



# LIONBYTES

AN OCCASIONAL COMMUNICATION TO SUPPORTERS OF THE NEMEA CENTER

OCTOBER 2012

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**PLEASE JOIN US!!**  
Nemea Night is 6:30  
Thursday, December  
6th in the Alumni  
House on campus.

## The Nemea Center's Work in Summer 2012

Kim Shelton, Director

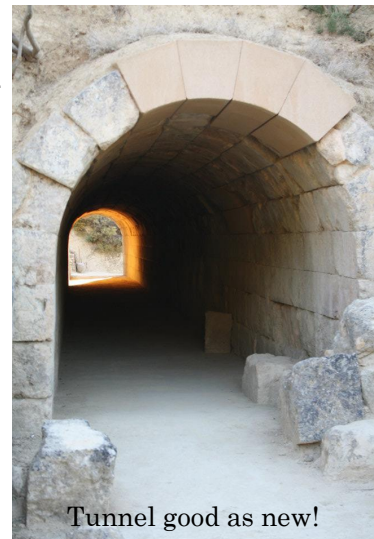
Summer with the Center was an exciting time, as it always is! The Berkeley Field Schools saw twelve students come from all over the United States to the Center's excavations—the program is very popular as is shown by the fact that we could accept only one in five who applied. In addition to the eager undergrads, we had seven new or seasoned graduate students participating in the Center's work.



A 'turtle' similar to this one was found.

Hail to the Hero! At Nemea we continued to focus our efforts on learning more about the hero shrine of Opheltes, our ancient founder and modern mascot. From the pottery found at the site it is clearer now more than ever that the Mycenaeans had an active presence at Nemea—the ceramics of the Late Helladic period came out of the ground in good number and quality. After a break in artifactual finds, we also found more evidence of construction and use during the Geometric and Archaic periods. Material from the latter period included one of those beautiful silver Aeginatan coins—a 'turtle', drinking vessels related to worship ceremonies, and a small but wonderful clay horse and rider statuette. We have yet to establish continuity of cult between the Mycenaean and historical times, but time will tell...

Elsewhere at the site, I am pleased to announce that the tunnel from the 'locker room' to the stadium has been conserved and in some places restored. The tunnel was suf-



Tunnel good as new!

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fering from severe deterioration following its original excavation and needed attention desperately. Dr. Kostos Zambas and a team from Athens did superb work under the direction of Stephen Miller, who represented Berkeley's interests and authority over the project. The tunnel was opened at the Nemean Games. Work well done!



The Temple of Zeus continued with its restoration under the guiding hands of Katerina Skleri, architect, and Dr. Kostas Papantonopoulos, engineer. The entablature blocks were checked at ground level, then began to be hoisted into place above the columns. The work will be completed in Decem-

ber—a full report and many pictures will be presented at Nemea Night.



Excavations at Petsas House in progress.

At Mycenae work on the Petsas House continued. This is a 14th century dwelling located just outside the citadel of the settlement and its famous Lion's Gate. More and more evidence emerged validating our hypothesis that the House was a site for the manufacture and distribution of ceramic objects. Most specifically, we found evidence of a pottery wheel and on the last day of excavations—of course!—made our most important discovery. We uncovered a full-fledged kiln, the first found in the area of Mycenae and proof-

positive that the abundance of ceramics found at the site was being made and fired there.

Our scholarly work also continued apace. We had two visiting researchers join our team at Nemea, Heather Graybehl of the University of Sheffield working on ceramics and Effie Athanassopoulos of the University of Nebraska working on Byzantine material. I as well as a number of the students also worked on material that will eventually go into *Nemea X: Chronology*.

Another summer went by far too quickly. Next summer will be a study season for Nemean material, and we will excavate at Petsas House. But that is next year! For now, it is a real pleasure to think back to the recent summer, and to be proud of the fine work, exciting experiences, and great discoveries the Center team made.

