



RES CLASSICAE

THE UMBC ANCIENT STUDIES DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME L ISSUE 1
FALL 2018

Editor: Melissa Bailey Kutner

Executive Editor: David Rosenbloom

FROM THE CHAIR

David Rosenbloom



Molly Jones-Lewis and Jimmy Lewis

It is my pleasure to welcome James Robert Lewis into the department. Weighing in at 5 lbs. 5 oz., Jimmy (aka Jim Bob) was born on July 19, 2018, a bit earlier than expected, to Molly Jones-Lewis and Rob Lewis. We are likewise delighted to welcome Dr. Jones-Lewis in the role of regular Lecturer in the Ancient Studies Department. Molly served as visiting Lecturer from fall 2014 through spring 2018.

We warmly welcome Dr. Taylor Coughlan to the Department as an adjunct Lecturer. Dr. Coughlan received his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati in 2016 and was Lecturer in the Classics Department at the University of Tennessee from 2016-2018. Taylor specializes in the uses of Greek dialects in Hellenistic epigrams. This semester he is teaching LATN 101, LATN 201, and GREK 201.

The UMBC Ancient Studies community's response to the passing of Dr. Walter Sherwin was overwhelming. The outpouring of support for the Sherwin Family Fund is a wonderful tribute to the positive influence Dr. Sherwin had on colleagues, students, family, and friends throughout his career and life. I want to thank all of you for your community spirit and generosity.

ANCIENT STUDIES WEEK 2018

This year's Ancient Studies Week promises to be among the very best we have put together. The week begins with a visit from Prof. Andrew Ford, Ewing Professor of Ancient Greek Language and Literature and Professor of Classics at Princeton University. Prof. Ford will give a lecture on Homer's *Iliad* entitled "Brothers in Arms: Reading the *Iliad* in 2018." Prof. Ford published his first book, *Homer: The Poetry of the Past* (Cornell 1992), on the *Iliad* and went on to write the introduction to the 2004 edition of Robert Fitzgerald's popular translation of the *Iliad* (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux). Prof. Ford will speak on Monday, Oct. 8 from 12:00-12:50 in 132 Performing Arts & Humanities Bldg. All are welcome to attend.

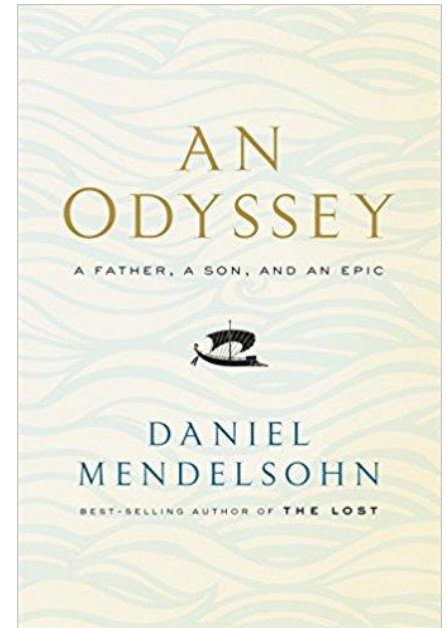
On Tuesday, Oct. 9 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the *Forum* outside the Performing Arts & Humanities Bldg., the Ancient Studies Department will hold its 5th annual Homerathon, a marathon reading of Homeric epic. This year we will be reading Emily Wilson's ground-breaking translation of the *Odyssey* (Prof. Wilson is the first woman to have translated the *Odyssey* into English). If you would like to read a passage of the *Odyssey* (5 to 10 minutes), please contact Dr. Melissa Bailey Kutner at

mabailey@umbc.edu; be sure to indicate when you are available to read in the period between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Oct. 9. All UMBC students, alumni, faculty, and friends are invited to read.

