly known periods, particularly in terms of the largely unknown regional ceramic traditions and the architecture typical of rural settlements. These excavations are part of a larger regional project to investigate the Seleucid and Late Roman periods in the Middle Euphrates region initiated by Noam Rifkind, a Ph.D. candidate in Boston University's Department of Archaeology. In Operation 100, we cleared a large exposure of two abutting Seleucid structures (Fig. 5) and excavated a sounding beneath the building in the hope of investigating the mid-3rd millennium remains we had grown to expect in previous seasons. The sounding was supervised by Eliza Wallace, also a graduate student in the Department of Archaeology. Wallace's dissertation research focuses on the urban form and evolution of Sweyhat in the mid-to-late 3rd millennium—the period when the site was rapidly transformed from a fortress town to a multi-circumvallated and tiered urban center. Rather than mid-3rd millennium remains, we encountered a deep deposit of Seleucid, and possibly Achaemenid, remains that holds much promise for extending and refining our archaeological chronology for the 4th–2nd centuries B.C.

In the area of the southwestern
continued on page 4

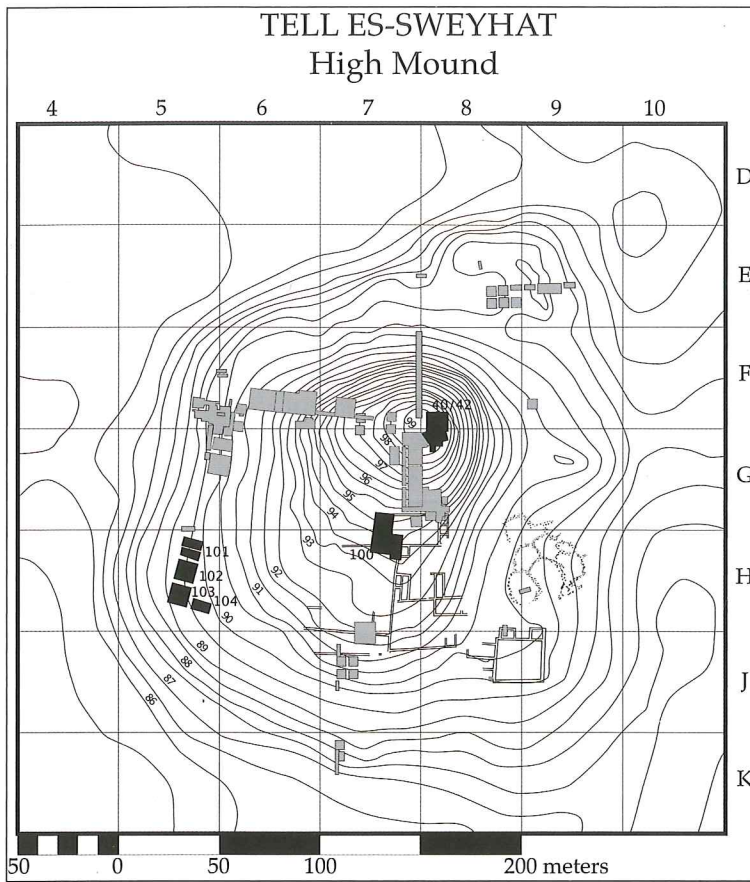


Figure 5. Topographic map of the High Mound of Tell es-Sweyhat showing the excavation units of 2008 (black) and those of the previous seasons (grey).

continued from page 3

High Mound, we located Operations 101–104 (Fig. 5), four new units (10 m × 10 m squares) placed to investigate this virtually unexplored portion of the Low Inner City and the Inner Fortifications. In the upper deposit, we encountered graves of the Seleucid or Late Roman periods, including one so-called bathtub burial (Fig. 6) and several stone-lined cist graves. In the northernmost unit, Operation 101, we uncovered late-3rd millennium-stone foundations, probably the remains of a postern gate in the Inner City Wall. These remains are tentatively dated to the late-3rd-millennium rebuilding of the Inner City following the disruption of 2200 B.C. In Operations 102–104 only scattered and severely eroded remains of this late-3rd-millennium deposit were recovered. In these operations, we uncovered a large exposure of the Inner City Wall and adjacent architecture. These buildings of as yet undetermined function contained cooking installations, storage facilities, and an area dedicated to grinding grain. One room of the structure excavated in Operation 102 contained a low mud-

brick podium covered in plaster. This feature seems to indicate that the space was used for cultic purposes, and the artifactual assemblage supports this hypothesis—it includes beads, fragmentary alabaster and ostrich eggshell vessels, a fragmen-

tary macehead, and a smashed lion vessel. These buildings were torn down and the walls toppled onto the contents of the buildings, leaving large numbers of *in situ* finds and well preserved features.

At the summit of the High Mound, we continued the excavation of the temple of the High Inner City, carefully studying the detailed evidence of its multiple use-phases and destruction by fire. In the west end of the temple, we started the excavation of a sounding beneath the temple. In this sounding we immediately encountered deposits of the mid-3rd millennium, presumably interior spaces of the fortress, including a large dome-shaped mudbrick oven, large plaster-lined storage pits, and drains. We found no conclusive evidence that the area served a cultic function prior to the late-3rd-millennium in this small exposure. In the areas surrounding the temple, we have been exploring adjacent late-3rd millennium architecture over the last four excavation seasons, most of which is poorly preserved. In 2008, we continued work in the area north and east of the temple and discovered intriguing architecture that may have served as tombs, consisting of two square mudbrick structures on stone foundations (Fig. 7); the structures have interior dimen-



Figure 6. A “bathtub burial” in Operation 102. It contained the skeleton of an adult and dates to the Seleucid/Late Roman period.

sions of 1.30 m × 1.30 m and are preserved to their roof levels (interior height 46 cm). The entrances to these small chambers, only 60 cm wide, were located in the south, where there was a stone-paved court (Fig. 7). The entrances were sealed with brick and the structures were heavily coated in lime plaster. The structures were roofed with partial arches, ending in flat mudbrick roofs. The interiors were heavily plastered, including the floor levels, and we were able to determine that the interiors were not initially infilled based on the layers of debris that had fallen from the roof and walls onto the two floor levels, which were separated by a layer of debris 13 cm thick. No human remains were recovered from these structures. The artifactual assemblage dates to the mid-3rd millennium B.C. and included nearly complete Euphrates metallic-ware vessels, fragments of copper/bronze, fragments of ostrich eggshell, and animal bones. It is not clear whether the assemblage from the latest floor is use-related or represents the infilling of these structures prior to the construction of the late-3rd-millennium High Inner City. In other areas, we know that the chambers of the early-to-mid-3rd-millennium fortress were intentionally filled with debris and sealed prior to

the building of structures over the top of it. Further research is needed to determine whether these structures date to the period of the fortress, the temple, or both. If they served as tombs, it would appear that they were intentionally cleaned out or were looted prior to the end of the 3rd millennium B.C.

