

MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, SUMMER 2017

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University of Arizona

under the auspices of
The American School of Classical Studies at Athens



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Introduction and Acknowledgements

The Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project conducted the second of its five-year program from June 14 to July 30, 2017 as a synergasia project between the University of Arizona and the Ephoreia of Arcadian Antiquities in Tripolis, working under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. The co-directors of the project are Dr. Anna Karapanagiotou, Director of the Ephoreia of Arcadian Antiquities, Dr. David Gilman Romano and Dr. Mary Voyatzis, both of the University of Arizona. The work was made possible through the generosity of individuals, private foundations, and Greek-American supporters from the United States. The financial support of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Karabots of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. and Ms. Annette Merle-Smith of Princeton, New Jersey continues to be of

major importance. The project also received important recent support from the 1984 Foundation and Institute for Aegean Prehistory. The Cultural Association of Lykaion Zeus of Ano Karyes and its President, Mr. Kyriakos Karagiannis, and its former President Mr. Christos Koumoundouros, have continued to support all of our efforts in Arcadia. For the second year, the owner of the Ambeliona Retreat in the village of Ambeliona, Messenia, Spyros Angelopoulos, also provided food and accommodation at a greatly reduced price for our entire team. This was our fourteenth continuous year of work at the site of Mt. Lykaion, and our second excavation season after five study seasons, 2011-2015, following five years of excavation, 2006-2010, and two years of preliminary geophysical and topographical survey, 2004-2005.



2017; view from the Ash Altar toward Megalopolis

2017 University of Arizona Team

List of Participants:

Dr. Kyle Mahoney
Dr. Dan Diffendale
Lauren Alberti
Stephen Czujko
Thalia Diamantopoulou
Michaela Downing
Christine Elis
Alexander Ford
Christian Frelinghuysen
Philip Griffith
Audrey Gusick
Juan Carlos Gutierrez
Tyler Hou
John Keck
Kya Kerner
Elizabeth Keyser

Kate Klesner
Christina Kolb
Stephanie Martin
Rebekah McKay
Kelly Moss
Lauren Oberlin
Titus Ogilvie-Laing
Jenna Otto
Sofia Paraskevopoulou
Manolis Petrakis
Clare Rasmussen
Billie Rolla
Jay Stephens
Valia Tsikritea
Shyama Vermeersch
Aimee Weber
Alena Wigodner

Jaden Wood
Paraskevi Zafeiri
Grace Welch-Zaricor

Program leaders:

Dr. David Gilman Romano
Dr. Mary E. Voyatzis
Dr. Anna Karapanagiotou
Mr. Tom Keating

Visiting scholars:

Dr. Phil Sapirstein
Dr. Irene Romano
Dr. Eleanna Prevedorou
Dr. Greg Hodgins
Dr. Jason Kirk
Dr. Susan Mentzer

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Preparation and Lab Work

In preparation for the excavation season, eleven of us worked in our apotheke, located at 32 Heroon Polytechnion in Tripolis, opposite the Archaeological Museum, between June 11-14. We worked to finish the washing and cataloguing of pottery from the end of the 2016 season as well as hosting several of our scholars in the apotheke who were studying their assigned material for publication. We lived to the north of the city of Tripolis in Ano Kardara, near Levidi.

Excavation Season - Altar

During the summer of 2017 we resumed our excavation work in the Sanctuary of Zeus, both at the altar of Zeus at the southern peak of the mountain, and also in the mountain meadow, 200 m lower in elevation. We fielded a total team of 35 students and staff and we worked together again with our Greek colleagues from the Arcadia Ephoreia of Antiquities (see below). We used the Pneumatiko Kentro in the Village of Ano Karyes as our lab and our headquarters during the season, as we have done in previous years. At the southern summit of the mountain, we continued our excavation from last year in the area of the human burial close to the center of the altar of Zeus. There we uncovered a great deal of Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery, and many offerings, including more fragments of Mycenaean terracotta figurines. We also excavated a test trench in the altar in order to collect ancient bone fragments for a study of paleomobility of animals being brought to the altar for sacrifice. We are interested in learning from where the sacrificial animals originate, and whether or not they come from distant regions of the Peloponnesos.

With the kind financial support of Cole and Jeannie Davis of Tucson, we were able to install a high-speed internet antenna on the church of Profitis Elias, at the southern peak of the mountain. The antenna situated at



Above: Bekah McKay, Registrar, sorting pottery from the Altar.



Below: The high-speed internet antenna and solar panels at the church of Profitis Elias.

the hippodrome from 2016 continued to serve the lower sanctuary. The Davis' generous contribution also provided additional digital tablets for the excavators and the topographical survey team.

