2016-2017 Hirsch Undergraduate And Graduate Scholarships Report
The Cornell Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies (CIAMS) awards Hirsch Scholarships for travel to students at Cornell University in order to offset travel costs for participating in archaeological fieldwork or other archaeologically-related professional development during the summer. For the 2017 field season, our Hirsch scholarship recipients came from a variety of academic backgrounds. We awarded scholarships to undergraduates, MA students, and PhD students from Cornell’s departments of Anthropology, CIAMS, Classics, and History of Art. The recipients took part in a wide array of international fieldwork, from introductory field schools to independent thesis research, as well as participating in international conferences. Several students participated in CIAMS’ faculty-led excavations, namely Professor Astrid Van Oyen’s Marzuolo Archaeological Project and Professor Sturt Manning’s Kalavasos and Maroni Built Environments (KAMBE) project. Other students travelled to Wales, Turkey, Egypt, Italy, and Bulgaria.

After their fieldwork was complete, each Hirsch scholarship recipient wrote a brief summary of their time in the field and submitted photos of their field project. Not only do the stories presented here highlight the work of promising young scholars, they demonstrate the importance of archaeology as a discipline with relevance to the concerns of modern society.

Hirsch scholars serve as ambassadors of Cornell University when they conduct research, creating face-to-face links between local people in foreign countries and the Cornell community. As a scholarly discipline, archaeology not only concerns the materials of the past, but it has meaningful impact on modern society through international collaboration, the preservation of global heritage, and public outreach.

We at CIAMS are very proud of the accomplishments of our 2017 Hirsch Scholarship recipients, and we look forward to continuing to provide support for promising young scholars in archaeology.

2016-2017 CIAMS Awards Committee:
Katie Jarriel (chair), Annetta Alexandridis, John Henderson

2017-2018 CIAMS Awards Committee:
Eilis Monahan (chair), Astrid Van Oyen, Frederic Gleach

2017 Hirsch Scholarship Recipients:

Undergraduate Recipients:
Francesca LaPasta
Anni Li
John Souza

Graduate Recipients:
Jennifer Carrington
Kathleen Garland
Rebecca Gerdes
John Gorczyk
Jeanine Hoy
Anastasia Kotsogolou*
Jessica Plant
Laryssa Shipley
Kaja Tally-Schumacher
Jay Weimar

*Anastasia’s project is unable to be shared with the public at this time due to government restrictions
**Jenny Carrington**

With the help of Hirsch funding this year, I presented at the Third International Association for Research on Pottery of the Hellenistic Period (IARPotHP) conference in Kaštela, Croatia. The conference involved four days of presentations from both well-established leaders in the field and early career researchers and graduate students.

The theme of this year's conference was “Exploring the Neighborhood: The Role of Ceramics in Understanding Place in the Hellenistic World.” Scholars working on pottery from all around the Mediterranean presented new findings, sites, and approaches to archaeological ceramics and how ceramic vessels materialize local, regional, and inter-regional connections. It was incredibly rewarding to learn in such depth from an international group of researchers, making connections and gaining a new appreciation for the unique features of Hellenistic-period pottery.

All of this learning and sharing was enhanced by the superb setting within the Kaštela Town Museum, housed in a 16th century castle right on the water (pictured), as well as a guided excursion to Diocletian's Palace and the Archaeological Museum in Split.

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**Kathleen Garland**

Thanks to a Hirsch Travel Scholarship, this summer I returned to Italy to participate in the second season of the Marzuolo Archaeological Project, a multidisciplinary, multinational effort, codirected by Rhodora Vennarucci (University of Arkansas), Gijs Tol (University of Melbourne), and Cornell University’s own Astrid Van Oyen. Before heading to Cinigiano, the small hilltop village the project calls home, I spent a few days in Rome, walking the city and remedying the fact that I was a Classical archaeologist who had never been to the Capitoline Museums or the Palazzo Massimo! Although there was much more to be seen, I admit I was glad to leave the bustling crowds and eager to be in the field once more.

My good friend and colleague Alina Kozlovski and I were the field supervisors in charge of Area 17000—a real devil of an area. Although we did not find the terra sigillata kilns we had been hoping for, 17000 turned out to offer rich evidence for production as well as a small-scale catastrophe. Perhaps the most impressive find of the season (discovered in the last couple days, naturally), was a set of blacksmith’s tools. We came away with more questions than answers, but as we continue to study the materials and other data collected, we are beginning to piece together a more complex and fascinating picture of this rural production site.
On weekends, when not swamped with paperwork, we explored nearby sites like the Etruscan and Roman settlement of Roselle; the city of Arezzo, birthplace of terra sigillata, and its excellent museum; the town of Sovana, home to stunning medieval churches and an Etruscan necropolis; and the natural hot springs at Saturnia. The project also organized afternoon trips to nearby ongoing excavations, and hosted an open day at Marzuolo for the community.

