RES CLASSICAE

THE UMBC ANCIENT STUDIES DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Melissa Bailey Kutner
Executive Editor: David Rosenbloom

FROM THE CHAIR

David Rosenbloom

It is a pleasure to welcome Danilo Piana to the department as a visiting Lecturer this semester. Danilo is finishing his PhD at Johns Hopkins University and is a specialist in the ancient novel. This winter he will be introducing a class on the novel. If you find this topic of interest, I do hope you consider enrolling in the class. A warm welcome also to Dr. Douglas Whalin, who is teaching ARCH 200 in place of Dr. Lane while he enjoys a post-contract renewal course remission, to Dr. Meredith Fraser who is teaching Egyptian Archaeology and Art, and to Rosanne Liebermann, a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Studies at John Hopkins University, who is teaching ANCS courses in the Judaic Studies program.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Michael Lane for winning a sizable grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct scientific dating on finds from his fieldwork on the drainage and irrigation systems of the Kopaic Basin. I was promoted to full Professor this summer, and while I may be the first to hold this rank in the history of the Department, given the excellence of my tenure-track colleagues, I am confident that I will not be the last.

2016 ANCS graduate Abigail Worgul reads from the* Iliad *at the 2017 UMBC Homerathon

I would like to thank all who made Ancient Studies week such a success. The week started on Monday, October 9 with a keynote lecture by Dr. Victoria Wohl, Professor of Classics at the University of Toronto, on "Love, Life and Classical Athens," which examined disparities between women as represented in Athenian law and as they lived their lives. The following day we held our Homerathon in gorgeous early autumn sunshine. Over 60 readers participated. Dr. Melissa Bailey Kutner once again deserves our thanks for taking on the Herculean task of organizing and running the event. On Wednesday, October 11, the department hosted Dr. Catherine Pratt, Assistant Professor at the University of Western Ontario and Junior Fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., who spoke on "The Cultural Economy of the Olive and Olive Oil in Classical Athens." Thursday evening the department put on an uproarious performance of Aristophanes' *Assemblywomen*, a play in which the women of Athens conspire to take control of the government and introduce democratic communism. Hearty thanks to all the students who volunteered to perform—leaving only bit parts for the hams on the faculty—especially to majors Jamal Barringer, Chanler Harris, Irene Nolan, and Louis Witt, whose performances left the audience in stitches. Last but not least, thanks to Dr. Molly Jones-Lewis, who put on a well-attended "Scribe School" for students interested in learning how the ancient Greeks and Romans inscribed curse tablets.

In this edition of *Res Classicae*, you will read of the excavations and excursions of our students and faculty in Greece and Jordan, as they uncovered monuments and artifacts, while also visiting deserts, beaches, archaeological sites,

museums, castles, and climbing the famed home of the Muses, Mt. Parnassos. You will learn of Prof. Tim Phin's experiences as Phineus, a Latin speaker, at a *Rusticatio* where spoken Latin was the only acceptable form of communication. And you will get a good sense of how ANCS major and Humanities Scholar Flora Kirk underwent archaeological training in Transylvania, Romania, before assuming a Roman Society placement in the Great North Museum of Newcastle, UK.

I do hope you enjoy reading about the goings on in the Department since the spring.

UMBC'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN GREECE CONTINUES FOR A SIXTH YEAR

Michael Lane

In June and July of 2017, I returned to Greece with nine UMBC undergraduates, one undergraduate from the University of Virginia, and a recent graduate of UMBC. We pursued the research that I began with the AROURA program of geophysical investigation, which ran from 2010 through 2014 (reported in *Res Classicae* starting in Spring 2010) and was followed by the Mycenaean Northeastern Kopais (MYNEKO) excavation program, a collaboration with Dr. Elena Kountouri of the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports that began last year. The staff included Dr. Kyle Jazwa of Monmouth College, Dr. Laetitia Phialon, Swiss member of the French School in Athens, and Ms. Elizabeth Eastlake, an osteologist from the Gothenburg City Museum. MYNEKO 2017 was truly an international, intercollegiate, and interdisciplinary undertaking.