On the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 10 between 7:00 and 9:00 pm in Fine Arts 306, students and faculty of the Ancient Studies Department will perform a reading of Aristophanes' *Acharnians*—the story of a farmer from the deme of Acharnai, Dikaiopolis, who is fed up with the Peloponnesian War and concludes a private truce with Sparta so that he can enjoy all the pleasures of peace. These readings are always great fun and demonstrate the enduring relevance and sheer genius of Athens' premier comedian nearly 2500 years after his death. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

Finally, on Thursday, Oct. 11 between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm in the A. O. Kuhn Library Gallery, Prof. Daniel Mendelsohn, who holds the Charles Ranlett Flint Chair in Humanities at Bard College, will give the ANCS Week Keynote Lecture. Prof. Mendelsohn will be talking about and reading from his latest book, *An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic*, a witty and poignant memoir of a son and his father focusing on events in 2011-2012, when Prof. Mendelsohn's 81-year old father, Jay, a mathematician, took his son's *Odyssey* seminar at Bard College and acted as his prime antagonist. That summer, father and son bonded as they cruised in the Mediterranean, visiting sites at which Odysseus alleged made landfall during his wanderings in the *Odyssey*. Later, Jay suffered a dreaded fall in California, triggering a series of events that led to his unexpected and heart-wrenching death. The book brilliantly interweaves the narrative artistry and enduring wisdom of the *Odyssey* with a personal memoir that reflects Telemachus' journey of paternal and self-discovery in the *Odyssey*. A book signing and reception will follow the lecture.

The ANCS Council of Majors will be displaying selected antiquities from the Spiro Collection from 11:00am to 3:00pm in the breezeway of the Commons. Hope to see you there!



TRAVEL TO THE UK WITH THE ANCS DEPARTMENT IN SPRING 2019

The ANCS department will travel to the UK during Spring Break 2019 (March 15-24, 2019). The group will fly from Dulles Airport to London Heathrow and spend March 16-18 in London, going to the Globe Theatre for a production of *Romeo & Juliet* on March 16, visiting the Museum of London, the Mithraeum (temple of the enigmatic bull-slaying god Mithras), and Billingsgate House and Bath on March 17. March 18 will be spent in the British Museum. On March 19, we leave London by coach to visit Celleva Atrebatum,



Stonehenge

Avebury Stone Circle, Keiller Museum, and Stonehenge before settling for the night in Southampton. The following day, March 20, we head for Fishbourne Roman Palace and Museum and Maiden Castle and spend the night in the city of Bath. On March 21, we visit the Roman Baths and Museum before flying from Bristol to Newcastle, from where we visit Vindolanda, Sycamore Gap on Hadrian's Wall, and Housesteads on March 22.

The next day we fly from Newcastle to London, spending March 23 as a free day. On March 24, we return to Baltimore, flying from London Heathrow to BWI.

This is a marvelous opportunity to see the UK from Southampton to Newcastle and points in between. The cost of the trip will be \$3150. For students taking the 3-credit winter (ANCS 301), tuition and fees total \$1154. Costs include all ground and air travel, entry fees to all archaeological sites, museums, and events,

twin-share accommodation for eight nights, all breakfasts, three dinners, and two lunches. Please note that these costs also include a \$130 fee payable to International Education Services. Please contact Domonique Pitts at dpitts@umbc.edu for further information. Application to ANCS Study Tour will be made online through the International Educational Services website. The Ancient Studies Department will offer up to three scholarships for majors interested in taking the course and trip to the UK. The deadline for applications is Oct. 26, 2018.

WHAT WE SEE: ARCHAEOLOGY AT HOME

Melissa Bailey Kutner

I've sometimes thought that I chose to study the archaeology of the ancient world because I grew up in a place that seemed to have no past. If you actually traced my path through fluctuating interests and opportunities, the story would be more complicated, but at the heart of it, I think, is still a vast expanse of concrete and square lawns, built in the 70s, 80s, and 90s, and more of the same thing for miles and miles, interspersed with clusters of McDonalds and Walmarts like beads on a string. I tried to write poems in high school, none of which was very good. But when I go back and read them now they are remarkably consistent: all about empty landscapes and an inability to feel any connection to place.