My work at Marzuolo has helped me to frame better questions about economic strategies, technologies, and networks that I hope to explore in my own research. Exploring the region, attending local spettacoli, trying to dissuade a looter (with recourse to the material affordances of tarps and heavy rocks), and meeting with a local author to talk about the town’s economy, local rivalries, and relationship with the refugees it hosts, provided the team additional opportunities to learn about the politics of archaeology, and brought home to us our responsibility to the present as well as the past.

Rebecca Gerdes

I received a Hirsch Travel Grant from CIAMS for the Kalavasos and Maroni Built Environments (KAMBE) Project 2017 excavation season, co-directed by Professor Sturt Manning and Dr. Georgia Andreou with faculty from the University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, and University of Chicago. I participated in three areas of the excavation: (1) digging two trenches at Maroni that aimed to uncover and study architectural features observed in the 2016 excavation, (2) collection of plaster and ceramic samples for an organic residue analysis pilot project to investigate olive oil storage and production practices at the Late Bronze Age urban sites of Kalavasos and Maroni, and (3) testing and supervising acid-washing of excavated pottery with a vinegar solution to prepare them for analysis by the ceramicist. Participation in field excavation provided much-needed digging experience and an opportunity to learn how to integrate scientific techniques into the larger research goals of the site. I was able to observe the process of identifying the excavation contexts as secondary fill or primary context, and based on the conclusion that most of the contexts were secondary, collaborate with the excavation directors and site supervisor to decide whether to take ceramic samples for residue analysis and which samples could be subjected to acid-washing (which would otherwise destroy organic residues). No samples were collected for residue analysis from the trenches this season, and I instead helped set up and conduct the acid-washing of the potsherds using a vinegar solution.
The excavation also provided the opportunity to collaborate with the KAMBE co-directors and the director of excavations at Kalavasos, Alison South, to collect samples for an organic residue analysis pilot project towards my dissertation. Both Kalavasos and Maroni show evidence of what looks like olive oil production, and Kalavasos displays a massive storage capacity for liquids that are thought to be olive oil, based on a preliminary organic residue analysis by Priscilla Keswani. In collaboration with Alison South, I collected samples for residue analysis from large pithos storage jars from one of the store rooms at Kalavasos in order to determine their contents.

We also collected plaster samples from the floors of the storage rooms at Kalavasos and in an olive oil production area at Maroni, to determine whether oil residues can be recovered from plaster, and whether enough residue can be extracted to attempt compound-specific radiocarbon dating of the floor. This would allow us to date the construction of the floor layers, and if successful would represent a new chronological tool for sites with plaster floors.

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John Gorczyk

This summer, I used Hirsch funding to travel back from the field, the Neolithic site of Slatina in Sofia, Bulgaria. I was finishing up my second season of excavations at the site and was also wrapping up my fieldwork year that started in 2016. The animal remains from this site, an early Neolithic (6200-5500 BC) settlement in the center of downtown Sofia, form most of the data for my dissertation project. While on site, I conducted a sieving program intended to recover a larger quantity of bones from smaller species and young animals than is typically recovered when collections are only handpicked.

Most of my work throughout the year took place in the collections of the Natural History Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. There I analyzed over 10,000 bone fragments from Slatina, mostly from the recent excavations. I also cataloged about another 10,000 that were not to be analyzed, but from which I selected samples for stable isotopic analysis.

The work for which I used this Hirsch money essentially completed my dissertation fieldwork in Bulgaria. I may return for a shortened season next summer to finish collecting samples and to record the animal bones recovered from excavations in 2017.
Jeanine Hoy

With the funds provided by the Hirsch Grant, I traveled to Cyprus to participate in the Kalavalos and Maroni Built Environments (KAMBE) Project with Professor Sturt Manning and Georgia Andreuou. This season, excavations for this project focused on Maroni Vournes, a Late Bronze Age site. The project gave me the opportunity to refine my excavation skills, learn new analytical methods, and translate theories discussed in the classroom to practical applications in the field. Additionally, I acquired valuable experience in recording stratigraphic profiles, photogrammetry, and flotation. Although not directly related to my thesis research, my participation in the KAMBE Project contributed significantly to my professional development and archaeological skill set. Not only did my time in Cyprus expand my knowledge of excavation, but allowed me to build professional academic relationships with prominent researchers in my region of focus and prepared me for future research on Bronze Age sites in the region.

