



# INVENTORY

NEWS FROM THE JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

## ENGAGING WITH CHANGE

*Panta rhei*, as Heraclitus' famous axiom has it, aptly characterizes the Joukowsky Institute this semester more than ever, as minor and not-so-minor innovations are taking hold. Surely the most visible one is our new appearance online, as the Institute's new website went live at the start of the semester. Not only were the site's colors and visual layout carefully rebalanced, which included replacing the iconic wreath from Petra with a smart, stylized version, the site's contents were also thoroughly reviewed, updated, and reorganized over the summer by Sarah Sharpe, our newly minted Assistant Director.



A rather more substantial change is in the making as I sit down to write this short text, as the last two weeks of the semester are dominated by campus visits by candidates for the position of Assistant Professor of Roman Art, Archaeology, and Architecture. This search has been ongoing throughout the semester and is particularly exciting, because it will not only introduce a new colleague into Rhode Island Hall, but it will also deepen and cement our already close collaborations with the Department of the History of Art & Architecture. The appointment will be jointly made by the Institute and the Department, and the appointee will join both faculties. Watch this space for more news next semester!



Meanwhile, the undergraduate curriculum has seen two notable innovations being introduced and confirmed that offer exciting new opportunities for our concentrators. The apprenticeship program enables two students each term – three this semester – to work closely with a faculty member on their research. In this way, they may experience first-hand how research is carried out – some first experiences are described elsewhere in this issue. While this is a strictly local initiative of the Institute, the Institute has also joined the University-wide Engaged Scholarship Program, which was founded several years ago and now involves a dozen undergraduate programs.

The program is coordinated by the Swearer Center, which had first awarded Professors Yannis Hamilakis and Matthew Reilly

(former Visiting Assistant Professor, now at City College New York) a curriculum development grant to create additional engaged courses and to formulate an Engaged Scholarship program for the Archaeology undergraduate concentration. The program offers students the opportunity to enrich their academic training with social engagement by working with local communities, both in Rhode Island and abroad, through guided coursework, advising, and hands-on experience – in our case, related to students' involvement in archaeological projects, museum work, heritage, and ethics. The formal approval of the new engaged curriculum in Archaeology by the Swearer Center earlier this semester and the subsequent publication of requirements and criteria on the Institute's website not only confirm our membership of the Engaged Scholarship Program but also underscore the value we place on connecting archaeology and our own research with meaningful, thoughtful efforts to effect social change.



At the heart of the Institute's engaged program stands the highly successful and long-running outreach program Think Like an Archaeologist, which is run in close collaboration with the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, the RISD Museum, and our newest partner, the Rhode Island Historical Society. While the Institute's graduate students remain a cornerstone of the program, increasing numbers of undergraduate students take part – and this Fall our postdoctoral fellows and visiting faculty have joined students and museum staff in teaching sixth-graders at Nathan Bishop and Roger Williams Middle Schools. In a related initiative, we plan to expand our Archaeology of College Hill class and associated excavation this summer through the Summer@Brown program, making the experience available to more students and working to link it with internships for local high school students.



A final transformation I should not neglect to mention is that of Pinar Durgun from graduate student to Visiting Assistant Professor: Pinar is the recipient of a Dean's Faculty Fellowship and will take up the associated teaching post in mid-January. Her dissertation is described elsewhere in this issue.

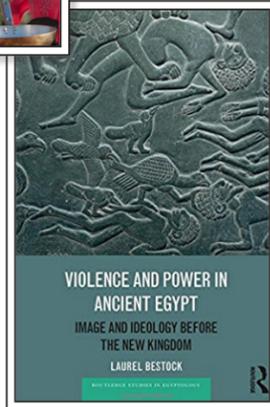
### Peter van Dommelen

Director, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World  
Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology  
Professor of Anthropology and Professor of Italian Studies (by courtesy)



## PICTURING POWER: ANNOUNCING BESTOCK'S NEW BOOK

JIAAW's Associate Professor Laurel Bestock's book has hit bookstores! *Violence and Power in Ancient Egypt: Image and Ideology before the New Kingdom* (Routledge) addresses the questions: why did Egyptians make images of violence, and how did those images operate? While the project originated in Bestock's long-standing interest in warfare, it came to focus on images because they offer what appears at first glance to be a perplexing disjunction: they look like they are straightforward illustrations of battle and other violent activities, such as the king bashing foreigners on the head, but they turn out to be extremely unreliable as historical records. The book focuses on the contexts within which this violent imagery was deployed in order to ask how it can illuminate the ways Egyptians understood the world, violence, kingship, and art itself. An image of a king smiting a foreigner with a mace operates fundamentally differently when it is carved on the interior walls of the king's own mortuary temple, invisible to almost any living human audience, and when it is carved on the living rock of the Sinai, above a mining site where the Egyptians engaged – probably violently – with a local population.



blank landscape to frame actors distinguished by their posture, their clothing, a weapon, and the viewers' foreknowledge of the inevitable action; both were initially deployed at a time of state formation as a means of disseminating and enshrining ideological arguments about power and the proper order of the world.

