

# INVENTORY

NEWS FROM THE JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

## A NEW DIRECTOR FOR JIAAW'S NEW DECADE

2015 was always going to be a notable year in the Institute's history, because it marks the first decade of its existence, given that the Joukowsky Institute was formally established in 2004 and the first Director, Sue Alcock, took up office in January 2006. In the end, 2015 has become an even more momentous year, as Sue not only decided to step down from the directorship but also accepted a new position at the University of Michigan as special counsel to the President. Over this decade, Sue has taken the Institute from strength to strength, and together with a steadily expanding community of faculty, staff, postdocs and graduate students, she has built today's Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World into a world-renowned institution that plays a prominent role in Archaeology and Ancient World studies. We are all grateful for her hard work and leadership, and wish her well in her new position.

It is both an honor and a daunting prospect to take over the directorship from such an illustrious predecessor and this first semester has been as much a wonderful experience as a full immersion. To work with colleagues and students as engaging, creative and supportive as the JIAAW community is nothing short of inspiring, and the Institute's magnificent home in Rhode Island Hall continues to be a buzzing and versatile venue for a multitude of activities, as this semester's *Inventory* makes abundantly clear. The past three months have seen no less than three conferences, one doctoral defense, and well over three dozen lectures and seminars. Appropriately enough, the year has gone out with a bang, as two recent graduates, Alex Knodell and Tom Leppard, organized a conference in honor of John Cherry, and convened an impressive field of speakers. Together, they made for a memorable and intellectually exciting day and a half (see the following page).



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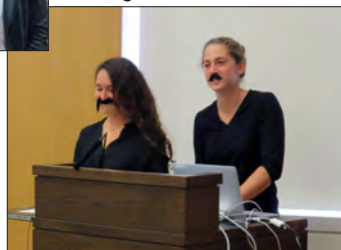
The Institute's activities are of course not limited to Rhode

Island Hall, and it is fitting, and probably no coincidence, that I started my tenure as director in July 2015 while away from campus on the island of Sardinia (Italy). Fieldwork is a fundamental and integral feature of the Joukowsky Institute, and most weeks outside the semesters are used for fieldwork of some sort by someone. Indeed, as I write these paragraphs in early December, Laurel Bestock and her team are about to leave for a month of excavation on the Nile island of Uronarti in northern Sudan.



Back in July, practically the entire Institute community was in fact somewhere in the Mediterranean, apart from a few small New World contingents. In Sardinia, a rich domestic trash deposit was excavated and fields were

walked over in Greece and France, while others hacked their way through Caribbean and Guatemalan jungle and Ionian *macchia*, or counted and measured bones and artefacts. Given the rich results that these projects are yielding, it is with good reason that the academic year at the Institute is



*de facto* opened with "Field Dirt", a lively series of short reports by JIAAW's faculty on our field seasons. The large crowds of students, faculty, and community members invariably drawn by these "Field Dirt" events underscore the central role fieldwork plays in

both the intellectual and social life of the Institute, and as a driving force academically and publicly, on and off campus.

Looking ahead to 2016, we can surely say that the coming year will bring challenges (one significant example being the unpredictability of international field projects and safety). But already I can see that the next year – and the Institute's next decade – will also be filled with conversation, exploration, and growth. I look forward to all of it.



### 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)

## CHERRYFEST 2015 AS SEEN BY ITS ORGANIZERS

On December 4 and 5, a conference was held at the Joukowsky Institute to honor the long, productive, and very much ongoing career of John F. Cherry, Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology at Brown University. This assembly of John's current and former students, colleagues, friends, and family featured some lighthearted reminiscences on Friday evening, followed by an academic program on Saturday oriented around the theme of *Regional Approaches to Society and Complexity* (full program found at [brown.edu/go/jfc](http://brown.edu/go/jfc)).

John's career in archaeology has been enormously varied in scope, its impact felt in many subfields – not least through his many students. Systematic regional survey, island archaeology, and the archaeology of complex societies all bear his stamp, especially in Aegean Prehistory. These long-running interests are supplemented by wide-ranging publications on the archaeology of rock & roll, Alexander the Great, archaeological provenience, and chipped stone, among many others.

Underlying most of John's diverse work there is, however, a great taproot: much of his research has been driven by a



desire to understand human social organization and behavior at the level of a readily-graspable and meaningful territorial framework. How and why did people organize themselves, or become organized, socially and spatially?



