

INVENTORY

NEWS FROM THE JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

70 WATERMAN STREET

In all the excitement of moving to Rhode Island Hall in fall 2009 (and it is going to be a spectacular space), it is only



fair to take time to salute the physical home (since the 1970s) of the Center for Old World Archaeology and Art (COWAA) and then (since 2004) the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World. 70 Waterman Street is a handsome, nineteenth century house, today painted a historically accurate and certainly eye-catching shade of green. Its transition from private home to

academic unit can be traced in its architecture and its oddities: the closed up fireplaces, the 'servants staircase', the nooks and crannies and closets.

Time and perspective has taught us that 70 Waterman Street was actually the ideal place for the Joukowsky Institute to incubate. From our earliest days, the building was full and humming (we are now over-crowded, another reason the time has come to go). The common room, outfitted with over-stuffed faux leather armchairs, rapidly became a comfortable, cozy place for sitting, meeting, talking, and reading a mixture of coffee table literature (from the *American Journal of Archaeology* to *US Weekly*).



The second-floor seminar room has witnessed everything from brown bag sem-

inars, to faculty meetings, to beer pong competitions during recruitment weekends.

The hallways (particularly on the third floor) are uneven in the extreme, but innumerable conversations and jokes have been shared in them.



To this space, we have added computers, added books, added student art work, added carpet stains, added memories:



70 Waterman Street made us a community. The Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World will be moving to Rhode Island Hall, but we will take with us the ethos of 70 Waterman Street.

Sue Alcock, Director
 Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World
 Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology
 Professor of Classics;
 Professor of Anthropology

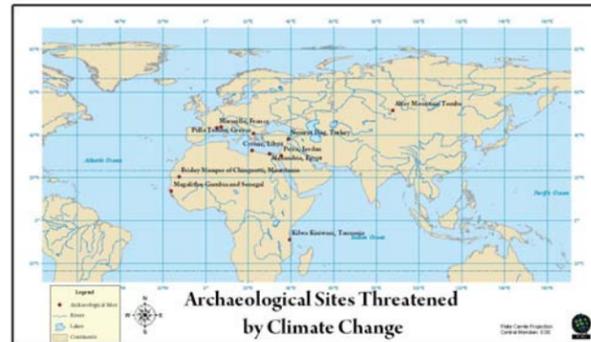
For more information about the Joukowsky Institute and its activities, see www.brown.edu/joukowskyinstitute.



HOT ROCKS! GLOBAL WARMING, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND PROTECTING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

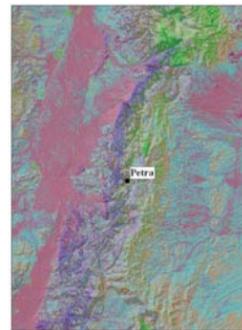
Archaeologists are used to challenging weather conditions; we get hot, we get wet, we get buggy. The places we work are also exposed to difficult and damaging conditions that can affect our ability to protect and learn from them in the future. And right now, our archaeological heritage is faced with unprecedented and increasingly urgent threats posed by global climate change. Archaeologists must find some way to respond.

In the spring of 2009, sophomores Jonathan Migliori and Harrison Stark won UTRA awards (Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards) to research the impact of global climate change on archaeological sites. Under the direction of Professor Michelle Berenfeld, these two archaeology concentrators are developing a "threat map" of places in the circum-Mediterranean region that are either



already feeling the impact of climate change or that will be clearly affected in the near future: by rising sea levels flooding coastal sites, by extreme temperature fluctuations cracking stone, by increased rainfall turning ancient mud brick into just plain mud.

The project is also seeking ways that archaeologists can work with other disciplines, not least Geological and Environmental Sciences, to both plan for and adapt to these new dangers. The results of this research will be used to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, including implementing the project's findings at Brown University's archaeological work at Petra in Jordan (shown in this satellite image with erosional and vegetation change indicated). But the data collected may also help to improve climatic modeling, to allow more accurate predictions about global climate change.



DIGGING ABYDOS: THE FIRST SEASON OF THE BROWN UNIVERSITY ABYDOS PROJECT (BUAP)

During winter break 2009, Professor Laurel Bestock led the inaugural excavation season of the Brown University Abydos Project (BUAP). Abydos, located in southern Egypt, is central to scholars' attempts to unravel the early history of Egypt. The kings of the First Dynasty built their tombs and temples at the site; these remain one of our only sources for understanding the origins of the Egyptian state. In part because of this association with early kingship, generations of later Egyptians regarded Abydos as the location of the burial of Osiris, god of the underworld. Monuments built by pilgrims and residents, kings and commoners, crowd the landscape and make Abydos one of the most challenging and exciting places to work in Egypt today. The current BUAP excavations concentrate in an area of the Abydos North Cemetery that housed the First Dynasty royal temples as well as many later remains.

