

People, Places, Projects



Young Friends of the Penn Museum enjoy cocktails in the Warden Garden at the spring Scavenger Hunt event.

YOUNG FRIENDS OFFER FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

The Young Friends of the Penn Museum, an active group of Penn Museum members ages 21 to 45, has become well known in the Philadelphia region for its exciting and amusing events. From Halloween and Valentine's Day-themed programming to a scavenger hunt through the Museum's galleries paired with a wine tasting, Young Friends activities continue to engage young professionals and graduate students with the Museum's collections and research.

The Young Friends recently reorganized its Executive Board, with a number of its loyal members accepting leadership positions. Yve-Car Momperousse and Tricia Desmarias will serve as the Board's Co-Chairs. Samuel Brewer will represent the Young Friends to the Museum's Board of Overseers as the Board of Overseers Liaison. Stephane Jean-Baptiste will serve as Public Relations/Marketing Liaison and Caleb Benjamin and Lisa Johns will serve as Membership Liaisons. Olga Wayne and Alexis Arena will plan the Young Friend's

Spring 2009 event as Event Co-Chairs—a murder mystery event taking place in the Museum's Upper Egyptian Gallery.

ARCHAEOBOTANICAL RESEARCH IN MASCA

Masi Kimiaie (graduate student at Ohio State University, Columbus) returned to the Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology (MASCA) for three weeks in December 2008 under the auspices of Penn Museum Archaeobotanist Naomi F. Miller to study plant remains from the Mesopotamian site Al-Hibba (ancient Lagash, 3rd millennium BC). She identified several samples of nearly pure six-row barley, a crop commonly grown under irrigation in the lowlands. The samples were excavated by Donald Hansen (Institute of Fine Arts, New York) in 1968 and 1970. This research opportunity was arranged by Near East Curator Holly Pittman, and was funded by the Al-Hibba Project. Masi first visited the Penn Museum in 2005 and 2006 with the help of a fellowship from the American Institute of Iranian Studies.

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Jean MacIntosh Turfa (holding a vase) and Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World graduate students (Amanda Reiterman, Peter Cobb, Solveig Lawrenz, and Margaret Andrews) examine objects from the Museum's Orvieto collection.

VISITORS FROM ORVIETO, ITALY

In January 2009, Dr. Claudio Bizzarri and Dr. Alba Frascarelli came from Orvieto, Italy, to participate in a session, "Ancient Volsinii (Orvieto): Discoveries and Rediscoveries," organized by Ann Blair Brownlee and Jean MacIntosh Turfa of the Museum's Mediterranean Section for the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America held here in Philadelphia. The visitors were kept busy as they also delivered a joint lecture on recent excavations in and around Orvieto and were the special guests at an informal workshop for students that focused on the Penn Museum's Orvieto collection, acquired from excavations in the late 19th century. In honor of their visit, a temporary exhibition case was installed near the Etruscan Gallery that highlighted current work on the Museum's Orvieto collection.

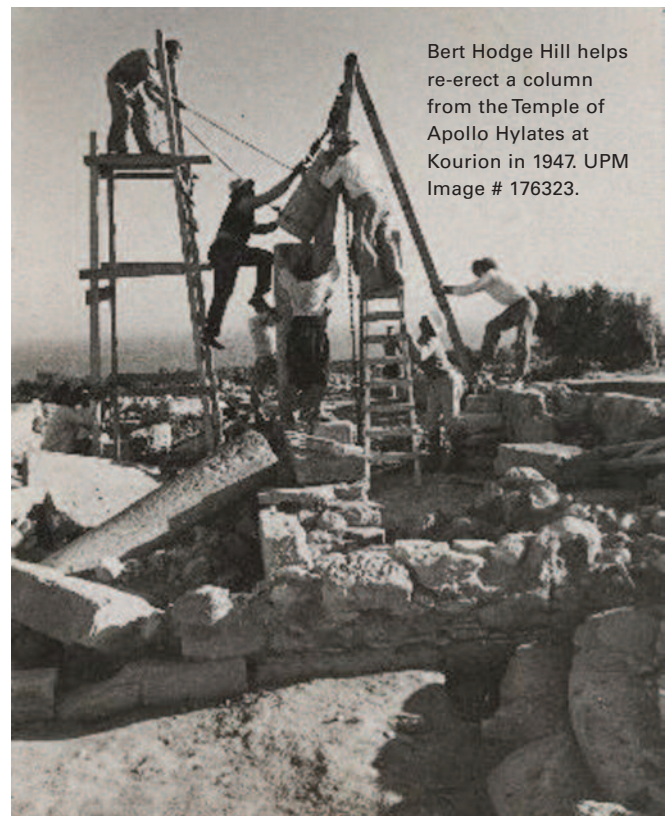
MARILYN BRIDGES: THE SACRED AND THE SECULAR