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## Students at Nemea

Anna Simas, Berkeley Undergraduate  
Classics Major

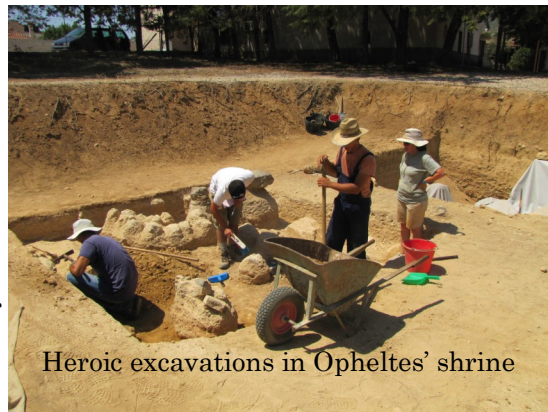


Anna really loves the Temple of Zeus!

My summer at UC Berkeley's Archaeological Field School at Nemea and Mycenae, Greece, was truly a unique and unforgettable experience. As a student of Classics, I spend my days learning about the language and culture of the ancient Greeks. However, prior to this summer I had never had the chance to visit Greece. What better way could there be to immerse myself in the culture of the Greeks than to spend my summer excavating and studying the very objects created by the ancients themselves? While in Greece, I developed a keen interest in material culture, which would not have been possible without the Archaeological Field School. My experience at the Field School at Nemea and

Mycenae has unlocked a new realm of possibilities for me and has sparked in me the desire to continue my study of archaeology and material culture.

We spent our first three weeks at the Field School excavating at Petsas House, Mycenae, and the next three weeks at the Hero Shrine of Opheltes at Nemea. During a typical week, we were on-site from 6:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday—a novel experience for college students accustomed to sleeping late! Every three days, we rotated between trenches located throughout each site, which gave us experience digging in a fairly wide variety of soil types containing many different types of artifacts. Our first day on-site yielded not only sore muscles, blisters, and sunburns, but also a wealth of new information and exciting finds. As the weeks passed, our blisters turned to calluses, our sunburns to tans, and our uncertainty to confidence in the new skills we had learned. The learning curve was steep but the work enjoyable; the physical labor involved in our excavation produced tangible results and provided ample opportunity to interact with the material culture of the ancient Greeks. The learning environment at the Field School was ideal: The zeal, expertise, and high standards of our supervisors fostered within us the desire to excel in our work. Each supervisor imparted a unique set of skills and knowledge to his or her students that provided strong foundations for further study of archaeology. As the Field School came



Heroic excavations in Opheltes' shrine

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to a close, we realized that we had transformed from archaeological neophytes to budding archaeologists confident in our newfound abilities.

My experience with the Field School was incredibly rewarding. I discovered a latent passion for archaeological study and for physical labor. Because of the Field School, I know that I will continue my study of material culture—for example, I am currently a research apprentice at the Nemea Archives. In my work at the Archives, I have the good fortune to be able to study the artifacts excavated at Nemea over many years, including some of the finds we excavated this summer. Without the Field School, I never would have had the opportunity to learn about archaeology in such an effective way. There could hardly have been a better place for me to begin my study of archaeology and material culture than at UC Berkeley's Archaeological Field School at Nemea and Mycenae.

## Nemean Games 2012—a student perspective

Samantha Alford

Berkeley Graduate Student in Classical Archaeology

As a half marathon runner—well, let me rephrase that—as a casual half marathon jogger, I could not have been happier that the 2012 Nemean Games coincided with the Berkeley excavation season. My enthusiasm must have been obvious, as I eagerly signed myself up to run both the *stadion* and the 7.5 kilometer Footsteps of Herakles race. For a little variety, I also volunteered to play the *salpinx*, or ancient trumpet.