From left to right, Andrew Gibson, Virginia Moyer, Victoria Markellos, Irene Nolan, Chelsea Hehl, Robert Thompson (all from UMBC), Damian Koropeckyj (UMBC 2016), Liz Eastlake (Gothenburg), Allison Sullivan (U.Va.), and Theodore Owens (UMBC)

My and Dr. Kountouri's fieldwork concentrates on the discovery and theoretical reconstruction of the Late Bronze Age (LBA, ca. 1700–1100 BCE) drainage and irrigated agriculture systems in the Kopaic Basin of northern Boiotia, central mainland Greece. The Kopaic Basin's most famous city is Orkhomenos, capital of the Minyans, who sent ships to Troy and whom Herakles, native of Thebes in southern Boiotia, defeated in war. A version of this legend of Herakles hints at the expanse of land reclaimed in the Bronze Age from the Kopais, which is naturally a shallow lake of nearly 200 square kilometers. The legend relates that Herakles filled in the caverns that slowly drained the lake into the sea (*Paus.* 9.38.7; cf. *Diod. Sic.* 4.18.6). Since the Basin was drained for agriculture in the mid-20th century, about 25 kilometers of LBA drainage canals connected with sinkholes have been discovered. Starting in 2010, my colleagues and I discovered traces of precisely laid out land plots, which covered hundreds of hectares and were attached with levees and channels to the drainage system (*Journal of Field Archaeology* 41, 2016). These discoveries tally nicely with the evidence for storage of thousands of tons of grain in the huge and enigmatic LBA fortress of Glas, which sits amid the fields.

Figure 1: Faience Beads

In 2017, as in 2016, American and Swiss students and staff stayed in the village of Kokkino in the foothills of the eastern Kopais, within a few kilometers of their work sites. The focus of

our research in 2016-2017 has been twofold. First, we have been further clarifying the nature and character of the components of the field system in the plain around Glas. Second, we have been exploring the lakeshore site of Aghia Marina Pyrghos with the expectation of better understanding the relationship between the field system—presumably administered from Orkhomenos via Glas—and the non-palace sectors of the subsistence and exchange economy of the region. This year, our team continued to map and uncover a densely populated settlement, whose extent inside its fortification wall approaches 14,000 square meters, or the size of two soccer fields (over three acres). It includes a multistory building contemporary with Glas, as both artifacts and carbon-14 dates show, and a palimpsest of Middle Bronze Age house foundations (ca. 2000–1600 BCE, antedating Glas but contemporary with the earliest portions of the field system) on the ruins of parts of which is a children's cemetery. The latter has yielded faience beads (*Figure 1* above) and fine pottery wares, and the former has yielded decorated pottery, elements of bronze tools, and spindle whorls (a top-like device that assists in spinning thread) made from imported stone. Perhaps the most exciting find this year was an ivory rosette furniture inlay, found on the final day of work in the collapsed, burnt remains of what was evidently a manufacturing and storage center (*Figure 2*). It is a virtually a duplicate of one found in an LBA tholos tomb at Dhimini in Thessaly, about 200 kilometers overland to the north.

Figure 2: Ivory furniture inlay

On weekends, we got away on field trips to Delphi, Mycenae, and Tiryns. Some of us trekked for two days to the summit of Parnassos, a climb of over 2,000 meters through the wilderness. We also rewarded ourselves for a week of hard work in the heat with a trip to the beach on Friday afternoons.

The Institute for Aegean Prehistory funded our fieldwork in 2016 and 2017, and it has promised further generous funding for field and laboratory operations in 2018. UMBC's START program provided MYNEKO with over $4,000 to cover the cost of carbon-14 dating last year, and the US National Science Foundation awarded Dr. Lane over $33,000 for an innovative suite of dating techniques applied to the elements of the irrigation and drainage system in the plain this year.

So far, we have recovered nearly 8,000 objects from a mere 13 square meters of excavated area. Greek law requires that we deliver them to the storerooms of the Thebes Archaeological Museum during the course of excavation, until such time as we can provide a nearby storehouse that passes muster. As we expand excavation from 2018 onward, the transfer requirement will become more onerous, and storage space may be hard to find. Therefore, MYNEKO seeks sponsors for a storehouse and attendant laboratory in the village of Kokkino. For more information, see https://www.gofundme.com/myneko-archaeology-lab-development.