A sign in Katy, Texas advertising a flooded home, two months after Hurricane Harvey (Photo by Melissa Bailey Kutner)

This place is Katy, Texas—just on the west side of Houston—and in some ways it's a bit different now. There is a wider variety of restaurants, though most other businesses are still repeating chains, and there is a much wider variety of people. In other ways, it's more of the same, metastasized: new neighborhoods, with new and larger houses; new shopping centers; new schools; new highways; less and less prairie. The paving-over of the prairie is one of the things that made Hurricane Harvey so devastating, but many neighborhoods flooded by Harvey—some a five-minute drive from

my family home—are being rebuilt anyway.

Now, of course, as an archaeologist and with decades more education than I had as a would-be-poet teenager, I know that *nowhere* has no past. Instead, people make choices about what to memorialize and what to teach, and in West Houston the choice has always been to prioritize the new and to teach heroic stories. As an adult, I've been aware in an abstract way that my childish conception of “no past” must have been wrong, that Houston has a Native American past and an agricultural past and that archaeological traces must have been found. But I thought little about it. I live elsewhere, after all, and I work on a different past.

But sometimes the past explodes, anyway, right under your feet. Sugar Land, you see—the town just southeast of Katy—is called Sugar Land for a reason. It was plantation country, Brazos River floodplain good for growing sugar cane. The people who established plantations here began with cotton and eventually moved to sugar cane, using enslaved African Americans until the Civil War and convict lease workers (also African American, also de facto enslaved) afterwards. The system continued as the area transformed into a company town owned by Imperial Sugar. (Imperial Sugar is still based in Sugar Land, and I have bought and used their packages of sugar hundreds of times.) Eventually the state of Texas bought a large tract of land from Imperial Sugar and established a prison, the Imperial Farm Prison, where—a 20-minute drive from my family home—prisoners continued to do agricultural labor until 2011.



Reginald Moore and Reign Clark (cultural resources director for the archaeological consulting firm excavating the site), with finds including chains and agricultural tools (Photo by Joe Southern, the Fort Bend Star)

The prison was closed in 2011, and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice began selling the land. The local school district bought some and began building a new student technical center. Despite the efforts of a local activist, a former prison guard named Reginald Moore who had extensively researched the area's history and is the caretaker of a nearby cemetery linked to the prison, developers did not conduct any archaeological work on the site in advance. Then, in March of 2018, their heavy machinery began to turn up bones. At this point, they halted construction and hired an archaeological consulting firm. Ninety-five bodies have now been discovered. I missed the news back in the spring, but a flood of newspaper reports about the bodies came out while I was in Houston for family reasons this summer. I read them, astonished, and have continued to search for new information as it emerges.

The people buried in these unmarked graves were African-American, and all were male but one. According to Catrina Whitley, the bioarchaeologist analyzing the remains, many of them had injuries from repetitive manual labor, as well as heavy lines in their teeth, a sign of stress—probably severe malnourishment—during childhood. Archaeologists have estimated that the graves date between 1878 and 1911, during the convict-leasing era, and the bodies range in age from 14 to 70. This means that some of these prisoners were children, and some others gained their freedom from slavery only to be re-enslaved in the convict system. Some artifacts have turned up too, including chains. Community members and organizations have recently decided to undertake DNA testing of the bodies, which may link them to specific people and families.

It is strange how your entire conception of a place can change. Houston, like the rest of East Texas, is humid, damp, green, and sweltering; it feels like the South. But I had never much thought of it as part of the South, *per se*—that South, the slavery South. Texas likes to think of itself as western, which of course brings its own problematic mythologies and dark histories (resolutely ignored by the State Board of Education, which recently voted to reinstate a requirement to teach that the Alamo's defenders were heroic). In my own case, at least, this meant a sense of disconnection from certain basic facts: Texas as a Confederate state, Texas as a slave state, Texas as a plantation state. On an abstract level I knew these things. But I had hardly thought about them.