I donned my *chiton* and turned in a lackluster performance in the *stadion*. But that



was all right! I considered the *stadion* a warm-up for the Footsteps of Herakles race. I pumped myself up by reminding myself that I was no stranger to running long distances uphill. As we set out from the Temple of Herakles in Kleonai, and more and more people passed me, and my panting grew heavier and heavier, I realized that Berkeley hills are nothing compared to the steepness of Nemean hills and that there is much to be said for the cooling properties of Bay Area fog. I survived, but my cheering crew grew quite

concerned when several seventy-year-old men beat me to the finish line.

Playing the *salpinx* was my favorite part of the games. Like the races, this activity came with its own challenges. The long, bronze instrument was much more difficult to hold than a modern trumpet, and my lung capacity has apparently decreased substantially since my teenage horn-blowing days; luckily, the audience

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was very supportive, even when I hit the wrong notes. This encouraging environment allowed me to have a great time. I imagine my experience was similar to that of a Disney mascot: spectators asked me to pose with them in photos, and, later that week, a young girl recognized me at a restaurant in Nea Nemea! Although I couldn't achieve glory in the athletic events, the *salpinx* apparently provided my opportunity to distinguish myself.

Could I have cut it as an ancient athlete or trumpet player? Not quite! Nevertheless, the rest of the Berkeley students and I had a wonderful time putting ourselves to the test.

## Congratulations to our Director!



While in Greece this summer, the Center's Director, Kim Shelton, received great news—she had been promoted with tenure to Associate Professor of Classical Archaeology at Berkeley! Kim began her academic teaching and research career at the University of Texas, Austin, and became the first Director of the Nemea Center in 2005. Her work over the last seven years has created the vibrant, interdisciplinary, rigorous, and successful program we enjoy today. Be sure to offer congratulations when you see her at Nemea Night this year!

## *When Snow Fell on the Lemon Tree Blossoms*

by Leonidas Petrakis

Leonidas Petrakis is a longstanding supporter of the excavations at Nemea and of the Nemea Center. He has just published a fictionalized memoir based on his experiences as a child and young man during the dark days of Italian and Nazi occupation of Greece, and its aftermath of Civil War.

*When Snow Fell on the Lemon Tree Blossoms* (New York: Pella Publishing, 2011) tells its story as a young Greek boy's journal for the seven-year period, 1939 to 1946. The young boy is the son of a distinguished provincial family, the dignity and discord of which are a microcosm of the Greek society of that time. The young

WHEN SNOW FELL ON  
THE LEMON TREE  
BLOSSOMS  
by  
Leonidas Petrakis



PELLA

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Peloponnesian records a unique period of time: sweet and carefree just before the War, despite the anguished cries from the rest of Europe; heroic in 1940-41 and during the Resistance against foreign and homegrown tormentors; nightmarish during the German Occupation and the subsequent fratricidal conflict. Under these circumstances he matures early. His first kaleidoscopic writings mirror his childhood innocence. But above all, the young boy's chronicle is an account of human endurance and renewal.

Berkeley's own Ronald Stroud writes, "This unique tale of the anguish of World War II in Greece and the Civil War that followed it, seen through the eyes of a young Spartan boy, is one of the most moving books on Greece that I have ever read." And Berkeley's Maria Mavroudi adds, "This book delights with the abundant slices of life that Petrakis manages to fit within a short and compact narrative. The author evokes history in ways that are both light and deeply felt because what he mostly cares about is eternal human nature."

*When Snow Fell on the Lemon Tree Blossoms* is available from Pella Publishing, 337 West 36th Street, New York 10018 for \$15 plus \$4 shipping and handling. Unfortunately, it is not currently available on line through Amazon or Barnes & Noble. We highly recommend it as a lyrical, moving and unforgettable 'read'.