A Byzantine Village in Jordan

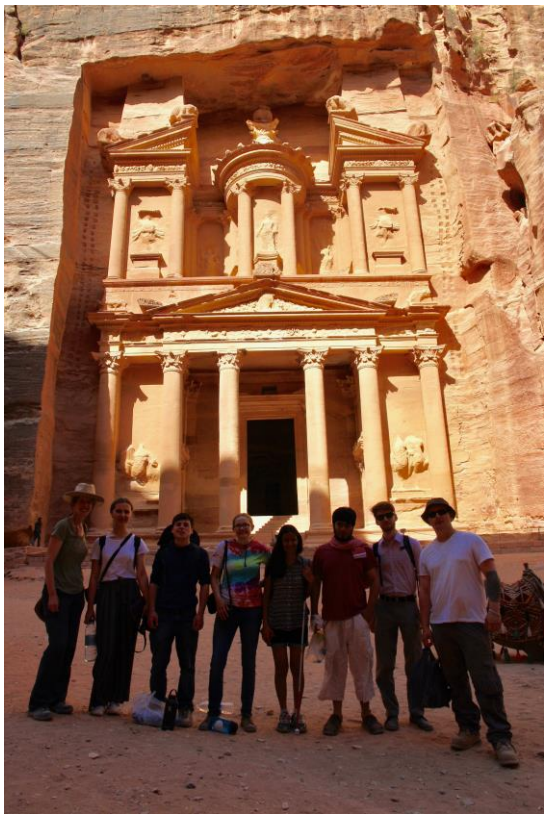
Melissa Bailey Kutner

During the summer of 2017, four UMBC undergraduates came with me to Dhiban, Jordan to excavate a Byzantine village. The project included my co-directors Dr. Bruce Routledge of the University of Liverpool and Dr. Katherine Adelsberger of Knox College, along with our paleoethnobotanist Dr. Alan Farahani from the University of California at Los Angeles, graduate student supervisors from the University of Liverpool and the University of Bradford, and six undergraduates from Knox College and other universities around the United States.

The Dhiban Excavation and Development Project (DEDP) is an ongoing investigation of long-term use of the site, a tell (hill built up of layers of archaeological occupation) in north-central Jordan with strata dating from the Iron Age (7th century BCE) through the Mamluk periods (15th century CE). Dhiban is on a dry plateau in a marginal,

Naqiya Ghulamali holding an intact jug that she found and excavated

semi-desert region, and over the millennia habitation of the tell waxed and waned depending on a variety of pressures both political and environmental. This summer, my colleagues Dr. Routledge and Dr. Adelsberger explored a reservoir built in the Iron Age and modified in the Byzantine period, in an effort to understand long-term water management and agricultural practices at Dhiban. I and the UMBC students excavated a large building that burned and collapsed in the late Byzantine period (at the very end of the 6th century CE), thus preserving rich botanical remains, numerous small finds, and hundreds of storage jars, jugs, cups, and other ceramics smashed in situ (and occasionally preserved whole).



In front of the "Treasury" at Petra: (left to right) Melissa Kutner, Helene Marshall, Aidan Kolar, Fiona Munro, Naqiya Ghulamali, Harun Ahmed, Jonathan Harness, and Harri Twigg

In Jordan, the population during the Byzantine period reached a height not surpassed until the last half-century. Both village and urban sites are thus extremely common, but while a broad range of questions has driven urban excavations in recent years, work in villages still tends to concentrate on churches and other monumental buildings. Dhiban has such monumental buildings—several Byzantine churches and a set of baths were excavated there in the 1950s—but our project offers an exciting opportunity to shed light on the village economy as a whole and its relationship to the network of nearby towns and pilgrimage sites (Mount Nebo, the traditional site of Moses's death and a popular pilgrimage site both in the Byzantine period and today, is relatively close). Analysis of botanical remains so far has revealed a heavy concentration on grapes (both whole and processed into wine), wheat, and peas, but a surprising absence of olives. This may indicate some regional agricultural specialization, although much more exploration would be needed to demonstrate this conclusively.