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Top Left - View of the Corridor and its southern staircase exposed, southwest of the Hippodrome.



Excavation near the southwestern extremity of the Stoa, searching for the Sanctuary of Pan.

Excavation Season - Lower Sanctuary

In the mountain meadow, site of the lower sanctuary, we continued to work in the 30 m long stone corridor, which extends from the eastern wall of the administrative building towards the north. This passageway, built in the middle of the fourth century B.C., likely served as the route for athletes to walk from the heart of the lower sanctuary to the hippodrome and stadium. We cleared a considerable portion of the middle section of the passageway finding a good deal of Hellenistic pottery and many roof tile fragments. We also continued to clear the corridor at its north end, expanding the trench toward the location of the stone arch.

In the space between the stoa, the fountain and the administrative building, we continued to excavate a deep trench looking for what may be the Sanctuary of Pan reported by the 2nd century CE traveler Pausanias. The area of interest is characterized by a 22-meter diameter circular feature, which was made visible by a recent satellite image. In this trench we discovered several large limestone blocks, a marble block, and a portion of a water conduit. Previously in 2016 we had found two terracotta water channels and what may be a lustral water basin. Pottery dating from the 4th century BC has also been discovered at the lowest excavated levels.

We continued our work in the area of the western end of the stoa, where we discovered several rooms of Late Roman and Early Byzantine date. Pottery, coins and metal tools were found in the building suggesting that it may have served as a workshop. Clearly this is a later use within the 4th century BC colonnaded stoa.

We are very interested in the later history of the sanctuary since we have ceramic evidence that suggest that the site was occupied during the early, middle and late Byzantine periods, roughly 400 - 1400 CE. The

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Excavation Season - Lower Sanctuary

Greek archaeologist, K. Kourouniotis working in the early 20th century found evidence of Byzantine graves as well as some evidence of occupation in and around the stoa. The topographical survey team under the direction of Philip Griffith worked at both the ash altar of Zeus and in the lower sanctuary supporting the archaeological work as well as undertaking specific tasks.

The architectural team under the direction of Alex Ford worked on the architectural documentation of the newly exposed walls in the stoa, the blocks and drains of the 'Sanctuary of Pan', the blocks of the corridor and the representation of rubble walls at the ash altar of Zeus.



Alena Wigodner and Lauren Oberlin cleaning the stoa foundations.



Foundation remains of the Late Roman, or Byzantine construction inside the ancient Stoa, uncovered in 2017.



Philip Griffith, Assistant Field Director for Topographical Survey, with reflector in hand.

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Arkadian Ephoreia Excavation

The Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project is a Greek-American research program, conducted under the direction of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports.

The Greek side of the project is conducted by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Arkadia, directed by Dr. Anna - Vassiliki Karapanagiotou, Director of the Ephorate. The permanent and the temporary staff of the Ephorate of Antiquities contributed to the successful implementation of the research program. Their names are listed below.

In the summer of 2016 the Greek team initially focused its work on excavation in the area of the bath facility to the northeast of the hippodrome. The bath served the athletes' needs during the ancient festival. In 2016 trenches were initiated to locate the southern wall of



Ilias Iliopoulos, Giorgos Tsamilis, working in the bath facility, 2016.

the reservoir area as well as the corridor leading from the baths to the hippodrome. The excavation results suggest that an oblong access area once existed to the south of the reservoir. Under the foundations of this area the remains of a low semicircular structure covered with rubble was identified, founded on bedrock. It is possible that the structure is related to an older phase of activity in the area before the 4th century B.C. Black glaze pottery found in the upper layers dates to the 4th century B.C., while earlier activity is documented possibly from the late archaic period (7th - 6th century B.C.) Other finds include a small sized die of sandstone, numbered on each side.

At the same time in 2016, the Greek team participated actively in the excavations of a human burial that was discovered in the center of the ash altar of Zeus at the southern peak of Mt. Lykaion (see above). The



Greek Team 2017: Ilias Iliopoulos, George Tzemis, Theoni Christophilou, Nikoletta Plataniti, Anna Karapanagiotou, Tasos Kehagias, Kostas Botis.

