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LETTER FROM CHAIR, SARA FORSDYKE

Dear Friends of the Department of Classical Studies,

This is my first Newsletter since becoming Chair, and I am very pleased to have this opportunity to tell you about the recent activities of the staff, students, and faculty. In addition, I want to let you know that we have a lot of exciting events planned for the upcoming year, and we warmly welcome you to join us for as many of them as possible.

I would, however, first like to pay tribute to my predecessor as Chair, Ruth Scodel. Ruth served the Department tirelessly between 2007 and 2013 and kept the Department strong both intellectually and financially. Professor Scodel, of course, continues on our faculty and, in addition to her customary brilliant scholarship, will be offered an exciting new course in conjunction with the Theme Semester on Sport and the University entitled "Poems for Athletes."

While I am on the topic of the theme semester, I will take the opportunity to mention a deluxe version of Professor Potter's highly popular course on Greek Sport offered this Fall. This version of the course featured guest appearances by the Athletic Director and coaches of the various sports at the University of Michigan. Prof. Potter's aim was to create a dialogue between ancient and modern worlds about the nature of the "world's number one entertainment industry." For more see p. 2.

On the archaeological front, our faculty and students have a lot of exciting news. Professor Nicola Terrenato has had spectacular results at his two excavations in and around Rome. The first is at St. Omobono in the heart of modern Rome. Since this site lies below the modern water table, excavation has required both ingenuity and courage. Working in a deep pit with water pumps constantly running, Professor Terrenato's team has uncovered not only the earliest known Etruscan writing at Rome, but also a temple dating back to the seventh century BCE; it is possibly the earliest known Roman temple. This excavation was the subject of a nationally broadcast report on National Public Radio (NPR) that can be heard by searching St. Omobono on NPR's website.

Professor Terrenato's second excavation at Gabii just outside of Rome has also received national and international attention. Indeed, his excavation has discovered no less than three monumental civic buildings dating to the late fourth or early third century BCE. *Archaeology Magazine* named this discovery one of the top ten archaeological discoveries of 2013, and *The New York Times* did a feature article on Gabii that can be found by searching for Gabii on the newspaper's website. For both these excavations, see Professor Terrenato's article on p. 4.

Another exciting archaeological development is that Professor Lisa Nevett has been granted a permit to dig at Olynthos in Northern Greece. Olynthos was destroyed by Philip II of Macedon in 348 BCE, and was never built over by later settlers. For this reason, it is one of the best-preserved ancient city-states and has huge potential to answer some fundamental questions about civic and domestic architecture, the use of public space, and ancient city planning. For more details about this exciting project see Professor Nevett's report on p. 3. Finally, Professor Christopher Ratté is starting a new project at Notion in Turkey, and a report on the first season can be found on p. 4.

This Newsletter features reports on some of the highlights of last academic year, including Professor Basil Dufallo's conference on "Roman Error," the Context for Classics conference on "Classicism of the Black Atlantic" and the Midwestern Consortium on Ancient Religions on "The Religious Life of Things," organized by Professors Celia Schultz and Ian Moyer. Other highlights of last year included a two-day "Latin Weekend" (*Biduum Latinum Michiganiense*, p. 5) organized by Professor Gina Soter (and featuring the renowned Dr. Reginald Foster, former secretary to the Pope) and the Jerome lectures by Professor Aldo Schiavone on "Ancient and Modern Equality." See p. 7. Last but not least, Contexts for Classics coordinated a fantastic series of events on the façade of our very own building, Angell Hall, including a panel discussion of the architecture, epigraphy, and history of the building, as well as a sound and light show and a dance party! (Some pictures page p. 5.)

We are thinking long and hard about the value and future of Classical Studies in the 21st century, and this concern is reflected in Professor Sara Ahbel-Rappe's survey of recent Classics majors, conducted with the cooperation of two undergraduate students. As Professor Ahbel-Rappe writes on p. 6, the survey demonstrated that these graduates value their Classics degree primarily for its contribution to their development as human beings rather than any immediate practical gains. Classics graduates did not deny that their degree contributed to their mastery of certain work-related skills such as analytic thinking and effective writing, but for them, the benefits were deeper and had more to do with living life well.

The faculty and graduate students have also taken very seriously recent concerns about the campus climate, particularly for African-Americans and other minorities. To this end, we held a department-wide discussion of how we can maintain diverse and inclusive classrooms, and invited a consultant from the Center for Research on Teaching and Learning to facilitate it. Another way that we are trying to address issues of diversity and

INCLUDED IN NEWSLETTER

- ◆ Greek Sport
- ◆ Field Updates
- ◆ Translating the Façade of Angell Hall
- ◆ A Latin Weekend
- ◆ Survey Lessons
- ◆ Jeromes
- ◆ Matt Cohn, ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award
- ◆ Carrie Arbour Study Abroad 2014 Scholarships

KUDOS

Basil Dufallo Michigan Humanities Fellowship

Vassilis Lambropoulos published an article on CFC in the leading Greek leftist daily

Ruth Caston UMS Summer Institute Integrating the Arts

Sara Ahbel Rappe Institute for Humanities Fellowship

Lisa Nevett May Seminar on Sustainability

NOTION

BY CHRIS RATTÉ

A team of 10 architects and archaeologists, including two UM architecture professors and three IPCAA students as well as myself, spent 15 full and productive days at the archaeological site of Notion on the western coast of Turkey this summer. We were joined by Prof. Felipe Rojas of Brown University, as well as two students from the Joukowsky Institute of Archaeology at Brown, and by Yale Byzantinist Örgü Dalgıç.