The building is large—our 10 x 10 meter excavation area has revealed two rooms, but walls clearly extend beyond the excavation area to the south—and probably multi-storied. It also involved at least one phase of reuse, allowing us to examine how local inhabitants adapted to disasters like the collapse. The large number of storage jars at first led us to hypothesize that it was a public building (perhaps devoted to centralized storage). But an increasing number of small finds (such as spindle whorls and kohl, or eye-makeup, sticks), along with the large amount of tableware (such as cups and small jugs), suggests a large domestic building instead. UMBC students learned to excavate and document the dense collapse and numerous artifacts of the rooms and to process the finds, including flotation of plant remains.

Our team stayed in the nearby city of Madaba, which in addition to its own ancient sites (including several Byzantine churches with extraordinary mosaics) had restaurants, coffee houses, and souvenir shops. On the weekends, we took field trips to sites around Jordan such as Petra, the Roman cities of Gerasa, Gadara, and Macherus (the site of a palace of Herod the Great), the early Islamic desert castles, medieval castles Kerak and Ajlun, and the Wadi Dana Nature Preserve. Students climbed towers in castles and mountains at Petra, and told stories around a fire under the stars at Wadi Dana.

In 2018, we will return to continue excavation of both the Byzantine building and the Iron Age reservoir, further piecing together the long-term history of Dhiban.

Exploring the desert castles: (left to right) Virginia Moyer, Ben Jones, Nikki Vietz, and Dorian Lavender

Chatting with Cicero: My Week at the *Rusticatio*

Timothy Phin

It happened on the *maenianum* just a little before midnight. *Cena* had ended several hours before, and about a dozen of us had gathered to watch the stars come out. We were talking about books we'd been reading, classes we were teaching, and those delightful mundanities that fill a warm, summer day, when it struck me: I was speaking Latin. Everyone was speaking Latin. The whole conversation, for all those hours, had consisted solely of Latin. I hadn't heard a word of English for days. I sat for a moment with this thought, and then the conversation shifted to cinema, and I was off again.

For twenty years, SALVI (SEPTENTRIONALE AMERICANUM LATINITATIS VIVAE INSTITUTUM), or The North American Institute of Living Latin Studies, has been running Latin-only events. Its founder, Dr. Nancy Llewellyn, wanted a place where people could work with Latin as a spoken tongue. The particular event I attended was called a *Rusticatio Tironum. Tirones* are people who have learned to read and translate Latin, but have either never had a spoken Latin experience, or who have only had one or two. My time at the *Rusticatio* was supported by a generous gift from Ms. Dawn Mitchell, who has taught at Dulaney Valley High School for the last twenty-five years. Dawn and I feel strongly that spoken Latin belongs in Latin instruction.

The *Rusticatio* takes place at Claymont Manor, a heritage site in Charles Town, West Virginia. It is isolated, surrounded by fields and patches of woodland. Participants arrive on a Friday evening and begin the process of getting to know each other over dinner. At first, everything is in English. We all choose Latin names (mine was Phineus), and are divided into small working groups, which help facilitate book discussions and other activities throughout the week.

After the meal, the leader of the week, called the *dux,* gathers all the participants in the atrium of the house. There, the *dux* lifts up a sacred, if plastic, chicken and performs the ritual of Latinity. After the ritual is complete, all English speaking ends. The ritual, like many of the other events, keeps the humor light and makes it easy to try, fail, and try again as you speak conversational Latin for the first time.

The week is divided thematically. There are days devoted to food, to parts of the body, to modes of travel, and to the measurements of time. Each topic is chosen with teaching in mind, for the *Rusticatio* is not only about speaking Latin, but learning how to be instructors in it. We spend mornings listening to interactive lectures conducted by the *dux*, and early afternoons discussing Latin texts.

The rest of the day is filled with social activities, including shifts in the kitchen, where we learn how to make and cook a meal in Latin. In the evenings, there are long chats on the *maenianum.* We play cards in Latin, discuss gender identities in Latin, and sing songs in Latin. (We also put on some Plautus. I was *Pugnax* in *Miles Gloriosus.*)

I remember sitting there, discussing Cicero in Latin with my peers, feeling transformed by it. I had known that Latin was not dead. I am, after all, a member of a long line of people who have worked to keep it alive. But I had never really felt what it was to have Latin spoken around me and to engage with Latin not merely as a textual language, but as a living language. I fully expect to return to the *Rusticatio* again and again until this *tiro* becomes a *veteranus.* Latin lives at UMBC, and we'll keep carrying its torch for years to come.