2017 Arkadia Ephoreia Team

Program Leader:

Δρ. Καραπαναγιώτου Άννα Βασιλική

List of Participants:

Σωτηροπούλου Ιωάννα
Χριστοφίλου Θεώνη

Σωτηροπούλου Δήμητρα

Δρ. Καρατζάς Γεώργιος

Κωνσταντίνα Γιαννέ

Πλατανίτη Νικολέττα

Τζέμης Γεώργιος

Γεώργιος Τσαμίλη

Γεώργιος Τσούκας

Τερζής Δημήτριος
Καρακατσάνης Χρήστος
Ηλιόπουλος Ηλίας

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Arkadian Ephoreia Excavation

supervising archaeologists were T. Christofilou and J. Sotiropoulou. Ms Adam Sotiria, the Director of the Department of Conservation of the Ephorate, oversaw all the activities relating to the recovery, conservation, and transportation of the skeleton to the Wiener Laboratory at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. The permanent staff of the Archaeological Museum of Tripoli supported the work of the American team during the study which took place in the apotheke of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in Tripoli.

During the summer of 2017, the Greek team focused its work on the excavation of the ash altar of Zeus, concentrated in one of the test trenches excavated at the beginning of the 20th century, by the archaeologist K. Kourouniotis. This trench, to the west of the man-made platform of stones was investigated and expanded. When the excavation of the trench was completed, bedrock was found without any indication of architecture. Pottery collected included representation from the Early Helladic to the Classical era (approximately 3000 - 300 B.C.), tile fragments with glaze, metal and ceramic offerings as well as coins with many interesting numismatic types.

Throughout the duration of the program, in accordance with the needs arising from the execution of the work, the Service vehicles of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Arkadia supported the team's transportation and the transfer of the archaeological findings for storage and study.

The Ephorate of Antiquities of Arkadia ensures the protection of the site throughout the year. For increased security, in 2017, three seasonal guards were hired for the winter months. Furthermore, the permanent and temporary staff of the Ephorate performs regular tours at the archaeological site and regulates its proper functioning.



Theoni Christofilou, Ioanna Sotiropoulou, and Kyle Mahoney working in Trench Z during the 2016 season.



Eleanna Prevedorou excavating the human remains in Trench Z, 2016.

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Andreas Doukouris, Dionysios Papadopoulos, Evangelos Giannakouras, Anna-Vassiliki Karapanagiotou, Petros Tatoulis, David Gilman Romano



The Wiener Lab at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens



Visit of the Director of the American School of Classical Studies. From left: Margie Miles, David Gilman Romano, Jenifer Neils, Director, Anna-Vassiliki Karapanagiotou, Mary Voyatzis.

Arcadian Ephoreia Excavation

The conservation of the human osteological material in the Wiener laboratory of the American School of Classical Studies was undertaken by the Head Director of the Department for the Conservation of Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sport, Ms. Maria Mertzani together with the conservator Ms. Politimi Loukopoulou. The sampling of bone, the packaging and the transfer to the laboratories of the University of Arizona where analyses were conducted, were carried out under the supervision of the Scientific Staff of the Ephorate and according to relevant licenses from the Central Services of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. The Government of the Peloponnese undertook the funding of the Greek scientific team during the new five-year excavation-research program (2016-2020). Following the joint signing of the relevant Programmatic Convention on Cultural Development between the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Region of Peloponnese, the funds will be available after 2018.

During the excavations of 2017, the Regional Governor of Peloponnese, Mr. Petros Tatoulis, the Prefect of Arkadia, Mr. Evangelos Giannakouras, the Mayor of Megalopolis, Mr. Dionysios Papadopoulos and their associates visited the archaeological site of Mt. Lykaion. During their visit, they were guided by the Director of the project, Dr. Anna-Vassiliki Karapanagiotou.

Very important to the success of the project during Summer 2017 was the support of the president, Mr. Kyriakos Karayiannis, the Board of Directors and the associates of the Cultural Association “Lycaeus Zeus” of Ano Karyes, all of whom encouraged the efforts of the Greek team by providing hospitality in the village of Ano Karyes.

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Parrhasian Heritage Park Field School

The seventh Parrhasian Heritage Park Field School was held for thirteen days between August 3-15 under the direction of Dr. David Gilman Romano. Dr. Nota Pantzou was in charge of Ethnographic Studies and Mr. Mark Davison served as Director of Park Planning. This year we had a total of 9 students, 4 Greek and 5 US students. The Field School is supported by the Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project and the Parrhasian Heritage Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) charitable foundation in the U.S. The work of the Park Field School was divided into several categories.

Most of the effort of the Field School this year was devoted to installing way-finding and trail-head signs on the Trail of Pan, between Ano Karyes in Arcadia and Neda in Messenia, and on the Trail of Zeus, that circumnavigates Mt. Lykaion, and to affix the new metal signs to the wooden posts. The participants of the Field School also attended and participated in the 12th Modern Lykaion Games on August 13.