Future Directions

In order to understand the potential impact of the 4.2 Ka climate event in the Middle Euphrates region, we must greatly refine our chronology of the mid-to-late 3rd millennium B.C. Tell es-Sweyhat, with its continuous record of EBA occupation, promises to provide the ideal field laboratory for this objective as well as for studying the evolution of agropastoral economies over the *longue durée* in relation to climate. In contrast to other regions of Mesopotamia, which witnessed the widespread abandonment of settlements around 2200 B.C., the Middle Euphrates region prospered. Not only did urban centers such as Sweyhat withstand the initial impact of the 4.2 Ka climate event, the settlement and many others like it thrived for another 150–200 years. It was not until the EB–MB transition that we possibly see a major cultural response to changing climate as set-

tlement was confined to the area of the Euphrates floodplain and the surrounding steppe was used by transhumant pastoralists. This pattern prevailed until the conquest of the region by Alexander the Great, at which time settlement again expanded into the regions away from the river. Sweyhat was reoccupied after a 1400-year hiatus. Continued excavation of the EBA and Hellenistic settlements will greatly enhance our understanding of the timing and circumstances of these rare urban episodes. In 2009, we plan to continue and expand our excavations in Operation 100 and to explore adjacent Seleucid/Late Roman structures visible on the mound's surface. We will also continue work in Operations 101 and 102 on the southwest mound. These areas promise to provide well-stratified deposits dating to the mid-to-late 3rd millennium B.C. that will enable us to refine our dating of the construction of the Inner City Fortifications, the subsequent destruction of much of the Inner City, and its rebuilding.

Michael D. Danti is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University.

References

- Danti, Michael D. and William B. Hafford. 2008. "A Mesopotamian Mystery: The City of Sweyhat," *Current World Archaeology* 30 3/6: 34–40.
- Holland, Thomas A. 2006. *Excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat, Syria 2. Archaeology of the Bronze Age, Hellenistic, and Roman Remains at an Ancient Town on the Euphrates River*. Oriental Institute Publications 125. Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.
- Tainter, Joseph A. 1988. *The Collapse of Complex Societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Zettler, Richard L. et al. 1997. *Subsistence and Settlement in a Marginal Environment: Tell es-Sweyhat, 1989–1995 Preliminary Report*. MASCA Research Papers in Science and Archaeology 14. Philadelphia: Museum Applied Sciences Center for Archaeology.

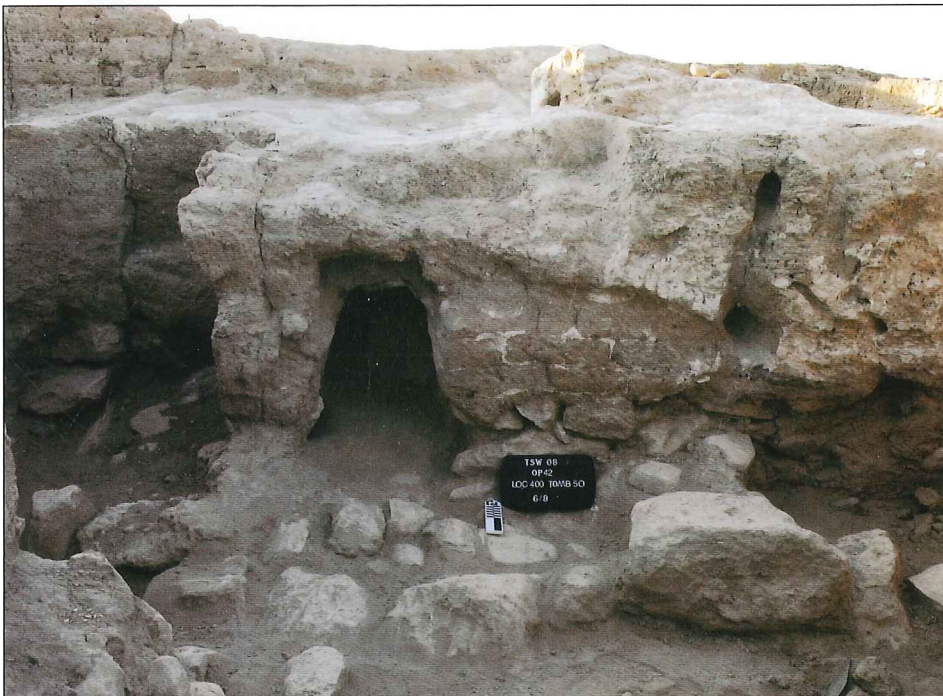


Figure 7. The entrance to one of the mudbrick structures located east of the temple of the High Inner City. The view is to the north.

Lucy Wiseman Retires from *Context*

On March 18, 2009 the Department of Archaeology and the Center for Archaeological Studies hosted a reception in honor of Margaret ("Lucy") Wiseman, who is retiring as Managing Editor of *Context*, a post she has held since 1987. The following is a brief appreciation by Ricardo Elia, Chair of the Department.



Lucy Wiseman displays a Waterford crystal bowl, a gift from colleagues, at her retirement party. Another treasured gift, partially visible at lower right, is a framed display of the first and last issues of *Context* that she edited.

Lucy Wiseman has been a special part of this department ever since its founding, even before we became a department. I've known Lucy since my graduate student days, back in the late 1970s. My first big field experience was with Jim and Lucy Wiseman at Stobi in Yugoslavian Macedonia, where Lucy ran the artifact registration office and, among other things, made sure we had plenty of good food to eat every day. (I especially remember a couple of dinners in Macedonia when Lucy made her famous 5-star chili. . . it was hot!). I also remember how welcoming she was to the young students like myself who were away from home in a foreign country for the first time.

We all know Lucy as a kind and generous person, with a keen intellect and a sharp wit. She is the type of person who has always set the highest standards and expectations for herself, and by her hard work and example has encouraged those of us who have had the pleasure of working with her to do the same.

When she assumed the position of

Managing Editor of *Context* in the Center for Archaeological Studies in 1987, Lucy in short order transformed a useful but a bit stodgy departmental newsletter into a first-rate, attractive, and professional periodical, one that serves the department as a useful tool for communicating to colleagues, prospective students, alumni, and the general public. *Context* is a superlative ambassador for the Department of Archaeology, a beautifully illustrated and professionally laid-out publication that makes all of us very proud.

Lucy has been a wonderful Managing Editor. But there's something even more important than that, something intangible that has made Lucy so special to us. In many ways, through her optimism, enthusiasm, and energy, I think Lucy Wiseman represents the original spirit of our Department. As I think about our department's future, I know I will continue to be inspired by Lucy's unwavering support, loyalty, and enthusiasm for this department. Lucy has always loved the Archaeology

New Managing Editor for *Context*

The Center is pleased to announce the appointment of China P. Shelton as Managing Editor of *Context*, effective with the current issue. The new Managing Editor, who received her Ph.D. from Boston University's Department of Archaeology in January 2009, has much relevant background for the post, including having served as a *Journal of Field Archaeology* Fellow for two and half years.