Mykeno 2017

Chelsea Hehl

This summer, I was awarded one of the Ancient Studies Department's travel scholarships, which allowed me to travel to Kokkino, Greece to participate in the excavation run by Dr. Lane for the MYNEKO Project. For one month, I toiled in the Mediterranean sun with some of the smartest and most kind-hearted people I have come to know. All of the students had bonded the semester before in Dr. Lane's Methods and Techniques class which we were required to take as preparation. Once we were in Greece, we worked hard and had fun every hour that we were on the site. We made jokes, played music, and had great talks during breaks. After work, we had home-cooked food prepared by a wonderful local cook, Mrs. Maki. Because of these things and my interest in archaeology, it hardly felt like toil at all!

This trip helped me in more ways than just field experience and course credits. I was given the chance to be myself freely. I had no pressure to return to being an Engineering major, no one judged me for my choices in food (that I am aware of), and few would care if I wore the same shirt for a few days in a row. I was free to just be myself while still following the dig schedule. I wasn't just waking up at 5:00 each morning (or really 5:30) because I had to, but because I wanted to.

Chelsea Hehl in the field

Dr. Lane had told us very early on that our field notebooks would be a part of the collective primary source material for the excavation reports. I thought about that. My writing would help make the *source material*. I couldn't wrap my brain around it. Back in the States, I had written final papers and personal creative works, neither of which seemed as significant. I found it hard to believe that what I wrote down would really be that important, but I wrote and sketched details of the dig to the best of my ability anyway.

The significance of our work still hadn't really hit me until I came back home. A few days after my return, my mother looked at my hiking boots and said, "I can't clean these off, the dirt is 4,000 years old." The more I thought about it, the more I realized we were kneeling where people had once lived, worked, laughed, and loved. That is beautiful to me. What I wrote down can someday help retell the story of these Late Bronze Age people and how they went about their lives.

The only thing that would have kept me from this amazing opportunity would have been the cost. If it were not for being awarded my scholarship, I would never have taken such an amazing journey. I will be forever grateful for the chance to be proud of my work and of my choice of major, as well as to celebrate my personal growth.

A SUMMER ABROAD

Virginia Moyer

This summer, with the help of an Ancient Studies Department travel scholarship, I was given the opportunity to travel to Greece and Jordan for archaeological digs under the direction of Dr. Lane and Dr. Kutner. In Greece, we were working near Kokkino, a small village in central mainland Greece. Our team consisted of six students, two trench supervisors, and Dr. Lane. My first impression was awe of Greece and amazement that my time abroad had started. Although I had learned archaeology in class, it was incredible to actually be on an ancient site.

One of the first things I found was a highly concentrated area of burnt seed. This may have represented the kitchen area of a collapsed house. I also found a spindle whorl and many sherds of pottery. I learned that in order to do archaeology, I have to have discipline and patience. And so, as much as I loved being out on site and digging, I also learned how to do the different kinds of paperwork required. Every day on site was an experience in itself, but we had a great time off site too. The dinner each night was absolutely fantastic, whether because we were simply starving or because the food was excellent. The most memorable experience I had was climbing to the summit of Mount Parnassus with Dr. Lane and three of my classmates. It was an experience that I don't think any of us will forget.

At the top of Mount Parnassus

After saying my farewell to Greece, I headed to Jordan for the second part of my summer. The site in Jordan was located in a town called Dhiban. My first impression of Jordan was how different it was. The

geography in Greece was very green, whereas in Jordan it was barren and tan; what I found most interesting was the lack of trees throughout the country. In Jordan, I worked in the Byzantine building and learned a different way of documenting field notes and how to take out potential mends of pottery (whole pots that had been smashed in place). My first day on site I articulated and excavated a rim, neck, and handle of what appeared to be a part of a jug. In lab work I learned to do flotation and watched the directors identify the different pieces of pottery. The most memorable parts were all the field trips, especially being able to visit Petra and Jerash.