This new exhibition in the Penn Museum's first floor Merle-Smith Gallery will open April 24, 2009, and run through June 21, 2009. It showcases aerial photographs of ancient sites and more contemporary landscapes, including Machu Picchu in

Peru, Yaxchilan in Mexico, Giza in Egypt, and Corinth in Greece, by internationally renowned photographer Marilyn Bridges. An intrepid explorer and co-pilot, she took all pictures from a single-engine Cessna. This exhibition was organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENN MUSEUM'S EXCAVATIONS IN CYPRUS

An international gathering held at the Penn Museum March 27-29, 2009, was the first scholarly conference on Cyprus to be held in the United States in twenty years. The conference brought together the leading scholars working today to interpret the material remains of Kourion, one of the most important city-kingdoms of ancient Cyprus, enabling participants to revisit old excavations in the light of recent interdisciplinary research in order to set an agenda for future directions. The opening keynote presentation, "The Land of Kuri: How American and Cypriot Archaeologists Revealed the Past of the Island's Southern Shore," was delivered by Stuart Swiny, Director of the Institute of Cypriot Studies at the University at Albany. The Museum undertook the first scientific investigation of Kourion between 1934 and 1953. A portion of the finds were exported to Philadelphia, and some are currently exhibited in the Museum's Greek and Roman galleries.



Bert Hodge Hill helps re-erect a column from the Temple of Apollo Hylates at Kourion in 1947. UPM Image # 176323.



Deputy Director C. Brian Rose highlights gold objects from Troy on special display in the "Great Sites" exhibit case.

NEW LECTURE SERIES HIGHLIGHTS "GREAT SITES" EXCAVATED BY THE PENN MUSEUM

A remarkable number of the world's ancient city civilizations were excavated by teams from the Penn Museum. A new lecture series highlights the findings of these excavations with a unique opportunity to examine some of the recovered artifacts—many brought out of storage especially for the occasion. The brainchild of the Penn Museum's Deputy Director and Chief Curator, C. Brian Rose, the "Great Sites of the Ancient World Series" has been well attended and enthusiastically received since it kicked off November 5, 2008.

The first lecture, "Ur of the Chaldees: Abraham's Birthplace in the late 3rd and early 2nd Millennia BC," was presented by Richard L. Zettler, Associate Curator of the Museum's Near

East Section, who, afterwards, gave audience members a personal tour of select treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur on display in the Museum galleries.

In December 2008, Joyce C. White, Director of the Museum's Ban Chiang Project, lectured on "New Surprises from Ban Chiang, Thailand." Beginning with the settlement's discovery by a Harvard University student who stumbled upon some potsherds in the 1960s, she took the audience up through the project's history and its recent central role in the biggest U.S. case to date on international antiquities smuggling. Afterwards, a new "Great Sites" exhibits case was introduced—created specially to showcase artifacts from the "Great Sites" excavations—in which pottery from Ban Chiang was displayed.

In January 2009, C. Brian Rose took listeners to the ancient city of Troy with his talk on "The Trojan War—Myth or Fact: Recent Excavations at Troy." Afterwards, he happily answered questions during a reception that centered around the "Great Sites" exhibits case and an assemblage of gold jewelry from the Museum's collection that dates to the same period as Schliemann's Treasure.