Notion is a well-preserved and almost completely unexcavated Greek city in the region known in antiquity as Ionia. The name, Notion, “the place to the south,” refers to its relationship with another Ionian city, Kolophon, only 10 miles inland. Notion is also close to the well-known archaeological sites of Klaros, Ephesos, and Teos. The site was occupied from the early first millennium B.C. until the Middle Ages, and it played an important role in the history of the surrounding region in all periods, from the Ionian migration to the fall of the Roman Empire.



Fig. 2: Geophysical survey in progress

Notion covers an area of approximately 85 acres (just over twice the size of the UM central campus), enclosed by 2-mile long fortifications. The major monuments of the Classical city, such as the theater and the street-grid, are clearly visible in satellite imagery. This year was the first season of an anticipated 3-4 year program of archaeological survey, co-sponsored by Michigan and Brown. The initial goals of this program are to make a new map of the site, and to develop a long-term conservation plan. A battery of different mapping techniques are being used, including low-altitude photogrammetry and geophysical prospection, both of which were tested out this summer. Fig. 1 is one of a series of aerial photographs taken from a tethered blimp. We are using these photos to generate a detailed digital surface model of the site (with the help of an image-based 3-D modeling program made by the Russian software company, Agisoft). Fig. 2 shows IPCAA student Gregory Tucker deploying a fluxgate gradiometer, an instrument that measures minute disturbances in the earth’s magnetic field caused by buried objects and architectural features.

The goals of the site management plan are to secure the preservation of Notion and to pave the way for responsible development of its touristic potential, in connection both with the neighboring archaeological resources and with the attractive harbors on both sides of the ancient city. Fig. 3 is a first draft of a map of the site by Professors Geoffrey Thün and Kathy Velikov of the UM School of Architecture, presenting a preliminary scheme for access to and circulation around the ancient ruins.



Fig. 1: Aerial view of Notion looking northeast

Notion is an ideal laboratory for the study of the long-term history of a Greco-Roman city in Asia Minor, from the late Bronze Age through the Medieval era. We have already begun to make plans for our next season, and we are confident that the survey begun in 2014 will contribute valuable new information on major issues of contemporary west Anatolian archaeology, and help to secure the future of this invaluable cultural resource.

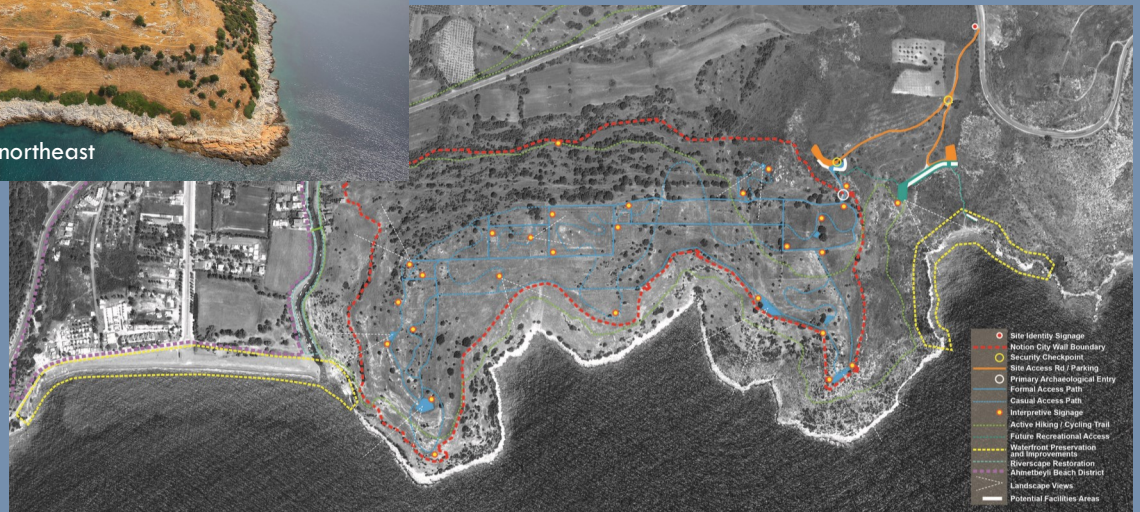


Fig. 3: Preliminary site management plan

Notion Site Management Masterplan
Preliminary Draft
June 14, 2014
NTS

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