

AIA Waldbaum Field Report

This summer I was fortunate enough to receive one of the AIA's Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarships to help with the cost of attending the Kea Archaeological Research Survey and field school on the island of Kea. I want to thank the AIA and Professor Waldbaum profusely for giving me the opportunity to further broaden my knowledge of Greek archaeology and contribute to my overall education as a classicist.

The Kea Archaeological Research Survey (KARS) and field school was an amazingly rewarding experience. Directed by Dr. Joanne Murphy from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the KARS project is focused on testing the validity of field survey data in Greek archaeology over time while also digitizing the landscape and increasing the sample size of finds on the island. In accordance with the goals of this project, we were taught about archaeological theory and methodology and how it played into this particular project - differences between intensive and extensive, diachronic and period-specific, surface and subsurface, and phase I and phase II survey, and the history of past surveys and excavations done on the island and in mainland Greece.

In addition to the theoretical aspects of the field school, we received lots of practical experience in the field. We were split up into teams of 4-5 people with a team leader in charge of us and went out into the field from Monday through Friday, leaving the parking lot at 6:30am and getting back from the field at 3:30pm. In phase I survey, we all became experts at following azimuths and spotting sherds in areas of low visibility, plunging hands into the extra thorny vegetation to pull out a diagnostic sherd victoriously and faithfully noting schist and limestone outcrops in our line. Phase II survey at areas of ceramic or lithic densities gave each of us an attachment to a cardinal direction we never thought we'd have as we walked our lines and quadrants, gathering a representative sample of material to turn into our Apotheke counterparts. I spent a week more in the Apotheke than most other students in the field school recovering from an ankle sprain which (although painful) afforded me the opportunity to become more familiar with ceramic material and shapes as well as the appearance and characteristics of obsidian, chert, and slag at the beginning of the field school which helped me spot material in the field all the more effectively. We learned how to wash, catalogue, photograph, label, and sort pottery in the Apotheke under the direction of Natalie Abell, who was always ready to impart knowledge about the finds - from identifying late Bronze Age coarse ware to spotting Byzantine glazes.

My experience on the KARS project not only taught me about Kea itself, but the week of site tours in Athens, Corinth, Isthmia, Nemea, Mycenae, and Tiryns perfectly complemented the art and archaeology courses I had taken at my home institution, the University of Cincinnati, while also providing a larger context for the Latin and Greek texts I've studied in more philological pursuits. I am very grateful for the unforgettable experience in Greece and the fantastic people I met both on the project and on the island itself who made the project so rewarding for me. Special thanks to Joanne Murphy, Linda Whitman, Shannon LaFayette, Natalie Abell, Megan Schaeffer, Billy Ridge, Giannakis Timotheou, Maeve McHugh, Dora Lambert, and Kailey Rocker for teaching me on the project itself. To my professors and recommenders Kathleen Lynch

and Barbara Burrell - I wouldn't have gone had it not been for you giving me such a solid foundation in Greek and Roman archaeology!

Ευχαριστώ πολύ,
Michelle Martinez