

Hirsch Scholarships, Summer 2013

Alexandra Creola spent a month conducting master's research in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii. The Hirsch Scholarship program allowed me to have the opportunity to conduct a spatial analysis of religious features within the archaeological site. I acquired a permit from the *Soprintendenza archeologica di Pompei* and was granted access to thirty houses that are usually closed to the public. With the help of the site's guards, I visited a few houses each day to acquire measurements, sketches, and photographs of domestic religious features. My research has been greatly enhanced by this opportunity to physically visit and document the spatial layout of religious features in Pompeian households and has provided me with the data to hopefully complete my forthcoming master's thesis at Cornell University.



Carrie Fulton participated in underwater survey along the southern coastline of Cyprus initiated by David Sewell (University of Edinburgh) and in conjunction with the on-going research in the area by Sturt Manning (Cornell University). Through diving and snorkeling, we primarily focused on the seafloor just off the coast from the Late Bronze Age (LBA) site of *Tochni Laksia*. The absence of anchors at *Tochni Laksia* may either indicate that the site wasn't used as an anchorage or that any remains may have been removed due to environmental site processes. Additional dives were conducted around the previously surveyed area off of the LBA site of *Maroni Tsaroukkas*, where additional anchors were located, suggesting the need for further comprehensive survey in the area. This experience was invaluable not only for developing our knowledge of the region but I also learned new techniques for and gained experience in underwater survey.

Peregrine Gerard-Little traveled to the Peebles Island facility, NY, where soil samples from excavations at the Seneca Iroquois site of Ganondagan (destroyed by the French in 1687) are stored. I will perform flotation on these soil samples and analyze wood charcoal remains, as part of my dissertation research. Along with materials from Seneca sites of White Springs (1688-1715) and Townley-Read (1715-1754), wood charcoal and macrobotanical evidence will provide insight into the processes of Seneca landscape use and formation across a time of fluctuating colonial influence in the central New York region. I was also able to use Hirsch money to buy a set of brass sieves for the separation of flotation heavy fraction and easier sorting of these materials (right side of picture).



Katie Jarriel worked on the Keros Survey Project, directed by Professor Colin Renfrew of Cambridge University. Her responsibilities included extensive and intensive survey of the island.



Extensive survey involved walking 100 m tracts to record sherd and other artifact counts and collect diagnostic artifacts. These tracts were analyzed to produce areas of special interest which informed the choice of locations for fine-grained analysis. Intensive survey more closely investigated areas of high artifact concentration where all artifacts within a 20 m square radius are collected. Katie directed mapping of the island's terrace walls using GIS software and GPS mapping. She used a Tremble Juno GPS to directly plot points into the project GIS. Additionally, she identified terraces according to different typologies to facilitate the identification of their different uses in the past. Katie plans to use data from the terrace mapping project in her dissertation to explore the relationships between landscape, settlement, site catchment, and personal agency.

Angela McArdle used Hirsch funding to conduct research for her Master's Thesis by studying an obsidian cache offering excavated in 1992 from the southeast corner of a Postclassic Maya structure in Flores, Guatemala. The cache consists of approximately 200 exhausted prismatic cores, 100 prismatic blades, and 10 flakes, all of obsidian, and all of which were found laid out in a radiating circle underneath the structure floor. My data collection consisted of documenting the



measurements, degree and type of rejuvenation, presence and type of use-wear, and the number and type of platforms, blade terminations, and blade scars for each artifact. My primary focus in the upcoming analysis will be on the core-blade technology responsible for creating this assemblage, but I am also interested in the relationship these cores have with the structure they were found underneath and the kind of caching behavior at play that resulted in this cache offering's deposition.

Samantha Sanft used a Hirsch award to fund two new AMS dates for her thesis entitled, *Beads and Pendants from Indian Fort Road: A Sixteenth Century Cayuga Site in Tompkins County, New York*. Indian Fort Road (UB 646) is a village site about 17 kilometers from Ithaca, with occupations A.D. 1520-1560 and A.D. 1640-1680. During the earlier, main occupation a palisade, steep slope, and swamp formed a highly defensible border surrounding the village. This project consists of analyses of the personal adornment items, using methodologies such as radiograph imaging and x-ray fluorescence spectrometry. ArcGIS is also used to map the locations of bear tooth foot effigies recovered across Iroquoia. As evidenced by the results of these analyses, the occupants of Indian Fort Road were involved in vast Indigenous trade networks extending across the Northeast and

reaching Europeans along the coast. In June 2013, two samples of carbonized Eastern Eight-Row maize were sent to Beta Analytic for AMS dating. Both samples were recovered from features that contained Iroquois pottery sherds and provide dates that support the idea that the site's main occupation was circa A.D. 1520-1560. I believe the most precise date range for Beta sample-350738 is cal A.D. 1520-1560.

Kaja Joanna Tally, Rome, Pompeii. Thanks to the Hirsch Award, I participated in a five-week course on Roman pottery led by Dr. Archer Martin at the American Academy in Rome. The first two weeks consisted of instruction on amphora from the Mediterranean world, Roman fine ware, course ware, thin-walled ware, and cooking ware. We also traveled to several key archaeological sites for the study of ceramics, such as the Testaccio in Rome, the ceramic production site at Scoppieto, Cosa, and Settefinestre. For the last three weeks we worked on an unpublished assemblage of pottery sherds from the House of Augustus. We identified and categorized the sherds by functional group, identified different fabric types within functional groups, and began identifying individual forms in preparation for a publication on the assemblage. As we divided the functional groups among the course participants, I spent my time working on cooking ware. In the photo I am documenting individual sherds for publication and for my own research.

After the five-week course, four of us joined Dr. Steven Ellis' Porta Stabia Project at Pompeii for four weeks to put our newly acquired pottery skills to use. As this was the first year of transitioning from excavations to a study season, I assisted the ceramic specialist, Andrea Achi, in reorganizing the ceramic finds from previous years of excavation, in managing the database, and in identifying and pulling examples of Lusitanian amphora for an upcoming project publication.



Laurel Tilton. This past summer I traveled to Israel to participate in an excavation at Tel Abel Beth Maacah in northern Israel. It was an incredible experience and I plan to return again next year. My position within the excavation was to manage the pottery lab. This job entailed many tasks. I was in charge of labeling all of the pottery and other finds that came into the lab. I boxed up the artifacts and kept daily inventory sheets for each category of find. I was also responsible for directing and supervising pottery washing every afternoon. In summary, I was basically responsible for keeping everything in order once the work in the field was completed.

(Tilton, cont.) For me, the highlight of the excavation was during the third week. A small vessel was found in the field. It was immediately brought to the lab and I was told to clean and label it and to place all of the dirt (from inside the vessel) into a labeled bag. While removing the dirt from the interior of the vessel, I came across a mass that proved to be silver jewelry from the Iron Age. The ring shaped objects that I had seen were either rings or links in a larger silver chain. This was a very exciting discovery, and made the whole trip worth it. I am very happy that I was able to receive the Hirsch scholarship, otherwise this trip would not have been possible.



Kathryn Weber. This summer I spent two months in Georgia, to prepare for my dissertation research. I went to the Georgian National Library, the Georgian National Museum, and spent hours interviewing colleagues there about the variety of additional sources, archives, and resources



available. I also visited the Alazani Valley, which I intend to survey next summer, several times throughout the summer to evaluate the ground visibility. I also spent one month working at the Project ArAGATS excavation in Armenia, where I gained more experience with materials from both the Early and Late Bronze Age. This experience will be invaluable for making calls on the ground, during my survey next year.