

INVENTORY

NEWS FROM THE JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

ONE YEAR OLDER AND WISER

Archaeologists think a great deal about how things age. The Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World is now about six years old and is finishing its first full year in our new home in Rhode Island Hall. Other milestones of the year include the various activities outlined in this newsletter: the start of an exciting new field project, on Montserrat in the Caribbean, the third of our Joukowsky Institute Archaeology Colloquia.

A real sign of the Institute's 'growing up', however, was our hosting of TAG (Theoretical Archaeology Group) in late April/May of this year. TAG, a national body founded 'with the aim of promoting debate and discussion of issues in theoretical archaeology', is a long-running British archaeological institution, first meeting in 1979. Just recently, TAG jumped the Atlantic and Brown University was the third U.S. sponsor of the event.

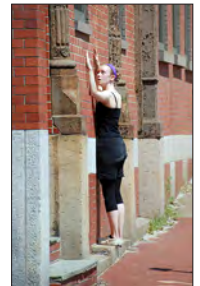


Over 250 archaeologists, drawn from all over the United States, Argentina, Great Britain, China, Germany, South Africa and more, attended the conference. Although the gathering was eclectic in nature, its overarching theme was 'The Location of Theory' with sessions exploring the variable nature and use of archaeological theory in different parts of the globe, as well as debating the universal utility of 'western' theoretical models to archaeological practice. We were particularly happy, for example, to welcome several Chinese archaeologists, both from the Mainland and Taiwan, in a session reflecting openly and critically on the history and direction of Chinese archaeological thinking and its relationship to theory in Euro-American archaeology.



The conference began with a rousing plenary session (introduced by an even more rousing burst of Taiko

drumming!) in which an international team of archaeologists pondered the conference theme, and engaged in a lively dialogue with the famed cultural critic Homi Bhabha of Harvard University (seen below left). Ably chaired by Nick Shepherd from the University of Cape Town, the plenary session ran from the profound to the highly amusing and kicked off the entire weekend with style.



Running parallel, and responding, to the academic sessions was a series of arts events, ranging from archaeologically-inspired films projected on our walls, to the transformation of a city street into a museum without walls. Brown undergraduate Elise Nuding (above) performed a site-specific dance in a derelict lot in downtown Providence, while Irish artist Fiona Hallinan, in *Roadscore: Invisible String*, created a site-responsive installation of materials and sounds relating to the demise and demolition of an original stretch of highway I-195.

Perhaps the most eye- (and ear-) popping element of the conference came with 'Wear Is the Location of Theory: An Audio Schematic of TAG 2010', in which bizarrely clad students (looking like a rather reprobate combination of angels and astronauts) captured and continually replayed 'sound bites' of the conference. Blasts of Homi Bhabha's plenary remarks, for example, were — somewhat unexpectedly — to be reheard in conference restrooms.



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TAG was a roaring success, though we say so ourselves. But it was a great deal of work — involving well over a year's worth of planning — and that above all testifies to the growth, both in numbers and in community, of the Joukowsky Institute. It was a remarkable collective effort.

Sue Alcock
 Director, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World
 Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology
 Professor of Classics; Professor of Anthropology

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SURVEY AND LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY ON MONTSERRAT

Many parts of Montserrat's landscape are reminiscent of a modern-day Pompeii thanks to the cataclysmic eruptions of the Soufrière Hills volcano, which began on this small (100 km²) Caribbean island in 1995, and continue today. The volcano's pyroclastic flows, ashfalls, and lahars have now completely buried the capital city of Plymouth and destroyed dozens of villages, forcing two-thirds of the island's population to relocate abroad. Countless archaeological sites too have been damaged or destroyed within the "exclusion zone," the southern half of the island to which access is now prohibited. Today Montserrat is undergoing rapid change in the island's northern area that contains a rich archaeological heritage spanning the past 2,500 years, little of which has been studied in any detail.



During winter break 2010, JIAAW archaeologists traveled to Montserrat in response to the threats that the increasingly active volcano poses to its archaeological resources. The



team, co-directed by Professor John Cherry and Dr. Krysta Ryzewski, included current graduate students Thomas Leppard and Elizabeth Murphy, former JIAAW Visiting Assistant Professor Elissa Faro, and Douglas

Anderson, an archaeology student from Montserrat. Over the course of 10 days, the Survey and Landscape Archaeology on Montserrat (SLAM) team conducted intensive pedestrian

survey in the non-exclusion zone in the north of the island, recording archaeological sites in areas most at risk from resettlement and redevelopment. The promising results of this pilot survey included the documentation of seven settlement or industrial sites (ranging from the 7th to early 20th century), and over two dozen isolated archaeological features. These initial findings will form the basis of future survey seasons, beginning in summer 2010, with funding from the National Geographic Society / Waitt Family Foundation and JIAAW.

