

INVENTORY

NEWS FROM THE JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

INTRODUCING *INVENTORY*

The word 'inventory' often carries with it connotations of business, of practical listings and stock takings. Yet it originally comes, via various etymological twists and turns, from the Latin *invenire*, to find. This combination of providing an account of people, practices and things, coupled with the notion of finding and discovery, makes 'inventory' a good name for a newsletter devoted to keeping people informed about the activities of the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World.



and individuals of the Joukowsky Institute. Future editions will speak of our numerous field projects, our dynamic electronic pedagogic resources, our video archives and student documentaries, our developing ties with other departments at Brown and further afield, our international connections with countries from Armenia to China, to Turkey and Iraq.

Finding a 'brand image' to represent a community as wide-ranging and deliberately open as the Joukowsky Institute was not easy. What we chose in the end was, at first blush, a fine 'classical'-looking

object: a block with a beautiful ornamental (perhaps triumphal) wreath in low relief, with a delicate ribbon dangling as if blown by the wind. Yet this relief is not from the heartland of the Mediterranean, but was found during the long-running Brown excavations at Petra in Jordan. And it was no cherished *objet*, but a reused architectural element, casually built — upside down — into a much later Byzantine wall. Our brand image therefore was chosen to remind us of the need always to consider connections and relationships across the ancient world, to study things in context, and to remain open to the unexpectedness of the archaeological record.



The Joukowsky Institute was founded in 2004 and thus is still a relatively new and evolving creation. We are, for example, still building and growing in terms of faculty and student numbers, and we will soon be moving into a building renovated specifically for our purposes on the Brown campus (see 'Renovating Rhode Island Hall'); the banner above is a sketch of the building done by Institute faculty member, Ömür Harmansah. But our core mission is clear: a commitment to the innovative academic study and public promotion of the archaeology and art of the ancient Mediterranean, Egypt, and Western Asia (the latter broadly construed as the territories of the ancient Near East). Although our chief research and teaching emphasis lies in the material culture of this particular, highly significant region, we



welcome and invite close ties with all individuals interested in the pre-modern era, and with archaeologists of all periods and parts of the globe.

This inaugural newsletter, issues of which will appear bi-annually, will just begin to touch on some of the initiatives

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MATERIAL MATTERS! UNDERGRADUATES BRIDGE THE HUMANITIES/SCIENCE DIVIDE

In the summer of 2008, four undergraduates won UTRA grants (Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards) to attack a long-lived, but unhelpful, academic divide: that between the ‘soft’ humanities and the ‘hard’ sciences. Archaeology, with its innately interdisciplinary nature, is a natural bridge-builder in this context. The four students spent part of the summer digging at the Greene Farm Archaeological Project in Warwick, Rhode



Island, an excavation of an historic property dating back to the 1700s. Then each picked a type of archaeological material (Andrew Bearnot, glass; Ashley Greene, ceramics; Jonathan Migliori, lithics; Noah Wiener, mortar and plaster) for analysis.

Samples were taken both from Greene Farm and the collections of the Joukowsky Institute, and the students ran all manner of scientific tests upon them. The friendly cooperation of faculty and staff in the Division of Engineering and the Department of Geological Sciences was essential and much appreciated here.

The intersection of archaeology and materials science (both of which, of course, are all about ‘things’ and how they are made) seems obvious. Yet it is not as explored in the North American academic community as one might think. Ongoing, collaborative work with various units at Brown is planned, with (for example) a course taught on the archaeology of technology, outreach to Brown’s partner of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and grants sought to fund additional experimentation and teaching in this area.



This UTRA project was designed and supervised by Dr. Krysta Ryzewski (JIAAW & Engineering), Professor Brian Sheldon (Engineering), Professor Sue Alcock (JIAAW), and PhD student Carolyn Swan (JIAAW).

Please explore the students’ individual research projects through the UTRA project’s wiki page, at proteus.brown.edu/materialsscience/5746. Results from the Greene Farm archaeological excavations are at proteus.brown.edu/greenefarm.