Three Brown graduate students accompanied Prof. Bestock to Egypt, working as excavation supervisors and ceramic analysts. Clearance of approximately 500 square meters revealed



finds of the Ptolemaic period, the dynasty that ruled Egypt after the conquests of Alexander the Great. These included a large Ptolemaic tomb and a massive hypogeum (an underground chamber) for animal burials. The tomb, though severely plundered, yielded the remains of limestone coffins, pottery, Demotic ostraca, offering vessels and a number of leather shoes. The hypogeum (measuring 30 by 20 meters) is in excellent condition, and will continue to be a focus for future excavation seasons.

Prof. Bestock has also indulged her interest in Egyptian mortuary archaeology by taking part in a Discovery Channel special called "Under the Pyramids", set to air sometime in 2009 (stay tuned!). For a week in October she got to explore sites usually closed even to scholars, including the underground passages of a Second Dynasty royal tomb and the galleries for sacred baboon mummies, both at the site of Saqqara.



NEW JIAAW DOCTORS

The Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World is delighted to announce the successful defense of two doctoral dissertations this year.

Christopher A. Tuttle:

The Nabataean Coroplastic Arts: A Synthetic Approach for Studying Terracotta Figurines, Plaques, Vessels, and other Clay Objects

Coroplastic artifacts (figurines, plaques, zoomorphic vessels, masks, affixes, molded vessels, and more) have been recovered throughout the region of the Nabataean kingdom since scientific investigation of its archaeological sites began in the late nineteenth century. Yet, until now, any synthetic approach, encompassing the diversity of these "minor" but important objects, has been lacking. Dr. Tuttle's dissertation introduces a rigorous methodology that can now be employed to identify, classify, and associate these varied artifacts; this methodology was developed using the data collected from a corpus of nearly 800 artifacts, both published and unpublished, from Petra and the Negev desert.

Dr. Tuttle has also evolved two tools to aid future systematic studies of both the known artifacts and those recovered from new excavations: a flexible typological framework designed to incorporate and correlate the full range of object types; and an adaptive interpretive analytic model that can be used to identify and assess the probabilities for the different function(s) and meaning(s) that the artifacts could have served during their periods of use.



Lisa Marie Anderson:

The Roman Military Community as Expressed in Its Burial Practices during the First-Third Centuries CE

Dr. Anderson's dissertation tackles a central, but long ignored, problem. How were Roman soldiers buried? And what do their choices of tomb monuments and grave goods say about themselves and their identity as soldiers? Anderson first reassesses the nature of the Roman "military community", redefining it to include not only active-duty soldiers from a variety of unit types, but also veterans, women, children, slaves, and tradesmen, among others. She notes that all of these may have had a "military burial" in some form, and demonstrates this range through a careful review of numerous cemetery excavations from across the Roman empire. Graves were analyzed for their grave goods, burial rites, location, and date of burial, as well as the age and sex of the deceased. Dr. Anderson's conclusions reveal a much more complex vision of military burials, and the community that created them, than has previously been appreciated.

Want to know more about the Institute's events, faculty, fieldwork, and activities?

Visit our website, at www.brown.edu/joukowskyinstitute. Click on Contact Us, to join our email list and receive email updates on upcoming events.

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With chanting, poetry, offerings, speeches, and a symbolic human sacrifice, the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World buried its past – or pieces thereof – beneath its future home. The faculty, students, and friends of the Institute gathered on Brown’s Main Green on November 19th, 2008, to celebrate the interring of a three-foot long, stainless steel time capsule beneath the cement floor of Rhode Island Hall’s basement.

The large capsule was filled to the brim with objects collected, over the course of the previous month, from all members of



the JIAAW community. Buried were symbols of everyday life at the Joukowsky Institute (including several corks, a Blue Room coffee cup, a GigaPan photo of students and faculty); emblematic artifacts of Brown University (e.g., an exam blue book, a course announcement, a map); memorabilia of the year 2008 (a Canadian quarter, an inflatable Red Sox bat, and countless Obama items); objects representing the Institute’s fieldwork activities (including photos of field crews at Petra and Greene Farm, a trowel,

project T-shirts); and information about the renovation of Rhode Island Hall (blueprints, businesscards, meeting minutes).

Despite the merry mood of the procession (led by a drummer and standard bearer from



70 Waterman Street to the Main Green) and ceremony, the interment of the time capsule is, in Sue Alcock’s words, “actually very serious, even solemn, business.” The time capsule



bears a message from today’s archaeologists to others, decades or possibly centuries from now, who share their curiosity about and respect for the past. As Alcock stated, “In many ways it is a statement of hope for the future and for temporal connection with those who will follow.”

