It is a measure of the wealth and rich diversity of events and projects that are continually initiated, organized, and undertaken by members of the Joukowsky Institute that each issue of Inventory necessarily falls short of its own title. Far from an exhaustive listing of the multitude of events that have taken place in Rhode Island Hall and elsewhere, we report in this issue on just a selection of news about and highlights of the Institute and its members from the past academic year.

It seems only right to start with the happy news that Petra Great Temple Volume 3: Brown University Excavations 1993–2008, Architecture and Material Culture, by Martha Sharp Joukowsky, is now available from Oxbow Books. This is Martha’s third (and final!) volume devoted to one of Petra’s most impressive edifices and one of the Institute’s signature field projects, the Great Temple. It is both a beautiful volume and a significant contribution to scholarship of the Near East. We’re honored to share a name with its author.

I am also proud to report that two graduate students, Kathryn McBride and Andy Dufton, have successfully defended their dissertations. Also, the class of ’17 includes six Archaeology concentrators, three of whom wrote a senior thesis, as they reported to their fellow students and faculty on April 27th. David Elitzer discussed his research on the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria, Charlotte Tisch investigated the ethics of mummy displays in North American museums, and Amber Teng drew on her economics background to fathom the impact of Spanish colonialism on the Philippines.

The arrival of new faculty, with new ideas and perspectives, is one of the highlights of the Institute’s community. At the start of the year, the ranks of Institute faculty were strengthened by Yannis Hamilakis, who shares his impressions of his first year at Brown on the next page of this issue. This year’s postdoctoral fellows – Katherine Brunson, Sophie Moore, and Tate Paulette – taught courses on China, Hadrian’s Wall, and beer, much to students’ delight. Our Visiting Assistant Professors, Matt Reilly and Margaret Andrews, offered teaching on women, pirates, slaves, and contemporary archaeological theory.

I’m pleased to report that Tate Paulette will be moving to North Carolina for an assistant professorship at North Carolina State University, while Matt Riley will take up the same position at City College New York. I’m equally pleased to say that Kate, Sophie, and Meg have agreed to be at the Institute for the coming year.

We are also getting ready to welcome no fewer than three new postdoctoral and visiting colleagues! Eva Mol has signed on as Joukowsky postdoctoral fellow to teach in Classical archaeology. In addition, we will appoint two more scholars, through collaborations we’ve established with entities on- and off-campus. For the next two academic years, we will be hosting a Cogut International Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow to teach and research in the field of critical cultural heritage, thanks to an award made jointly to the Joukowsky Institute and the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology. We will also welcome a new visiting assistant professor in a joint appointment with the Journal of Roman Archaeology, both to teach at Brown and to edit the JRA’s famed reviews volume. This appointment inaugurates a collaboration between the Institute and the world-leading Journal of Roman Archaeology.

The past academic year has, sadly, been rather more eventful beyond the academy, both overseas and at home, and both political and military events in Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, and the 2016 US elections inevitably affect our teaching and research. Cultural heritage continues to be destroyed on an almost daily basis, scholars are forced into exile, fieldwork is no longer safe in many regions, and permits may be withheld, while topics like forced migration, heritage, inequality, and resistance are becoming even more prominent in our classes. Institute faculty and students did not hesitate to join the repeated protest rallies at the Rhode Island State House, including last month to protest the threatened cuts to research funding.

Peter van Dommelen
Director, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World
Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology
Professor of Anthropology and Professor of Italian Studies (by courtesy)
Archaeologists, historians, and anthropologists have become increasingly aware that “the past” is not a self-evident concept, but that what counts as a meaningful trace of former times is determined by questions: What has the past been in ways other than those that define modern archaeologists? And, even if we are capable of engaging with and of its traces? Can we engage with other times and places?

In December 2016, the Joukowsky community was surprised to see the atrium and the first floor niches of Rhode Island Hall decorated with strange, multi-colored photographs. A man interviewing a rock was the highlight. These were photographs taken from the book Camera Kolonias: An Archaeological Photo-ethnography, which I had published earlier in the year with photographer Fots Iftantidis, coming out of my project Imagining the Past.

As we are in the middle of grading, I am also deep into preparations for a seminar on the senses in collaboration with the Haffereffer Museum, and a class on decolonizing classical antiquity.

Two New Doctors of Archaeology

J. Andrew Dufton

Dr. Dufton successfully defended his dissertation on Monday, December 5th.

The Social Life of Coins: Local Reactions to Roman Imperialism beyond the Frontier

Dr. McBride’s dissertation centers around questions related to multiple forms and manifestations of cultural contact across provincial borders and frontier regions. She explores these themes within the context of the Roman Empire, and focuses on how interactions both crafted and were reflected in local reactions to imperialism. McBride’s dissertation contributes to the discussion of cultural interaction at the edges of the Roman Empire through a careful archaeological examination of the role of coins played within societies that were physically located on the edges of the empire.

Using a comparative analysis of three case studies (Scotland, Scandinavia, and Syria), she reveals how the selective consumption or transformation of coins expressed the ways indigenous populations in these three different regions viewed their relationship with the expanding Roman state. Ultimately, this project explores the different senses in which and contexts in which the varied ways coins have been entangled within a discourse of imperial contact and local response.

Dr. McBride successfully defended her dissertation on Tuesday, April 11th.

Two New Doctors of Archaeology

Imagining the Past

Archaeologists, historians, and anthropologists have become increasingly aware that “the past” is not a self-evident concept, but that what counts as a meaningful trace of former times is determined by questions: What has the past been in ways other than those that define modern archaeologists? And, even if we are capable of engaging with and of its traces? Can we engage with other times and places?
On April 15th, Rhode Island Hall was busy with conversations about archaeology and anthropology. On a sunny and warm Saturday, graduate students of the Joukowsky Institute and Anthropology Department welcomed their graduate student colleagues from archaeology and anthropology departments in the region for a networking workshop: Northeast Graduate Archaeology Workshop, or NEGAW. The workshop’s basic purpose was to help create and maintain connections among graduate students in archaeology and anthropology in the region, in order to raise awareness of what is going on at each university and to facilitate collaboration. The last NEGAW was held at the Joukowsky Institute in 2010, so it was high time to revive the tradition and connections between archaeologists in the region. Nearly 50 graduate students from University of Pennsylvania, New York University, University of Connecticut, Boston University, Yale University, and University of Massachusetts accepted the Institute’s invitation to participate in this year’s workshop!

On Saturday morning, students from these different universities gave presentations on what’s happening in each of the invited programs in terms of fieldwork and other projects, postdoctoral positions, research facilities and opportunities. In the afternoon sessions, participants broke into smaller groups oriented around regional, methodological, and thematic issues of concern to archaeological practice today. Despite the academic focus of the workshop, these morning and afternoon sessions were buttressed with plenty of social time, full of ice breakers, campus tours, casual conversation, and delicious Indian food. At the conclusion of the afternoon sessions, participants gathered on the lawn of Brown’s Anthropology Department for a potluck, lawn games, and further socializing.

In the future, the workshop will be hosted by one of the participating institutions, with the hope of gradually increasing the participation in these workshops. The details of these workshops will be made available online for future reference, and for students planning to apply for admission these programs. In all, NEGAW was a great opportunity for graduate students to get to know each other and to learn about the opportunities available at different institutions in the region, and to open up the way for potential future collaboration.