China is a broadly educated archaeologist, who came to the Department of Archaeology with a Boston University Presidential Fellowship after completing her B.A., with a double major in Anthropology and Art History, at the University of California, Santa Barbara. During her graduate career she compiled an excellent academic record, earning numerous awards, including the initial William A. Ruf Memorial Awards in 2005 and 2006 for summer fieldwork abroad; a Boston University Graduate Research Abroad



China Shelton conducting flotation in the Sangro River Valley, Italy.

Department, and wished for nothing but its success.

All of us in the Department of Archaeology are grateful to Lucy for all that she has done for us over the years. We thank her for her many years of service and dedication and for being such a fine Managing Editor. Lucy has always been a very special part of this department and she always will be.

Student/AlumNews

Abby Crawford received an Etruscan Foundation Fieldwork Fellowship and will use it to work on the Gabii Project in central Italy summer 2009.

Satoru Murata was awarded a Cora Du Bois Writing Fellowship from Harvard University, which allows him a space in Tozzer Library and financial support while he writes his dissertation.

Alexandra Ratzlaff is spending the spring 2009 semester at the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem as an Educational and Cultural Affairs Junior Fellow. She is conducting dissertation research for her project "Building a Military Presence: Analysis of the Archaeological Evidence for the Roman Occupation in Judaea/Palaestina from the 1st–6th Centuries CE."

continued on page 11

Fellowship in 2007 to complete fieldwork for her dissertation; and seven Graduate Teaching Fellowships for a diverse group of archaeological courses, both scientific and cultural. Her dissertation, "Food, Economy, and Identity in the Sangro River Valley, Abruzzo, Italy, 650 B.C.–A.D. 150," combines classical archaeology with palaeoethnobotany and grew out of her participation since 2005 in the Sangro Valley Project, Abruzzo, Italy. Her other recent field work was at Sovjan, Albania (2003, 2004; palaeoethnobotany); ancient Carnuntum, Austria (2003; excavator); and at Torre D'en Galmés, Menorca, Spain (2002), where she was a field supervisor and a Teaching Assistant in the Boston University Field School there.

Professor James Wiseman, Director of the Center, notes with special pleasure that Dr. Shelton will be working later this summer in the Corinthia of Greece, where he has spent many years in research and excavation. She will be the palaeoethnobotanist on an excavation project directed by Professor Joseph Rife, Vanderbilt University, at Kenchreai, the Saronic Gulf seaport of ancient Corinth.

Visiting Faculty in Archaeology



Jeffrey A. Becker

Jeffrey A. Becker specializes in Roman architecture and topography, classical art and architecture, and Mediterranean urbanism. He has been involved with survey and excavation in Italy since 1999, and is at present the Managing Director of the Gabii Project in central Italy. Dr. Becker completed his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2007 and his B.A. at Franklin & Marshall College in 1999. His publications have focused on the Villa delle Grotte at Grottarossa and urbanism in Republican Italy, and he is also involved in translating scholarly work originally published in Italian. While at Boston University, he offered undergraduate courses in classical archaeology as well as a graduate seminar on identity in the Roman world.



Francesco Berna



Francisco Estrada-Belli

Francisco Estrada-Belli conducts research in Guatemala, focusing on state societies and settlement patterns in the Maya lowlands. He completed his Ph.D. in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University in 1998, and has returned to teach courses at both graduate and undergraduate levels in Maya archaeology, GIS, and Method and Theory in Archaeology. He directs the Holmul Archaeological Project, which investigates lowland Maya civilization through the survey and excavation of Holmul and its minor surrounding centers. Specific research foci at Holmul include human-environment interaction, early ritual practices, and interaction with central Mexico.

Francesco Berna has been a post-doctoral Research Associate at Boston University since 2006, working with Paul Goldberg, and this year served as a Lecturer in geoarchaeology and micromorphology. A specialist in micromorphology, Dr. Berna has been involved with a variety of research projects, including study of the out-of-Africa migration of *Homo erectus* at Dmanisi, Georgia; the beginnings of the use of fire; the middle paleolithic to upper paleolithic transition; state formation in the Mediterranean at the site of Tel Dor, Israel; and salt production in Belize. Dr. Berna uses micromorphology to study site-formation processes and how people use space in living areas.

Luce Foundation Grant Supports East Asian Archaeology

Boston University is significantly increasing its teaching and research capabilities in East Asian archaeology thanks to a generous four-year, \$450,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation's Initiative on East and Southeast Asian Archaeology and Early History. The award is helping the Department of Archaeology develop a new curriculum in East Asian archaeology. Highlights of the grant include support for a new, tenure-track faculty position in East Asian archaeology, for graduate fellowships, and for students and young professionals who seek training at Boston University. Additional funding will support travel for collaborative faculty projects and library acquisitions.

East Asian archaeology already has a significant presence at Boston University through its renowned International Center for East Asian Archaeology and Cultural History (ICEAACH). Founded in 1999 with a startup grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, ICEAACH has become an important interdisciplinary hub for scholars and students of East Asian archaeology and culture. One of its numerous research activities is the ARC/Base Project, funded by grants

from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, which involves the development of a major, web-based bibliographic database of East Asian archaeology and related fields.

The Luce grant will allow Boston University to integrate ICEAACH's research and outreach activities with a new academic program in East Asian archaeology offered by the Department of Archaeology. Assistant Professor Robert Murowchick, founding director of ICEAACH, has been busy leading the effort. According to Murowchick, "This new Luce grant gives us the opportunity to usher in the next stage of the development of East Asian archaeology, with important new courses and significant forms of student support. With every astonishing new archaeological discovery that comes out of Asia, we enrich our understanding of how human societies have evolved across time and space."

In the first year of the grant, Professor Murowchick has developed and taught two new courses, *The Archaeology of Southeast Asia*, with both undergraduate and graduate components, and *Politics, Nationalism, and Archaeology*, a

graduate seminar focusing on Asian contexts. Additional courses are planned for the 2009/10 academic year. In addition, the Department has offered graduate fellowships to two East Asian archaeology students with support provided by the Luce grant and the BU Graduate School.

The development of a new academic program in East Asian archaeology comes at an opportune time. "East Asian archaeology is a dynamic and rich field, and as the region continues to expand, there is a growing need for regional specialists in both archaeological research and heritage management," said Ricardo Elia, chair of the Department of Archaeology. Elia is excited that the Luce grant will provide support for young archaeologists and heritage managers from East Asian countries to come to Boston University for a semester or two to learn specific skills, such as remote sensing, GIS, or international heritage management.