Archaeology has changed that for me. Of course, the outline of this particular story was known through historical documents in archives (though the discovery of the bodies firmly destroys the notion, smugly given in a 2004 report on the area, that “archeological remains associated with these properties are unlikely to yield information that could not be found definitively from other sources... no further work is recommended”). I was simply ignorant. Yet it's true that unless we're taught something explicitly, or given a reason to go looking, much of what we know is just what we see.

Reginald Moore understands this, which is why he has been fighting so long to memorialize the prison site. (The already-known prison cemetery of which he is caretaker is underfunded and closed to the public, and plans to further preserve and memorialize it have repeatedly failed). He and the organization he founded, the Texas Slave Descendants Society, are strenuously advocating that the newly discovered bodies be re-buried either in the same spot or nearby, and that all stakeholders be involved in their analysis. So far, the community has held regular meetings to make decisions, and the school district is enthusiastic about involving local students. The likelihood of memorialization and visibility seems strong. Perhaps things are changing at last.

I saw another place this summer that brought this truth of visibility home. I was in Montgomery, Alabama, and visited the new National Memorial for Peace and Justice that commemorates the victims of lynching. As you walk around the memorial, dangling steel columns represent each county where lynchings took place, inscribed with the names of the victims,



Column for Harris County at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (Photo by Melissa Bailey Kutner)

if known. They hang at eye level as you begin, but as you circle around the memorial, the floor slopes down, and eventually they are hanging above your head like the strange fruit of which Billie Holliday sang. Here, in this shadowy space, dangling above, are the columns for Harris County (my home county), Fort Bend County (the county of Sugar Land), Waller County (at the

corners of Harris and Fort Bend), and so on—all the counties of East Texas. Needless to say, I had never heard a whisper about any of these lynchings. “We Will Remember,” says a nearby quote. We can only remember if we know and see.

EXPLORING MYCENAEAN LANDSCAPES IN CENTRAL GREECE

Michael Lane

In the summer of 2018, my Greek partner, Dr. Elena Kountouri of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, and I completed the third and final season of our joint fieldwork in Greece before we publish our results and conclusions and then move on to a more expansive phase of research. UMBC Ancient Studies majors Andrew Gibson and Irene Nolan again participated in this Mycenaean Northeastern Kopais (MYNEKO) research program in 2018, as did recent UMBC graduates Virginia Moyer (ANCS) and Damian Koropecyj (Global Studies, now pursuing a master’s degree at the University of Athens) and University

of Virginia Art History graduate Allison Sullivan. My colleagues Kyle Jazwa of Duke University and Laetitia Phialon of the University of Fribourg in Switzerland helped me direct field operations. Together our team continued digital mapping and excavation of the Middle to Late Bronze Age (ca. 1900–1100 BCE) fortified town of Aghia Marina Pyrgos (AMP) and of contemporary constructions in the plain, which had been claimed for agriculture from the Kopaic Lake during the same period (*Figure 1*).

At AMP, work concentrated on two areas: a multistory building that was erected around 1300 BCE and burnt to the ground some 50 or 60 years later (during the Late Bronze Age III “palace” period), and part of the Middle Bronze Age town (18th–17th century BCE) that was converted into an infants’ cemetery toward the end of this period and into the succeeding century. The building seems to have been a site for the manufacture of

small objects such as bronze and spindle whorls (caps of thread-spinning distaffs) from exotic stone. In addition, the building contained large pithos jars, perhaps holding comestibles, and decorated service vessels, especially for liquids. In the infants’ cemetery, we discovered a fourth stone-lined cist grave, which contained delicate skeletal remains, and, adjacent to it, a pit containing more tiny bones and miniature jars, perhaps a secondary ossuary deposit.