During the sixth Parrhasian Heritage Park Field School in 2016, Ioanna Pachi, a student from the Department of Management of the Cultural Environment and New Technologies of the University of Patras, attended the Parrhasian Heritage Park Field School in Ano Karyes during her internship in the Ephoreia on behalf of the Arcadian Ephoreia of the Greek Archaeological Service.

Thanks to the generous donation of Mr. James H. Ottaway, Jr. the general operating expenses of the 2017 Field School were covered in full.

Further information about the summer is found on our two websites at <http://lykaionexcavation.org> and <http://parrhasianheritagepark.org>



Trailhead sign marking the beginning of the Zeus Loop Trail in the lower sanctuary.

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Opening ceremony for the 2017 Lykaia, conducted in the ancient Temenos.



The Parrhasian Heritage Park Field School team installs a trailhead sign in Neda.



Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project team, 2017, with the ash altar of Zeus in the background.

2017 Parrhasian Heritage Park Field School

List of Participants:

Eleni Tzounopoulou
Fani Kazantzi
Thalia Diamantopoulou
Vasilis Barkoulas
Kelly Moss
Lauren Alberti
Alexander Ford
Kya Kerner
Jenna Otto

Program Instructors:

Dr. David Gilman Romano
Dr. Mary Voyatzis
Dr. Nota Pantzou
Dr. Costas Cassios
Mr. Mark Davison
Ms. Eleni Tzounopoulou

Visiting Speakers:

Dimitris Papakonstantinou
Christos Liagouras

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We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following, who have contributed to the ongoing success of the project:

CIRCLE OF ZEUS:

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Karabots
Ms. Annette Merle-Smith
Ms. Dorothy Dinsmoor
Mr. James H. Ottaway, Jr.
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Arch Brown
Ms. Susan W. and Mr. Cummins Catherwood, Jr.
Ms. Betty Edmonson
Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Hueber
Ms. Nancy Jensen
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Keating
Mr. Brian Kelly
Mr. John J. Medveckis
Mr. and Mrs. J. Barton Riley
Mr. and Mrs. Cole Davis

FRIENDS OF MT. LYKAION:

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Mr. J. Richard Duffield
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Foster
† Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ferro
Ms. Adaline Frelinghuysen
Mr. Frederick Frelinghuysen
Col. and Mrs. Thomas Guenther
Mr. and Mrs. James Hays
Dr. Eleni Hasaki
Ms. Janis and Hermann Hastreiter
Ms. Ginny Healy
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jennings
Mr. J.P. Jones
Ms. Claire Kolins
Ms. Sharon Langley
Mr. Leon Limperis
Mr. and Mrs. William Lomicka
Mr. Christopher Klauser Long

FRIENDS OF MT. LYKAION:

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Mr. Robert McQuiston
Mr. and Mrs. William Moeller
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mundheim
Ms. Jamie Musselman
Mr. Alexander Nagel
Ms. Sallie Naylor
Mr. Ned Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Terry O'Connor
† Ms. Dorothy Olson
Ms. Sandra L. Olson
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Ott
Mr. Daniel J. Peters & Dr. Annette Kolodny
Dr. George Papanicolaou
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Ms. Karen Robinson
Dr. and Mrs. David Gilman Romano
† Mr. and Mrs. George Rosenberg
Dr. Peter Salomon & Ms. Patricia Morgan
Mr. Curtis Scaife
Ms. Cita Scott & Mr. Harry George
Mr. Sidney Searles*
Ms. Heather Sigworth
Dr. Ann Steiner
Ms. Janin Struminger
Ms. Jane Swicegood
Ms. Beatrice F. van Roijen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wynn
Ms. Margaret Wilson
Mrs. Peter Yiannos
Mr. Jerome B. Spier
Ms. Vasiliki M. Spier
Ms. Angel Voyatzis
Dr. Mary E. Voyatzis
Mr. Daniel Wachtler

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To donate to the project, visit <https://anthropology.arizona.edu/donate> and indicate "Friends of Mt. Lykaion" in the memo field. Or, checks should be made out to the UA Foundation/Anthropology, indicating the "Friends of Mt. Lykaion" in the memo and may be mailed to the University of Arizona School of Anthropology, 1009 E. South Campus Drive • Tucson, Arizona 85721.



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 Graduate Group in the Art and Archaeology of the
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FOUNDATIONS

The Karabots Foundation in honor of Constance
 Chrisomalis Karabots from Anavriti, Sparta
 (which overlooks Mt. Lykaion) and George
 Karabots of Malandreni, Argos
 The Arete Foundation
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