The new East Asian archaeology program will also complement the work of Boston University's new Center for the Study of Asia, according to Arts & Sciences Dean Virginia Sapiro. "The Center will promote comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and cross-national understanding of Asia, connecting the dots among the breadth of experience we have at Boston University."



Robert Murowchick (center), Director of ICEAACH, and James Wiseman (far left), Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies, discuss collaborative archaeological programs with visiting scholars (left to right) Dr. Tang Jigen from Beijing, Dr. Trinh Van Sinh from Hanoi, and Professor Chang Insung from Korea.

ICEAACH Update

The Archaeology Department's International Center for East Asian Archaeology & Cultural History (ICEAACH) continued to expand its research and outreach programs during 2008–2009. With ongoing support from the Andrew Mellon Foundation and through the efforts of a number of Archaeology Department graduate students, the ARC/Base Project continued to make progress toward the creation of a comprehensive, multilingual, web-based bibliographic database for East Asian archaeology.

Over the past year, ICEAACH has hosted a number of public archaeology lectures through its *East Asian Archaeology Forum*, with continuing support from the Humanities Foundation. Distinguished visiting lecturers since 2007 have included Dr. Ma Xiaolin, Professors Fang Hui, Yang Jianhua, Kazuo Miyamoto, Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt, Luca Zan, Tserendorj Odbaatar, and Guo Wu, Mr. Ray Man-kwong Ma, Ms. Terressa Davis, and Ms. Qu Tongli.

ICEAACH Director Robert Murowchick presented public outreach lectures on Chinese archaeology and geography at the Greater Hartford Academy of Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, Bryant University, Clark University, and to numerous K-12 teacher workshops through Primary Source and the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia (NCTA). In January 2009, he gave the keynote address entitled "The Blind Men and the Elephant: Politics and Archaeology in China Today," at the annual Keechong Dinner at the historic Forbes House Museum in Milton, MA, the family home of Captain Robert Bennet Forbes of Boston-China-trade fame.

The ICEAACH library continues to expand, with important acquisitions of archaeological and art historical publications from China, Taiwan, and Japan. Our archaeology majors have been helpful at ICEAACH, with Scott Sunell working to organize the center's large Asian map collection, and Victoria Sheridan digitizing a huge collection of archaeological slides from China.

Context and Human Society Lecture Series

Richard Hodges: Toward a 21st Century Archaeology

by Ricardo Elia

One of the highlights of the Spring semester in the Department of Archaeology is our Context and Human Society Lecture Series, when students and faculty are able to interact for several days with a distinguished scholar who has made substantial contributions to our understanding of human societies and their environments. Established in 1983, the Context and Human Society Lectures are sponsored by the Center for Archaeological Studies and Department of Archaeology. Recent speakers have included the eminent archaeologists Ofer Bar-Yosef, Ian Hodder, and Joan Oates.

This year we were treated to a visit by Dr. Richard Hodges, thanks to the generous support of Boston University's Humanities Foundation. Dr. Hodges is Williams Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and a specialist in medieval archaeology. He received his Ph.D. from Southampton University, where he wrote his thesis on Anglo-Saxon ceramics, trade, and economy. Dr. Hodges has taught at Sheffield

University, the University of Siena, and the University of Copenhagen, and served as director of the British School at Rome, 1988–1995. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and, in 1995, was awarded the Order of the British Empire. From 1995 to 2007 he was Professor and Director of the Institute of World Archaeology at the University of East Anglia.

Dr. Hodges' distinguished research career has included major field projects at Roystone Grange, a rich and diverse archaeological landscape in England; San Vincenzo al Volturno, a medieval monastic site in Italy, and, since 1994, at the World Heritage site of Butrint in Albania. His archaeological research is notable not only for its many substantive and technical contributions, but also for the way in which he has employed an interdisciplinary approach that includes public engagement, outreach, conservation, and a deep concern for heritage-management issues.

For the 2009 Context and Human Society Lectures, Dr. Hodges focused on his multi-year, interdisciplinary

continued on page 16



Dr. Richard Hodges is in conversation with another visitor of the Center and Department, Dr. Evangelos Chryos, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Hellenic Parliament Foundation for Parliamentarianism and Democracy.

An Assessment of Cultural Heritage in Montenegro

by Marta Ostovich and Christina Luke

The following article is an account by the authors of a recent trip, in the service of culture heritage, to Montenegro, a Balkan nation at the southern end of the Dalmatian Coast. Marta Ostovich, a Ph.D. Candidate in Boston University's archaeology program, is writing a doctoral dissertation to assess international frameworks for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. Dr. Christina Luke, a Senior Research Associate in Boston University's Department of Archaeology, served as Cultural Property Analyst for the Cultural Property Advisory Committee of the U. S. State Department and is well known as an expert on culture heritage.



Monastery at Morača, Montenegro.

As part of the U. S. State Department's Speaker Program, for a week in October 2008 we visited Montenegro along with Brian Daniels, a graduate student in the Departments of History and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and a fellow of the Smithsonian Institute. The goal of our visit was to provide an assessment of the current state of cultural heritage in Montenegro and to offer suggestions on future projects. In preparing for our visit, we discovered that a number of reports on cultural heritage in Montenegro already existed and we therefore sought to focus on plans for future collaboration and projects. The trip was coordinated through the University of Pennsylvania's Cultural Heritage Center, directed by Dr. Richard Leventhal, and was organized by the Exeditio Center for Sustainable Spatial Development, an NGO (Non-governmental Organization) based in Kotor, Montenegro. Representatives of Exeditio accompanied us throughout our trip and served as translators.

While in Montenegro, we met with a wide spectrum of people who work with culture heritage, including government officials, archaeologists, architects, conservators, divers, and museum officials. We visited a variety of sites from the Roman and medieval

periods as well as museums, monasteries, and National Parks and traveled both along the coast and through the interior of the country. In the towns of Kolasin, Podgorica, and Kotor, we delivered lectures that addressed issues surrounding cultural landscapes, museum policies, and implementation of legislation to protect cultural heritage.

The primary threat to cultural heritage in Montenegro is overdevelopment of coastal regions for tourism. Huge hotels, marinas, and other facilities for visitors are springing up along Montenegro's coastline in order to accommodate a rapidly growing tourist industry. Developers are required to check with the Ministry of Culture and the Central Archaeological Service before they begin construction, but in actuality there are very few checks on development. The lack of zoning threatens archaeological sites, most of which are probably still unknown. While the coast does have an active tourist industry, it is not linked with the interior of the country and cultural heritage sites and cities in the interior, which therefore receive fewer visitors and less attention. Heritage professionals are eager to attract more cultural tourism to inland sites, thus diverting some of the stress away

from those on the coast. Other causes for concern surround the inventory of mosaics and religious artifacts in monasteries; the lack of coordination among those working in the natural heritage sector, in the cultural heritage sector, and in the tourism industry; the lack of space and resources for the country's Central Archaeological Service; and museum facilities and protocols.