On both sites, excavators did much the same things, but in different ways. In Greece, the trenches were much smaller and we did at least one drawing a day, while in Jordan, the trenches were very large and we would do one drawing a week. We also took elevations differently at both sites. In Greece we had a meter stick and manually recorded the levels, but in Jordan we used a total station to record the data. I was so glad I had the opportunity to experience both trips and I want to thank Dr. Lane and Dr. Kutner for giving me these opportunities.

FIELD SCHOOL IN TRANSYLVANIA

Flora Kirk

Evening view of Măgura from our side of the valley. Excavations have revealed further Dacian settlements.

This summer I had the pleasure of attending Archaeotek's 2017 excavation in Transylvania, Romania, under the direction of André Gonciar. Based in Canada, this program operates in conjunction with the local archaeology museum in Deva.

Romania, especially Transylvania, is a rich archaeological source, as it was heavily settled by the Romans throughout the second to fourth centuries CE. Back then, the region was referred to as "Dacia" and inhabited by the formidable Dacian tribes, led by the warlord Decebal. In 106 CE, Trajan defeated Decebal and razed the capital, Sarmizegetusa Regia, rebuilding it as Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa on a site 40km away. Seizing this province provided Rome with a new source of revenue, in both taxes and gold mines. Records of Trajan's exploits can be seen today in Rome, on Trajan's Column. Funded by profits from the Dacian campaign, the Column records the events of the Dacian wars: the first in 101-102 CE and the second in 105-106 CE. In short, Romania is a fascinating historical region that I was very excited to explore further.

In the 2017 season, the Archaeotek team continued excavation on the site of a Roman villa, potentially a *mansio*, or inn, built on high terrace along the major road between Sarmizegetusa and Apulum. Though originally assumed to be a villa, newly found irregularities caused the team to reconsider the purpose of the structure. Since the project's beginning in 2012, the site had been yielding artifacts not usually found in typical Roman villas: a massive gateway at the entrance, a second floor with a balcony overlooking the gate, and most strangely a surrounding stone wall with painted plaster on the exterior. The current hypothesis is that it was a road-stop for relatively well-off travelers. The second-story floor above the gate was well insulated, with decorated inside and outside walls, the floor paved with three different types of tesserae, giving whoever stayed there a beautiful view of the lush valley. The stone wall, along with the painted plaster, suggests

Entrance to the dig house's dining room. The program had rented a garage and guest house from a local family to use as the dig-house.

the owner of the complex was wealthy, and not afraid to flaunt it.

During the excavation we stayed with families in the nearby village, Rapoltu Mare, which was far better than living on a camp-ground. Our day began with 7:00 breakfast at the "dig house," though as the summer heat took hold, it was moved to 6:00 (all the food we had was traditional Romanian, which involved lots of chicken, vegetables, and soups. It was delicious). An hour after breakfast started, the digging began.

Our site was rented from a local farmer who, like the many farmers in the past 1,500 years, had become tired of stones destroying his plow. We got a fascinating archaeological site to excavate, record, and re-bury, and he got a team of Americans to clean his field without losing profit. Win-win. Our three weeks of digging were spent dealing with these stones around the "villa" courtyard. When the building collapsed, the roof went first, and then the walls overtop. After more than 1,500 years of plows going over this layer, these walls and roof tiles had been disturbed so much that most had lost their context, ending up in the "plow-zone." These plow-zone materials we removed, the rest we excavated, drew and photographed, and then removed to reveal the next level. This continued until we hit the clay floor of the courtyard, where we made a fascinating discovery: make-shift rooms and hearths within the space. Our working hypothesis was that after the Romans left Dacia, our villa had been re-settled either by Germanic people or by some of the local peasants, taking advantage of the Germanic threat that forced the Romans out. Finding a giant roofed structure, they had apparently built their own adobe houses within until the roof collapsed on top of them. Lacking the skills to rebuild the Roman roof, they abandoned the site. Overall our site revealed, in order: Paleolithic, Neolithic, Dacian, Roman, and—potentially—Germanic occupation.

Corvin Castle, also known as Hunyadi Castle, a Gothic-Renaissance castle in Hunedoara County. It is one of the largest castles in Europe and one of the seven wonders of Romania.