Olivia Jones, doctoral student at the University of Groningen (Netherlands), visited in July to examine the infants’ skeletons. Our own Irene Nolan assisted her (see her article in this issue). Ms. Jones’s tentative conclusion is that the bones recovered so far represent individuals who were hardly more than one year of age, some undeveloped enough to have been stillborn. This makes the accompanying fine pottery and glass-paste and stone beads remarkable. These items do not consistently accompany deceased infants in the region at this time, which suggests that those who interred the infants perhaps thought they deserved such goods because of their relationship with certain members of the community. I hope I will be granted a permit to export some of the small bones to the Max Planck Institute in Berlin to determine the biological sex of the individuals, in case results could help with interpreting the burial treatment.

Two other specialists helped with the investigation at AMP. Mr. Vernon Stafford of the University of Tennessee



Figure 1: Andrew Gibson (ANCS) at the site of Aghia Marina Pyrgos (Photo by Michael Lane)



Figure 2: Medieval pavement atop the dike in the plain (Photo by Michael Lane)

took samples from inside some of the ceramic vessels with the aim of recovering and analyzing organic residues and discovering what was stored and served in them. Prof. Grigoris Tsokas of the University of Thessaloniki conducted a magnetometry survey of the citadel summit of AMP, the results of which suggest that the building consumed by fire was on the edge of a larger complex of buildings at the center of the settlement whose area is about 17,000 square meters, given extant remains mapped to date.

In the meantime, down in the plain, our crew excavated a section of the dike that once protected the farmland around AMP and the fortress of Glas from the lake. Atop the dike, we discovered a pavement, the preliminary carbon-14 dates from which indicate to be medieval (late 13th to early 14th century CE; *Figure 2*). These centuries witnessed Burgundian and then Catalonian rule in the region, and De Puigpardines was the name of the Catalonian noble family in the nearby town of Akraifnio (then known as Carditsa). Although we know much about medieval political history here, we know virtually nothing about contemporary roadworks, so MYNEKO might be able to contribute something new to our understanding of Franco-Latin Greece. A related exciting prospect and future challenge is thorough research on and partial excavation of the medieval watchtower that sits directly atop the massive complex revealed this summer with magnetometry.

Elsewhere in the project area, Dr. Kountouri and her Greek colleagues from the Ministry resumed excavations at Aghios Ioannis, another fortified settlement, about two kilometers from AMP. There they have discovered not only a Late Bronze Age house but also several Middle–Late Bronze Age graveyards for adults, laid in places over Middle Bronze Age residences. Elena and I have together come to the conclusion that the northeastern Kopaic Basin was settled and developed for agriculture as many as four centuries earlier than archaeologists had previously thought.

My future research in the region will entail not only extensive excavation of AMP but also recovery of proxies for ancient environmental reconstruction, surface survey and finds collection in AMP's hinterland, and ethnoarchaeology of animal husbandry and upland farming in this landscape. This fieldwork will start in the summer of 2020 or 2021, and even more opportunities than before will be available for training and academic credit to students at UMBC and other institutions. To learn more about MYNEKO and our further plans, visit <http://myneko.umbc.edu>. To contribute to the refurbishment of the storehouse and laboratory we will need for the next phase of our fieldwork, please visit <http://gofundme.com/myneko>

MYNEKO 2018

Irene Nolan

Archaeology. It's not very fun. It's *certainly* not challenging, life-changing, and worth the experience. I definitely did *not* get emotional when I excavated my first piece of pottery, nor did I miss every moment of my time in Greece when I returned home. Not at all.

Of course, archaeology is all these things and so much more. When I first heard of the opportunity to excavate in Greece with Dr. Michael Lane back in 2016, I was so excited that I started shaking in my seat. I had grown up hearing stories about the ancient world, and archaeology was always on my list of interests. This past summer was my second time studying archaeology in Greece through the Mycenaean Northeastern Kopais (MYNEKO) research program.