Our trip resulted in a number of recommendations and plans. We were amazed by a meeting with the Regional Center for Underwater Demining at which representatives from almost all of the Balkan countries had come together in the name of protecting underwater heritage. This kind of regional cooperation is to be lauded and could lead to a Balkan agreement of protection of underwater heritage. Organizations such as Exeditio offer hope for the future of cultural heritage in Montenegro and a study of how Exeditio works could serve as an example of how a good NGO functions within a country in coordinating the activities and interests of various stakeholders in the heritage of Montenegro. Another idea to help link the coast with the interior is the creation of a heritage corridor, which would consist of a map guiding tourists to various important cul-



Marta Ostovich, Brian Daniels, and Christina Luke (left to right) with a EXPEDITIO representative in Cetinje, the cultural center of Montenegro.

tural sites and scenic viewpoints throughout the country. Greater distribution of tourist literature and brochures at the airport and at major hotels would also do a great deal to promote tourism to cultural sites. Montenegro also has a number of iconic objects relating to its history, so that a group of researchers dedicated to identifying these objects and making them accessible to the public (since many of them are not on display) would help promote the objects that are most representative of Montenegro's past.

In terms of cultural-heritage policy, Montenegro is at a crossroads. Many aspects of the administration are fragmented, without a clear guideline for the implementation of cultural-heritage policy. There are a number of national laws in place to protect heritage, but the administration and implementation of these laws lack force. Internationally, Montenegro is party to the World Heritage Convention and is also part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program and the Ramsar International Wetlands Program. Montenegro is in the process of implementing the European Landscape Convention, which is a pivotal step in landscape management and planning. The diversity of cultural heritage in Montenegro calls for a country-wide policy that is able to incorporate and administer all types of heritage and protect this heritage from the threat of overdevelopment.

Faculty/Research Fellow News

Mary Lee Bartlett (Ph.D. Boston University, 1998) is now Digital Archivist for the Abilene Library Consortium (Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University, Howard Payne University, McMurry University, and the Abilene public library). The position is funded by a three-year grant from the Dodge Jones Foundation and the Dian Graves Owens Foundation.

Kathryn Bard presented a paper on the excavations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, Egypt at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, in April 2008 in Seattle, Washington. She also gave an invited AIA lecture at the Brooklyn Museum on May 16, 2009: "Harbor of the Pharaohs to the Land of Punt: Excavations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, Egypt 2001–2009." Her article, "Royal Cities and Cult Centers, Administrative Towns, and Workmen's Settlements in Ancient Egypt" was included in *The Ancient City. New Perspectives on Urbanism in the Old and New World*, edited by

Joyce Marcus and Jeremy Sabloff (Santa Fe, NM 2008). The papers in this volume were originally presented at the Arthur M. Sackler Colloquium of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C. in May 2005.

Mary Beaudry has been named a founding member of the Advisory Board for the newly launched *Antiquaries Journal*, published by the Society of Antiquaries of London. The Society is now publishing an online version of the journal, working with its publishing partner, Cambridge University Press, publishing two online issues a year, in March and September, and a consolidated printed volume in September each year. She delivered a plenary address, "Atlantic Archaeologies: 'Atlantic World' as a Paradigm for Teaching Historical Archaeology," at the annual meetings of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology held in St. Mary's City, Maryland, in October 2008. Professor Beaudry has accepted an invitation to participate in an international symposium, "Poverty In Depth: New International Perspectives," sponsored by the York Archaeological Trust and The

continued on page 12

continued from page 7

Kathleen Scanlan, an undergraduate double major in Archaeology and Anthropology, received the Augustus Howe Buck Scholarship from Boston University, which will cover her full tuition and room and board. Nominated by **Professor Ksenija Borojevic**, Ms. Scanlan went through three interviews with professors from various departments.

Elly Spensley was awarded a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for her project "Classic Maya Ceramic Technology and Political Dynamics in the Central Petén Lakes Region, Guatemala." She also received a Boston University Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship. These grants funded field and lab research for seven months in Guatemala in 2008.

Ben Vining received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for

his project "el Proyecto Arqueológico Lago Suches: Rural Land Use, Sedentary Pastoralism, and Ecology in the Andean High Puna." He was also awarded the Douglas C. Kellogg Award for Geoarchaeological Research offered by the Society for American Archaeology.

Chantel White has been awarded a grant for her field research at the Pre-Pottery Neolithic sites of Yiftahel and Beisamoun in Jordan from the Irene Levi-Sala CARE Archaeological Foundation. She also received a Cora du Bois Writing Fellowship from Harvard University for fall 2009 through spring 2010, which allows her space in Tozzer Library and supports her while she writes her dissertation.

Graduate Research Abroad Fellowships, Spring 2009

Nicholas Wolff
Kevin Cooney

A Friend of Archaeology at Boston University
Elizabeth Weir Ruf, In Memoriam

Elizabeth (Bette) Jane Weir Ruf, a friend and supporter of the Center for Archaeological Studies for many years, died March 20, 2009, at the Meadows, North Andover, Massachusetts. Bette and her husband, Bill Ruf, were especially interested in the archaeology and ancient culture of Greece, which they visited some 25 times. Their travels in Mediterranean lands sometimes included Archaeological Institute of America tours hosted by Jim and Lucy Wiseman with whom they became good friends. They also visited the Boston University Nikopolis Interdisciplinary Survey Project in Epirus of northwestern Greece in 1992, and as frequent attendees of Center lectures they came to be friends of many of the faculty and students of the Department of Archaeology.

Bette was born November 12, 1916, in Cleveland, Ohio, and received her B.A. in Sociology and History from the College of Wooster in 1938. She continued her studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and at New York University, and eventually taught Western Civilization and Physical Education at Dover High School in Westlake, Ohio, where she also served as Dean of Students, and where she met Bill, her husband of 63 years.

Bette's young adulthood was indelibly marked by World War II. Two brothers served in the armed forces in the Pacific, and her husband Bill entered the Army Air Force in 1942. To assist in the war effort, Bette studied nursing at Western Reserve University and served as a nurse's aide at bases in Tonapah, Nevada, and Bishop, California, where her husband was stationed.

When Bill died in February 2005, Bette prompted the creation of the William A. Ruf Memorial Fund in the Center for Archaeological Studies "to promote the study of archaeology and travels to ancient sites."

Contributions from family and friends have made possible both lec-



Elizabeth Weir Ruf

tures and travel grants for graduate students. The two daughters of Bette and Bill, Mrs. Elizabeth Ruf Field of Peoria, Illinois, and Carolyn Ruf, have now asked that memorial contributions for their mother be made to the Center for Archaeological Studies. The Center is honored by their request and welcomes all contributions in memory of Elizabeth Weir Ruf. The Center is also pleased to announce that the fund will now be called the William A. and Elizabeth Ruf Memorial Fund.