In the field we were taught how to (and how not to) use a trowel and brush, how to use a Total Station, and sift earth for small finds. In the lab we cleaned pottery fragments, and measured phosphates to determine where to dig the next trenches (the more phosphates, the more human/animal activity). While we were not digging or in lab (we dug until 12:00, and then either lab or digging 14:00-17:00 depending on weather), we were at lecture learning more about archaeological theory and the Dacians.

Archaeotek's field school provided us with more than just archaeological experience. While the days were long, they were rewarding, and we had the weekends free to explore Transylvania. On the second weekend, we had a group trip to several sites in the area. On Saturday we traveled to Corvin Castle, one of the largest castles in Europe and one of the top seven wonders of Romania; the Church of St. Nicholas, the oldest operating orthodox church in Romania; and Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, the site of the Roman Dacian capital built by Trajan. On Sunday we visited Roșia Montană, where we got to explore gold mines that had been in use since the Roman occupation.

The same day we drove to the Scărișoara Cave, one of the biggest ice caves in the Apuseni Mountains of Romania, and one of the natural wonders of the country. That following weekend a few of us travelled to Sibiu, a beautiful city to the East, notable for its Saxon architecture.

This experience would not have been possible without the generosity of UMBC's Ancient Studies Department, UMBC Honors College, and the Archaeological Institute of America's Jane C. Waldbaum scholarship. I plan to follow a career in museum work, which requires an in-depth understanding of excavation and artifact cataloguing. Learning archaeology in the classroom is possible, but going out into the field is a completely different endeavor. Without funding opportunities like these, many students would not be able to have this first-hand experience. I would also like to thank the Archaeotek team for

The family who owned the dig-house procured Carpathian sheepdog puppies during my time there, and I miss them.

their hospitality and comprehensive field school; in just four weeks I have learned how to excavate, use a Total Station, measure phosphates, lay out a GPR grid, and to stay away from *palincă*. *Noroc*!

THE GREAT NORTH MUSEUM

Flora Kirk

This August I was fortunate enough to spend three weeks at the Great North Museum in Newcastle, UK as the 2017 Roman Society placement. In my initial application, I had stressed my interest in exhibition design and public engagement, which was more than fulfilled during my time with the North. Though I arrived on a Roman Society placement, the North's diverse collections, spanning paleontology to taxidermy, allowed me to experience the typical day of a museum behind the scenes. While I was not designing educational materials on the North's Roman collections, I was able to assist with the Learning Team's museum collection activities, from Greek armor to insects.

On my first day I led a workshop where children (and parents!) had to interpret the burial and grave goods from a Roman cremation. This activity involved cremation (a jar of burnt paper), some stone gaming pieces, an oil lamp, some bronze coins, and a wax tablet. Along with these pieces there were information sheets telling the visitors when this person had been buried, and what the grave goods would have been used for. From this information they were supposed to determine who the deceased had been. I was surprised at the number of 6-9 year olds who were excited to fill out a worksheet, and then quickly impressed by their ideas and questions. Though clues in the grave goods' descriptions had pointed to a soldier, some of the answers I got were astute options I had not even considered. One seven-year-old confidently told me the remains were of a Roman child, because they would have used the wax tablet for school and the game pieces to play with their friends. Another suggested the deceased had been a writer living along Hadrian's Wall. I spent my walk home realizing that curation was not the only field of museum work that I was open to…

While I was not working directly with the public, I spent part of my placement developing lesson plans and writing blogs on the exhibitions. I spent the first week and a half creating a learning resource on Roman inscriptions for 12- to 16-year-old students. Hundreds of these epigraphs have been found along Hadrian's Wall and the North has a great number on display. The resource aimed to have students read parts of the inscriptions to learn more about who lived, died, and worshipped along the wall. To do so, I included an information sheet on Roman inscriptions in Britain, along with worksheets on Roman lettering, numerals, and key Latin phrases. On the second week, I trialed the numeral sheet to an enthusiastic audience. Though it was written for secondary school students, I had children as young as seven successfully complete and enjoy the activity.