INSTITUTING SUPPORT FOR GROWTH

One theme that runs throughout this newsletter is that the Joukowsky Institute is growing. The Institute is fortunate to have more concentrators, more faculty, and more active fieldwork projects than ever before. To support this tremendous increase in activity, the Institute has created two new funds and will be seeking contributions from individuals who believe in the work of the Institute. Both funds are intended to ensure that the faculty and students of the Institute can continue to explore innovative, educational, and productive areas of research and engagement.

The Joukowsky Institute Undergraduate Fieldwork Fund is dedicated to helping Brown undergraduates pursue summer fieldwork opportunities in places all over the world. Many of these experiences would not be possible without the help of the Institute, and of donors who can help contribute to this cause. The Joukowsky Institute Enterprise Fund is intended to support faculty research, visiting scholars, and community outreach, as well as other initiatives that reach beyond the Institute’s core operations.

For more information on these new funds, please contact Sarah Sharpe (sarah_sharpe@brown.edu).

CORE FACULTY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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WORKING AT A WONDER OF THE WORLD: PETRA AND BROWN

Following a fiercely contested competition, the rose-red city of Petra in Jordan was recently voted one of the ‘New 7 Wonders of the World’. One of the most impressive features of this remarkable site is the Great Temple. For centuries, this vast and impressive complex lay invisible under meters of rock and debris, until Brown University excavations, under the direction of Martha Sharp Joukowsky, began some 17 years ago. Today the precinct’s carefully reconstructed columns and walls, together with new explanatory signs, make the Great Temple an evocative and tourist-friendly part of the site.

The Brown team in the summer of 2008 continued to define the western perimeter of the temple complex, which led to some surprises, posing questions for additional fieldwork. Part of the team included newcomers Sue Alcock and Ian Straughn, and a new piece of equipment was brought to the site. The Joukowsky Institute was recently invited to experiment with Gigapan technology,

a robotic camera that takes extremely high resolution panoramic photographs (see below). Apart from ongoing fieldwork, the site of Petra, beautiful as it is, raises significant questions about site preservation and presentation. Petra is a vital element in stimulating the Jordanian tourist economy, but mass tourism poses a great threat to a fragile archaeological environment. These ethical issues will continue to be a theme of the Joukowsky Institute’s teaching and debate this academic year.

Members and students of the Joukowsky Institute also worked this summer in Armenia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Israel, Menorca, Portugal, Turkey, and Rhode Island, much of which was made possible by research grants from the Institute. For more information on Joukowsky Institute fieldwork activities, see: www.brown.edu/joukowskyinstitute/fieldwork.



RENOVATING RHODE ISLAND HALL

The total renovation of Rhode Island Hall on the Main Green, which is to become the new home of the Joukowsky Institute, is on schedule to begin in early fall 2008. All being well, the building's grand opening will take place in fall 2009.

Program planning and design has been in the works for the past year and a half, with the JIAAW user community working closely with Anmahian Winton Architects of Cambridge, MA. The exterior of the 1840 building (part of the original funding

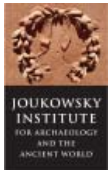
for which came from the people of Rhode Island) will remain essentially unchanged, but the interior will receive an entire make-over, with lecture and meeting rooms, faculty offices, graduate studio, and a mezzanine research lab.

An archaeological study of Rhode Island Hall was begun in 2008, when undergraduate Elise Nuding began the documentation of the building's final semester of (pre-Institute) use, as well as detailed research into university archives for information about, and images of, the building. As his senior honors thesis, Whit Schroder will continue this 'archaeology of Rhode Island Hall' over the course of renovation, as the building is radically transformed.



Want to know more about the Institute's events, faculty, fieldwork, and activities?

Visit our website, at www.brown.edu/joukowskyinstitute. Click on Contact Us, to join our email list and receive email updates on upcoming events.



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