The contextual and comparative approaches allow this book to contribute nuance to broader questions about Egypt and beyond. Bestock cautions against too-simple understanding of dichotomies between Egypt/foreign, and order/chaos. The book demonstrates that the development of iconic images of violence was intrinsically linked with the rise of the Egyptian state in the late 4th millennium BCE, a deliberate tactic of the new state rather than a longer tradition. It shows that the manipulation of images of violence is widespread across cultures, forcing us to examine even in our world how images create and reinforce concepts of right and wrong.

The writing of *Violence and Power* was a process that engaged many at the Joukowsky Institute, from the members of a graduate seminar taught while the ideas were being incubated to the invaluable help of research assistants from the student body – Luiza Silva,

a graduating senior this year, deserves special recognition. And Bestock is by no means finished with the topic of violence; members of the Brown community should expect to see an ancient Egyptian battle waged on the university's campus this Spring, as the culmination of Bestock's undergraduate course, ARCH 1630 *Fighting Pharaohs: Ancient Egyptian Warfare*.

Each chapter of the book opens with a comparative example of violent imagery, ranging from prehistoric Australian rock art to Delacroix's *Liberty Leads the People* to Islamic State beheading videos. The parallels between the video imagery and the Egyptian smiting scene are particularly eye-opening and quite chilling: both were frequently repeated and always recognizable though never precisely the same; both used a

## BRIDGING EAST AND WEST, ACROSS OCEANS AND THE SEA

*Change and Resilience: The Occupation of Mediterranean Islands in Late Antiquity* was held at the Joukowsky Institute between the 1st and the 3rd of December, to explore the occupation of Mediterranean islands in Late Antiquity. A total of forty-one scholars, coming from a myriad of European countries participated, with a good number of those present being native to those islands.

In a still warm December in New England, the conference welcomed

Friday's keynote speaker Prof. David Abulafia from Cambridge University, whose talk juxtaposed the Mediterranean Sea with oceans. On Saturday, participants traveled from the most remote archipelago (Balearic Islands), to the East, finishing in Cyprus, sailing across the Mediterranean to understand the wonders and miseries of islands in Late Antiquity. A final session

on Sunday was devoted to understanding how not only the cities, the countryside, or the material culture transformed, but also how the minds of islanders changed with processes such as

Christianization. Harvard University's Prof. Michael McCormick closed the event by highlighting recent advances in the study of the bubonic plague through DNA sequencing. Peter Van Dommelen, John Cherry and Sue Alcock, as the sessions' discussants, provided a fresh view from "outsiders". Their comments, including some criticisms, were taken with good spirit, in a demonstration of the friendly atmosphere of this conference.



The weekend finished too soon, and the many lively conversations over coffee breaks, lunch or dinners had to stop. The conference ended with two wishes: first, the desire that the East and the West meet more often; and second, to build more bridges between US and European academia in the study of islands, particularly considering that the Mediterranean is such a diverse environment with many different teams and institutions working there.

The proceedings of the conference will be published by Oxbow Books in the Joukowsky Institute Publication Series.



## A NEW DOCTOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY

**Pinar Durgun**

*Mortuary Places, Rituals, and Memories: Anatolian Cemeteries in Context*

Cemeteries are places designated for a specific purpose: to bury the dead. But cemeteries are also places of remembering and forgetting; places of mourning and celebrating. Most importantly, cemeteries are social places, bringing together both old and young, dead and living.



This dissertation aims to understand the functions of cemeteries and mortuary practices in the social and symbolic life of Bronze Age Anatolian communities. By examining the role of landscape, rituals, and memories in the formation of mortuary traditions of Bronze Age Anatolia, Durgun evaluates how social and ritual change operated and were expressed materially in cemeteries, and how these expressions continued over time. Through an anthropological framework, she challenges the widely accepted argument in Anatolia that burials were direct expressions of an individual's wealth and identity. Durgun's research demonstrates that, despite local diversity in the styles of burial objects, mortuary practices shared clear similarities across sites in western and central Anatolia and over long periods of time. Mortuary data from third and second millennium cemeteries show that burial objects and forms were strongly influenced by social memories, local choices, and ritual practices more than by individuals' economic statuses. She concludes that the communal aspect of mortuary rituals and the location of cemeteries played key roles in maintaining the continuity of cemeteries as important social and symbolic places.

Dr. Durgun successfully defended her dissertation on Thursday, December 14th.

## THE PROFESSOR'S APPRENTICE

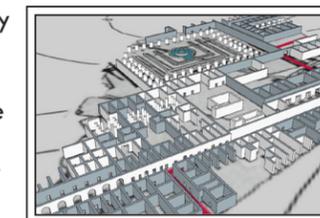
This fall semester, JIAAW's pilot apprenticeship program took off. The program pairs undergraduate Archaeology concentrators with Institute faculty members to conduct research on a topic of their choice. The hope is for the undergraduates to form stronger research skills, as well as help professors with existing projects.