While in Cyprus, I also had the opportunity to tour numerous sites of various ages, expanding my knowledge of ancient landscapes and features. After taking Global Heritage (ARKEO 2465) with Lori Khatchadourian and Adam Smith, I was eager to visit the UNESCO sites of Cyprus, including the city of Paphos and Choirokoitia, a Neolithic site. With the KAMBE Project, I was even able to participate in research at some of Cyprus’ UNESCO sites. One visit to the Byzantine Timios Stavros Church, not only allowed me to participate in dendrochronological research, but to explore the processes of community engagement and UNESCO operations. As I plan to explore research and career options regarding these processes, this visit proved invaluable to my professional development.
Anni Li

I was able to attend field school, expand my knowledge on archaeology and gain practical skills through excavation at Penycloddiau, UK on a Hirsch Scholarship. This field school was led by University of English Heritage and it is part of a bigger project with collaboration of Cadw (Welsh Government's historic environment service) and Oxford University to understand hillfort as a prehistoric community settlement along Clwydian mountain range. In the 6th year of the excavation, we focused on fully excavating the inner and outer ramparts, and ditches to record their construction sequences; and we finished excavating and recording a house platform. All in 4 weeks.

I learnt the “left to right, top to bottom” typewriter method in digging, excavating and cleaning. This simple method kept us on track in situations of mixing soil layers. My supervisor were passionated Master and PhD students in archaeology and related field from University of Liverpool, Oxford University and University of Wisconsin-Madison. Undergraduates from University of Liverpool brought their knowledge in evolutionary anthropology, egyptology and classics. Such diverse environment encouraged learning and cultural appreciation. It happened in conversation, debate and tea time.

I sieved soil, collected charcoal, drew sections and plans on site; and I drew artifacts, did archaeobotany (filtration and sorting) offsite. I was also trained in geophysical survey and held machines worth 8,000 pounds. Not to mention the excitement to see 3D models built from DSLR image collage. Then I got to teach the second group of students all of the above skills! That teaching experience helped myself have a crisp understanding of fieldwork methods. The faculty filled the free time with great stories about their past digs ranging from Greece to Caribbean. The most relaxing thing on-site was to chase after clouds for photos. Archaeologists were very serious about taking pictures.

We had locals coming visit our site on open day. It was great success. They were always curious about the weird shape up the hill: what was it, who were here and etc. They were so happy about the dig and the history it about to reveal. One family were on their summer vacation. The grandparents’ house was just down the hill but they have moved to US now. The grandparents brought their grandkids to see the history of their land. An attachment was easily built through the kids’ visit to site; they felt something seeing colourful dirt. I led tours and told people our version of story about a large seasonal communal herding rank. It is great that this site cover evidence of settlement from prehistoric to medieval. And we can see it from the soil and pits. Heritage communication is rather successful in front of soil than human built-ups or museum.

I met my goal to be a good field worker, grew knowledge in the subject areas, and dipped my feet into heritage world in an immersive learning environment. This experience is extremely valuable in constructing my interdisciplinary studies of heritage, preservation and Landscape. None of these would happen without generous support of CIAMS (Cornell Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies).
Francesca LaPasta

Being in Cyprus with the KAMBE project’s archaeological field school this summer was an invaluable experience for me. The opportunity to interact with sherds, bones, and structures from the Late Bronze Age made me appreciate and understand the history of that period much more fully. Working long hours in the sun on the very spot where ancient people would have done the same thing gave me a phenomenological insight into the lives of the Late Bronze Age Cypriots whose site I was unearthing. Not only was the field work enlightening, but the lab work such as pottery washing and flotation along with dendrochronology and drawing gave me a glimpse of the different methods that can be brought together on an archaeological site.

In the future I hope to pursue research that combines literary analysis and material culture and I believe that my knowledge of how data is collected on an archaeological site will be especially important in synthesizing those multiple data types. My understanding of how information about sites is recorded was greatly improved, particularly after using the total station to record the locations of finds. The layering of information and the interactions of different levels of habitation have helped me to think more about the scale of the history that I study. I hope to bring all that I gained from my time on the dig to my work as a Classicist and to be more insightful and thoughtful about archaeological data in the future because of my time in Cyprus.