What are the best methods for understanding the emergence, operation, and decline of social systems? How can we make meaningful comparisons of such processes in different cultural contexts? How do we explain past social change at a regional scale? This concern with archaeology beyond the site, social structures at multiple scales, and how best to access and reconstruct their dynamics has lent a coherence to John's work.

The papers delivered on Saturday, which will be compiled into an edited volume for *Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology*, were divided into four sessions. The first two sessions focused on the Mediterranean world, with regional studies of social complexity in the Aegean Bronze Age and in the later Mediterranean (including studies based in Turkey, Greece, Sardinia, and the Balearic Islands). The afternoon sessions cast the net even wider to examine John's impacts on New World archaeology, specifically in the Caribbean and Mesoamerica, and theoretical and disciplinary issues of interest to all archaeologists, including publishing digital data, social organization, and the material worlds of humanity – and how we approach the study of them archaeologically.



From our perspective, the gathering could not have gone better. It was refreshing to see many old friends and to make new ones, and – thanks to the excellent papers – to participate in a truly stimulating and optimistic intellectual atmosphere. We are very grateful to everyone who made the event possible, and most of all to John for bringing us all together.

- Alex Knodell and Tom Leppard

## CHERRYFEST TAKE 2: JOHN CHERRY IS A BAG OF HEDGEHOGS

The event that took place in my honor on December 4-5 was not, as it turned out, the complete surprise for me that its organizers had planned. Nonetheless, it was entirely unexpected, immensely humbling and flattering, and hugely enjoyable (not only, I believe, for myself). When I first saw the list of speakers and their topics, I knew we were in for a good time. How often does one attend a get-together in which all the speakers are friends, colleagues, and former students, and at which all of them – no surprise – are speaking about topics that interest me deeply? I greatly look forward to the book that will soon emerge from the wonderful array of papers we heard.

One of the speakers likened the occasion to an extended family gathering, complete with its crazy old uncle, out-of-control cousins, and senior patriarch (the latter, unfortunately, being me). A better analogy might be a wedding, in which many folks come together to celebrate a central event, but from a wide range of different contexts – the variety of stages and corners of my academic life. My rough count of the speaker list shows that I have written or co-edited a book with four of them, co-authored papers with seven of them, served on or chaired PhD committees for 12 of them, and worked in the field with 14 of them. Many of them



have achieved distinction: two Disney Professors, the Director of the British School at Athens, two winners of the James R. Wiseman Book Award (for books emanating from dissertations written on my watch). Whether that has anything at all to do with me is a moot point: I have been exceptionally fortunate to spend my career teaching in three very strong archaeology programs that attract the cream of the crop of doctoral students.

And speaking of teaching, the organizers went out of their way to emphasize that this conference was not held in anticipation of some imminent event (aka, my retirement). As I suggested in my remarks, having taught for 13 years apiece at the Universities of Cambridge and Michigan, I should probably shoot for career symmetry by teaching at Brown for 13 years, if not longer.

In their initial invitation to speakers, Alex and Tom attempted to characterize my career in archaeology by referencing Archilochus' aphorism that "the fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing." Does my work draw on a multiplicity of concepts, or is it built around a single great idea? One of the speakers suggested that neither is true, but that I am "a bag of hedgehogs." I do not think I have ever received a greater compliment.

- John F. Cherry

## NEW DOCTOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World is delighted to announce the successful defense of a doctoral dissertation this fall:

### Müge Durusu-Tanrıöver

*Experiencing the Hittite Empire in Its Borderlands*

Dr. Durusu-Tanrıöver's dissertation was an exercise in studying the Hittite Empire outside-in: by focusing on the border regions rather than mainly relying on the core of the empire. The Hittite Empire dominated parts of what is now modern Turkey and Syria between the 17th and 12th centuries BCE. To investigate the Hittite Empire, Durusu-Tanrıöver studied Anatolia and northern Syria from a diachronic perspective spanning roughly a millennium, from ca. 2000-1180 BCE. The dissertation explores what the Hittite Empire looked like on the ground in different regions – how its power was projected by the central administration and how it was received by the inhabitants of the border regions. Succinctly, the questions driving this research were: How did Hittite imperialism operate in the different regions over which the Hittites ruled? How did those regions respond to Hittite rule?