With a combination of expertise in survey methods, insular networks, historical archaeology, material culture, prehistoric economies, and GIS, the SLAM team brings a unique mixture of archaeological backgrounds to bear on this project's scope. Such an approach to gathering a holistic view of the past (from prehistory to the present), through a single intensive survey project, has not been attempted elsewhere in the Caribbean; it should put Montserrat at the fore of innovative archaeological methodology and cultural resource management. This archaeological diversity is complemented by a collaborative heritage management and educational outreach plan, involving close coordination between SLAM and Montserrat's National Trust, GIS Centre, and Community College.



For more information about SLAM and Montserrat, visit: <http://proteus.brown.edu/montserratarchaeology/Home>

Ancient Warfare on the Main Green

Who won the Battle of Qadesh? In antiquity, the answer depended on whom you asked, for both the Egyptians and the Hittites claimed victory in this thirteenth century BCE struggle. By contrast, everyone won in our Battle of Qadesh, reenacted on Brown's Quiet Green in April 2010, from the cardboard-wielding participants to the numerous enraptured spectators. Sidewalks were transformed into the Orontes River, watermelons into the decapitated heads of Hittites smote by pharaoh, and cries of 'Ramesses sucks!' filled the air. Kudos to the class of "Fighting Pharaohs: Ancient Egyptian Warfare", and to Assistant Professor Laurel Bestock, for their entertaining — but also scholarly rigorous — performance. The battle has been featured on local television news, the *Providence Journal*, and *Brown Alumni Magazine*.



More on the battle and the course at <http://proteus.brown.edu/fightingpharaohs10/10223>

NEW DOCTORS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World is delighted to announce the successful defense of two doctoral dissertations this year.

Katherine Marino

Setting the Womb in its Place:

Toward A Contextual Archaeology of Graeco-Egyptian Uterine Amulets



Dr. Marino's dissertation concerns itself with Graeco-Egyptian uterine amulets, a type of medico-magical tool used to combat bodily suffering in the Eastern Roman Empire from the 1st-5th centuries AD. The accompanying catalogue has assembled the largest detailed corpus of these amulets to date, allowing for innovative approaches to be deployed on and new interpretations to be drawn from the data. The lack of archaeological context for all but one amulet in the corpus has hindered their study by modern scholars. Dr. Marino's work attempts to insert them back into relevant cultural spheres by connecting them to the medical, philosophical, magical and other amuletic traditions of the societies from which they evolved. By restoring such links larger questions can be broached about what purpose the amulets were intended to serve, how they may have been utilized and what they might be able to say about gender in the culture which created and used them.



Dr. Marino successfully defended her dissertation on Monday, April 12th.

Sarah Dawson

Social Memory and Propaganda in Fifth Century Rome

Dr. Dawson's dissertation argues that propaganda was alive and well in Late Antique Rome. In a city struggling to maintain its significance, the use of small portable objects — coins, contorniates, diptychs, and calendars — was essential in the manipulation of social memory. In the fifth century, the Western Empire suffered several setbacks. It is in this period that the emperors refrained from campaigning, the city of Rome was sacked by the Visigoths and the Vandals, and the provinces of Britannia, Gallia, Hispania, and Africa were lost. From the emperor to the lowliest local official, messages of effective governing, military prowess, the changing religious climate, and the glory of Roma were disseminated throughout the city. These messages, meant to convince the people at Rome of its stability, were unable, in the end, to prevent its demise.



Dr. Dawson successfully defended her dissertation on Tuesday, May 4th.

To learn more about the Institute's events, faculty, fieldwork, and activities, visit our websites, at www.brown.edu/joukowskyinstitute and proteus.brown.edu/joukowskyinstitute.

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Family Librarian of Middle-Eastern Studies

JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE ARCHAEOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

The *Terra Mobilis: Fire & Ice* colloquium was held December 4-6, 2009. The event parsed changing environments through examination of volcanoes and glaciers as seemingly antipodal, extreme examples of mobile, mutable, and potentially dangerous Natures.

Discussion was firmly attached to archaeological method, theory, and data. Presentations and discussions, however, also intentionally and additionally drew upon insights provided from the arts, earth sciences, and other social sciences in order to



practice, and not just invoke, multi-disciplinary and intra-disciplinary approaches to the study of the planet and how human life intersects with it.

The dynamic keynote speech by ethnographer Julie Cruikshank (at left, with Caroline Karp) included recent fieldwork from her long-term

engagement with indigenous groups in the Canadian Arctic; the capping paper was provided by Icelandic philosopher

Páll Skúlason. Some of many highlights included a satellite phone call from planetary scientist Jim Head from the Dry Valleys of Antarctica (see below, with Karen Holmberg), a performative lecture by artist Ilana Halperin, and a basalt 'lava' pour at the RISD



foundry by sculptor Keith Edmier. The event drew a diverse audience of JIAAW members, Brown community members from departments such as religious studies and environmental studies, URI volcanologists, local artists, and the Harvard-based Artists in Context organization.



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