

Thanks to the Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship, I had the opportunity to participate in the Lechaion Harbor Settlement Land Project field school in Corinth, Greece this last summer. LHSLP is a project affiliated with California State University, Long Beach and is directed by Dr. Paul Scotton and Dr. Katherine Harrington. The Lechaion Harbor was the first and considered one of the most important commercial ports in the ancient Mediterranean beginning in the Bronze Age through Late Antiquity. Although Lechaion had been vital to Corinth's commercial successes throughout the Greek period, the harbor continued its importance after Corinth's Roman recolonization in 44 BCE. Geophysical survey has found there to be significant activity across the site, dated by excavation as early as the 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE until the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE when a major earthquake caused the port's abandonment. After successive generations experienced the volatility and worsening of environmental disasters starting in the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE, the local community finally decided relocated their settlement further away from the inner harbor.

The project is currently largely in Lechaion during the Roman period. As the site is so large, the excavations are divided between four areas (Areas A-D) with the active excavations of nine trenches. Certain areas required different archaeological techniques for excavation, which exposed students to a variety of archaeological practices and methodologies. The program was eight weeks long and student trench groups rotated between these four areas to learn from different supervisors and experience the site's variety of archaeological material, time periods, and site use every two weeks. Area A was right off the inner harbor and housed a late 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE porticus that was later reused and occupied in Late Antiquity. Area B was comprised of a warehouse and taverna where the vast majority of our coins were found. Both Area A and B's final phases of use are dated to the ca. 5<sup>th</sup>- very early 6<sup>th</sup> centuries CE and help to indicate why Lechaion was finally abandoned. Excavation has revealed the presence of collapsed roof tiles and the remains of people and animals who were crushed beneath them during an earthquake. Earthquakes are common in the Corinthia, as is for the rest of Greece, but this specific earthquake must have been major enough to have caused the site's collective abandonment. Area C excavated a large Roman civic basilica from the Augustan and Flavian periods and was largely architecturally-focused in nature. This year's excavations revealed an arch collapse at the basilica's western end, which would presumably have been caused by an earthquake. The

presence of large quantities of shells may indicate storm surges, but they may also only indicate the use of dredged material as fill during the construction and repair of the building.

Areas A, B, and C were all located on the main site, but Area D, a later addition to the project and found via geoprospection surveys in 2023, is on the site's western extent. Area D is comprised of a Roman period monumental building, made up of a set of large, circular walls. What was initially considered to be a lighthouse, has now been identified as a mausoleum. Several sets of human remains and burials have been exhumed over the last two seasons, just outside of the mausoleum's exterior walls. These finds indicate that whomever this mausoleum was built for was important because of the close proximity of burials on the building's exterior. This person's importance is further revealed since the mausoleum was constructed with substantial marble and other fine stone architectural elements such as marble flooring and revetment. There have also been parts of a marble sarcophagus with high relief sculpture in the mausoleum's innermost room excavated this last season.

The LHSLP's supervisors had a wide variety of backgrounds and professional experiences in the field of archaeology that I was able to learn from. Dr. Anton Axelsson and Euan Herriot are both commercial archaeologists in the UK and I learned practical and hands-on skills in the field from them. From Abigail Bradford, I learned the technicalities and more specialized methodologies for excavating in contexts that are rich in small finds, such as is in Area B. By working with Renae Dishman in Area A, I was able to work with a variety of materials—both man-made and organic—by means of a tile-floored room and a plethora of murex shells. I also gained knowledge from Jeff Vanderpool on photogrammetry and learned on-site how to fly a drone to take orthographic photos. Dr. Scotton also helped to network by connecting me with Dr. Alessandro Pierattini, an architectural historian and Director of the Isthmian Excavations. After I complete my current Master's program at Penn State, I hope to work with him at Notre Dame for an M.Arch., before continuing on to PhD programs in classical archaeology and architectural history. Dr. Scotton also helped to put me in touch with Dr. Nancy Bookidis, whom I was able to meet with to talk about the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore excavations on Acrocorinth. This is a topic I will be exploring for my Master's thesis next year, so I was thrilled to discuss her work with her in-person.

Moving forward, I plan on continuing my work on Corinth's Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore and exploring the origins of Greek monumental sacred architecture. In terms of field work,

Marie E. Gruver  
Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship  
Final Report

I hope to participate in the ongoing excavations in the Cyclades with the Keros Project this next summer. I also hope to return to Corinth this next summer for the LHSLP's study season working on archaeological drawing and photogrammetry. There are many exciting things for me on the horizon, and I look forward to taking full advantage of any of opportunities that come my way. The Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship played an integral role in helping me to attend the Lechaion Harbor and Settlement Land Project field school and I could not be any more appreciative for the generosity of the Archaeological Institute of America and its donors. Since given the opportunity to gain a strong foundation in archaeological fieldwork, my studies as a classical archaeologist have already (and noticeably) improved greatly—none of which would have been possible without this scholarship.