Jessica Plant

The Hirsch 2017 travel grant allowed me to conduct field research in Greece and Turkey before and during excavations at the ancient city of Sardis in western Turkey (Cornell-Harvard excavation, directed by Nicholas Cahill). I began my summer with travel to Athens, Greece, where I was able to visit the city’s immensely archaeological sites and museum collections. Of particular significance to my research were the Christian and Byzantine and the Benaki museums, which hold and display miniature late antique clay flasks which I continue to research, among their vast holdings. Museum visits allowed me to consider these small finds in relation to other types and classes of related material culture, as well as photograph examples for future use and publication. Viewing displayed small finds, of course, can only speak to a tiny portion of the overall experience of visiting Athens — other highlights included exploring the complex fabric of the city through site visits and less directed wanderings, and viewing the dizzying collection of ancient objects from the Neolithic onwards held in the National Archaeological Museum (all experiences which have already proved helpful in teaching ancient Greek art).
I continued travel in Turkey upon my arrival to Sardis, where I excavated for the remainder of the summer. From here I was able to visit the archaeological sites of Aphrodisias, Ephesus, Hierapolis, and the city of Trabzon. I was able to investigate further the complex combination of ancient remains, modern reconstructions, and archaeological finds, and engage with issues of curation and conservation. Trabzon offered the opportunity to consider later Byzantine art and architecture within the modern city, as well as explore trajectories of late antique monasticism outside the city proper. In numerous ways, these travel experiences complemented my fieldwork in Sardis, where I was working on a domestic destruction context from the early-mid seventh century. Other sites offered striking and challenging comparisons, especially in regards to the question of large-scale destruction and (social, economic, infrastructural, etc.) collapse. They also prompted other macro-scale questions concerning material and theoretical issues in pilgrimage, mobility, and domestic space in the study of late antiquity. Combined, these research opportunities have offered much in the way of theoretical and material engagement, and will play a large role in the shaping of my dissertation project.

Rebecca Shipley

My experience at the Catacombs of Kom es-Shoqafa in Alexandria, Egypt was nothing short of incredible. Despite some snags with permits, I took photographs the first couple of days (when photography was allowed with cell phones) and managed to revise (and in some instances, correct) Jean-Yves Empereur's floorpan of the catacombs. As a work-around to the photography issue, I ended up sketching some of the rooms in the catacombs instead.

For further research, I performed sound tests with the sistrum I had ordered (which, although modern, was based on ancient representations and made from similar materials). Additionally, I noted where I found peculiarities (including an extra space for a body in one of the principal sarcophagi) as well as possible locations for lamps. For further spatial analysis, I would observe tourist groups as they would pass through the catacombs, and note how many people could be in each room at one time (going back to the question of room capacity). I was even able to measure the altitude, temperature, and the ultimately non-existent wind speeds of the major spaces of the principal chamber (including the triclinium and the principal tomb) as I had originally planned. I also found various traces of red paint in the loculi of the upper and lower floors (something Empereur did not dwell on, but previous excavators had analyzed). As mentioned by Alan Rowe from a 1940s expedition at the site, two flower shapes were discovered on the ceilings in two rooms with loculi arranged in a triclinium fashion. Lastly, I was also able to talk with visiting tourists about their feelings on the site in order to gain a modern perspective of the site.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to meet another archaeologist who worked for the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, Mahmoud M. El Dafrawy, who stopped by the site to inspect it. He had a UV flashlight with him that he graciously allowed me to use to look at the kidnapping of Persephone depictions in the Hall of
Caracalla. With his light, the formerly unnoticed paintings practically leapt off the walls. It was incredible to experience in person what Mervat Seif El-Din and Anne-Marie Guimier-Sorbets had discussed in their article!

Outside of the catacombs, I was also able to visit similar sites in Alexandria for comparative analysis: the Tigrane tomb, Mostafa Kamel, the Anfushi tombs, the National Museum, Kom el-Dikka, the new Alexandria Library and museum, Pompeys Pillar, Al-Shatbi, and the Citadel of Qaitbay.

Overall, I would say my study and experience of Kom el Shokafa (as Mahmoud would have me spell it) was quite profitable. I cannot thank those who awarded me the Hirsch Travel Grant enough for the opportunity to perform research Egypt. Because of the many good Egyptian people that continually crossed my path, my time there was wonderful, uneventful, very productive, and most memorable.