## In Memoriam: Crawford H. Greenewalt, Jr.

The Nemea Center lost a longtime, strong, and faithful leader when Crawford H. Greenewalt, Jr., known affectionately to all as 'Greenie', died last April after a



brief illness. It is difficult to exaggerate Greenewalt's contributions to the Center. As a member of the Advisory Board from the very beginning, he was a tireless supporter of all the Center's endeavors, offering sound advice on practical, day-to-day matters as well as cogent insights into long term concerns.

Greenie's own life-long work centered on the joint Harvard-Cornell excavations at Sardis, in Asia Minor (modern Turkey). He had first joined this expedition right out of undergraduate work at Harvard. Starting out as its first official photographer, he soon began to take on the direction of sections of the dig. In 1966 he came to Berkeley as an assistant professor of classical archaeology and remained on the Classics faculty until his retirement in 2010. During this time, in 1976, he became Director of the Sardis Expedition. In that role he published results of the excavations and guided many other professionals working at the site. Most rewarding of all for

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him, he trained, encouraged, and inspired a whole series of graduate students one of whom, Nicholas Cahill, assumed the directorship in 2007.

At Berkeley, he was tireless in his devotion to teaching undergraduates; his class handouts were legendary! After his retirement, he continued to teach and mentor until overtaken by ill health beginning in the fall of 2011. We sorely miss Greenie—a deeply human friend, steadfast, exciting and generous teacher, scholar, mentor, and Nemea enthusiast.

## The Greek-Euro Crisis and the Nemea Center

The social and political situation in Greece is always crucial to the Nemea Center's work there. The and successfully chaeological Ser-personnel. Op-overseen by the the Corinthia, in Mycenae that the Ephoria for by Alcestis Papp-tionships with the Archaeologi-with individuals Culture dealing



Center works closely with the Greek Ar-vice (Ephoria) and its eration at Nemea is Ephor in charge of Konstantinos Kissas; work is done from the Argolid directed dimitriou. Our rela-both subdivisions of cal Service, as well as in the Ministry of in things archaeologi-

cal, are good. But the overall socio-economic crisis that has gripped Greece for the past two to three years, and continues today, deeply affects the Center's various projects. The most direct and obvious result of the crisis is a decrease in government staffing at local sites. A less obvious result is an ever-decreasing budget for the Ministry of Culture. In the first instance, the number of guards at the Nemea Museum has been reduced, as well as the hours each guard works, and by necessity the site is open less. These decreases mean fewer visitors see the museum's exhibits. It also means less time is available to researchers because they can only work in the storeroom and study areas while the museum is officially open. Budgetary problems at the ministry level mean that there are fewer professional in the Service available to supervise and approve specific projects, such as the excavations that took place this summer. This can slow down or even halt activities if on-site approval of the archaeological authorities is needed for any reason. So far the Ministry has been able to continue fairly normal work through its reduced permanent staff and through hiring contract workers, that is, archaeologists who do not gain permanent employment within the Ministry but do the tasks that need to be done. The Archaeological Service was able to work well with the excavations this summer, despite all the issues being faced. Of course the tug and pull nationally

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cussions of continued membership in the Euro Zone create an on-going crisis that affects archaeological work as well as all other aspects of Greek private and public life. The Center is very aware of the issues facing the Greek people and is sympathetic with the challenges they face, and with their suffering. We value our good relationships and will continue to work to maintain them, especially in these present very difficult circumstances. We are especially pleased that the Center can offer some employment to local workmen, and support the local economy with our purchases.

## Nemea Night 2012

We will gather for the annual Nemea Night on Thursday, December 6th, in the Alumni House on campus. There will be as usual a reception with Greek inspired treats and Nemean wine, followed by the Director's presentation of last summer's work and next summer's plans. Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis in the lot behind behind Dwinelle Hall, or an any lot on campus. Parking permits are \$3 for the first hour and \$2 for each hour thereafter; they must be purchased with exact change (no credit cards) at vending machines at the entrance or inside each lot—bring dollar bills. A campus parking map can be found at <http://pt.berkeley.edu/park>.