"Great Sites of the Ancient World" takes place on the first Wednesday of each month with a 6:00 pm lecture followed by a guided tour and reception. February and March events offered an exploration of Abydos, Egypt, with Josef Wegner, and Gordion, Turkey, with Gareth Darbyshire, respectively. Additional events this season include Copan in Honduras (Loa Traxler, April 1); Hasanlu in Iran (Michael Danti, May 6), and Tikal in Guatemala (Jeremy Sabloff, June 3). For more information visit www.museum.upenn.edu/new/events/greatsites.html.

PENN MUSEUM STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

A new Penn Museum Student Advisory Board (PMSAB) seeks to increase awareness of the Penn Museum's collections and programs across campus and encourage all students to make visits to the Museum a regular part of their Penn experience. Led by James Hogarth (W'09), more than 40 graduate and undergraduate PMSAB volunteers have been actively engaged since the fall in a broad range of activities, including film screenings and wine-tasting events in the Museum's Egyptian galleries. A PMSAB task-force also completed a comprehensive

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survey enabling the Museum to better understand its perception and usage among graduate and undergraduate students. Another task-force, utilizing the expertise of PMSAB members from the Wharton School, is working with Museum Chief Operating Officer Melissa Smith and staff on a plan to increase sales potential from the Museum shops. Plans for the future include the curation of “mini exhibits” in a special traveling display case at schools and centers across campus, and to increase awareness of the quality and relevance of the Museum’s collections.

NEW OVERSEERS JOIN THE PENN MUSEUM BOARD

Penn Museum is pleased to welcome the following new members to its Board of Overseers:



Luis Fernandez is Vice President, Business Director, Paint and Coatings Materials at Rohm and Haas. He first joined the company in Mexico in 1983 after earning a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the Universidad Iberoamerica. Mr. Fernandez has held positions in marketing and business management in Rohm and Haas locations in Philadelphia, Mexico City, and Sao Paulo,

Brazil, overseeing at different times in his career business segments for all of Latin America and for the Architectural and Functional Coatings Business in North America. He was first named Vice President in 2002 as Regional Director for Latin America based in Mexico City. Upon his return to Philadelphia in 2004, he became Business Director for Plastics Additives, assuming his current title in 2005. Mr. Fernandez, who also attended the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, is fluent in four languages and is a proud sponsor, through Rohm and Haas Company, of Innovations Homes for Habitat for Humanity. He was appointed to the National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA) Board of Directors in 2008.

Peter G. Gould is president of Superior Group, Inc., a privately held international company manufacturing specialty

metal tubing for the nuclear, aerospace, medical, and energy industries. Throughout his diverse career, Mr. Gould has held principal roles in private equity investing, investment banking, and manufacturing businesses, and worked on economic and trade policy in the Federal Government. He has served on numerous non-profit Boards, including as Chairman of the Philadelphia Zoo and the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. He received his B.A. in Economics from Swarthmore College.



In addition, the Museum’s Board of Overseers recently welcomed the following ex-officio members: Sam Brewer, Vice President at Merion Investment Partners and Board Liaison for the Museum’s Young Friends; David Brownlee, Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Professor in Penn’s Department of the History of Art and Chairman of the Penn Museum Advisory Board; James Hogarth, MBA candidate at the Wharton School and President of the Penn Museum Student Advisory Board, and Emily (Emmy) Starr, former Vice President, Communications at Chestnut Hill Hospital, and Chairman of the Women’s Committee.

PENN MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD

In Fall 2008 the Penn Museum, seeking to bring into the discussion of its future stakeholders from academic departments across the University of Pennsylvania and from Philadelphia’s cultural community, created a new advisory board chaired by David Brownlee, Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Professor in Penn’s Department of the History of Art and Co-Curator of the Museum’s recent exhibit *Penn in the World: Twelve Decades at the University of Pennsylvania Museum*. The ten committee members come from five departments in three different schools at Penn and from Philadelphia’s Office of Arts and Culture, the Redevelopment Authority, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Wagner Free Institute. At the first meeting on November 24, 2008, Advisory Board members shared their enthusiasm for the Museum, offered their perspectives on its most important characteristics, and made suggestions about what its first priorities should be.