Contributions in Memory of Elizabeth Ruf, 2009

William and Elsa Allen	\$25
Ann M. Bex	\$25
Elizabeth Ruf Field and Carolyn Ruf	\$1,000
Donald and Mary Koss	\$50
M. K. Rosecrants	\$50
Jim and Lucy Wiseman	\$100

continued from page 11
 University of York, in York, U.K., July 2009. Beaudry's contribution to the symposium falls under the theme of health and hygiene, and will include a presentation on comparative research on materials recovered from 19th-century sites in Boston, Massachusetts.

Francesco Berna presented research that was co-authored with Paul Goldberg and several others on "High Resolution Study of Prehistoric Combustion Features: Insights on how Neanderthals Used Fire at Kebara Cave (Israel)" at both the Taphonomie des résidus organiques brûlés et des structures de combustion en milieu archéologique Round Table in May 2008 at Cépam, CNRS, Sophi-Antipolis, France, and at the 2008 Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Vancouver.

Ksenija Borojević published an article about her research at Grapčeva Cave in the *Journal of Field Archaeology* (2008), and continued her study of water chestnuts with the publication of an invited chapter in *From Foragers to Farmers: Gordon C. Hillman Festschrift*, edited by A. S. Fairbairn and E. Weiss (Oxford 2009). She also participated in a water chestnut pull-out on two small lakes north of Boston, together with the New England Wild Flower Society in August 2008. In contrast to the old world, where water chestnuts have been gathered for food, this pullout was designed to eradicate this invasive species. Borojević continues to be the principal archaeobotanist at the site of Vinča in Serbia (see *Context* 19. 1-2: 12-14) and presented papers at both the 2008 and 2009 Society for American Archaeology annual meetings about her research at Vinča and Grapčeva Cave, respectively.

To celebrate a centennial of archaeological research at Vinča, a spectacular exhibition ("Vinča: Prehistoric Metropolis") was organized in the Gallery of the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences in fall 2008. This exhibition was accompanied by a lavishly illustrated catalog, and included a life-sized reconstruction of the same wattle and daub Neolithic house from which Professor Borojević collected and analyzed the plant macro-remains.

David Cohen was one of 22 scholars invited to participate in the 140th Wenner-Gren International Symposium held at Hacienda Temozon in Merida, Mexico, March 6th-March 13th, 2009. The theme of the symposium was "The Beginnings

of Agriculture: New Data, New Ideas." The intensive symposium drew together scholars from around the globe to put together a state-of-the-art study on the origins of agriculture that will provide a baseline for the next generation of research. Dr. Cohen's contribution centered on archaeological evidence from north and south China on the transition to farming and drew on his excavations at Upper Paleolithic and Neolithic sites in the Yangzi and Yellow River regions. Papers resulting from the symposium will be published in a special issue of *Current Anthropology* in 2010.

Francisco Estrada-Belli was inducted as a member into the Society of Antiquaries in November 2008.

Paul Goldberg presented a number of lectures, including "Why the Parable of the Elephants is so Important in Archaeology," for the University of British Columbia's Archaeology Week in March 2009; "Context," at the Geoarchaeology and Taphonomy Round Table in Aix-en-Provence (Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme, Laboratoire Méditerranéen de Préhistoire) in September 2008; and an invited lecture at the Kansas Geological Survey entitled "Micromorphology, Microfacies, and Geoarchaeological Context." He has also presented several papers: "The Role of Fire in Neandertal Adaptations: A Case Study of Pech de l'Azé IV, Layer 8" at the Paleoanthropology Society Meeting in Vancouver, Canada in March 2008, with seven colleagues, as well as another paper in the same meeting, "The Middle to Upper Paleolithic Transition in the Swabian Jura, SW Germany, a Geoarchaeological Perspective," which was co-authored with Christopher E. Miller and Nicholas Conard.

Norman Hammond is a Senior Fellow at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge University, England, for the spring semester and summer of 2009, working on aspects of the Boston University La Milpa Archaeological Project (the 1992–2002

continued on page 15

Mersa/Wadi Gawasis: A Pharaonic Harbor on the Red Sea

by Kathryn Bard and Rodolfo Fattovich

Archaeological investigations continued in the 2007–2008 and 2009 seasons at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, Egypt, the site of the pharaonic harbor of Saww, located ca. 22 km south of the modern seaport of Safaga on the Egyptian coast of the Red Sea, under the direction of Kathryn Bard (Boston University) and Rodolfo Fattovich (University of Naples "l'Orientale"). Excavations focused on the western slope of the fossil coral terrace where ancient man-made storage caves have been discovered, and the so-called "harbor area" between the wadi and the southeastern slope of the terrace. Reports by the same authors on earlier seasons were published in Context 18.1 (2004): 15–16, 18.2 (2005): 1–3, and 19.1–2 (2006–2007): 25–28.

Continued excavations of the ancient harbor of *Saww* (see map in *Context* 19.1–2: 25), in combination with further specialist analyses, are clarifying the nature and organization of the seafaring expeditions sent from Egypt to the land of Punt during the 12th Dynasty (1985–1773 B.C.). During the 2007–2008 field season large-scale areal excavations were conducted in the harbor area, providing firm evidence of the use of this part of the site in the Middle Kingdom. Two main phases of use were identified. In the earlier phase, part of the area may have been used for storage, with large jars aligned along the edge of the shore line of the ancient beach, next to the harbor. In the later phase, most of the area was used as a camp with evidence of large hearths and many fish remains from sailors' meals.

Ceramics from the Nile Valley that date to both phases reflect the organization of the seafaring expeditions. Large storage jars from the earlier phase of the harbor area were mainly of Marl C ware and its variants. Marl C is an undecorated ware made of marl clay that is very strong and ideal for storage jars of good quality. This ware is typical of the Middle Kingdom and is found throughout Egypt at sites of this period. The storage jars at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis were brought there by donkey caravan across the desert, an estimated 9–10 day trek. Ceramics were studied by Dr. Sally Wallace-Jones (University of East Anglia), who also identified wooden discs that were used as jar stoppers, formerly thought to be pulleys or reels. Smaller stoppers made

of pecked ceramic discs fashioned from broken pottery were also present.

Wallace-Jones recognized more Egyptian pottery from the Nile Valley in the second phase of use of the harbor area. These ceramics included a wide range of forms, suggesting both small-scale storage and food preparation and consumption. Two potsherds from a large cooking pot of Nile E ware were excavated there. These ceramics originated in Lower Egypt and are typical of a ware found in the eastern Delta at the site of Tell el-Daba. Also excavated in the camp area were potsherds of wares from Eritrea and the Aden region of Yemen (Malayba ware).