The blog posts I wrote were targeted at an audience with little background in Roman history. For the first piece I compared Game of Thrones' "the Wall in the North" with its inspiration, Hadrian's Wall. While George R.R. Martin had made his wall a purely defensive structure, Hadrian's had primarily been about border control and customs, while demonstrating Rome's power in Britain. The second post concerned the Mithras temporary exhibition, "From Thames to Tyne." The North had worked with the London Museum and Carrawburgh Museum to display prominent Mithraic finds in Roman Britain alongside each-other. These included statues found in the London Mithraeum, organic remains preserved in water-logged Carrawburgh Mithraeum, and a rare depiction of Mithras' birth held at the Great North (originally from Housesteads). Both these blogs are posted on blog.twmuseums.org.uk. Along with utilizing the museum library and archives for my writing, I was able to help digitize some of the archives from early excavations on Hadrian's Wall. The Great North Museum still has reams of paper files that need to be digitized for future research and preservation, so I was happy to contribute my time.

While I was not at the Great North, I was enjoying my first time in the North of England. I was particularly interested in seeing Hadrian's Wall, and the current 'Hadrian's Cavalry' exhibit featured in select museums along the site. I first visited Segedunum, now Wallsend, the easternmost fort of the Wall. This museum's Cavalry exhibit had some of the best preserved metal artifacts I have ever seen—I thought some were replicas at first! Following Segedunum, I travelled to Vindolanda in order to see the famous tablets (pieces of writing from the fort that survived in the marshy environment). What I did not expect was the massive collections of preserved shoes (some looked really similar to a few of my modern

pairs too) and other organic remains, including a wig. Sadly, with only two weekends and a stubborn cold, I was only able to travel to two sites. Though my time was limited, I hope to return soon and see more of the Wall's museums.

This experience would not have been made possible without the Roman Society's generosity, and the help of UMBC's Ancient Studies and Undergraduate Research departments. I would also like to thank Andrew Parkin at the Great North Museum: Hancock for overseeing my placement, and the Learning Team's Kathryn Wilson and Georgina Scott for expanding my museum experience past collections.

WINTER 2018 COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Title	Room	Time	Instructor (s)
ANCS 201/RLST 201	Classical Mythology (Hybrid)	Sherman 003	TTh 1:00-4:10 pm	Prof. Phin
ANCS 301	Ancient Civilizations	PAHB 441	TBD	Drs. Lane and Jones-Lewis
ANCS 330/HIST 330	Science and Technology in the Ancient World	Sherman 013	TWTh 6:00-9:10 pm	Prof. Read
ANCS 350	Topics in Ancient Studies: the Ancient Novel	Fine Arts 001	MW 1:00-4:10 pm	Prof. Piana

SPRING 2018 COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Title	Days/Time	Instructor
GREK 102	Elementary Greek II	MTWTh 10:00-10:50	Dr. Rosenbloom
GREK 372	Plato	TTh 2:30-3:45 pm	Dr. Rosenbloom
LATN 102-01	Elementary Latin II	MTWTh 9:00-9:50 am	Dr. Kutner
LATN 102-02	Elementary Latin II	MTWTh 11:00-11:50 am	Dr. Jones-Lewis
LATN 331	Ovid	MW 4:00-5:15 pm	Dr. Jones-Lewis
ANCS 150	Word Roots from Greek and Latin	W 4:00-5:15 pm	Prof. Piana
ANCS 202	Roman World	MW 1:00-2:15 pm	Dr. Jones-Lewis
ANCS 220 (JDST 201/RLST 202)	Judaism in the Time of Jesus and Hillel	TTh 8:30-9:45 am	Prof. Liebermann
ANCS 320/GWST 330	Sex and Gender in the Ancient World (WI)	MW 2:30-3:45 pm	Prof. Phin
ANCS 375	Ancient Medicine	TTh 1:00-2:15 pm	Dr. Jones-Lewis
ARCH 201	Roman Archaeology and Art	TTh 11:30-12:45 pm	Dr. Kutner
ARCH 350-01	Topics in Archaeology: The Archaeology of the City-State	TTh 11:30-12:45 pm	Dr. Lane
ARCH 350-02	Topics in Archaeology: Museum Studies	TTh 7:10-8:25 pm	Prof. Read
ARCH 350-03	Topics in Archaeology: Archaeological Methods and Techniques	MW 1:00-2:15 pm	Dr. Lane
HIST 456	Roman Empire	TTh 11:30-12:45 pm	Prof. Phin