Irene standing among artifacts and a wall at the Archaeological Museum of Thebes

My focus this season was on lab work at the Archaeological Museum of Thebes. One of the highlights of this experience for me was the opportunity to work with Dr. Olivia Jones, a bioarchaeologist. I had worked with an osteologist, Ms. Elizabeth Eastlake, during my first summer excavating in Greece, and my interest in osteology brought me to the field of bioarchaeology. Bioarchaeology is defined as the study of bones and biological materials found in archaeological remains. Dr. Jones and I went over the do's and don'ts of conserving bones, how to store them, and how to identify each bone. We analyzed human remains that were excavated at the Aghia Marina

Pyrgos (AMP) settlement site in 2016 and 2018, and we discovered that there were more remains than we had originally thought when we came across duplicate bones.

The remains were prenatal and newborn bones, and it was very hard to determine whether some of the babies survived childbirth. One of the fascinating aspects of the bone analysis was learning that the unerupted teeth of the babies can be seen in their mandibles (lower jawbone). I also learned that the petrous bone, which contains the components of the inner ear, can be tested for DNA and must be handled with extra care. These remains can tell archaeologists how humans in the ancient world lived, what their health and nutrition were like, and possible reasons why these babies did not survive.

My time in Greece this summer reignited my passion for bioarchaeology. This semester, I'm taking forensic anthropology and medical terminology, both of which have strong ties to bioarchaeology. It's an amazing feeling to apply the hands-on experience that I've had in Greece to the classroom and to expand on what I've learned. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds for the MYNEKO project, as well as where the lessons learned in bioarchaeology will continue to take me. Studying and working in Greece has been an incredible adventure. I would encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

WINTER 2019 COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Title	Instructor (s)
ANCS 150	Word Roots from Greek and Latin (Hybrid)	Prof. Danilo Piana
ANCS 210/RLST 210	Classical Mythology (Online)	Prof. Phin
ANCS 301	Ancient Civilizations: Roman Britain (Hybrid)	Dr. Kutner and Prof. Phin
ANCS 330/HIST 330	Science and Technology in the Ancient World	Prof. Read
ANCS 350	Topics in Ancient Studies: Magic and Witchcraft in the Ancient World	Dr. Jones-Lewis

SPRING 2019 COURSE SCHEDULE

Course	Title	Time	Instructor
GREK 102	Elementary Greek II	MTWF 10:00-10:50	Dr. Lane
GREK 371	Homer <i>Odyssey</i>	TTh 1:00-2:15	Dr. Rosenbloom
LATN 102-01	Elementary Latin II	MTWTh 9:00-9:50	Dr. Coughlan
LATN 102-02	Elementary Latin II	MTWTh 11:00-11:50	Prof. Phin
LATN 301	Selections from Roman Historians	MWF 11:00- 11:50	Dr. Jones-Lewis
ANCS 150	Word Roots from Greek and Latin (Hybrid)	W 4:00-5:15	Prof. Piana
ANCS 202	Roman World (Hybrid)	W 1:00-2:15	Prof. Piana
ANCS 220 (JDST 201 RLST 202)	Judaism in the Time of Jesus and Hillel	TBD	<i>Staff</i>
ANCS 375	Ancient Medicine	TTh 1:00-2:15	Dr. Jones-Lewis
ARCH 201	Roman Archaeology and Art	TTh 10:00-11:15	Dr. Bailey Kutner
ARCH 330	The Archaeology of the Prehistoric Aegean	MWF 11:00-11:50	Dr. Lane
ARCH 340	Cities of the Past (Writing Intensive)	TTh 2:30-3:45	Dr. Bailey Kutner
ARCH 350-01	Topics in Archaeology: Museum Studies	TTh 7:10-8:25	Prof. Esther Read
HIST 455	Roman Republic	TTh 2:30-3:45	Prof. Tim Phin

Department of Ancient Studies
451 Performing Arts and Humanities Bldg.
UMBC
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250