Ciara Hayden, a senior concentrator, paired with Professor Peter Van Dommelen



to create a website for his decade-long project, the Terralba Rural Settlements Project. This involved Hayden analyzing field reports, funding reports, published articles, photographs, and diagrams to present the information simply, but in-depth. With the creation of this new site, information on past and future field seasons is now accessible in one place.

Professor Margaret Andrews and Michael Garth, a third-year concentrator, teamed up to create a digital 3D-model of a district in ancient Rome known as Subura. Each building was meticulously recreated by utilizing fragments of a map of the region created around 200 AD. Andrews's goal is to have the final model publicly available online, to approximate the experience of walking the streets of ancient Rome and facilitate a better understanding of what it felt like to be an ancient Roman.



Postdoctoral Fellow Kate Brunson and Jake Gardner, a senior concentrator, worked together on the Oracle Bone Project, which is an effort to assemble information about oracle bones from various sites across East Asia. Gardner's role was primarily to create reference images for oracle bones that have already been included in the database. These images will help researchers interpret the data that would otherwise be encoded only in words.

The three apprentices agree that this was an excellent opportunity to further relationships with faculty while pursuing their academic and professional goals.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Margaret M. Andrews  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Classical Archaeology

Laurel Bestock  
Associate Professor of Archaeology and Egyptology & Assyriology; and Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Sheila Bonde  
Chair, History of Art and Architecture  
Professor of History of Art and Architecture  
Professor of Archaeology

Katherine Brunson  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Archaeology

John F. Cherry  
Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology  
Professor of Classics; Professor of Anthropology

Yannis Hamilakis  
Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Professor of Modern Greek Studies

Eva Mol  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Archaeology

Sophie Moore  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Archaeology

Jessica Porter  
Operations and Events Coordinator

Felipe Rojas  
Assistant Professor of Archaeology and Egyptology & Assyriology

Andrew Scherer  
Associate Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology

Katja Schörle  
Visiting Assistant Professor and Assistant Editor of the *Journal of Roman Archaeology*

Sarah F. Sharpe  
Assistant Director

Peter van Dommelen  
Director, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology  
Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology  
Professor of Anthropology and Italian Studies

Carl Walsh  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Archaeology

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mary Beaudry  
Professor, Department of Archaeology, Boston University

Gina Borromeo  
Curator, Rhode Island School of Design Museum

Beshara Doumani  
Joukowsky Family Professor of Modern Middle East History; Professor of History; Director of Middle East Studies, Brown University

Susan Ashbrook Harvey  
Willard Prescott and Annie McClelland Smith  
Professor of Religious Studies, Brown University

Martha Sharp Joukowsky  
Professor Emerita, Brown University

Samantha Lash  
Doctoral Candidate in Archaeology and the Ancient World, Brown University

Ian Pearsall  
Class of 2018, Brown University

Gil Stein  
Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology, Oriental Institute and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

Peter van Dommelen  
Director, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology, Brown University



JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

BOX 1837  
BROWN UNIVERSITY  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02912



## CONNECTING COLLEGE HILL AND COMMUNITY

This Fall was the third year of excavation of the Sack family house at Moses Brown School in Providence, RI, for ARCH 1900: *The Archaeology of College Hill*. The thirteen students in this year's class excavated three trenches inside the footprint of the house, then processed and analyzed the finds. The course took them through all steps of a field project, from archival research and archaeological survey to the creation of final reports and presentations for the public.

The excavation turned up nearly 850 artifacts, including ceramics, glass, bone, industrial slag, bricks, nails, and slate roof tiles. Two of the trenches also contained portions of the house's exterior wall foundations of mortared local stone, which extended down at least a meter and were accompanied by significant amounts of architectural rubble. The most unexpected find of the season was the brass .22 bullet casing that turned up in the uppermost layer of Trench 5! Other contenders for "find of the season" include an iron spreading knife, a decorated shard of purple flat glass (possibly from a lamp), an ungulate scapula, and a mysterious blue painted rock.

One new development this semester was the listing of ARCH 1900 as an Engaged Scholarship course through Brown University's Swearer Center. In tandem with this, the course increased its emphasis on Providence's history and on historical archaeology in New England. Public engagement



was also prioritized, with several students creating public-facing final projects, including lesson plans about historical archaeology for use at Moses Brown School, a public website for the excavation, and an educational video on archaeological science.

Additionally, each student was responsible for helping the excavation's Facebook page ([facebook.com/archofcollegehill](https://facebook.com/archofcollegehill)) for one week. Their contributions included posts about the progress on site and what they learned about in lab, numerous photos of archaeologists in action, and several videos capturing the excavation and lab experience (including one breaking news style dramatization of one week's finds!).



Other highlights from the semester included a very well-attended Community Archaeology Day (despite some bad weather), a trip to learn how to analyze artifacts using pXRF, and a growing fan base of local kids (including JIAAW's own young archaeologists, Rose and Norah).

The class had its fair share of archaeology concentrators, but also included students concentrating in everything from neuroscience to English and from computer science to ceramic production. This diversity in academic backgrounds led to both a high degree of collaborative learning and a number of surprising epiphanies, such as the resigned-turned-excited proclamation that labwork is "meticulous... but rewarding!"