Durusu-Tanrıöver responds to these questions through three case studies: the Yalburt region in inner-southwestern Anatolia, the city of Emar in northern Syria, and Cilicia in southern Anatolia. Through these cases and by identifying



what was important locally, she argues that the manifestations of the Hittite Empire were mainly conditioned by the pre-Hittite trajectories of these regions. The Hittite Empire aimed to integrate itself into networks that were already established as manifestations of power, instead of replacing them with new ones. Gradually, the varied manifestations of what was Hittite in the borderlands impacted the core of the empire. The borderlands transformed and eventually dissolved the empire.

Dr. Durusu-Tanrıöver successfully defended her dissertation on Monday, November 30th. As a recipient of the Brown University Graduate School's prestigious Deans' Faculty Fellowship, she has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Archaeology and will be teaching "From Gilgamesh to Hektor: Heroes of the Bronze Age" at Brown this spring.



## BONING UP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Over the past two years Peter van Dommelen and JIAAW doctoral student Sam Lash have been working together with Yongsong Huang and James Dillon from the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences to integrate environmental research with archaeological investigations at Brown University and beyond. Focused on the complex relationships between human and natural systems, this interdisciplinary team is hoping to shed new light on the intricate ways in which humans respond to changing demographic, economic, and environmental conditions.

Work at Brown thus far has focused on a preliminary set of recently deposited bones from across North America, and case studies from Brown faculty-run archaeological projects at S'Urachi, Sardinia; Gilsbakki,



Iceland; Cape Krusenstern, Alaska; and the Middle Usumacinta River Basin, Guatemala. The bones found at archaeological sites are particularly useful in climate research due to the relative certainty of their age that comes from their archaeological context. Reconstruction of climate conditions from these buried bones will allow the team to develop insights into climate and environmental impacts on ancient societies and vice versa – such as patterns of resource supply and demand, changes in agrarian techniques and production practices, economies, and the formation and resilience of complex societies around the world.

A 2015 Internal Seed Grant awarded by the University supports this relatively new collaboration – which has been driven by mutual participation in the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES), and is now extended to include Andrew Scherer in the Department of Anthropology and Kevin Smith of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology.



## FACULTY AND STAFF

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Laurel Bestock  
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Sheila Bonde  
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Professor of History of Art and Architecture  
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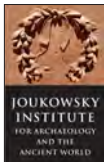
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## A TASTE (AND A WHIFF) OF ANCIENT CUISINE

What's that smell? Oh, that's just ARCH 0775, Postdoctoral Fellow Tate Paulette's course, "Farm to Table: Foodways and Gastro-Politics in the Ancient Near East". On the first day of the semester, every inch of Rhode Island Hall was filled with the pungent aroma of raw garlic. Approximately 40 enthusiastic undergraduates were engaged in an effort to recreate the dish known as *mersu*, a bread-like delicacy that was served at the courts of Mesopotamian kings nearly 4,000 years ago. Equipped with a few terse descriptions preserved in cuneiform documents, an array of nearly



twenty potential ingredients, and their own culinary intuition, the students prepared batters and doughs that were taken home and baked to produce modern interpretations of one of the oldest known dishes of *haute cuisine*. And, as an in-class taste test during the following class period demonstrated, the results were (mostly) delicious.



Over the course of the semester, the students embarked on a wide-ranging exploration of foodways across the ancient Near East – Mesopotamia, Egypt, Syro-Palestine, Anatolia, and Persia – with a particular focus on the politics of food or gastro-politics. Class meetings were spiced up with food tastings and hands-on activities. Drawing inspiration from the early winemakers depicted in Egyptian tomb scenes, for example, students crushed grapes with their bare feet. They also crushed and pressed olives to extract olive oil, mimicking the industrial-scale production revealed by the excavation of Iron Age oil presses in modern-day Israel.

The highlight of the course was a collaborative cooking project in which groups of 5-6 students were tasked with planning, preparing, and consuming a Mesopotamian meal. Recipes dating to the Old Babylonian period (c. 1700 BC)

provided guidance in the preparation of some dishes, such as Red Stew and Tu'hu Beet Broth, but even these better known dishes demanded a significant component of educated guesswork and creative improvisation. Across the board, the groups rose to the challenge and were able to share their (mostly) successful culinary creations with friends (and family) at a series of intimate Mesopotamian feasts.