The second major area of excavation in 2007–2008, along the western slope of the coral terrace, uncovered a mud-brick platform structure. This structure is the first of its kind at the site, but its use is uncertain. A later hearth in this area contained Egyptian pottery of the late 12th/early 13th Dynasties, and sherds of a Canaanite ware that is known to have been imported on a large scale to Tell el-Daba (Manfred Bietak, personal communication). Investigations on the western terrace slope also revealed an unusual shrine structure at the entrance to Cave 7, which consisted of an arrangement of four large upright stones. A sherd from a Minoan cup of pre-Palatial Kamares ware, dating to ca. 2000–1500 B.C., was found associated with this shrine, the first of such pottery identified at the site.

continued on page 14

continued from page 13

Expeditions from this site to Punt would have begun when the king made a decree, and the ceramics from the Nile Valley and Delta suggest that the expeditions were then supplied from different regions in Egypt. The ceramics from Eritrea suggest the possible location of Punt, in the northern Horn of Africa. Possibly the ceramics from Yemen represent Egyptian contact with that area on the voyages to Punt. The Canaanite sherds, however, may have been brought to the site with supplies from the eastern Delta, including the Nile E ware made there. Many impressed clay sealings have also been excavated at the site, which suggest administrative offices that were responsible for organizing expedition supplies. One sealing (S08/04) with a hieroglyphic inscription, which was translated by Elsayed Mahfouz of the University of Assiut, the project's epigrapher, contains the title of the "overseer of the books of the temple of the town," which suggests that some expedition supplies came from an Egyptian temple, not a government administrative center.

The 2007–2008 excavation on the slope of the western coral terrace also revealed more limestone stelae, including two with the cartouche of King Amenemhat III (ca. 1831–1786 B.C.), each dating to different years of his reign (year 23 and year 41), thus constituting evidence of two different expeditions under this king. A new stela excavated in association with the shrine with the upright stones is dedicated to two deities: "Osiris Wadj-wer" (Osiris of the Great Green, i.e., Red Sea) and Horus the Great. "Osiris Wadj-wer" is a unique title of a maritime god for the harbor. The associated sherd of a Minoan cup (see above) in this context may represent an offering of an exotic artifact imported into Egypt and then brought to the harbor from the Nile Valley.

Further evidence for the long-distance transport of materials comes from the excavation of more ship timbers at the site, as well as a number of dovetails for joining the ship timbers in Cave 3, which were studied by

Symposium, Exhibition, and a Ship at Sea

A symposium entitled "Boats and Harbors on the Red Sea in Pharaonic Times," organized by the French Institute of Archaeology, Cairo (Institut français d'archéologie orientale Caire), was held in Cairo at the Ahmed Pasha Kamal Auditorium of the Supreme Council of Antiquities on January 11, 2009. The symposium, "Boats and Harbors on the Red Sea in Pharaonic Times," focused mainly on the Mersa/Wadi Gawasis excavations and the French Institute excavations at the site of Ayn Sukhna. Papers on Mersa/Wadi Gawasis were given by Rodolfo Fattovich and Kathryn Bard, Elsayed Mahfouz, Chiara Zazzaro and Claire Calcagno, and Cheryl Ward (Florida State University), who excavated at the site in 2005–2006. A poster on the geological investigations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis was presented by Christopher Hein and Duncan FitzGerald.

Cheryl Ward's investigations of the ship remains from Mersa/Wadi Gawasis have also resulted in the construction of a full-scale reproduction of an ancient Egyptian seafaring ship. Designed by Ward and a naval architect, Patrick Couser, the ship, named "Min of the Desert," was built in Alexandria, Egypt, and was successfully sailed on the Red Sea for one week in late December 2008–January 2009, as seen in the accompanying photograph. Funds for this project were provided by Sombrero Productions, a documentary film company in Paris that has made a film about this ship, ancient Egyptian seafaring, and the excavations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis.



An exhibition, "Mersa/Wadi Gawasis: A Pharaonic Harbor on the Red Sea," will be held in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, in December 2009. The exhibition will include artifacts excavated at the site, a model of an ancient Egyptian seafaring ship, and material about the scientific analyses used in the investigations.

Claire Calcagno (Boston University, Department of Archaeology) and Chiara Zazzaro (University of Naples "l'Orientale"). Rainer Gerisch (Free University of Berlin) identified the wood species of these finds, which included cedar from the Syro-Palestinian region for ship beams and planks, and one plank made of sycamore, from the Nile Valley. Two wooden poles, as well as a few tenons and dovetails, were made of Nile acacia, also from the Nile Valley. From

charcoal deposits in the production area at the base of the western coral terrace, Gerisch also identified more remains of ebony, a hard wood which grows on the African side of the southern Red Sea region.

The investigation of the nature and location of the ancient harbor also continued in 2007–2008. Studies of the coastal geology of the site were conducted by Duncan FitzGerald and Christopher Hein (Boston University, *continued on page 16*)

Archaeology Commencement 2008

Faculty/Fellows continued from page 13 investigation of a major Maya city in the rainforest of northwestern Belize). He also delivered lectures on La Milpa, in January 2009 at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque and for the Archaeological Institute of America in Santa Fe, NM, and gave an invited seminar: on "Middle Preclassic Maya Economy and Society at Cuello, Belize," at the McDonald Institute in February 2009. Also in February, Professor Hammond took part in the University of Durham's series of invited lectures on the history of archaeology, with a presentation on "Discovering the Maya." In March, he was an invited speaker at the Sociedad Española de Estudios Mayas Ninth Symposium, "Ritual público, ritual privado en el mundo Maya," held at the Universidad de Granada, Spain. His presentation was titled "La persistencia de la memoria: quince siglos de acción ritual en Cuello, Belice." At the end of March, Professor Hammond was an invited guest at the State Banquet for the President of Mexico, given by the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London and held at London's historic Guildhall, on the occasion of President Calderon's state visit to Britain. In addition, Professor Hammond has been appointed Archaeology Editor of the *TLS* (*Times Literary Supplement*), the prestigious London-based literary review, from April 2009. The *TLS* is the British equivalent of the *New York Times Book Review*, although also with longer essays like those in the *New York Review of Books*. Founded more than a century ago as an extra section of *The Times of London*, as the name suggests, the *TLS* has long been an independent weekly periodical. Professor Hammond has written archaeology reviews for the *TLS* for almost forty years, but will now commission them.

Professor Hammond also spoke at the 1st Harvard Australian Studies Symposium on "People Colonizing New Worlds at Harvard University in April 2009. In May 2009, he lectured on "Discovering the Ancient Maya" to the Anglo-Mexican Society at Canning House in London.



Graduates and Archaeology faculty at the 2008 commencement ceremony (top); B.A. graduates Darren Ashby and Jennifer Swerida (lower left); and Mary Beaudry with B.A. graduate Hope Shannon.