Kaja Tally Schumacher

The central goal of the third season of the Horti Stabiani project was four-fold: first, to complete the remaining database entries for the Stabian gardens, including entries for part of the Upper Peristyle at San Marco and the Domus Panoramico near San Marco; second, to confirm the veracity and completion of the entries that were written up during the 2015 and 2016 seasons, and to correct any mistakes or to add additional where applicable; third, to take further plaster samples for pollen analysis; and fourth, to add archival information to all of the garden entries, identifying and citing any possible finds from the gardens and surrounding areas. We have also begun exploring ways in which we might be able to share our database with fellow scholars. In the coming weeks we will be working closely with Cornell’s digital humanities team to explore possible online venues for our database. We will also be working with the Italian Superintendency to gain permission to create and share an open access database.

While we did not receive permission to begin our project at the Casa della Regina Carolina, we were able to visit the house as a team. Since the summer we have been in contact with the Superintendency regarding the Regina Carolina project, and our most recent correspondence sounds promising, suggesting that we will be able to begin work Summer 2018.
John Souza

The Marzuolo archaeological project 2017 season involved the excavation of two different trenches labelled 17000 and 18000. 18000 was excavated knowing that there would be remains present, while 17000 was less certain, having been based on geophysical data suggesting an anomaly in the area. 17000, however, proved to be the more productive area with many artifacts being excavated in concentrated deposits. Ultimately 18000 was closed three days before the project ended, so that more work could be focused on 17000.

I worked in 17000 for the duration of the project, focusing on an area where we initially believed there was a kiln (although this proved incorrect). Over the course of the project, other people were moved in and out of the area as necessary, but I remained, and thus had to work long stretches as the sole person in the area. This forced me to operate with only the project director as overseer of my actions, and thus, I had to practice and develop a certain amount of independence and confidence in identifying new layers (although these still had to be approved before they were officially designated new contexts). Additionally, I learned how to wield a pickaxe properly, how to assist with the topo station, and how to do basic drawings and documentations of the layout of sites. Also, in the second week, a looter started visiting the site after we finished daily excavations, and therefore we were forced to alter our method of excavation slightly in order to stop the artifacts from being removed without documentation, which complicated the chronology of the area somewhat. Therefore, I got some very hands-on experience with attempts to deal with looters, something that is a large issue within archaeological study. Likewise, in the lab, I gained significant experience in the washing and handling of Roman Ceramics, something which I greatly hoped for at the beginning of the field school. Furthermore, completely against expectations, I assisted the Bioarchaeologist wash a human skeleton excavated in the 2016 season, and through the process, gained some rudimentary knowledge of human Osteology. Thus, overall, this field school was an invaluable experience for me as an excavator, and also as a person whose current archaeological focus of study is ceramics.

Jay Weimar

At Tel Abel Beth Maacah, I was assigned to Area A, which dated from the Middle Bronze to Iron II ages. During the first week, I dug on the western and southernmost edges and learned basic digging technique. Starting the second week, I was moved to a new square being opened on the northern side. The goal of this square was to expose further a wall which ran perpendicular to it and also to see the floor of a connected room which appeared to serve a cultic function. As we dug, the square eventually was divided into an eastern and western side.
The eastern side provided a few scattered small finds, such as a bone spindle whorl and shell pieces, while the western side contained a strange stone pit, a grindstone, and two deer antlers. The square immediately diagonal to us, which was in the same room, also found deer antler around the same level, as well as a bone spindle whorl. The zooarchaeologist on the team suggested that there may have been a bone workshop near the area.

In addition to the archaeological experience which Abel Beth Maacah provided, I also learned about multivocality and possibly saw cultic practice which varied from that prescribed in the Bible. I had the chance to talk with many archaeologists who approached the dig with conservative faith centered interests. What I found was that while many of them would not outright reject scholarly and archaeological theories that disagreed with their Biblical interpretations, practically they operated from the assumption that those theories were wrong. Yet despite this rejection, they still offered many practical insights of value to the dig. Furthermore, I also had the opportunity to see possibly variant cultic practices. In the square diagonal to us, there was what appeared to be an altar as well as a long ceramic vessel, decorated with petals at its top, which contained another tubular vessel. There was a small aligned hole at the base of both vessels and the petals at the top of the outer vessel also had holes on their tips. As of yet, the function of this object still remains uncertain, but it is undergoing residue analysis.