Bachelor of Arts

Kathryn Actis-Grande, Received First Prize in the Jerome A. Nochman Codol Writing Contest.
Allison Allshouse
Darren Ashby, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Independent Work for Distinction
Deanna Baker
Emily Jane Benz
Jennifer Castro
Nicholas Chasuk
Natalie Eng, *summa Cum Laude*, College Prize for Excellence, The Dean Elsbeth Melville Latin Prize, and the Robert E. Yellin Humanities Foundation Award.
Kyle Forte
Sigmund Gurnick
Jessica Henderson, Honors Program, University Scholar Scholarship and the Nahond Society of Collegiate

Scholars

Jessica Hines
Melissa Joseph, *magna cum laude*
Jessica Lamp, *magna cum laude*
Maureen Merrigan
Sarah Pace
Shagun Raina, *magna cum laude*
Hope Shannon, Archaeology Trowel Award
Megan Joy Starkey
Jennifer Swerida, *cum laude*, Independent Work for Distinction

Master of Arts

Megan Lentz
Jane Lucas
Jing Wang
Nicholas Wolff

Doctor of Philosophy

Christopher Dayton

Mersa continued from page 14

Department of Earth Sciences), who excavated a series of trenches in the wadi in which cores were taken. Results of the analyses of these cores suggest that the core sediments were deposited in a lagoon with infrequent freshwater inputs, and that the ancient harbor was located considerably inland from where it is now.

In January 2009 a short field season was conducted at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis under the direction of Rodolfo Fattovich. Two ceremonial structures were excavated along the eastern sea shore: a semi-circular mound containing two rooms, oriented along a SE-NW axis; and a gravel mound delimiting a horse-shoe shaped room entered through a passage defined by two large slabs of conglomerate stone, originally erected vertically. Laser-scanning of the man-made caves, which began in 2007–2008, was also continued in 2009 using an Imager 5005 3D scanner. This equipment enabled the team to map in several days the interior plan of two man-made caves and the wall of the western coral terrace. The task would have been more time-consuming, and less accurate, had we used conventional surveying and mapping techniques.

Funding for the 2007–2008 excavations was provided by a generous grant from Mr. Wallace Sellers, Lahaska, PA, and grants from the University of Naples "l'Orientale" and the Institute for Africa and the Orient, Rome, which also funded the 2009 field season. A detailed excavation report of the 2007–2008 field season at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis is available online: www.archaeogate.org

Kathryn Bard is an Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University and Rodolfo Fattovich is a Professor at the University of Naples "l'Orientale", Italy.

Faculty/Fellows continued from page 15

Britt Hartenberger (Ph.D. Boston University, 2003) is completing her second year as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Western Michigan University, where she has been teaching courses in archaeology.



Context is a publication of the Center for Archaeological Studies and appears twice a year. Membership in the Center is open to the public; annual dues are \$20. Benefits include a subscription to *Context*, invitations to attend fall and spring lecture series and other events, and the use of the Center's library facilities. The Center also offers special seminars for the public during the academic year and summer field schools in the Boston area and abroad. Please make checks payable to the Center for Archaeological Studies and send to the Center office at Boston University, 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. Gifts to the Center are tax-deductible.

Editor-in-Chief: James R. Wiseman
Managing Editor: China P. Shelton
Editorial Board: Ricardo J. Elia, Norman Hammond, Fred S. Kleiner

Faculty/Research Appointments in the Department of Archaeology (2008–2009): Professors Mary C. Beaudry, Clemency C. Coggins, Paul Goldberg, Norman Hammond, Fred S. Kleiner, Patricia McAnany, Mohammad Rafique Mughal, Curtis N. Runnels, Founder's Professor of Archaeology James R. Wiseman. Professor Julie M. Hansen, Emerita. Adjunct Professor

She traveled to Turkey in summer 2008 with a fellowship from the American Schools of Oriental Research to analyze chipped and ground stone from the site of Ziyaret Tepe.

Ilean Isaza (Ph.D. 2007) has been awarded two grants from the Panamanian Bureau of Science Technology and Innovation (SENA-CYT) to undertake research at the Coiba National Park of the Pacific Coast of Panama to study (1) issues on the settlement of islands and (2) human impacts on the insular landscape. Dr. Eric Vrba is the co-PI for the first part of this project. For the second aspect, Dr. Isaza will be working with Dr. Alicia Ibanez, a botanist from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

The dissertation of **Eric Vrba** (Ph.D. Boston University, 2007) was recently published: *Ancient German Identity in the Shadow of the Roman Empire: The Impact of Roman Trade and Contact*

Paul Zimansky. Associate Professors Kathryn A. Bard, Ricardo J. Elia. Assistant Professors Ksenija Borjevic, Christopher H. Roosevelt, Michael D. Danti, William Saturno. Visiting Assistant Professors Jeffrey Becker, Francisco Estrada-Belli. Assistant Professor Robert E. Murowchick, Director of ICEAACH (International Center for East Asian Archaeology and Cultural History). Adjunct Assistant Professors Michael C. DiBlasi, Amalia Pérez-Juez, David Cohen. Lecturer and Research Fellow Francesco Berna. Research Fellows Trina Arpin, Mary Lee Bartlett, Claire Calcagno, Rudolph H. Dornemann, Rodolfo Fattovich, Eleanor Harrison-Buck, Lorinda Goodwin, Britt Hartenberger, Dan Hicks, Christina Hodge, Ilean Isaza Aizpurua, Donald Keller, Christina Luke, Richard I. MacPhail, Karen Metheny, Michele Miller, Priscilla Murray, Polly Peterson, Sheldon S. Sandler, Nancy Seasholes, Lauren A. Sullivan, Ben Thomas, Gair Tourtellot, Eric Vrba, Daniel Welch, Howard Wellman, Al B. Wesolowsky. Associated Faculty: Farouk El-Baz, Research Professor of Remote Sensing and Director of the Center for Remote Sensing; David R. Marchant, Associate Professor of Earth Sciences. Visiting Scholars Christopher King, Trinh Van Sinh.

Boston University's policies provide for equal opportunity and affirmative action in employment and admission to all programs of the University. 2005 by the Trustees of Boston University. All rights reserved.

along the Middle Danube Frontier, 10 B.C.–A.D. 166, British Archaeological Reports No. S1881, Oxford 2008.

Elia continued from page 9
work at Butrint and other sites in Albania in a two-part series, "Toward a Twenty-first Century Archaeology: Cultural Heritage and Field Research in Albania." The first lecture (February 25) was "At the Crossroads of the Mediterranean: Butrint and the Corrupting Sea." The second lecture (February 26) was titled "Archaeology and Social Responsibility in Southern Albania."

Both lectures were stimulating and generated a good discussion among the audience of students, faculty, and members of the general public. A public reception following the second lecture capped an enjoyable and productive week of discussions, meetings, and interactions with our distinguished visitor and guest.